



PUZZLES FOR DEMOCRACY

A puzzle for every state + Washington, D.C.

ABOUT THE PUZZLES

You hold in your hand a set of 51 puzzles—one for each of the United States plus an extra one for Washington, D.C. (Unless you printed out only specific pages, in which case you hold in your hand that subset of puzzles.) The puzzles cover a range of genres almost as wide as the geographical area that inspired them: You’ll find crosswords, you’ll find word searches, you’ll find logic puzzles, you’ll find puzzles that defy easy categorization.

And while these puzzles were inspired by a need to *Do Something* to help strengthen U.S. democracy, what you will *not* find in these pages is political finger-pointing at any particular state. Even in the states where the most extreme politicians are trying to restrict voting rights or attempting to gerrymander opposing parties out of existence, there are plenty of people who remain staunchly pro-democracy. We’d rather celebrate the various United States with our puzzles, and let superb groups like Common Cause fight the battles that need fighting.

A FEW THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW

- The puzzles in this set go (roughly) from “fairly easy” at the start to “pretty darn hard” at the end. It’s impossible to get the difficulty scale right for *everybody*, of course, so if you run into a stumper, that doesn’t mean every puzzle after that will be beyond you. Keep solving!
- Many of the puzzles in this set have a “meta answer,” or a second step that will reveal a pertinent fact or the answer to a riddle. Often these meta answers involve “indexing”—taking a provided number, and counting that number of letters into your previous answers. The resulting letters will spell out the meta answer, which will often take the form of a very bad pun.
- Other puzzles *don’t* depend on indexing, and sometimes you’ll need to have a little a-ha to figure out how to reach the final answer. And some puzzles don’t have meta answers at all.
- The Answers section begins on page 62.

If you enjoy these puzzles, please help spread the word of their existence! We hope to raise a lot of money for Common Cause so that they can continue to fight for voting rights and democracy, both in the courtroom and in the court of public opinion.

We hope you have a lot of fun with these puzzles!

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Everyone knows that ❤️ = LOVE.

Can you name the songs, movies, and TV show clued by the emojis below?

We've given you a singer or actor for each one.

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|------------|
| 1 | ❤️ 🏠 | 11 | ❤️ 🚢 |
| 2 | 🍴 🍽️ 🙏 ❤️ | 12 | 🛣️ ❤️ |
| 3 | ❤️ 😂 | 13 | ❤️ ❤️ → |
| 4 | 🏰 ❤️ | 14 | 🇸🇺 🏠 ❤️ |
| 5 | ❤️ 🧚‍♀️ | 15 | ❤️ 🚂 |
| 6 | 👐 👐 ❤️ | 16 | 👁️ ❤️ 🗑️ 🧻 |
| 7 | ❤️ LOVE | 17 | ❤️ 📖 |
| 8 | 👩 ⚡️ ❤️ | 18 | 🚫 💰 🦊 ❤️ |
| 9 | ❤️ 🧪 🧪 🧪 🧪 🧪 🧪 🧪 🧪 → | | |
| 10 | ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ... | | |

The B-52's
The Beatles
Beyoncé + Jay-Z
The Clovers
Sean Connery
The Everly Brothers

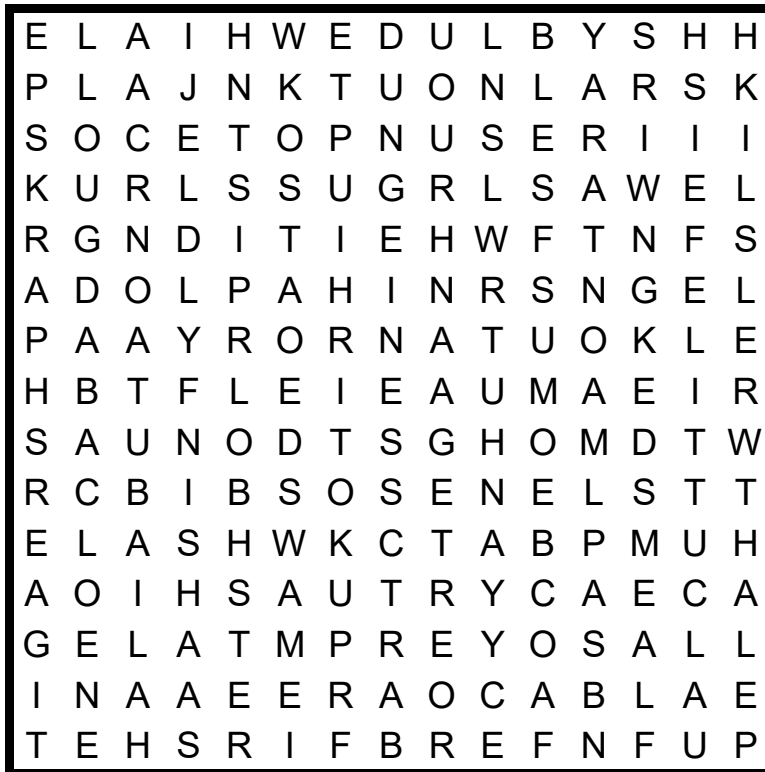
Aretha Franklin
Joan Jett
Ali MacGraw
Gavin MacLeod
The O'Jays
Gwyneth Paltrow

Julia Roberts
The Ronettes
Diana Ross + Lionel Richie
Peter Sellers
The Supremes
Steve Winwood

On November 9, 1970, the Oregon Department of Transportation was called upon to remove debris from the Pacific Coast Highway. This debris turned out to be an 8-ton sperm whale corpse that had washed ashore. Their decision to use the same approach for removal as they would have with a fallen boulder—which is to say, a great deal of dynamite—led to an incident now immortalized on the internet as The Exploding Whale. Go look up the video, it's really something.

In the grid below, thirty sea creatures have exploded. The blasts have thrown their letters in a straight line in groups of two or more, but with an extra space between each group. So SPERM WHALE could be in the grid as SPEXRMWHYALE. Find all the animals and then read the unused letters to answer the question...

What should the Oregon Department of Transportation have done instead?



ABALONE
ALBACORE
BLUE WHALE
CUTTLEFISH
DOLPHIN
DORY
DUNGENESS CRAB
ELEPHANT SEAL
HALIBUT
HUMPBACK WHALE
JELLYFISH

KILLER WHALE
LAMPREY
LOBSTER
MANTA RAY
MUSSEL
OCTOPUS
OYSTER
PLANKTON
PORPOISE
PUFFERFISH
RINGED SEAL

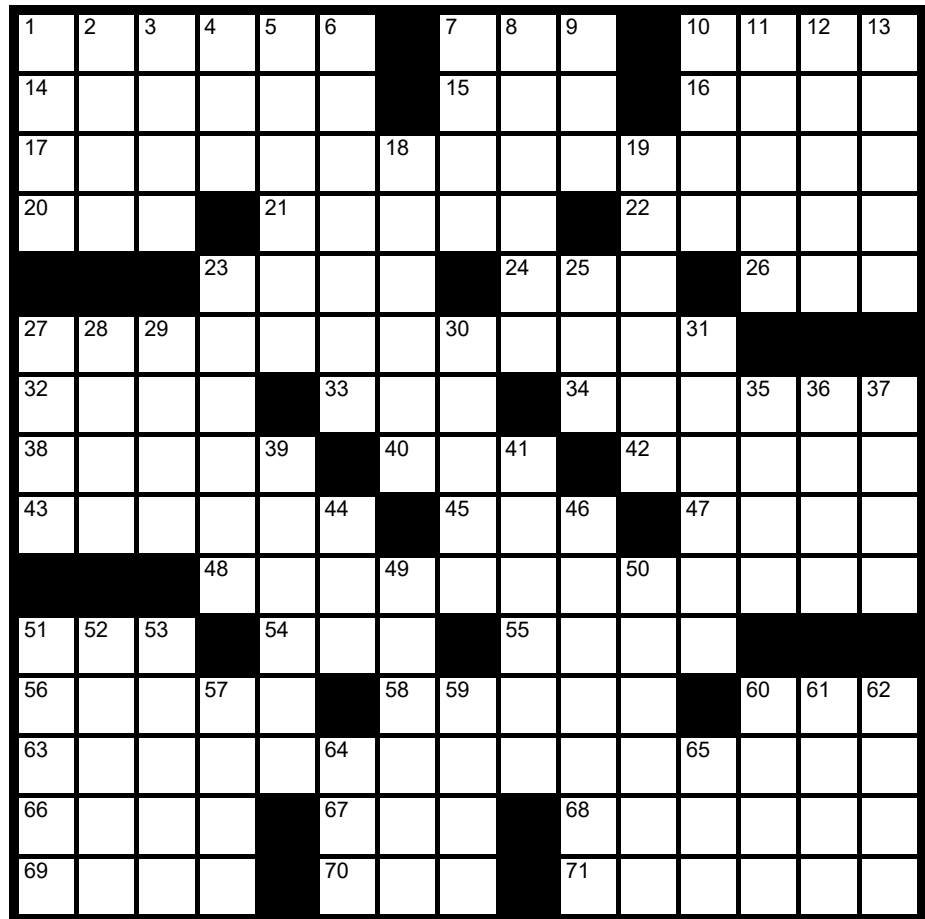
SALMON
SAURY
SEA OTTER
STARFISH
TIGER SHARK
TUNA
WALRUS
WHITING

Across

- 1 Least likely to cause harm
 7 D&D, e.g.
 10 Sec'y, e.g.
 14 Pointed indicator of cold weather
 15 Fútbol stadium cheer
 16 Not at all racy
 17 Much-adapted novel of 1868
 20 That guy's
 21 (or), briefly
 22 Stroll
 23 Hawaii's ___ Coast
 24 Building add-on
 26 Flight stat.
 27 Chit-chat
 32 *Rubáiyát* poet
 33 Map abbr.
 34 "Good riddance"
 38 Sired, biblically
 40 List of songs
 42 Blender button
 43 Bad reception
 45 Gallery display
 47 Loved one
 48 Activity where you might encounter a windmill
 51 Business card abbr.
 54 Frenemy of Larry and Curly
 55 Almost never
 56 Dutch Caribbean island
 58 Complicated con job
 60 Right this moment
 63 1972 Elton John hit
 66 Anyone-can-join tournament
 67 Make a mistake
 68 Technological innovation first seen in 2007
 69 Feminine suffix
 70 Nutritional fig.
 71 *The Simpsons* character known for his laugh

Down

- 1 Weary sound
 2 Dark purple fruit
 3 Some evergreens



- 4 Chart in the ER
 5 Apply paint indelicately
 6 They rent
 7 Philanderer
 8 Many a destination on *Star Trek*
 9 ___-X
 10 Bit that's small even in Texas
 11 Carnival dance
 12 Take in olfactorily
 13 2020 Christopher Nolan film
 18 Shyness, amiability, ambition, etc.
 19 Hit hard
 23 Dojo class
 25 PC hookup
 27 A whole lot
 28 "___ a traveler ...": *Ozymandias*
 29 Totally nuts (about)
 30 Metaphor for the very best
 31 Thrown-together but workable solution
 35 Sandwich one might have for dessert
 36 Close up
 37 Lowly worker
 39 Heartless one of fiction
 41 Army units
 44 Gentle bird call
 46 Watched at the scheduled time
 49 Make a video of
 50 Predicament
 51 SUV named after a lake
 52 Blow
 53 *12 Angry Men* director Sidney
 57 Learn quickly about, with "up"
 59 Ambience
 60 Sgts. and cpls.
 61 Wine: Prefix
 62 Small songbird
 64 Neighbor of Aus.
 65 Flyers' org.

Ohioans absolutely love to point out the O's that begin and end their state's name. We thought it would be fun to get in on the action.

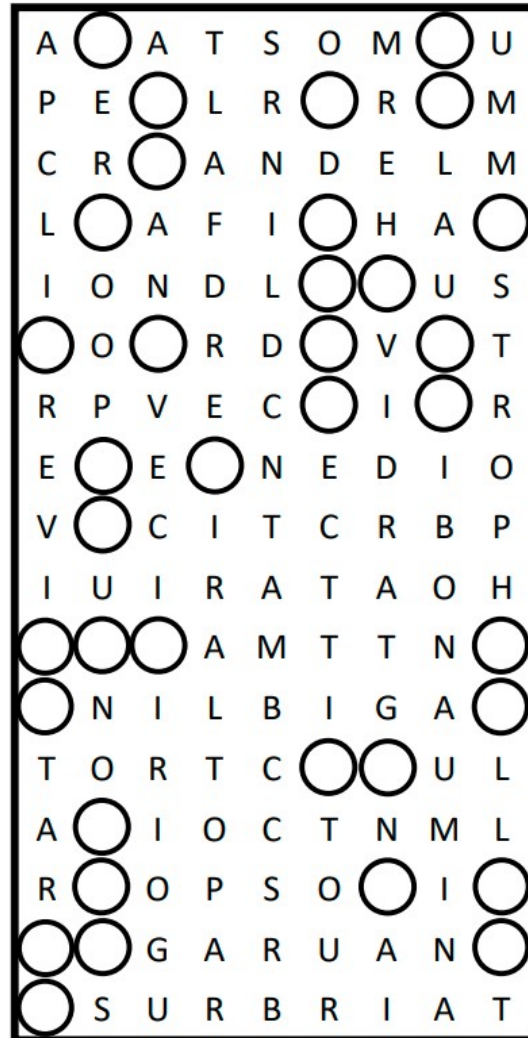
The answer to each clue below starts and ends with the same letter. However, those starting and ending letters have been replaced in the grid with large O's. Each answer follows a winding path, which you can trace out letter by letter, starting at one O and ending at another. A path might travel left, right, up, or down, but never diagonally. Answer lengths are given.

Every space in the grid will be used exactly once. When you're done, look for a message, beginning and ending with O, that answers this question:

What is an apt description of our journey through this great state?



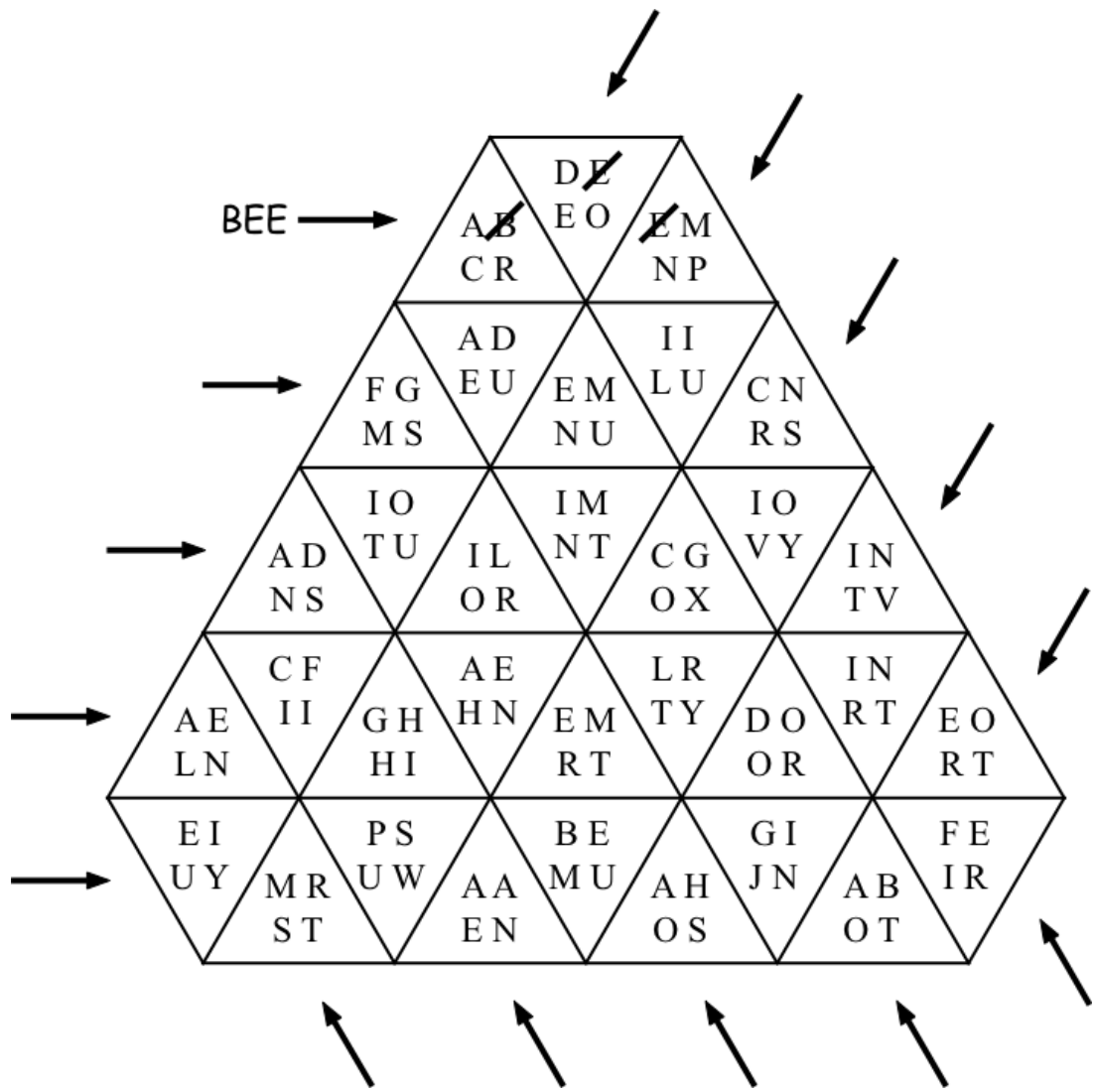
- A child's game (9)
- A secret organization (10)
- A large musical composition (8)
- A controller found in many homes (10)
- Item often used in front of a mirror (9)
- It is used in many court cases (8)
- An office supply (9)
- A device used perhaps to hang pictures (5)
- A very cold location (10)
- How some people may feel in an elevator (14)
- Followers in a group (9)
- A constellation (11)
- How you might describe a meal (5)
- A southern US city (7)
- Pakistani language (4)
- A place for trash (8)
- An English city (9)
- Action found in casinos (8)



In this puzzle, inspired by North Carolina’s “Research Triangle,” you must conduct some (re)searches of your own. Each category below contains three items that can be spelled out by traveling through the big triangle on a straight path, as indicated by one of the arrows, taking one letter from each triangular box in order along the path. (One of these has been done for you.) The three items in a given category will always go in three different directions. As you select letters, cross them out. When all the items have been found, the remaining letters will answer the question...

How do researchers in the Research Triangle exchange ideas with those in the rest of the state?

BONES	CONSTELLATIONS	ELEMENTS	INSECTS	SQUARE NUMBERS
_____	_____	_____	BEE	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



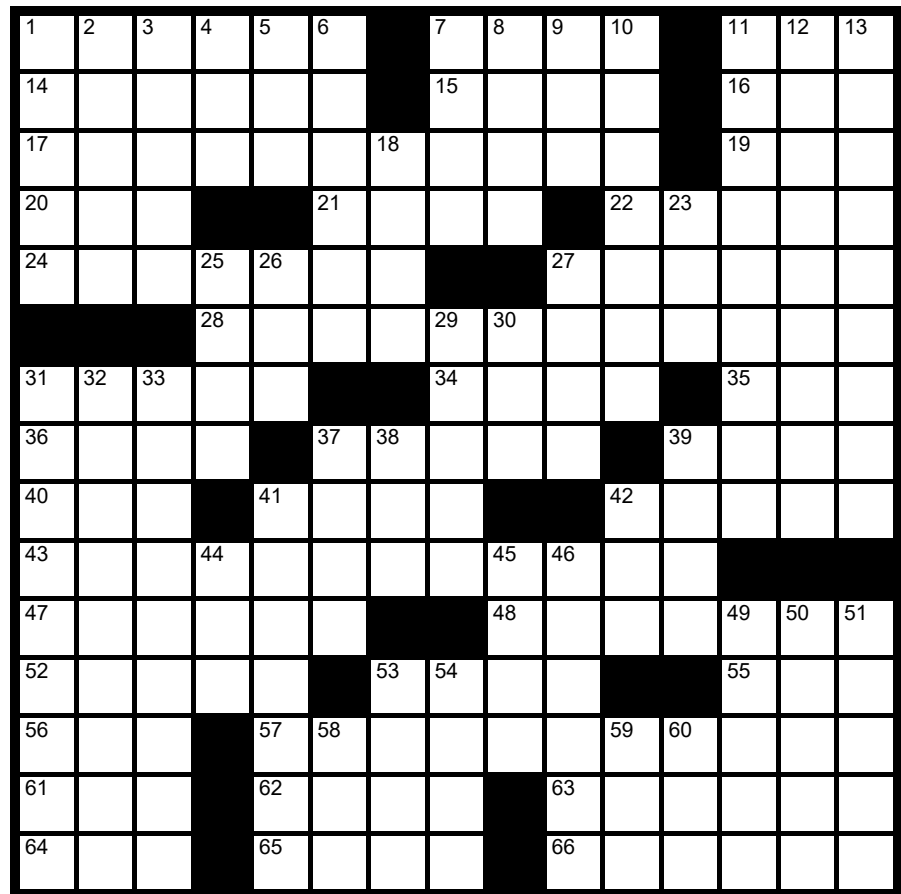
Twelve strange-but-true trivia tidbits about Washington are listed below. Well, that's not true... some of them are actually strange-but-false. Your job is to determine which is which!

Start with the word **WASHINGTON**. For each tidbit, if it's true, follow the corresponding instruction in the TRUE column; otherwise, use the FALSE column. If you correctly separate fact from fiction, your end result will be an appropriate phrase.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Seattle is home to a museum dedicated to bad art.	Add a six-letter first name at the start to get an Oscar-winning actor.	Add a six-letter last name at the end to get a well-known author.
2. The official State Sport of Washington is pickleball.	Move the seventh letter to the fifth position.	Move the ninth letter to the third-to-last position.
3. For one month in 1977, the mayor of Everett, Washington was a golden retriever named Champion.	There are two overlapping four-letter body parts. Replace the 1st one with the three-letter body part it is most closely associated with.	There are two overlapping four-letter body parts. Replace the 2nd one with the three-letter body part it is most closely associated with.
4. Father's Day was founded in the US by a Spokane resident.	Replace the third and fourth letters with a single V.	Switch the seventh and eighth letters.
5. Mount Rainier got its name because it was rainier there than at Mount St. Helens.	Replace a preposition with its opposite.	Replace a plural pronoun with its corresponding singular form.
6. A cave on the Washington-Idaho border is the source of most of the world's plutonium.	Change the sixth and seventh letters to ED.	Switch the second and third letters.
7. In 1992, the Seattle Mariners were purchased by Nintendo.	Delete all doubled letters.	Delete the first and last letters.
8. Islands off Washington's coast were the site of a US-UK war that started because of a pig.	Move the first two letters to the end.	Insert an X in the exact center.
9. On average, the annual rainfall in Seattle is less than that in Houston.	Divide the last two Roman numerals by five.	Multiply the last two Roman numerals by two.
10. Washington's State Number is 56, and no one knows why.	Insert an R between two consecutive vowels.	Insert an A between two consecutive consonants.
11. The movie <i>Sleepless In Seattle</i> was almost entirely filmed in Vancouver.	Double the first and last consonants.	Double the second, third, and fourth consonants.
12. The small town of Starbuck, Washington has no Starbucks in it.	Reverse the entire string.	Delete every third letter.

Across

- 1 Less little
- 7 Black-and-white creature
- 11 Sounds of stumbles
- 14 "I can't 15-Across you!"
- 15 See 14-Across
- 16 "Ruh ___!" (Scooby-Doo cry)
- 17 The Peace Garden State's state tree
- 19 Family member, for short
- 20 Sex without expectations, on Grindr: Abbr.
- 21 Jogger's gadget
- 22 Rock composed of quartz
- 24 Tool used to draw circles
- 27 Dreamboat of myth
- 28 1862 law that brought settlers to The Peace Garden State
- 31 Turn sour
- 34 Boating implements
- 35 Brazilian city, for short
- 36 Small amounts
- 37 The Peace Garden State's most populous city, though the capital is Bismarck



- 39 It may be shed
- 40 U2 producer Brian
- 41 Contend (with)
- 42 Feudal lord of Scotland
- 43 The Peace Garden State's state fish
- 47 Met set
- 48 What 10 may mean
- 52 ___ and Fancy (musical)
- 53 Woodstock guitarist Hendrix
- 55 Big shoe spec
- 56 Island in a river
- 57 The Peace Garden State's state fruit
- 61 Capital of Denmark?
- 62 Trouble-free state
- 63 Nielsen of *Airplane!*
- 64 Old geographical inits.
- 65 Former New York stadium
- 66 Roast hosts

Down

- 1 White, in Geneva

- 2 Schoolyard retort
- 3 Flicker of light
- 4 Needlefish
- 5 Quarterback Manning
- 6 Form of intolerance
- 7 "Heavens to Betsy!"
- 8 Woodwind piece
- 9 Infielder Ripken
- 10 Fleets of warships
- 11 Metropolitan region
- 12 Job that's one letter longer than an *Addams Family* family member's name
- 13 Foot Locker, for one
- 18 Quiet place to pray
- 23 Creator in Genesis
- 25 They follow upsilons
- 26 2015 Verizon purchase
- 27 Plane prefix
- 29 Existentialist Kierkegaard
- 30 Identify in a Facebook photograph
- 31 Things used around dictators

- 32 Splendid arrays
- 33 Brand for smelly dogs?
- 37 Far from friends
- 38 Abbr. in car ads
- 39 *Luke Cage* actor Rossi
- 41 "___ Are" (Mathis song)
- 42 StubHub purchase: Abbr.
- 44 Penta- minus bi-
- 45 Apple or pear
- 46 Wintry spike
- 49 Comical Milton
- 50 Spooooky
- 51 See 53-Down
- 53 With 51-Down, four-time M.L.B. All-Star whose last name means "kings"
- 54 Swedish chain whose maze-like aisles stress me out
- 58 Cry of defiance
- 59 End of a shift?
- 60 Way out, on a keyboard

First, answer the 13 California-related clues below and transfer their letters into the appropriate squares in the grid. (Specific enumerations have been withheld, and some letters will be used in more than one answer.)

When the grid is filled, look for 13 California cities in the grid in reading up, down, left, right or diagonally. All of the cities are at least six letters long and have a population of more than 100,000. When you have found them, the unused letters in the grid, reading from left to right and top to bottom, will answer this question:

What did the birdwatcher say as he stood on Santa Monica Pier?

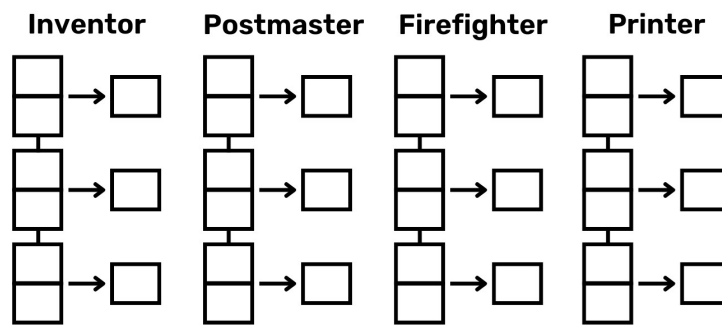
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121

- 1 Jack Kerouac novel named for a scenic California coastal area (58 8 117 15 108 47)
- 2 It's west of California (26 90 53 5 97 14 70)
- 3 Playwright who wrote *California Suite* (102 120 2 44 61 67 73 110 22)
- 4 California/Nevada resort area known for skiing (94 34 91 23 76 27 20 54 39)
- 5 Disneyland attraction led by punny tour guides (64 36 75 106 48 31 70 100 59 8 68 24)
- 6 San Francisco thoroughfare claimed to be the crookedest in the world (119 57 73 111 60 35 79 68 49 6 87 113 37)
- 7 Waterway that makes up much of the California/Arizona border (12 57 109 99 6 72 11 115 62 103 85 19 47)
- 8 Famous Southern California amphitheater (20 115 44 92 42 13 82 54 78 25 110 13 84)
- 9 *Californication* star (79 105 40 95 11 30 36 88 17 77 114 32 42)
- 10 San Francisco neighborhood with lots of seafood restaurants (3 96 52 20 81 63 73 101 45 28 13 17 66 107 7)
- 11 Source of many California earthquakes (86 104 22 69 98 30 116 74 90 56 50 43 108 10 18)
- 12 Silent film star who cofounded United Artists (78 99 59 106 65 33 93 51 4 41 100 83 27 38 118 16)
- 13 Team with 17 NBA championships (112 1 61 29 80 117 89 21 74 15 46 34 55 9 71 121)

After growing up in Boston, Ben Franklin ran away to Philadelphia at age 17 and left his stamp on the city for centuries to come. Franklin was the only Founding Father to sign the Declaration of Independence, the American Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. He was also an inventor, postmaster, firefighter, and printer. Furthermore, Franklin was the lead member of the Committee of Secret Correspondence. As you solve each puzzle, fill its six-letter answer into the diagram, top to bottom. Then, use letter pairs to index into the cryptic message. For example, the bigram AD, where A is the first letter of the alphabet and D is the fourth, would lead to the first word’s fourth letter: V. Solved correctly, you’ll reveal the answer to this question:

What might Ben Franklin have included with some of his correspondence?

CLEVER PUZZLE SOLVERS: PROCEED COUNTERCLOCKWISE AROUND SOUTHEASTERNMOST BOSTON ROTARY, THEN CONTINUE AWAY FROM LAKE UNTIL ARRIVING AT NORTHERN RAILWAY BRIDGE. HASTE!



INVENTOR

Ben invented swim fins, the Franklin stove, the lightning rod / The glass armonica, and bifocal glasses—shall we applaud? / Below, six bottom lenses to be matched, but a word to the wise / Despite apparent rhymes, you can’t always trust your eyes...



POSTMASTER

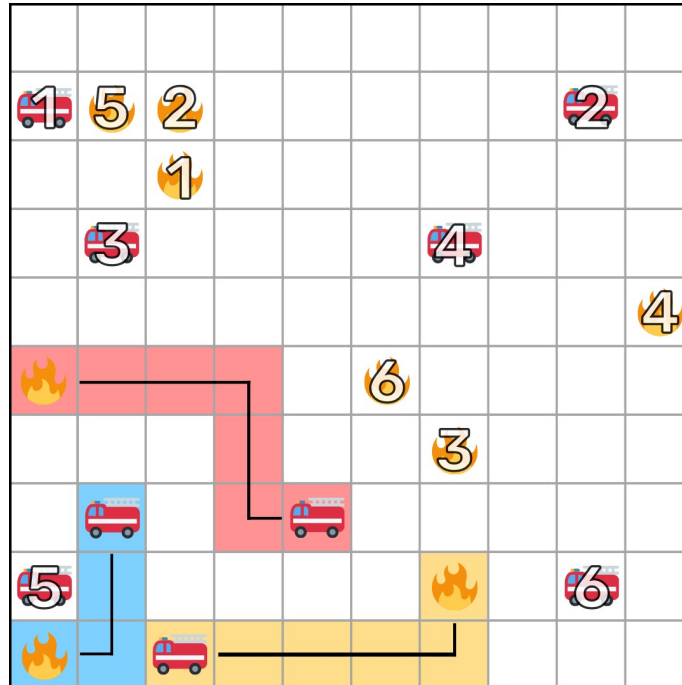
While serving as the first U.S. Postmaster General, Ben Franklin made countless reforms improving the speed and reliability of mail delivery. He signed his letters “B. Free Franklin” in protest of British rule (and you can still get that postmark on your letters today at one historic post office in Philadelphia!).

Six of Franklin’s friends adopted similarly punny pseudonyms, but their first initials have been lost. These friends include: a car part, a mythological hero, a playground fixture, a Philadelphia sports team, a musical plant owner, and a red puppet.

- ? Moore
- ? Jacks
- ? Djinn
- ? Saw
- ? Gulls
- ? Moe

FIREFIGHTER

In 1736, Ben Franklin founded the first volunteer firefighting organization in the United States. In the Numberlink below, each fire truck must be connected to the fire with the same number using a continuous hose passing through the centers of cells and turning only horizontally or vertically. All cells in the grid must be filled. Hoses may not cross each other, and a single hose can never cover a 2x2 region. Once all the fires have been extinguished, convert the lengths of the hoses—not including the 🚒 or 🔥 cells—to letters. For example, the three given hoses (which do not contribute to this puzzle’s final answer) are of lengths 2, 5, and 4, spelling BED.



PRINTER

Ben Franklin got his start as a printer, apprenticing for his brother starting at age 12. He went on to become a prolific journalist, owner of *The Pennsylvania Gazette* and his own printing house, and publisher of *Poor Richard’s Almanack*. In each of the following aphorisms originally included in the *Almanack*, one word has been edited.

Don’t throw hotness at your neighbors, if your own windows are glass.

Love your Enemies, for they tell you your Sulfate.

Pardoning the Drab, is injuring the Good.

Wish not so much to live anglo as to live well.

No signal without pains.

Deaths makes Waste.

In each group of presidents, four have something in common. Cross out the 5th one that doesn't. You won't need to know anything about the presidents themselves – just their **names**.

(Two of the groups involve their **first names**.)

<p>1</p>  TAFT  POLK  FORD  WASHINGTON  BUSH	<p>2</p>  BUSH  OBAMA  PIERCE  GRANT  TRUMP	<p>3</p>  MCKINLEY  ADAMS  JEFFERSON  JACKSON  KENNEDY	<p>4</p>  MADISON  MONROE  EISENHOWER  BUCHANAN  GARFIELD
<p>5</p>  ADAMS  GRANT  TRUMP  HAYES  NIXON	<p>6</p>  TRUMAN  NIXON  TAYLOR  TAFT  TYLER	<p>7</p>  JEFFERSON  CLINTON  CARTER  NIXON  HARRISON	<p>8</p>  REAGAN  HOOVER  WILSON  HAYES  COOLIDGE
<p>9</p>  ARTHUR  FORD  LINCOLN  HOOVER  JOHNSON & JOHNSON	<p>10</p>  ROOSEVELT  REAGAN  HOOVER  COOLIDGE  ROOSEVELT	<p>11</p>  ADAMS  ROOSEVELT  JOHNSON  BUSH  GARFIELD	<p>12</p>  WASHINGTON  MADISON  EISENHOWER  CLEVELAND  JACKSON

HINTS

- 1) This one's just four you.
- 2) Need a dictionary?
- 3) Boy oh boy!
- 4) Are we on a first-name basis?
- 5) Meet me in the middle.
- 6) This one's a tease.
- 7) It's only
- 8) Go with your initial impulse.
- 9) You're in good company.
- 10) Ooh, this one's fun.
- 11) History repeats itself.
- 12) Where is the answer?

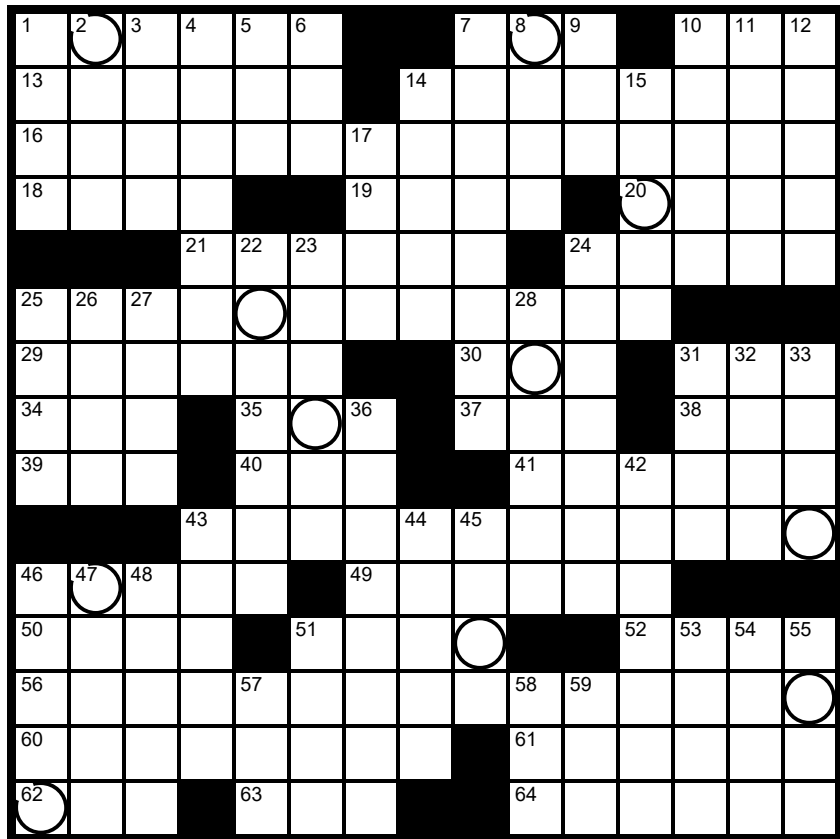
Now take the **first letter** of each name you crossed out – to spell **what's missing from this puzzle:**

					I							
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12

The circled letters spell out the name of a song from *Oklahoma!* that explains what's going on with the four starred clues.

Across

- 1 Expresses disapproval, in the theater
- 7 Includes on an email
- 10 Sitcom title character from Melmac
- 13 Diamond expert?
- 14 One skilled at improvisation
- 16 *Disney's famous deer, to his superfans
- 18 Scattered, as seeds
- 19 Enlist for another tour of duty
- 20 Piles on
- 21 "No, really!"
- 24 Meat on one's bones
- 25 *Chicago's original mass transit line
- 29 People's princess
- 30 Finish
- 31 Vehicle for 10-Across
- 34 Dr. of music?
- 35 H in Halicarnassus
- 37 Hwy. abbr.
- 38 Club ____
- 39 Stimp's buddy
- 40 According to
- 41 Decreased?
- 43 *Fail to remember Tom Seaver or Mike Piazza
- 46 Was fed up
- 49 Vocalizes
- 50 Residents (suffix)
- 51 Meghann of *The White Lotus*
- 52 One on the road?
- 56 *The rear end of a 17th-century composer, slangily
- 60 Billy Porter's *Pose* role
- 61 Enjoy a feast
- 62 Tin Man's need
- 63 Ruby of *A Raisin in the Sun*
- 64 S.H.I.E.L.D. members



Down

- 1 Modest dwellings
- 2 "If you ask me...", in a text
- 3 Eject, as lava
- 4 Play the dozens
- 5 Commit a faux pas
- 6 Go out with
- 7 What every audiophile's PC once had
- 8 Express approval, in the theater
- 9 Video game prefix with City, Earth, or Life
- 10 Put up with
- 11 Does for one's own interest?
- 12 First-year high schooler
- 14 Bothered persistently
- 15 Hoops
- 17 Greek god of war
- 22 Pile for extra betting
- 23 Play maker?
- 24 Tennis champ Roger
- 25 Abbreviation at the top of an epic email
- 26 Fabled loser
- 27 Biblical musical *Children of _____*
- 28 Arriving as expected
- 31 "Yeah, I don't think so"
- 32 They're found in a yard
- 33 Bettor's figure
- 36 Subject to debate
- 42 Performing in a theater
- 43 A little sus
- 44 Merman on Broadway
- 45 Texter's sign-off
- 46 Ballerina in *Fantasia*
- 47 Company whose name is a term in the game Go
- 48 Model airplane sticker
- 51 Run from
- 53 Privy to
- 54 Blowout
- 55 Tolkien's tree-creatures
- 57 "Here's when your plane will take off" stat
- 58 Place to be pampered
- 59 Puff piece?

Maryland is home to Assateague Island, known for its variety of feral horses.

The answer to each clue in the first set below is a word or phrase that contains the word HORSE. These, however, are wild horses, and are likely to run off. No matter: Each horse can be replaced by an answer from the second set of clues to make a new horse-less phrase. (The answers to the second set of clues are in alphabetical order, and their lengths are given by the number of blanks.)

Once you have the new phrases, use the numbers from the first set of clues to take the corresponding letters from the matching word in the second set of answers. The resulting letters, read in order of the first set, will spell out part of a phrase that vaguely describes what's happening in the puzzle. Your final answer is the single word that completes this phrase.

HORSE ANSWERS

- Literary term for a train (4)
- One might support a plank (2)
- Act of shrewd negotiation, such as politicians swapping votes (2)
- Level-headed judgment (4)
- Noted warrior and resistance fighter in American history (6)
- Tireless toiler (4)
- Good fortune you shouldn't examine too closely, metaphorically (3)
- Measure that's around 200 for an average car (3)
- Topic that's no longer worth discussing, idiomatically (5)
- Fish that's commonly used in traditional Chinese medicine (2)
- Program that shouldn't be trusted (3)
- Possible cause of detention in school (1)
- 16th seed in March Madness, potentially (5)
- *Stagecoach*, e.g. (1)
- Kids go back and forth on it (4)
- Someone likely to have a walk-in closet (3)
- U shape (3)
- Smug or arrogant attitude (2)
- Adjective describing a small, rural town (10)

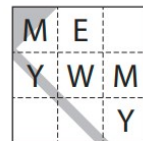
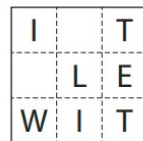
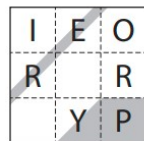
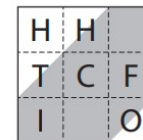
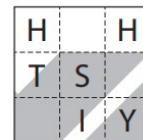
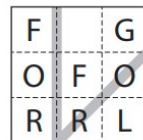
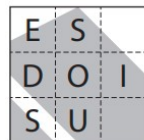
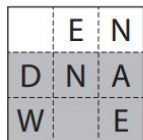
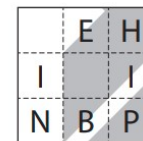
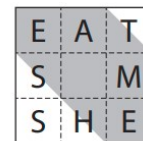
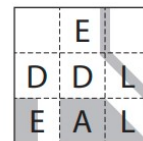
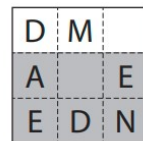
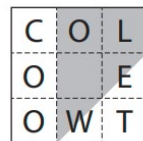
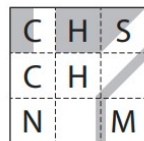
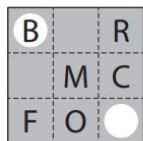
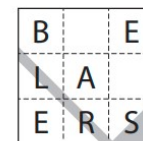
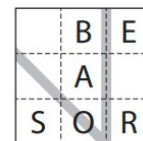
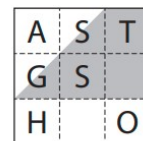
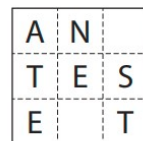
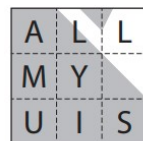
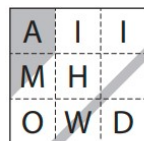
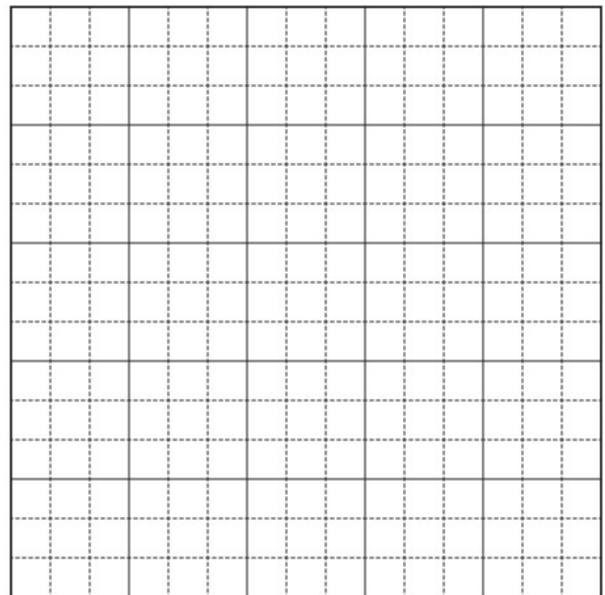
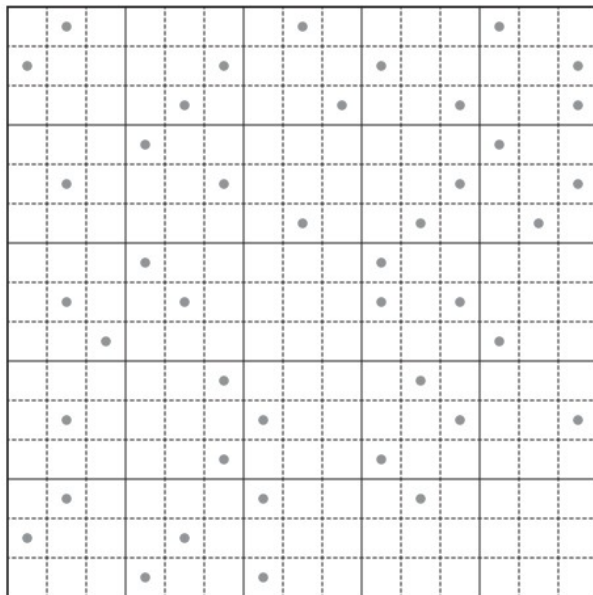
HORSELESS ANSWERS

- Paleontological finds _____
- Committee leader _____
- Cards that make a dead man's hand, along with aces

- Famous number in perfumes _____
- Rappers might use a "triplet" one _____
- It loses flavor over time _____
- Corporate whistleblower, often _____
- First, as a flight _____
- It has four fundamental states _____
- Furniture next to a bed _____
- Icon that might indicate a place on a map _____
- Cargo ship's destination _____
- What many parents limit the time their children stare at

- Like John Quincy Adams, among presidents _____
- What some dispensers dispense _____
- "Awesome!" _____
- Game genre that might use a lot of miniatures _____
- Importance _____
- Stereotypical last word spoken on a film set _____

The letter blocks below the grids can be fit into the left-hand grid to spell out some interesting facts. Blocks may be rotated but not reflected. Dots in the grid indicate spaces between words, but sentence breaks are for the solver to determine. Once that's done, transfer the shaded detail from each block on the left into its corresponding block in the right-hand grid (remembering to rotate the detail if the block rotated to fit into the left-hand grid). Doing so will reveal the subject of the facts.

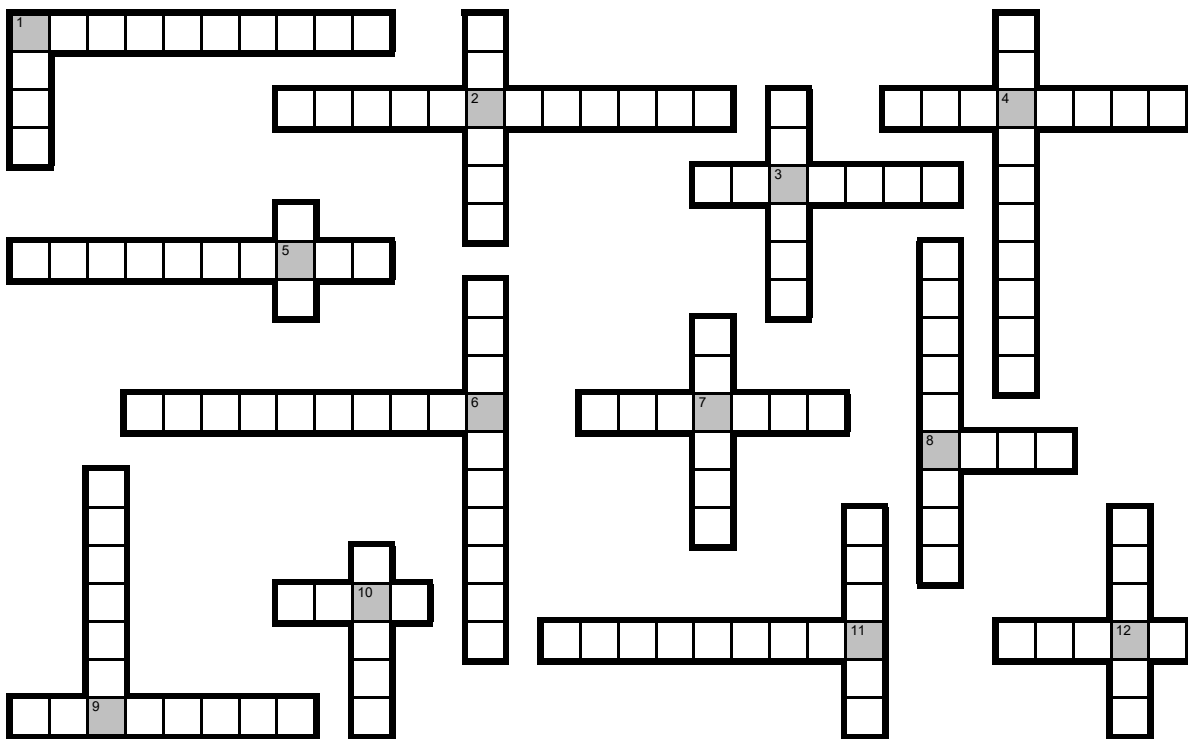


Wisconsin is famous for its beer and cheese, as well as other delicious foods. In each grid below, enter a beer and a cheese that fit one of the pairings. (The beers are always entered down, and the cheeses are always entered across. Which pairing goes with which grid is for you to determine.) When you're done, read the letters at the intersections to find another Wisconsin delicacy to eat with our beer and cheese!

Pair a beer and a cheese that each...

- ... contain 4 different vowels
- ... contain a three letter body part (possibly backwards)
- ... contain the name of an animal
- ... end with the same preposition
- ... have one contained in the other
- ... if you remove two letters, spell a woman's name with the remaining string of consecutive letters
- ... include only one vowel
- ... spell a common word in reverse
- ... start with a three-letter abbreviation you might find on a calendar
- ... start with an irregular past tense verb
- ... start with the name of a Japanese board game
- ... use a foreign word for a color

<u>BEERS</u>	<u>CHEESES</u>
ALE	BLEU
BITTER	CAMEMBERT
GOSE	CHEDDAR
HEFEWEIZEN	EDAM
KOLSCH	EMMENTALER
LAGER	GORGONZOLA
MALT LIQUOR	HALLOUMI
MARZEN	MASCARPONE
PILSNER	MONTEREY JACK
RED ALE	PARMESAN
SAISON	STILTON
WEISSBIER	SWISS



Dorothy Gale had a wonderful time in Oz and has decided to try out some other places “not in Kansas.” Each of the fictional towns and cities below can be found in this rebus word search. Answers can be found reading up, down, left, right, and diagonally. When all of the locations have been found, the unused boxes, read left-to-right and top-to-bottom, will clue one final destination, as well as Dorothy’s reason why it’s her favorite. Your final answer will have an enumeration of 9: 4 5 4 4.

+Y		N → M						- C
		E → O		- T				D → T
R → N	- ER				- T		EK → L	
	- N			- K				M → T
M → GA		T → C			N → V	- I		
	T → R		- H				- A	
		I ♥ _ _		P → D		M → K		- K
	C → GR		B → F	C → R		Yes No _		
- AV	R → B		+ W	C → L				

- | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Bedrock | Castle Rock | Gotham | Kamar-Taj | Metropolis | Pawnee | Sunnydale |
| Brigadoon | Duckburg | Gravity Falls | Lake Wobegon | Mos Eisley | Riverdale | Toontown |
| Cabot Cove | Emerald City | Hill Valley | Mayberry | Nightvale | Stepford | Waterdeep |

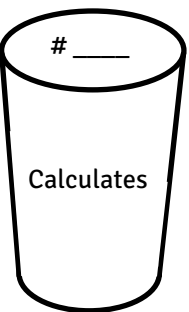
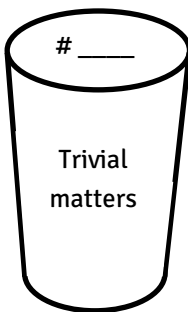
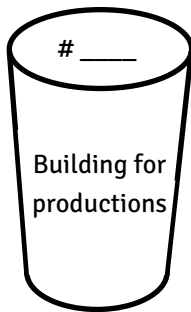
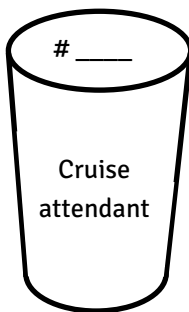
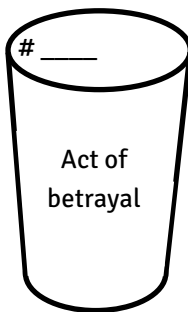
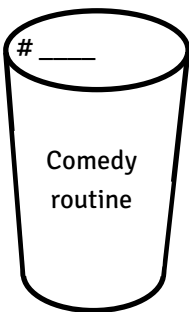
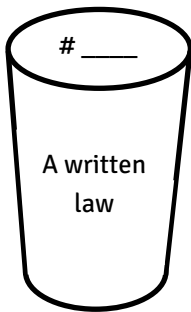
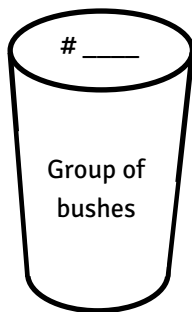
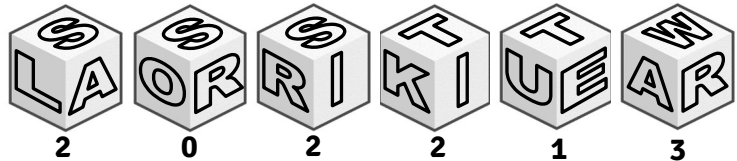
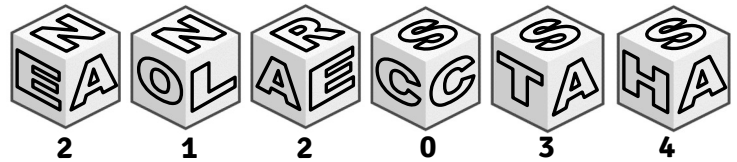
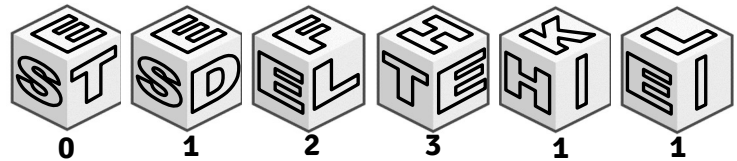
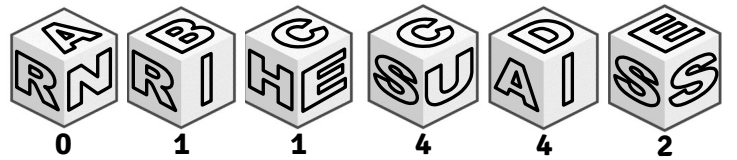
Let's mix up some glasses of sweet tea! Below you will find 24 images of sugar cubes. Scramble together the letters on two cubes to form a six-letter word that answers one of the "Sugar Cube Clues." Match that answer to the right glass of tea: By adding the letter T somewhere to your original answer, you will get the seven-letter answer to a clue on the glass. For example, if your Sugar Cube answer was MORALS, you can add T to get MORTALS. Add the two numbers from the cubes and take the appropriate letter from your seven-letter answer to answer this question:

What is an apt description of sweet tea?

Sugar Cube Clues

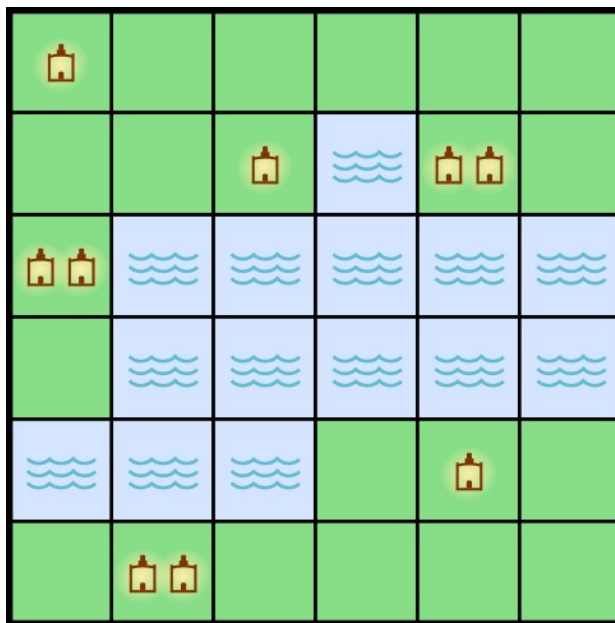
(in alphabetical order by answer)

- Friendly countries
- Nibblers
- Overseas diplomat
- Radiator, for example
- Angular measurement
- Use logic when arguing
- Long-barreled weapons
- Identifiers at pageants
- Brand of razors
- Secretary of State known for his "Folly"
- Monument
- Actor Alan from TV show *Growing Pains*



On the eve of revolution, the governor has stationed Redcoats near Boston such that each row and each column in the grid contains exactly two Redcoat guards. Redcoats may be stationed either on land cells (green) or sea cells (blue), always one per cell.

The Sons of Liberty have a secret code to warn the Minutemen: They shine one light if there are Redcoats in more adjacent land cells than sea cells (orthogonally and diagonally), and they shine two lights if there are Redcoats in more adjacent sea cells than land cells. Cells containing lights do not have Redcoats. Not all possible cells with lights are given. Can you help the Minutemen identify which cells have Redcoats stationed?



My home state’s brand, as seen on its license plates, is “Kentucky: Unbridled Spirit.” This commemorates, in a mingled way, two Kentucky icons: fast horses and great bourbon! In a similar way, each letter string below mingles two items: a mixed drink typically made with bourbon whiskey, and a Kentucky Derby-winning horse. Each item reads left-to-right, but each item is missing a single letter. Read the missing letters column by column from each of the drinks, then the missing letters from each of the horses, to answer the question...

What will happen if you ask a horse for some bourbon?

FOUNTTONDDCIDYE
TAMEHRERIWICANSPHEAMERANH
SMEIASSOBIURIUSCLITE

WORLDADFSHIMIORNEALD
SENAETWORKSLELEOUWR
OGLEDUIRUNERSISHK

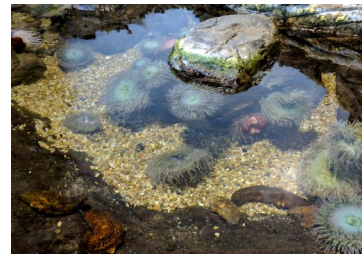
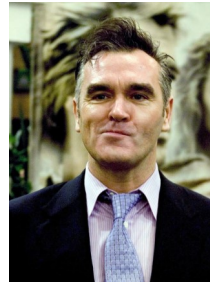
SMAJORTHNCOYJLNLNESS
BAFOUFLEARIDMIERED
SEMICRNEATJURILAPT

Missouri, home to “The Gateway to the West,” played a central role in westward expansion. Historic journeys like the Pony Express and the Oregon Trail began in Missouri and traveled west. Here, you must pair up two Travelers to make one of the thirteen images on the next page. Indexing into the image by the sum of the two Traveler numbers will give an answer to this question:

What is an apt description of these westward-bound pioneers?

Travelers (*shown in alphabetical order by answer*)

- ___ and crafts [3]
- Amateur ornithologist [3]
- Opal or ruby, for example [1]
- Transforming Tonka toy that actually predated Transformers [4]
- Horror franchise featuring Pennywise the clown [5]
- Gustav who painted “The Kiss” [1]
- Gloss may be applied to them [4]
- Alpaca relative [1]
- Replayed over and over, like a music sample [2]
- Silent French performers [2]
- Military branch with boats [6]
- Willy from *Free Willy* was one [1]
- Soup cooking vessel [1]
- Despised and hated [5]
- Bounty on a wanted poster [3]
- Mythical avian [4]
- CD-___ [6]
- Gray roofing material [2]
- Catch on a branch, maybe [4]
- Person with stuck-up views about wine or movies, say [5]
- Rifle through someone’s stuff [6]
- Impale with a knife [1]
- Girl whose mom “has got it going on” [3]
- Emphasized a syllable [3]
- Bound by oath [1]
- Affirmative military reply (2 wds) [2]

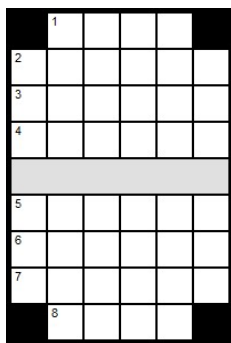


Like Nebraska's unicameral legislature, each of these apparently two-part grids is actually a connected whole. In each grid, three Down answers will cross the gray section, connecting the top half to the bottom. The clues for these three answers are presented in two parts, which you will need to put together. The other Down answers will be placed in either the upper or lower half of the grid. The clues for these six answers are presented normally. Figuring out which clues are which, and how all the answers fit together, is up to you, using the Across answers as a guide. When you're done, the letters in the gray sections will answer this question:

How might a Nebraskan prefer to get these answers?

ACROSS

- 1 Single
- 2 Delete
- 3 Inspire love in
- 4 Freaks out
- 5 Pie-fight sounds
- 6 *The Facts of Life* role
- 7 Endeavored
- 8 Arid

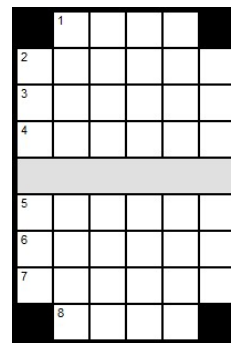


DOWN

- Again puts • Bringing • Candidate • Cookware • Hosp. facilities • Muscat's land • On a blog, say • Person putting forth a • Singer Horne • Things to mind • Traditional wisdom • View

ACROSS

- 1 Single
- 2 Extra election
- 3 Egyptian sun god
- 4 Pungent brown root
- 5 Vessels from hearts
- 6 Hits
- 7 Youths, slangily
- 8 Judge

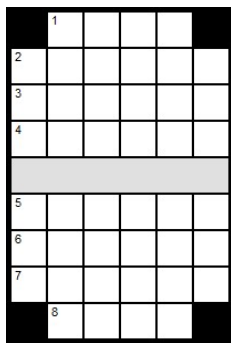


DOWN

- Cathysque comment • Cooker • Counterpart • Latitude • Like true • Neither fluid nor • Seals • Tiny mote • To be in France • Torn cloth • Traveled by horse • Very hard

ACROSS

- 1 Chamber
- 2 1959 Heston epic
- 3 Eventually
- 4 Additional emcee
- 5 Hors d'oeuvre
- 6 Ideal place
- 7 Begrudge
- 8 Erotic message

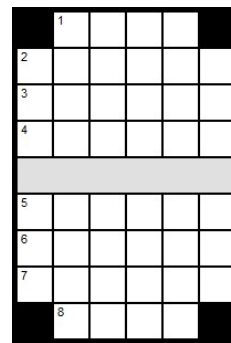


DOWN

- Back • Buckeye State • Flowers, briefly • Go • Good condition • Half-quart • Inaccuracy • Low-down dog • Peak • Pen brand • Puts back into • With no

ACROSS

- 1 Chamber
- 2 Illinois prison
- 3 Set free
- 4 Sailor
- 5 Participate
- 6 Sculptor, say
- 7 Is not unmoved
- 8 Small bills

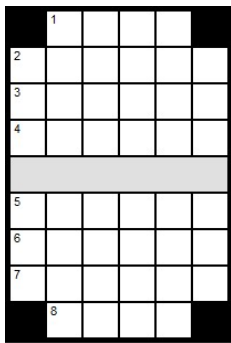


DOWN

- Actor Neeson • Climbing site in • Cookie with two wafers • Eye cell • Glass container • On the law • People who • Pleasant • Rent • Roast beef au ____ • Those focused • Yosemite

ACROSS

- 1 Legislature
- 2 Of young insects
- 3 Cry with ¡Andale!
- 4 Abilities
- 5 Fit for farming
- 6 Venomous vipers
- 7 Ability
- 8 Comedian Foxx



DOWN

- Before the end • Broad and high • Deed just • Lion sound • Mated • Petulance • Prone to • Region that is • Superlative suffix • Unlit • Vegas article • Wicked

Across

- 1 Language related to Yupik
- 6 When Taylor Swift won one for “You Belong With Me,” Kanye West interrupted her acceptance speech
- 9 Key of Chopin’s *Black Key Étude*
- 14 Graceful woman
- 15 Lithium-___ battery
- 16 Branch of knowledge, informally
- 17 Pet problem?
- 18 Not worth a ___
- 19 External
- 20 Friday, for example
- 21 Albuquerque sch.
- 22 Badmouth
- 23 *Locomotive pioneer for whom a Philadelphia park is named
- 29 Panacea
- 30 Hard to pin down
- 31 Perfume of singer Grande
- 32 Renal
- 34 In shape
- 35 Implied but not stated
- 37 GI entertainers
- 38 Bottom edge of the strike zone
- 40 *Landmark on the back of a ¥1,000 note
- 43 “Shoot!”
- 46 Demi and Woody’s “Indecent Proposal” costar
- 50 Pride parade leader?
- 52 Flowers in the violet family
- 53 Paris 2024 season
- 54 *Annual fashion event in Manhattan
- 56 Company merged into Verizon
- 57 Fannie ___
- 58 Keep going
- 59 Part of HBP
- 60 Briefer version of “Didja read this? If not, do so”
- 62 First word of the Lord’s Prayer
- 63 Sci-fi creatures like Jabba
- 65 Unqualified
- 66 Craps table cube
- 67 State fruit of New York, and what the answer to each asterisked clue ends with
- 68 Edge
- 69 Pre-takeoff guess, for short
- 70 City roughly halfway between Bilbao and Bologna

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
14						15				16					
17						18				19					
		20				21				22					
23	24					25				26			27	28	
29								30							
31				32				33				34			
35			36			37				38	39				
			40			41				42					
43	44	45								46			47	48	49
50						51		52							
53				54				55				56			
57				58								59			
60			61			62				63	64				
65						66				67					
68						69				70					

Down

- 1 Nile biter
- 2 Ingredient in Liquid-Plumr
- 3 Stirring
- 4 Register approval of, as an online post
- 5 *1935 Gene Autry western
- 6 Graphic wordplay
- 7 Mars has two
- 8 Several
- 9 *President of Nigeria in the first half of the 2010s
- 10 Substances in centrifuges
- 11 Salty woman in Genesis?
- 12 Birthday cake figure
- 13 Norse god of strife
- 23 Exam for a future ENT
- 24 General feel
- 25 Jamaïque, par exemple
- 26 Athlete described by Georgia Tech professor Johnny Smith as “a prism for understanding American history”
- 27 Jazz singer Anderson
- 28 Brooklyn ballers
- 33 FDR’s successor
- 36 Supermodel with the book *The Beauty of Color*
- 39 Penpoints
- 41 Forget, as a horrible image
- 42 Eurasian range
- 43 School mentioned between Beatlemania and John Glenn in the lyrics to Billy Joel’s “We Didn’t Start the Fire”
- 44 Rival of Toshiba
- 45 Like many manga characters
- 47 Prime-time time
- 48 Put a new handle on
- 49 Flybelt pests
- 51 Took big steps
- 52 Formed a couple, with “off”
- 55 Astronaut’s garment
- 61 Blanc or Brooks
- 64 Reuters rival

The list below includes six items from each of five categories. The full list of items has been alphabetized, and then the items in each category have been encrypted using a substitution cipher (a different cipher for each category). It's possible to add one additional item to each category so that the five items form a complete set related to Rhode Island. Encrypt these items using the ciphers for their categories, and write the results in the blanks next to their categories. The letters in the highlighted squares will spell an instruction; follow it five times and you'll reveal an alternative name for the list.

THE CATEGORIES

Superhero Surnames:

Medical Dramas: _ _ _ _ _ _

English Football Clubs (with "City"): _ _ _

Cigarette Brands: _ _ _

U.S. Presidents: _ _ _ _ _ _

THE LIST

IDMGLXIT PHLGLB

RG

EHKWIO

ZYWWOH

BJFKAVX

EGYCIQR EGIDQYDR

ZYDURW

JWAA

FEEDIGIPR

EGSKGROJQK

AVGNVILVS

PQ. RVPRTJRGR

XIDMR

PAVUEPV

UDYHN

DJYDILS JSER

KQRNJVILVS

ILTFV

UEEPAKXI

DIGRJAGA

GJV QTFIV

NTYVRLSP

BRT IKPQRGOIK

OLGNLTLI PRLDP

DGSPPYBL MSGOIB

HIRR DIRR

CYAWO

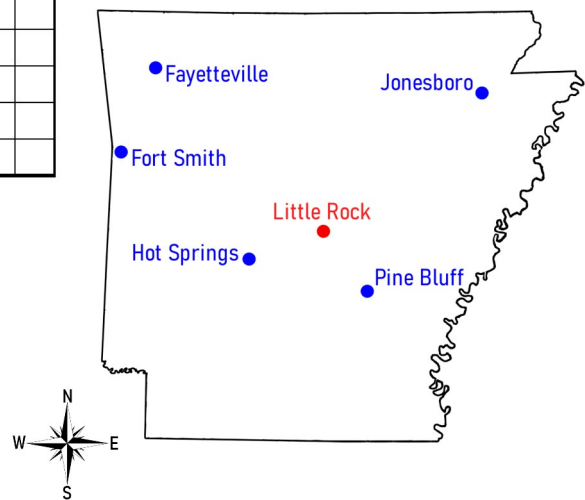
IADIVBEHIF

EYHNOH

ELTPBAT

Welcome to the World Cheese Dip Championship! This annual competition, held in Little Rock, Arkansas, celebrates the state’s obsession with the eponymous condiment. The results are in for the top five dips in the amateur division. Can you figure out how each entrant placed, where they are from, and the secret ingredient in each of their cheese dips?

	Fayetteville	Fort Smith	Hot Springs	Jonesboro	Pine Bluff	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	chipotle peppers	cilantro	ketchup	hot sauce	smoked paprika
Annie															
Blair															
Caleb															
Deion															
Effie															
chipotle peppers															
cilantro															
ketchup															
hot sauce															
smoked paprika															
1st															
2nd															
3rd															
4th															
5th															



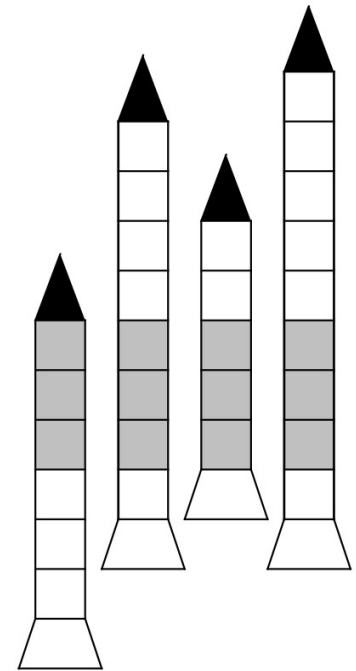
- 1 The makers of the first and last place cheese dips came from cities north of Little Rock.
- 2 Caleb and Annie hail from cities with two-word names.
- 3 The cheese dip from the Jonesboro entrant placed higher than both Effie’s dip and the dip with smoked paprika.
- 4 Deion, Annie, and the entrant from Pine Bluff all dislike and would never use cilantro, which was not an ingredient in the winning dip.
- 5 The cheese dip containing ketchup, from an entrant living east of Little Rock, came in third place.
- 6 The Fayetteville entrant’s dip placed higher than Deion’s.
- 7 The dip of the entrant from Hot Springs, who wasn’t Annie, scored lower than the dip with chipotle peppers.
- 8 Effie lives east of Blair and west of Caleb.
- 9 Deion’s dip was not the one with ketchup.
- 10 The chipotle pepper dip and the dip made by the Pine Bluff entrant placed consecutively.

The Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama has been at the forefront of space technology for decades. When you solve each of the four subpuzzles in this mini puzzle hunt, put its answer into the rocket where it fits, starting at the base and heading upwards. When all four answers are entered, the letters in the gray squares will spell out another key product of Alabaman technology.

Apollo

MSFC developed (among other things) the Saturn rockets and moon buggy for the Apollo program – a program which is somewhat strangely named, since Apollo was a Greek god of the sun, not the moon. Each line in the “inventory” below contains the name of a Greek god corresponding to a planet, with an extra letter inside it. (The number before each line is the total length of the name plus letter.) The names you find will be in alphabetical order; reorder them in planetary order, and read the extra letters in that order.

- 10 samples of calligraphy Rod itemized by size and language
- 5 ten-meter-high minarets that double as radio towers
- 7 attachment mechanisms outdoing Velcro in usability
- 5 lasagna-eating ferrets in a large hamster wheel
- 7 impossible objects found in Waterfall and other MC Escher prints
- 7 wrenches of Honduran-Australian origin
- 5 complete meals produced entirely from maize husks and lint



Chandra X-Ray Observatory

MSFC has been involved in the creation of many other devices for probing the universe. Among them is the Chandra X-Ray Observatory, launched in 1999 and still detecting those penetrating rays to this day. Look inside the wall created in this Masyu puzzle to collect some data of your own.

To solve a Masyu puzzle, you must draw one continuous path in the grid that passes through all the circles, such that:

- 1) For each black circle, the path bends 90° on the circle itself, but does not bend immediately before or after the circle, and
- 2) For each white circle, the path goes straight through the circle itself, but does bend immediately before or after the circle (or both).

O	○	B	S	E	R	V	●
A	T	O	●	R	Y	O	R
B	I	●	T	A	○	L	○
L	Y	P	L	A	C	E	●
D	A	●	M	I	○	D	A
N	E	A	●	T	S	K	○
Y	W	E	L	U	○	R	○
K	●	U	N	D	●	E	R

Hubble Telescope

MSFC also developed the Hubble telescope, a unique piece of equipment which, alas, was discovered after launch to have problems with its main reflector. The six words clued in alphabetical order below can be divided into mostly-reflective pairs; please note all the single-letter discrepancies, and where they are.

Of the peninsula Spain and Portugal are on

Kenya's capital

Metal-containing minerals

Coral formations

Medieval peasant

Contemptuous facial expression

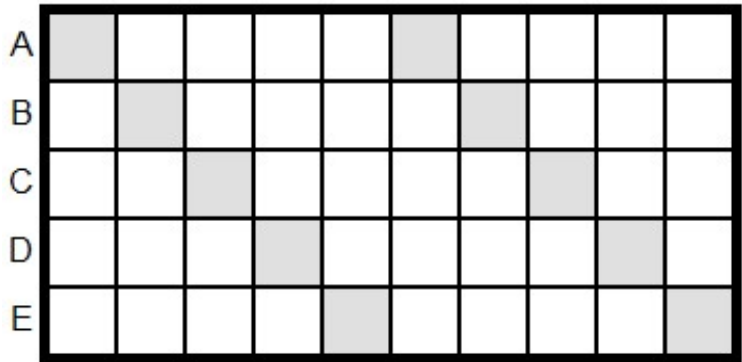
<i>Left</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>Right</i>	
	<i>from</i>	<i>from</i>	<i>from</i>	<i>from</i>		
	<i>left</i>	<i>left</i>	<i>right</i>	<i>right</i>		

International Space Station

MSFC has made many contributions to the International Space Station, a structure gradually assembled in space over many years. In this "Some Assembly Required" puzzle, the two answers to each Row clue go into the corresponding row in order; the answer to each Piece clue goes into the corresponding piece, and then the pieces must be fitted into the grid. The letters in the shaded squares will describe this whole procedure.

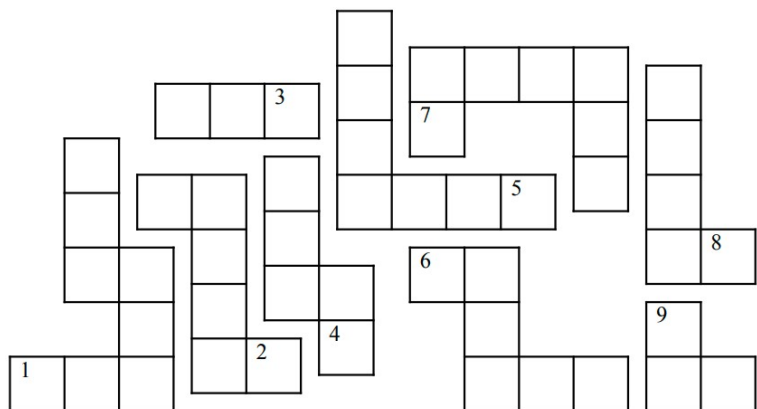
ROWS

- A Insect named for a cutting tool
End of a sleeve
- B Bram who wrote Dracula
Vend
- C Adolescent
Not obvious
- D Strike with an open palm
Less cluttered
- E Bitingly sarcastic
Incurred, as debts (2 wds.)




PIECES

- 1 Science fiction author Ray
- 2 In and of ____
- 3 Buddy
- 4 Green shampoo brand
- 5 Hires a new actor for, as a role in a movie
- 6 Smooth, lustrous fabric
- 7 Fistfight
- 8 Bring together
- 9 Stir fry pan



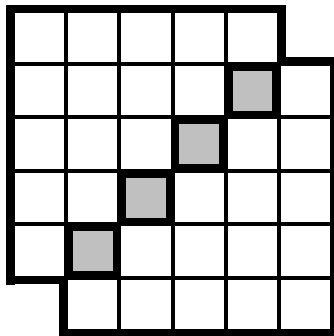
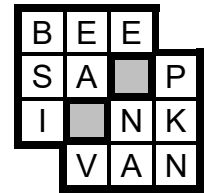
In this word search, the country roads will indeed take you home! First find and circle or highlight 36 country names within the West Virginia-shaped grid. These countries will form the walls of a maze that you can navigate to get from the star to your home. Be sure to watch out for near-miss country names, though! (Note: the countries will not appear diagonally.)



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

But drivin' down the road, you get a feelin' that you should've been home yesterday...so make double-time by reading every second letter on your way home. The correct path will spell out a wise saying from Confucius:

Much like Vermont is nestled into neighboring New Hampshire, the upper left portions of these grids can be shifted horizontally or vertically to form words reading straight across. For example, the grid to the right has the short words BEE, SAP, INK, and VAN if the two halves are shifted horizontally, and the longer words BEEP, SANK, and IVAN if shifted vertically. You will have to work back and forth between the shorter and longer answers to place everything properly in each grid.



SHORT ANSWERS

- Ben’s partner in a Vermont ice cream brand
- Knock the socks off of
- Santiago is its capital
- The “k” in 24k
- Turn away, as your gaze
- “You’re So Vain” singer Carly

LONG ANSWERS

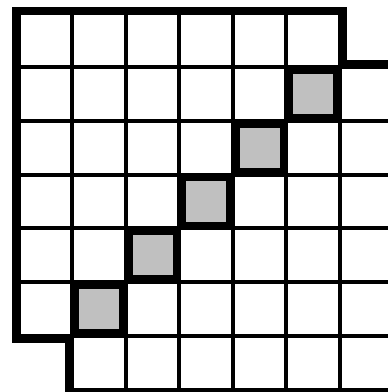
- Activity in a dojo
- “Hot as hell” e.g.
- Hot fudge sundae topper
- “Les Miz” inspector
- Wonder Woman’s race

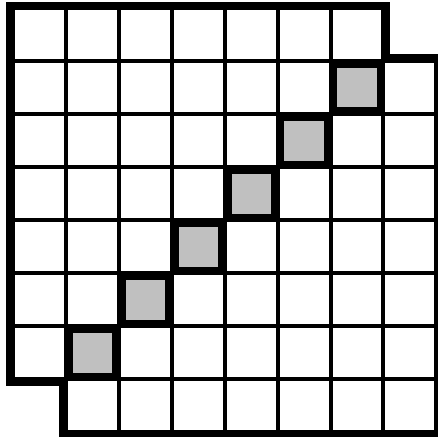
SHORT ANSWERS

- Activity that uses “Yes, and...”
- Look up to
- Loosens a knot
- Part of RAM
- Shoe with straps
- TV bar where “everybody knows your name”
- Victim of a con, or a lollipop

LONG ANSWERS

- Game piece that gets kinged
- Get better
- High-ranking naval officer
- Mama’s sisters, casually
- Not a failure
- Noted Vermont senator Bernie



**SHORT ANSWERS**

- Feeling of burnout
- Harsh on the ears
- Like drinking water
- Revel and drink heartily
- The Green Mountain State
- “To be honest...” (2 wds)
- Trait
- What you have on

LONG ANSWERS

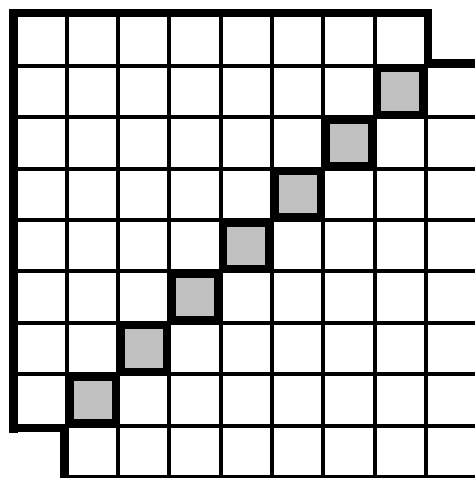
- Designation that might be given for “mild violence” (2 wds.)
- Like a film full of one-liners
- Manhattan or martini ingredient
- Merry-go-round
- Pique one’s interest
- Plain to see
- Word that appears after some “Mortal Kombat” fights

SHORT ANSWERS

- Age indicator in a trunk (2 wds.)
- “American Idiot” band (2 wds.)
- Assignments for Ethan Hunt
- Bought the film rights to
- Like a therapist’s hours
- Predestination counterpoint (2 wds.)
- Rikki-Tikki-Tavi is one
- Subway fare?
- Twix or Baby Ruth, e.g. (2 wds.)

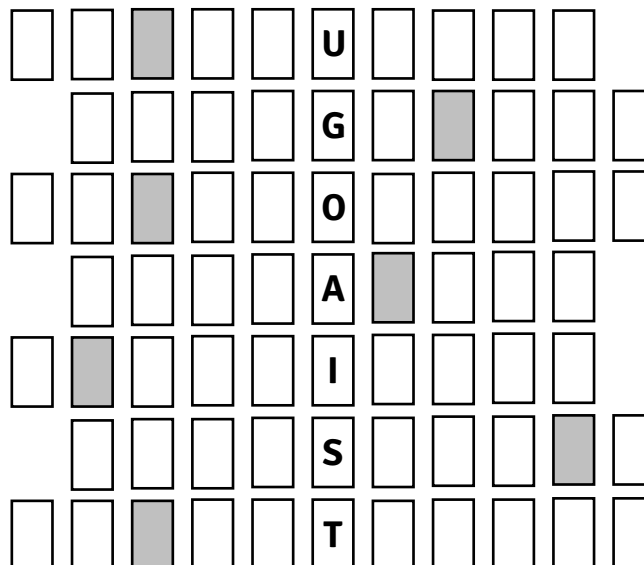
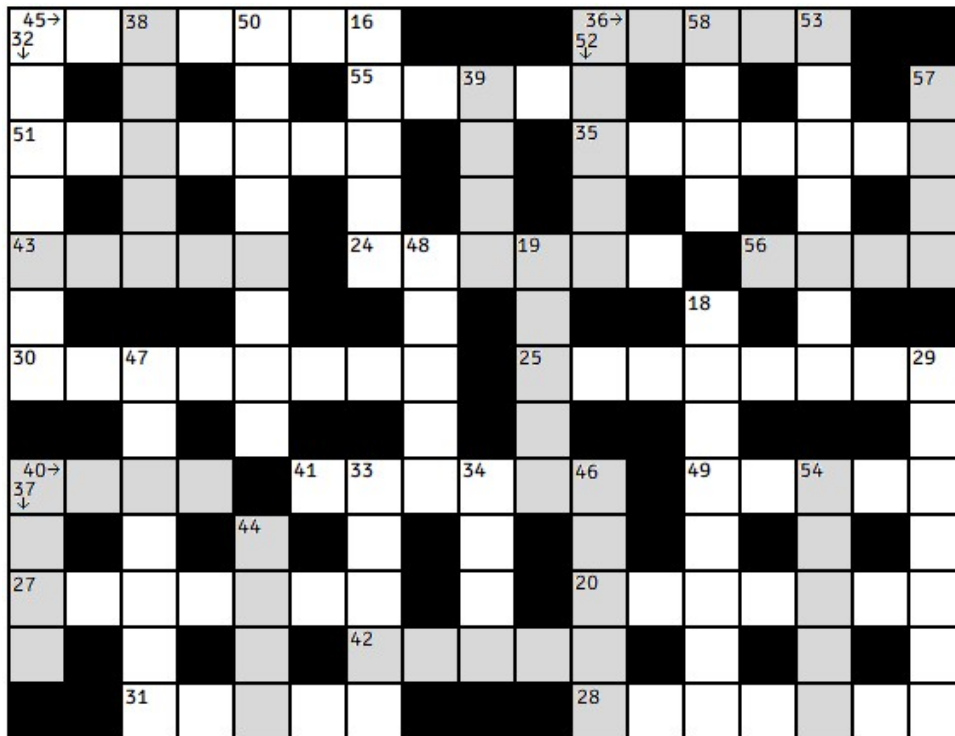
LONG ANSWERS

- 1984 film with a dancing ban
- 1993 film starring Keiko the orca (2 wds.)
- Added alt text to an image
- Australian term for an oxbow lake
- Community college attended in *Community*
- Gerund with war, hate, fear, or fish
- Hip hangout for cocktails, maybe (2 wds.)
- Things left out or skipped



The clues in this puzzle have been cut in half, and need to be reconnected. On the next page, the upper list shows the first half of every clue. The lower list shows all of the second halves. Figure out which halves go together. When you've properly put together a clue, add up the numbers on each part. The sum indicates where in the grid the answer should go.

When you're done, move the fourteen shaded words to the blanks below, to form longer words connected by the given letters. (One of these longer words is a proper noun.) Done properly, the shaded single letters will spell out something useful when you need to connect things that have been cut.



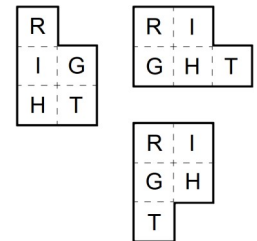
First Half

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Game that might get you | 14 Fraction | 27 Bulk purchase |
| 2 Storage for a | 15 Some playful | 28 No |
| 3 Makes | 16 It's sometimes eaten with | 29 Fish that are |
| 4 Covering even more | 17 Dog | 30 It comes before |
| 5 The magic | 18 Much anticipated | 31 Actors have to |
| 6 Plant from | 19 Certain knights | 32 Indoor |
| 7 Transported by | 20 Soccer player's | 33 The bureaucratic kind |
| 8 Old-time | 21 Rhyming | 34 Northwestern |
| 9 Mystic in | 22 Ornamental item | 35 1970's |
| 10 Create fraudulent | 23 Light | 36 Spill |
| 11 Cookbook's | 24 It makes Bruce Banner | 37 Football player |
| 12 Fictional | 25 It's between | 38 Go |
| 13 Part of every | 26 Sweat's | |
-

Second Half

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Capital | 14 Zoo animals | 27 Later than |
| 2 Romantic prospect (2 words) | 15 Bang | 28 Subjects, in a discussion |
| 3 Writing | 16 An attempt | 29 Flat and wide |
| 4 Secrets, slangily | 17 Collection | 30 Exit |
| 5 On the shoulder | 18 Driver's license | 31 Bloopers (2 words) |
| 6 Is red | 19 Tenor and soprano | 32 Millions |
| 7 Memorize these | 20 The beginning | 33 Green |
| 8 Club | 21 Russian history | 34 Of a pound |
| 9 A cone (2 words) | 22 Captain | 35 Lawn mower, perhaps |
| 10 A bulb | 23 Had a round one | 36 Word, some say |
| 11 Happiness | 24 That darkens? | 37 In a Disney title |
| 12 In Tennessee | 25 For a bakery | 38 Anesthesia |
| 13 Playground feature (2 words) | 26 Artwork | |

Each Row of the grid contains one or two answers placed end to end, clued in order of appearance. Answers to clues in the Utahs list are all five letters long, and must be placed in Utah-shaped boxes before entering. Utah shapes may be rotated or reflected. Letters in a given Utah should be written left-to-right and top-to-bottom, as shown in the examples to the right.

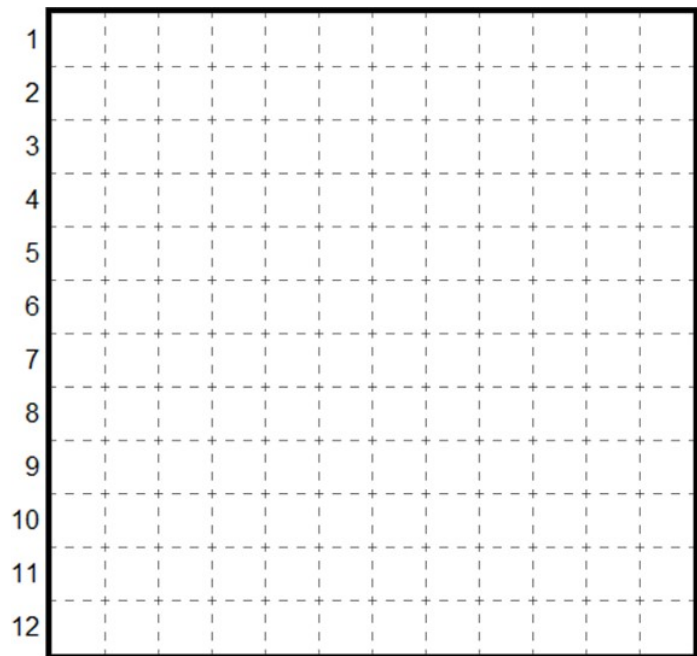


Utah answers are clued in alphabetical order, so you must use the Row answers to determine where each Utah belongs. The Utahs will almost fill the grid, leaving a few solitary letters behind that don't touch each other, even diagonally. These letters, read from top to bottom, answer the riddle...

What do you call a solitary Utahn?

ROWS

- 1 Municipality with the largest genealogical library in the world (3 wds.)
- 2 Opposite of fine-grained
NFL Hall of Fame tight end Shannon
- 3 Fairy tale boy portrayed by the strings in a Prokofiev work
Proper attire for a slumber party
- 4 Younger sister of Beezus in kid-lit
Add charge to, as particles
- 5 Melodious repetitive bass guitar rhythm
Street where you would find Snuffleupagus
- 6 Feinted jump shot to prepare for a drive (hyph.)
Hot in Cleveland network (2 wds.)
- 7 Ankle shackle (hyph.)
Iconic 1980's warrior played by Sylvester Stallone
- 8 Chilean author of *The House of the Spirits*
What you use to give someone the Hollywood treatment?
- 9 Very much
One who sponges off of others
- 10 Unpaid gofer, often
___ Grove, setting for *Little House on the Prairie*
- 11 Absolute bottom
Move toward the top
- 12 Butterfly's diet
Charlotte, in *Charlotte's Web*

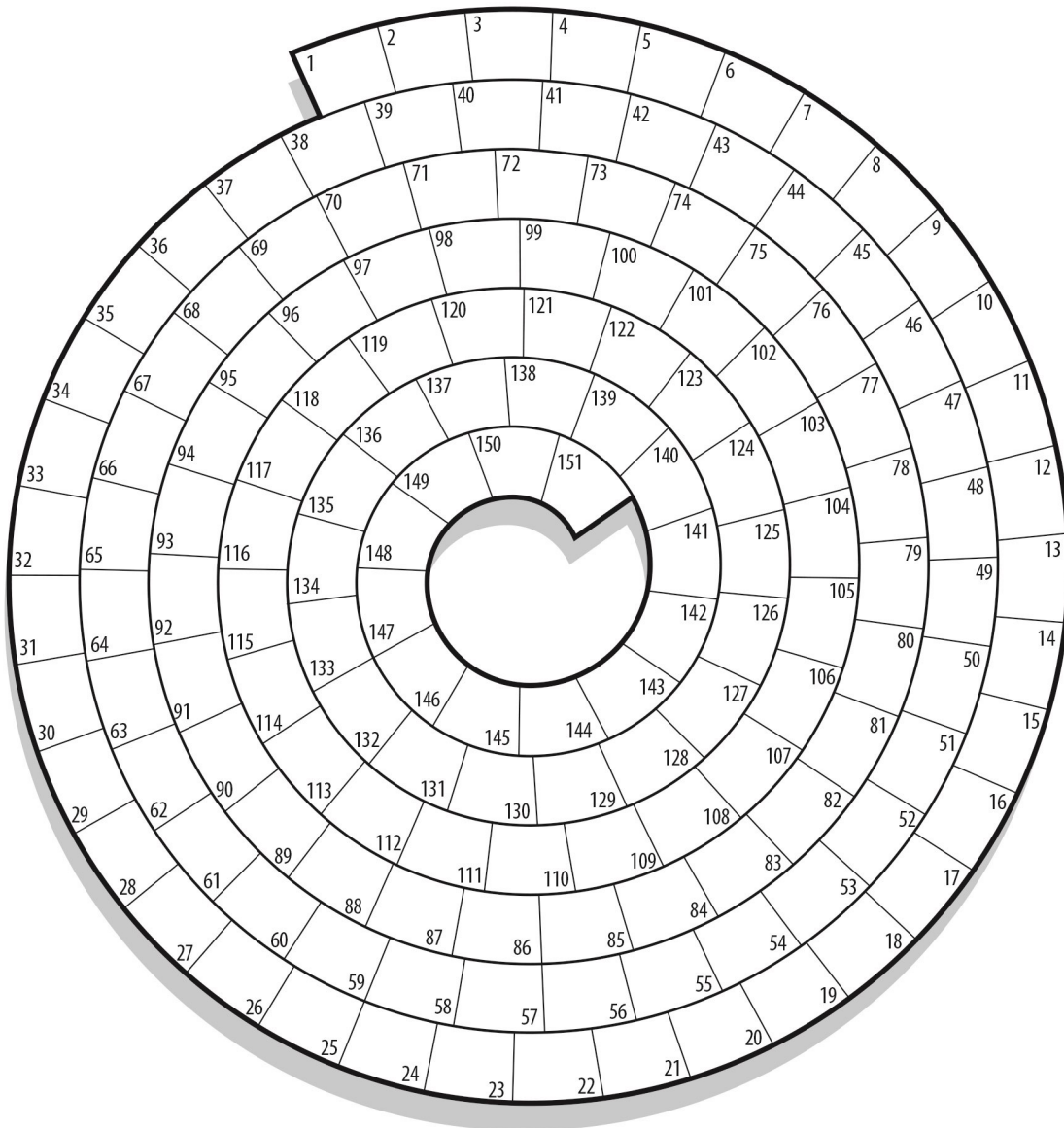


UTAHS

- Priest's platform
- Make changes to, as the Constitution
- Completely misdo
- Athlete like Kyiv mayor (and former world champion) Vitali Klitschko
- R&B singer of "Goodies" and "1, 2 Step"
- Hellish spirit
- Official proclamation
- Key typically struck with the right pinky
- Muslim or Hindu religious ascetic
- PowerPoint action to combine multiple objects
- Entirely nonsensical
- A strong desire for something addictive
- "TiK ToK" pop star
- Member of the 2022 Super Bowl champions (2 wds.)
- Device used in lidar scanning
- Permitted by statute
- Important crop to the Native Americans
- Innocent and unworldly
- One of five, for short
- Raises, as a child
- Breadth of relevance of a document
- Insistently committed to (2 wds.)
- Spanish words of love (2 wds.)
- Sorts or classes
- Complete and total
- Boring or uninteresting
- Fictional trash-collecting robot (hyph.)

Each space in this Alaska-scale Spiral represents 5 km of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race's route, which travels 755 km into the interior of Alaska, and 755 km back out again. The Iditarod route diverges in alternate years. Reflecting this, the Inward and Outward paths diverge in some spaces, with the Inward and Outward entries crossing each such space entering different letters into the space. Reading the divergent Inward letters inward, followed by the divergent Outward letters outward, will answer this riddle:

What did the sled dog consider his new teammates?



INWARD

- 1-8** Played, as in the Yukon River
9-16 Stronger, as coffee
17-24 Villain's character trait
25-31 States confidently
32-37 Infused (with)
38-44 Non-professional, like the original
 1973 Iditarod racers
45-50 Some evergreens along the
 racecourse
51-58 Make smooth and shiny again, as sled
 runners
59-65 "You just missed it!" (2 wds.)
66-72 Afghan ruling group
73-80 2/3 of a Looney Tunes sign-off
 (2 wds.)
81-88 Like a Jackson Pollock painting
89-94 Abrupt, unexpected
95-99 Sibling's child
100-104 Wharton's *House of* ____
105-110 Generates, as a controversy, by
 dishonest means (2 wds.)
111-116 Possible response to 59-65 (2 wds.)
117-121 Thug or ruffian
122-125 The 4-1-1
126-130 Island home of the Minotaur
131-136 Theatrical place to see *The Call of the*
Wild
137-144 Relaxed phase of a heartbeat
145-151 Weak excuses (hyph.)

OUTWARD

- 151-147** Tree trunk remainder
146-141 Spotted wildcat of South America
140-133 Ended a prayer (2 wds.)
132-127 Summer drink (2 wds.)
126-121 Journalist Chung
120-115 Supercharged engines
114-108 High point in Greek mythology?
107-99 The hours from dusk till dawn
98-92 Did a pull-up
91-83 Garbage trucks, in Glasgow
82-76 Weight added to a sled for stability
75-71 MetLife competitor
70-62 Two-way, like a US-Canada trade
 agreement
61-58 Insect drawn to the light
57-54 Grain storage building
53-46 Use reason to convince (someone)
45-41 Salad oil holder
40-34 Oscar-winning film about Mozart
33-26 Elvira, ____ of the Dark
25-21 White as a ghost
20-14 Very young hare
13-5 Taxonomic groups above families,
 like *caniformia*
4-1 Iditarod's French equivalent, La
 Grande Odyssée, takes place in
 these mountains

The 18 lyrics below are in alphabetical order by song title. Identify the songs, and fill each song title into the set of blanks where it'll fit (some letters have already been provided, but spaces and punctuation have been removed).

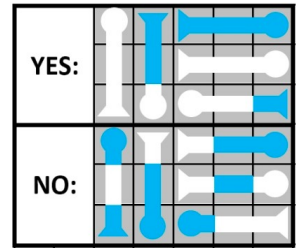
If you can identify 12 or more without Googling, you're a music maven; 15 or more, you're a pop phenomenon; all 18, and you're a legendary lyricologist! As a bonus, the shaded letters will tell you what all of the songs have in common.

_ _ S _ _ _ _ _ P _ A _ I N _
 I _ _ _ N D _ I _ _ _ _ _ _ _ A _
 _ _ A _ _ N G O _ _ _ _ _ L A _ _
 L E _ S _ _ _ _ _ O _ T H _ _ O
 B _ _ E N _ I N _ _
 _ H _ A _ I T I _
 _ _ T _ _ O _ _ G O _
 _ _ _ T _ _ _ _ _ O N G _ A _ _ _ _
 M A _ _ _ _ L _ I _ _
 _ _ K _ _ _ E _ N _ _ Y _ _ A _
 _ _ _ _ _ _ P _ _ _ _ E R _ U _
 _ I R _ A _ _ _ _ N
 Y _ _ _ E _ M E _ _ _ _ N _ _
 _ O _ _ _ M A N
 _ T A I _ W _ _ _ _ _ A _ _ N
 C A _ _ _ N _ A D _ A _ _ _
 _ _ _ _ C H I L _ _ _ _ E
 _ _ _ I _ T _ _ _ _ A _ _ L _ Y _ _

- Here I am, once again / I'm torn into pieces / Can't deny it, can't pretend / Just thought you were the one
- And when we hear the voices sing / The book of love will open up and let us in
- I'll be home / I'll be beside the phone waiting for you / Ooh-ooh-ooh
- All the leaves are brown / And the sky is gray / I went for a walk / On a winter's day
- Lord knows, when the cold wind blows / it'll turn your head around
- The word is about, there's something evolving / Whatever may come, the world keeps revolving
- And we rely on each other, ah-hah / From one lover to another, ah-hah
- So kiss me, and smile for me / Tell me that you'll wait for me
- Oh, maybe he's no Romeo / But he's my lovin' one-man show
- Only boys who save their pennies / Make my rainy day
- Mars ain't the kind of place to raise your kids / In fact it's cold as hell
- I want a girl with a mind like a diamond / I want a girl who knows what's best
- If there's a bustle in your hedgerow, don't be alarmed now
- She's got eyes of the bluest skies / As if they thought of rain
- Standing in line, marking time / Waiting for the welfare dime / 'Cause they can't buy a job
- All the old paintings in the tombs / They do the sand dance, don't you know?
- Father, father / We don't need to escalate / You see, war is not the answer / For only love can conquer hate
- Set me free, why don't you, baby? / Get out my life, why don't you, baby?

Ah, New Jersey! Home to the first drive-in movie, largest producer of eggplants in the United States, and site of the World's Tallest Watersphere, a landmark towering over the landscape just three miles from your author's childhood home.

In the map below, each watersphere is either empty or has some whole number of its segments filled with water. A watersphere always fills starting with the ground segment and moving toward the bulb, no matter its orientation, and it never skips over any segments and resumes later. (See the examples to the right.) Your goal is to determine which of the watersphere segments in the map contain water, and shade them in. The numbers outside the map indicate how many segments (individual map squares) in that row or column contain water.



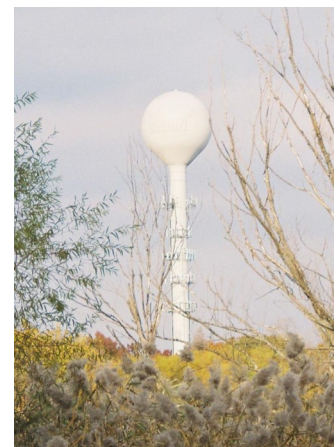
When you have found where all the water is, shade the corresponding squares in the Extraction Grid filled with the names of New Jersey cities. Then, because New Jersey was the third state to ratify the Constitution, take every third shaded letter (3, 6, 9, etc.) in the extraction grid (left to right, top to bottom). Doing so will provide the answer to the following question:

When you visit the World's Tallest Watersphere, what should you take?

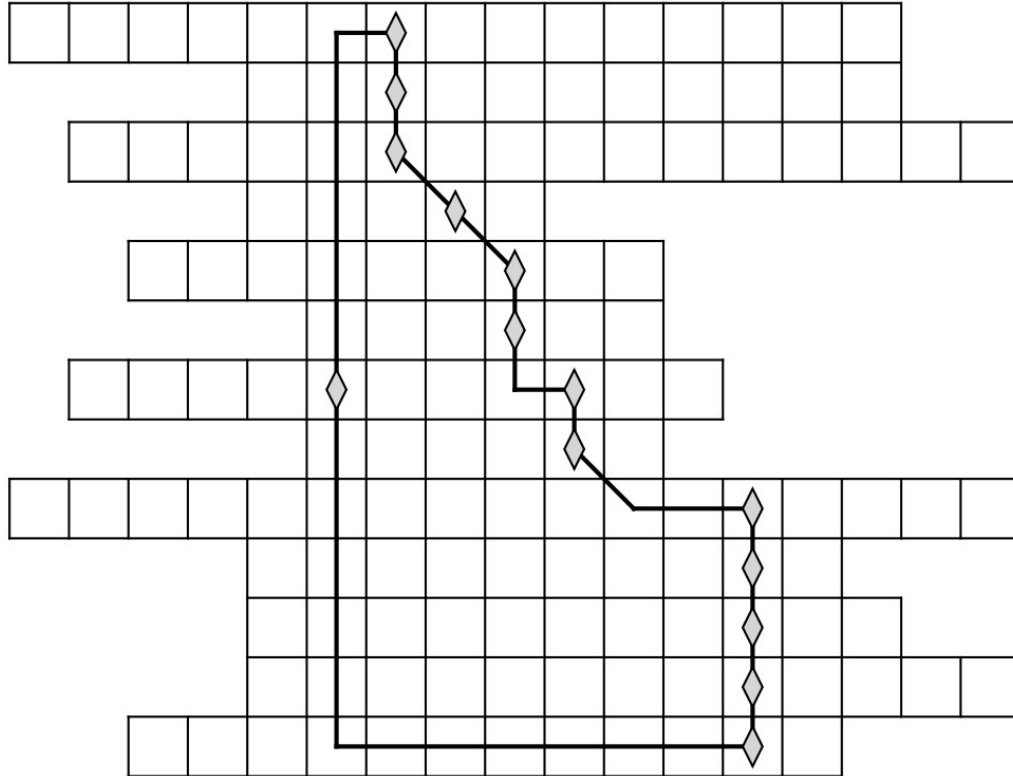
	6	2	3	5	4	7	8	9	5	4	5
2	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋
7	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋
8	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋
9	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋
6	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋
4	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋
5	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋
4	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋
3	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋
7	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋
3	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋	⌋

Take every 3rd watery letter

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



The Gem State's motto is Estó Perpetua, and there are indeed an unending supply of reasons for people to visit this jewel of a state. You will need to figure out where in the diagram each answer goes. The gems all represent the same string of letters—these mostly appear on the eastern border of the state, but if you look on the western border, you will see other reasons to visit here.



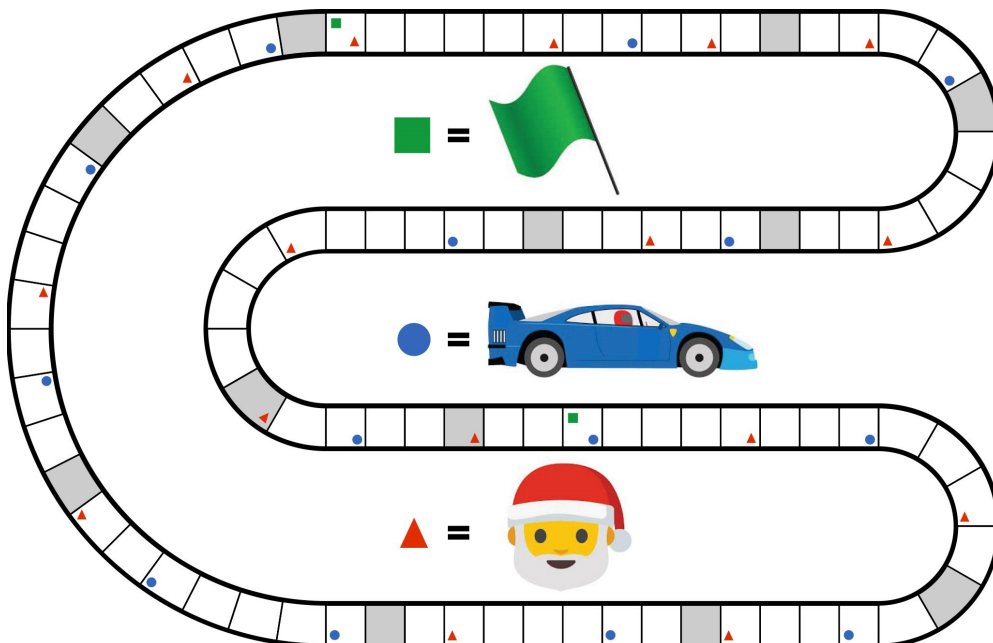
Clues are presented in alphabetical order by answer:

- Fibrous, fire-resistant mineral (8)
- Bureau (5 2 7)
- At your ____ (when you can) (8 11)
- 1990 incarceration-based Jim Varney comedy (6 4 2 4)
- Where to buy the answer to the second clue (9 5)
- Cattle and such (9)
- 1787 act of Congress creating a territory that was actually way east of here (9 9)
- Almost, but not quite, being remembered (2 3 3 2 3'1 6)
- Third-party stock buyer (7 8)
- One marching with a sign, perhaps (9)
- WNBA team west of here (7 5)
- Bygone Paul Harvey radio show (3 4 2 3 5)
- Loki portrayal (3 10)

This puzzle combines two Indiana attractions: The Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and the town of Santa Claus, in a race between Santa's sleigh and a race car driver. The answers to each set of clues are entered one after another proceeding clockwise around the track. Each answer begins in a space marked with the appropriate shape (blue circle = race car / red triangle = Santa) and ends at the space before the next such symbol. Every space will be used in both a Santa answer and a Race Car answer.

The answer to the first clue in each list starts in the space with the green square. The other clues in each group are sorted alphabetically by answer, so finding where they go is up to you. The letters in the shaded spaces, clockwise starting from the first Sleigh answer, will spell the answer to this question:

What do a race-car driver and Santa Claus have in common?



SLEIGH ANSWERS

- ▲ ■ Reindeer named after a heavenly body
 - Passionate
 - Figure skating jump
 - Accompany
 - Tristan's lover, in a Wagner opera
 - Television host David
 - Chapstick targets
 - Absent
 - Large flightless bird
 - One of 150 in the Jewish Bible
 - The difference between sushi and sashimi
 - Makes a noise like dry leaves
 - Pastor's delivery
 - Svelte
 - Law enforcement division that might police gambling (2 wds.)
 - Vacation rental

RACE CAR ANSWERS

- ■ Auto racing legend Petty
 - Just about
 - Fixture in a blacksmith's shop
 - Hormone associated with stress responses
 - Gadgets and such
 - Oval shapes
 - Assign responsibility
 - Quantity typically withheld from a paycheck (2 wds.)
 - Cutting tool for some surgery
 - "I Dreamed a Dream" musical, for short (2 wds.)
 - Payment interval for some leases
 - Thigh muscle group
 - One-piece garment
 - Fixed duration

Did you know that Johannes Vermeer and King George VI were twin brothers? I was skeptical, but I saw the films *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and *The King's Speech*, and they looked just like each other! The sixteen people clued below can similarly be paired into eight sets of twins.

When you have the pairs, match each one with an appropriate pair of initials below, fill their last names into the blanks (keeping the left twin on the left and the right twin on the right), and write down the specified letter from each name. Reading down the columns, these letters will spell out the answer to this question:

What is an apt description of the twins mentioned above?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legendary comedienne whose television studio produced Star Trek • Notorious gangster convicted of tax evasion in 1931 • Only Second Lady born in Wyoming • British Prime Minister who won a Nobel Prize for Literature • Lyndon Johnson Supreme Court appointee who served for almost 24 years • Host of a television show featuring X and King Friday XIII • Politician celebrated on January 10 in the Falkland Islands • Author of 70 pages that became <i>Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American host of <i>The French Chef</i> • First person to provide the voice of Mickey Mouse • National Women's Hall of Fame member who disappeared in 1937 • Oil magnate buried at a Los Angeles museum that bears his name • Boxer who was suspended for throwing a fight in 1947 • Only baseball player whose number has been retired by more than three teams • Punk-rock bassist who was also the first drummer for Siouxsie and the Banshees • Author of a "biography" of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's dog |
|---|--|

T.H. _____ (6) = ____	_____ (1) = ____
A.A. _____ (5) = ____	_____ (2) = ____
R.D. _____ (3) = ____	_____ (6) = ____
N.K. _____ (2) = ____	_____ (5) = ____
G.O. _____ (4) = ____	_____ (2) = ____
C.B. _____ (2) = ____	_____ (1) = ____
C.P. _____ (5) = ____	_____ (3) = ____
M.S. _____ (7) = ____	_____ (2) = ____

In cryptic crosswords, an ANAGRAM INDICATOR is a word that tells you that the letters of a neighboring word or phrase need to be scrambled to create something new. The word NEW itself is a very common anagram indicator, in fact. So in this sense HER MISHAP can be thought of as a “NEW” HAMPSHIRE. Other anagram indicators might include any sort of synonyms of DAMAGED or CHANGED or ODD...or just about anything else that might signal a need to rearrange things.

For each clue below, figure out an appropriate anagram of the word(s) in red and add an apt anagram indicator to the front of it to create a familiar phrase. Enter that phrase into one of the lines of boxes at the bottom of the page. The letters in the highlighted column will reveal how “her mishap” left her.

Dark **NIGHTS** can be ideal for turning on the TV and watching...**STRANGER THINGS**

Don't be surprised if you hear lyrics about **AN IVY CLOAK** in a parody song by...

Few rebellious teens could **RESIST** the classic 80s hair metal mayhem of the band...

He used to drink only white wine, but he pivoted to red; his first taste of **PINOT** was the...

I'll toss the VCR out into the **YARD IF** you don't stop playing that Jamie Lee Curtis movie...

I'm sad to say it, but I think the **MOTH SAC** I accidentally swallowed was the cause of my...

It seems unlikely that he was actually a **TIN DEITY**; it was probably just a case of...

Most Thanksgiving traditionalists prefer gravy instead of **OAT PESTO** on their...

My unpredictable D&D character is a **REAL NUT**, partially because her alignment is...

Of all the sorrows on **EARTH**, it's hard to find one that can make you sadder than a...

Pinto beans and a pot of **STEW** was a common fireside meal for cowboys in the...

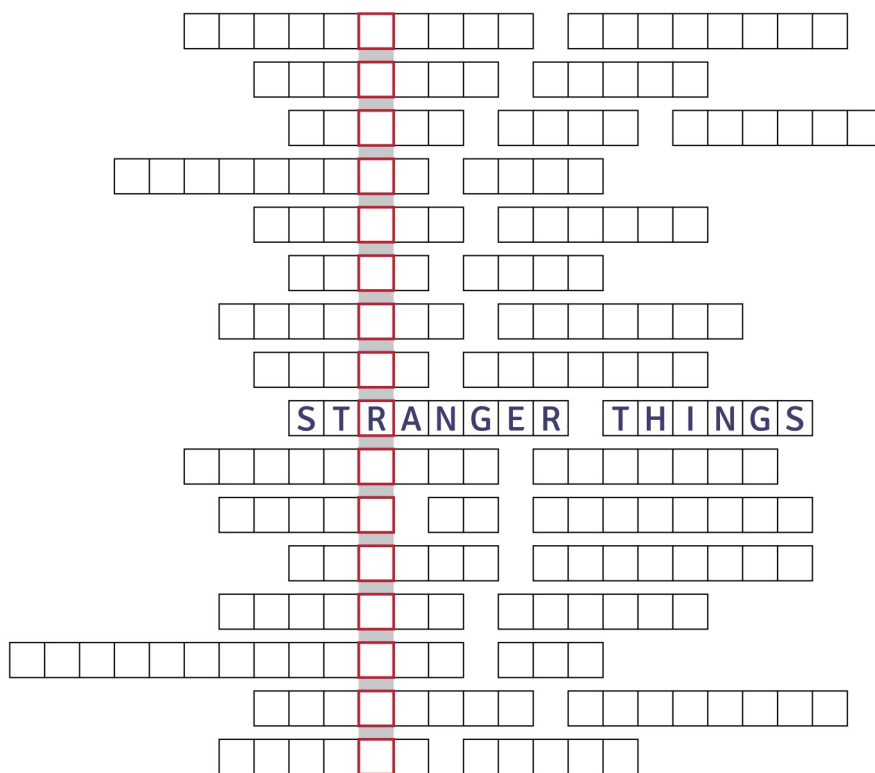
She brings **HER SOWS** into the barn during steady rain, but not if the forecast calls for only...

Some movie families from Singapore hardly worry about **RAISIN' CASH** since they're...

The storyteller might **RANT, ROAR**, or even confuse you if the book has an...

This powerful colonial-era oil painting really captures the **RAW** nature of the...

We had a skunk outside, but the **ODOR** in the lobby isn't too bad thanks to our building's...



Many jazz standards were born in New Orleans, and none are as famous and beloved as “When The Saints Go Marching In.” Below, we’ve tried our hands at 10 new songs, but each needs a saint to march into it before it will make sense.

For example, if we wrote a song about attending an Oasis concert, and it included the line...

Sing “Champ up, Erno!” Val, I am

...you’d first have to insert the letters from the name of St. AGNES (who was the patron saint of girls) then respase and repunctuate, to get the more sensible...

Sing “Champagne Supernova,” Liam

On the next page are pictures that clue the saints who will march into these ten verses. They are shown in alphabetical order by the saint’s name.

I got a stable full of horses
but they refuse to take me far
So I went down to the dealer to get a
Fives tardiest or car

Its a thousand, million degrees tonight
measured ink Eli grade or Fahrenheit
Is this thermometer working alright?
The mercury’s rising to a new height

When cannon fire destroyed their wall,
a city hired Godzilla for protection.
But Alaska is Troy edit all
with an unholy, monstrous perfection

Of all the poets in the world, either
Browning orange my fave
I scan their work for a breather
After a hard day, they’re all that I crave

I have this dream all the time
I cheat at Catan to stoke my score
I steal Andy Samberg’s sheep
Is wiry crew sore
I’m a regular Brooklyn 99 thief
And I come back for more

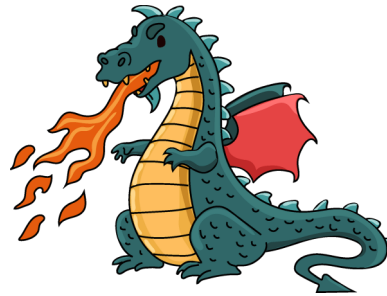
A tip, if you’re not feeling so hot
Go to the spa, and spend a lot
Treat yourself, and don’t demure
Get a mass at a man i cure

‘Round Spain, grandma kicked me
when the bull just passed me by
‘Round in diagramed me
with curry that made me cry
‘Round Oz mama punched me
like a kangaroo-turned-tough guy

With test in GED rosy
Shades turn things cozy
Like comfy bear rug
With the right kind of eyewear
It’ll all be grand — I swear
Now give your mama a hug

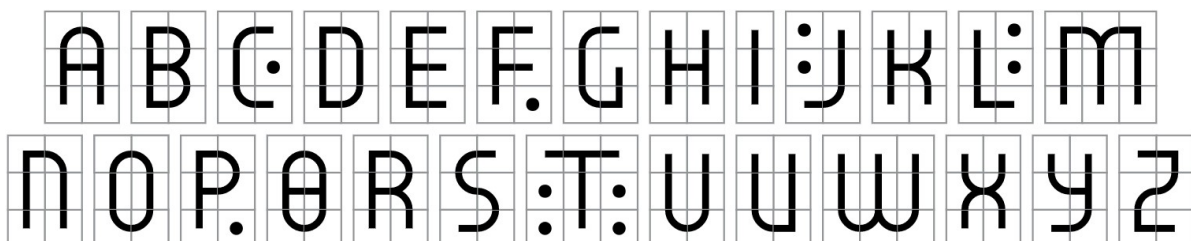
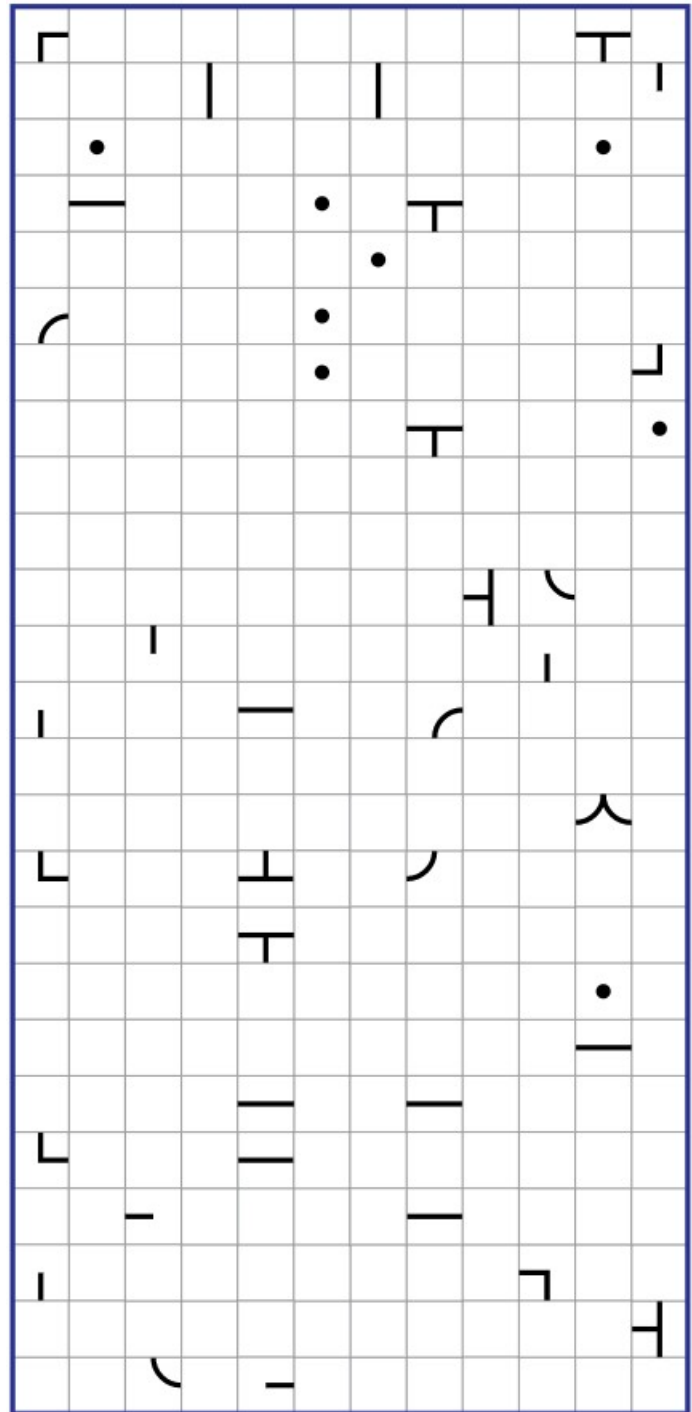
The conductor wasn’t famous for
Wearing a styli sheet tenor
a fancy ascot in his vast couture;
he found them all a mighty bore!

I remember a dog, chasing its Kong
only to give it a rest
I rec alas in gits song
to fly back to into its nest
I think back on an ape, wild and strong
beating a rhythm on its chest



Delaware, as you're well aware, is the first state to enter the Union. Each of the clues below can be answered with a two-word phrase, and one of those words is "first". (For example, "Selfish person's demand" could be ME FIRST.) Those extra words, like ME in the example, can be written into the grid at the right using the alphabet as drawn at the bottom of the page. In the completed grid, every square will be used in exactly one word—no overlaps, and nothing left over, but words can be written sideways or upside-down (but always "across," with each letter beside the previous letter). Some of the squares have been completed for you. Can you finish the grid?

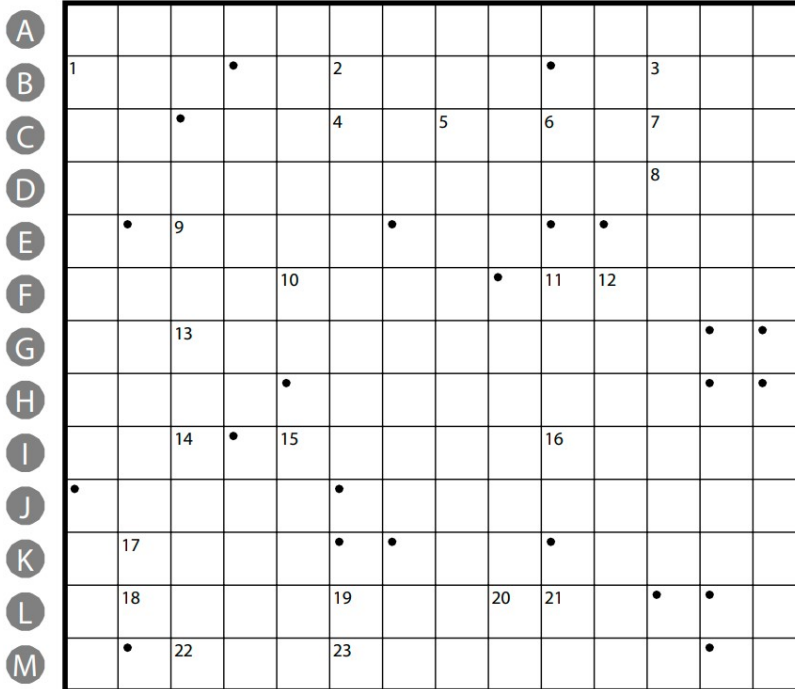
- It's more expensive than business or economy
- What a writer starts with
- How a jumper, as opposed to a diver, enters the water from the diving board
- Compendium that doesn't quite contain all of Shakespeare's works
- Kind of witness account without hearsay
- You want to make a good one during a job interview
- Grammatical choice for autobiographers
- Top drawer
- Workplace slogan that's been expanded by "Forget the nurse..." or "...because injuries last"



The Appalachian Trail winds its way from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine, extending nearly 2,200 miles. This puzzle celebrates the historic hiking route with a few trails of its own.

Answers fit into the grid in two ways: Trails and Rows. Each Trail answer begins in the corresponding numbered square and ends in one of the dotted squares, making one or more turns along the way. Trails will never overlap each other, nor will they make hairpin turns (i.e. no two-by-two block of grid squares can be filled by a single Trail answer). Trail answers' lengths are given in parentheses.

Each Row contains two answers clued in order, with an empty space between them that will be filled by a Trail answer. When the grid is complete, the letters in these spaces (reading from top to bottom) will reveal the high point of hiking the Appalachian Trail.



Trails

- 1 Author of *A Walk in the Woods*, a memoir about hiking the Appalachian Trail (4,6)
- 2 Oxygen carrier in blood (3,4)
- 3 Turns into (7)
- 4 Shout of encouragement to one's son (7)
- 5 Melt down, as fat (6)
- 6 University of Montana's home (8)
- 7 General-interest mag that celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2022 (7,6)
- 8 Entrance halls (6)
- 9 Driving away (10)
- 10 Army training exercises (9)
- 11 Groundskeeper's job, in part (4,4)
- 12 Stretch out (8)
- 13 Revulsion (8)
- 14 Nutritionists recommend them (8,5)
- 15 Nothing-but-net sound (5)
- 16 Hampered, as one's rights (8,2)
- 17 "Rocket Man" singer John (5)
- 18 Battle of the Atlantic vessels (1-5)
- 19 Marcher with a sign (9)
- 20 What research papers are generally expected to contain (9)
- 21 Like Catwoman's mannerisms (6)
- 22 Name-checked in an Oscar speech (7)
- 23 Expo presentations (5)

Rows

- A Unmannerly (Hyph.) Tribal VIP's
- B Seamstress for whom a bridge over the Delaware is named (2 wds.) Under the covers
- C Hopelessly old-fashioned sort, slangily Spanish : gracias :: French : ____
- D Cross swords (2 wds.) Clear up
- E Bookworm's affliction, perhaps Spanish Steps site
- F Wrestler John who also acts Lee Van Cleef's role in *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* (2 wds.)
- G Person who's rarely in gear? Most hackneyed
- H Turned off by (2 wds.) Sicker than before
- I Workplaces where white is worn Looking pained by, as a friend's faux pas (2 wds.)
- J Weapon for Buffy the Vampire Slayer Making an impression
- K Spinks who twice fought Ali Clam-digging area
- L Heaviest of the brasses Sought leniency from a prosecutor
- M When punctual people arrive (3 wds.) Dictation taker

New Mexico has a much more varied landscape than most outsiders might expect, from snowy mountains to grassy plains to rocky plateaus. Nevertheless, the popular conception of New Mexico tends to focus on one climate in particular, and as a result, most of the words below are going to desert. Cross off each of the described words, sort the remaining four from shortest to longest, and consider them carefully to see what you might do next... and after that, where you might wind up.

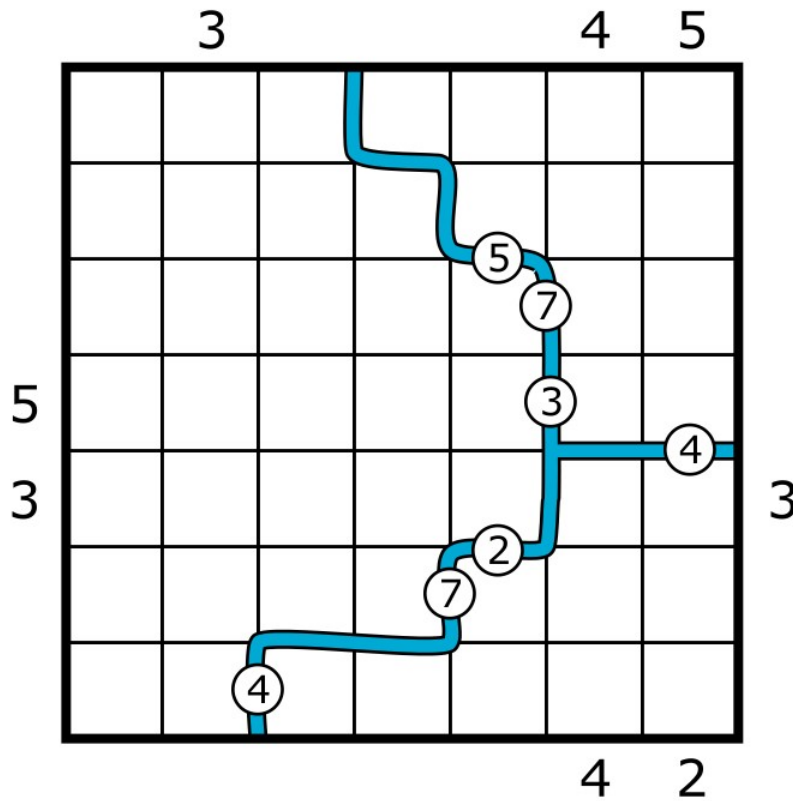
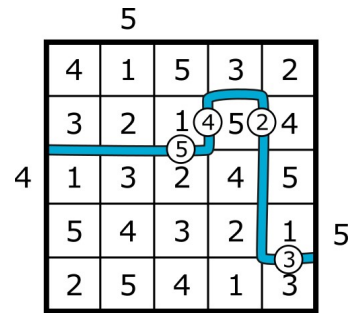
ANTIPERSPIRANTS	COUNTIES	HEN	ORBITS	SQUIRT
APPEND	DOWNY	LACER	REDO	STAGNATE
BISCUIT	EARRING	LAMELLATE	RICE	SUES
BITUDOBE	EL CAPITÁN	LIMITED	RIVIERA	TENNESSEE
CAMBODIA	FLIGHT	LONG AGO	SEARING	TRAMPOLINE
CESSPIT	GOLDEN	NEEDIEST	SEMIRIPE	USING
	GYPSUM	NOW	SOMERSON	

Which of these...

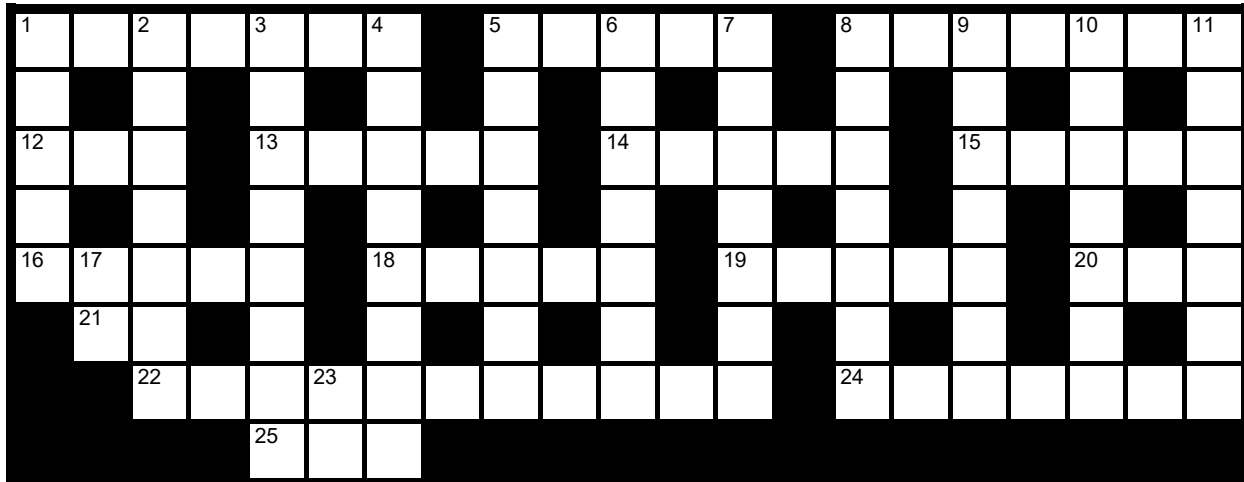
- ... becomes a new word if you add a small curve joining two endpoints of its first letter?
- ... becomes a new word if you change a synonym of “possess” to RAFT?
- ... becomes a synonym of “undo” if you double the letter preceding the A and reverse it?
- ... becomes a 20th-century muralist if you delete the center letter?
- ... becomes something an author might add at the end, if you add a Roman numeral at the end?
- ... begins with an irregular past-tense verb form that becomes present-tense when you append a letter, and ends with an irregular present-tense verb form that becomes past-tense when you append two letters?
- ... can be anagrammed to mean “the letter that’s three dots in a row in a certain alternative alphabet is missing”?
- ... can be found hiding in the name of Bush’s vice president?
- ... can be sorted into letters that occur exactly twice each, with just one unpaired letter left over?
- ... can be split into a coastal sight and a round shape?
- ... can be split into an animal and a common male nickname?
- ... contains a hidden type of bread, if you ignore the diacritic?
- ... could become a string of six consecutive letters of the alphabet (not necessarily in order) if you changed one letter?
- ... could stand for ONE SOON IS in a cryptogram (disregarding spaces)?
- ... doesn’t use a one-point Scrabble tile until its fourth letter?
- ... has a letter bank that’s the plural of a creature from the works of Tolkien?
- ... has the same four consonants, in order, as something that could result in a film receiving a more mature rating?
- ... has the same four consonants, in reverse order, as a synonym of “oath”?
- ... is an anagram of a star sign plus one extra letter?
- ... is both an NBA All-Star and a staple of Indian cuisine?
- ... is composed only of blood-type letters and Roman-numeral letters (the same number of each)?
- ... is deliberately misspelled in the name of a popular nu metal band?
- ... is just the odd letters from a seven-letter word for objects that sometimes accompany cups?
- ... is the longest one here to not use any letter more than once?
- ... is the result of inserting a bug into an object used in containment?
- ... is the result of inserting a four-letter crosswordese first name into a home for birds?
- ... sounds like it means “pieces of data about a mine’s output”?
- ... when followed by another one of these words, is an artist whose only Billboard Top 10 hit peaked in 1983?
- ... when preceded by another one of these words, is an artist whose only Billboard Top 10 hit peaked in 1983?

Take an architecture boat tour around downtown Chicago!

Put a digit in each cell of the grid below so that each of the digits 1 through 7 appears once in each row and column. Each digit represents the height of a skyscraper on its cell. Each digit outside the grid or on the river indicates the number of skyscrapers it can “see” in its row or column, with taller skyscrapers blocking the view of shorter skyscrapers behind them. The example seen to the right uses 1 through 5 as its digits.



Montana’s motto is “Oro y Plata”, which means “gold and silver” in Spanish. Accordingly, there are 12 nuggets of gold and silver to be found in this Montana-shaped grid. When you’re all done, follow the instructions below to learn what all this prospecting compels you to say. Happy hunting!



ACROSS

- 1 North America’s first was found in Montana air. Sound weird?
- 5 Excavated from Montana to Idaho for some blue material
- 8 No men allowed in secluded building. It’s tradition!
- 12 Stressed T to start
- 13 One’s countenance is wise after 6:00
- 14 Six borders hold promise for some folks in Montana
- 15 Musical featuring ukulele piece?! *turns knob on the radio*
- 16 Hug the right alien
- 18 Montana ain’t got no time for a princess
- 19 Hardy partner’s prize
- 20 23 and Me swapped part of Gilbert Gottfried
- 21 For example, a round period
- 22 Debate team resigned, devastated
- 24 Big loan increased around ten grand, after Glengarry leads
- 25 For instance, pick up sticks crossing into Yellowstone

DOWN

- 1 Same short sound and half-tone
- 2 Cut back to a trio of Cheyenne entering North Dakota
- 3 Most demanding mountain after Sinopah’s peak
- 4 Crazy Horse first ignored damage by yellow aromatic herb
- 5 Estimated arrival of Crow fella, consumed? (2 words)
- 6 Sicken a neat freak with purpose
- 7 Like some nights in Montana, nothing powered central Billings
- 8 Helena’s first couple cross revered Indian place with mega-symbolic stacked lines
- 9 Snake and vermin killer partly protects Lakota chief
- 10 Half-forgotten *Star Wars* beast can lead to Grogu’s mocking
- 11 Careless bear on bareback with stirrup, e.g. (2 words)
- 17 It’s game day in Düsseldorf
- 23 Back a monopolist’s start?

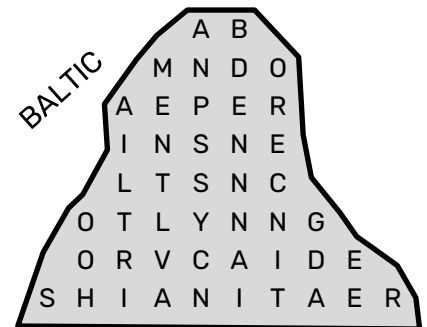
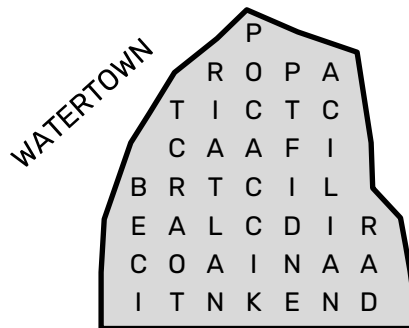
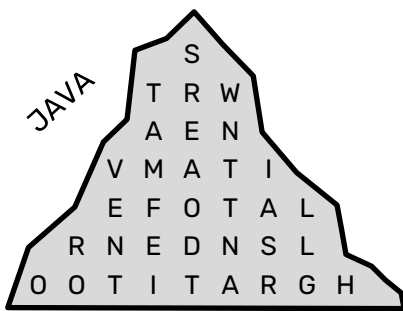
Starting in the first row, and continuing left to right, top to bottom, use these 12 sets of directions, in order, one for each nugget you come across.

- 1. |←→
- 2. →|↓↓↓
- 3. ↓→|↓
- 4. ↓
- 5. →|↓↓↓
- 6. →|↓
- 7. ↓↑
- 8. →|↓→|↑↑↑
- 9. |←↑↑←
- 10. ↑
- 11. →|
- 12. →|

Riffing off Mount Rushmore’s “famous foursome,” South Dakota has initiated a three-phase plan to build additional monuments in their beautiful state. Eight cities will construct Phase I monuments, four more will construct Phase II monuments, and for Phase III, a single extra-special city, has been chosen to host the grandest monument of them all. Solve Phases I and II to discover this final city!

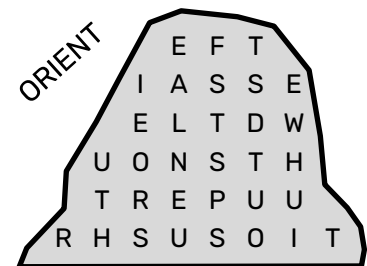
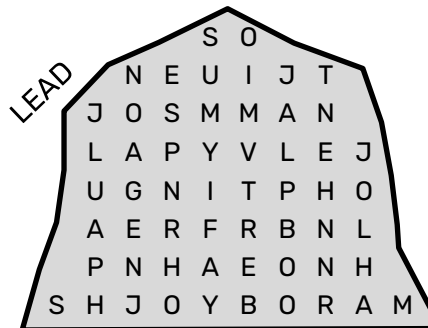
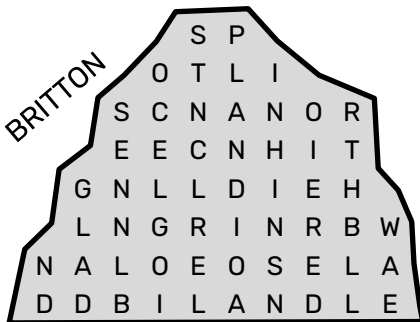
Phase I

In each granite mountain, you must “carve away” stone to reveal four words that comprise a familiar four-some. Words are spelled by traveling horizontally or vertically to adjacent letters (not diagonally). Words will not reuse letters nor will they overlap. **The name of the city is a hint to the foursome.** After finding the words, the carved-away, unused letters will spell additional words which will fit into the blanks in order. These 16 leftovers (which in some cases will be two separate words) will be used in Phase II.



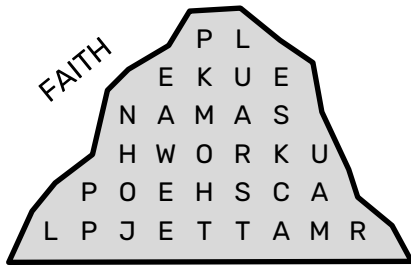
Foursomes (in alphabetical order)

Leftovers (in grid order)



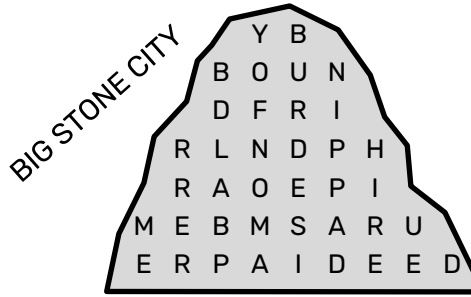
Foursomes (in alphabetical order)

Leftovers (in grid order)



Foursomes (in alphabetical order)

Leftovers (in grid order)



Phase II

South Dakota is proud of its conservation program, so it's time to use the 16 leftovers from the previous monuments to build 4 more in the following cities (using 4 leftovers per city).

DEADWOOD

IPSWICH

MOBRIDGE

SIoux FALLS

However, before building the new monuments, **each of the leftovers must be altered into a new word in a manner suggested by the city's name.** These altered words are defined by the 16 clues below. Numbers in parentheses are used in Phase III.

Monkey (8)

Rep (2)

Underground (4)

Fresh (1)

Animal sound (1)

More like a fish (2)

Body part (2)

Very tiny mammal (8)

Finish (3)

Ordinal number (5)

Insect (3)

Currency replaced by the Euro (1)

Body of water (1)

A bus might become one (11)

Adjective on a job review (7)

Idea (7)

Phase III

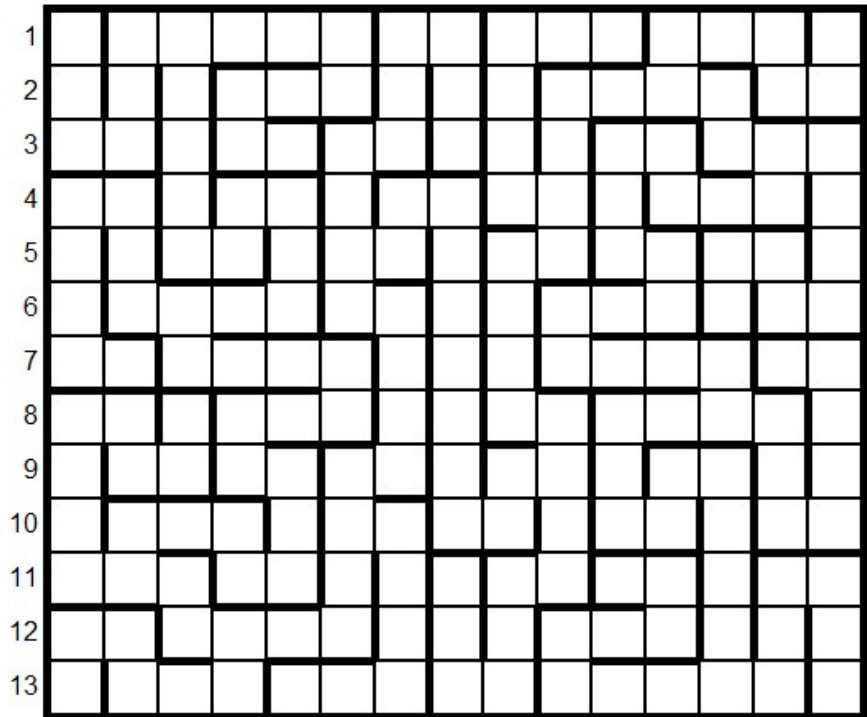
For each altered leftover above, take the indicated letter of the answer, which will spell out a clue to reveal the name of which South Dakota city has been awarded the final monument.

----- , ----- → -----

Each Row in this puzzle contains three answers, clued in order. Use those answers to help you navigate the cornfield maze from the start in the upper-left corner to the finish in the lower right. Path clues are also given in order, but watch out! Interspersed randomly among them are clues to twelve dead ends. Figuring out which clues lead to dead ends, and where those answers should be placed, is up to you.

ROWS

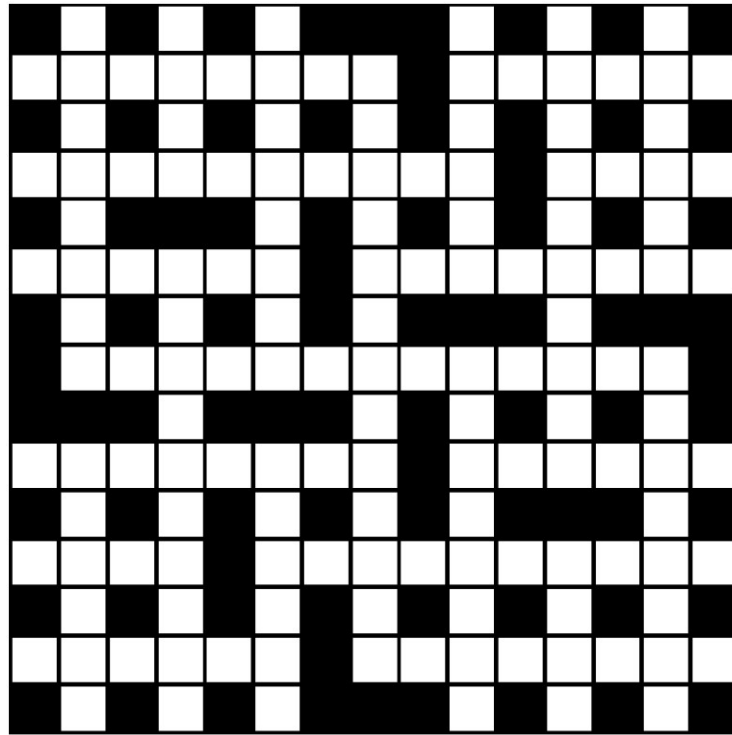
- 1** In the middle, quality-wise
Help with a crime
ST:TNG enemy
- 2** Wood used in patio furniture
Runner's place before coming home
Plant secretion
- 3** Concealed
Boy Scout unit
Written tributes
- 4** Feel concern
Ersatz
The Greek goddess of the moon
- 5** Solo
One cushion on a comfy chair
Cheeky
- 6** More risqué
Slithery fishes
They're sometimes made of coral
- 7** Starting drive on a golf hole
(2 words)
Bright light
Land measurement
- 8** Rye, for one
Units of power
Southern accent, sometimes
- 9** Insect with a triangular head and an elongated body
Soft drink options
Comedian Kevin
- 10** Off the mark
Finishing touch on a golf hole
Hankering, slangily
- 11** Toddler's greedy cry
Ten-speed rider's selection
Storage spot on a military base
- 12** Go off topic
Ready for business
Pet bird's home
- 13** Few and far between
Lays down turf
Exposed



PATH

- Successfully reached
- One in a ring
- Worker in a hive (2 words)
- Broadcasting (3 words)
- Skater's exhibit (2 words)
- Common surprise in a Dungeons & Dragons dungeon (2 words)
- The business of selling clothing, slangily (2 words)
- Seeing regularly
- Bit of jewelry
- Completes a class
- Goes back to 000
- Provide food for
- Likely to put people to sleep
- River hazard
- Lawyer's presentation
- Have more stamina than
- Unchains (2 words)
- City neighboring Ciudad Juárez (2 words)
- Capital of the German state of Saxony
- Frozen dessert
- Didn't stand on ceremony, in a way
- Thin barrier
- Public image
- Magician's handful, often
- Menu option (3 words)
- Days away from school
- Girl in *Sweeney Todd*
- Lavished with food and drink

Each answer in this cryptic crossword starts with a different letter of the alphabet, provided for you at the start of each clue. Solve the clues, and then figure out where their answers go in the grid.



- | | |
|--|--|
| A Secret target: ramp redesigned by computer support team (6) | O Role for Takei with company backing maker of VR tech (6) |
| B Difficulty detaining Southern soldier going the wrong way in coastal area (3,3) | P Before finishing, survey my counter and obliterate enzyme (10) |
| C Scoffs at sporting hand-me-downs (4-4) | Q Fruit bunch arriving all at once for the audience? (6) |
| D Doesn't heed cry after interest is shown in new dyes (8) | R Joey and Gordon Sumner settling down for the night (8) |
| E <i>Brave New World</i> workers record last of grain in storage towers (8) | S Bloom dear to Arizona in planter containing water from Mexico? 🍷 (7,6) |
| F Passionate about mid-Seventies ballgowns, say (6) | T Note: butter is useful primarily for coffee-infused dessert (8) |
| G Apply a decorative coating that's like a fish, reportedly (4) | U Deviously suave motion follows United Nations decision with no dissenters (9,4) |
| H In rehab, I deconstructed Ireland in some poems (8) | V Room in vessel for pests (6) |
| I Limp or tedious shows brought in (8) | W Came to pan leads in Euripides's unfinished play (4,2) |
| J Collector of odds and ends; sketcher of ships? (4,6) | X Mutants returned clownfish, exchanging hug for kiss (1-3) |
| K Solicitous family doctor's left (4) | Y Fret about a flipping plant!?! (6) |
| L Oddly loopy in-crowd stalwart (8) | Z Nearly use a phaser on extremely naughty eccentric (4) |
| M Strength from one weird thing amid confusion (10) | |
| N Vegas strip features Bruce or Spike working late shifts, per Spooner (4,6) | |

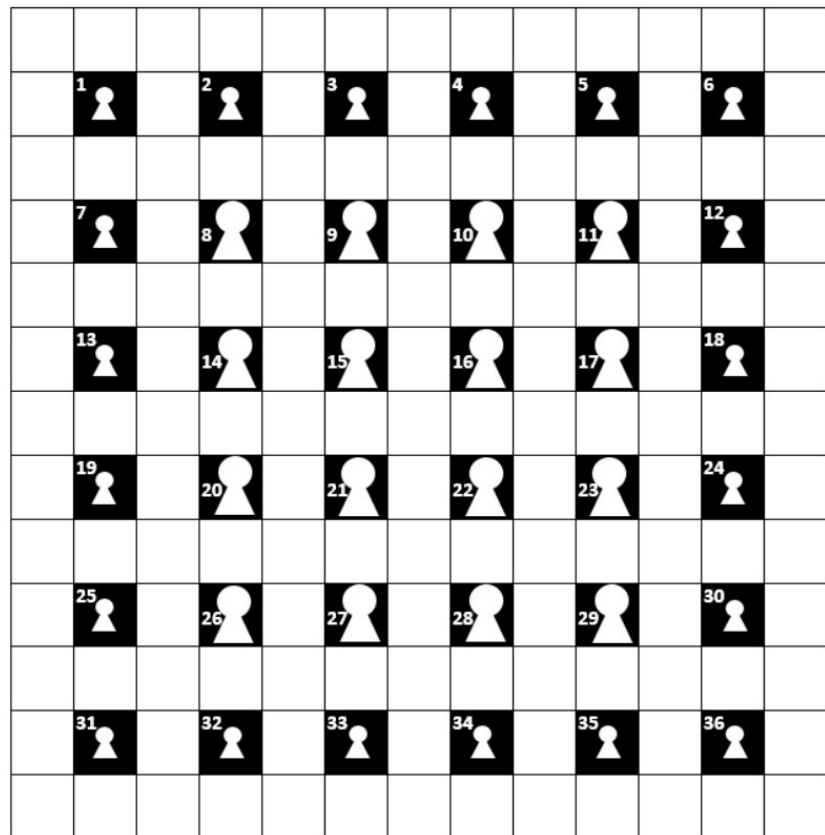
The Florida Keys is a coral archipelago connected by the Overseas Highway, which runs through more than 40 islands all the way out to Key West. Each entry in the grid circles its corresponding keyhole, starting in one of the eight squares around it and then travelling either clockwise or counterclockwise. However, some (but not all) of the large keyholes in the interior of the grid have answers that are *nine* letters long instead of eight. One of the letters from each such answer must be put inside the keyhole itself.

As a solving aid, the 12 letters at the outer corners of the grid (three each), which each only appear in one entry, are (in some order): AENNRRTTTTVY.

When you have filled the grid, the letters in the inner keyholes (not all of which will contain a letter) will answer this question:

What do Floridians consider the Overseas Highway and its branches off onto individual islands to be?

- 1 Endless period
- 2 Kinship or connection between two or more people or things
- 3 Curved Turkish sword
- 4 Pottery art
- 5 Political period starting in 1969 (2 wds)
- 6 Poisonous substance introduced into an environment
- 7 Slot for a car key
- 8 State of trembling excitement or distress
- 9 Makes like
- 10 Educated guesses
- 11 Soak before cooking
- 12 Squid dish
- 13 Idleness, or failure to take steps to solve a problem
- 14 Exaggerated praise or flattery
- 15 Create a model of
- 16 Preference of some plane passengers (2 wds)
- 17 Inconclusive chess result
- 18 Those just starting out
- 19 Stages again, like old battles
- 20 Khartoum residents, perhaps
- 21 Muses or ponders deeply
- 22 Island off Australia
- 23 Has as a goal (2 wds)
- 24 Sound plausible or correct (2 wds)
- 25 Below-the-knee riding pants, or old-timey trousers in general

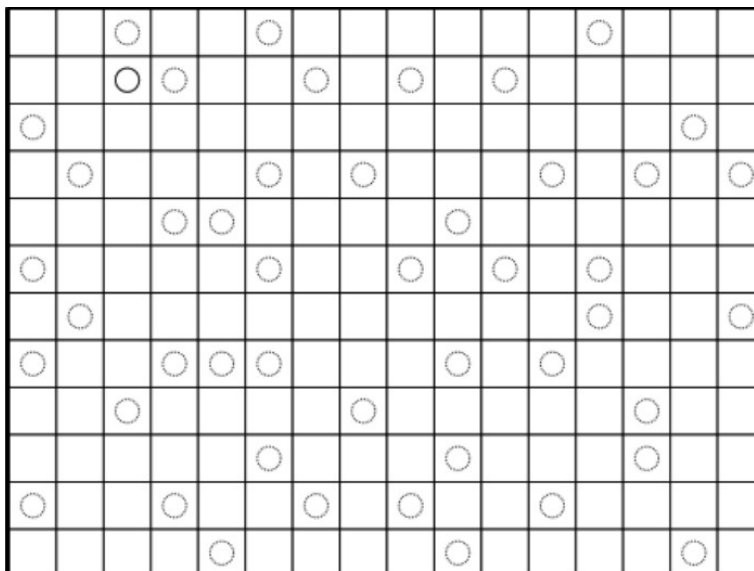
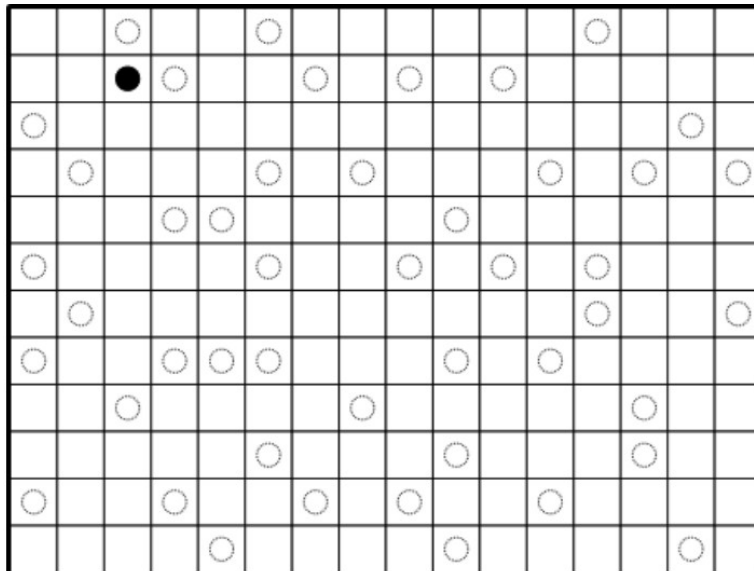


- 26 Profound metamorphosis or new direction (2 wds)
- 27 Separating
- 28 Contraptions that accomplish tasks
- 29 Succinctness or concision
- 30 Regatta activity
- 31 Disappears
- 32 City in China
- 33 Escaping an egg, sometimes
- 34 Attractive
- 35 Bright, then dark, then bright, then dark...
- 36 Home for a TV Grouch (2 wds)

Wyoming is known as the Equality State, as it was the first state in the union to grant women the right to vote and hold office. Accordingly, in this pair of Masyu puzzles, the two kinds of clues have equal representation.

In each grid, you must draw a single, non-intersecting loop that passes through all of the circles. Whenever the loop passes through a black circle, the path must make a right-angled turn in that square, and then continue straight through both of the adjacent squares on the path. Whenever the loop passes through a white circle, the path must go straight through that square and then make a right-angled turn in one or both of the adjacent squares on the path.

Except for an example to start you off, the black and white circles are not specified explicitly. In each pair of circles in the same location in the two grids, one will be black and the other will be white—you will need to figure out which is which. There is only one way to fill in all the circles and complete both loops.



This puzzle's grid consists of several islands of connected white squares, separated by an ocean of shaded squares. Each island includes (but does not necessarily begin with) a numbered square, and the answer to the corresponding Island clue can be read across each row of white squares in the island, from top to bottom. Different islands cannot share a border, but they may touch at a corner.

The answers to the Row clues read across the white squares in each row, skipping the shaded squares. The shaded squares must form a single connected region, and no 2-by-2 region can be entirely shaded. Some ocean squares have already been shaded. When you have placed all the islands and filled in all the answers, the letters in the numbered squares will reveal a state symbol of Hawaii with enumeration ('5 2 5), that shares part of its name with a character noted for island hopping.

A		1		2																
B																				
C																				3
D									4											
E																				
F																				
G	6																			
H																				7
I																				8
J																				9
K																				10
L																				11
M																				12

ISLANDS

- 1 River that flows through Roswell, NM (5)
- 2 Shakespearean tragedy (8, 2 wds.)
- 3 Set apart (8)
- 4 Christian rite of communion (9)
- 5 Popular spot for relaxation in Finland (5)
- 6 Considers (7)
- 7 Primate native to Madagascar (5)
- 8 Venomous marine invertebrates named after the Greek for "windflower" (8)
- 9 Ice cream flavor beloved by "Weird Al" in a parody of Joan Jett (9, 2 wds.)
- 10 Manhattan neighborhood with a four-sided shape, contrary to its full name (7)
- 11 Shoe brand popular with skateboarders (4)
- 12 Caretaker of an estate (7)

ROWS

- A Dog breed originating in China
- B Dispel, as a misconception (2 wds.)
- C Television character who turned green after one season
- D Desert whose name is Arabic for "desert"
- E Get back together
- F Fortified residence
- G Yogurt-based Indian curry
- H Chopin composition
- I Video game in the *Elder Scrolls* series
- J Singer, actor, football player, and activist Paul
- K Empty out
- L Range which includes the world's tallest volcano
- M Grassy area

The grid below depicts a pair of adjacent slot machines. Once you've filled the grid, spin some of the slots' wheels (that is, vertically rotate the columns in the grid) to line up winning combinations in both sets of shaded windows. This will reveal what you've managed to do.

ACROSS

- 1 Boozehound going after second frosty drink
- 5 AC/DC Pete's playing is not forbidden
- 11 Silent film star media magnate recalled
- 13 Rivers and waterways become a rich source primarily for seafood joints (2 wds)
- 14 Boredom's unfortunate in the boudoir
- 16 Dismiss odds of tailbone getting something soothing
- 17 Pamphleteer Nathan's penning the fifth part even-handedly
- 18 Some hardware runs out
- 19 Talkative truckers perhaps ignoring second of things tossed by highlanders
- 21 Most like a nude breast, heaving slightly
- 22 Disturbingly haunt Nevadan's neighbor
- 24 Extent of edited copies yours truly neglected
- 28 In the audience for *Frozen*, it all makes sense (2 wds)
- 29 Cartoon mutt is sorta funny
- 31 Laugh about morass that used to be *Game of Thrones's* streamer (2 wds)
- 34 Notorious skater Harding slew young adult
- 35 Try to erase singer Fitzgerald's German measles
- 36 Once again rips up a terser composition
- 37 Bit of dust left in lodging
- 38 Disney hero's absolutely a likely Wharton grad
- 39 My septet translated "{}" for mathematicians (2 wds)
- 40 Artist Nieman's role is complicated, yes

DOWN

- 1 Bucks graze
- 2 Disentangled from retracted promise admitted by one in France
- 3 Uber's traveling around a first-rate part of a larger region

1		2	3	4	5		6		7	8		9
	10				11						12	
13						14		15				
16				17								
								18				
19			20		21							
	22	23					24	25				26
27				28				29		30		
31							32		33			
				34					35			
36								37				
			38									
39									40			

- 4 Burnt stuff one's put into empty hookah!
- 5 Hmm: excellent commercial is winning
- 6 Rocky creases surrounding opening of vast gorge
- 7 Let poor slob stew some mushrooms
- 8 Floozy to do a somersault sporting half a bikini
- 9 It's typical of a beaver to request fancy fabric
- 10 A sublime rabbi distributed some dolls (2 wds)
- 12 Stranger, sullen, bores the Dixie Chicks (2 wds)
- 14 Reportedly threw away actor Hackman's pants (2 wds)
- 15 Owed taxes, e.g., might be deemed somewhat regressive
- 20 Exotic inert gas is most likely to go all over the place
- 21 Regularly, Beau rants; Otto grumps and aggressively campaigns
- 23 Pair of twins love raising dogs and cats to ballroom dance (hyph.)
- 25 Beast of burden carrying a rare confection
- 26 Kid supported by friend all the way
- 27 Sally's fee
- 28 Trace sample of patois heading north
- 30 Loudly lectured that Cockney girl to be less droopy
- 32 Flab yet to be exercised around gentleman's middle! (2 wds)
- 33 New York (but not Wyoming) converted Danish money

ANSWERS

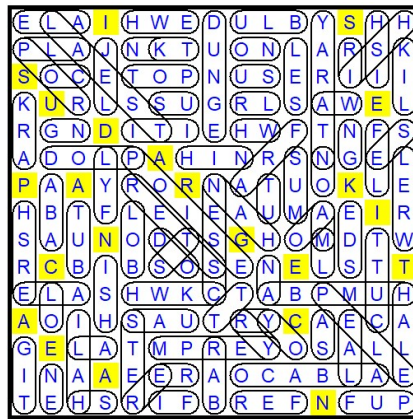
ANSWERS

ANSWERS

PAGE 4
VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

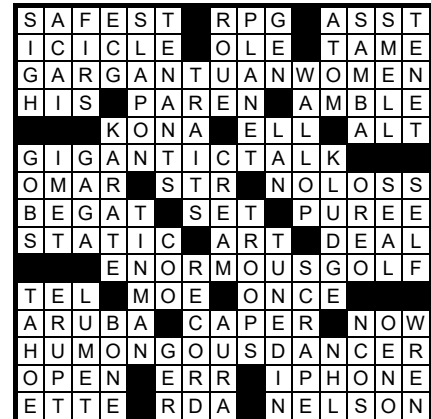
- 1 Love Shack
- 2 Eat Pray Love
- 3 Crazy in Love
- 4 Chapel of Love
- 5 Shakespeare in Love
- 6 Bye Bye Love
- 7 Stop! In the Name of Love
- 8 Dr. Strangelove
- 9 Love Potion #9
- 10 Endless Love
- 11 The Love Boat
- 12 Freeway of Love
- 13 Higher Love
- 14 From Russia With Love
- 15 Love Train
- 16 I Love Rock 'n' Roll
- 17 Love Story
- 18 Can't Buy Me Love

PAGE 5
THE EXPLODING WHALE



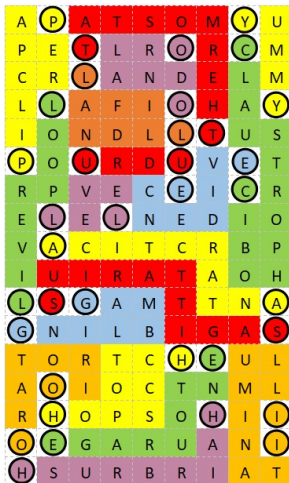
The leftover letters spell ISSUED A PARKING CETACEAN.

PAGE 6
EVERYTHING'S BIGGER IN TEXAS



PAGE 7
O-HI-O!

- HOPSCOTCH
- ILLUMINATI
- ONTARIO
- THERMOSTATE
- EVIDENCE
- HAIRBRUSH
- PAPER CLIP
- LEVEL
- ANTARCTICA
- CLAUSTROPHOBIC
- ENTOURAGE
- SAGITTARIUS
- YUMMY
- ORLANDO
- URDU
- LANDFILL
- LIVERPOOL
- GAMBLING



Including the Os at the beginning and the end, the first/last letters of each answer spell OHIO, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO.

PAGE 8
RESEARCH TRIANGLE

- Eastward, top to bottom:
- BEE (insect)
 - FEMUR (bone)
 - SILICON (element)
 - EIGHTY-ONE (square number)
 - URSA MAJOR (constellation)

- Northwest, left to right:
- TIN (element)
 - APHID (insect)
 - HUMERUS (bone)
 - ANDROMEDA (constellation)
 - FORTY-NINE (square number)

- Southwest, bottom to top:
- RIB (bone)
 - VIRGO (constellation)
 - SIXTEEN (square number)
 - PLUTONIUM (element)
 - DRAGONFLY (insect)

The letters remaining in the grid (left to right, top to bottom) spell out the answer: COMMUNICATING VIA CHARLOTTE'S WEBSITE.

PAGE 9
ROCK COLLECTION

- Background top (left to right)
- ROCKet
 - ROCK dove
 - ROCK 'Em 'Sock 'Em Robots
 - The ROCKeteer
 - ROCKet J. Squirrel
- Background left (stage, left to right, top to bottom)
- The ROCKettes (Radio City Music Hall dancers)
 - ROCKing horse
 - ROCKet Raccoon from *Guardians of the Galaxy*
 - Jack Black as Dewey Finn in *School of ROCK*
 - ROCK Band (video game screen)
 - ROCKapella (singing group)
 - Album cover of ROCKpile's *Seconds of Pleasure*

- Background right (left to right, back row to front)
- Dwayne "The ROCK" Johnson
 - Peter Hinwood as ROCKy Horror in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*
 - Chris ROCK
 - ROCKy Marciano
 - Sylvester Stallone as ROCKy Balboa in *Rocky*
 - Lou BROCK
 - Norman ROCKwell ("Triple Self-Portrait")
 - ROCK Hudson
 - Knute ROCKne
 - Sam ROCKwell
 - BROCK Peters
 - Dress form with a fROCK
 - The cast of *3rd ROCK from the Sun*

- Foreground left (table, left to right)
- Photo of Betty CROCKER
 - CROCK-Pot slow cooker
 - SpROCKet
 - Rolling ROCK beer
 - Oysters ROCKefeller
 - ROCKs glass (with ice, i.e. "ROCKs")
 - Davy CROCKett lunch box
 - ROCK Cornish hen
 - ROCK candy
 - Pop ROCKs (candy packet)
 - ROCKy road ice cream

- Foreground right (television area, left to right, top to bottom)
- Schoolhouse ROCKy ("Schoolhouse Rock" character)
 - BedROCK from *The Flintstones* (on television screen)
 - ROCKing chair
 - CROCK (comic strip character)
 - ROCKo (from *Rocko's Modern Life*)
 - Team ROCKet (from *Pokemon*)
 - *Erin BROCKovich* (Julia Roberts DVD)
 - *The ROCKford Files* (James Garner DVD)
 - Gobo, Red and Boober from *Fraggle ROCK*

PAGE 10
HOG WASHINGTON!

The true facts were 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, and 12.
The rest were bald-faced lies. Following the instructions make the string transform as follows:

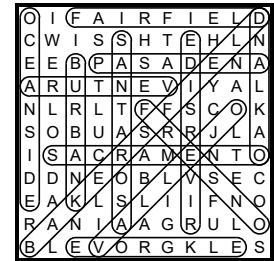
WASHINGTON
DENZELWASHINGTON
DENZWELASHINGTON
DENZWELALEGGTON
DEVWELALEGGTON
DEVILALEGGTON
DVEILALEGGTON
DVEILALETON
EILALETONDV
EILALETONCI
EILALETONACI
EILALLETONNACI
I CANNOT TELL A LIE

PAGE 11
THE PEACE GARDEN STATE



PAGE 12
MAP OF CALIFORNIA

- 1 BIG SUR
- 2 PACIFIC
- 3 NEIL SIMON
- 4 LAKE TAHOE
- 5 JUNGLE CRUISE
- 6 LOMBARD STREET
- 7 COLORADO RIVER
- 8 HOLLYWOOD BOWL
- 9 DAVID DUCHOVNY
- 10 FISHERMAN'S WHARF
- 11 SAN ANDREAS FAULT
- 12 DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS
- 13 LOS ANGELES LAKERS



The leftover letters spell I WISH THEY ALL COULD BE CALIFORNIA GULLS.

PAGE 13
BEN FRANKLIN, POLYMATH

INVENTOR

Pictures can be paired up as "eye rhymes"—words that look like they should rhyme but do not. Use the number to index into the given word:

- FRUIT - BISCUIT [2] → I
- LEMON - DEMON [1] → D
- COW - ELBOW [1] → E
- UMLAUT - ASTRONAUT [1] → A
- DOUGH - TROUGH [1] → T
- WIND - MASTERMIND [5] → E

The extracted letters spell IDEATE.

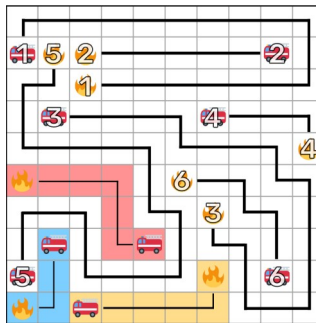
POSTMASTER

Add a letter to the front of each word that, read phonetically, gives you the answer to one of the clues:

- C Moore (Seymour, a musical plant owner)
- A Jacks (Ajax, a mythological hero)
- N Djinn (engine, a car part)
- C Saw (seesaw, a playground fixture)
- E Gulls (Eagles, a Philadelphia sports team)
- L Moe (Elmo, a red puppet)

The added letters spell CANCEL.

FIREFIGHTER



In order from 1 through 6, the hose path lengths are 18, 5, 19, 3, 21, and 5, spelling RESCUE.

PRINTER

One word in each adage was changed by adding a letter and scrambling:

- HOTNESS = STONES + H
- SULFATE = FAULTS + E
- DRAB = BAD + R
- ANGLO = LONG + A
- SIGNAL = GAINS + L
- DEATHS = HASTE + D

The added letters spell HERALD.

METAPUZZLE

Treating the numerical equivalents of each bigram as a book cipher and reading the extracted letters horizontally gives the final answer: A SHOCKING KEY (which Ben might have used either on his kite or to decode a secret message.)

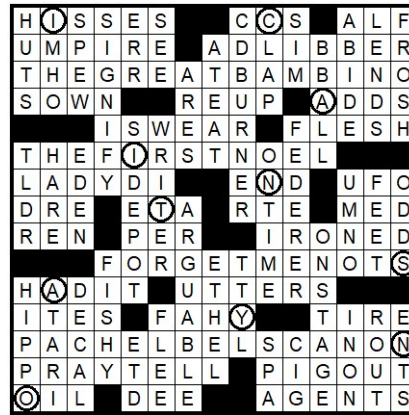
Inventor	Postmaster	Firefighter	Printer
I → A	C → S	R → H	H → O
D → A	A → S	E → H	E → O
E → C	N → K	S → I	R → N
A → C	C → K	C → I	A → N
T → G	E → K	U → E	L → Y
E → G	L → K	E → E	D → Y

PAGE 15
ALL THE PRESIDENTS, MAN

- Four-letter presidents (except WASHINGTON)
- Real words (except OBAMA)
- Starts with a boy's name (except MCKINLEY)
- All named James (except EISENHOWER)
- Three-letter word in the middle (except NIXON)
- Starts with T (except NIXON)
- Ends with ON (except CARTER)
- First and last name start with same letter (except HAYES)
- Names of companies (except ARTHUR)
- Contains double-O (except REAGAN)
- Same name as a second president (except GARFIELD)
- Names of cities (except EISENHOWER)

The first letters of the odd men out spell WOMEN IN CHARGE.

PAGE 16
A MUSICAL INTERLUDE



The circled letters spell I CAIN'T SAY NO.

PAGE 17
WILD HORSES

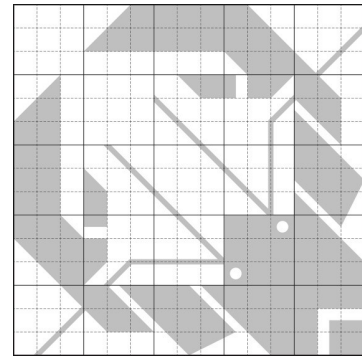
- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Horse answers, in order: | Horseless answers, in order: |
| IRON HORSE | BONES |
| SAWHORSE | CHAIR |
| HORSE TRADING | EIGHTS |
| HORSE SENSE | FIVE |
| CRAZY HORSE | FLOW |
| WORKHORSE | GUM |
| GIFT HORSE | INSIDER |
| HORSEPOWER | MAIDEN |
| DEAD HORSE | MATTER |
| SEAHORSE | NIGHTSTAND |
| TROJAN HORSE | PIN |
| HORSEPLAY | PORT |
| DARK HORSE | SCREEN |
| HORSE OPERA | SIXTH |
| ROCKING HORSE | SOAP |
| CLOTHESHORSE | SUPER |
| HORSESHOE | WAR |
| HIGH HORSE | WEIGHT |
| ONE-HORSE | WRAP |

Replace HORSE with the horseless answers to get...

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| IRON MAIDEN | TROJAN WAR |
| SAWBONES | SCREENPLAY |
| INSIDER TRADING | DARK MATTER |
| SIXTH SENSE | SOAP OPERA |
| CRAZY EIGHTS | ROCKING CHAIR |
| WORKFLOW | CLOTHESPIN |
| GIFT WRAP | GUMSHOE |
| SUPERPOWER | HIGH FIVE |
| DEAD WEIGHT | ONE-NIGHT STAND |
| SEAPORT | |

Reading the letters indicated by the Horse answers' numbers spells out DON'T SWAP HORSES IN MID. This phrase can be completed with the final answer to this puzzle, STREAM.

PAGE 18
MAINE ATTRACTION



Words and graphics may be assembled as shown to reveal a few interesting facts about and a drawing of our friend the lobster.

PAGE 19
PAIRINGS

In grid order, the pairings are:

- Starts with the name of a Japanese board game: GOSE / GORGONZOLA
- Starts with a three-letter abbreviation you might find on a calendar: MARZEN / MONTEREY JACK
- Ends with the same preposition: SAISON / STILTON
- Contains four different vowels: MALT LIQUOR / HALLOUMI
- Has one contained in the other: ALE / EMMENTALER
- Contains the name of an animal: HEFEWEIZEN / MASCARPONE
- If you remove two letters, spells a woman's name with the remaining string of consecutive letters: RED ALE / CHEDDAR (DALE, HEDDA)
- Uses a foreign word for a color: WEISSBIER / BLEU
- Contains a three letter body part (possibly backwards): PILSNER / PARMESAN
- Spells a common word in reverse: LAGER / EDAM
- Starts with an irregular past tense verb: BITTER / CAMEMBERT
- Includes only one vowel: KOLSCH / SWISS

The shaded letters in the grids spell GRILLED BRATS.

PAGE 20
ROAD TRIP

The rebuses can be found in the grid as indicated:

- Bedrock (BED, ROCK)
- Brigadoon (BRIM, R>GA, DOOR, R>N)
- Cabot Cove (CAB, TOT, -T, CONE, N>V)
- Castle Rock (CASTLE, ROCK)
- Duckburg (DUCK, BURGER, -ER)
- Emerald City (EMERALD, CAVITY, -AV)
- Gotham (GOAT, -A, HAM)
- Gravity Falls (CAVITY, C>GR, BALLS, B>F)
- Hill Valley (HILL, VALET, -T, KEY, EK>L)
- Kamar-Taj (KAA, -A, MART, AJAX -AX)
- Lake Wobegon (CAKE, C>L, +W, OREGON, R>B)
- Mayberry (MAYBE, CRY, C>R)
- Metropolis (MET, ROPE, E>O, LIST, -T)
- Mos Eisley (NOSE, N>M, ISLE, +Y)
- Nightvale (KNIGHT, -K, VALET, -T)
- Pawnee (PAW, KNEE, -K)
- Riverdale (RIVET, T>R, DALE)
- Stepford (STEPH, -H, FORD)
- Sunnydale (SUN, NY, DALE)
- Toontown (MOON, M>T, DOWN, D>T)
- Waterdeep (WAITER, -I, PEEP, P>D)

The remaining cells, read left-to-right, one row at a time, (CAR, -C, END, ELLEN, -N, SNOW, PLATE, T>C, LIME, M>K, HOME), can be formed into a rebus that meets the given enumeration and describes the last place Dorothy visited: ARENDELLE: SNOW PLACE LIKE HOME.

PAGE 22
UNBRIDLED SPIRIT

Disentangling the bourbon drinks and horses as shown below, replacing their missing letters, reveals what happens when you ask a horse for bourbon: HE MAY GIVE YOU A SNORT.

BOURBON DRINKS

[H]OT TODDY
THRE[E] WISE MEN
MISSOURI [M]ULE
OLD F[A]SHIONED
NEW [Y]ORK SOUR
[G]OLD RUSH
JOHN COLL[I]NS
BOULE[V]ARDIER
MINT JUL[E]P

KENTUCKY DERBY WINNERS

FUNN[Y]CIDE
AMERICAN PHAR[O]AH
SEABISC[U]IT
W[A]R ADMIRAL
SEATTLE [S]LEW
GE[N]UINE RISK
SMARTY J[O]NES
AFFI[R]MED
SECRE[T]ARIAT

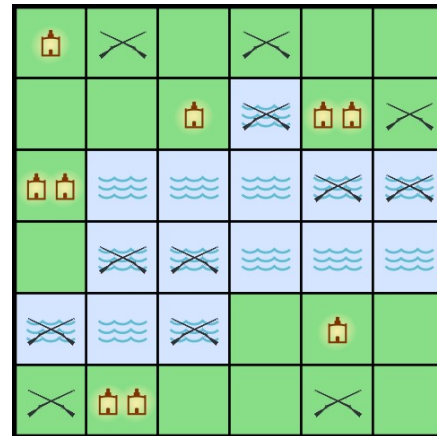
PAGE 21
SWEET TEA

Cube answers, in order: Glasses, in order:

ALLIES	THICKET
BITERS	STATUTE
CONSUL	SCHTICK
HEATER	BITTERS
RADIAN	TREASON
REASON	STASHES
RIFLES	STEWARD
SASHED	THEATER
SCHICK	RADIANT
SEWARD	TRIFLES
STATUE	CONSULT
THICKE	TALLIES

Adding up each pair of cube numbers and indexing into the glass answers spells IT'S BREWTIFUL.

PAGE 22
ONE IF BY LAND, TWO IF BY SEA



PAGE 23
GO WEST!

RED RIBBONS (SNOB / BIRDER)
ACROBATS (STAB / ORCA)
STRAY CATS (STACY / ARTS)
SEMIMETALS (SLATE / MIMES)
TOP DRAWER (REWARD / POT)
MORRISSEY (YES SIR / ROM)
DELIVERY VAN (NAVY / REVILED)
SPILT MILK (KLIMT / LIPS)
DESSERT SPOONS (SNOOP / STRESSED)
CORNROWS (SWORN / ROC)
TIDE POOL (LOOPED / IT)
TOBOGGANS (SNAG / GO-BOT)
MEGAMALL (LLAMA / GEM)

Counting into each answer by the sums of the two words that lead to it gives you the answer "OCCIDENT PRONE."

PAGE 25
IN ONE PIECE

L O N E
R E M O V E
E N A M O R
P A N I C S
O N A
S P L A T S
T O O T I E
S T R O V E
S E R E

S O L E
R E V O T E
A M E N R A
G I N G E R
S I L
A O R T A E
C L O U T S
K I D D O S
D E E M

R O O M
B E N H U R
I N T I M E
C O H O S T
V E R
C A N A P E
U T O P I A
R E S E N T
S E X T

C E L L
J O L I E T
U N C A G E
S E A M A N
P L A
J O I N I N
A R T I S T
R E A C T S
O N E S

D I E T
L A R V A L
A R R I B A
S K I L L S
T T E
A R A B L E
C O B R A S
T A L E N T
R E D D

The letters that cross the gray divide spell, in grid order, ON A SILVER PLATTE.

PAGE 26
WHEN IN ROME ...

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

PAGE 27
SEA-LISTERS

Superhero Surnames

ZYWWOH = BANNER
ZYDURW = BATSON
EYHNOH = PARKER
EHKWIO = PRINCE
UDYHN = STARK
CYAWO = WAYNE

Medical Dramas

DJYDILS JSER = CHICAGO HOPE
DGSPPYBL MSGOIB = CROSSING JORDAN
RG = ER
BRT IKPQRGOIK = NEW AMSTERDAM
EGYCIQR EGDQYDR = PRIVATE PRACTICE
PQ. RVPRTJRGR = ST. ELSEWHERE

English Football Clubs (with "City")

EGSKGROJQK = BIRMINGHAM
NTYVRLSP = COVENTRY
JWAA = HULL
AVGNVILVS = LEICESTER
KQRNJVLVS = MANCHESTER
ILTFV = STOKE

Cigarette Brands

IDMGLXIT PHLGLB = AMERICAN SPIRIT
XIDMR = CAMEL
DIGRJAGA = MARLBORO
HIRR DIRR = PALL MALL
OLGNLTI PRLDP = VIRGINIA SLIMS
ELTPBAT = WINSTON

U.S. Presidents

UEEPKXI = COOLIDGE
IADIVBEHIF = EISENHOWER
BJFKAVX = HARDING
PAVUEPV = LINCOLN
FEEDIGIPR = ROOSEVELT
GJV QTFIV = VAN BUREN

The additional items are KENT, PROVIDENCE, BRISTOL, NEWPORT, and WASHINGTON—the five counties of Rhode Island. When these additional list items are encrypted, the highlighted letters spell NOW DECODE STATE ABBREV.

When RI is decoded using each of the five ciphers in order, the resulting letters spell the answer, OCEAN SLATE.

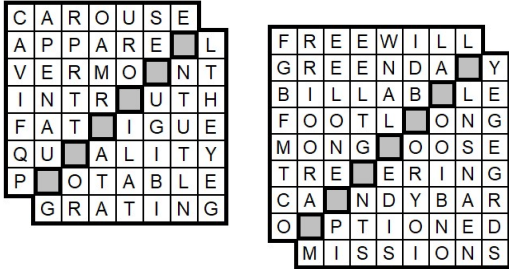
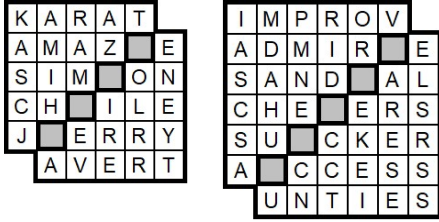
PAGE 28
THE 4-S CLUB

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

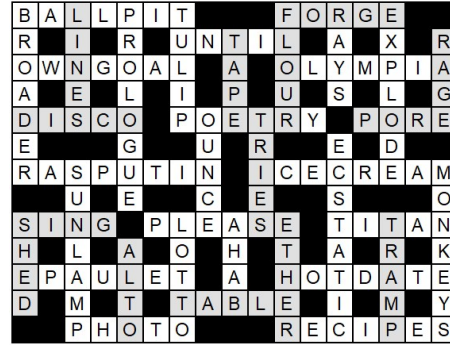
PAGE 29
THE WORLD CHEESE DIP CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1st place: Blair; Fayetteville; hot sauce
- 2nd place: Deion; Jonesboro; chipotle peppers
- 3rd place: Caleb; Pine Bluff; ketchup
- 4th place: Effie; Hot Springs; cilantro
- 5th place: Annie; Fort Smith; smoked paprika

PAGE 33
STATESHIFTERS



PAGE 35
CONNECT THE CUTS

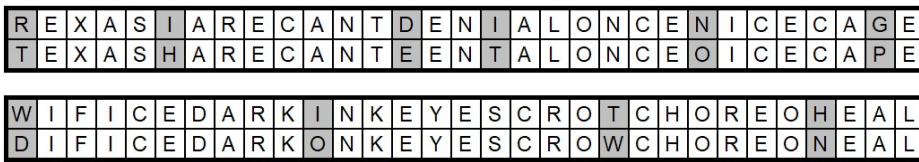


The shaded words can be combined, along with the given letters to spell...

- DISCOURAGE
- ALTOGETHER
- TRAMPOLINE
- SINGAPORE
- FLOURISHED
- TAPESTRIES
- FORGETTABLE

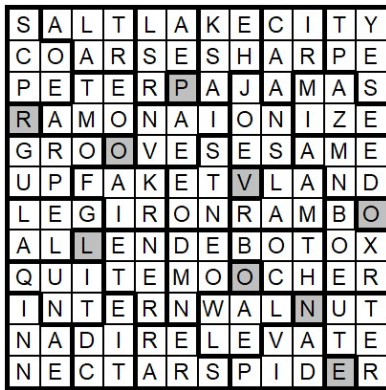
The shaded letters spell STAPLER.

PAGE 37
SWITCH AGAIN



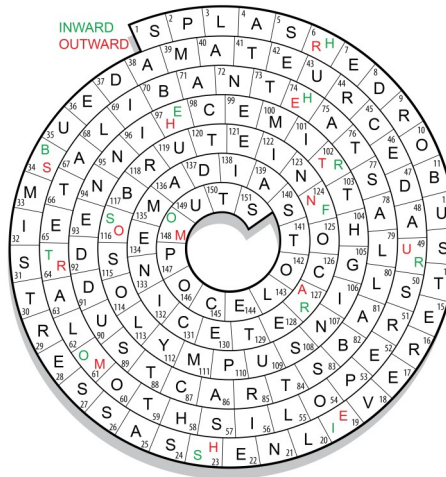
The unmatching shaded letters, reading left to right across the top rows and then the bottom rows, spell RIDING WITH THE TOP DOWN.

PAGE 38
THAT'S FOR U-TAH DETERMINE



The letters not part of any Utah shape spell PROVO LONE.

PAGE 39
GONE TO THE DOGS



The unmatching letters, reading inward and then outward, spell HIS BROTHERS FROM ANOTHER MUSER.

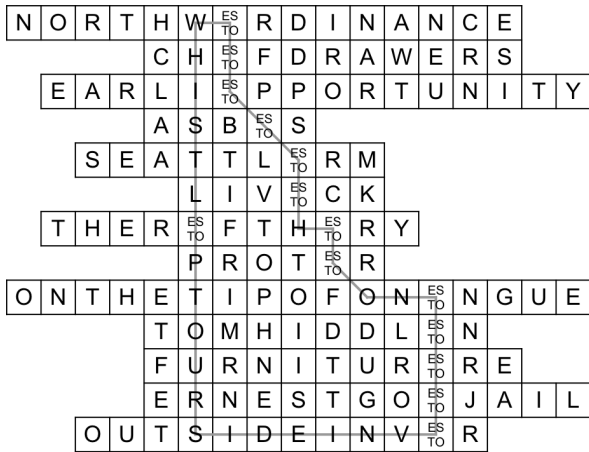
PAGE 41
COUNTRY MUSIC

- HIS[T]ORY REPEATING
- ISLANDS IN T[H]E STREAM
- LEAVING ON A J[E]T PLANE
- LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE BO[Y]
- B[R]OKEN WINGS
- TH[E] WAY IT IS
- [W]HAT'S GOING ON
- SH[O]RT SKIRT LONG JACKET
- MATE[R]IAL GIRL
- WA[L]K LIKE AN EGYPTIAN
- BUIL[D] ME UP BUTTERCUP
- FIRE AND [R]AIN
- YOU KE[E]P ME HANGIN' ON
- RO[C]KET MAN
- STAIRWAY T[O] HEAVEN
- CALIFO[R]NIA DREAMIN'
- SWEET CHIL[D] O' MINE
- BEHIND THE[S]E HAZEL EYES

The shaded letters spell THEY'RE WORLD RECORDS.

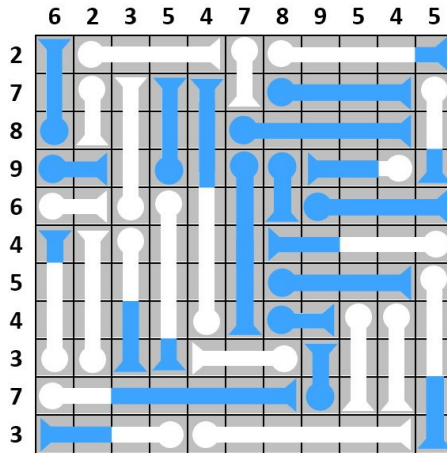
PAGE 43
ESTO PERPETUA

The answers are entered in the diagram so that ESTO goes into each square with a diamond:



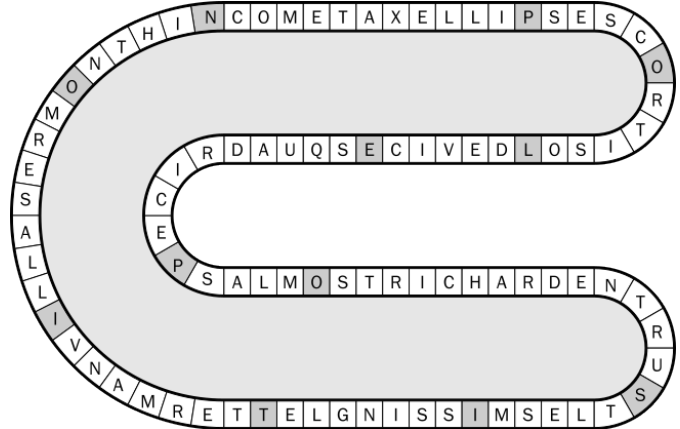
Reading down the squares on the west border of Idaho gives the answer, WHISTLE-STOP TOURS.

PAGE 42
WATERSPHERES



Coloring in the same spaces in the grid of letters, and then taking every third letter as instructed, spells out PARKWAY EXIT ONE FORTY.

PAGE 44
TRACK MEET



The letters in the shaded squares spell POLE POSITION.

PAGE 45
TWINNING!

Just like Vermeer and George VI, these pairs of famous people appear to be “twins” because the same actor played them in different films. The answers to the clues (alphabetized by last name within each list) are, in clue order:

List 1

Lucille Ball
Al Capone
Lynne Cheney
Winston Churchill
Thurgood Marshall
Fred Rogers
Margaret Thatcher
Leo Tolstoy

List 2

Julia Child
Walt Disney
Amelia Earhart
J. Paul Getty
Jake La Motta
Jackie Robinson
Sid Vicious
Virginia Woolf

The initials belong to the actor who played each pair of roles:

- T.H. = Tom Hanks: Rogers (6) = S, Disney (1) = D
A.A. = Amy Adams: Cheney (5) = E, Earhart (2) = A
R.D. = Robert De Niro: Capone (3) = P, La Motta (6) = T
N.K. = Nicole Kidman: Ball (2) = A, Woolf (5) = F
G.O. = Gary Oldman: Churchill (4) = R, Vicious (2) = I
C.B. = Chadwick Boseman: Marshall (2) = A, Robinson (1) = R
C.P. = Christopher Plummer: Tolstoy (5) = T, Getty (3) = T
M.S. = Meryl Streep: Thatcher (7) = E, Child (2) = H

Reading down the columns, the letters spell SEPARATED AT FIRTH, a description of the initial set of “twins” played by Colin Firth.

PAGE 47
WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN

In verse order, the added saints are:

- ELMO (five-star diesEL MQtor car)
- JUDE (KaiJU DEstroyed it all)
- PETE (swiPE TErry Crews’ ore)
- PATRICK (‘Round India gramPA TRICKed me)
- PAUL (earring a stylish ePAULette)
- VINCENT (measured in kelVIN, CENTigrade)
- LOUIS (Browning or AngeLOU IS my fave)
- GEORGE (Get a massaGE OR GEt a manicure)
- HELENS (With tHE LENSEs tinged rosy)
- LAWRENCE (I recalL A WREN CEasing its song)

PAGE 50
APPALACHIAN TRAIL MIX

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

The letters that appear only in the Trail answers, reading row by row, spell “CLINGMAN’S DOME.”

PAGE 46
HER MISHAP

The phrases in grid order are:

- UNRELIABLE NARRATOR
- TURNING POINT
- CRAZY RICH ASIANS
- REVOLVING DOOR
- FREAKY FRIDAY
- WILD WEST
- CHAOTIC NEUTRAL
- UPSET STOMACH
- STRANGER THINGS
- SCATTERED SHOWERS
- WEIRD AL YANKOVIC
- MASHED POTATOES
- TWISTED SISTER
- REVOLUTIONARY WAR
- MISTAKEN IDENTITY
- BROKEN HEART

The highlighted column spells out IN AN ALTERED STATE.

PAGE 49
FIRST THING’S FIRST

The answers in the grid, in clue order, are:

- CLASS
- DRAFT
- FEET
- FOLIO
- HAND
- IMPRESSION
- PERSON
- RATE
- SAFETY

F	·	O	L	:	I	O	:	J
E	·	S	S	I	O	N	:	H
I	·	M	P	R	E	S	S	I
O	·	N	:	F	E	E	:	T
N	·	D	R	A	F	:	T	:
I	·	M	P	R	E	S	S	I
O	·	N	:	F	E	E	:	T
N	·	D	R	A	F	:	T	:
I	·	M	P	R	E	S	S	I
O	·	N	:	F	E	E	:	T
N	·	D	R	A	F	:	T	:
I	·	M	P	R	E	S	S	I
O	·	N	:	F	E	E	:	T
N	·	D	R	A	F	:	T	:
I	·	M	P	R	E	S	S	I
O	·	N	:	F	E	E	:	T
N	·	D	R	A	F	:	T	:
I	·	M	P	R	E	S	S	I
O	·	N	:	F	E	E	:	T
N	·	D	R	A	F	:	T	:

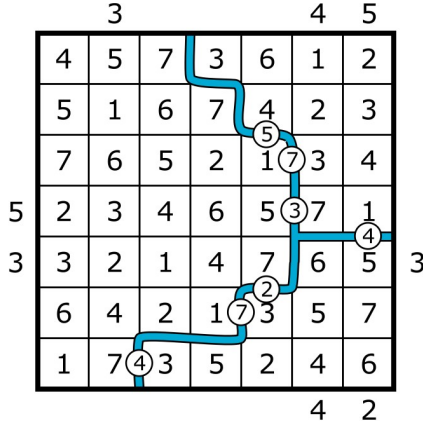
PAGE 51
(NOT) JUST DESERTS

After crossing out all of the words in the table, there are four remaining. In length order, these say NOW REDO USING COUNTIES. New Mexico has 33 counties, the same number as the given set of words. Each of the wordplay riddles can be applied to one of these county names. This time, the leftovers are LEA, OTERO, SAN JUAN, and TORRANCE. In length order, their initials spell LOST. The answers here are presented in clue order.

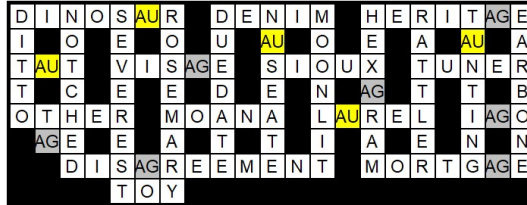
Original	County
FLIGHT (PLIGHT)	UNION (ONION)
DOWNY (DRAFTY)	CHAVES (CRAFTS)
LACER (RECALL)	LUNA (ANNUL)
RIViERA	HARdING
APPEND + IX	MORA + L
BITUDOBE (BITE, BEEN)	HIDALGO (HIDE, GONE)
SOMERSON (NO MORSE S)	BERNALILLO (NO BRAILLE L)
cHENey	QUAYle
ANTIPERSPIRANTS	LOS ALAMOS
SEA + RING	SAND + OVAL
STAG + NATE	CAT + RON
EL CA[PITÁ]N	DO[ÑA AN]A
SQUIRT	DE BACA
LAMELLATE	RIO ARRIBA

Original	County
GYP SUM	MCKINLEY
TENNESSEE (ENTS)	SOCORRO (ORCS)
LONG AGO (LANGUAGE)	VALENCIA (VIOLENCE)
SEMIRIPE (PROMISE)	GUADALUPE (PLEDGE)
CESSPIT (PISCES)	SIERRA (ARIES)
(GLEN) RICE	(STEPH) CURRY
cAmBODiA	ciBOLA
BISCUIT (LIMP BIZKIT)	LINCOLN (LINKIN PARK)
SUES (SAUCERS)	TAOS (TEAPOTS)
TRAMPOLINE	SAN MIGUEL
LI[MITE]D	S[ANT]A FE
NE[EDIE]ST	ROOS[EVEL]T
ORBITS (ORE BITS)	COLFAX (COAL FACTS)
GOLDEN	EDDY
EARRING	GRANT

PAGE 52
ARCHITECTURE BOAT TOUR



PAGE 53
ORO Y PLATA



ACROSS

- AIRSOUND anagram
- MINED westward (direction of MT to ID)
- HERMITAGE - M (for men)
- TAU + shirT
- VI (6:00 on a clock) + SAGE
- S(IOUS)
- REN(U)T turns backwards
- O (hug) + THE + R
- MONTANA - N(o) - T(ime)
- Double definition
- Answer 23-D = AGO, after I (me)
- E.G + A, reversed
- TEAMRESIGNED anagram
- MOR(T.G.A.G.)E
- Hidden word: inTOYellowstone

DOWN

- DIT + TO
- TO reversed + CHE, inside ND
- S + EVEREST
- HORSE -H anagram + MAR + Y
- Homophone: "dude ate"
- ANEAT anag. surrounding USE
- O (nothing) + ON (powered) + LI (middle of Billings), inside MT
- HE + X + AGRA + M(ega)
- RATTER around L
- TAUN[taun] + TIN (can) + G(rogu)
- BEARON anagram + E (back of BARE)
- TAG = "day" in German
- A + GO (where a Monopoly player starts)

Starting at each nugget (AG for silver, AU for gold), go one step for every normal arrow; or, if the arrow points at a bar, go all the way in that direction until you hit a wall. In order, the found letters spell I BAGGED A BUTTE.

PAGE 54
MOUNT RUSHMORE

Phase I

The eight foursomes are:

- JAVA (Starbucks coffee sizes): GRANDE, TALL, TRENTA, VENTI
- WATERTOWN (Four main oceans): ARCTIC, ATLANTIC, INDIAN, PACIFIC
- BALTIC (Monopoly railroads): B AND O, PENNSYLVANIA, READING, SHORT LINE
- BRITTON (UK countries): ENGLAND, NORTHERN IRELAND, SCOTLAND, WALES
- LEAD (Members of Led Zeppelin): JIMMY PAGE, JOHN BONHAM, JOHN PAUL JONES, ROBERT PLANT
- ORIENT (Compass directions): EAST, NORTH, SOUTH, WEST
- FAITH (Bible gospels): JOHN, LUKE, MARK, MATTHEW
- BIG STONE CITY ("Big four" gemstones): DIAMOND, EMERALD, RUBY, SAPPHIRE

The leftover letters in the grids spell these sixteen words:

SWAMI, FORSOOTH
PRO TABLE, CROAKED
MAR SET, CONCEIT
SPINE-CHILLING, BLOOD BILE
SOUVENIR, FLASHY
FIELD USE, PURSUIT
PEA SOUP, SCALPER
BONFIRE, BURPED

PAGE 56
CORNFIELD MAZE

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

Phase II

Each of the leftovers words from Phase I can be altered to make a new word as hinted by one of the four cities:

- DEADWOOD (remove a tree): CR(OAK)ED, S(PINE)CHILLING, FL(ASH)Y, BON(FIR)E
- IPSWICH (I becomes P and vice-versa): SWAM(I/P), CONCE(I/P)T, SCAL(P/I)ER, BUR(P/I)ED
- MOBRIDGE (use MO as a bridge): PROMOTABLE, MARMOSET, BLOODMOBILE, FIELDMOUSE
- SIOUX FALLS (remove "soo" sound): FOUR(soo)TH, (soo)VENEER, PER(soo)T, PEE(soo)P

Phase III

Now match these new words to the clues:

- Monkey (8): MARMOSET
- Rep (2): CRED
- Underground (4): BURIED
- Fresh (1): PERT
- Animal sound (1): PEEP
- More like a fish (2): SCALIER
- Body part (2): BONE
- Very tiny mammal (8): FIELDMOUSE

- Finish (3): VENEER
- Ordinal number (5): FOURTH
- Insect (3): FLY
- Currency replaced by the Euro (1): SCHILLING
- Body of water (1): SWAMP
- A bus might become one (11): BLOODMOBILE
- Adjective on a job review (7): PROMOTABLE
- Idea (7): CONCEPT

This spells out TRIPP COUNTY'S SEAT, a clue to the county of WINNER.

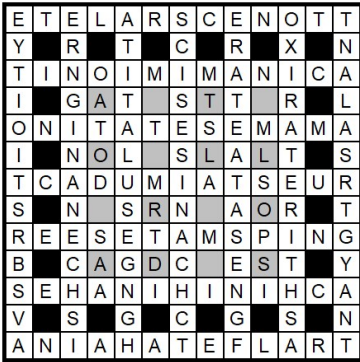
PAGE 57
A-Z JIGSAW

- ARMPIT: RAMP anagram + IT
- BIG SUR: RU(S + GI)B rev.
- CAST-OFFS: SCOFFS AT anag.
- DISOBEYS: I + SOB inside DYES anagram
- EPSILONS: EP + SILO(N)S
- FINERY: FI(seveNties)ERY
- GILD: "gilled" homophone
- HIBERNIA: IN REHAB I anagram
- IMPORTED: hidden word
- JUNK DRAWER: double definition
- KIND: KIN + D(octor)
- LOYALIST: LoOpY + A-LIST
- MIGHTINESS: M(I + THING*)ESS
- NEON LIGHTS: "Lee on nights" Spoonerism
- OCULUS: SULU + CO rev.
- POLYMERASE: POL(l) + MY rev. + ERASE
- QUINCE: "quints" homophone
- ROOSTING: ROO + STING
- SAGUARO FLOWER: AGUA + ROFL inside SOWER

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

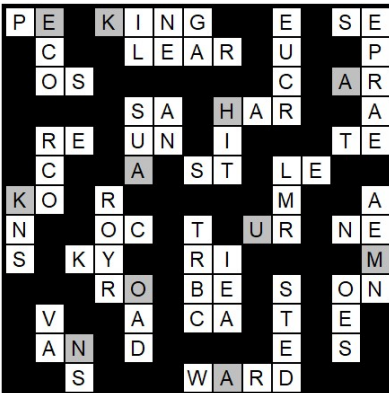
- TIRAMISU: TI + RAM + IS + U(first letter of *unveil*)
- UNANIMOUS VOTE: UN + SUAVE MOTION anagram
- VERMIN: VE(RM)IN
- WOKE UP: WOK + E(uripides's) + U (nfinished) + P(lay)
- X-MEN: NEM(O > X) reversal
- YARROW: WORR(A)Y reversal
- ZANY: ZA(p) + N(aught)Y

PAGE 58
FLORIDA KEYS



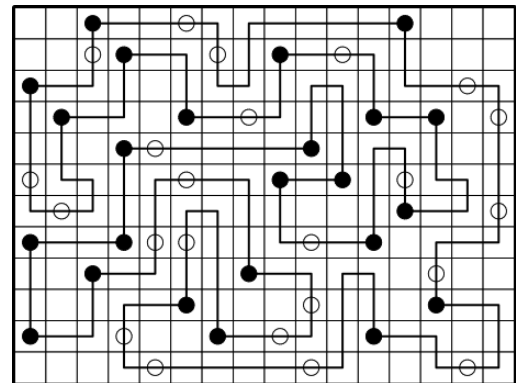
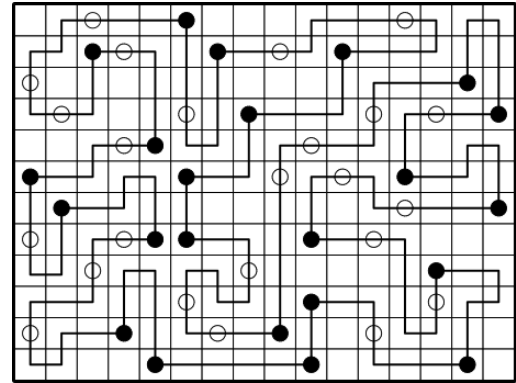
The letters that fall into the key squares spell ATOLL ROADS.

PAGE 60
ISLAND HOPPING

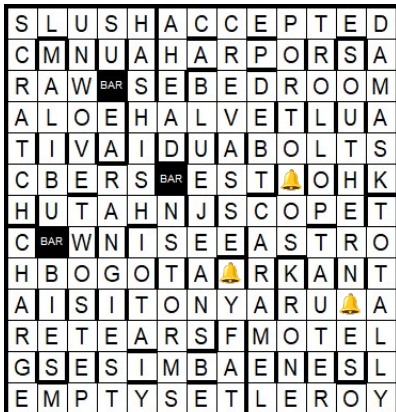


The letters in the numbered squares spell 'EKAHA KU MOANA, which is Hawaiian for black coral, the state gem of Hawaii.

PAGE 59
EQUALITY MASYU



PAGE 61
VIVA LAS VEGAS!



Letter strings BAR and BELL in the answers should be entered in a single space, as shown. Once the grid is complete, "spin" the columns containing those slot machine icons vertically to align them to the given squares. The message HIT THE JACKPOT now reads across the grid.

ACROSS

- 1 S+LUSH
- 5 ACDC PETE anagram
- 11 OPRAH reversed
- 13 "Rivers...source" initials
- 14 BOREDOM anagram
- 16 "tailbone" even letters
- 17 HAL[V]E
- 18 double definition
- 19 C[-a]BERS
- 21 BREAST anagram
- 22 HAUNT anagram
- 24 COP[-i]ES anagram
- 28 "icy"

DOWN

- 29 SORTA anagram
- 31 H[BOG]O
- 34 TON+YA
- 35 RUB+ELLA
- 36 A TERSER anagram
- 37 MOTE+L
- 38 SI+MBA
- 39 MY SEPTET anagram
- 40 ROLE anag. +Y
- 1 double def.
- 2 UN[VOW rev.]E
- 3 A inside UBERS anag. +A

- 4 H[-ooka]H containing ASH IS
- 5 AH+E+AD
- 6 CREASES anag. containing V
- 7 LET POOR SLOB anagram
- 8 T[ROLL]OP
- 9 DAM+ASK
- 10 A SUBLIME RABBI anagram
- 12 SULLEN BORES THE anagram
- 14 "blew Gene's" homophone

- 15 might BE Deemed hidden word
- 20 INERT GAS anagram
- 21 "Beau rants Otto grumps" odd letters
- 23 TW+O+PETS rev.
- 25 C[AR]AMEL
- 26 TOT+ALLY
- 27 double definition
- 28 pATOIs
- 30 "taught 'er" homophone
- 32 FLAB YET anag. containing L
- 33 NE[-wy]ORK anagram

ABOUT THE PUZZLERS

ROGER BARKAN (Utah) According to ChatGPT, “*Roger Barkan is a former US Puzzle Champion who won the title in 1985 [Ed: actually it was 2004]. He is known for his exceptional puzzle-solving skills and has contributed to the development of puzzle games, including crosswords and Sudoku. Besides his achievements in the field of puzzles, not much is known about his personal life or career outside of his puzzle-solving abilities. Nonetheless, his accomplishments as a puzzle solver have left a lasting impact on the puzzle community, and he remains a respected figure in the field of puzzles to this day.*”

ERIC BERLIN (Connecticut, Iowa, Mississippi, and Texas) is a writer and puzzle constructor in Milford, CT. His previous charity puzzle project, “The Social Distancing Puzzles,” raised \$20,000 for Feeding America. He is the author of *The Puzzling World of Winston Breen*, a series of puzzle-filled mysteries for kids, and in 2016 he established Puzzlesnacks, pencil puzzles for beginning and intermediate solvers (www.puzzlesnacks.com).

PATRICK BERRY (Georgia) is a freelance puzzle constructor and a regular contributor to *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. He has created dozens of original puzzle forms, including Rows Garden and Trail Mix. His Crossword Constructor’s Handbook (www.aframegames.com) is the industry’s standard how-to book on crossword creation. He lives in Athens, Georgia.

KID BEYOND (Virginia and Washington, D.C.) is an electro-soul singer, meditation teacher, *Jeopardy!* champion, and game + puzzle designer — including “The Red Herring Murder” and “The Mystery of McGuffin Manor” for the NY Times, and Puzzle Bouquet (www.puzzlebouquet.com) and Puzzle Pop! (www.puzzlepop.co) for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, which raised over \$17,000 for vital causes. His party game GUESS THE LINK! comes out this summer from Gamewright. His latest single, SUFFRAGIST (kidbeyond.com), supports VoteProChoice — electing pro-choice champions in every local, state, and national race.

PATRICK BLINDAUER (he/him) (North Dakota) has loved puzzles from the time his dad shared his *Games* magazines back in the ‘80s. Patrick published his first puzzle in *The New York Times* on July 21, 2005 (a Thursday). He has since written over 60 puzzles for the *Times*, including a week-long puzzle contest similar to his website Puzzlefests (www.patrickspuzzles.com/puzzlefests). He writes a weekly Monday 9×9 and a monthly 15×15 for Vox Media, as well as quarterly print puzzles for *Yes!* magazine. When he’s not making puzzles, Patrick can be found performing around St. Louis or cavorting with his kiddo.

NATHAN CURTIS (Hawaii, Indiana, and Wyoming) is a freelance puzzle constructor in the Boston area. His variety puzzles have appeared in *Will Shortz’s Wordplay*, and he has constructed several iterations of the Dimensions puzzle hunt for the National Museum of Mathematics. Since 2015, he has been publishing his own variety crosswords, cryptic crosswords, and logic puzzles at www.patreon.com/nathancurtis.

EVAN DAVIS (Kansas) is a government contracting executive in Virginia and a freelance puzzle constructor and escape room designer. He has designed puzzles for multiple iterations of the MIT Mystery Hunt, the Gen Con Puzzle Hunt, DC Puzzle Hunt (DCPHR), and others. He has designed 10 escape rooms and consulted on the design of many more throughout the United States.

ANDREW ESTEN (Missouri and Vermont) is a puzzle-loving data analyst from Rhode Island. He’s written puzzles for the MIT Mystery Hunt, the Boston Area Puzzle Hunt League, and *Games World of Puzzles*. He plans to write and solve more puzzles in the future.

ABOUT THE PUZZLERS

TODD ETTER (South Dakota) is the Chief Collaboration Officer at The Motley Fool, where he uses his love of puzzles and gaming to create team-building experiences for employees and members of “The Fool.” He has written real-world and online puzzle hunts for 20+ years, including The Famine Game, The 2020 MIT Mystery Hunt, DC Puzzle Hunt (DCPHR), DASH, Shinteki, and the National Puzzlers’ League. He is also a three-time winner of Dave Barry’s Washington Post Hunt.

SARA GOODCHILD (Arizona and Arkansas) is a textbook editor and puzzle constructor whose cryptic crosswords appear regularly in *New Scientist*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Browser*. She has made puzzles for Puzzled Pint and Different Area, Same Hunt, and edits science-themed tabletop escape rooms for Perimeter Institute.

PETER GORDON (New York) is the founder of Fireball Crosswords (www.FireballCrosswords.com), the first online-only, pay-to-play, direct-to-the-solver crossword. He also writes a weekly crossword for McKinsey (www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/The-mckinsey-crossword). He was the editorial director for Puzzlewright Press, an imprint of Sterling Publishing, where he worked for 23 years. His 50+ puzzle books have sold more than a million copies.

JENNY GUTBEZAHL (Colorado) is an evaluator and researcher for non-profits of all sorts, with a special focus on educational programs. She has written or co-written puzzles for the Boston Area Puzzle Hunt League, the MIT Mystery Hunt, and *The New York Times*. When not working or writing puzzles, she enjoys swing dancing, performing in local theater, and explaining complex statistical concepts to people who don’t want to hear about them.

MARK HALPIN (Alaska, Kentucky, Maine, and Nevada) is a stage designer and professor whose puzzles have appeared in the *New York Times*, NPR’s Ask Me Another, Will Shortz’s *Wordplay*, The Sondheim Review, Queer Crosswords (www.queercrosswords.com), and Cryptic All-Stars. A fan of multi-puzzle extravaganzas, Mark has contributed dozens of puzzles and metapuzzles to four iterations of the MIT Mystery Hunt, and has created his own Labor Day mini-hunts for several years, proceeds from which support The Trevor Project (www.thetrevorproject.org). Some of his puzzling illustrations appear in Eric Berlin’s third Winston Breen book, *The Puzzler’s Mansion*. Many of his puzzles are available at www.markhalpin.com/puzzles/puzzles.html

KATIE HAMILL (Alabama and Wisconsin) is an attorney in the Boston area and a lifelong puzzle enthusiast. She has written or co-written puzzles for the MIT Mystery Hunt, the Boston Area Puzzle Hunt League, the American Values Club, the Browser, and *The New Yorker*. Since 2019, she has also served as Treasurer of the National Puzzlers’ League.

JEFFREY HARRIS (Tennessee and Washington) is a programmer from Nashville, Tennessee. He loves solving and writing puzzles, with a proclivity towards word-based puzzles. He has had puzzles published in the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, and has also written two small books of crosswords for Puzzlewright Press.

BRENT HOLMAN (New Hampshire and West Virginia) loves puzzles of all varieties. He created six iterations of The Game and has been the lead designer at Shinteki since co-founding it in 2001. He is also a co-founder of ClueKeeper (a mobile app for creating and hosting location-based puzzle hunts), and has written puzzles for the MIT Mystery Hunt and the National Puzzlers’ League. A dedicated escape room enthusiast, Brent has served as the lead puzzle designer at Palace Games since its inception in 2015.

ABOUT THE PUZZLERS

DAN KATZ (Minnesota and Rhode Island) is a Senior Lecturer of Mathematics at Brown University and has been solving and constructing puzzles for decades. His most prolific work has been contributing to eight iterations of the MIT Mystery Hunt, but his puzzles have also been published by *Wired*, *Games World of Puzzles*, *Grandmaster Puzzles*, and TED-Ed. His logic puzzle book, *The Puzzle Files of Larry Logic*, is available wherever out-of-print logic puzzle books are sold.

TODD MCCLARY (Colorado) is a freelance writer and puzzle creator based in Aurora, Colorado. His work appears in game apps produced by Borderleap, Funtivity, and Zynga. Over the last thirty years Todd has designed original party games, puzzle books, live puzzle hunts, escape rooms, and immersive game experiences. He is a member of the National Puzzlers' League and served on the organization's program committee for a decade.

SHAI NIR HANA (Illinois and Massachusetts) is just kind of a dude. He lives in Chicago unless he moved somewhere else by now. He wrote some puzzles for the MIT Mystery Hunt but mostly he enjoys puzzling the people around him. In his spare time, he writes comic rap lyrics and makes a mean blintz. Just an absolute jerk of a blintz, you won't even feel bad about eating it.

TRIP PAYNE (California) is co-editor of the app "Crosswords With Friends" and has been constructing puzzles professionally since 1983. He was the first \$32,000 winner on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, was featured in the 2006 documentary *Wordplay*, and is a three-time winner of the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament. You can play hundreds of his puzzles and quizzes at the website Sporcle (username Qaqaq) and can follow him on Twitter @PuzzleTrip.

GREG PLISKA (Alaska and Oklahoma) is a freelance puzzlemaker and composer, though rarely both at the same time. His puzzles were most recently seen in the New York Times' Puzzle Mania, and in *The Puzzler* by A.J. Jacobs. Greg co-creates the *Playbill* crossword with Amanda Rafkin, and he can be found live twice a year at Mohonk Mountain House, where he hosts the Wonderful World of Words and Mystery Weekend. His company, Exaltation of Larks, creates puzzle hunts for educational, corporate, and Web3 clients. (www.exaltation-of-larks.com)

SCOTT PURDY (Oregon) is policy analyst in Boston, MA. Over the past thirty years, they have contributed puzzles to the MIT Mystery Hunt, *Games Magazine*, and a number of websites, companies, and publications that no longer exist. They also served two terms as the President of the National Puzzlers' League.

AMANDA RAFKIN (Oklahoma) is a Los Angeles-based puzzle and games editor at Andrews McMeel Universal, a pianist, and an overall game enthusiast (and avid board game collector/player). Amanda co-creates the *Playbill* crossword with Greg Pliska and has had puzzles in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, Universal, AVCX, The Modern crossword, and the other usual suspects for crossword publication. Ten of her puzzles were recently included in A24's book *99 Movie Crosswords*.

DARREN RIGBY (Delaware) lives in Vancouver, BC, Canada, and works as an instructional assistant. He contributes puzzles regularly to *Reader's Digest Canada*. He has competed in the World Puzzle Championships, and is so proud of the book of his puzzles, which was published in the shape of a bus.

ABOUT THE PUZZLERS

DAVE SHUKAN (Florida and New Jersey) is a Los Angeles intellectual property attorney as well as a puzzle and game designer and consultant. He has written puzzles for several film and TV projects, including *Ghostbusters: Afterlife* and *The Afterparty*, was puzzle designer for the off-Broadway magic and puzzle show “The Enigmatist,” helped create a puzzle-filled deck of playing cards called Enigmas, and is a regular pub trivia host. Many of Dave’s puzzles from the past two decades, including his contributions to four MIT Mystery Hunts, are collected at www.davespuzzles.com.

MATTHEW STEIN (Pennsylvania) is a puzzle designer, violinist, composer, printmaker, and software engineer based in Philadelphia. With his company Enigmida, he has created puzzle hunts, alternate reality games, escape rooms, and treasure hunts for an eclectic range of clients, including an art journal, an electropop DJ, a Michelin 3-star restaurant, and a klezmer festival. Matthew has played over 500 escape rooms and is a regular contributor to Room Escape Artist. Learn more at www.imakepuzzles.com and on Instagram @enigmida.

MIKE SYLVIA (New Mexico) is a puzzle enthusiast who works for the award-winning Seattle-based escape room company Locurio. He has been obsessed with puzzles for about thirty years, and specifically with puzzlehunt-style puzzles for about twenty. His puzzles have appeared in the MIT Mystery Hunt and the Microsoft Puzzle Hunt. He often solves competitively under the nom Projectyl.

KEVIN WALD (Alabama, Idaho, Nebraska, and North Carolina) is a Boston-area puzzle enthusiast who, in the past decades, has written puzzles for the MIT Mystery Hunt, the Boston Area Puzzle Hunt League, and other outlets, and otherwise maintains a steady output of verse puzzles for the National Puzzlers’ League and cryptic crosswords for suitable occasions. By day he works in software support.

ANDERSON WANG (Maryland) loves all kinds of puzzles and currently works as a math curriculum developer and software engineer in San Diego. He has written for the MIT Mystery Hunt and has helped make the Galactic Puzzle Hunt (<https://galacticpuzzlehunt.com>), an annual online puzzlehunt, since its start in 2017.

BOB WEISZ (Louisiana) has never made a puzzle published by a major outlet, nor run an escape room, nor competed at the ACPT, nor designed puzzles for a Hunt, nor made puzzles for movies or celebrities or even friends. So... why is he here? Who let him in? Grab him! Wait, where’d he go? He disappeared into thin air, cackling malevolently! Hm, what’s this? He left behind a small card... it just says: talesfromthecrypticcrosswords.blogspot.com 😊

SANDY WEISZ (Louisiana and Montana) runs The Mystery League, a company of creative puzzle-makers based out of Chicago, IL. He designs and stages puzzle hunts, ARGs, escape rooms, and private puzzle adventures. He also teaches a class in puzzle and escape room design at the University of Chicago. He publishes puzzles daily on his Instagram (@mysteryleague) and weekly on his newsletter at signals.fun.

WIL ZAMBOLE (Michigan, Ohio, South Carolina) is a puzzle, event, and game designer based in the north suburbs of Chicago, IL. He is a math teacher by day, but he is beginning his design company The Forged Mind later this year. He designs puzzles of all times and specializes in interactive events which include “The Puzzle Séance” and “Puzzling in the Dark” (an escape room box where everyone is blindfolded).

With thanks to our testsolvers: Andy Arizpe, Patrick Du, Amanda Dupuy, Dylan Gibbs, Justin Lee, Ben Smith, C.J. Smith, and Dee Williams.