



Space Oddity

A puzzle hunt by members of Palindrome

ZIGGURAT DISCOVERED ON JUPITER! read the screaming headlines in science magazines all around the world. But that's not all. The ziggurat is only the grandest of the many interesting and bizarre discoveries recently made by our many space probes. How do these breakthroughs make the scientists feel? Solve the puzzles and put together the answers to find out.





The Stars At Night



I suppose we could stick with the constellations we already have, but what fun is that?

ARIES | BAMBERGA | CALLISTO | CAMILLA | CANCER | CANOPUS | CASSIOPEIA | COLUMBA | CRATER
DAMOCLOID | DORADO | DRACO | FORNAX | GEMINI | HERCULES | LIBRA | MARS | MONOCEROS
MOON | NEPTUNE | OCTANS | ORION | PEGASUS | POLARIS | RIGEL | SUN | THEMIS | URSA MAJOR
VANTH | VULPECULA

Lox-topped nosh (5)	_____
Mexican “Real World” locale (6)	_____
Spacecraft that studied Saturn (7)	_____
Home to Herkimer, the world’s largest beetle (8)	_____
Smart cookie? (7)	_____
Places where you might get shushed (9)	_____
Adam Levine’s color (6)	_____
Modern-day European city-state (6)	_____
Tako, in Tokyo (7)	_____
<i>The answer to this puzzle (7)</i>	_____
Garlicky pasta topper (5)	_____
Brand name in OutKast’s “Hey Ya” (8)	_____
The Globe or The Apollo, e.g. (7)	_____
“The Little Mermaid” villain (6)	_____
One of a Neapolitan trio (7)	_____



Lost in Space Translation



While testing the Universal Translators, you found a problem. One of them works just fine, returning reasonable definitions for 14 spoken test words (which do not appear on this page). The other, not so much – the definitions it returns for those same 14 words, well, let’s say are the result of some pretty misguided interpretations. (You note in passing it was made in Uxbridge, England.)

You logged your data in the chart below. Unfortunately, your word processor also appears to be acting up, dropping some words out of the definitions into a separate table below the main chart, and appending numbers to them for some unknown reason. (Is it trying to tell you something?) Needless to say, with all these issues you probably should not expect that any given result in the left column necessarily matches the result directly across from it in the right column, though you remain hopeful that each column, as a whole, represents the same 14 test words in some order. With determination and a furrowed brow, you set out to reconstruct your test results and inject some sanity back into the situation.

TRANSLATOR 1 (STANDARD)			TRANSLATOR 2 (MISINTERPRETED)
Notable ____ location	____	____	Despicable ____
Wooden ____	____	____	Somewhat like a ____
____ party	____	____	____ not living up to potential
Like a Roman ____	____	____	“Look out, there’s a ____ on the golf course!”
____ coordinator	____	____	Quarrel with a ____
Upscale ____, often	____	____	Adolescent ____
____ dance, for one	____	____	How a ____ gets paid
React to a ____, perhaps	____	____	Express derision for occasional ____ enhancement
Mountain ____	____	____	Big pile in a ____
____ avoider, traditionally	____	____	Bet on a ____
Antecedent ____	____	____	Agricultural ____
Like the behavior of a ____	____	____	____ of a siren
Performance by a ____	____	____	____ directory
Common ____ addition	____	____	Jedi master ____

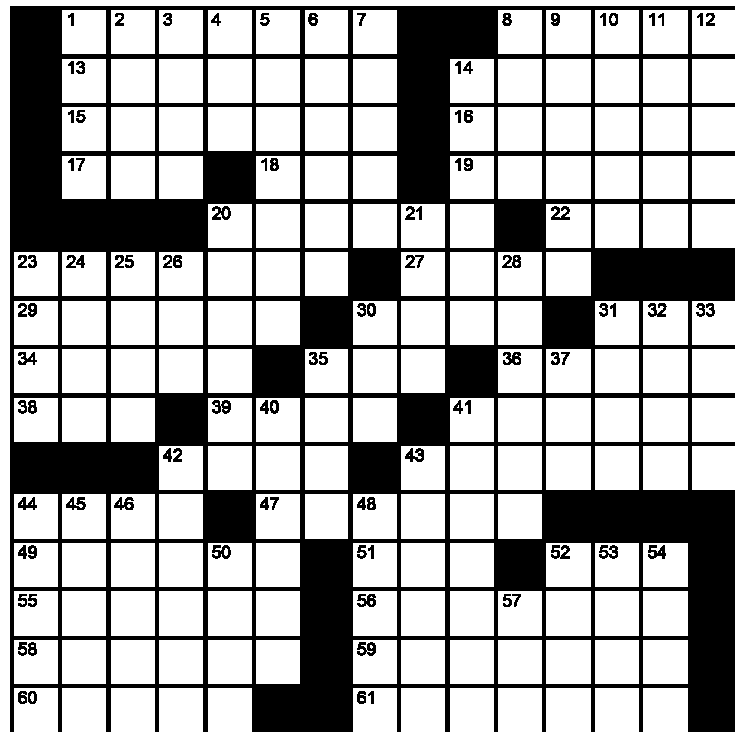
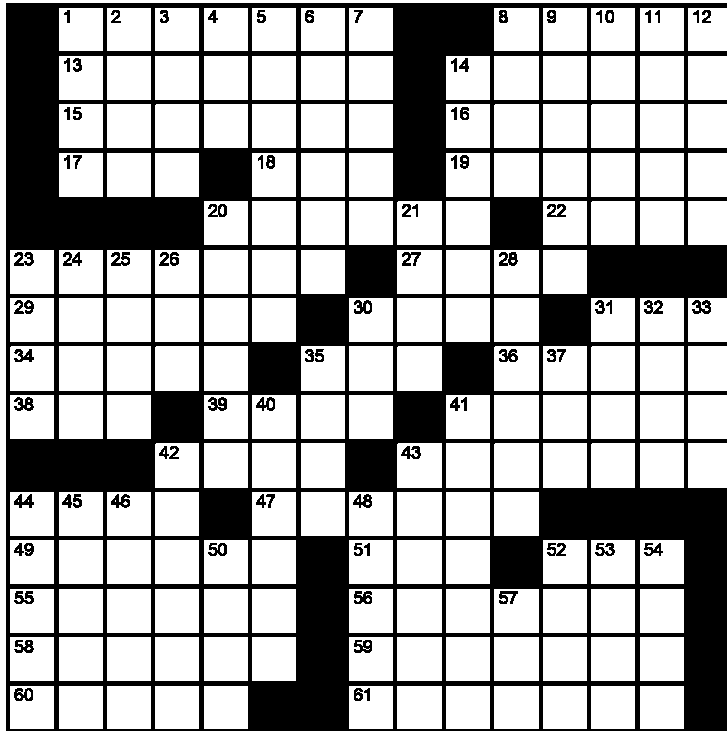
BARBER (4)	BASEMENT (2)	FESTIVAL (7)	FUNERAL (8)
GARLIC (3)	GRIZZLY (1)	GYMNAST (7)	KNIGHT (1)
LACKEY (4)	LAUNDROMAT (7)	LITIGATION (4)	MALL (1)
MARSUPIAL (1)	MARTIAN (1)	PIE (8)	PIG (5)
RAGE (1)	RELATIVE (2)	SALAD (5)	SAUNA (3)
SHOPLIFTER (7)	SINGING (4)	SQUARE (3)	STEEPLEJACK (6)
STEWARDESS (3)	STRIKE (2)	TRAINEE (3)	WEAPON (6)



Space Invaders



Crossed signals are inevitable out here in space.





Space Invaders, continued



ACROSS

- 1 Beer pong prop
Make a quick exit, as a New Yorker might
- 8 ___ artery
Kickback
- 13 Shut off, in a way
Repetitive and blah
- 14 Assauges
It may be full of bullets
- 15 What Ursula partially is, in *The Little Mermaid*
Format, as a paper for school
- 16 Where the i of the hurricane is?
Trunks, e.g.
- 17 Id ___
Reeves role
- 18 Tolkien creature
Ferocity
- 19 Guide to many Greek heroes
Area in a house for wiring, plumbing, etc.
- 20 Excoriate
Castigate
- 22 Vortex
"I'm a ___ and I didn't even know it"
- 23 New York team that doesn't play in
New York
Cheap shot
- 27 *Angels in America* role
"It's ___" ("I got this")
- 29 Gobs
Some victims of American aggression in
the 2000s
- 30 Grp. banned from many college campuses
in the '60s
A Star is Born star, to fans
- 31 High roller
Really liked
- 34 HS class on DC, pols, and such
Educational setting where harassment is
not tolerated
- 35 ___ garden
Thing you can't stand to have?
- 36 State of mind
Dick's field
- 38 ___ comedy (genre for Maria Bamford)
Genre of many YouTube vids, briefly
- 39 Cut of a song
Vape
- 41 *Avengers: Infinity War* villain
Give a hard time to
- 42 Site of a notable apple tree
Car of mine?
- 43 Prop up
"Come up and see me sometime" speaker
- 44 Cartoon mail order company
"I'm ___!" (hyperbolic response to a joke)
- 47 Many MIT worksites
Transcribe, as music

- 49 Chart-topping Swift single
Weather phenomenon named by Peruvian
fishermen
- 51 Tolkien creature
"Gotcha!"
- 52 Woof cousin
"Returning 2 my phone in a sec"
- 55 Organic snack
e.g.
- 56 Sleek website-making company
Pro athlete in California
- 58 "This party rocks, dude"
Nick's famous cousin in *Crazy Rich Asians*
- 59 Clandestine
Accept, as a lesser charge
- 60 ___ Mode (Marshawn Lynch)
Tropical nut
- 61 Someone who's lovably all over the place
New York Times colleague of Manohla
Dargis

DOWN

- 1 Thick skin
In the near future
- 2 In the past
Barcelona bears
- 3 Be gloomy
Mother of Apollo
- 4 Musician whose name sounds like a
speed skater's
Edmonton's prov.
- 5 Multicolored cats
Flimsy excuses
- 6 180s
Followed a Primal Diet
- 7 *Home Alone* actor
Exemplar of redness
- 8 Chairman of the Walt Disney Company
since 2012
Sacrifice ___
- 9 Restaurant that asked Sarah Huckabee
Sanders to leave in 2018
Tribe that inhabited Mannahatta
- 10 "That's not entirely true"
Halved
- 11 James Bond title song singer
Harmonize
- 12 What a pushy shopper has?
Lamb specialty
- 14 *Family Guy* setting
What a backslash can add to a kitchen
- 20 Not pleased
More cunning
- 21 Bit of red tape, so to speak
Use binoculars
- 23 ___ in the hole (English dish)
Real Housewife Rinna

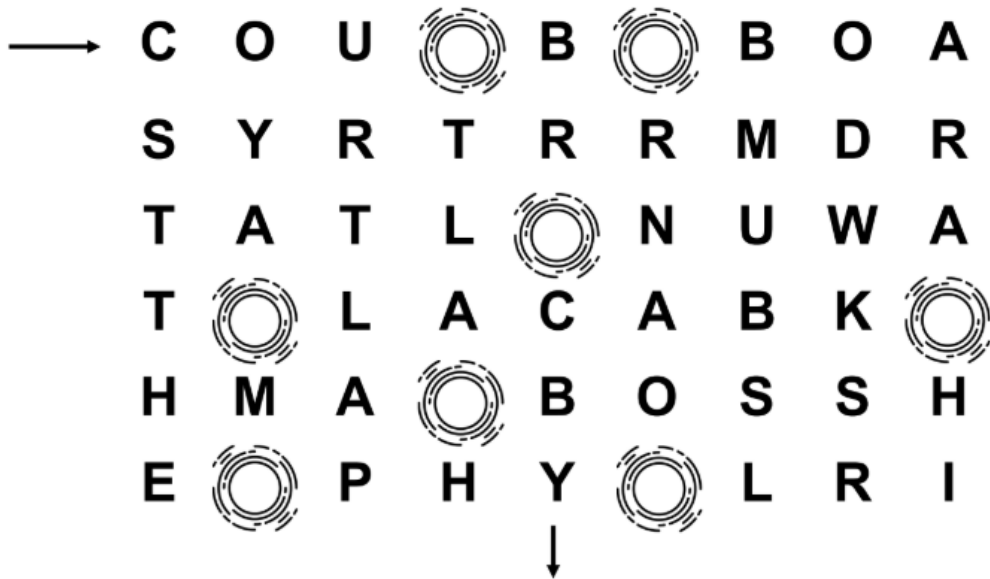
- 24 People whose reservation abuts Navajo
Nation
Spanish exam, maybe
- 25 Float on air
Avant-garde
- 26 Hwy. that runs through Williamsburg and
Astoria
She's dated A-Rod since 2017
- 28 Greasy spoon sides
Host of E!'s *The Soup*
- 30 Impressive acquisition for a sports team,
slangily
Cleaning need
- 31 Tuck in
Countless
- 32 Lallygag
36-Across discs
- 33 Key point
"___ my last email"
- 35 Prom night rental (if you're fancy)
It makes cents
- 37 Cornfield cry
Double twist
- 40 Expatriate
Flogged
- 41 Ski lodge amenities
Small, portable cabinet
- 42 Joint alternative
Met heroes?
- 43 His ghost haunts Macbeth
"Thank you," at Daniel K. Inouye Airport
- 44 '90s Britcom
E.M.T. procedure
- 45 2018 Netflix teen drama series set at a
private school
"Warm"
- 46 How to get from the world's busiest airport
to downtown, familiarly
Weltschmerz
- 48 Acid quality
Thompson of *Westworld*
- 50 Make mittens
Get exactly right
- 52 Hill hire
Aptly portmanteau product name of a
shampoo made of beer
- 53 Decomposes
It means "don't play"
- 54 Picked hair styles, briefly
Animal worshipped by the Tzotzil
- 57 Pro athlete in California
"The ___ of the moral universe..."



Parallel Universe



Oh, boy! Wormholes! Let's see where they go!



Little Gene Men



We received two strings; perhaps they're alien genes of some sort? They have the same length (we've aligned them for you below), and it looks like they may code for a bunch of similar traits, but we need to repair them first. We also received what looks like 'gene editing' modules; perhaps you can repair the 'genes' with them? Hopefully this task won't be too annoying...

Gene 1:	C	A	P	I	T	O	L	A	R	C	H	E	R	Y	C	A	L	M	I	N	G	D	E	E	R	S	K	I	N	D	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y
Gene 2:	C	R	I	M	S	O	N	O	N	S	T	A	G	E	S	E	E	R	E	S	S	F	I	S	C	A	L	L	Y	H	E	A	R	T	L	E	S	S

Gene 1 (cont.):	S	O	R	O	R	I	T	Y	T	H	I	R	S	T	Y	A	D	J	O	I	N	P	O	U	R	S	T	O	U	C	H	P	A	D	S
Gene 2 (cont.):	P	R	O	P	H	E	S	Y	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y	W	E	B	C	A	M	G	R	E	A	T	F	O	R	M	U	L	A	T	E

Gene 1 (cont.):	I	D	O	L	I	Z	E	S	T	R	O	P	E	P	O	R	T	I	O	N
Gene 2 (cont.):	L	E	A	T	H	E	R	Y	S	P	A	T	E	F	O	R	D	I	N	G

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

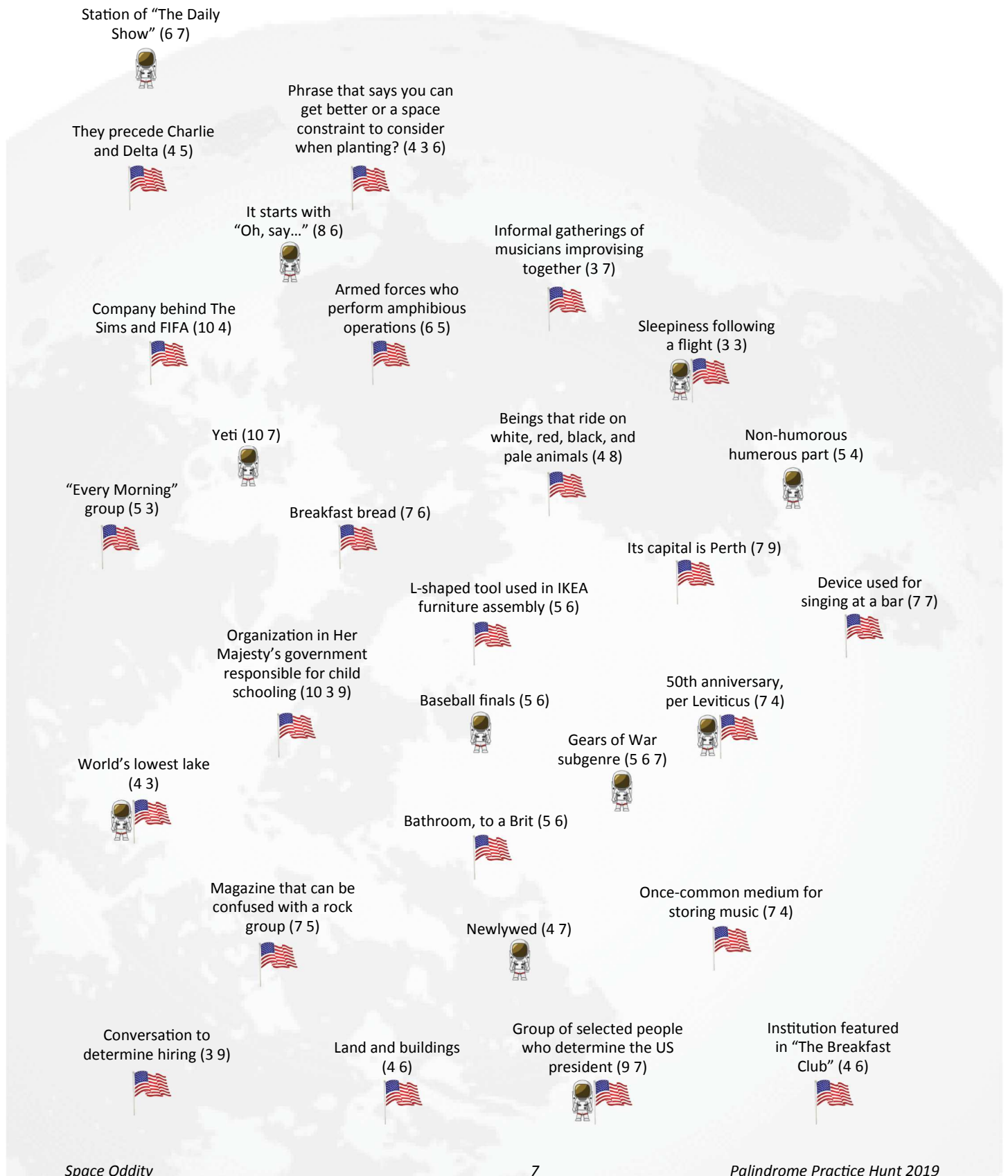


The Moon Landing



Once Neil and Edwin planted their flags, it seemed like everyone wanted in on the action (even those just along for the ride).

Overcoming initial hesitation, their commanders took center stage as they proudly waved the American flag!





One Three Six Eight One



With your sensors aimed at the asteroid belt, you pick up bits and pieces of something completely different.

ERP IST KWI LLM LLY TSI UDY UTE WAL WHA YST	[2 6 6]
ARY HIN ION NIS PON QUI RTI SIT SPA STE THE TIS WEA WHA	[8 10]
ARN CHF EFE GAI NDA NST RUI TDO THE TOD WHI YLE	[6]
ALF ANA ART BEL GMA HAT HUR KES LIN ORW PPE	[6]
ACE ACT ANS EPL ION OES RED STR TAK THI WHE	[11]
ACT ATT CHB EEN GUI LDR LED OES THE WHI	[5 6]
ATU BOU CRE ESE ISA LKS MIS NEE ORY RES SAN THE TTH	[14]
CLA EAR HEY OFT PER SST SUP WHO WIN WIT	[8 5-8]
BUY HHI LLA LLS NHE RBI SDO TCA WHA WIT	[8 6]
FDA HIS IST NCE PEO TTY WHA	[4-8]
AMB BEH CHB ERT IND MRL USH WAS WHI	[3 6 3]
ACK AON DAY EFO ERJ EST HAV HEL NES RTE TDO UMB WED WHA	[8 6]
ACI ALF ATF EAT ECT EWH HAR RSS SET THE URE URE WOL	[9]
ALB ATR HIS HOW MUC OSS THE	[9]
ARR ASD EED IED OFP OTH TBR WHA	[9 4]
CIA DOE EIN FBU GIN ILD ING LIZ PEO SMR SPE TTY WHA WIG	[14]
ARA BST ERP EST FER HED INE NDO REP ROF TIO TLO WHA	[9]
FUN HAT LDS NIE SIS STW THE THI WOR	[4]
ACO ARG EOF HIS HOW MUC NTS TEN UME URS	[5 6]
ANO DSA HAT INK ODA SAW SGO TOW	[1 5 3]

SOUND FILES



Sorting Through the Images



You never know what you'll see through the telescope. Applying some appropriate categories will help you make sense of it all.



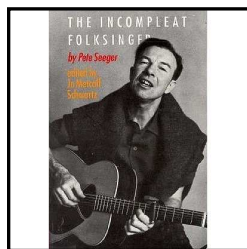
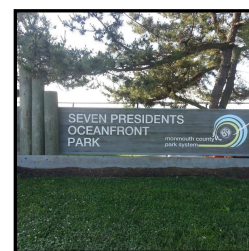
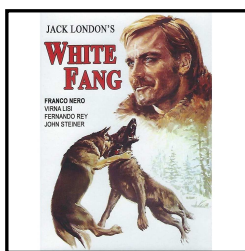
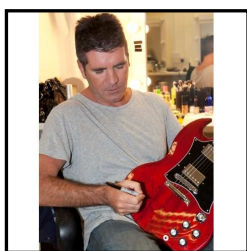
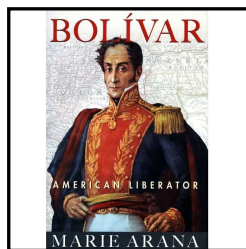
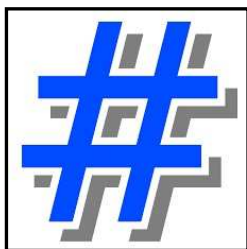
There are more images in need of sorting—
see the next page.



Sorting Through the Images, continued



Unsorted Images



Enter the three answers from the previous page into the squares to the right, clockwise and in alphabetical order.

D							





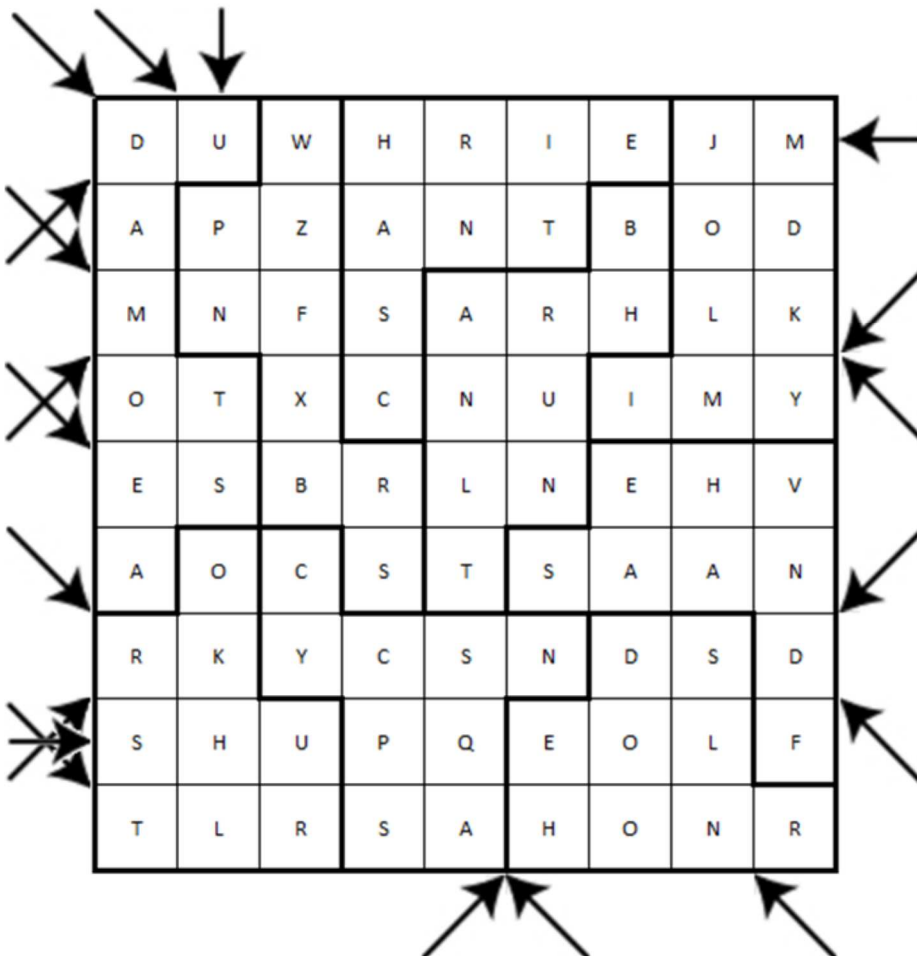
Meanwhile, In a Galaxy Far, Far Away



On the desert planet of Geonosis, a heated star battle is taking place between a group of Jedi and the droid army from Count Dooku surrounding them.

RULES

- 1) Exactly two Jedi are in each row/column/bold region.
- 2) Jedi have incredible powers. No two Jedi are in orthogonally or diagonally adjacent squares.
- 3) Arrows represent incoming lasers fired by droids.
- 4) These lasers travel in straight lines and must not be allowed to hit any of the Jedi.
- 5) To protect themselves and to destroy the droids, the Jedi use lightsabers that can reflect the lasers.
- 6) Each lightsaber extends vertically or horizontally from a Jedi into an orthogonally adjacent square. (See examples below.) Lightsabers cannot occupy the same square.
- 7) Lightsabers reflect lasers like double-sided mirrors. A laser travelling diagonally into a square with a lightsaber will reflect off the lightsaber to exit from the adjacent corner of the square.
- 8) All diagonally fired lasers will be reflected at least once to eventually exit the grid at the entry point (but opposite direction) of another arrow/laser, hitting the other firing droid.
- 9) All orthogonally fired lasers are aimed directly at a Jedi, and will be reflected straight back in the opposite direction by that Jedi's lightsaber (which is pointing directly at the firing droid).
- 10) All Jedi are critical to the battle. Each lightsaber must reflect at least one laser.



With acknowledgements and thanks to Thomas Snyder, who created this puzzle type.



Hidden Figures



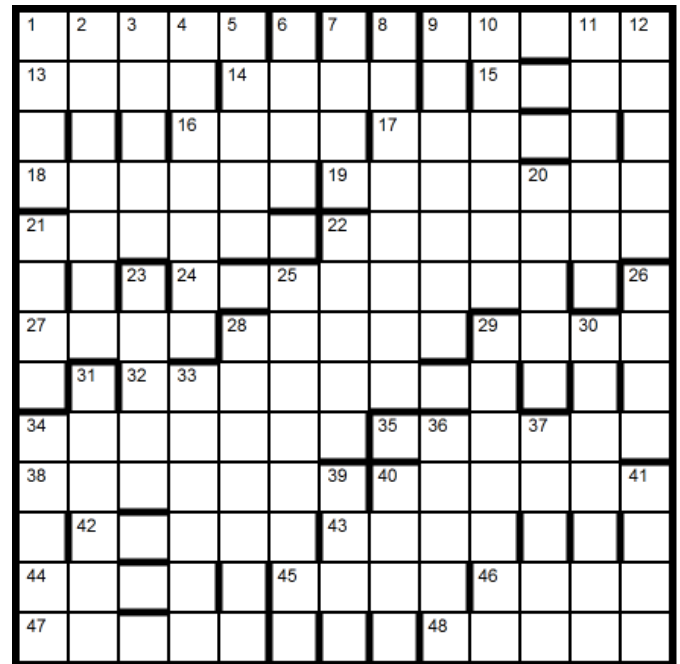
*I've checked these flight calculations over and over, but two things are constant:
Something's missing, and the math isn't making sense.*

ACROSS

- 1 Person checking you out doesn't start to become paler
- 9 "Out of the way!" said flustered engineer
- 13 Time-traveling is a thing
- 14 Brooding genre gripping large muppet
- 15 Launch website after hours
- 16 Spur into action in favor of Democrat
- 17 Retreat, following the lead of British P.M.
- 18 Appeal to come in at right, moving a bit left
- 19 Obscure shortened navy battle that's one-sided (2 wds.)
- 21 Have some beef shipped over?
- 22 Time off from insanely talented firm (2 wds.)
- 24 State after initially slapping jerk: "That is most fresh"
- 27 Long swimmers' rest cut short in retrospect
- 28 Insets mistakenly showing large vessels
- 29 Crew members fly south, arriving last
- 32 Incensed at excerpt from *Bayou Tragedy*
- 34 *Little Miss Sunshine* actress's legal matter at length going into storage unit
- 35 Louisiana style essential to glitzy decoration
- 38 Supply thin line? Sounds like just the sort of thing I'd do
- 40 Tailored a line to clippers' target
- 42 Einstein, I turned to you for German company
- 43 Save unusual Ming artifact
- 44 One taken in by amusing mythological creature
- 45 Every hurt, back to front
- 46 Hawk, swift, antelopes without a long look back
- 47 Some puzzling rhymes in "Florida" by Eliot
- 48 Serial adaptation: *The Land of Oz*

DOWN

- 1 Second bad idea
- 2 Ten pieces about relative by remarriage
- 3 Gains an unfair advantage, losing the first preliminary rounds
- 4 Woman in charge gets a fresh start
- 5 Right on time, necktie originally put back on
- 6 Thicken hemmed fabric
- 7 I'm drawn to start browsing website with filmographies
- 8 Oscar lead invested in cultivating marquee status (2 wds.)
- 9 Refers to everything used inappropriately
- 10 Group of wrinkly dogs is following close to jogger getting in shape (hyph.)
- 11 Sexologist tracks urgent case occupying one not playing the field (2 wds.)
- 12 One of a dozen in Scrabble ascends to top tier
- 20 Ready—too ready—"no" served up (2 wds.)
- 21 Head to the deepest part of unoccupied marine habitat
- 22 Like the author, one from Korea



- 23 Arctic drifters left in the clutches of enemies
- 25 Semi-sprint around open holes in the ground (2 wds.)
- 26 *Solo* remade for capital
- 28 Slips out; sadly, no parking to be found in city (2 wds.)
- 29 Send-up getting into some E.R. cases' uneven quality?
- 30 *Queen of the Desert* clips liar recut
- 31 Bishop in a suit showing loyalty to a group
- 33 Powerful actress Rae aboard boat
- 34 Fan taking fifty to make risky bet
- 36 Pair of informal greetings about small Nintendo dinosaur
- 37 Keen aviator Chuck needs no introduction
- 39 Broadway's Hansen's part in *Notre Dame* brought up
- 40 Diplomacy changed course, reportedly
- 41 Cellular's holding up; that's a break



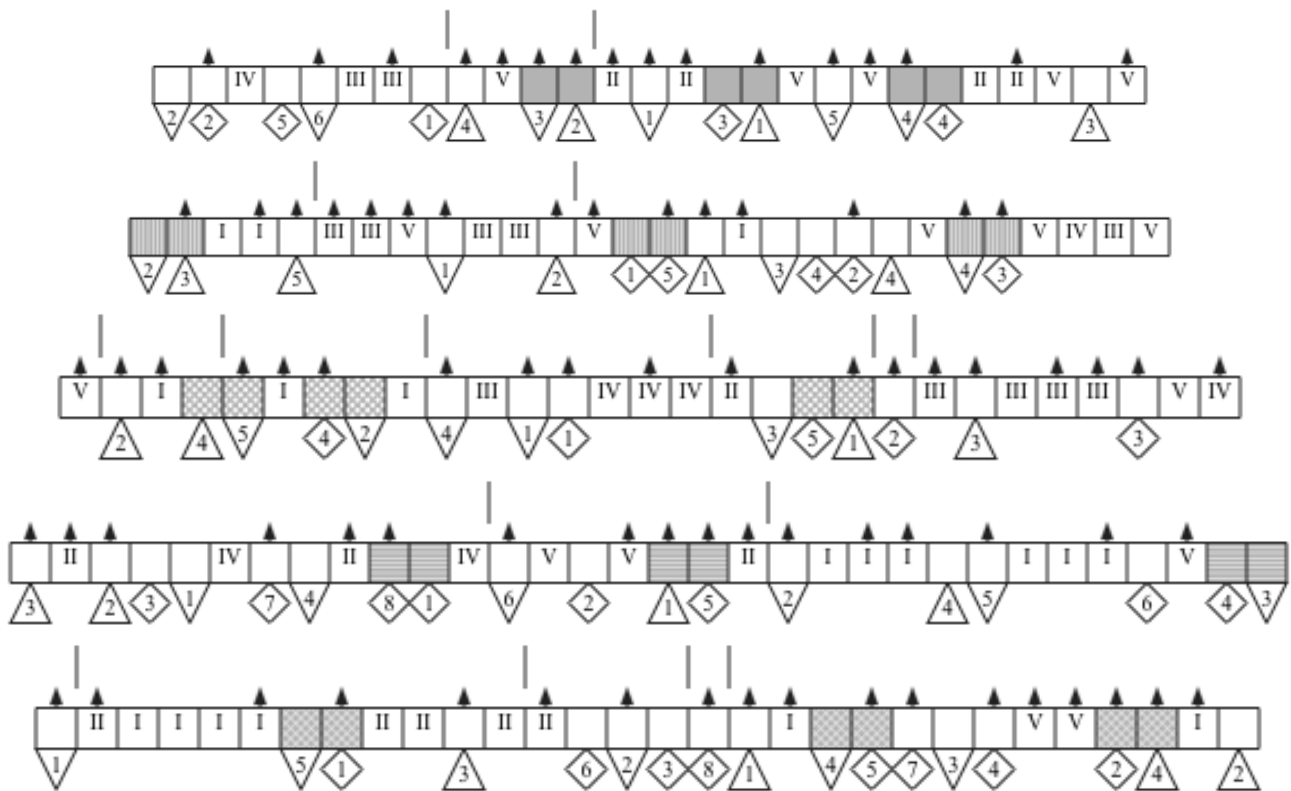
Five by Five



Five-pointed stars (unlike the more common round ones) always collapse in mere days. Each point decays in its own way, changing shape 4–8 times in one of 26 standardized patterns, as determined by its type; for example, a point of type K will change shape four times, to a K, an I, an L, and finally an O. In any given star, all the points are of different type (so we can number the points I–V *in alphabetical order by type*) and exactly one point will change shape each day; this may or may not be visible to optical telescopes depending on seeing conditions. For instance, in the following example...



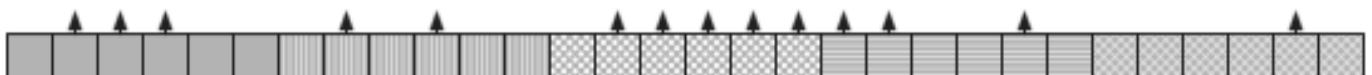
...we see which point changed on each day and whether the seeing was good; point number I (of type E), say, changed to an E, C, H, and O, but only its changes to E, H, and O were visible, while its change to C on day 3 was unseen.



Scarf or necktie
Divide using scissors (2 wds.)
Trois + cinq
Word before Lube signifying “trice”
Marks with shoe soles

Effervescent, like soda pop
Start playing that number! (2 wds.)
Top secret (hyph.)
Miniature golf brand (hyph.)
Piece of land or writing

Wagon
Island nation containing Suva
Breathe heavily, or snit
Take this job and shove it! (2 wds.)
Magic dragon of song





Five by Five—Kevin Wald

Hidden Figures—Joon Pahk

Little Gene Men—Philip Steindel

Lost In Space/Translation—Dave Shukan

Meanwhile, In A Galaxy Far, Far Away—Kah Kien

The Moon Landing—Greg Schechter and Matthew Stein

One Three Six Eight One—Ben Smith

Over and Over—Sandor Weisz

Parallel Universe—Wil Zambole

Sorting Through The Images—James Williams

Spaces Invaders—Finn Vigeland

The Stars At Night—Alison Muratore

Space Oddity Meta—Jen McTeague

Edited by Eric Berlin

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