Puzzle 2

The Cult is creating chimerae—combinations of two animals, always with one carnivore and one herbivore. For each chimera, the two animals always have *at least* one letter in their names in common: the first letter of one animal’s name will be the same as the last letter of the other’s.

Solve the crossword puzzle clues below to figure out which animals were combined in each chimera. The number in parentheses is the total number of letters the two animals’ names have in common, counting duplicates (*e.g.*, if both animals have two “L”s in their names, each “L” counts). Each crossword puzzle answer combines the two names, with the duplicate first/last letter connecting the two.

*Example:* Suppose the clue was *Geico representative that mispronounces “ought to” (2)*. The two animals are *gecko* (herbivore) and *otter* (carnivore), and the two letters they have in common are one *o* and one *e*. The answer for the crossword puzzle would be *geckootter*.

Once you’ve gotten each pairing and put it into the crossword, use the common letters from each pair’s names along with the below information to figure out the 5-letter answer:

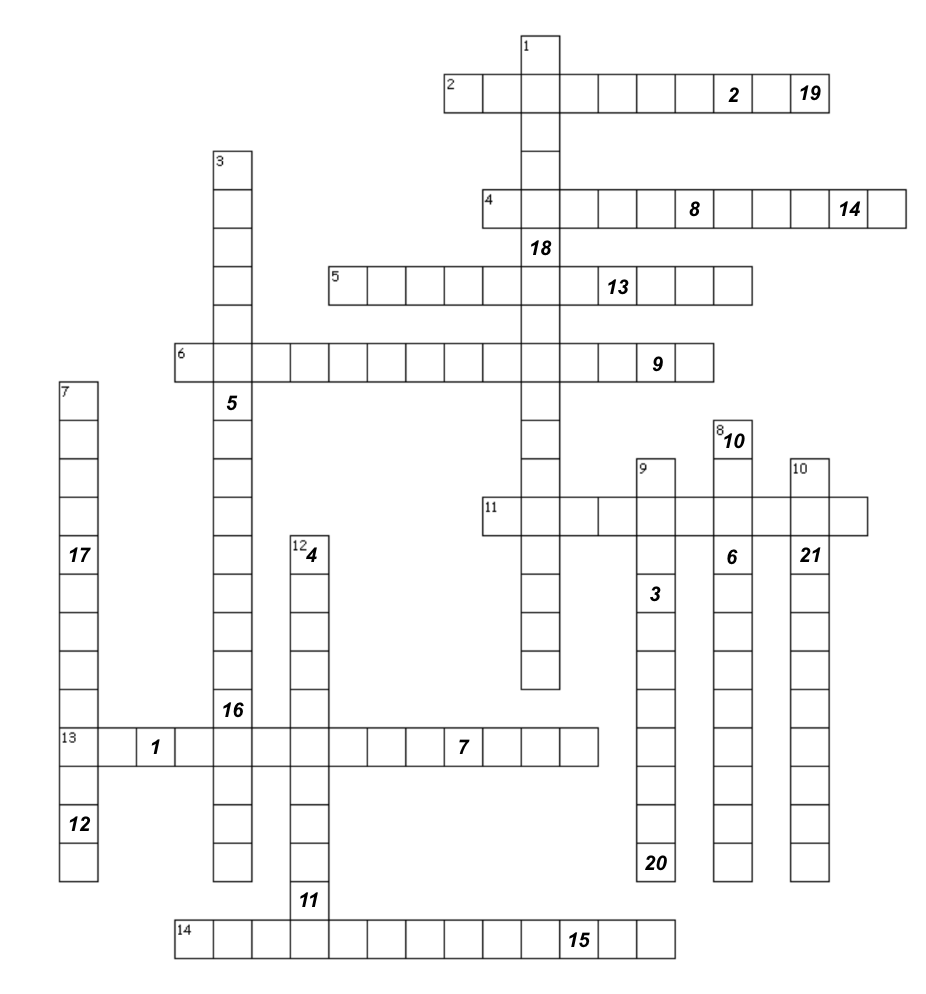
* 1,2,6,4,2 = in order, the number of times each letter in the final answer is shared among animal pair names.
* For example, if three animal pairs share the letter “y,” and of those one pair shares it twice (*i.e.* both animals in the pair have the letter “y” in their name twice), then the total number of times “y” is shared among animal pair names is 3 + 1 = 4.

For an additional hint, look at the bolded numbers to read a message that will point you to what gave the chimerae the strength to:

1. BREAK out of their cages,
2. ATTACK their creators, and
3. BEAT back the cultists sent to capture them.

**Clues:**

1. Nearsighted luxury vehicles (2)
2. Turns out, the villain in Jaws attacked because it smelled menthol, not blood (2)
3. The fastest Boston swindler meets the river horse (3)
4. Boxer by the name of Jack constantly asks the first of 5 "w"s (1)
5. Look out! As Pratchett would have it, this animal cannot change its shorts (1)
6. Tusked Bullwinkle companion (4)
7. Horton hears a screech (4)
8. The bird Little Pink Riding Hood's nemesis eats as an appetizer (3)
9. Masked bandit in favor of the Second Amendment (2)
10. An extinct, flightless, eight-armed bird (2)
11. Simba tries to welsh on his agreements (1)
12. Br'er Shere Khan (3) *(NOTE: the carnivore name comes first)*
13. Laughing, roly-poly, tank (1)
14. Plumber-friendly mammal that lays eggs (2)



**Answers:**

1. JAGUARRHINOCEROUS (R, U)
2. SHARKKOALA (A, K)
3. CHEETAHHIPPOPOTAMUS (A, H, T)
4. KANGAROOOWL (O)
5. LEOPARDDUCK (D)
6. WALRUSSQUIRREL (L, R, S, U)
7. EAGLEELEPHANT (A, E, E, L)
8. WOLFFLAMINGO (F, L, O)
9. BEARRACCOON (A, R)
10. DODOOCTOPUS (O, O)
11. WEASELLION (L)
12. TIGERRABBIT (I, R, T)
13. HYENAARMADILLO (A)
14. PLATYPUSSNAKE (A, S)

**Crossword clue:** EARTHFIREWINDWATERAND

**Final answer:** HEART