

# i get by with a little help from my friends

Greetings,

It seems to be about love, I think.

To read the great Indian epic *The Ramayana* is to be immersed in a world where evil and treachery are no match for the enormous love between a father and son, four brothers' love for each other, the love between a husband and wife, a prevailing love and reverence for all manifestations of the natural world, and the enduring love between friends.

The story in (very) brief: The noble prince Rama, an incarnation of the god Vishnu, accepts fourteen years of exile in the forests of India to preserve his father's honor after intrigues in the court. Accompanied by his beautiful wife Sita and loyal brother Lakshmana, Rama has various adventures, vanquishing scores of evil *rakshasas* along the way. The ten-headed demon Ravana, king of the *rakshasas*, kidnaps Sita to his city on the island of Lanka. Rama and Lakshmana set off on a years-long quest to rescue her, with the assistance of many allies, chief among them Hanuman, the greatest of the monkey-like *vanara* race. We'll leave it at that, for now.

Reading the story, I was struck by the fact that, while Rama is depicted as the perfect man in every way – an embodiment of strength and wisdom, grace and *dharma* – he is never too proud to accept the help of countless friends: the antlered sage Rishyashringa, Jambavan, king of the bears, the ancient eagle Garuda who sacrifices his life to indicate the path of Sita's captor, and dozens more.

This made me reflect, as I approach a personal milestone, on how lucky I've been to have so many friends in the puzzle community who have helped me so generously along the way. As teammates, colleagues, and collaborators, they've offered advice and support, encouragement, inspiration, professional and personal opportunities, and, most of all, friendship. As a token of appreciation, I've based each puzzle in this set on a type I associate with a specific individual. In many cases they've invented or made an art form of the type, being a remarkably creative bunch. In a couple of cases the choices simply mean something to me personally. While I've attributed each puzzle, note that those are purely shout-outs, and have no meta or other puzzle-related implications; nor is this by any means a comprehensive list of all those I feel lucky to have in my life.

One of the Best Things in the World is Sir Christopher Wren's monument in St. Paul's Cathedral. In an edifice housing hundreds of opulent monuments, his is a small, barely noticeable stone set in the floor under the dome, with plain Latin lettering translatable as "Reader, if you seek his memorial – look around you." Same thing applies if you're looking for a puzzle dedicated to Lance Nathan, to whom I can not express years' worth of gratitude adequately enough.

On to the puzzles: these are presented in roughly story order, leading up to the heroes' arrival at Lanka. The solutions to ten of these (it will be made clear which) will help you to defeat Ravana. Confirm answers using the answer checker in the middle of the home page. When you have the answers to at least *nine* of these particular puzzles, enter their initial trigrams alphabetically as a string in the answer checker to access Ravana himself. Once you defeat Ravana, a final puzzle will be accessible; the answer to that puzzle is this 'ganza's final answer.

Send this to me at markhalpin3 at gmail dot com to score a place on the Leaderboard. I have no way of tracking submitted guesses, so if you care to email me individual puzzle answers AFTER they've been verified as correct, I'd be happy to receive them for my own personal interest only. First individual or pair will receive a prize, as will one solver drawn at random from anyone submitting a solution before Monday Sept. 15th, when I'll post hints and solutions. As ever, if you're not interested in a prize or the Leaderboard, feel free to contact me for any hints you'd like. The point of the thing is to have fun, so please let me know if there's anything I can do to assist in that.

There's nothing in this intro that relates to the puzzles aside from that which does so explicitly, and all puzzles may be printed out to solve. Specific knowledge of the source material is not necessary, and flavor text is often clueful.

Wishing all of you happy solving,

Mark / Zebraboy

Throughout his adventures, Rama would demonstrate godlike prowess as an archer (in fact, he had originally won Sita's hand in marriage from her father King Janaka by stringing and breaking the bow of Lord Shiva).

## CHOOSE THE RIGHT BOW

WLPICBYDVZD WUUYWHED

MDEEDY'E JACIS

ZRJS QCO JACHJACH

WLGHRDELD

XWELTW TDRJDSF'E ESRLP

EDO EKNQCY LYWAW

UACXDLSRIZ BRIVCB SKUD

ERNUYD LHAMD

IDL PBDWA PICS

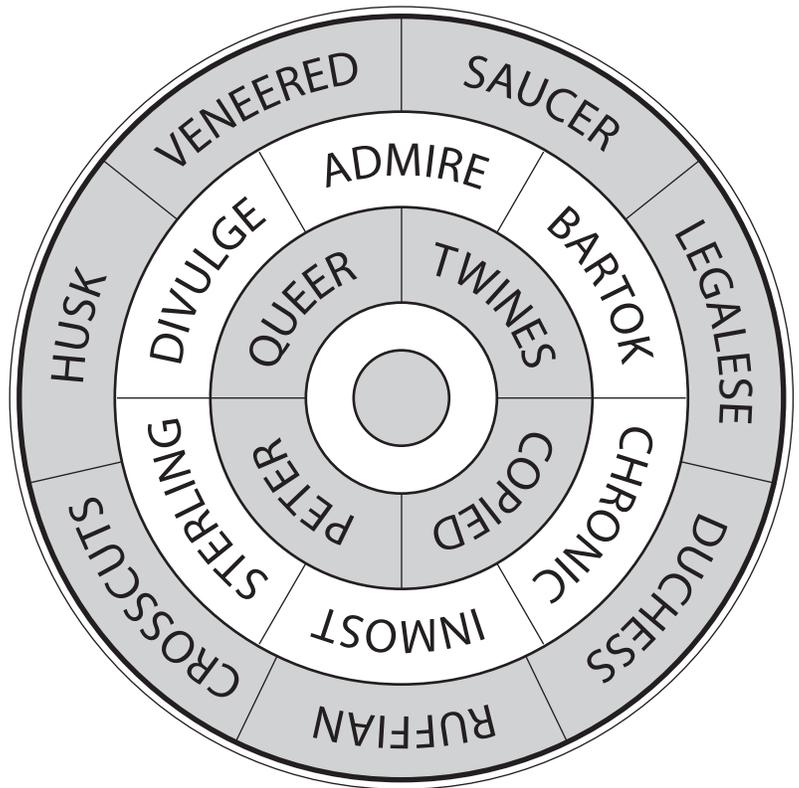
LCMDIS ZWAVDI ESADDS

DKDZYWEED E UWAS

## TARGET PRACTICE

Shoot at the target below, eliminating the words you strike. Best the other archers by firing two arrows with each shot, striking two different targets simultaneously. Aim for a word that...

1. is synonymous with the last name of a legendary archer
2. anagrams to a name for the bow-wielding heroine of a hit 2012 film
3. is a comic book archer's secret identity surname with the last letter changed
4. is a name given to the animated television character "Archer"
5. is a non-human archer when given new vowels (not necessarily in the same spot)
6. has a letter bank that's a Greek figure identified as the archer Sagittarius
7. could have a letter added internally to become a synonym for "archer"



## MARKSMANSHIP

The answer to each Target clue is a four-letter word. For each, shoot one of the bigrams at bottom into its exact center to form one of the answers clued by a First Arrow clue (clues are given in random order). Then, fire a single-letter Second Arrow, splitting the first, to form an unclued final word.

TARGET: Accomplishment / Awful fate / Cheers's Roger / Downhill racer / Laugh riot / Lean and strong / Prompted / Strap / Tote / Twinge

FIRST ARROW: Asian stew / Canines, en masse / Colors anew / Dinged / Groping / Hair amount? / Keep / Napa site / Quenched / Twirly

TF WI AK NT RL DY TA GD TP NE

# living off the land

Nathan Fung

Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana enjoyed their early days living in the wilderness. From the bounty of the earth, they were able to assemble three square meals a day.

Cut out the tiles on this page and the next and assemble them edge-to-edge so that each statement on an arrow accurately describes the item on the tile to which it points ("item" here and in the statements refers to any of the eighteen large words in the center of a tile). No tile may overlap another.

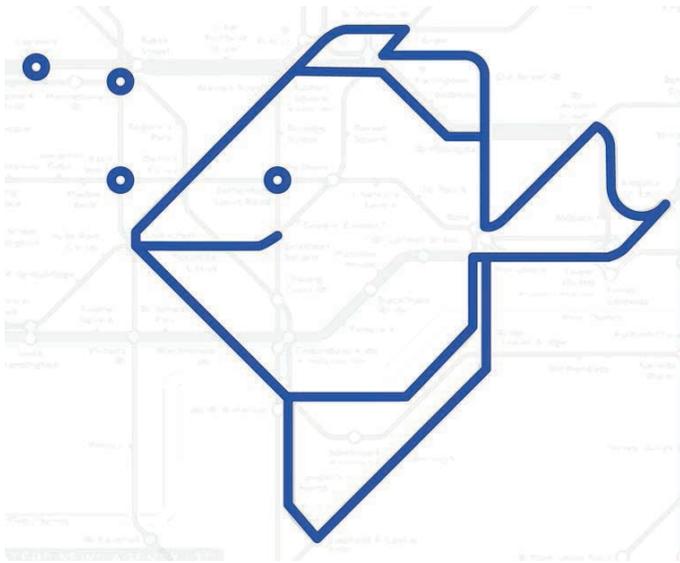
<p>CONTAINS EXACTLY ONE SYLLABLE</p> <p>IS POISONOUS IF A TRIGRAM IS REMOVED</p> <p><b>BREADFRUIT</b></p> <p>CONTAINS EXACTLY ONE SYLLABLE</p> <p>1</p>	<p>CONTAINS MORE VOWELS THAN CONSONANTS</p> <p>CONTAINS EXACTLY THREE SYLLABLES</p> <p><b>BREAKFAST</b></p> <p>CONTAINS A DOUBLE CONSONANT</p> <p>CONTAINS MORE VOWELS THAN CONSONANTS</p>	<p>IS A LONG WORD NESTED IN A SHORT WORD</p> <p>IS AN EDIBLE ITEM IF AN "S" IS INSERTED INSIDE</p> <p><b>DINNER</b></p> <p>IS A LONG WORD NESTED IN A SHORT WORD</p> <p>ALTERNATES VOWELS AND CONSONANTS</p>
<p>SHARES A 4-LETTER SEQUENCE WITH ANOTHER ITEM</p> <p>BECOMES A MEAT ITEM IF REVERSED AND GIVEN NEW VOWELS</p> <p><b>EGGPLANT</b></p> <p>DOES NOT CONTAIN THE LETTER "E"</p> <p>CONTAINS THE LETTER "E" TWICE</p>	<p>IS LESS THAN EIGHT LETTERS LONG</p> <p>CONTAINS NO REPEATED LETTERS</p> <p><b>GUAVA</b></p> <p>CONTAINS A DOUBLE LETTER</p> <p>1</p>	<p>IS A WORD IF THE LETTER ON ONE END IS DELETED</p> <p>IS A WORD IF THE LETTER ON ONE END IS DELETED</p> <p><b>KALE</b></p> <p>CONTAINS A DOUBLE VOWEL</p> <p>CONTAINS A DOUBLE CONSONANT</p>
<p>BECOMES A MEAT ITEM IF THE FIRST LETTER MOVES TO THE END AND CHANGES</p> <p>IS AT LEAST SIX LETTERS LONG</p> <p><b>KOHLRABI</b></p> <p>IS EDIBLE WHEN CURTAILED AND REVERSED</p> <p>2</p>	<p>CONTAINS ALL OF THE CONSONANTS FROM ANOTHER ITEM IN ORDER</p> <p>CONTAINS AT LEAST ONE U.S. STATE POSTAL ABBREVIATION</p> <p><b>LEEK</b></p> <p>CONTAINS NO U.S. STATE POSTAL ABBREVIATION</p> <p>2</p>	<p>CONTAINS FOUR DIFFERENT VOWELS</p> <p>CONTAINS ANOTHER ITEM IN JUMBLED ORDER</p> <p><b>LUNCH</b></p> <p>IS AN EVEN NUMBER OF LETTERS LONG</p> <p>4</p>

<p>LYCHEE</p> <p>ALTERNATES VOWELS AND CONSONANTS</p> <p>HAS AN EVEN NUMBER OF LETTERS LONG</p> <p>SHARES A 4-LETTER SEQUENCE WITH ANOTHER ITEM</p> <p>REMAINS EDIBLE IF THE FIRST LETTER IS REMOVED</p>	<p>MOREL</p> <p>HAS AN EQUAL NUMBER OF VOWELS AND CONSONANTS</p> <p>CONTAINS A DOUBLE CONSONANT</p> <p>5</p>	<p>OLIVE</p> <p>CAN BE SPLIT INTO TWO VERBS</p> <p>CONTAINS A DOUBLE LETTER</p> <p>CAN BE SPLIT INTO TWO VERBS</p> <p>4</p>
<p>POTATO</p> <p>CONTAINS A DOUBLE VOWEL</p> <p>IS AN ODD NUMBER OF LETTERS LONG</p> <p>IS A WORD IF THE LETTER ON ONE END IS DELETED</p> <p>IS AN EVEN NUMBER OF LETTERS LONG</p>	<p>RICE</p> <p>CONTAINS MORE CONSONANTS THAN VOWELS</p> <p>CONTAINS EXACTLY TWO SYLLABLES</p> <p>CONTAINS A 5-LETTER PALINDROMIC SEQUENCE</p> <p>2</p>	<p>SHALLOT</p> <p>CONTAINS EXACTLY TWO SYLLABLES</p> <p>ANAGRAMS TO A HOMOPHONE OF ANOTHER ITEM</p> <p>CONTAINS A 4-LETTER BEVERAGE BRAND</p> <p>5</p>
<p>SHIITAKE</p> <p>IS A LONG WORD NESTED IN A SHORT WORD</p> <p>IS A BEVERAGE IF BEHEADED</p> <p>CONTAINS THE LETTER "L"</p> <p>IS EDIBLE IF EVERY OTHER LETTER IS REMOVED</p>	<p>TANGERINE</p> <p>IS AN EVEN NUMBER OF LETTERS LONG</p> <p>IS A BEVERAGE WHETHER 3 OR 4 ADJACENT LETTERS ARE REMOVED</p> <p>IS AN ODD NUMBER OF LETTERS LONG</p> <p>3</p>	<p>WATERMELON</p> <p>CONTAINS A COOKING IMPLEMENT</p> <p>CONTAINS EXACTLY TWO SYLLABLES</p> <p>CONTAINS ALL OF THE CONSONANTS FROM ANOTHER ITEM IN ORDER</p> <p>4</p>

# many kingdoms

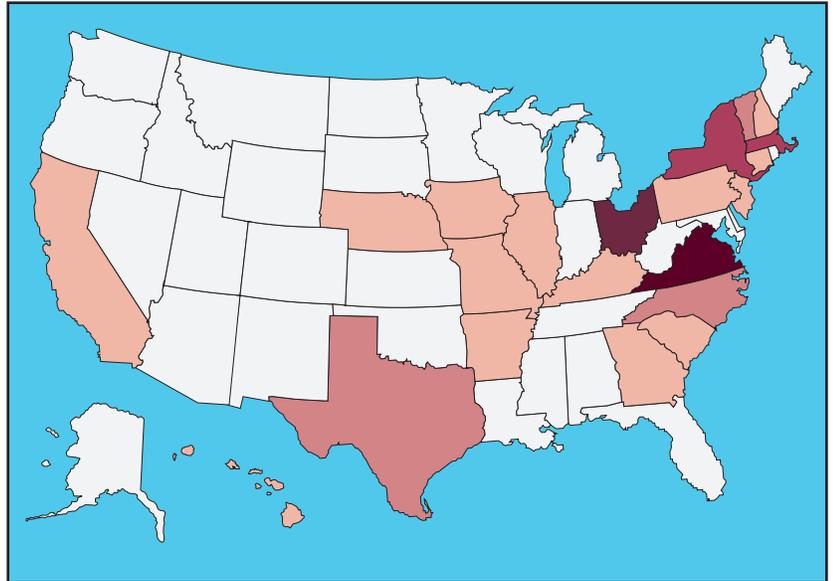
Greg Pliska

In the course of his adventures, Rama encountered a multitude of noble figures in diverse and exotic lands.



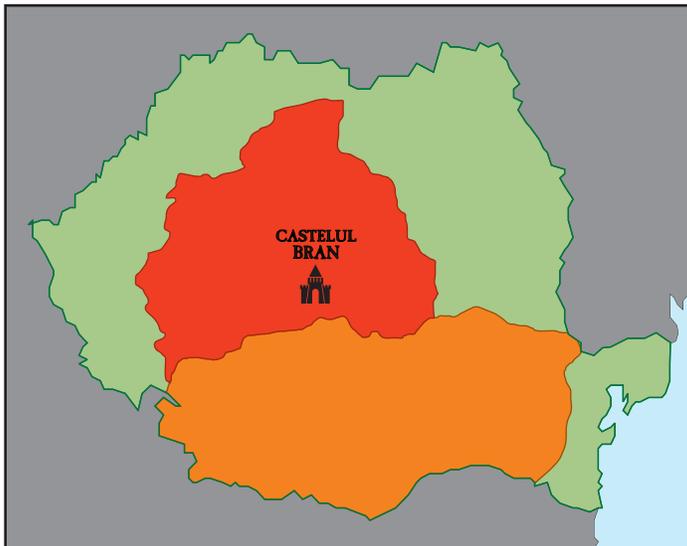
This fish can be seen crossing what body of water?

10



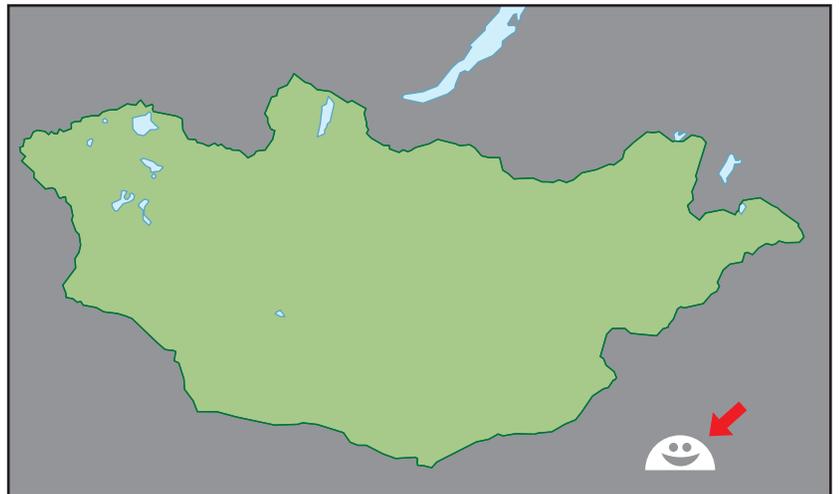
This map is associated with what group of people?

4



What historic ruler of the region shown in orange most likely never set foot in the castle shown in the red region, tourism claims to the contrary? (2 wds.)

1



What literary work's titular ruler historically created a summer residence in the location indicated on the map (at the time, well within his own borders)? (2 wds.)

7

5

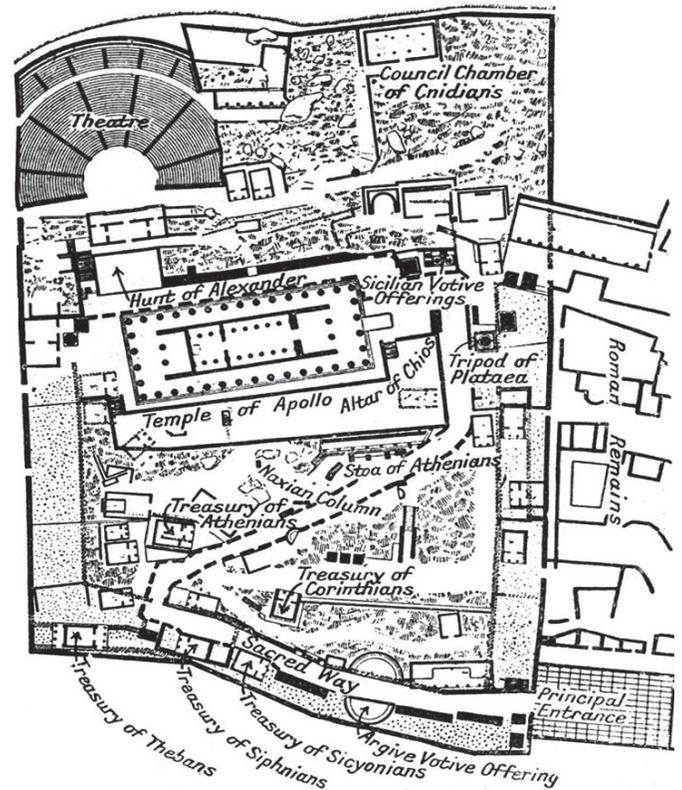


What type of musical composition is excerpted above?

What leader of the first incarnation of the nation shown converted his people to Christianity, having himself been secretly baptized at the indicated site?

11

9



What is "slowing", vis-à-vis one of the regions of this map?

What position was held by the most notable residents of this locale?

8

13

6



What is the sartorial term for the straits indicated by the dotted red line? (2 wds.)

\_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_



This map shows the 30 winners of what annual sporting event? (2 wds.)

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

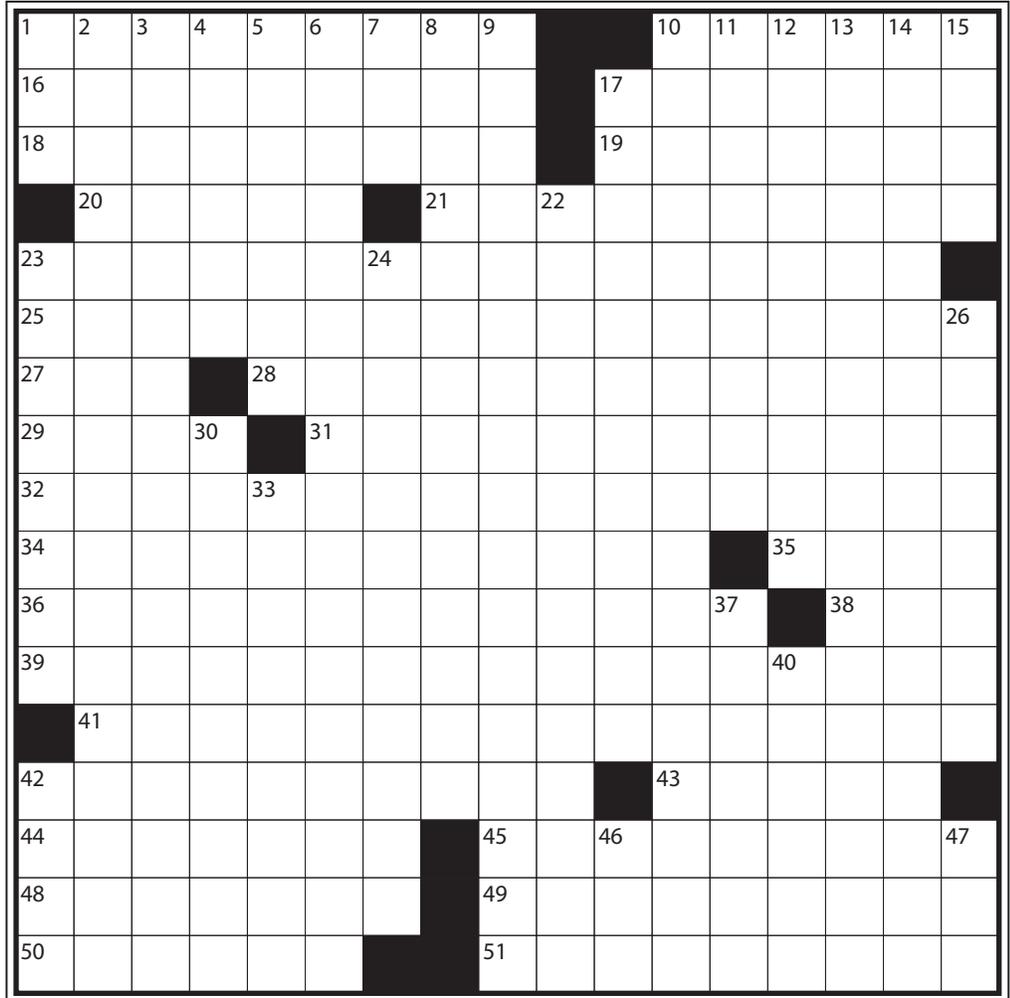
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

Ravana's monstrous and malevolent sister Surpanakha terrorized the denizens of the countryside until she met Rama and Lakshmana. Smitten, she attempted to seduce each, and her anger at being spurned led her to set Ravana's sights on Sita. While she was capable of assuming different forms, Rama was very aware that though Surpanakha changed her shape multiple times, she was always essentially the same.

In a "Something Different" crossword, entries may be multi-word phrases of a freewheeling nature.

## ACROSS

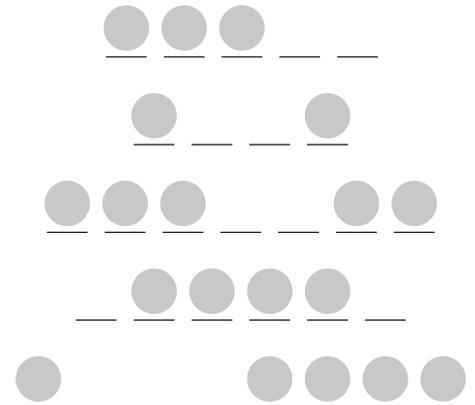
- 1 What happens when pod-mates are punched in the stomach
- 10 Use talons on
- 16 Excuse you might hear on an iPhone
- 17 Gave Umberto a prompt
- 18 Agitate a lazybones
- 19 You might title an essay about one heavy medieval weapon this
- 20 Lacked
- 21 Part of a letter gives someone the boot
- 23 Allow Ms Oyl to serve as a fishing pole
- 25 Very intricately folded Rwandan hereditary units
- 27 Mutual Broadcasting System flagship
- 28 Editorially remove pageant wear made of bird droppings
- 29 Region
- 31 Kerouac type taking a cruise
- 32 "A shed where you'd keep tools"
- 34 One's wife or mother married mom
- 35 - or -
- 36 Dramatic, total success for a submarine
- 38 New work funder, often
- 39 A couple of entourages preparing to golf
- 41 Nicely personalizes sarin to give as a gift
- 42 "The African Queen" screenplay by ..., say
- 43 Electronic gurgling sound
- 44 Lovingly murmur clayey soil's name
- 45 Where to buy baby bears in the Mideast
- 48 Asimov novel about Thanksgiving dinner
- 49 All those committing a crime \_\_\_\_\_
- 50 Like most of Fiji
- 51 Guide the citizens of an Indian state



## DOWN

- 1 More than one afterthought
- 2 Dental care brand of the pair you and I rely on routinely
- 3 Operatic solo exhausted Lorna completely
- 4 Mutt at the Round Table
- 5 Acquire boy
- 6 Erstwhile physique is blackened
- 7 Cottonseed or corn derivative
- 8 Awfully heavy brewed beverages declined
- 9 Broadway show with the songs "Match-taker, Match-taker" and "Isn't It Py-romantic?"
- 10 Shirtsleeve adornment is unable to make another offer
- 11 Foliaceous target
- 12 Be a fan of a hot guy

- 13 Become irksome to a big lizard from Japan maybe
- 14 "Yield, old breath mint, one more time"
- 15 Piggies
- 17 Hairstyles help Calliope or Euterpe
- 22 Set of fake teeth newly brought into pitch
- 23 Moo in regards to
- 24 Vivacious in a truly disgusting way
- 26 Girls with crushes on gay, thick carpets
- 30 Not yet apprehended Lawrence Tureaud
- 33 Red velvet item in a western flick
- 37 League including Costner, Federline, etc.
- 40 One place to see morays in captivity
- 42 Trip instigator perhaps
- 46 Estelle, Rue, and Betty's costar
- 47 Some NFL linemen



# rama and sita

Brent and Linda Holman

Rama and Sita's love was as solid as a rock. Even when separated, there was so much that they shared.

Each row and column contains 2 or 3 answers, entered sequentially one letter per square. Clues for any single grid are given in order, though the two sets of clues are mingled and must be separated.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1													
2													
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7													
8													
9													
10													
11													
12													
13													

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1													
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6													
7													
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11													
12													
13													

## ROWS

- 1 Nether area a car wash might clean / Place with many stalls / Departed / Correct
- 2 Pierre's parting / Expire / Vassal's boss / "\_\_\_ is a person, place or thing" (2 wds.) / Exterior / \_\_\_ Fighters
- 3 Bulbous plant part / Fiiiiinally (3 wds.) / NASCAR sponsor / Pierre's pal / Cleopatra's paramour...
- 4 ... and the site of their romance / Departed / Casual assents / Fawning figure (maybe) / Grope (2 wds.) / Ricelike pasta
- 5 "Desist!" / Hoover's org. / Mascot of a puzzle magazine recently publishing its 50th issue / Unfreeze again / Feline / Silk pattern
- 6 Herculean chore / Susan of soaps / Those not crashing a party / Like eggs or olives / Genesis creator
- 7 Caesar's rebuke (2 wds.) / Others, to Caesar / Broken, like a bone / Jewel feature / Flawlessly (3 wds.)
- 8 Striped or spotted / Decisive ring victory / Closes / Classic '80s sitcom / Ocean motion / One member of a deadly septet
- 9 Cuts or conforms / Old El \_\_\_ / Prodded / One living an austere life / Enjoys a joke
- 10 "Come again?" / Filth / Chihuahua on the tube / Bay window style / 21-gun salute, e.g. / Old Portuguese coins or kings
- 11 Ibsen home / Self-regard / Proper place / Beautiful chains / Pellets of precipitation / With hands on hips
- 12 Ibsen heroine / Some lace work / Makeover locale / Like the Beatles? / Shampoo step / Guy on *A Prairie Home Companion*
- 13 Rte. 66, for one / Unfreeze again / Missing the school bell, maybe / Socialize at a football game in a way / Blue

## COLUMNS

- 1 Saddam's eldest / Crayola's "Peach", once / Sped / Tibetan holy man / Departed / "Jeepers!"
- 2 Tokyo, formerly / Paprika-flavored dish / Late hours, in ads / One enjoying sun or surf / Puppet "Billy"'s film(s) / Indian state
- 3 Indian metropolis / Banshee's daughter, in comics / About / Bruins' Bobby / HVAC measure / Biff and Happy's dad
- 4 Entice / "Out of the Blue" band / Gushes / Birthday or wedding staple / Senator Cochran of Mississippi / Temperament
- 5 Sign of disuse / Orange peel / Most of Sandy's dialogue / Teeming (with) / Fawning figure (definitely) / Tubular pasta
- 6 Bit for a horse / Colorful garden flower / Role for LeVar / Duty / Arab Spring occurrence
- 7 Baked, in a way? (2 wds.) / Wine or dye container / Eyelashes, e.g. / Checked out / JAG spinoff / The Honda Fit, for one (*hyph.*)
- 8 Unhearing / Bellyache / Fashion photographer Richard / *Game of Thrones* network / Neck feather / Clay, eventually
- 9 El Capitan site / Ancient glyph / G3 - F5 range / Manipulative types / Hydrocarbon of a sort
- 10 Minstrel's prop / Playful swimmer / Getting dragged along (2 wds.) / Touched down / Closing an incision, in a way
- 11 Pressure on an astronaut (*hyph.*) / H / Use as a bed (2 wds.) / Go ballistic / Secluded valleys / Kiwi's kin, at one time
- 12 Sweetheart, briefly / Veer abruptly / Your largest bone / Roof overhang / Display / International traveler's need
- 13 Hogwash / Corolla or Camry / Put down / Mess of a place / Treated with medicine / Aching

Rama visited gurus on mountain peaks, in underground grottoes, and in the forests between. Their research into the ways of dharma fired Rama's initiative and resolve, gave him facility with logic and philosophy, and imbued him with the spiritual insights the wise men had learned over their many years of humble study.

Each **dash** represents a single step forward to make along the path to enlightenment, with each **circle** also indicating a philosophical change in direction and each **hut** a place to stop and rest momentarily and perhaps practice your inscription. Set out from the hut in the upper left.

1.	 Temptress	 Amphibians	 Cajole	 Grimace	 Pagan practice
	 Norse name	 Snaky curves	 Avant-garde	 Stitch	 Close one!
2.	 Traps	 Nonets	 Cold seasons	 "The One"	 Witty Oscar
	 Rigby of song	 Wonk; dweeb	 Earns after tax	 Endor native	 Kvetches

1. S I R E N

2. ● ● \_ hut ● ●

3. ● hut ● ● ●

4. ● ● hut ● \_ \_ ●

5. hut ● ● \_ ●

6. ● hut ● ●

7. ● hut ● ● ●

8. hut ● \_ \_

9. ● hut ● \_ ● \_ \_

10. ● \_ \_ ● hut

11. ● \_ hut ● ●

12. ● \_ \_ ● hut ●

13. ● ● \_ hut

14. ● ● hut

15. ● hut ● ●

16. ● ● hut

17. ● \_ hut \_ ●

18. ● \_ ● \_ ● \_ hut

19. ● \_ ● ● \_ \_ hut

20. ● \_ \_ \_ hut

# objet d'art

Darren Rigby

Scenes from the Ramayana have been the inspiration for thousands of paintings, mosaics, engravings, tapestries, and myriad other works of visual art.

For each clue, spell out the answer rebus-style by assembling a string of tiles from the assortment below. Images, letters, or symbols represent letter strings, not necessarily phonetics, as demonstrated in the example. Clues are given alphabetically by answer, and each tile is used exactly once.

Italian dish also known as "farfalle"

To force someone to walk forward by pushing from behind

One-time employee of Mega lo Mart and Strickland Propane

Having committed no crime

Those who have committed crimes

Developing into adulthood

Popular arcade heroine of the '80s

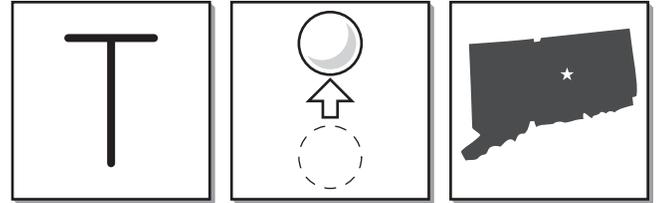
Consumed with angst, Woody Allen-style

Manila envelope's origin, perhaps?

Bunker Hill veteran who promoted using "E Pluribus Unum" on coinage, late in life

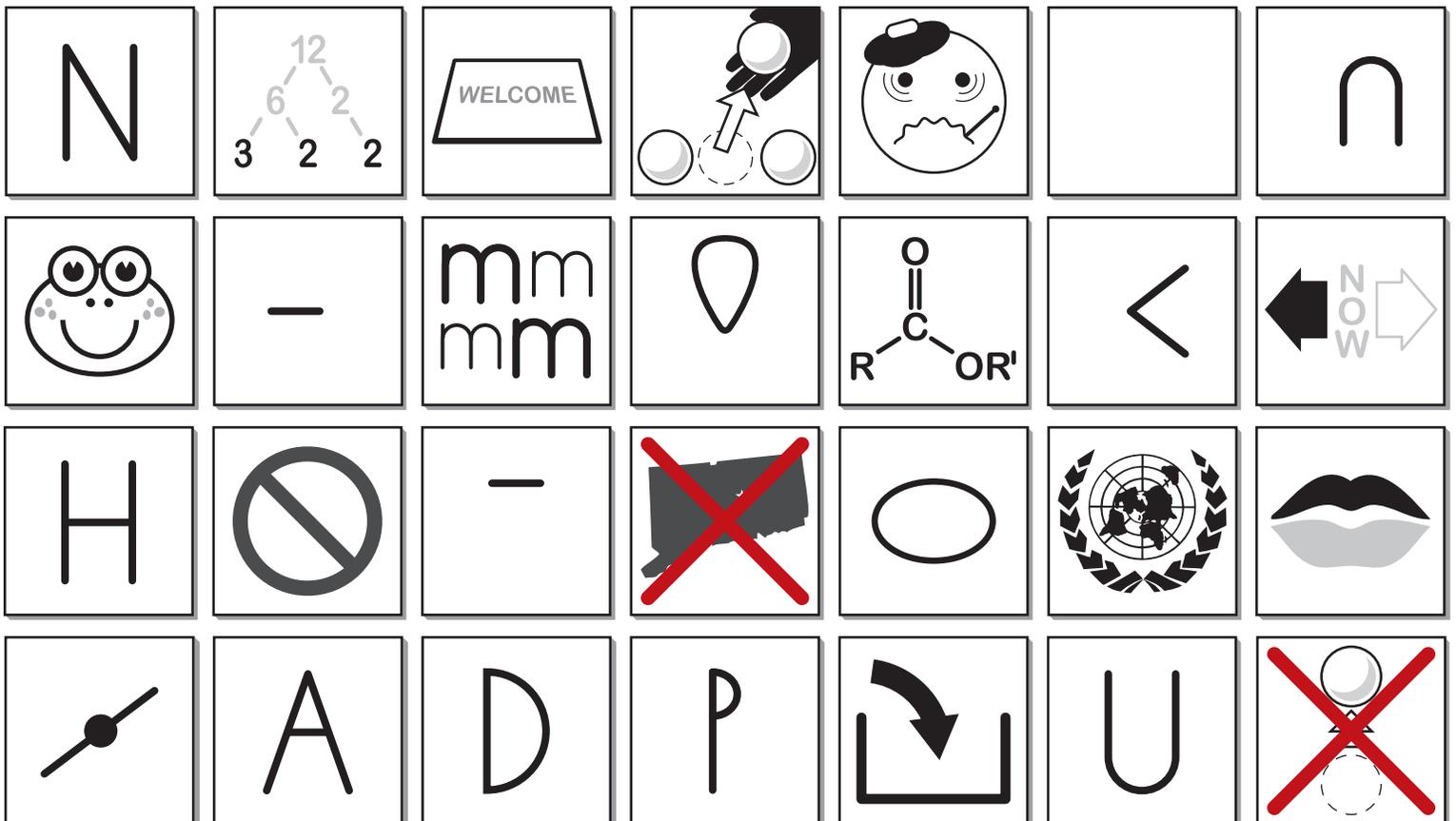
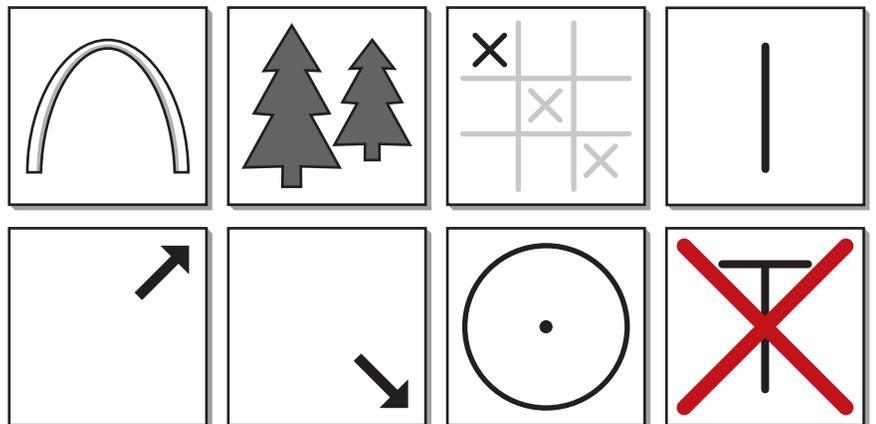
Participates in a game, or gets suddenly worse

Bald fellow often seen around Wednesday



T + RISE + CT

Example: Divide evenly into three parts = TRISECT



# astral battles

Thomas Synder

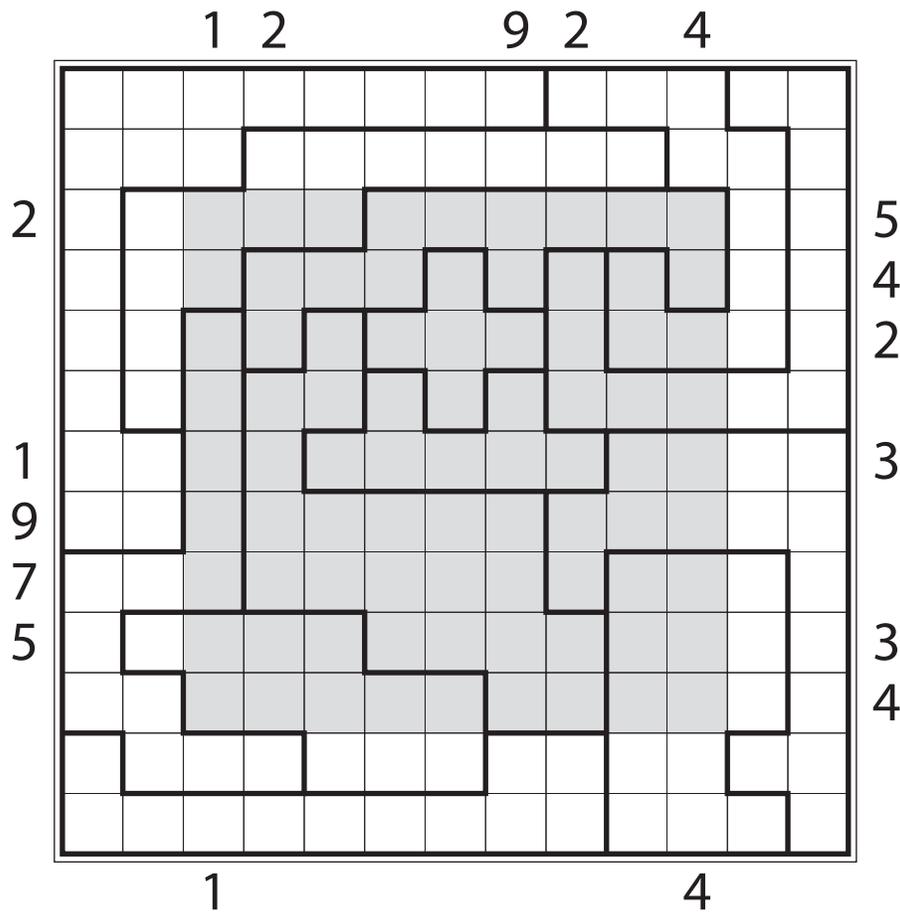
When Rama and Lakshmana battled the armies of the rakshasa lord Khara among the steep hills of Panchavati, they used "astras", powerful celestial weapons granted them by the god Indra.

Each row, column, and outlined region in the grid below contains exactly two astras, one each of Rama's and Lakshmana's. No two astras are in adjacent squares, even diagonally.

The shaded area represents the uneven terrain of the rugged battlefield. Each row and column of this area contains one plateau (square) of each height ranging from 1- 9. Numbers on the edges of the grid represent the number of distinct plateaus visible (i.e. unblocked by higher plateaus) to an observer looking horizontally or vertically from that point (consider unshaded squares to **always** be of height zero - invisible - no matter what).

Astras are dazzlingly bright, and confuse the enemy's senses. Any plateau holding an astra will appear to be one level higher (if holding Rama's astra) or one level lower (if holding Lakshmana's). Every distinct true height from 1 - 9 will be affected by at least one astra. Any plateau will be blocked by a plateau of the same apparent height.

When the grid is complete, note the letters in squares corresponding to the the positions of the astras in the shaded region. Adjust them by the actual height of the corresponding plateau, moving later in the alphabet if they hold Rama's astra, and earlier in the alphabet if they hold Lakshmana's.



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

After Rama vanquished Sugriva's brother Vali, Sugriva became ruler of the monkey kingdom. For a year he seemed to forget his pledge to help Rama find Sita, the only thing Rama desired in return. Eventually, though, they saw eye-to-eye.

SAY THE RAMATHING

???

5

ATTRACTION TINKERS

4 EVIDENCE MARCH

3 ACQUISITION FOREIGN AFFAIRS

2 ENGAGEMENT INDEPENDENCE DAY

1 ORDER BELOVED

YOU'VE WON 312 BANANAS!

POST GAME PLAY AGAIN

SAY THE RAMATHING

???

5

SORTIE ARRRRRRR

4 SVEN AVAST

3 DIRTY SHIVER ME TIMBERS

2 VENTI YO HO HO

1 NIFTY ARRR

YOU'VE WON 153 BANANAS!

POST GAME PLAY AGAIN

SAY THE RAMATHING

???

5

SPACE MENTAL

4 BEER SILVER

3 BENIGN AWKWARD

2 BRIDGE MIDDLE

1 CROW NEW

YOU'VE WON 234 BANANAS!

POST GAME PLAY AGAIN

SAY THE RAMATHING

???

5

ANTIAIRCRAFT RAIDER

4 INTERVIEWING ANT

3 PREBURLESQUE MIRACLE

2 COLLABORATOR ANIMAL

1 TESTOSTERONE CRICKET

YOU'VE WON 558 BANANAS!

POST GAME PLAY AGAIN

SAY THE RAMATHING

???

5

LEAF CREWED

4 TOGA FÊTED

3 WENT WEILL

2 PAWS OFFAL

1 AUNT GRIZZLY

YOU'VE WON 321 BANANAS!

POST GAME PLAY AGAIN

SAY THE RAMATHING

???

5

LEMON LUSH

4 GROVE MOOLAH

3 HUNTER NAUSEOUS

2 PLANK ENVIRONMENTAL

1 FORD ENVIOUS

YOU'VE WON 123 BANANAS!

POST GAME PLAY AGAIN

$$3 / 2 \ 3 \ 5 \ 5 = \text{"???"}$$



# hanuman's leap

Eric Berlin

Hanuman, bravest and wisest of all the monkeys, leapt over a hundred leagues across the sea to find Sita on the island of Lanka. Son of the Wind, Hanuman was able to change direction mid-leap to avoid great waves, evil nagas, and other adversity, but he somehow maintained a consistent altitude.

In a 'Wry Tangles' puzzle, each answer begins in its numbered square and proceeds in the direction given, but makes exactly one 90° turn at some point along its length. All letters are used in exactly two words, except for a handful in each grid used only once; the singletons in each grid will make a word that's half of your answer.

	1						
				2	3		
			4		5		6
			7				8
	9	10	11		12		
			13		14		
			15				
16	17	18					19

		1	2				
3						4	5
	6				7	8	
		9	10				
			11				12
		13		14			15
16	17			18			19
		20					

## CLUES

- 1W Statement of faith
- 2W Criticized harshly; hated
- 3E Legal order such as habeas corpus
- 4W Flue debris
- 5N Newborn heard at night
- 6W Not at all raring to go
- 7S Major blood vessels
- 8W Legendary Greek advisor
- 9N With great tact or precision
- 10N Comic's question after a topical joke fails (2 wds.)
- 11N Feedbag bits
- 12W The Dixie Chicks, e.g.
- 13W Entertainer good for a romantic lay?
- 14S Question from 5N?
- 14S Move violently back and forth, like a certain cutting tool
- 15W Beseeches Vishnu, say
- 16N Class outlines
- 17N Transform strangely
- 18E Shooting for the stars
- 19N Cleverness or cunning

## CLUES

- 1S Identical
- 2W Plantation of literature and filmdom
- 3S Insurrection
- 4W Mildly reproofs
- 5N Some sculpted trunks (var.)
- 6N Mend, like a sock
- 6S Nile or Mississippi river feature
- 7S Protrude, like a rocky peak
- 8E The first Prime Minister of India
- 9N Smuggler's unit
- 10N Indian loincloth
- 11S Feverish flu symptom
- 12N Master of oratorical devices
- 13E Most hideous
- 14N Wasn't truthful
- 15W Greasily smarmy
- 16S Venues for licentious hedonism
- 17E Mutts; curs
- 18W Fairy tale or garden figure
- 19W OK with letting things slide
- 20W Be autonomous, vis-à-vis rule (hyph.)

*Though Hanuman was able to leap from the shore of India all the way to the island of Lanka, getting the rest of Rama's allies there was going to be trickier. If only there was some sort of creature that was good at traversing water....*

To build a bridge between India and Lanka, follow this useful plan carefully.

1. Gather the following supplies: sixteen giant limestone boulders, a large quantity of seashells variously colored bone, ivory, and cream, four cans of paint in bone, cream, ivory, and off-white, Jambavan, King of the Bears, and a live duck. Please do not endanger the life of the duck at any time. You'd be pretty hard-pressed to endanger the life of Jambavan, King of the Bears, who has, I quote, "the strength of ten million lions."
2. Enchant the boulders so that they float (if this proves difficult, shoot arrows into the sea and threaten to destroy it – I'm assuming you're an incarnation of Vishnu here – until the King of the Sea shows up and asks you to stop it. He'll happily enchant them for you to get you to stop shooting arrows into his sea).
3. Arrange the boulders equidistantly between India and Ceylon, oops, *LANKA*. Cycling through the bone, cream, ivory, and off-white paint one boulder at a time, paint the phrase "FUNCTIONAL DESIGN" from west to east, one letter per boulder.
4. Distribute one seashell to each boulder, west to east, cycling through bone, ivory, and cream.
5. Repeat Step #4, beginning with the next color in the sequence after the last one you used. If a boulder has already accumulated at least as many seashells as its letter's alphanumeric value (A=1, B=2, etc.), skip that boulder (by "you" of course, I don't mean you personally; you have monkeys for this).
6. Continue to repeat Step #4 until it is impossible to do so (impossible because the boulders have their quota of seashells, not because they're floating in the sea many leagues apart).
7. Oh, I forgot! If a shell would land on a boulder with a letter painted in the shell's own color, skip that boulder, resuming with the next.
8. Meanwhile, the duck and Jambavan have not been idle. Beginning with Step #5, and at the end of every subsequent step, they will move according to the following rules:
9. Jambavan begins at the western-most boulder and on each step will leap across two boulders, landing on the third. If he gets to the end of the boulders, he will reverse directions in mid-air and continue on. If Jambavan, who is, I quote, "handsome", lands on a boulder where there is a preponderance of one color of seashells, he will scoop up those shells and add them to his crown (removing them permanently from the boulder). He is, after all, King of the Bears.
10. The duck begins on a boulder with a letter that could be changed to form the name of a well-known duck in the letter sequence. Incidentally, the duck's name is Sterling. On each step the duck will move, if possible, in the direction opposite Jambavan's movement, traveling to the next boulder in the line. If there is a preponderance of one color of seashells on that boulder, he will repaint the letter on the boulder to match that color.
11. If Jambavan ever lands on the same boulder as the duck, he will grip it in his mighty jaws and shake it until it stops moving for good. He is, after all, King of the Bears.
12. Did you know that "Rama's Bridge" is a real thing? It is. There's a string of shoals separating the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait that might once have been a land connection between India and Ceylon, oops, *LANKA*. The Ramayana refers to the bridge created by Rama as "Setubandhanam", a name which apparently still persists. Huh.
13. If the six-letter name of a fictional bear appears in the letter string, reverse it, also swapping the positions of the letters immediately before and after it.

14. Are you finished with the seashells yet? Contemplate your letter string.
15. Contemplate it some more.
16. Contemplate your limitations.
17. Try to write a Duck Konundrum. Write a class outline instead.
18. Try to again. Write some syllabi. Those don't exactly write themselves either, you know.
19. Embrace your limitations.
20. Contemplate your letter string.
21. Keeeeeeep contemplating it.....

# the battle of lanka

Kevin Wald and Jeffrey Harris

In the battle of Lanka, the heroes had to fight their way through bands of guards marching around and around the palace, each with its own demonic leader and way of doing things.

Each row contains two answers, clued in order. Clues are normal, but rows are given in arbitrary order. Each band consists of a series of words clued cryptically. A different gimmick is employed in each band. Be mindful of sneaky letters in the cluing for some bands.

## ROWS

- Aptitude or adeptness / *Bambi* setting
- Back up; help out / Distant cloud
- Become rougher or cruder / Old-fashioned hue and cry
- The Biltmore and others / Film developed over time
- Go by again on the highway / Ghost or phantom
- Graduated / Like a dirty porch perhaps
- Idyllic locale / Prudential it's not
- Kind of acid / My (otherwise perfect) Jack Russell terrier  
Riley and similar dogs
- Makes a sentence shorter? / Lines of work
- Nonetheless, a bit informally / Render less dangerous
- Small opening for a lace / "Impossible!" (3 wds.)
- Soaps, etc. / Bird with a feathery crown
- Typical homework assignment / A steal in a store

## BANDS

- A.** Briefly tells of nasty scrape  
Regions of Mars showing trace of aliens  
Boom box  
Stale or rotten ingredient in diet snack chips  
Shakespearean character's tragic, sad end absorbing  
angsty teen  
"I am Satan!" snarled in devil's home  
To be rude at the dinner table, perhaps prattle about  
recipe  
Cliché seen in *Topaz* initially, then another Hitchcock film
- B.** Extremely sweet tea boiling over  
Fight past tax  
Entomb Han's first sister, holding rosary primarily  
Bit of plain old morphine to go very slowly  
Footballer Cristiano charged a lord? No  
I woke disoriented, hooting lines reminiscent of Hedwig  
Scientific guy Bill's family gets close to sand in an  
old-fashioned way  
Mac is in flue with zero way to blend in briefly
- C.** Arkansas roads recalled in November magazine  
Rate resort at European mountain ridge "Satisfactory"
- D.** He had a bite, nods off  
Drops beehive, e.g., loudly on the ground  
Almost all of snakes brag  
Picks Freudian topics out of a lineup  
Really awesome pilot's problem, essentially  
Muhammed's two notes describing the first daughter
- E.** Sick one-act plays about some Nazis  
Noblewoman is embraced by De Sade unnaturally
- F.** Knock cask of wine: "Egyptian water (filthy place) that's  
most like undercooked eggs"

