



**SPACE
STATION
RAT:
THE
MAZE**

Genetically engineered Rat has stowed away on a space station. She must find food, a nest and a friend while avoiding sniffers and the nasty robot Nanny. Help Rat find the path through the maze of the space station. How did the real Rat solve her problems? Read **SPACE STATION RAT** by Michael J. Daley to find out. [Holiday House, ISBN 0-8234-1866-9]

**BASIC
MAZE
GAME:**

Start at center.
Find path to **FOOD**, the **BOY'S ROOM**, and **RAT'S NEST**.
Black bars are dead ends. Avoid Nanny & the sniffer.
Use pencil to trace your path so you can erase false trails or it gets very confusing.
Remember, it's easy to go in circles on a space station! Good luck.
Space Station Rat: The Maze © 2005 Michael J. Daley

From **SPACE STATION RAT**

BY MICHAEL J. DALEY

Chapter One
RAT

Rat did not know which was worse: being hungry most of the time, or being lonely all of the time.

She huddled in the shadows just inside the air vent. Through the grate she could see into the cafeteria. Alone in the large room, the boy sat at a table, eating an apple. He got it from one of the machines on the wall.

Wicked machines. They gave food to everyone, except Rat. Rat hated them.

The boy ate the apple. Rat heard every bite: the pop of skin, the crush of sweet, white flesh, the wet slurp of juice. The air was heavy with apple smell.

Rat's belly ached with wanting the apple. She bit into a nearby wire to stay calm. One...two...three tiny nips with her long, very sharp front teeth. She did not allow herself any more. She did not bite deep. She only grazed the toothsome outer cover.

On a space station, every wire mattered.

A space station was a serious place. It was a clean place. It was no place for Rat...

Michael J. Daley
is available for
school visits
writing workshops [co-taught
with his wife, Jessie Haas]
pizza box solar oven workshops
&
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Space Station Rat is available in bookstores or online, \$15.95, ages 8-12, Holiday House, ISBN 0-8234-1866-9, 182 page hardcover.

Also available only by direct order at the address above: *At Home With the Sun*, \$10 plus \$3 p&h, 32 page paperback, ages 8-12. Solar energy experiments and information including the pizza box solar oven. Great home-schooling and classroom teacher resource.

VARIATIONS ON THE BASIC MAZE:

A: Start at FOOD, RAT'S NEST, or BOY'S ROOM. Find path to the center or to other locations--for example, from FOOD to BOY'S ROOM.

B: Pretend you are the nasty robot Nanny. Start at Nanny and find the path to RAT'S NEST.

C: Maze time challenge. Compete against a friend to see who can solve the maze in the shortest time.

SOMETHING ABOUT SPACE STATIONS..

To: newfriend@home.earth
From: Jeff@spotseeker.orbit
Subject: YOU WROTE BACK!!!!

Hi again. You took so long. I worried I flunked unusual. We walk on the floor. Deck, we call it. The space station is like a big doughnut. There are ten rings around the center. I live on #9. I guess if the station was on Earth, you'd think we walked on the walls. But there is no down or up here. We have *in* and *out*. Because of the spin. Have you ever spun a rope with a knot on the end? That's fake gravity. My mom says, "The earth *hugs* you, but a space station *catches* you." It's not as nice as real gravity. What's your name?

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