



Explorer

by Thomas Snyder

Answer: SIGNOUT

Solving the “Minesweeper (Pentomino)” puzzle using the message’s rules gives the solution on the left. The cells marked with letters for each pentomino can be read in the decoded message (also 11x22) to say “APPLY GRAVITY”. Having all the pentominoes fall downwards leaves behind a symmetric shape with seven unused internal cells that contain the answer.

			1			4		
					2			
3		4	1			4	3	1
				3		2		
1								3
0		2			3		4	3
			3		1	1		
1				1		2		1
				2		3		
1		3				3		1
		1					1	
					4			
		3	3		4		3	1
3		5			3		2	1
		3					5	
	1			4		2		2
			3		3		3	
0								1

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