

View From the Top

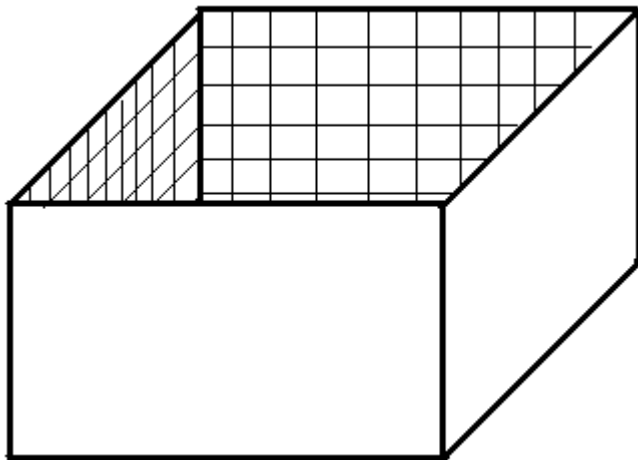
Solution

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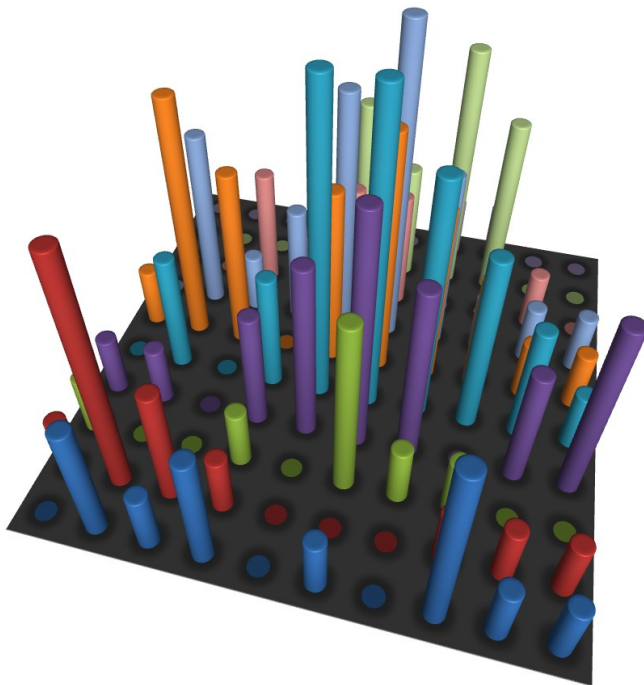
Reading from the top row and continuing clockwise, the following text can be read: "The satellite view from above is not as illuminating as the spectacular vistas from sea level. Use this topological map to see more..."

Viewing the 10x10 grid of numbers as a topological map, where the numbers 0-5 indicate altitude, you can visualize a rough map of an island where 0 is sea level, and 5 is the highest peaks on the island.

Noting that the text becomes more and more muddled as you continue to read, and that some letters are not used, it becomes necessary to figure out the scheme for cancelling letters from the text. The dotted lines around the 10x10 grid suggest folding. Folding the four arms upwards creates a wall around the island.



Now, if you visualize what letters you would be able to see looking from one side of the island to the wall on the other side, the rest of the text becomes readable. The view from south to north is shown by this chart.



Viewing all walls, we get the following:

T	H	E	S	A	T	E	L	L	I
T	I	N	G	A	S	T	H	E	S
E	T	H	I	Q	Y	S	T	O	P
T	O	H	E	G	A	R	F	I	R
D	A	N	I	O	L	V	E	G	M
T	R	D	T	V	A	Q	T	Y	O
C	R	H	W	U	O	Y	L	T	E

T	E	V	I	E	W	F	R	O	M
P	E	C	T	A	C	U	L	A	R
O	L	O	G	O	I	D	C	A	L
S	P	T	G	R	W	A	A	X	N
E	R	T	O	P	A	L	I	P	T
Y	T	A	E	N	B	H	U	P	T
E	Z	U	I	U	R	D	S	S	W

A	B	O	V	E	I	S	N	O	T
V	I	S	T	A	S	F	R	O	M
M	A	P	T	M	T	O	S	E	E
D	T	H	R	P	V	I	R	A	D
D	S	D	H	T	S	=	A	P	1
E	T	Y	A	D	E	S	V	R	E
C	N	P	O	M	L	E	K	E	E

A	S	I	L	L	U	M	I	N	A
S	E	A	L	E	V	E	L	U	S
M	O	R	W	E	E	T	A	K	E
R	L	O	F	P	N	B	W	E	2
L	A	E	W	G	D	E	R	R	K
R	E	D	U	O	U	Y	E	N	N
E	T	J	S	X	B	T	V	M	H

Now, the rest of the text reads: "... Use this topological map to see more. Take the first and third row. 2 digits = 1 letter."

The digit pairs in the first and third rows of the 10x10 grid are:

02, 12, 01, 03, 11
10, 01, 03, 11, 00

Indexing these into the alphabet yields the answer **BLACKJACK**.