

# look! up in the sky!

You've doubtless seen the Jade Rabbit Yutu many times, up on the moon working a mortar and pestle. Yutu is busy concocting the Elixir of Immortality for the moon goddess Chang'e, a benevolent and selfless labor -- but this hasn't always been the case! Some of Yutu's past exploits (as recounted in *Journey to the West* and other sources) have been mischievous to say the least; the current hard work with the mortar and pestle is going a long way to expiate past misdeeds.

Welcome to the moon! Please join Yutu in hopping from place to place, getting a small glimpse of Chinese cosmology along the way. As you travel the lunar landscape, perhaps you can discover: **Why is Yutu atoning?**



Dear Solvers,

I hope you enjoy these puzzles, and this look at just a tiny corner of a rich and varied folklore. A few things to bear in mind:

- Confirming individual puzzle answers via the answer checker is recommended, but is not strictly necessary for this set.
- To access the final puzzle, enter into the answer checker an unspaced string composed of the initial trigrams of any eleven puzzle answers, alphabetically ordered within the string.

When you've arrived at your final answer, please send it to me at markhalpin3 at gmail dot com to get a place on the Leaderboard. The first pair or solo solver to do so will win a one-year subscription to Outside the Box puzzles. For those who prefer a more leisurely solve, one other solver drawn randomly from all those submitting the correct answer before Monday, September 15th will receive a one-year subscription to P&A magazine. At that point, I'll post hints and solutions.

As ever, all puzzles may be printed to solve, but, as it was well-received last year, there are again spreadsheet versions of some of the puzzles as well. These spreadsheets can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/57eb2cp9>.

Contributions to the Tip Jar this year will go to benefit the Trevor Project ([thetrevorproject.org](http://thetrevorproject.org)). While there's no suggested donation amount, perhaps consider what you'd pay per person to enjoy a movie, escape room or similar. Creating these sets of puzzles is a labor of love for me; in times that are currently especially difficult for many threatened communities and individuals, I'd love for that labor to benefit a cause that's close to my heart. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Using online resources to help solve is fair game. Specific knowledge of the inspirational source material is not required, and flavor text is often clueful.

Happy solving!

Mark/Zebraboy

# bowls

Yutu sometimes stores ingredients in large bowls (among other vessels).

Rows answers are entered in order, left to right. Bowls answers are all eight letters long, and fill loops either CW or CCW, starting anywhere within the loop.

## BOWLS

Cyclists' place on the road (2 wds)

Lacking all social mores or values

Cassandra better known as Elvira

Cooler at a tailgate party (2 wds)

2001 Afghani battle site (2 wds)

Truthfulness

Fenced area on a farm

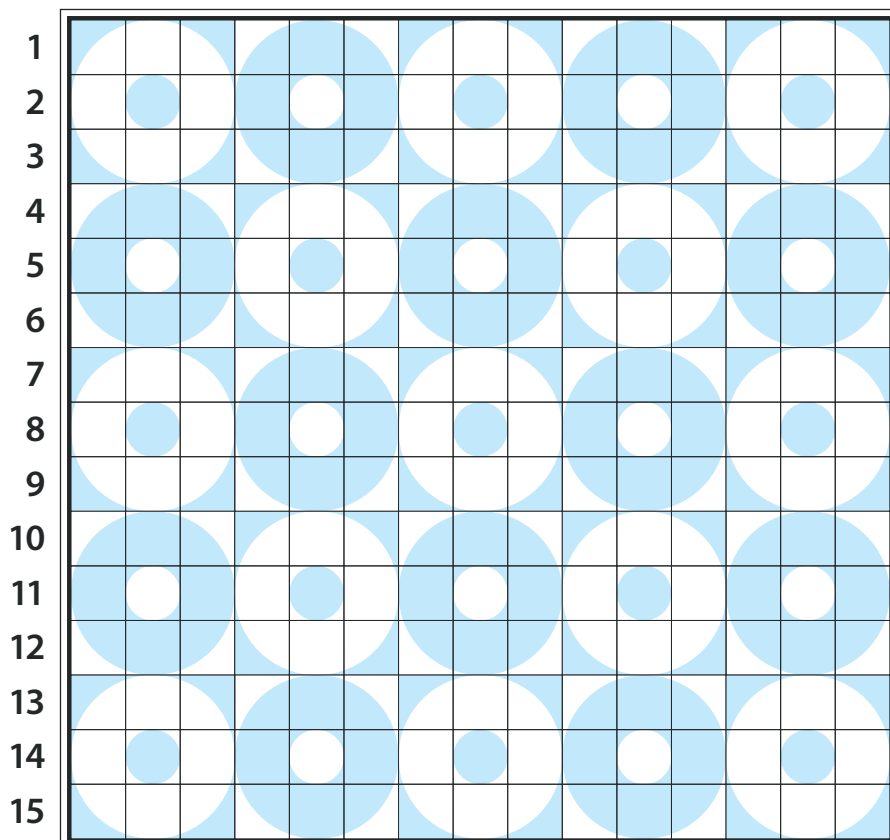
Least easy to get to

Summertime soup

Ocean commerce (2 wds)

More dishevelled or messy

Put back into the market



Window frame or window type

It's between 10<sup>14</sup> and 10<sup>15</sup> of something

One waging battles

Greek potsherd once used in banishments

"Akimbo" musical theatre character

Brown sugar from Guyana

Carrots' cousins

Big windfalls or jackpots

Flag, or benchmark criterion

First Winter Olympics host city

Moral or navigational guidance provider

Restroom dispenser contents (2 wds)

She might knead you

## ROWS

1 Peace Nobelist Sakharov / Gâteau with cloves, ginger, etc. (2 wds)

2 A bowl / A bowl

3 Cruciverbalist Pasco / Analyze grammatically / Scarecrow stuffing

4 Won an Olympics event / Army's football rival / Diplomacy

5 A bowl / A bowl / A bowl

6 Ornithologists' dearest specimens, perhaps (2 wds) / Unbranched inflorescence

7 Flashlight, across the pond / Apt "moon-starer" anagram

8 A bowl / A bowl

9 Hollywood bigwig Jeff who founded Studio 8 / Fertilizer compounds

10 Gunsmoke star James / Mend a sock, maybe / Former U.N. head Kofi

11 A bowl / A bowl / A bowl

12 Small drink of whiskey / Valentine's Day flower / Biblical figure in a Faulkner title

13 Croatian capital / Quark-antiquark particle / Tread laboriously

14 A bowl / A bowl

15 Like Billy Ray Cyrus's broken heart? / Face, in slang / Les \_\_\_\_-Unis

# cat's revenge

Long ago, the Jade Emperor hosted a celebration at which he elevated all of his guests to distinguished positions. One of the invitees, sadly, tricked Cat into missing the celebration and the attendant honors, which is why Cat is aloof to this day.

Recently, Cat decided to throw a film festival, and he didn't invite any of his former friends. That'll show 'em!



★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆



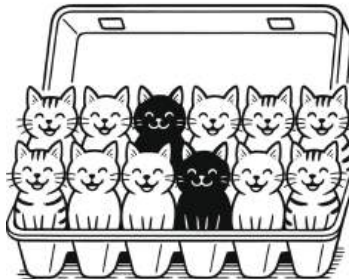
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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆



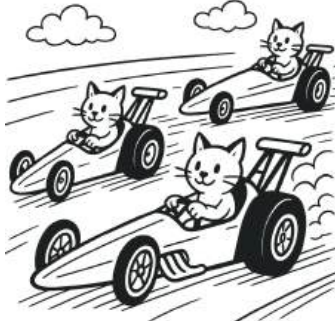
★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆



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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆



★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Scott Bakula & Henry Fonda  
Antonio Banderas & George Clooney  
Kirsten Dunst & Mike Myers  
America Ferrera & Stephen Fry

Sally Field & Bruce Willis  
Eva Gabor & Jane Seymour  
Cuba Gooding Jr, & Keanu Reeves  
Samuel L. Jackson & Joey Lawrence

Nathan Lane & Kathleen Turner  
Ian McKellen & Robert Redford  
Bill Murray & John Wayne  
Aubrey Plaza & Mickey Rooney

chandra

Yutu will occasionally enjoy a cup of tea with another moon resident, the Hindu moon god Chandra. From his lunar home, Chandra oversees the tides, controlling the ebb and flow of all the waters of the Earth.

The answer to each clue will flow into the spaces in the following clue, completing it. The final entry in each line will flow into the first clue of the following line. Clues in each set are given out of order. The final answer is a single word.

A 10x8 grid of 80 squares, alternating between light blue and white in a checkerboard pattern. The grid is labeled 1 to 8 on the left side, corresponding to the rows.

1. C \_\_\_\_ s  
Enter via o \_\_ o \_\_ s (2 wds)  
Mo \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ l \_ hy  
No longer \_ l \_ \_\_ \_\_ g  
Nuke, in a way  
P \_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ y, as a room

5. \_\_fe\_\_ grp.  
 \_b\_\_i\_ (2 wds)  
 \_h\_ck; \_a\_\_\_us  
 C\_\_\_r \_\_nday a\_tivity  
 D\_\_\_\_s  
 Set of \_\_a\_a\_le items

2. \_\_ o \_\_ e  
\_\_ w \_\_ w \_\_ e co.  
\_\_ y \_\_ s \_\_  
\_\_ w \_\_ d \_\_ nds  
C \_\_ \_\_ d, aka  
Ski t \_\_ r d \_\_ r \_\_ \_\_ or

6. \_\_\_\_ k of du \_ t  
 \_\_ u \_\_ contai \_ s \_ me  
 A \_\_ a \_\_\_\_  
 Like a f \_ y \_ e \_ \_  
 Not re \_ \_ \_ \_  
 With "i \_," pri \_ s or m \_ \_ d \_ \_ \_

3. \_ \_ \_ \_ tin \_  
\_ ix \_ arts of an \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
Big r \_ p \_ \_ \_ \_  
Delicate \_ e \_ \_ \_ \_ supply  
Sp \_ \_ i \_ \_  
To \_ ic of a t \_ \_ \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ on

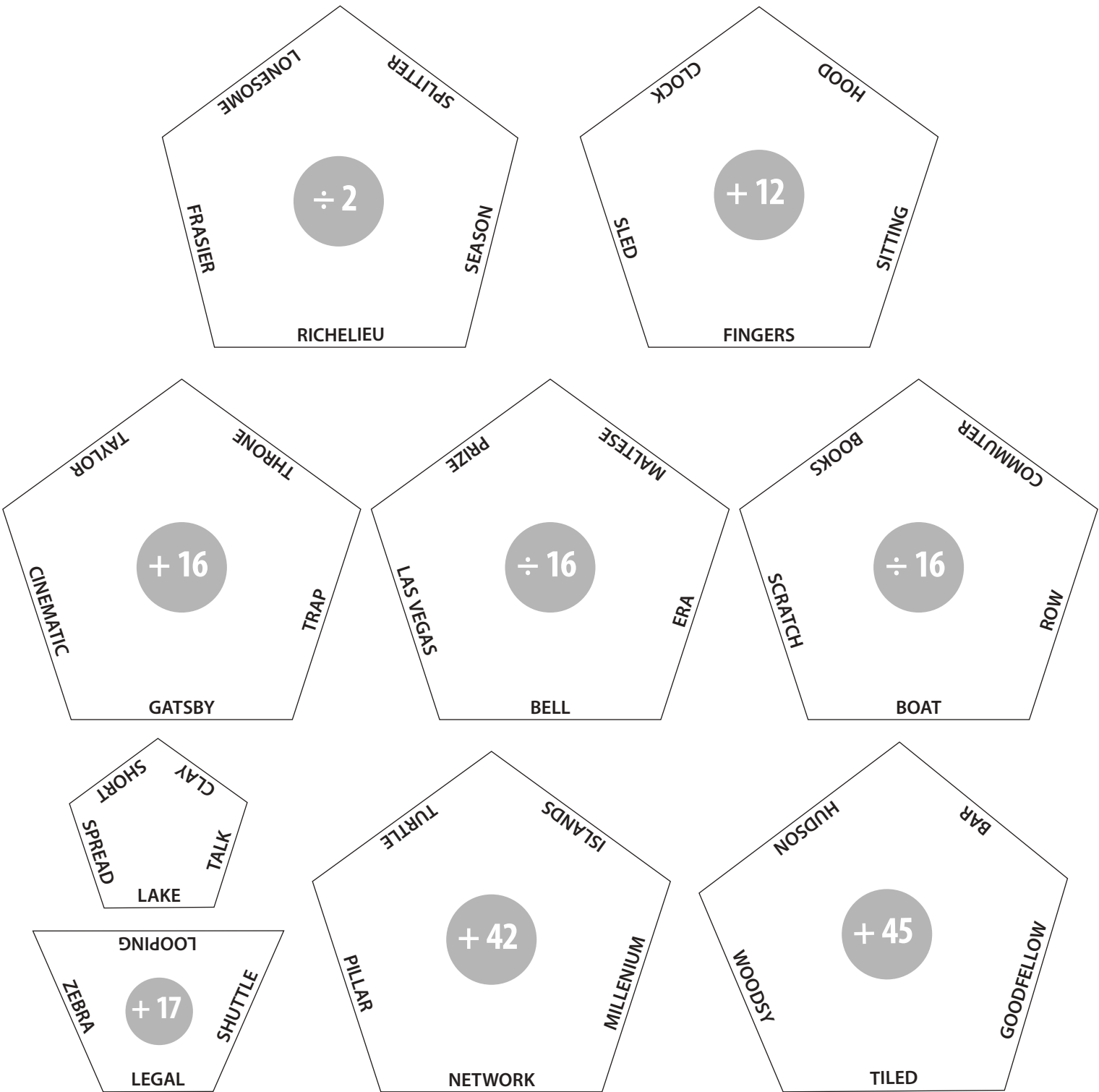
7. \_ \_ th \_ \_ i \_ g \_ p result  
\_ \_ \_ b \_ \_ s  
\_ \_ \_ d \_ a \_ part  
\_ \_ re \_ r \_ connector  
Boy with a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ et  
Like a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ e or gorg \_ \_

4. \_\_\_\_ a determination, maybe  
 \_\_\_\_ l \_\_\_\_ ms  
 \_\_\_\_ cal hero  
 E.g. prepare \_\_\_\_ a  
 S \_\_\_\_ flavor  
 S \_\_\_\_ nd; \_\_\_\_ e \_\_\_\_ t

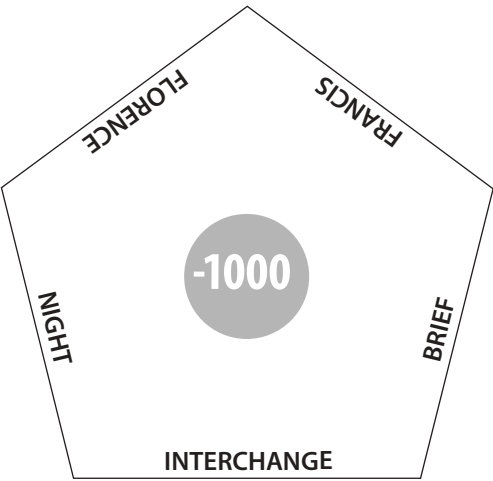
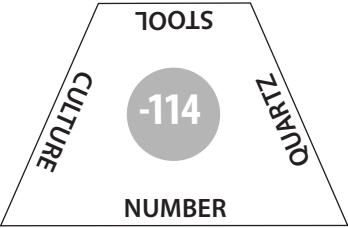
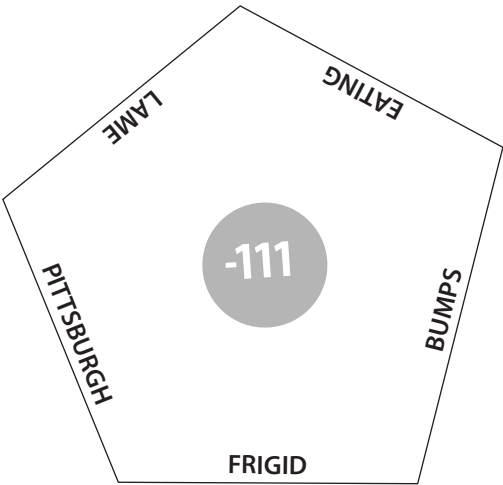
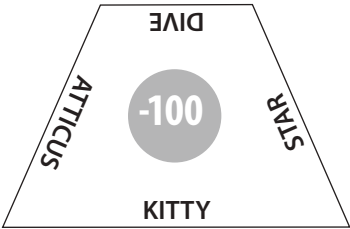
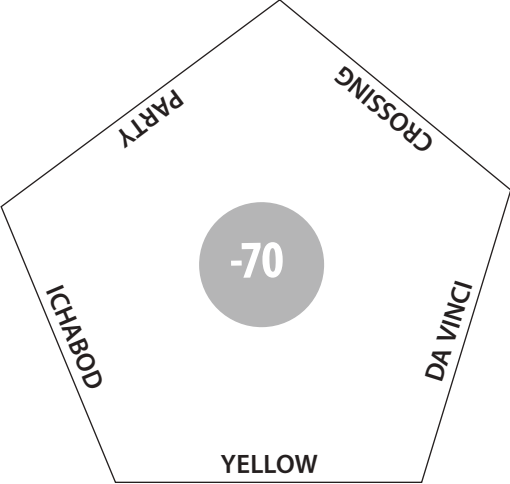
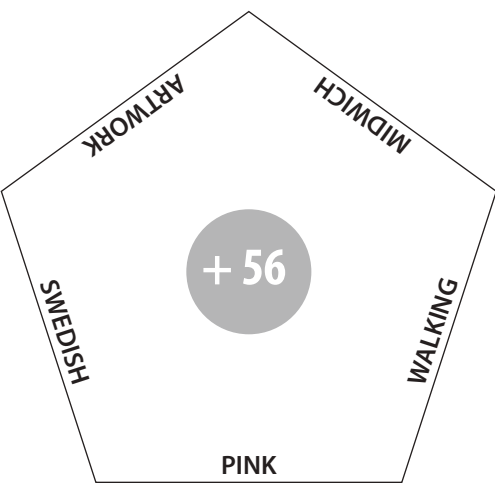
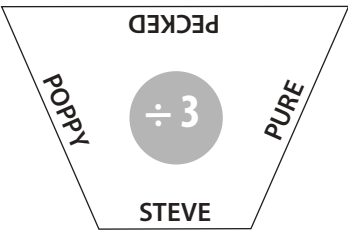
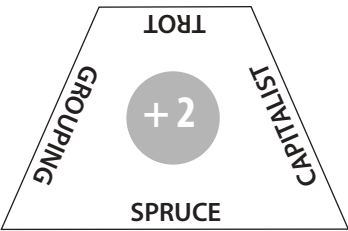
8. \_ o \_ \_ ' \_ ids  
 \_ \_ l \_ \_ t  
 Es \_ r \_ \_ \_ i \_ \_ , e.g.  
 Item metaphorically d \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 Like \_ \_ \_ \_ id \_ \_ ts  
 They deploy \_ \_ \_ \_ et \_

# fenghuang

Soaring between the Earth and the moon, the splendid Fenghuang is the empress of all the birds in the world. Year after year, under her imperious gaze, her subjects gather together to guard her most precious treasures.

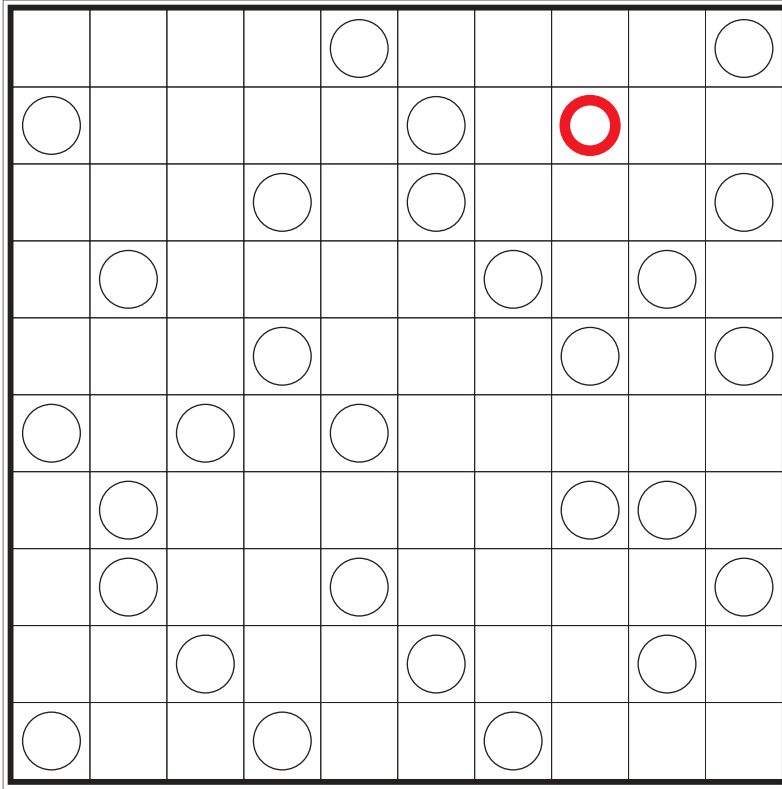






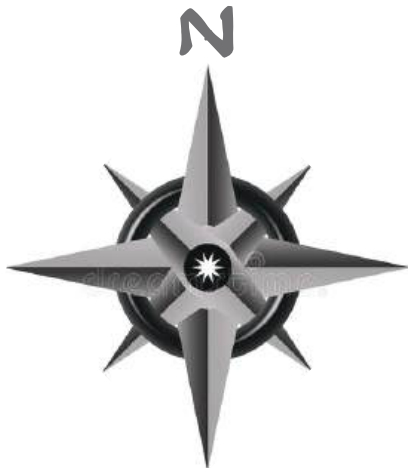
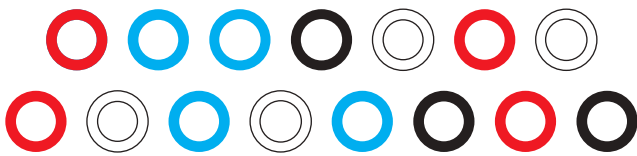
# the four auspicious beasts

There are many shrines on the moon dedicated to the Four Auspicious Beasts, guardian constellations of the four cardinal points of the sky: the Black Tortoise of the North, the Azure Dragon of the East, the Vermilion Bird of the South, and the White Tiger of the West. Each shrine (like those shown in the map below) is dedicated to one of the Auspicious Beasts.



One day, Chang'e drove her chariot to each of the shrines shown at left, and an equal number of unmarked shrines, not shown. She visited each square in the map via a single looping path, and her route did not backtrack or cross itself.

Per tradition, Chang'e exited each shrine in the cardinal direction falling under the auspices of that shrine's dedicatee, and continued in that direction until reaching the next shrine. She strictly alternated between visiting marked and unmarked shrines, and no two shrines visited consecutively were dedicated to the same Auspicious Beast.



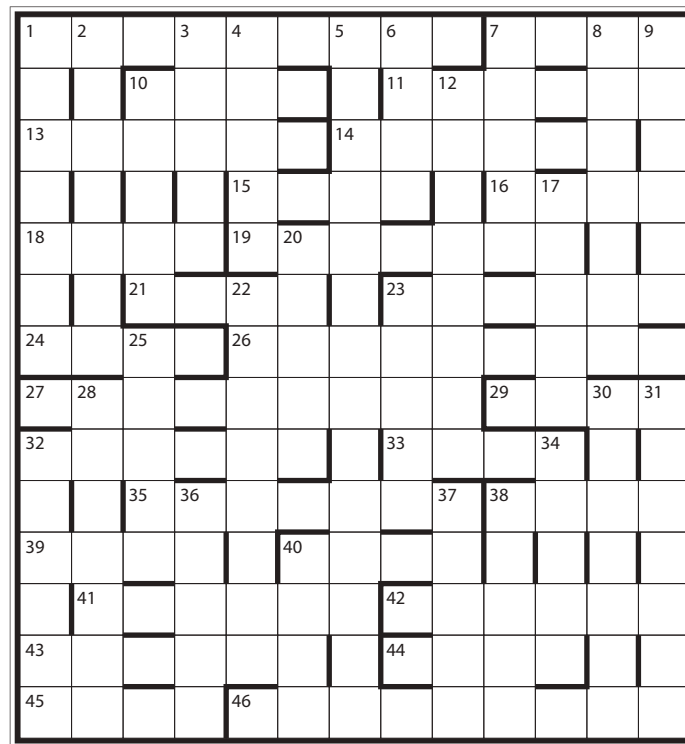
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4	S	A	W	E	D	O	F	F	10
7	B	I	R	Y	5	A	8	N	I
K	7	E	Y	7	W	7	O	R	D
N	I	3	C	K	1	N	A	M	E
6	S	4	E	X	D	R	I	V	E
R	A	T	I	F	Y	T	O	O	S
O	O	N	6	M	O	U	T	H	2
B	O	S	O	M	P	U	4	F	F
P	I	2	E	C	E	O	X	E	N

# herd boy and weaver girl

The Herd Boy Niulang (known to some as Altair) and the Weaver Girl Zhinü (known to some as Vega) are deeply in love, but they've sadly been banished to opposite sides of the wide Heavenly River (known to some as the Milky Way).

Friendly magpies carry letters between them. From each of 13 clues, Herd Boy will remove a single letter (which must be done to parse the clue correctly). He will send the letters to Weaver Girl, who will incorporate each into one of another 13 clues (allowing those clues as well to be parsed correctly). For each letter sent, all of which are unique, note the first letter of Herd Boy's clue and the first letter of Weaver Girl's clue. Another 13 clues are normal.

For one day a year, the magpies are allowed to make a bridge between the two. To do so, they'll need to excavate larger fragments from the remaining 14 clues (which must be done to parse those clues correctly, possibly with respacing required). The fragments will show you how to span the void between the lovers, allowing Herd Boy to visit Weaver Girl (and see what she's been working on).



## ACROSS

- 1 Unhealthy diet runts counted on (2 wds)
- 7 Recalled law school freshman's long-time host
- 10 *Ready Player One* sucks
- 11 A kind of almost exotic vegetable
- 13 Dying of thirst, I fled to pub in unhealthy binge
- 14 Manic eland I caged devolved, shedding odd piece of tan antler covering
- 15 Lugging equipment south, leasing extra delivery vans
- 16 Remodel cabin for former Peruvian
- 18 Some woodland creatures sleep soundly
- 19 Erik of TV's terrible date's full of retro jargon
- 21 Sad chums missing Marvin dearly? Quite
- 23 Spot timid types inside wearing clerical scarves

## DOWN

- 1 What nerve tissue helps express in damaged ears and noses (2 wds)
- 2 Wino is ending sorry job that disallows Jack cocktails (2 wds)
- 3 Diggers closing quarries and sewers
- 4 Distracted, hastens extreme unction
- 5 Unexpected deviations jolt some intricate carpentry (2 wds)
- 6 Not lacking for assistance, but no leader cared
- 7 Very emotional cover stories (six)
- 8 Temp loyally marks memos about courthouse
- 9 Available faculty, here and now, were disregarded (2 wds)
- 10 Uninitiated drifters repaired holding devices
- 12 Liberal Franken met foundation supporter in historic palace
- 17 Lustrous material's not applicable, having crease

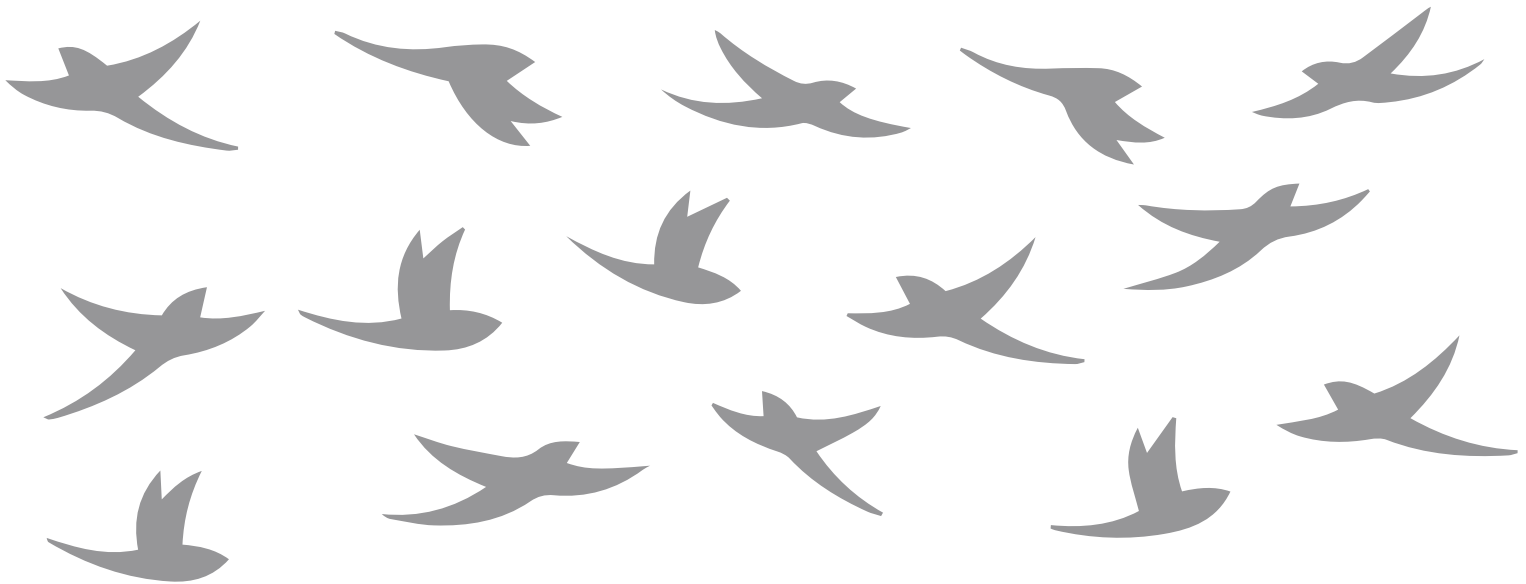


**ACROSS** (cont)

- 24** Retail store falling 40% short after annex's opening (2 wds)
- 26** "Settle up with me!," bruiser snarled
- 27** Twice, foul-up in orbit's misdirected drone all around globe (2 wds)
- 29** Lucy clenched fists at first, returning cheese
- 32** Mostly sulfur maintaining energy confused Andy
- 33** E.g. Fleming and Holm cultivated anise
- 35** Couple of naturalistic canvases featuring old Navajo and Sioux, etc.
- 38** Note referring to monkey's ultimately tragic attack
- 39** Make an exchange, trading pawn for bishop, for mate
- 40** Individual who solders faucet's casing is present
- 41** Imprisoning knights, serf creates long lag at jousts
- 42** Republicans prominently incur veto, upset veep getting unsatisfactory look at things to come
- 43** Most widespread failing in radial tires
- 44** Vocally strapped, sequester oneself
- 45** Environmentally friendly vehicle from zoo flipped over (*hyph*)
- 46** Trip enables roving stepson to take in Italian river

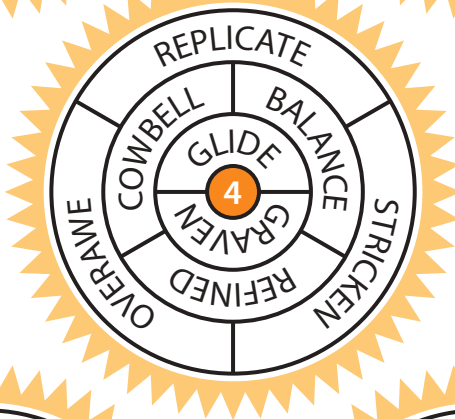
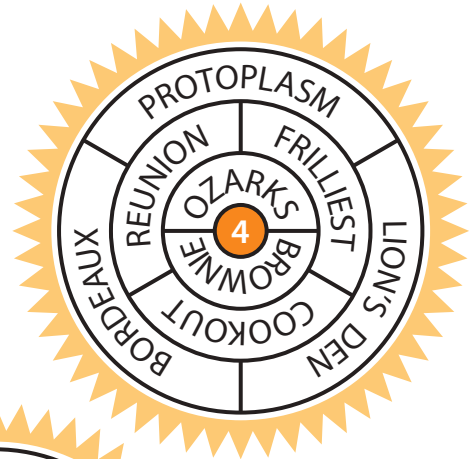
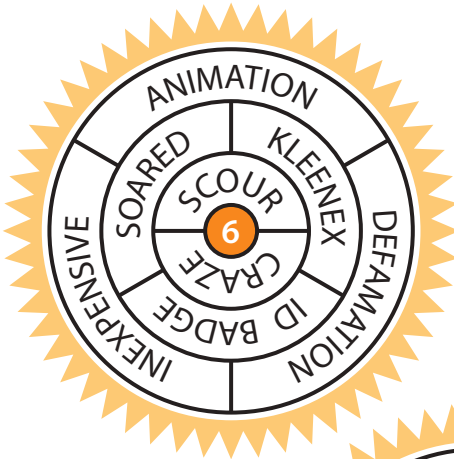
**DOWN** (cont)

- 20** That woman is going to prep pistachios
- 22** Endless caviar put in chopper with loads of salad ingredients
- 23** Hysterical airman ejecting right at full speed
- 25** Singer Marie's pair of gems overlooked by adolescent
- 28** Regularly, one's filthy, primarily with spicy nude! (2 wds; *abbr*)
- 30** Eulogy attempts interminably interrupted by tuba-playing
- 31** Extremely ardent about new boundaries for country fairs
- 32** Umpire's orders covering runs unfortunately lacking certainty
- 34** Converse, perhaps, about mainly vacuous drivell
- 36** Noted little yokel McEntire eating muffin's last raisin
- 37** Broom and duster essentially come apart
- 38** Sort of decor for tent
- 40** Oft-relied-upon choice of nanny that's repugnant morally (*hyph*)



# hou yi

In ancient days, when multiple cruel suns scorched the Earth, Chang'e's husband, the great archer Hou Yi, was charged with shooting them from the sky until only one remained. Though the suns resorted to trickery to avoid his arrows, they were no match for the seasoned warrior.



## Attack a word or phrase that:

- becomes a new word if it's reversed
- becomes a new word if one letter in a pair of double letters is deleted
- can be anagrammed into a fruit or vegetable
- can have a letter inserted to become the name of a major city
- can have a letter removed to become something you might read
- can have its first letter changed to become a mammal
- is the name of an NHL team missing its first and last letters
- would be the name of a TV show if an S was added at the end

With each shot, Hou Yi will simultaneously attack and destroy one entry in each of seven suns. Each attack will spare a single sun, a different one for each attack.

The Suns' maneuvers: EOSINE • N • SN • SON • STAR • SUN • US • YAT

# the hundun

A faceless being who embodies the primordial chaos of the universe, the Hundun's patched-together appearance could hardly be more dramatic.

In this Patchwork variant, Row answers are entered sequentially in the indicated rows. Patches answers are entered left-to-right, top-to-bottom in irregular, non-overlapping shapes whose position must be determined (see examples). Row clues are normal, but, like the Hundun, a word in some Patches clues is missing its face. Restoring these will yield a piece of advice that will come in handy twice.

[illegible]

O	N	E	E	X
A		M	P	
L		E		

A	N	O		T
		H	E	R

## ROWS

- 1 Pre-Roman Roman / Lay on too thick
- 2 Pin-like? / Mountaineer's spike / Like pandas and yaks
- 3 Reside / Like affectionate farewells / Extremely
- 4 Hat feature that would mean the same thing with an F added /  
Phillippine currency / Diamonds, e.g.
- 5 One working on a roof / Keyed up (2 wds)
- 6 "Time's Arrow" novelist / Pricey violin, briefly / Hanes or Heinz
- 7 List of options / Sandwich seller / A fish that's big enough
- 8 Run out / Bits of butter / Noticed
- 9 Big name in fruit juice / Booty box / Pay attention to
- 10 Hearty bakery loaves / Not in favor of / Suggests as fact
- 11 Emulate a camel / Mattock's cousin / Soften
- 12 Actress Garr of *Young Frankenstein* / Evergreens / Follow upon
- 13 Megaera, Tisiphone, or Alecto / Pretty ticked off / Look over
- 14 Student, ideally / Kenny of country music

## PATCHES

- Bavarian treats (2 wds)  
Current age  
Nine-day devotions  
Spurring motion, maybe  
Give way  
Melted cheese dishes  
Kubo's two-stringed instrument  
Number one by a cat  
Leaned out  
Gonzaga site  
Vent in a diagnostic lab (2 wds; abbr)  
Cycles meant for touring (2 wds)  
Ice  
Odd onstage  
Take good care of (2 wds)  
Signaled "go" in a way  
Ash-colored fish (2 wds)  
Some folks born in May  
Districts named for an Italian ridge  
Pepper used to make a hot sauce (2 wds)  
Oath to be benevolent  
Shyamalan nearly got scars from it (3 wds)  
Building on the \$50 bill (2 wds; abbr)  
Rave, with "for"  
Nights, and the like



# junk piles

Searching for ingredients, Yutu sometimes has to sort through a surprising amount of junk. Somehow, things always manage to get squared away.

BASILICAASILICBASIGHTIGHSTORORTASKBARASKBATRIMAGEMAGIE (4)

BONOOBORELATIEAIJAENAGOODALTASTUDIDEIFROFSHOTBO (5)

CEHTAMNHADMOTUBEHAVMNGTHHEEPAHTS (6)

DXCITDNNDXUALLYORINNPIRDNNUNPICION (7)

ECFANDIDAGTRRSOSTTEEOFNLIGNEMFAGAZIGNORDCEHALKBOAFRLMMATERINA (5)

FOSAEDNUOSTUOSDNIMSEW (4)

GLISSHSTLEGMANWHOSNEDPTORISESBOUTAOBBIHTSANDSTS (7)

GWRKORGWCHHICGCLYOMICALLGLNSAMPOONGANDNGPESARODIE (5)

INGHAVMESOCITYCAPAOTEBURATEINACCROKEMAAKESMIST (8)

IPPATEILSPECIALILABILITIESILORILMIPORILPATURALILTALEPTSIL (6)

IRCUSCOENUESVOROOAMPERSCOHELTERSSO (5)

LAMROGFNIBMYNOGRCABDGEAUBGROFBAGAEBBNAMGURTBGDNABARGUALBHGAUBB (6)

QUANTOGTYTOFATOMNEMIOEHTCAOPRYWOGTHOOLESUPONERLIOKBS (6)

RAITCHAYGAEYETTERMAJAYTENEYKAYBOELMBIESZ (6)

STUDFFBUUDSCOLDLUCTTHADTCAUDSUSSNUDUZUS (6)

TANTCBIENKGRKEBENRENGBIOEWHEEBRSSPSABRTACUDHADIBLEMFRMOB (6)

THCAEDSGONWETSKCRORTCURTSNORCHCAOANAG (7)

TOTALLDEYPREPAREPADONJRREADGAYWILLINCTGANMADABLMDETSCOGNHO (3 3)

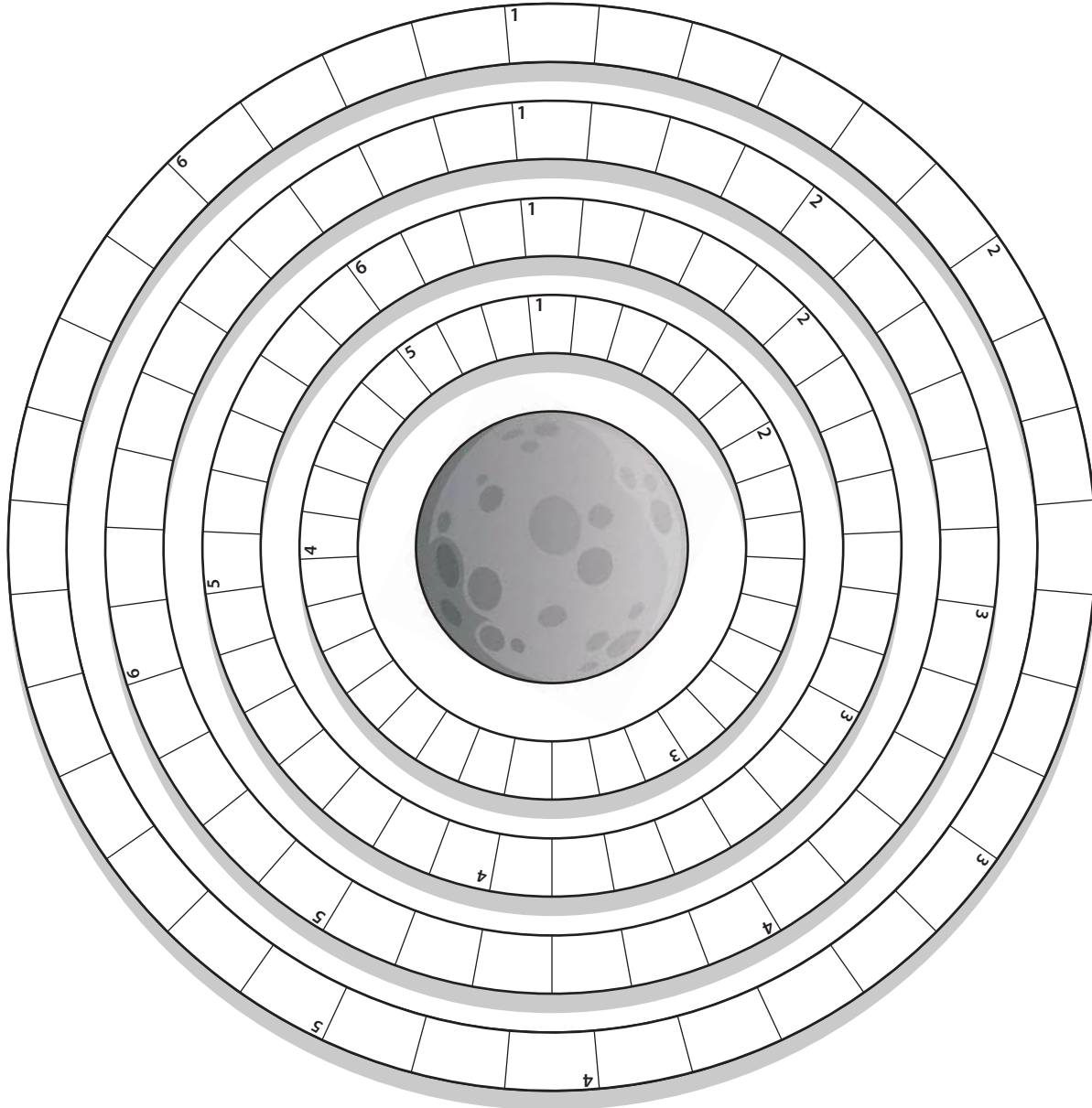
TRANDYBIKACURRANTBYFAEHIONABBACBOTHAE (2 5)

TSALHETAONITREOTAATMENTKTHAAPPATLMAKAMBDAESMHAIURNWAVUY (4)

VDESELTAVANIMARAVOLAVPOPURALAVCIGALETTEAVBLANDA (5)

# satellites

The moon is a satellite of the Earth, of course, but it also has some satellites of its own.



## OUTERMOST ORBIT

1. Least sullied
2. Like devoted fans
3. Closing bit of music
4. Recycling container
5. Extremely slow speeds
6. Fiery *Henry IV* character  
Tabasco, por ejemplo  
Peal loudly  
Signs of spring  
Get exactly right  
NASA launches

## SECOND ORBIT

1. Surmounting
2. Disentangle
3. Puccini title heroine
4. Anne Rice bloodsucker
5. To be in France
6. Certain British schoolboy  
Frozen treat  
The Ramones' genre  
Out of proportion  
Pine for NC, e.g.?  
Singer Basil or Braxton  
Heavenly being

## THIRD ORBIT

1. Bit of drudgery
2. Persians, e.g.
3. Inventors' protections
4. "Why?"
5. Haggle
6. Gymnast Gaylord  
Transport in a mine  
Pampered pooch spot  
Traveling circus, say  
Laugh-provoking  
The ranine champion?

## INNERMOST ORBIT

1. Pay no heed to
2. New face
3. Exaggerating how  
good something is
4. Physically fit
5. MLB commissioner  
Bud  
What the weary get?  
Some luxury S.U.V.s  
"Sophisticated Lady"  
composer  
Ford's famous flop







# the stolen elixir

After Hou Yi was rewarded for shooting down the menacing suns, his wife Chang'e stole the prize for herself: the original Elixir of Immortality. To her horror, upon drinking it, she found herself levitating, ascending until she reached the moon, where she resides to this day, exiled from Earth for her single crime.

Clues for each ring are given in order, to be entered either clockwise or counterclockwise. In the outermost ring, starting spaces and direction are given; in subsequent rings, these must be determined.

Within each of the eight demarcated sections, the letters in a given ring are the same letters, in jumbled order, as those in the section of the ring to the outside of it, minus one stolen letter.

## RING 1

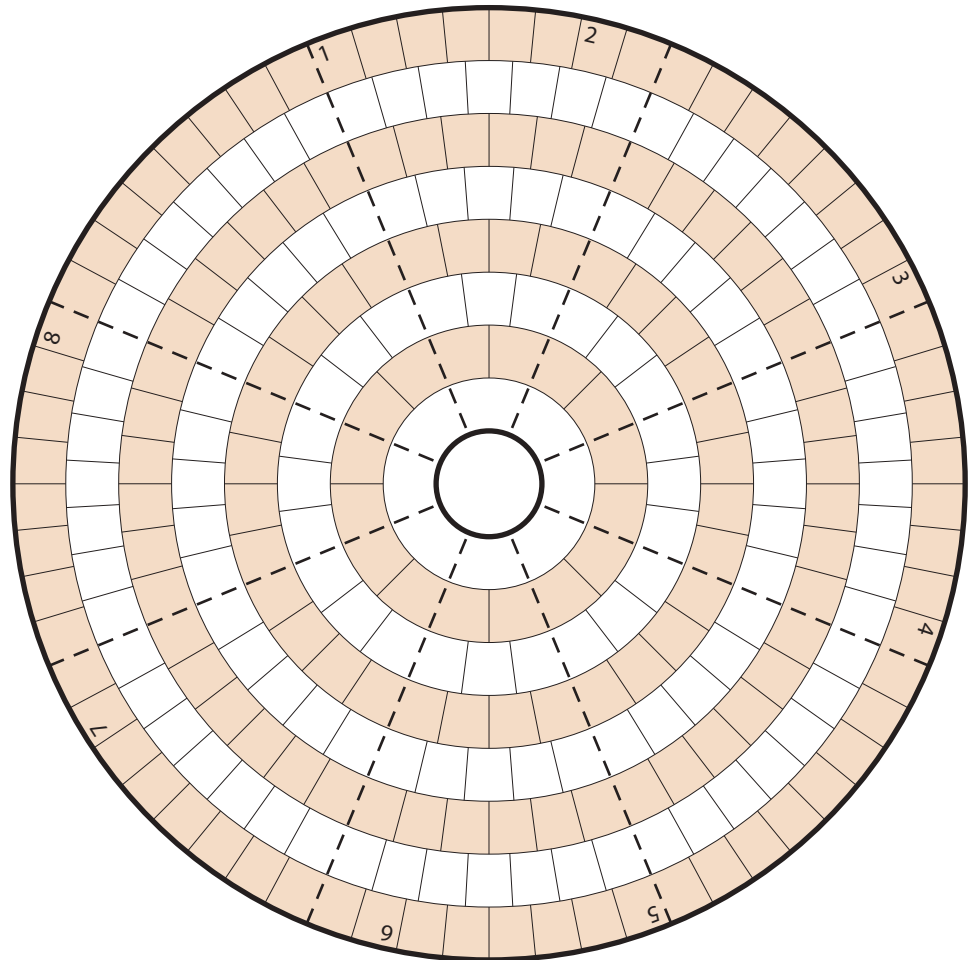
1. Rutabaga relative
2. E.g., Edward VIII in 1936
3. Rug in a hunting lodge, maybe
4. Fate of St. Stephen and Joan of Arc
5. Bonkers
6. Made beloved
7. California home of the *RMS Queen Mary* (2 wds)
8. Mexican wraps

## RING 2

- Obnoxious online activity
- One who'll never prosper, it's said
- Standstill; no-win situation
- James Taylor song inspired by Somerset Street (2 wds)
- Dish for French onion soup or crème brûlée
- One with an enviable perch, purportedly
- *The Crucible* characters, e.g.

## RING 3

- Practice or rehearsal (2 wds)
- Young rooster
- Folding X-shaped seats named for a certain Renaissance poet (2 wds)
- "Copacabana" showgirl
- Beyond rank
- Maker of fine watches and jewelry
- Like (2 wds)



## RING 4

- Farther away, in a way
- Goddess with an owl companion
- Stows, like a sleeping bag (2 wds)
- Comprising a group of three
- Small construction component
- Wasted

## RING 5

- More lovably awkward
- These might change your mind (2 wds)
- Michaels of late-night TV
- Measure of luxuriousness, in a way (2 wds)

## RING 6

- Lawmakers' locale
- Made use of Airbnb, maybe (3 wds)
- Pseudoscientific healing practice

## RING 7

- French port
- Some geometric shapes
- Teased (2 wds)

## RING 8

- Under a cover ... or not

# wu gang

For daring to seek immortality, the scholar Wu Gang has been condemned to spend eternity on the moon, endlessly trying to chop down a giant osmanthus tree.

Each time he hacks out a couple of pieces, a new branch immediately appears, in full flower. Such an unfunny fate must make one deeply regret one's life choices.

- A certain piece of tax paperwork related to firearms
- Affecting all neighboring cities, perhaps
- Exonerate
- Fine Irish surname related to the contraction of a small coin
- Hawkeye, more formally
- Herod's realm
- Like a quick glance
- Lowering in quality or humiliating
- Magic Johnson, to friends
- Maintain a healthy diet
- Major hit
- NYC Ballet patron, for one
- One Australian state capital
- Stuck in traffic, maybe
- A little on the reticent side
- Bit of spiral-shaped fast food
- Idyllic, like the good old days
- Innocent
- *Lethal Weapon* film star
- Like a typical work week for many
- "Next one's on me!"
- "Not \_\_\_\_\_ of a good time"
- Numerical nickname of a smooth-riding Sherman tank
- Rural region
- Shelley et al.
- Some short-term financial speculation
- Toward the beginning
- What one might lead a trick with in some card games

