

Holiday Hoopla 2020

We Love Talking Turtles

Answer: PEPPERMINT

Ah, yes. Vivi's pride and joy.

So, this puzzle was entirely based on the flavor text idea of Mario saying "It's a-ffine!" That was the entire idea. We know, it's a bad joke, and we're sorry. We saw the chance and we grabbed it. (You know, because, like, "It's-a-me! Mario!")

So now that you've figured out that the puzzle is an affine cipher, you need an a and b value to decode the affine. These are given to you by the flavor text as 3 and 4, respectively, and then you go to your favorite cipher solver and plug it in.

Now, you get a weird looking mix of numbers and letters that should be something like:

```
Lu8g8
Wa68o
Do9key Ko9g
(1,3,4) (2,5)ach
7ar8o
Da8sy
Bowse6
Yosh8
Walu8g8
(10)oad(2,5) (10) (10) (2,5)
```

Each of those lines is the name of a Mario character with some letters missing. The complete names are:

```
Luigi
Wario
Donkey Kong
Peach
Mario
Daisy
Bowser
Yoshi
Waluigi
Toadette
```

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When you look closer, the "i"s are all replaced by "8"s, the "r"s are all replaced by "6"s, the "n"s are all replaced by "9"s, the "p"s are all replaced by "1"s, "3"s, and "4"s, and so on. Putting these missing letters in order, you get:

1-P
2-E
3-P
4-P
5-E
6-R
7-M
8-I
9-N
10-T

So the answer is "PEPPERMINT"!