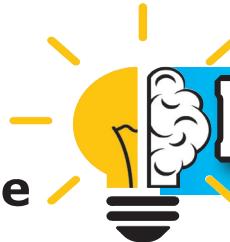


Answers
on Page 3

Brain Zone!

Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman



Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Young female horse I _____
2. Restaurant server I _____
3. Serena Williams' tool A _____
4. Sluggish creature S _____
5. Code inventor R _____
6. Alternate route T _____
7. Boxer Sonny O _____
8. Groucho's quiet kin O _____
9. Deep red gem T _____
10. Alf or ET I _____

Foolishness O _____

Mr. Mitty or Cronkite L _____

Spaceship O _____

Fabric C _____

Mickey or Minnie U _____

Wolf down V _____

Eavesdrop E _____

Angelic instruments S _____

Harvest R _____

Steve or Woody L _____



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FLASH BACK POP, ROCK & SOUL TRIVIA BY MICK HARPER

1. Which artist had his first No. 1 chart-topper with "Mandy"?
2. Who was the first to release "Got My Mind Set on You"?
3. Name the artist who was born Charles Edwin Hatcher. Hint: "Contact" and "War."
4. Who released "Mad About You" in 1986?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Risin' up, back on the street, Took my time, took my chances, Went the distance."

Micro Crossword

By Elizabeth C. Gorski

Across

- 1 Champagne choice at a New Year's Day brunch
- 5 Unhurried gait
- 6 Fry in a bit of butter
- 7 "Touch of Evil" actor/director Welles
- 8 Teary-eyed

Down

- 1 Loud, strident noise
- 2 Awaken
- 3 "High five!"
- 4 Wee
- 6 "You reap what you _____"

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |

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"I wondered why you never returned
my _____."

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Plan

DANAGE

Cache

RHOAD

Glow

LEGAM

Brisk

DRAIP

TODAY'S WORD

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GAMES: What color is Sonic the Hedgehog in the video game?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the former name of the U.S. Virgin Islands?
3. MOVIES: What are the colors of the striped sweater Freddy Krueger wears in "A Nightmare on Elm Street"?
4. MEDICAL TERMS: What is a more common name for pneumothorax?
5. HISTORY: By which name is Martha Jane Canary more commonly known?
6. TELEVISION: What is Hawkeye Pierce's real first name in the "M*A*S*H" series?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of larks called?
8. AD SLOGANS: Which car company uses the ad slogan "Driven by passion"?
9. MYTHOLOGY: What is the head of the Egyptian god of death, Anubis?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the currency of Japan?

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Fifth Graders In 1939 Visit Local Industries

In 1939, the fifth graders in Miss Novie Almon's class at Gilbert Elementary School enjoyed a series of exciting adventures. They made plans, under Miss Almon's direction, to visit every industry existing in Lauderdale County at that time. It turned out that their plans were way too ambitious, but the students were able to visit a wide variety of local industries and to create a fine 73-page booklet, with drawings scattered throughout, which they entitled *Lauderdale County Industries*. A copy of the 85-year-old booklet still exists in the Florence City Schools Memorabilia Room in the Burrell-Slater School building on Cherokee Street. Most entries are written in third person, while others are written in first person. Here are a few lines from one first-person entry following the class's visit to Sally Ann's Bakery in Florence: "I am a loaf of bread made at Sally Ann's Bakery. I was made from hard wheat which grows in Kansas and Minnesota. I went through many a danger and would like to tell you something about it." The story proceeds with a detailed description of how the bakery made hundreds of loaves of bread each day and ends with these interesting words: "There are six trays in the oven while we're baking; together, they hold 250 loaves of bread. Forty pounds of coal are used [to heat the oven] while we're baking." It's fascinating to note that something as simple as a booklet composed and assembled by fifth graders and their teacher can become a valuable historical document reflecting a point in time of the culture of a community.

— Billy Warren, City Historian (brwarren@florenceal.org)

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: K equals L

VTTFAVX L YEHI KGVXTO
EBTVPAK BG HEB L KLOXT
IEVC GS YTLB, L YLV FTHKLOTF
"CVAST'P BGG PIGO B."

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Cornelius (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Revelation 2, what city was said by John to have "Satan's seat"? *Pergamos, Miletus, Patara, Sodom*
3. Whose first chapter begins, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners"? *Mark, Galatians, Hebrews, Jude*
4. From Acts 13, where were Paul and Barnabas deserted by Mark? *Jericho, Perga, Athens, Damascus*
5. What were Gihon, Pishon, Tigris and Euphrates as connected with the Garden of Eden? *Cities, Kings, Rivers, Caves*
6. From 1 Kings, who is given credit for writing 1,005 songs? *Jacob, Solomon, Philip, David*



Sports QUIZ

by Ryan A. Berenz

1. What Chicago White Sox player's 1990 Topps rookie card became coveted by collectors after an error led to a small number of cards being issued without his name printed on the front?

2. What British boxer knocked out Jake Paul, the social media influencer turned prizefighter, in the sixth round of a December 2025 bout in Miami, Florida?

3. William Walter "Pudge" Hefelfinger, considered the first professional football player, was paid how much to compete for the Allegheny Athletic Association in a November 1892 game vs. the Pittsburgh Athletic Club?

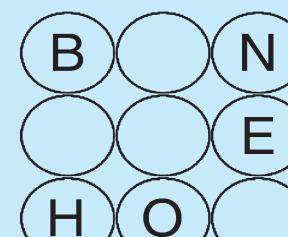
4. Name the Basketball Hall of Famer, a member of the 1978 NBA champion Washington Bullets, who recorded exactly 50,000 NBA minutes played in a career spanning 1968-84.

5. What U.S. city has a drawbridge named after Japanese Baseball Hall of Famer and Pacific Coast League legend Lefty O'Doul?

6. What team finished the 2025 regular season with a 10-2 record but declined to play in any bowl game after not being selected to the College Football Playoff field?

7. Name the seven-time Formula 1 World Drivers' Championship winner who suffered severe brain trauma in a 2013 skiing accident in the French Alps.

WORD SPIRAL



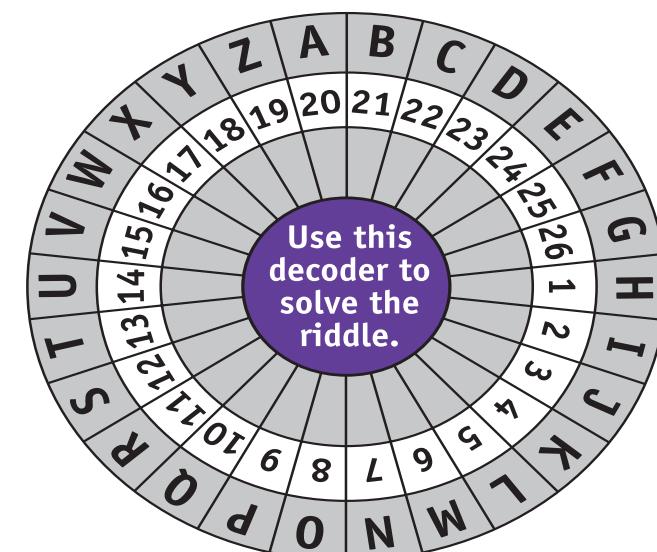
Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.

Brain Zone!

SECRET CODE

What is smaller than a gnat's mouth?

20 | 26 | 7 | 20 | 13 | 12 | ' | 23 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 24 | 11



Use this
decoder to
solve the
riddle.

GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

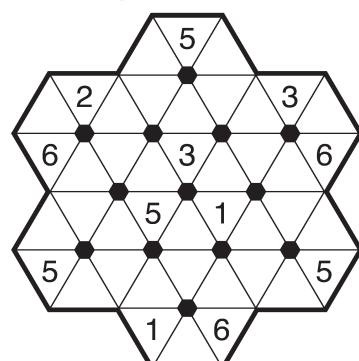
| | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|----|
| | - | ÷ | = | 1 |
| + | + | + | | |
| - | × | | = | 16 |
| + | ÷ | - | | |
| - | + | | = | 11 |
| = | | | = | |
| 16 | | | 1 | |
| 1 | | | 1 | |
| 2 | | | | |

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

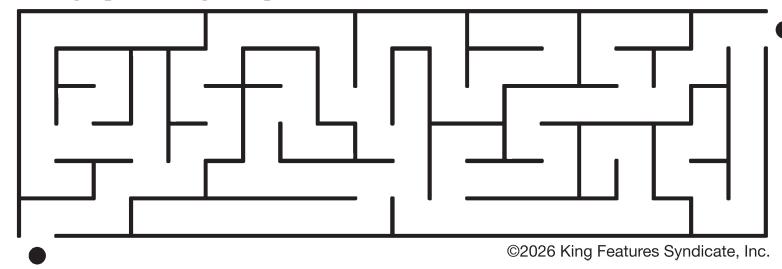
There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

Kids' Maze



Brain Zone! ANSWERS



1. Barry Manilow, in 1974. Scott English wrote and originally released the song in 1971, calling it "Brandy." Manilow changed the song to "Mandy" so it wouldn't be confused with Looking Glass' "Brandy (You're a Fine Girl.)"

2. James Ray, in 1962. George Harrison followed with a cover in 1987 both as a single and on his "Cloud Nine" album.

3. Edwin Starr. "Contact" and "War" were Starr's only No. 1 hits.

4. Belinda Carlisle after she left The Go-Go's.

5. "Eye of the Tiger," by Survivor, in 1982. The song was at the top of the chart for 15 weeks and was used as the theme song for "Rocky III" the same year. It then won a Grammy for Best Rock Performance by Duo or Group with Vocal.

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Word Spiral
Answer
HABANEROS

Even Exchange

Donna M. Pettman

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Filly, Folly | 6. Detour, Devour |
| 2. Waiter, Walter | 7. Liston, Listen |
| 3. Racket, Rocket | 8. Harpo, Harps |
| 4. Sloth, Cloth | 9. Garnet, Garner |
| 5. Morse, Mouse | 10. Alien, Allen |

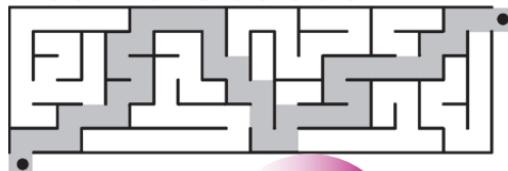


by Wilson Casey

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Pergamos, 3) Hebrews, 4) Perga, 5) Rivers, 6) Solomon

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

Kids' Maze Solution



Answers

1. Blue.
2. The Danish West Indies.
3. Red and green.
4. Collapsed lung.
5. Calamity Jane, a sharpshooter in Western history.
6. Benjamin.
7. An exaltation.
8. Fiat Automobiles.
9. A jackal.
10. The yen.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Agenda; 2. Hoard;
3. Gleam; 4. Rapid

Today's Word
LADDER

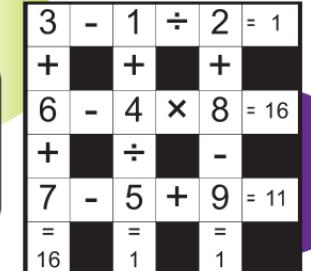


by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Frank Thomas.
2. Anthony Joshua.
3. \$500.
4. Elvin Hayes.
5. San Francisco.
6. The Notre Dame Fighting Iris
7. Michael Schumacher.

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CryptoQuip
answer

Needing a much longer utensil to cut a large hunk of meat, a man declared "Knife's too short."

SECRET CODE

What is smaller than a gnat's mouth?
A Gnat's Dinner

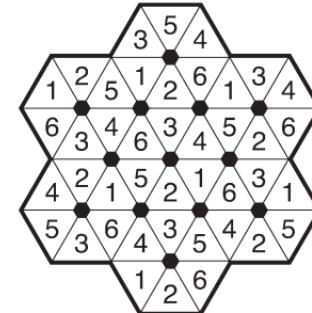
Micro Crossword

Answer

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| B | R | U | T |
| L | O | P | E |
| S | A | U | T |
| O | R | S | O |
| W | E | E | P |



Snowflakes
solution



Snowflakes

solution

Joe Jabs