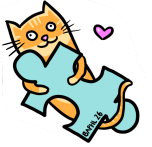




[SOLUTION] META: ~~ch~~ Me If You Can



This puzzle uses four feeders:

Fer?? Me?wtlaws - GRAND
Now Wh??e Could My Pipe Be? - CAPILLARY
Th? Arbo?etum - EFFORT
Walking the Catwalk - BULLION

Some letters in the titles of some puzzles have been scratched off, which will be relevant below. Until then, we simply follow the instructions given to us. Bolded ingredients are ones that are not used in future steps of the same stage.

1. Separate all of your ingredients into two parts. You will have to do this in two different ways. Make sure that your pairs include, as one of the two parts: a preposition, a physics constant, something charged, and a column. Leave those listed parts lying around for now.
 - a. EFFORT --> EF(FOR)T
 - b. CAPILLARY --> CA(PILLAR)Y
 - c. GRAND --> G + RAND
 - d. BULLION --> BULL + ION
2. Replace the currency with the first letter of each word in the name of the country it corresponds to.
 - a. RAND --> SOUTH AFRICA --> **SA**
3. Take an animal and replace it with the version of it in the sky—we only need the first half of it.
 - a. BULL --> TAURUS --> TAU
4. Aw, your other animal, one much less well-known, has grown up into an adult! Chop off its tail and replace the remaining part with its opposite.
 - a. EFT --> NEWT --> NEW --> **OLD**
5. Take the part that is the start of a common vacation destination and replace it with the full name (with enumeration 6 7). Find the hidden makeover word, replace it with its counterpart, and then make it plural.
 - a. CAY --> CAYMAN ISLANDS --> MANI --> PEDI --> **PEDIS**
6. Take the Greek ingredient and go two steps back. Only retain the ends to get a type of filter.
 - a. TAU --> RHO --> **RO**

The next flavortext suggests that the ingredients unused from Step 1 have somehow been transformed, and that this has to do with the scratched off letters from the titles. It turns out that a CAT has been playing with these leftovers and got them mixed up with those letters. This is further suggested by the title, which has CAT scratched off the beginning.

The transformations are as follows:

- a) PILLAR --> CAT + ER + PILLAR --> **CATERPILLAR**
- b) G --> CAT + ALO + G --> **CATALOG**
- c) ION --> CAT + ION --> **CATION**
- d) FOR --> CAT + ER + FOR --> **CATER FOR**

We can then continue to follow the instructions.

1. Oh hey, there's a whole bunch of new ingredients now. Take the listing of items and replace its first page with the last. Mix it up to get a new language—we just need the country it corresponds to.
 - a. CATALOG --> GATALOG --> (anagram) TAGALOG --> PHILIPPINES
2. Another animal seems to have grown up! We only need the beginning of it—a conjunction.
 - a. CATERPILLAR --> BUTTERFLY --> **BUT**
3. One of these new ingredients is not like the others (with enumeration 5 3). Replace it with something hidden in it that you did after being served (or what you did when you “served”) and chop off the head to get a drink in a different language.
 - a. CATER FOR --> ATE --> **TE** (tea, in Spanish)
4. Throw away a prince in one of your ingredients to get some trees.
 - a. PHILIPPINES --> **PINES**
5. Replace the last of your new ingredients with the end of a battery or galvanic cell that possesses the opposite charge. The end of it sounds like (and begins with the same letter as) one of the previous ingredients. Throw away this previous ingredient and only keep the end of the recent ingredient. Place it aside for now—it won't help you in the next pairing step.
 - a. CATION --> ANODE --> **ODE** (sounds like “old”)

The next part requires us to take the 6 relevant ingredients (excluding ODE), pair them up, and mix them. Indeed, they can be paired up as follows and anagrammed to get relevant ingredients for the future steps

- a) <SA + PINES> --> SAPIENS
- b) <RO + BUT> --> TURBO
- c) <PEDIS + TE> --> DESPITE

We are now onto the final stretch of the puzzle!

1. The ingredient you placed aside in step 5 of the previous section is an example of a broader class of literary works. Replace this class with its opposite (with enumeration 5). Keep only the first three letters, and then take its opposite. You just created the first final ingredient!
 - a. ODE --> POETRY --> PROSE --> PRO --> **CON**
2. You should have something you could use to “charge” your car. Let's just take its second letter.
 - a. TURBO --> U
3. We have a book about humanity, but books are boring—let's just keep the middle name of the author. Actually, just the first letter of it is good enough!
 - a. SAPIENS --> YUVAL NOAH HARRARI --> NOAH --> N
4. Take a preposition you have, and just keep the petty ending of it. If you had added the product of the previous step and mixed it up, you would get what someone may need to do when they see the state of our city (with enumeration 4 2). Just keep the second word of it for the third final ingredient.
 - a. DESPITE --> SPITE --> <SPITE+N> --> STEP IN --> **IN**
5. Add the products of steps 2 and 3 to represent an organization, and again, only keep the second word of it (but singular!). You just made the fourth final ingredient!
 - a. U + N --> UN --> UNITED NATIONS --> NATIONS --> **NATION**

Putting all this together (and letting “our founder” enter our thoughts), we get the final answer:

CON CAT IN NATION