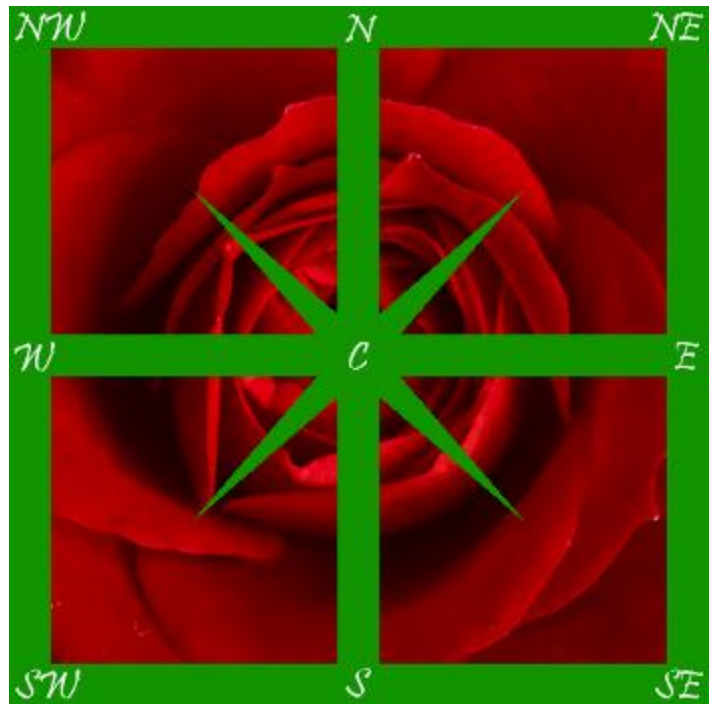


A Compass Rose by Any Other Name

YOU ENTER A FOREST AND WANDER TO A SMALL CLEARING. THERE YOU SEE A BOTANIST HOLDING A COMPASS AND JOTTING DOWN NOTES IN A NOTEBOOK. SOME NEARBY BUSHES RUSTLE, AND A FOX AND A DOG EMERGE. THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG AND KNOCKS THE COMPASS AND NOTEBOOK RIGHT FROM THE BOTANIST'S HANDS. THE THREE INDIVIDUALS LEAVE, AND YOU PICK UP THE BOTANIST'S BELONGINGS.



I've come across a very strange forest, unlike any other I've ever seen before. The features of the plants and topography are abnormally geometric. The trunks of the tall deciduous trees are utterly vertical without a single bend, and their long branches and short twigs are perfectly perpendicular to the trunks, lying completely horizontal. The many lengthy needles of the coniferous trees are angled in such a way that simple functions could map their slopes. The thorns on the bushes are similar but shorter than the needles, although they only seem to slope at 45 degree angles. The stems of the flowers on the ground are just as straight as the trunks of the trees, and their small blossoms and larger leaves form perfect arcs. The vines too form perfect arcs, and the stones at my feet are perfect circles. Even the mountains and valleys I can see through the trees seem to be angles made from two straight lines instead the rocky sides of the earth you would expect. It's almost as if I could plot the whole forest on a grid...



northern western-seeking vine
 northern branch, central trunk, southern branch
 western trunk, falling needle, eastern trunk
 falling needle, climbing needle
 western trunk, northern branch, western twig, southern branch
 western trunk, eastern leaf

western valley, eastern valley
 northern branch, central trunk, southern branch
 northern branch, climbing needle, southern branch
 western climbing needle, eastern falling needle, central twig
 western trunk, northern blossom, south-eastern thorn
 western trunk, eastern leaf
 north-eastern central-seeking vine, south-western central-seeking vine

western trunk, northern blossom
 western trunk, southern branch
 southern leaf
 western leaf
 western trunk, northern climbing needle, southern falling needle

northern branch, central trunk, southern branch
 western falling needle, eastern climbing needle
 north-western thorn, north-eastern thorn, southern stem

western trunk, northern branch, western twig
 western trunk, northern blossom, south-eastern thorn
 stone
 western mountain, eastern mountain

central trunk, northern branch
western trunk, central branch, eastern trunk
western trunk, northern branch, western twig, southern branch

western trunk, northern blossom, southern blossom
northern branch, central trunk, southern branch
western leaf, eastern twig, south-eastern stem

stone, south-eastern thorn
southern leaf
northern branch, central trunk, southern branch
western trunk, southern branch
central trunk, northern branch

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western valley, eastern valley
western trunk, central branch, eastern trunk
western climbing needle, eastern falling needle, central twig
central trunk, northern branch

northern branch, central trunk, southern branch
north-eastern central-seeking vine, south-western central-seeking vine

central trunk, northern branch
western trunk, central branch, eastern trunk
western trunk, northern branch, western twig, southern branch
western leaf, eastern twig, south-eastern stem
western trunk, northern branch, western twig, southern branch
western trunk, falling needle, eastern trunk
southern leaf
north-eastern central-seeking vine, south-western central-seeking vine

western trunk, northern branch, western twig
stone
western trunk, northern blossom, south-eastern thorn

northern branch, central trunk, southern branch
western falling needle, eastern climbing needle
north-western thorn, north-eastern thorn, southern stem

?

(jump down for solution)

(jump down for solution)

A Compass Rose by Any Other Name Solution

Answer: "Hedera"

The paragraph in ALL CAPS at the top of the page sets up the scenario and also gives a few clues. The biggest clue is the reference to the pangram "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" which is the quintessential sentence used to display fonts because it utilizes every of the 26 letters in the Latin alphabet. This is meant to clue the player that we're dealing with an all-caps font.

The botanist's belongings are needed to determine how the font is described. He takes specific care to describe the types of plants/topography he sees around him, which the puzzle utilizes to describe letters later. Each part of his line explains an aspect of the font:

"I've come across a very strange forest, unlike any other I've ever seen before. The features of the plants and topography are abnormally geometric... It's almost as if I could plot the whole forest on a grid..." The compass can be used as a grid for drawing the letters of the font for those who aren't visually-minded.

"...The trunks of the tall deciduous trees are utterly vertical without a single bend..." So, trunks are long vertical lines.

"...and their long branches and short twigs are perfectly perpendicular to the trunks, lying completely horizontal..." Branches are long horizontal lines.

"...The many lengthy needles of the coniferous trees are angled in such a way that simple functions could map their slopes..." The needles are long sloped lines.

"The thorns on the bushes are similar but shorter than the needles, although they only seem to slope at 45 degree angles..." The thorns are short sloped lines at 45 degrees angles (and by contrast this means that needles don't have to be at 45 degrees)

"...The stems of the flowers on the ground are just as straight as the trunks of the trees,..." Stems are the same as trunks (long vertical lines), except they are short.

"...and their small blossoms and larger leaves form perfect arcs..." Blossoms are small arcs, leaves are large arcs.

"...The vines too form perfect arcs,..." Vines are arcs too, but they work a little different than blossoms and leaves.

"...and the stones at my feet are perfect circles..." Stones are circles.

"...Even the mountains and valleys I can see through the trees seem to be angles made from two straight lines instead the rocky sides of the earth you would expect..." Mountains and valleys are made of two straight lines, forming angles, up and down.

After determining how the plants represent different strokes, it should be easy for the puzzler to determine what the puzzle means by the list of different plants/features/directions.

This is a breakdown of what each letter is when described by its strokes:

A - western climbing needle, eastern falling needle, central twig

B - western trunk, northern blossom, southern blossom

C - western leaf

D - western trunk, eastern leaf

E - western trunk, northern branch, western twig, southern branch

F - western trunk, northern branch, western twig

G - western leaf, eastern twig, south-eastern stem
H - western trunk, central branch, eastern trunk
I - northern branch, central trunk, southern branch
J - northern western-seeking vine
K - western trunk, northern climbing needle, southern falling needle
L - western trunk, southern branch
M - western mountain, eastern mountain
N - western trunk, falling needle, eastern trunk
O - stone
P - western trunk, northern blossom
Q - stone, south-eastern thorn
R - western trunk, northern blossom, south-eastern thorn
S - north-eastern central-seeking vine, south-western central-seeking vine
T - central trunk, northern branch
U - southern leaf
V - western falling needle, eastern climbing needle
W - western valley, eastern valley
X - falling needle, climbing needle
Y - north-western thorn, north-eastern thorn, southern stem
Z - northern branch, climbing needle, southern branch

After going letter by letter through the long list, the puzzler will get a different, less popular pangram and a related question: "JINXED WIZARDS PLUCK IVY FROM THE BIG QUILT. WHAT IS THE GENUS FOR IVY?" Doing a quick Google or Wikipedia search should inform the puzzler that the genus that contains ivy is called "Hedera", the answer to the puzzle.