

4D. Puzzle Competition Reminder

Puzzle by: David Morgan-Mar
Difficulty: Medium

cisra Puzzle Competition 2011
<http://puzzle.cisra.com.au>

Hey Puzzlers!

This is just a reminder that Puzzle Week for the 2011 CiSRA Puzzle Competition starts on Monday 8 August with the release of the Group 2 puzzles. The Group 1 puzzles have already been released, but you still have until 12:00 noon Australian Eastern Time (02:00 GMT) Tuesday 9 August to score full points for them!

We will be unable to answer administrative e-mails over the weekend. We will attend to any on Monday morning.

Good luck with this year's competition!

The CiSRA Puzzlers.

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You are receiving this e-mail because this address has been registered as a competitor in the 2011 CiSRA Puzzle Competition. We use collected addresses only for important competition announcements; we do not give them to any third parties. You may request that CiSRA deletes your personal details at any time by contacting CiSRA. CiSRA will delete all personal information collected after no more than 2 years from the closing date of the competition.

> -----Original Message-----

> To: David Morgan-Mar <david.morgan-mar@cisra.canon.com.au>
> From: Andrew Shellshear <andrew.shellshear@cisra.canon.com.au>
> Subject: Re: Puzzle idea!

>
> Phew, and just in time for the competition, too. Actually, you should probably send out a reminder email to all the registered entrants to let them know
> Puzzle Week starts on Monday.

> Andrew.

> > -----Original Message-----

> > To: Andrew Shellshear <andrew.shellshear@cisra.canon.com.au>
> > From: David Morgan-Mar <david.morgan-mar@cisra.canon.com.au>
> > Subject: Re: Puzzle idea!

> > Andrew Shellshear wrote:

> > > How about making the states a geographically contiguous subset of the states
> > > that share a letter with their capital city? Then only one of the four-letter
> > > ones is used, so it's not so obvious that the column containing the secret
> > > hint is made up of the fourth letters.

> > Yeah, cool idea. I think that will make it totally workable. Thanks! Now we
> > just need to playtest it on the others.

> > David.

> > > -----Original Message-----

> > > To: Andrew Shellshear <andrew.shellshear@cisra.canon.com.au>
> > > From: David Morgan-Mar <david.morgan-mar@cisra.canon.com.au>
> > > Subject: Re: Puzzle idea!

> > >



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> > > Andrew Shellshear wrote:
> > > > Okay, okay, you've won me over on the theme.
> > >
> > > Awesome. The only problem left is the fact that we have a choice of two or even
> > > three states for many of the original list. Making any one choice above any
> > > other for no obvious reason could be a potential red herring. I'm not sure how
> > > to address that.
> > >
> > > David.
> > >
> > > > -----Original Message-----
> > > > To: Andrew Shellshear <andrew.shellshear@cisra.canon.com.au>
> > > > From: David Morgan-Mar <david.morgan-mar@cisra.canon.com.au>
> > > > Subject: Re: Puzzle idea!
> > > >
> > > > Andrew Shellshear wrote:
> > > > > Hmmm, I dunno. It seems like there isn't any thematic link between the puzzle
> > > > > clues and the final answer.
> > > >
> > > > Oh come on. WAXHEAD ZOMBIES perfectly describes an entire subculture of
> > > > Californian science fiction surfers! What could possibly be more American than
> > > > that? And the fact that California *isn't* one of the states in the original
> > > > list means they can't easily shortcut the answer.
> > > >
> > > > David.
> > > >
> > > > > -----Original Message-----
> > > > > To: Andrew Shellshear <andrew.shellshear@cisra.canon.com.au>
> > > > > From: David Morgan-Mar <david.morgan-mar@cisra.canon.com.au>
> > > > > Subject: Re: Puzzle idea!
> > > > >
> > > > > Andrew Shellshear wrote:
> > > > > > Anagrams are all well and good, but you need some motivation to try shuffling
> > > > > > the letters around. Otherwise people can leap to wrong conclusions and go
> > > > > > down all sorts of blind alleys.
> > > > >
> > > > > Okay. How about we make each of the seven anagrams have its individual letters
> > > > > sorted in alphabetical order to give a strong hint that they're not just random
> > > > > groups of letters, but that their current ordering is completely arbitrary?
> > > > > That should prompt people to try rearranging them. And then once they do a
> > > > > couple they'll quickly realise that they're all states.
> > > > >
> > > > > David.
> > > > >
> > > > > > -----Original Message-----
> > > > > > To: Andrew Shellshear <andrew.shellshear@cisra.canon.com.au>
> > > > > > From: David Morgan-Mar <david.morgan-mar@cisra.canon.com.au>
> > > > > > Subject: Re: Puzzle idea!
> > > > > >
> > > > > > Andrew Shellshear wrote:
> > > > > > > Okay, I give up, how does this work? I see a bunch of random letters and a grid
> > > > > > > of squares. The only thing I notice is that none of the coloured squares are
> > > > > > > adjacent, but that doesn't tell me anything. I think this might be too hard for
> > > > > > > the competition.
> > > > > >
> > > > > > > They're anagrams! When you unscramble them and fit them into the grid, two
> > > > > > > letters from each unscrambled word are marked in the two different colours. Now
> > > > > > > here's the clever part - it's recursive. If you rearrange the marked letters of
> > > > > > > each colour, you end up with two seven-letter words, and that's the answer!
> > > > > > >
> > > > > > > David.
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