

CAN YOU DIG IT?

by Tinhorn

Here we are in Salt Lake City, about 25 miles from Bingham Canyon, home to the largest man-made excavation pit in the world, producing more than 300,000 tons of valuable metals every year. This puzzle is a nod to the popular tourist attraction, and to Utah more generally.

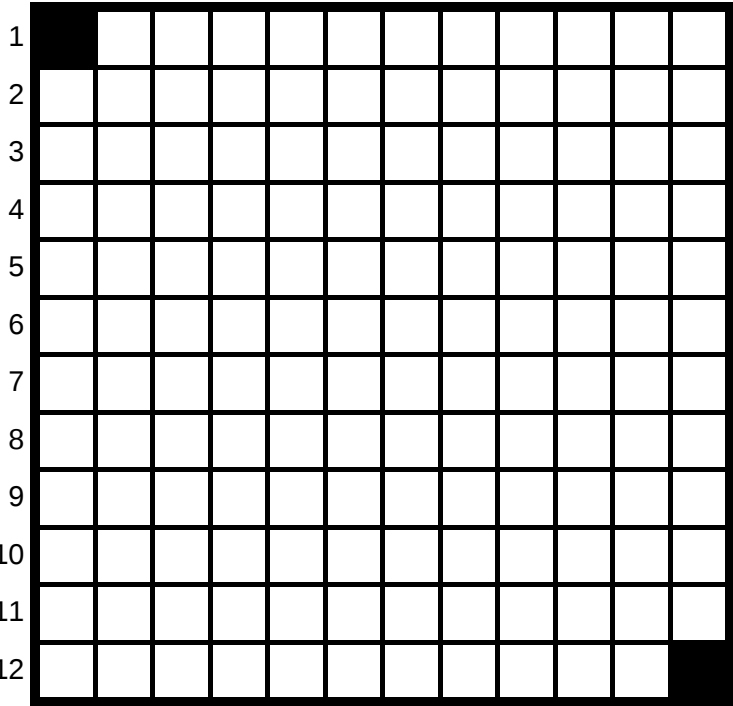
Each row of the grid contains two entries. The clues for each row are given alphabetically by clue -- which appears first in the grid is for you to determine. The Down clues and entries are ... non-existent. Instead, in honor of the Bingham Canyon pit, the grid itself is mostly Utah, with occasional holes. That is, there are 26 five-letter entries to be located in the grid (with no overlap) and outlined, each roughly in the shape of Utah. The Utahs in the grid can be rotated and/or reflected in any manner. In all cases, the entry will begin at the single-square "chimney" and spiral around, ending in the diagonally adjacent square, as shown here.



Locating and outlining all the Utahs in the grid will leave 12 holes -- places where Utah isn't, like the emptiness of the Bingham Canyon pit -- one in each column and row. Reading the letters in the holes from top to bottom will identify what you will see a lot of in the grid when you are done. Reading the letters in the holes from left to right will provide (when appropriately punctuated) a sign that might usefully be posted at the Bingham Canyon pit to alert sightseeing tourists or perhaps careless hikers.

ROWS (either entry in a row might appear first)

1. Hold on tight to both ends of coral snake
1. Welcomes leafy vegetables, having time for a bit of nutrition
2. They shelled and attacked primarily the northern infidel
2. Very damply, but not oddly, covered in suds
3. Author can broadcast empty act of remorse
3. Encountered rock halfway underground
4. Predecessor of Roosevelt turned in traditional editorial
4. Provide a new handle for agitated cameramen after cam dropped
5. Small, centrally sited art institute
5. Vehicle distributed lame candy
6. Like part of the brain stem after the first pint (or a liter)
6. Put down and rejected outdated phone component
7. Gene, in one form, totally left in errors
7. Two farm animals audibly talk on and on
8. Sound from a fan initially cooling support for a portable computer
8. Twilight occurrence that is seen around onset of darkness
9. Lens for viewing moon replaced by modified cel
9. Seat option is colorful fabric displaying curved shapes with no sides
10. Cowboy Tom holding nothing back after answer is given
10. Dietary need for one in ten
11. Bashful, hiding at home, and highly reflective
11. Iraqi neighbor lacks a good electronic device for delivering medicine
12. Shaded spot where boats can anchor without an introduction
12. Variety of light and fresh sorbet



UTAHS

- After losing a thousand, arranged for a game of pool and hustled
- Article goes after shopping center over woolly animal
- Crime-fighting sidekick is almost getting dressed
- Feature of a mushroom filling found in arid Mediterranean island
- First person to make a record of revolutionary automaton of lore
- General separates foal's mom and Bart's mom
- I'm on after soprano rodent with a high singing voice
- Jet is ultimately unsalvageable, like poorly filleted fish
- Keyboard key displaying an R instead of an F or T, perhaps
- Lacking boundaries, army member hit back a while
- Lad some time later recalled an unearthly meal
- Lady to copy long sport coat detail
- Nearly tether wild canines, for example
- Norse bats make noise at night
- Organized grouping sounded Cockney cheer of triumph
- Place where gladiators fought in bare nakedness
- Reportedly ill after one follows a tick containing poison
- Run like holy water with sins marginally expelled
- Slash in an alley is heartless termination of one indulgent frenzy
- Soy and coho unevenly match up
- Street includes side protected from the wind and precipitation
- Sweater's original yarn is worn out
- Take pleasure in simple machine from the East
- The Spanish feasted to make merry
- Tossed coal beginning to actually foil giant
- Vagrant's true inclination