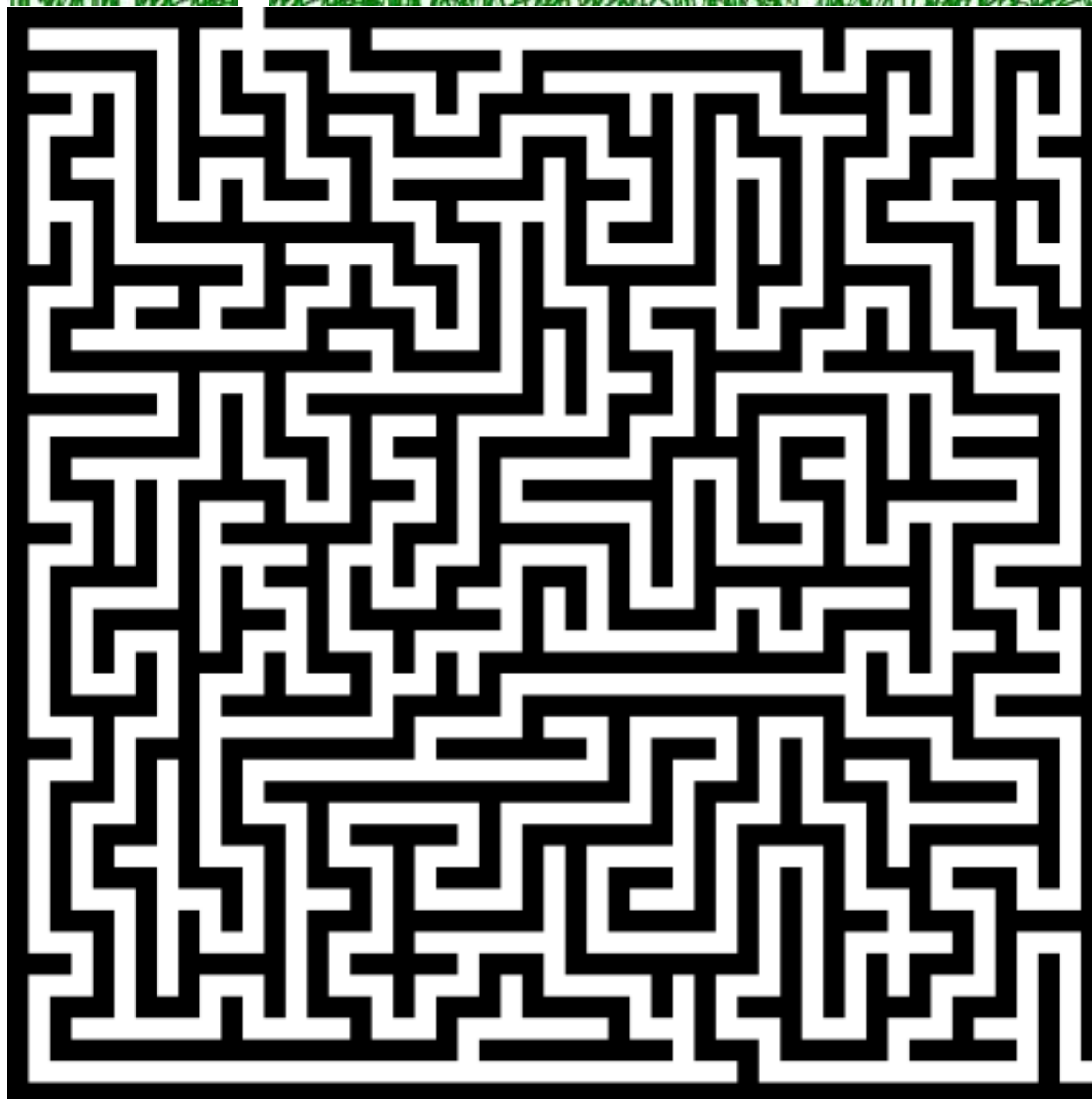


# The Badger State

The nickname, "Badger," originally referred to the miners who worked at the Galena lead mines in Illinois in the 1830s. The mines were in northwestern Illinois close to the borders of Wisconsin and Iowa. The Wisconsin miners lived in temporary caves cut into the hillsides. These caves were described as badger dens and, the miners who lived in them, as badgers. This derisive nickname was brought back to Wisconsin by the miners. Eventually, the nickname was applied to all people of Wisconsin and, finally, to the state itself. In 1957, the badger was adopted as Wisconsin's state animal.



See if you can help the badger get out of his cave.



Start