

Magic Is in the Air (Solution)

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The first step in this puzzle involves solving crossword clues to fill out the 24 rows of the supplied grid. Once a critical mass of clues have been placed correctly, we can check our work by following the penguins' trajectories. As indicated by an accompanying graphic, balloons rise (at a 45° angle), paper planes move horizontally, and apples fall in downward-facing parabolas. Each penguin's trajectory spells out a word or name (though some may be unrecognizable and seem incorrect).

These expressions can be paired (one from the left, one from the right) to form names of playing cards from Magic: the Gathering (as clued by the puzzle title). The card components are alphabetical in the right-hand side. We use the left-hand side as an ordering, then index into the full card name using the supplied indices. This spells **PHOENICOPTERUS**, the answer to the puzzle.



#	Combined Card	Index	Extract	#	Combined Card	Index	Extract
1	Corsair Captain	10	P	8	Burnt Offering	6	O
2	Thoughtcutter Agent	6	H	9	Priest (of) Gix	1	P
3	Food Chain	2	O	10	Basalt Monolith	13	T
4	Agility Bobblehead	13	E	11	Yarok (the) Desecrated	12	E
5	Enchanted Prairie	6	N	12	Chocobo Racetrack	8	R
6	Zirda (the) Dawnwaker	2	I	13	Black Lotus	9	U
7	Clever Conjurer	7	C	14	Super State	6	S