

# The New York Times

**For Kids**

EDITORS' NOTE: THIS SECTION SHOULD NOT BE READ BY GROWN-UPS

BEHIND THE SCENES  
WITH  
**RYAN COOGLER**  
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BY:

**KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS**  
MAYOR OF ATLANTA

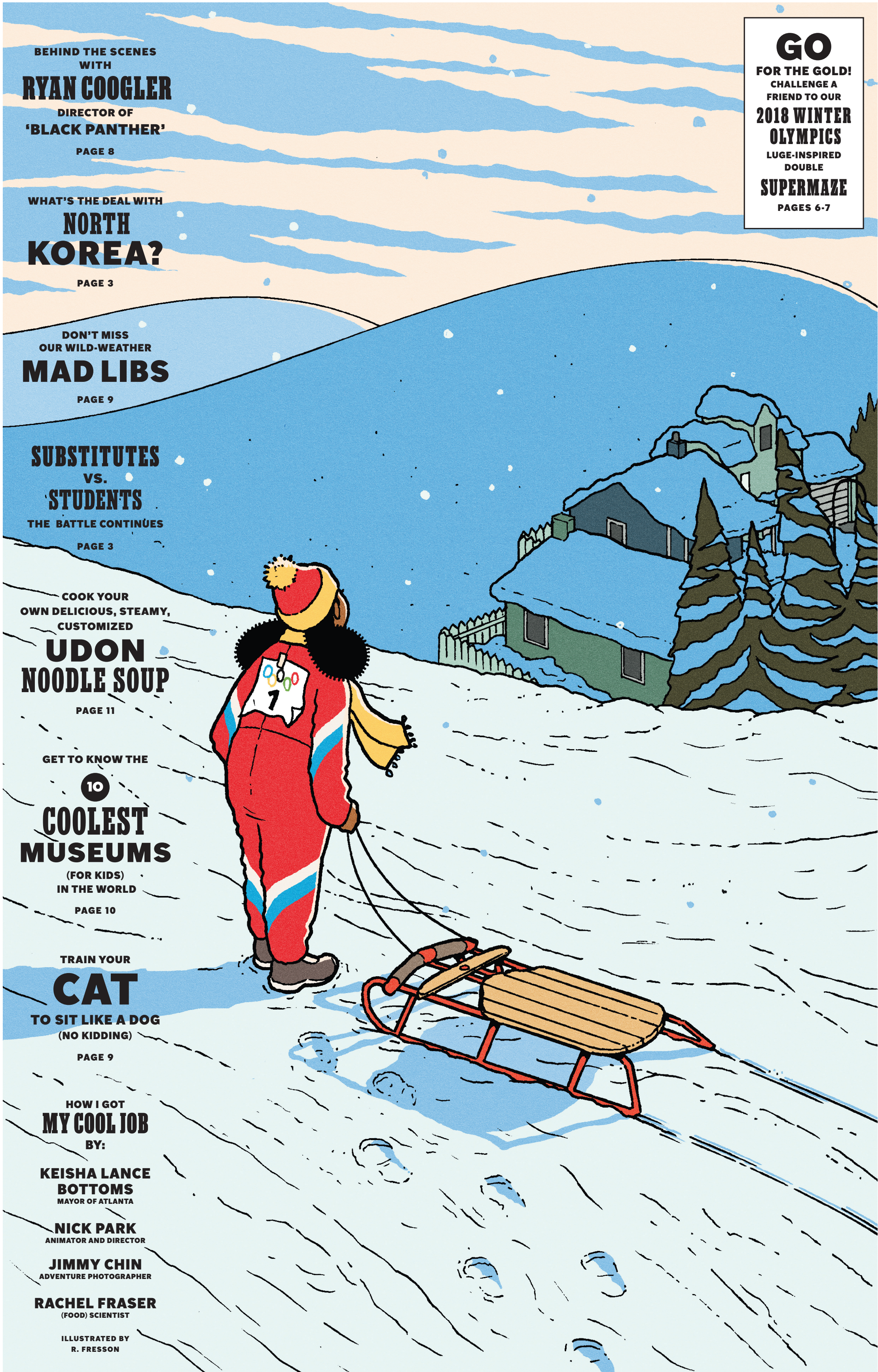
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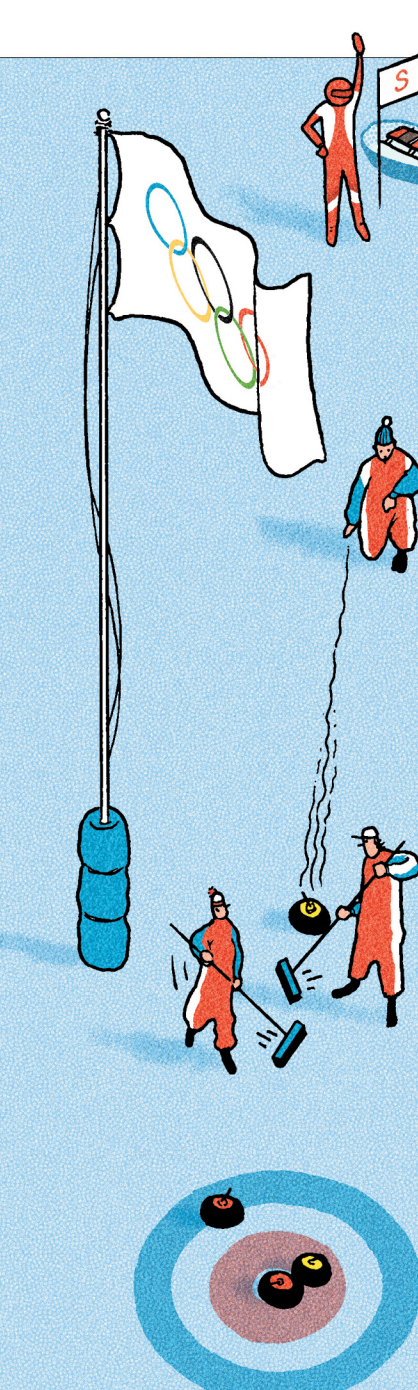
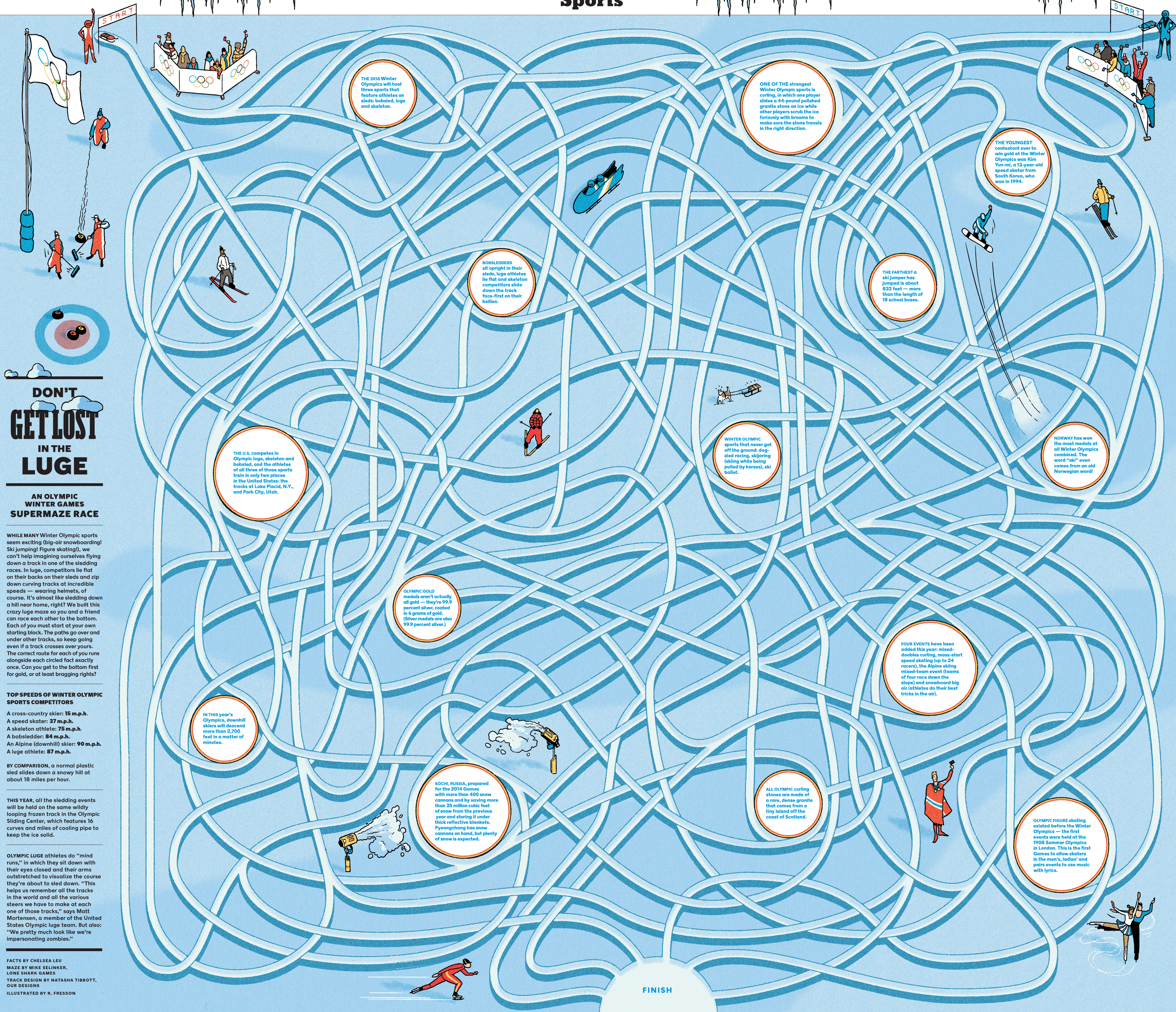
ILLUSTRATED BY  
R. FRESSON

**GO**  
FOR THE GOLD!  
CHALLENGE A  
FRIEND TO OUR  
**2018 WINTER OLYMPICS**  
LUGE-INSPIRED  
DOUBLE  
**SUPERMAZE**  
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# Sports



## DON'T GET LOST IN THE LUGE

### AN OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES SUPERMAZE RACE

WHILE MANY Winter Olympic sports seem exciting (big-air snowboarding! Ski jumping! Figure skating!), we can't help imagining ourselves flying down a track in one of the sledding races. In luge, competitors lie flat on their backs on their sleds and zip down curving tracks at incredible speeds — wearing helmets, of course. It's almost like sledding down a hill near home, right? We built this crazy luge maze so you and a friend can race each other to the bottom. Each of you must start at your own starting block. The paths go over and under other tracks, so keep going even if a track crosses over yours. The correct route for each of you runs alongside each circled fact exactly once. Can you get to the bottom first for gold, or at least bragging rights?

#### TOP SPEEDS OF WINTER OLYMPIC SPORTS COMPETITORS

A cross-country skier: **15 m.p.h.**  
A speed skater: **37 m.p.h.**  
A skeleton athlete: **75 m.p.h.**  
A bobsledder: **84 m.p.h.**  
An Alpine (downhill) skier: **90 m.p.h.**  
A luge athlete: **87 m.p.h.**

BY COMPARISON, a normal plastic sled slides down a snowy hill at about 18 miles per hour.

THIS YEAR, all the sledding events will be held on the same wildly looping frozen track in the Olympic Sliding Center, which features 16 curves and miles of cooling pipe to keep the ice solid.

OLYMPIC LUGE athletes do "mind runs," in which they sit down with their eyes closed and their arms outstretched to visualize the course they're about to sled down. "This helps us remember all the tracks in the world and all the various steers we have to make at each one of those tracks," says Matt Mortensen, a member of the United States Olympic luge team. But also: "We pretty much look like we're impersonating zombies."

FACTS BY CHELSEA LEU  
MAZE BY MIKE SELINKER,  
LONE SHARK GAMES  
TRACK DESIGN BY NATASHA TIBBOTT,  
OUR DESIGNS  
ILLUSTRATED BY R. FRESSON

THE 2018 Winter Olympics will host three sports that feature athletes on sleds: bobsled, luge and skeleton.

ONE OF THE strongest Winter Olympic sports is curling, in which one player slides a 44-pound polished granite stone on ice while other players scrub the ice furiously with brooms to make sure the stone travels in the right direction.

THE YOUNGEST contestant ever to win gold at the Winter Olympics was Kim Yun-mi, a 13-year-old speed skater from South Korea, who won in 1994.

BOSBLEDDERS sit upright in their sleds, luge athletes lie flat and skeleton competitors slide down the track face-first on their bellies.

THE FARTHEST a ski jumper has jumped is about 832 feet — more than the length of 18 school buses.

THE U.S. competes in Olympic luge, skeleton and bobsled, and the athletes of all three of those sports train in only two places in the United States: the tracks at Lake Placid, N.Y., and Park City, Utah.

WINTER OLYMPIC sports that never got off the ground: dog-sled racing, ski jumping (skiing while being pulled by horses), ski ballet.

NORWAY has won the most medals at all Winter Olympics combined. The word "ski" even comes from an old Norwegian word!

OLYMPIC GOLD medals aren't actually all gold — they're 99.9 percent silver, coated in 6 grams of gold. (Silver medals are also 99.9 percent silver.)

IN THIS year's Olympics, downhill skiers will descend more than 2,700 feet in a matter of minutes.

SOCHI, RUSSIA, prepared for the 2014 Games with more than 400 snow cannons and by saving more than 25 million cubic feet of snow from the previous year and storing it under thick reflective blankets. Pyeongchang has snow cannons on hand, but plenty of snow is expected.

ALL OLYMPIC curling stones are made of a rare, dense granite that comes from a tiny island off the coast of Scotland.

FOUR EVENTS have been added this year: mixed-doubles curling, mass-start speed skating (up to 24 racers), the Alpine skiing mixed-team event (teams of four race down the slope) and snowboard big air (athletes do their best tricks in the air).

OLYMPIC FIGURE skating existed before the Winter Olympics — the first events were held at the 1908 Summer Olympics in London. This is the first Games to allow skaters in the men's, ladies' and pairs events to use music with lyrics.

FINISH