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Circled number pods must be inside the loop and show how many cells can be seen up, down, left, and right (plus itself) from that cell before reaching a fence.

Cacti must reside outside of the fence loop. Aliens must reside inside the loop.

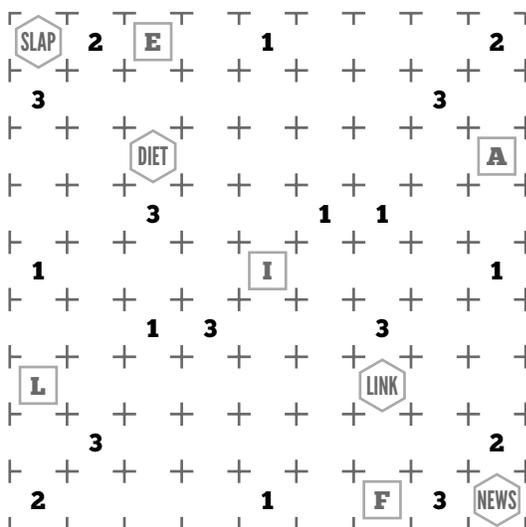
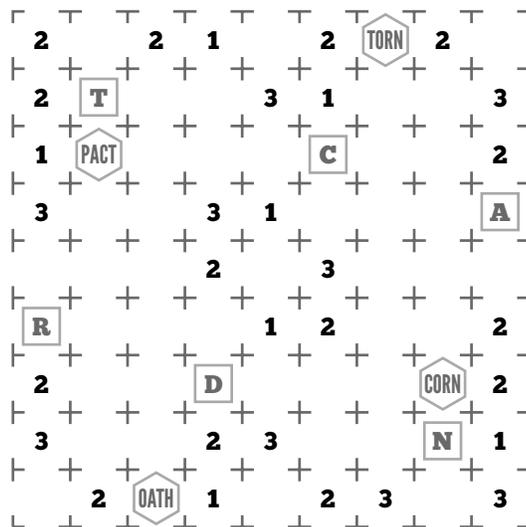
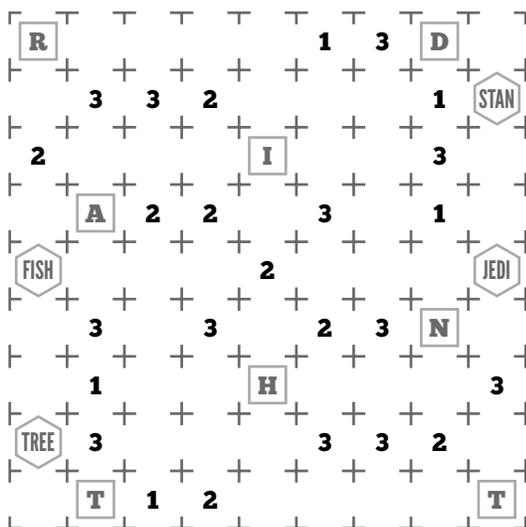
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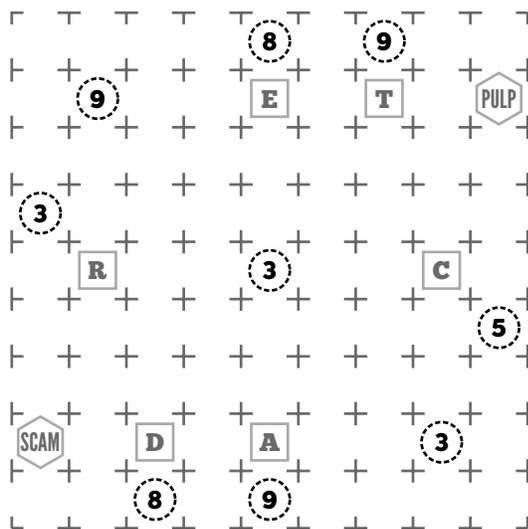
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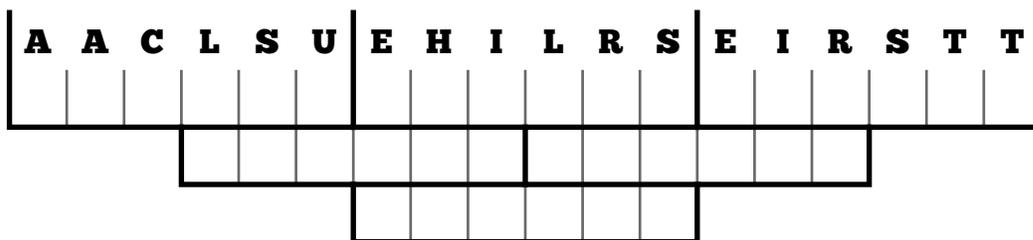
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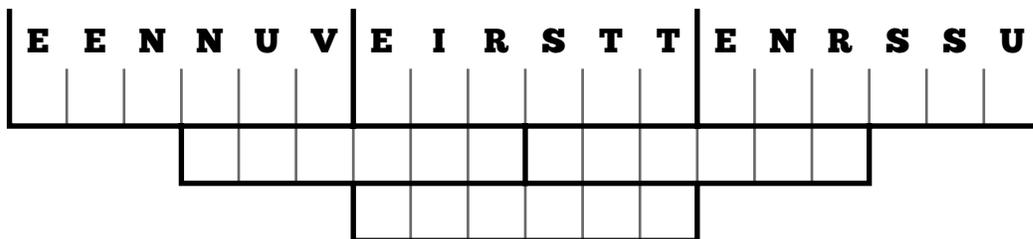
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Blocky video game
Offerings

Indoor cat necessity
Hot dog topper

Yanni's partner
Informal



City component
Put money into something

Medical professionals
Temporary caretaker

Not equal
Comeback

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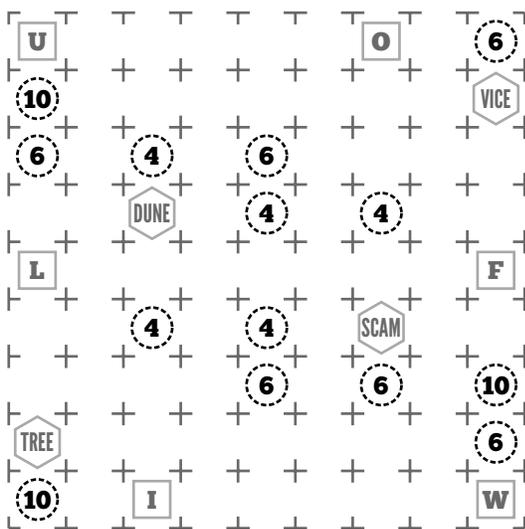
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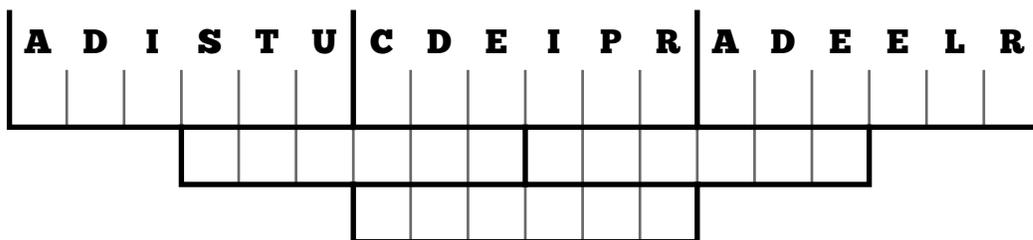
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Assigned value

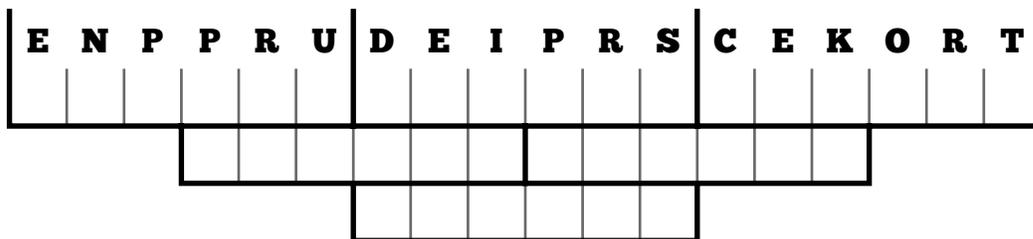
Ten years

Blackjack participant

Financial score

Ghost

Checks



Centerfolds

NASA tool

Vinyl music format

Type of tree

8-legged being

Marriage necessity?

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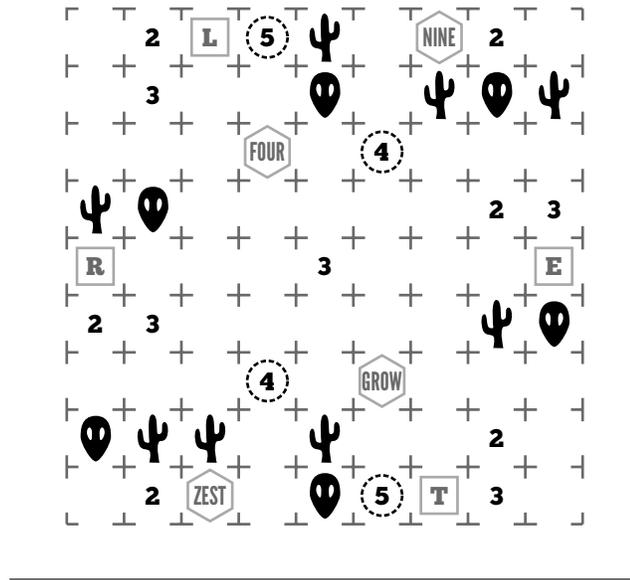
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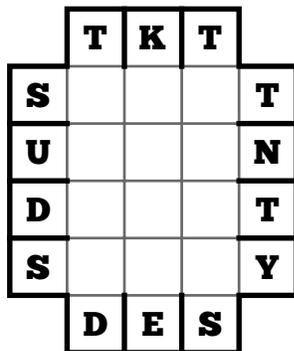
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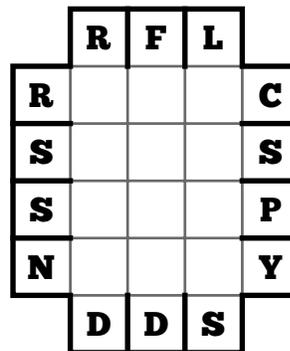
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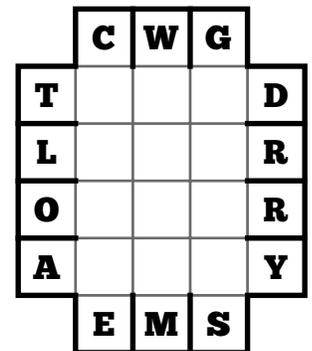
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- Attributes
- City-centric
- Dog food
- Like the Dead Sea
- Piece of clothing
- Piece of piece of clothing
- Type of card



- Antique
- Fats
- Impoverished
- Like most apartments
- Pearl shirt fasteners
- Remove
- Widened



- Beam of energy
- Bronze
- Command
- Common salad component
- Knowledge
- Restore batteries
- Suffering

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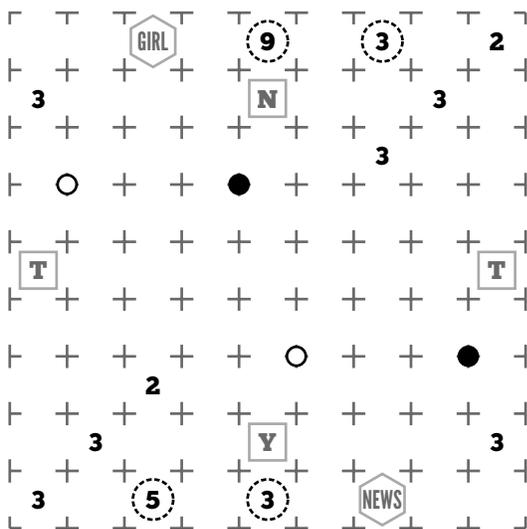
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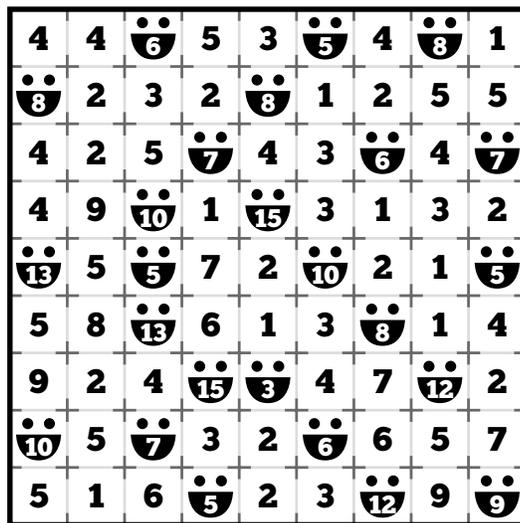
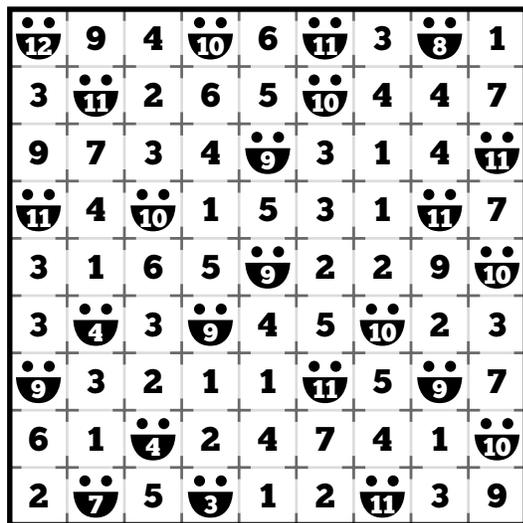
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Bonus Puzzle

Today's bonus puzzles are Mouth Force puzzles. In each grid, divide the grid along the lines provided so that each shape contains one mouth and the rest of the numbers in the shape sum to the number displayed in the mouth. This was inspired by a puzzle from an old Nikoli book that translates to 'Blocker', but which I accidentally mistranslated to 'Mouth Force' and decided to use as my title for it.



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A 6x6 grid puzzle. Clues include: Row 1, Col 6: DILL (hexagon); Row 2, Col 3: T (square); Row 2, Col 4: Alien (circle); Row 2, Col 5: Q (square); Row 3, Col 2: N (square); Row 3, Col 3: 3; Row 3, Col 4: 2; Row 3, Col 5: U (square); Row 3, Col 6: 3; Row 4, Col 3: E (square); Row 4, Col 4: Cactus; Row 4, Col 5: P (square); Row 4, Col 6: Alien; Row 5, Col 1: 2; Row 5, Col 2: FISH (hexagon); Row 5, Col 3: Hollow circle; Row 5, Col 4: Shaded circle; Row 5, Col 5: Hollow circle; Row 5, Col 6: 2.

A 6x6 grid puzzle. Clues include: Row 1, Col 6: 9 (circled); Row 1, Col 7: 12 (circled); Row 2, Col 1: DIET (hexagon); Row 2, Col 2: V (square); Row 2, Col 3: 2; Row 2, Col 7: X (square); Row 3, Col 1: 1; Row 3, Col 2: E (square); Row 3, Col 4: Cactus; Row 3, Col 6: Alien; Row 4, Col 4: FINISH (hexagon); Row 5, Col 1: Cactus; Row 5, Col 2: T (square); Row 5, Col 3: 2; Row 5, Col 4: Cactus; Row 5, Col 5: L (square); Row 5, Col 6: 1; Row 5, Col 7: O (square); Row 5, Col 8: SCAB (hexagon); Row 6, Col 1: 9 (circled); Row 6, Col 2: 12 (circled).

A 6x6 grid puzzle. Clues include: Row 1, Col 3: 7 (circled); Row 1, Col 4: TRIP (hexagon); Row 1, Col 5: Cactus; Row 2, Col 1: 2; Row 2, Col 2: 5 (circled); Row 2, Col 3: 3; Row 2, Col 4: 7 (circled); Row 2, Col 5: E (square); Row 2, Col 6: 2; Row 3, Col 2: T (square); Row 3, Col 3: Cactus; Row 3, Col 4: Alien; Row 3, Col 5: U (square); Row 3, Col 6: 2; Row 4, Col 1: LUNG (hexagon); Row 4, Col 2: 2; Row 4, Col 3: O (square); Row 4, Col 4: Cactus; Row 4, Col 5: R (square); Row 4, Col 6: WIDE (hexagon); Row 5, Col 1: 2; Row 5, Col 2: 2; Row 5, Col 3: S (square); Row 5, Col 4: 5 (circled); Row 5, Col 5: 2; Row 5, Col 6: 3; Row 6, Col 1: Cactus; Row 6, Col 2: 2; Row 6, Col 3: LOUD (hexagon); Row 6, Col 4: 7 (circled); Row 6, Col 5: 5 (circled).

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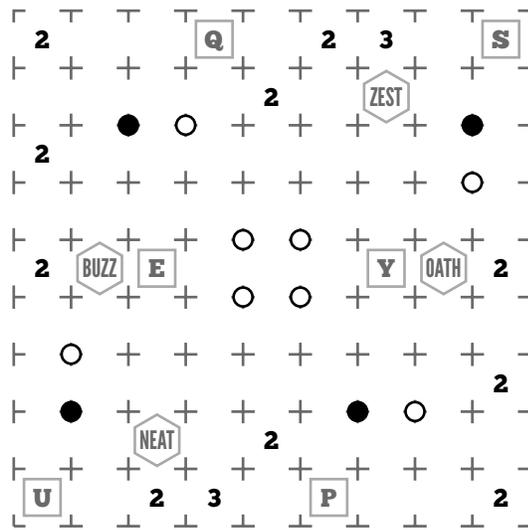
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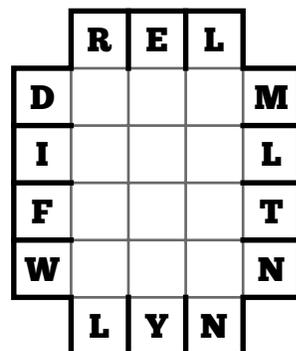
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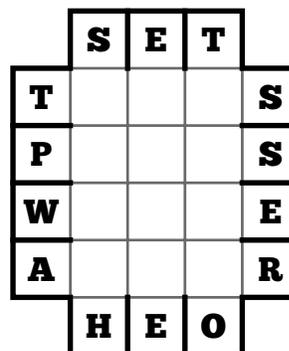
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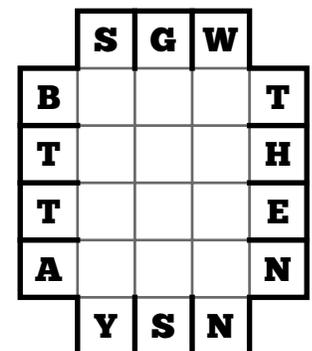
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- Call again
- Initial
- Material used for jeans
- Oregon Trail vehicle
- Perfect
- Point of contact
- Type of drink



- Agreements
- Jake Gyllenhaal, for one
- Make use of a pen
- Seek
- Some ink
- Southwestern US state
- Turn on



- Choice opposite 'dare'
- Desperately
- Holmes' companion
- Food Network star Brown
- Sacha Baron Cohen film
- Tight or rigid
- Troops

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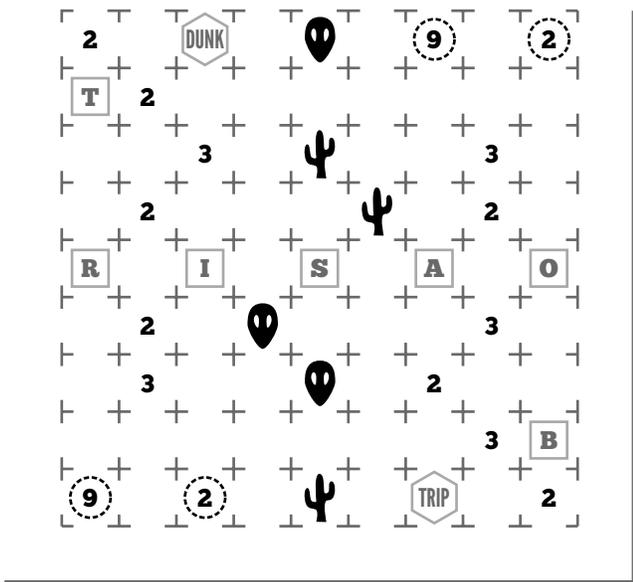
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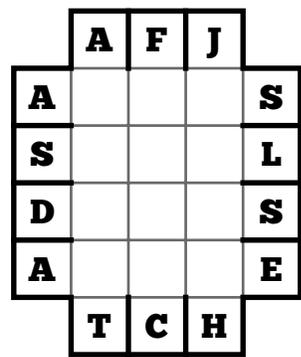
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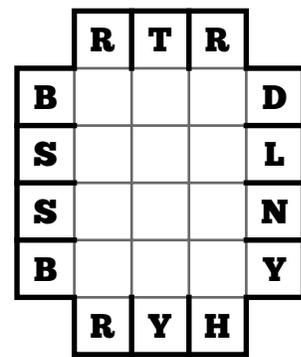
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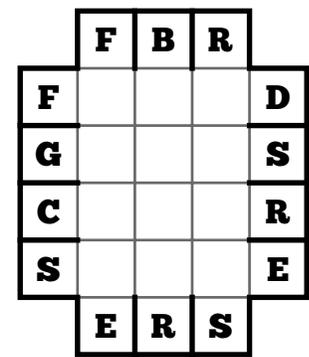
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- Cold cut providers
- Land-measuring units
- Like most Israeli folks
- Manner of speaking
- Pained facial expression
- Prance
- Star-shaped spice



- A neighbor of France
- Arrangement
- Disinterested
- First U.S. flag seamstress
- Hotdog topper
- Jumpsuit
- Take a whiff



- Famed Ohio Point
- Frame
- Movie chunk
- Over fill
- Viruses
- Warm fabric
- Who to mimic in Rome

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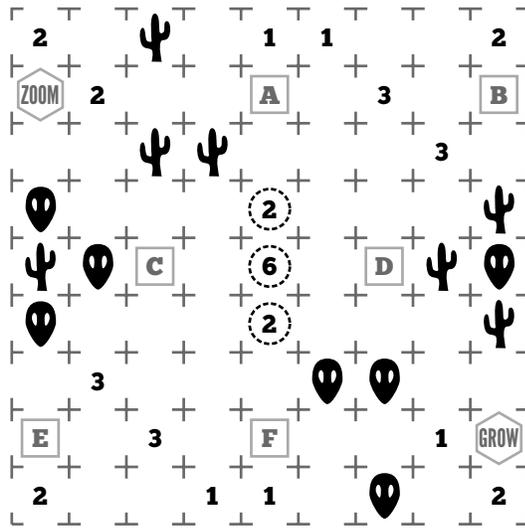
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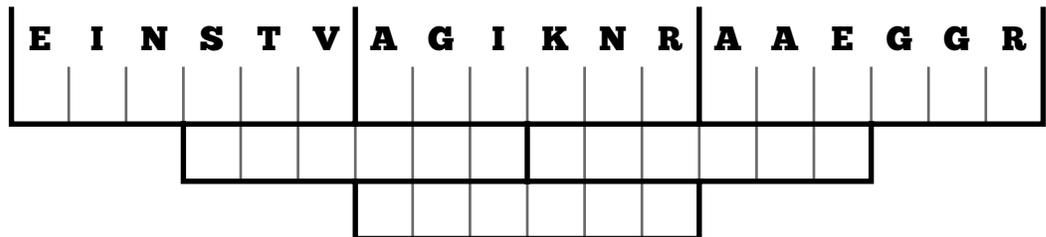
Plot Twist

Today's puzzle is a LIAR Area 51. In each row and column, one of the clues provided is incorrect and must NOT be satisfied. Figuring out which clues are lying is an exercise left to the solver. It is also STILL a cover-all where every node in the grid must be visited.

Please note that the liar twist on today's grid has no bearing on the meta puzzle bits provided.

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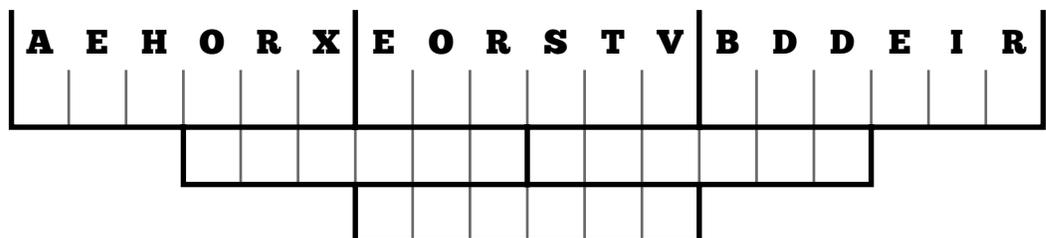
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Financial action
Tony Hawk, for one

Leafy autumn chore
Energetic and angry

Kitchen tool
Home storage space



A maker of some crop circles
Tornado component

An eBay user, perhaps
Women marrying

UK/EU scandal nickname
Democracy participants

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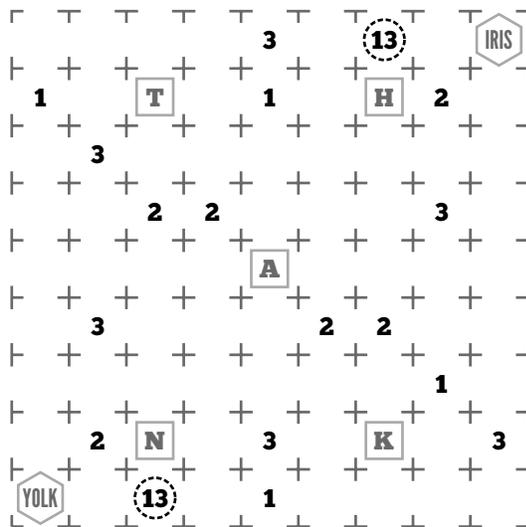
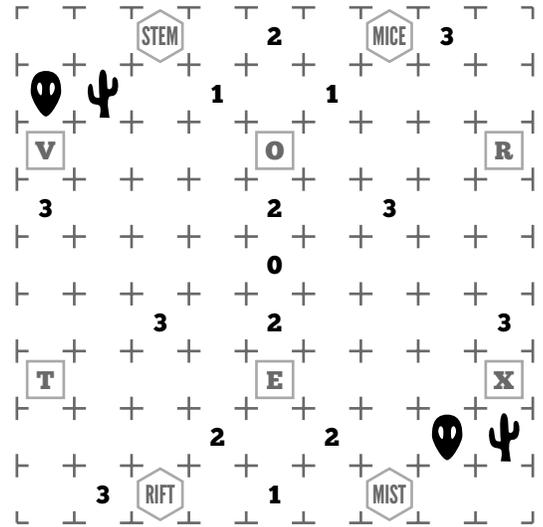
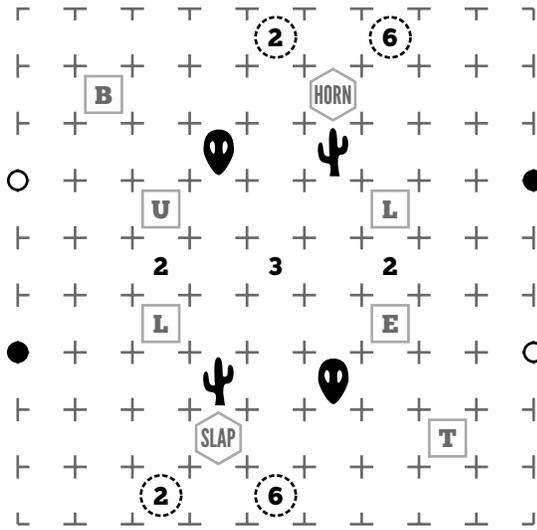
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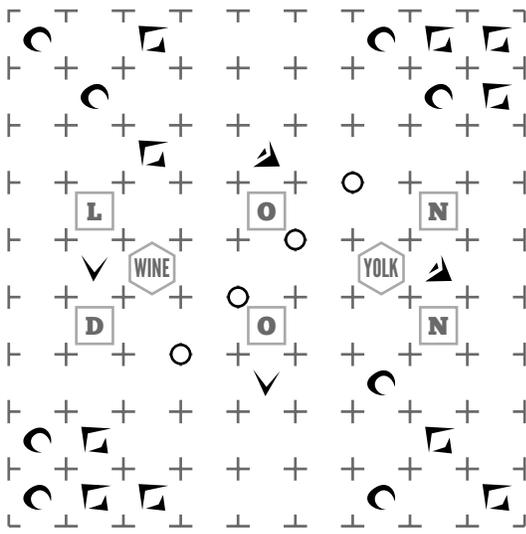
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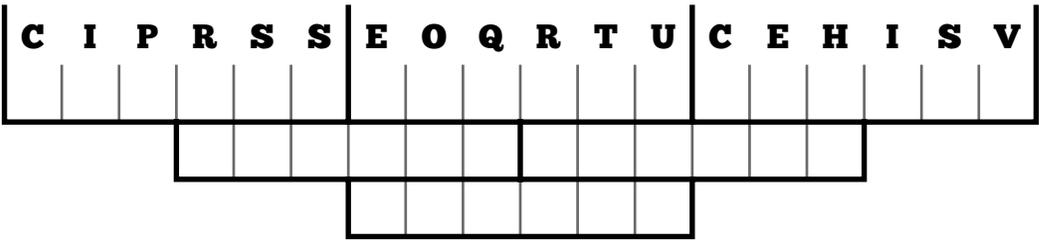
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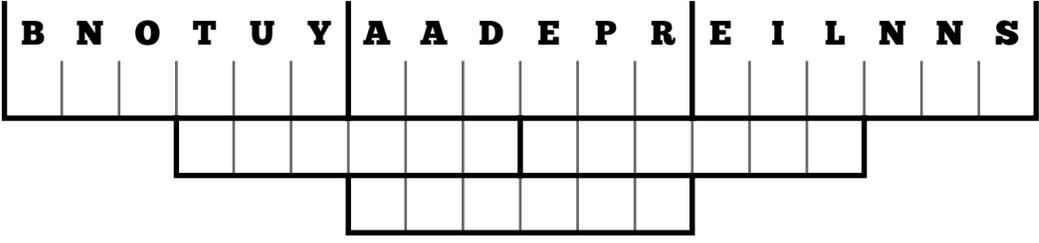
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- Potato snacks
- Citrus soda brand
- Egg dish
- Balls and pucks and crap
- Type of wrench
- Classy baked potato topper



- It ain't just a river in Egypt
- Kitchen cabinet or closet
- Bedding, perhaps?
- Where to find floats
- Fashionable
- Prize on a 'Wanted' poster

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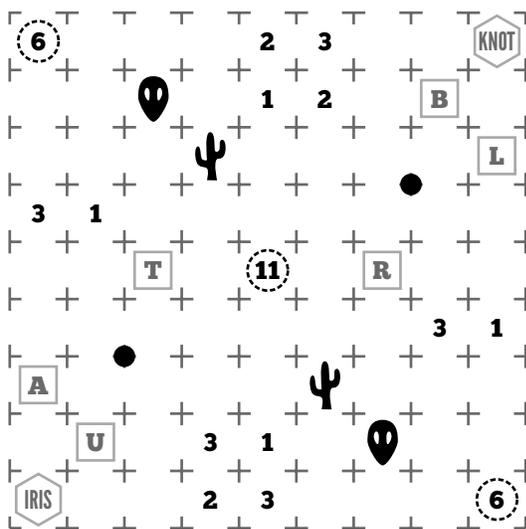
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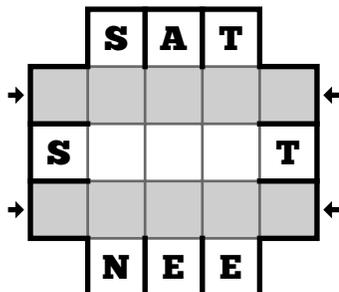
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Today's bonus puzzle is a cramped crossword with an abstract component. The abstract component is one part trivia, one part wordplay. Once you've figured it out, enter it in the indicated rows and use the clues to solve the rest of the cramped crossword entries.

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Fences around row 1 column 6 today

Kids' game boss that says what to do

Like most mobile phones these days

Succulent used for syrup and tequila

(See illustration at right.)

R	N	B	Q	K	B	N	R
P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
B		O			B		S
E		G			E		R
P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
R	N	B	Q	K	B	N	R

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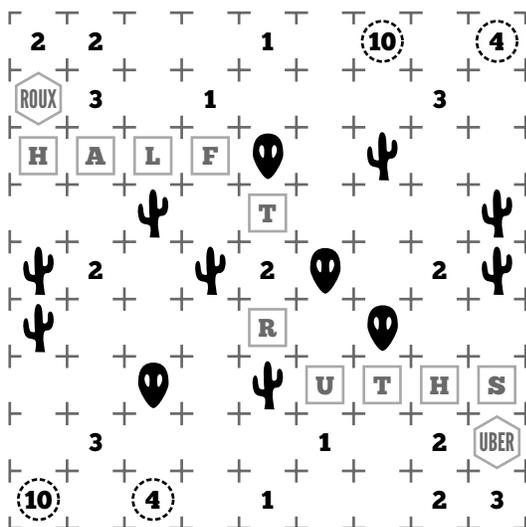
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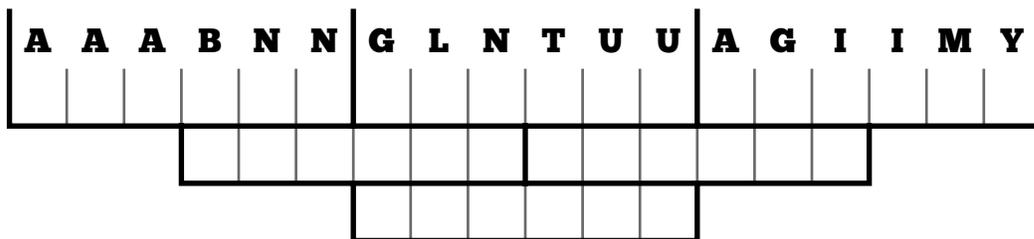
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Please note that the liar twist on today's grid has no bearing on the meta puzzle bits provided.

Bonus Puzzle

Today's bonus puzzles are word funnels. For each funnel, rearrange the six letters above each space to form a six-letter word or name. Each subsequent row will use letters from the words above them to form the next set, until a single word remains. Clues have been provided for all six words, but are listed randomly.



Karate Kid master

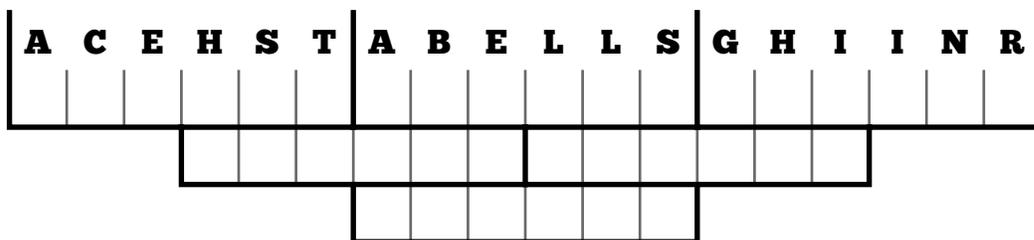
Uprising

Tire shop part

Yellow fruit

Famed Orange County beach

Season



Cleanser/disinfectant

Nevada town near Area 51

Mo-vement focus

Looking for employees

Avery's sticky business

Savor

Instructions

Create a loop through the each of the grids provided following the clues given.

A cell containing a digit must be surrounded by that many pieces of fence.

Circled number pods must be inside the loop and show how many cells can be seen up, down, left, and right (plus itself) from that cell before reaching a fence.

Cacti must reside outside of the fence loop. Aliens must reside inside the loop.

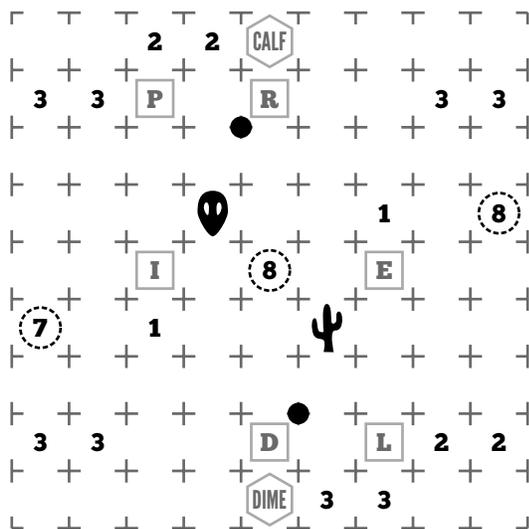
At shaded circles the fence must have a 90 degree turn with straight sections before and after.

At hollow circles the fence must continue straight with a turn before and/or after the circle.

EVERY GRID NODE must be included in the completed fence for each grid!

It's Advent!

Throughout the 25 days of Advent at least one new Area 51 puzzle will be posted daily. Save your answers through to the end; you will need them to solve the meta!



Bonus Puzzle

Today's bonus puzzles are excerpted from my newest puzzle project, Interst8. Interst8 is a collection of word puzzles featuring two-letter US state abbreviations as part of the words. Check out the web app Interst8 at <https://interst8.us> for more like these. You can also save the app to your home screen or desktop and it'll work offline; very handy for those long holiday road trips!

Find an atmospheric condition that becomes a type of treat when you replace a Midwestern state with a West coast state.

Find a major Florida city that contains the Wolverine state twice.

Find a two-word phrase for a dangerous business exchange that is spelled using four state abbreviations.

Find a seafood delicacy that is spelled using four state abbreviations.

Find a cardinal direction that becomes a superlative when you insert a state known for potatoes.

Find a former MTV series that becomes a dieter's no-no when you replace a small state with a Mississippi River state.

Instructions

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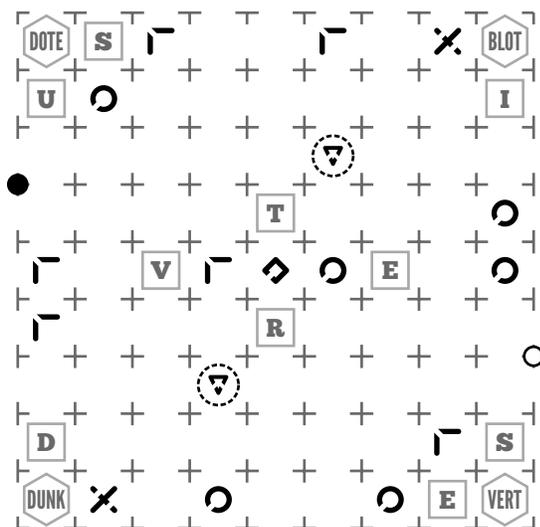
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Plot Twist

Today's puzzle is an ENCODED Area 51. Four of the glyphs in the grid represent a slitherlink clue from the group 0, 1, 2, or 3, and the fifth glyph in the corral clue represents a digit greater than 3. It is also STILL a cover-all where every node in the grid must be visited.

Please note that the encoding twist on today's grid has no bearing on the meta puzzle bits provided.

Bonus Puzzle

Today's bonus puzzles are Mouth Force puzzles. In each grid, divide the grid along the lines provided so that each shape contains one mouth and the rest of the numbers in the shape sum to the number displayed in the mouth. This was inspired by a puzzle from an old Nikoli book that translates to 'Blocker', but which I accidentally mistranslated to 'Mouth Force' and decided to use as my title for it.

2	☺	1	2	7	☺	1	☺	6
1	4	3	1	☺	2	5	1	☺
☺	4	☺	☺	3	☺	1	☺	3
4	☺	2	4	6	4	☺	6	4
2	5	☺	1	☺	1	5	☺	3
☺	4	☺	5	☺	6	2	5	4
3	3	4	2	6	☺	☺	2	☺
2	5	☺	3	5	2	6	3	2
☺	4	3	☺	1	4	☺	1	3

5	3	☺	2	5	3	☺	3	☺
6	☺	2	☺	6	☺	6	3	3
☺	3	1	1	1	4	5	☺	☺
2	1	☺	1	☺	5	☺	1	5
3	☺	6	4	2	☺	4	1	5
3	4	☺	☺	4	3	6	3	☺
☺	4	3	1	☺	4	☺	4	6
5	2	1	1	7	6	5	☺	1
1	☺	☺	6	3	☺	4	6	☺

Instructions

Create a loop through the each of the grids provided following the clues given.

A cell containing a digit must be surrounded by that many pieces of fence.

Circled number pods must be inside the loop and show how many cells can be seen up, down, left, and right (plus itself) from that cell before reaching a fence.

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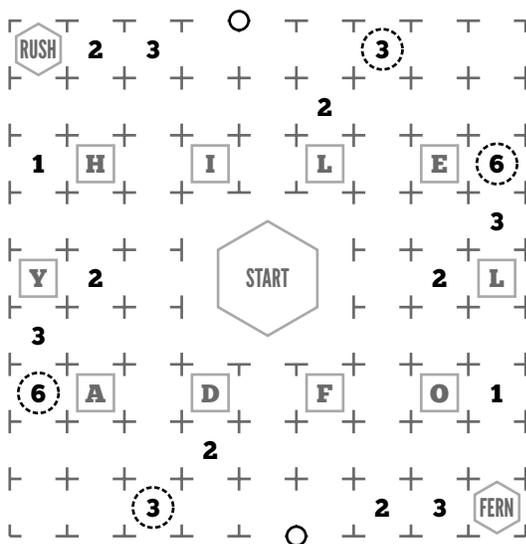
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Errata

Day 18's second (middle) puzzle had an unfortunate mistake in the original posting. The 3 corral clue near the bottom right corner of the grid, originally directly under the hexagon marked 'CALF', should have been placed one cell to the left. The puzzle has been corrected and two new superfluous clues added to preserve the anti-symmetry of the puzzle.

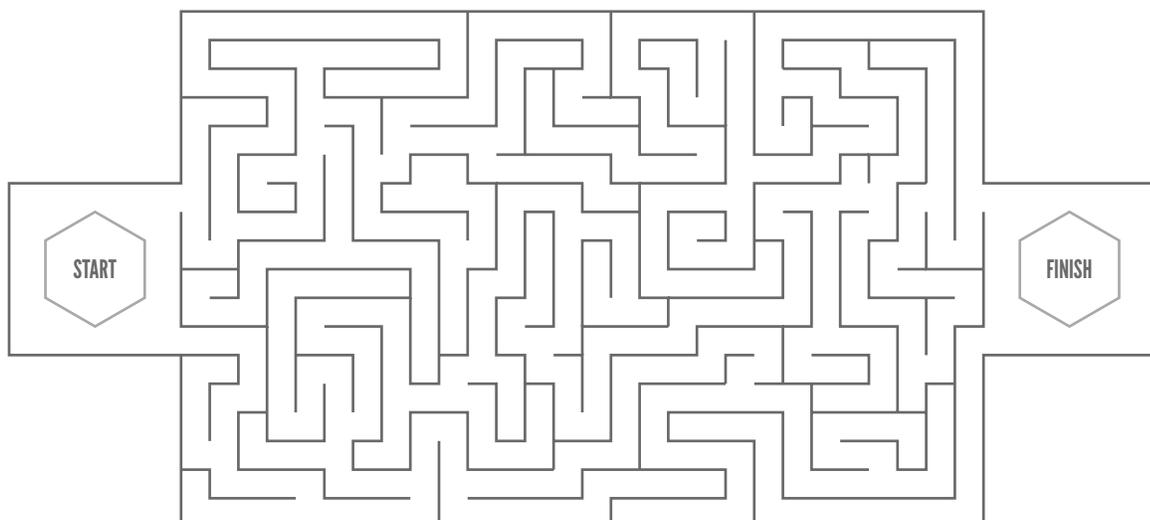
Meta Puzzle

The answer to the meta puzzle this year is a five-letter word. Feel free to write it here after you FINISH solving it.

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Bonus Puzzle

Here is a maze to solve for today's bonus puzzle. Simply find the path from START to FINISH.



Instructions

Create a loop through the each of the grids provided following the clues given.

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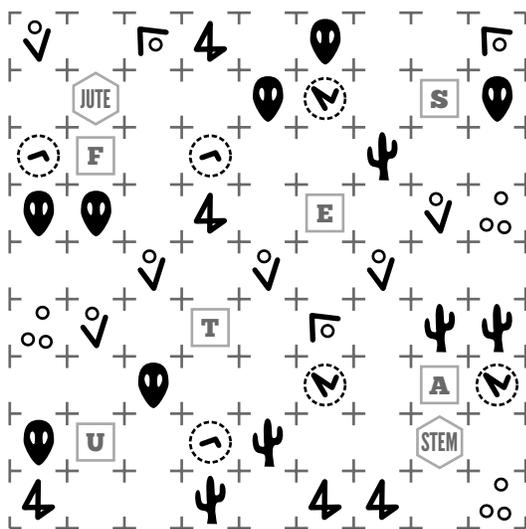
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Double Plot Twist

Today's puzzle is an ENCODED LIAR Area 51. Four stand-alone glyphs in the grid each represent a slitherlink clue from the group 0, 1, 2, or 3, and the fifth and sixth glyphs in the corral clues represent digits from 2 to 9.

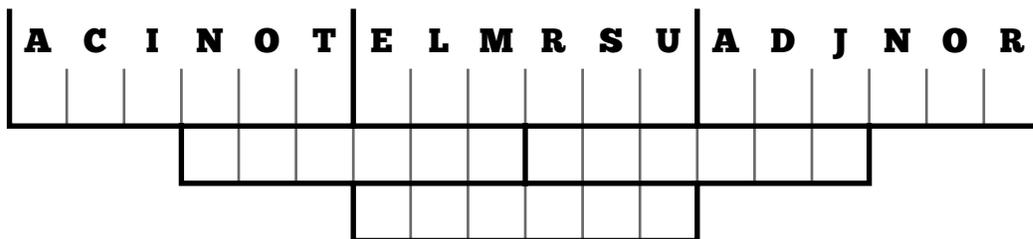
However, in each row and column, one of the clues provided is incorrect and must NOT be satisfied. Figuring out which clues are lying is an exercise left to the solver.

As usual with this Advent Calendar, it is also STILL a cover-all where every node in the grid must be visited.

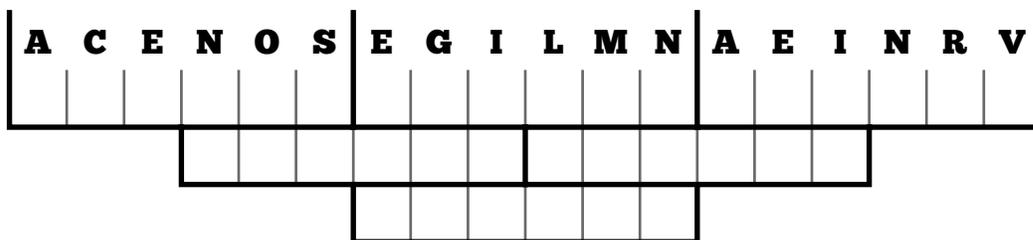
Please note that the encoding and liar twists on today's grid have no bearing on the meta puzzle bits provided.

Bonus Puzzle

Today's bonus puzzles are word funnels. For each funnel, rearrange the six letters above each space to form a six-letter word or name. Each subsequent row will use letters from the words above them to form the next set, until a single word remains. Clues have been provided for all six words, but are listed randomly.



Film genre	Oz actor Chris	Son to 'Senior'
A Dead Sea-bordering country	Some Madagascar primates	Trial participants



Landscaping material	The 'new black' according to Kerman	Socialize
Singer and activist Nina	Small boats	Eroded rock gap

Instructions

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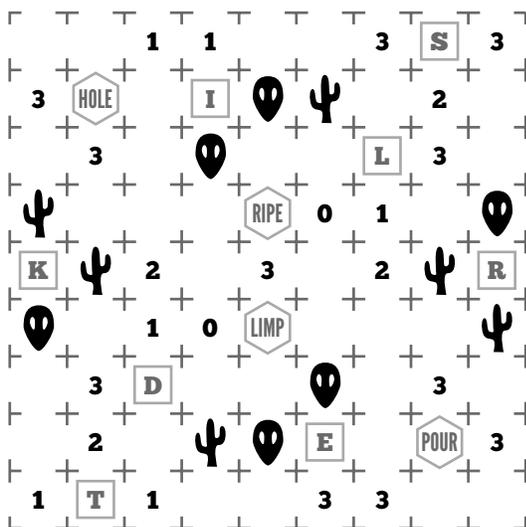
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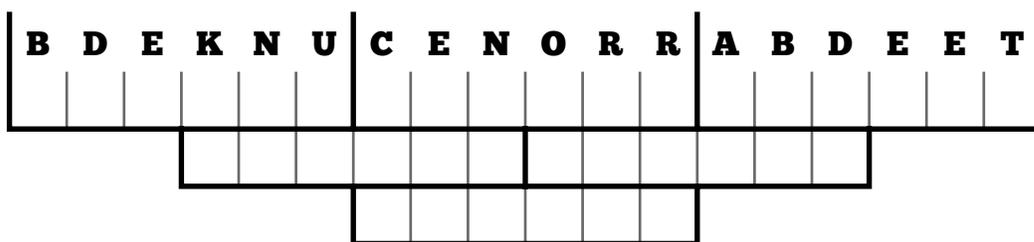
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Open, as with wine

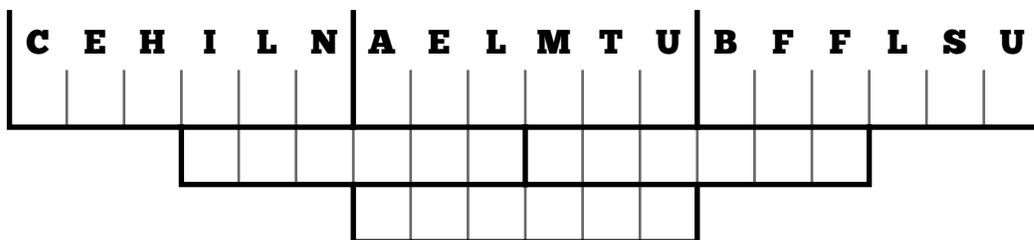
Prominent Futurama character

Intersection segment

Pre-election event

In disrepair

Prove wrong



Features of today's Area 51

Algae/fungi combo

Popular wrestling 'Club'

Space cloud

Compassionate

Oft-cursed RPG item

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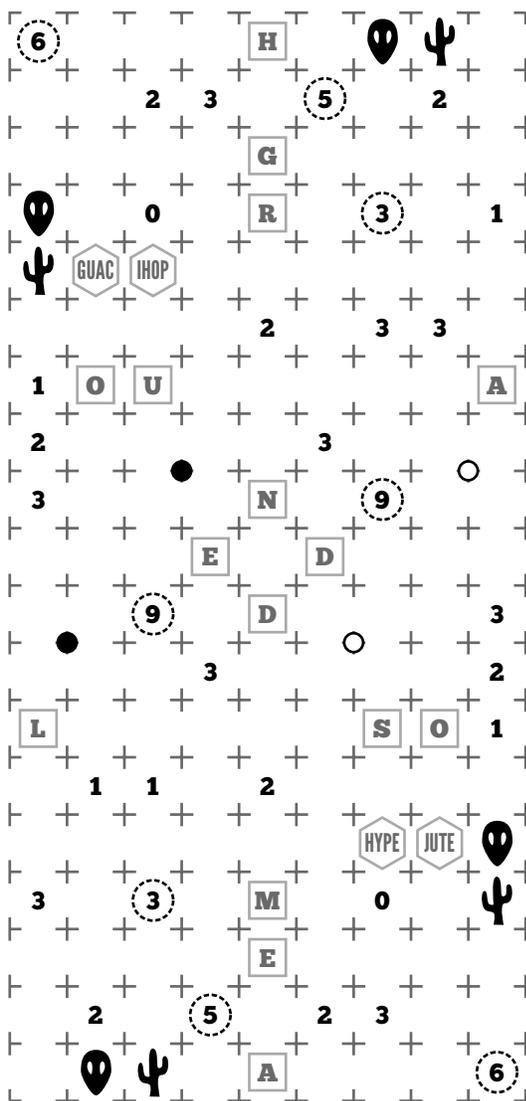
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A	B	C		D	E	F
G				H		
		I	J		K	
	L			M		
N			Q			
P		Q		R	S	T
U				V		

Bonus Puzzle

Today's bonus puzzle is a Numcross puzzle. Use the clues provided to fill the grid with numbers. No entry may start with a zero.

Across

- A. Consecutive digits in descending order
- D. A across in reverse
- G. J down + O across
- H. N down + S down
- I. Q down - 5
- K. T down - 4
- L. Contains one of each even digit
- N. A perfect square
- O. I across - 1
- P. Consecutive digits in descending order
- R. A palindrome
- U. 6 x G across
- V. D down x 2

Down

- A. A perfect square
- B. S down + 1
- C. A palindrome
- D. A perfect cube
- E. C down + F down
- F. A across + T down
- J. I across squared
- L. L across / O across
- M. Its digits sum to 0 across
- N. P across + Q down
- Q. A perfect square
- S. B down - 1
- T. A down in reverse

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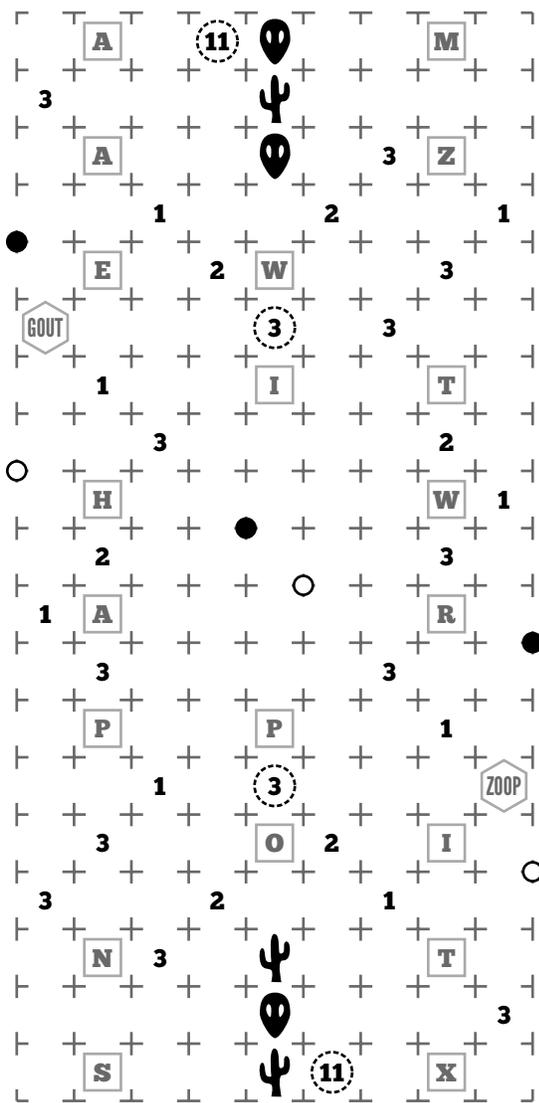
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F			G		
H		I		J	
		K		L	
M	N		O	P	Q
R		S		T	
U				V	

Bonus Puzzle

Today's bonus puzzle is a Numcross puzzle. Use the clues provided to fill the grid with numbers. No entry may start with a zero.

Across

- A. C down x 3
- C. K across - 20
- F. L down in reverse
- G. A across + H across
- H. A down x 3
- J. F across + 10
- K. A palindrome
- M. A perfect square
- O. Consecutive digits in descending order
- R. I down x S down
- T. S down x 2
- U. I down x 5
- V. I down + 9

Down

- A. Q down + F across
- B. J across x 3
- C. L down - 2
- D. A palindrome
- E. C across - 20
- G. Contains one of each odd digit
- I. Another perfect square
- L. Another perfect square
- M. Another palindrome
- N. Yet another perfect square
- P. G down / S down
- Q. L down x S down
- S. One more perfect square

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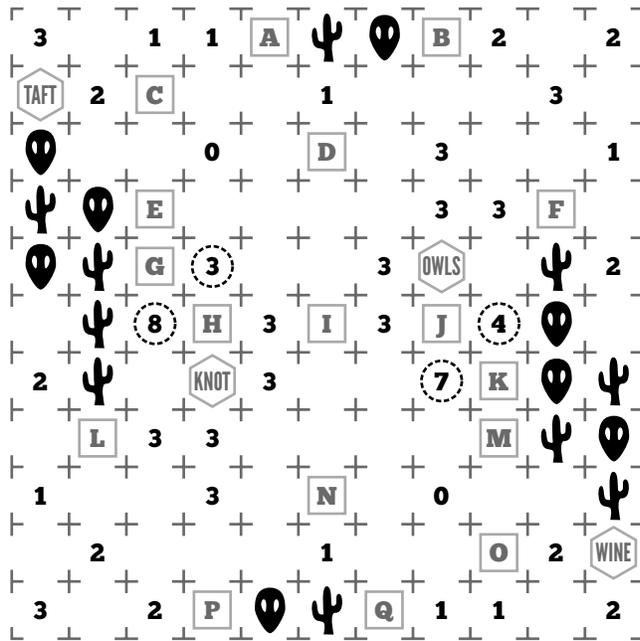
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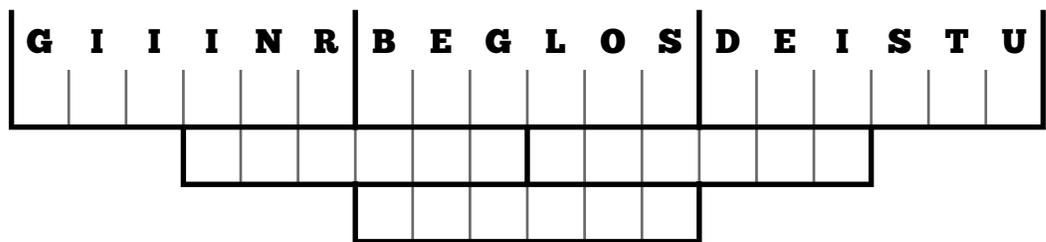
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Introductions

A type of sushi

Fossil fuel extraction setup (2 wds.)

Flat-earthier trigger items

Responsibilities

The Mackinac and Golden Gate are each one

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Testing, 1-2-3

Thank you to the puzzlers who test-solved throughout the event: chaotic_ik, edderiofer, Grant Fikes, Jamie Hargrove, phenomist, SoftFro, Sunfall, The Great Escaper, and wormsofcan.

Merry Christmas!

I hope you've saved your answers over the last 24 days; All of these Area 51 puzzles form a giant maze! Find hexagons with matching words to leap from grid to grid and make your way from the START area to the FINISH area, picking up the letter tiles on the way! Once you've picked up all the tiles on the solution path, you'll be one step closer to the final answer for this year's #PuzzleAdventCalendar event!

To be continued...

Thank you to everyone who reached out over the last two years. Putting together a puzzle event of this magnitude is a massive undertaking. While I enjoyed having a holiday season to relax last year, I enjoy all of the comments, email, and feedback I receive as the event plays out. #PuzzleAdventCalendar will return again in 2019. In the meantime, keep following my blog for more puzzles throughout the year.