2. Errant Anteater

SOLUTION

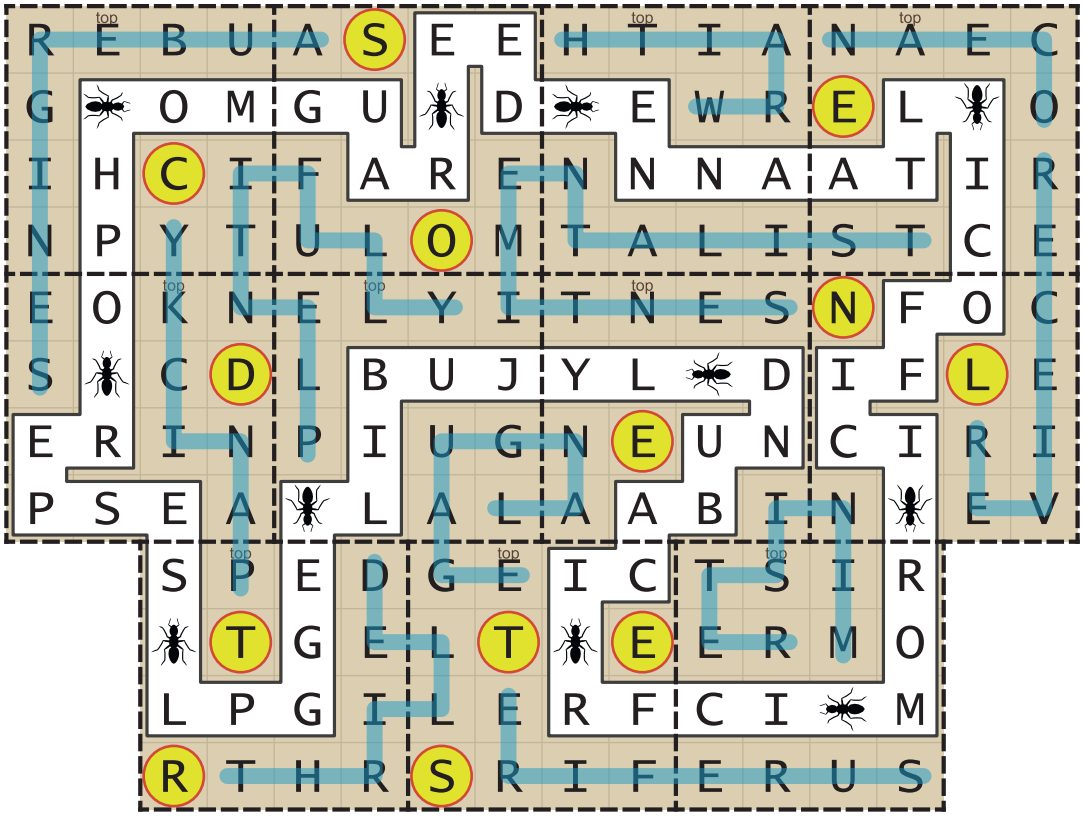
Use the guidebook's map of the ant colonies as a template for placing tiles to form a closed-loop tunnel. (The ants will all be traveling in the same direction.)

Place one transparent tile on each ant colony tile (this can be done concurrently with forming the loop) so that the cube matches an ant's location and the letters along the tunnel form a word, with the ant supplying the letters ANT.

The words, clockwise around the loop starting with the upper-left tile, are: PHANTOM, GUARANTEED, ANTENNA, ATLANTIC, OFFICIANT, ROMANTIC, FRANTIC, ABUNDANTLY, JUBLIANT, EGGPLANTS, and ESPERANTO.

Each of those words has a related word that is hidden in the dirt areas surrounding the tunnel. The related words are: WRAITH, SURE-FIRE, RECEIVER, OCEAN, MINISTER, SENTIMENTALIST, PANICKY, PLENTIFULLY, THRILLED, AUBERGINES, and LANGUAGE.

There are thirteen letters not used by the related words; read in order left-to-right, top-to-bottom, they spell the message: SECOND LETTERS

Read the second letter of each word in the tunnel, starting in the upper left and going clockwise around the loop (the direction the ants are traveling), i.e. p**H**antom, g**U**aranteed, a**N**tenna, etc.

This reveals that the anteater is trying to: **HUNT FOR BUGS**