

Meta 5 Solution

Puzzle: Yannick Yao

Solution: Yannick Yao

Answer: QUICKBROWNFOX

This is a “duck conundrum” type puzzle where all instructions are given even though the process of carrying them out is long and requires a lot of attention. The maze contains many letters, and each of them has some effect on the puzzle, so to find the path out of the maze one has to keep track of the orientation of both the explorer and the maze, explorer’s size as well as his sound level. First, to complete the grid, we fill in all five answers into the grid (which all have distinct lengths) according to the arrows, and then start from the bottom and follow the instructions. Highlighted below is the complete path.

E	<u>F</u>	R	A	U	D	E	I	Z	E	W
D	J	G	I	S	G	R	S	V	L	N
R	<u>Q</u>	Q	P	<u>X</u>	L	S	<u>C</u>	I	<u>K</u>	I
M	A	<u>N</u>	O	R	K	T	Y	U	M	N
<u>W</u>	P	R	T	G	E	S	S	G	C	G
S	T	R	A	O	L	H	J	<u>B</u>	E	R
I	A	K	Z	D	T	I	M	V	B	Z
N	<u>O</u>	T	A	E	<u>R</u>	P	<u>I</u>	Y	E	E
I	N	H	J	<u>U</u>	F	C	L	B	L	W
M	X	V	Y	Q	E	B	<u>Q</u>	A	L	I
D	A	M	W	A	R	H	<u>N</u>	O	I	L

Using the path and provided shifts, we extract the following message: LOOK BACK AT YOUR PATH AND TAKE EVERY FOURTH STEP THAT YOU HAVE MADE. Doing so gives the answer **QUICKBROWNFOX** (underlined in the maze above), which is ideal for navigating such an alphabet soup.