

2.7 I can't see anything

The game Projective Set is a relative of the game Set. In this game, you deal out seven cards and look for a nonempty subset of the cards that comprises an even number of each color of dot. There are six colors of dot, and $2^6 - 1 = 63$ different cards.

In this puzzle, you are given eighteen Projective Set layouts, along with a number associated to each one. Exactly 26 ProSet cards are used throughout the puzzle, and they always appear in a certain order within each layout. In fact the dot patterns on the cards that appear are exactly the dot patterns of the Braille alphabet, so that each card corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. The cards always appear in alphabetical order.

Each layout contains a unique Projective Set. Taking the cards from each Set (leaving the other cards aside) and translating them into letters, you find the resulting letters can be anagrammed into a word in a unique way.

The words from each layout (arranged as they appear on the page, and with the associated number listed) are:

- HID (3); COME (4)
- VISUAL (3); NECK(3)
- CHAOS (3); WEARY (4)
- EXULT (5); LIKED (4)
- HUSKY (3); BACKS (1)
- ABIDE (3); HARMED (3)
- GAMBIT (6); CHOP (2)
- YOUTH (1); EULOGY (1)
- CLAP (3); SAILOR (6)

Using the numbers as indices into the words gives DESCARTES BIRTH YEAR, cluing the answer: 1596