SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

It all started just like this . . .

It was a beautiful, sunny spring day. Well, to be exact, it was the very first day of **spring**. The sky in New Mouse City was crystal clear, and the smell of flowers filled the air. I sniffed the air and smiled. Spring had officially spring the street in the spring had officially spring the spring had officially spring the street in the smell of spring had officially spring the spring had officially spring the spring the spring that the spring the spring that the spring tha

Don't you just love spring? I do! I listened to the birds (HIRPINS outside my window.

Sunshine

warmed my back, and the smell of cherry blossoms filled my office. I tried to do some work but . . .



Oh, how rude! I forgot to introduce myself. My name is Geronimo Stilton. I run *The Rodent's Gazette*, the most famouse newspaper on Mouse Island.

Anyway, where was I? Oh, yes — I was having a little trouble concentrating, due to the sun, and the flowers, and the birds, and . . . Well, you get the idea.

Right then the door to my office burst open.

"Uncle!" a little mouse shrieked with delight.

It was my dear nephew Benjamin. He gave me a **hug**.

"Can I have dinner at your house tonight?"
he asked.

"Great idea," I replied with a **SNIF**.

"How about we have a **PIZZA** party with the









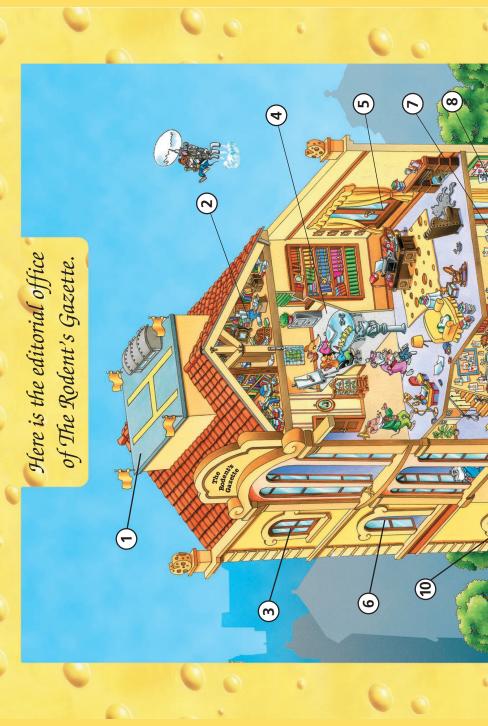


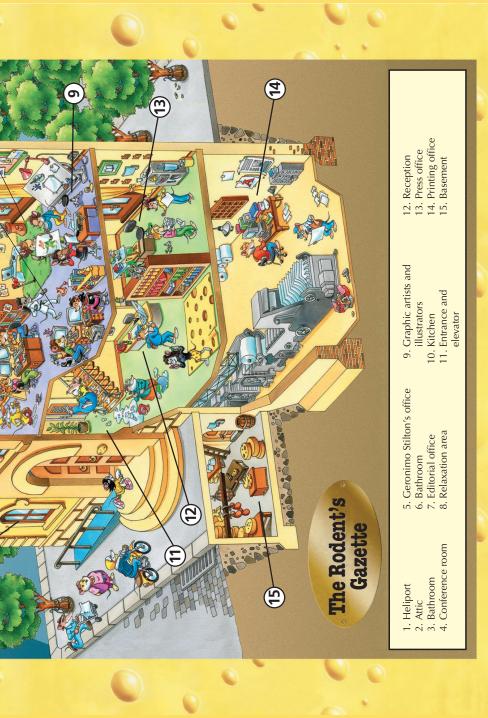
whole family? We can **CELEBRATE** the first day of **SPRING**."





















CHOMP! CHOMP! CHOMP!

That night the **StiltOn Family** gathered at my house. My sister, Thea, was there, my cousin Trap, Grandfather Shortpaws, Aunt Sweetfur...

Even Petunia Pretty Pans came with her brother, **WOLFGANG**. Too bad Petunia also brought along her **pesky** niece, Bugsy Wugsy. I made sure Bugsy sat **far** away from me.





My cousin Trap made all kinds of **pizzas**: some with just **TOMATO SAUCE**, some with **PEPPERONI**, some with **mushrooms**, some with different types of cheese, and even some with HAM and pineapple.

I ate so many slices I lost count!

CHOMP! CHOMP! CHOMP!

My belly got rounder and rounder, but I couldn't stop. The pizza was so **DELICIOUS!**

Finally, everyone finished eating and left. I ate one more slice. Then I waddled off to bed.

