

DOSSIER FILE: CATCH MYSTERE ROBOTO!
RICOCHET ROBOTS

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Answer: KAREL CAPEK or JOSEF CAPEK

This is the second meta-puzzle. You received one piece of the puzzle for each of the nine game-themed base puzzles. The first four were the four quadrants of a Ricochet Robots board; the last five were a list of five goals: Red Star, Blue Sun, Green Star, Yellow Moon, and Green Moon. To solve this puzzle, find the shortest path for each of these goals, in order, using standard Ricochet Robots rules - a robot may move in only the cardinal directions, and will move forward until stopped by an obstacle (a wall or another robot). All paths will be shortest, but may not be topographically unique (that is, the moves each robot makes is unique in a solution but the order the robots move in may be alterable). However, as we will see, this fact is unimportant in the extraction.

Starting from the initial position, the **red star** can be reached by this seven-move sequence, with each robot landing on the (indicated letter): Blue south (A), blue east (L), red west (T) red south (O), red east (D), red north (E), and red west (T). Then, the **blue sun** may be reached in one move: Blue west (S). Next, the **green star** requires six moves: Yellow west (C), yellow north (T), green east (O), green south (N), green west (S), and green north (O). The **yellow moon** needs nine moves: Yellow east (C), yellow south (O), yellow east (D), yellow north (E), red east (E), yellow south (L), yellow west (O), yellow north (O), and yellow west (K). Finally, the **green moon** needs a further seven moves: Green south (U), green east (T), green north (H), green west (O), green south (F), green east (G), and green north (O).

Now, as the flavortext mentioned, analyze the robots' moves. Look at the robots' paths individually, in rainbow order. Over the course of the entire puzzle, the red robot lands on: TODETE, yellow hits: CTCODELOOK, green touches: ONSOUTHOFGO, and blue, ALS:
TO DETECT CODE LOOK ON SOUTH OF GOALS.

Reading the letters one south of each of the seventeen goal squares, in standard reading order (top to bottom, left to right), you should now be able to read the final phrase: COINER OF WORD ROBOT; a brief Internet search should lead you to that person, KAREL CAPEK. (Of course, a very close reading of the Wikipedia article might reveal that he credits his brother, JOSEF CAPEK, with actually coming up with the word. Both answers are acceptable.)