

ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS

Pieces of Centaurs

Mike Keith

The first word of the poem has 6 letters, the next 2 letters, the next 8 letters, and so on. If these numbers are written out in order they “spell out” the first 768 digits of the number 2π (6.28...), with the additional conventions that a 10-letter word represents the digit 0 while words of more than 10 letters represent two consecutive digits (e.g., a 12-letter word means “1 2”). The total number of digits represented, 768, is divisible by eight, so as a further constraint each of the eight stanzas represents exactly $768/8 = 96$ digits.

This poem was inspired by the philosophical argument (see the website tauday.com for a recent, and excellent, exposition) that 2π is a more natural constant, in many circumstances, than π . This number (2π) now has a name, the Greek letter τ (tau), a fact which explains the hints: each stanza includes a word containing the trigram TAU. The first stanza borrows its tau from the poem’s title - or, if you wish, from the clue “horse/man” in the first line.

The last line of the poem illustrates a lovely happenstance: while the first 768 digits of π end with six consecutive 9’s, the first 768 digits of τ end with *seven* consecutive nines.

A Puzzle



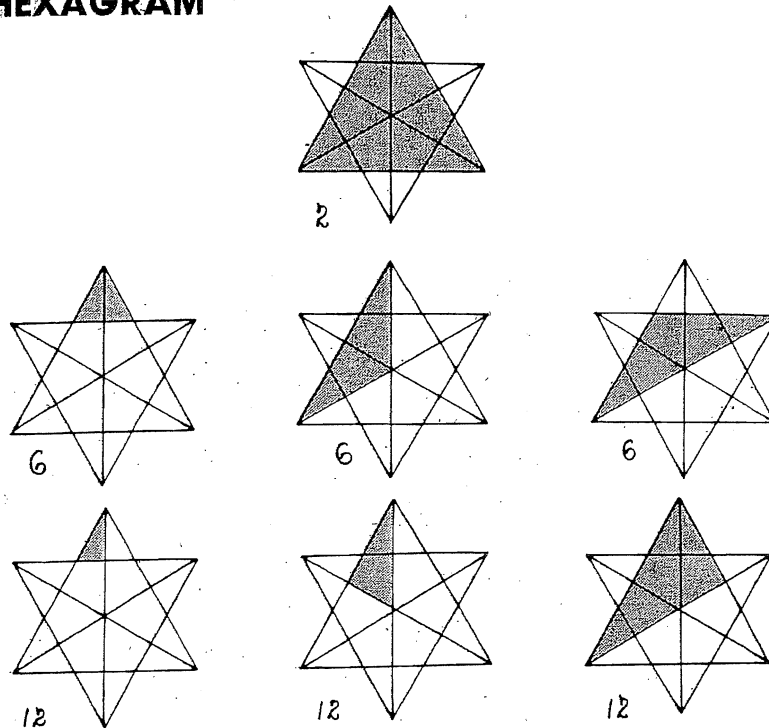
One-Pointers

S. Kahan

- Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan. [10]
- Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia [13]
3. anger, avarice, envy, gluttony, lust, pride, sloth [7]
4. Bashful, Doc, Dopey, Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy, Sneezy [7]
5. Erie, Huron, Michigan, Ontario, Superior [5]
6. Antarctic, Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific [5]
7. Earth, Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, Neptune, Pluto, Saturn, Uranus, Venus [9]
8. Blitzen, Comet, Cupid, Dancer, Dasher, Donder, Prancer, Vixen [8]
9. hearing, sight, smell, taste, touch [5]
10. Aquarius, Aries, Cancer, Capricorn, Gemini, Leo, Libra, Pisces, Sagittarius, Scorpio, Taurus, Virgo [12]
11. Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia [11]
- beets, carrots, celery, lettuce, parsley, spinach, tomatoes, watercress [8]

There are 56 triangles in the hexagram of the following seven kinds.

SOLUTION TO THE DYBBUK AND THE HEXAGRAM



Anagram Quiz 3

Anil

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. labile | 13. ecologically | 25. loan sharks |
| 2. bum corporation | 14. self-righteousness | 26. tolerate |
| 3. Media-linked | 15. fattening oil [or Oil] | 27. passage |
| 4. absolutely | 16. genealogist | 28. quagmires |
| 5. Mark Twain | 17. vary weight | 29. under stress |
| 6. irritableness | 18. hormones | 30. hectareage |
| 7. leashed | 19. asphyxiation | 31. wealth |
| 8. underprivileged | 20. invaginated | 32. deaths |
| 9. kindreds | 21. coitus interruptus | 33. primates |
| 10. dominate | 22. black hole | 34. gourmet |
| 11. disarmament | 23. organic | 35. curlicue |
| 12. exterminate | 24. retraction | 36. minus |

More What Four?

Steve Kahan

1. ABSINTHE / NEPENTHE
2. ACERBITY / PROBITY
3. ALCHEMY / BLASPHEMY
4. ALLIANCE / FIANCE
5. BEHAVIOR / SAVIOR
6. BEHEMOTH / MAMMOTH
7. BISTRO / MAESTRO
8. CANNOLI / PIGNOLI
9. CARDIAC / ZODIAC
10. CAVALIER / HOLIER
11. CHAMPAGNE / LASAGNE
12. COCAINE / MIGRAINE
13. CONVULSE / IMPULSE
14. CUSPIDOR / HUMIDOR
15. ECLIPSE / TRAIPISE
16. FARINA / OCARINA
17. GLADIOLI / RAVIOLI
18. HOWITZER / SELTZER
19. IMPRISON / LIAISON
20. KARATE / NITRATE
21. LOZENGE / REVENGE
22. MILLENNIA / ZINNIA
23. MUSKRAT / PACKRAT
24. POPEYED / SURVEYED
25. RITUALS / VICTUALS

Punk Whiz 15

Anil

1. damnation
2. koala lumper
3. jingoism [or jinglism]
4. preemptive strike
5. lions' share
6. utter nonsense
7. all right
8. no spring chicken
9. raise Cain
10. falsehood
11. extradition [Deportation also fits but doesn't pun obsolete.]
12. hummus [humus]
13. corporation [old term for a paunch or getting fat]
14. magpie pie
15. *every* now and then
16. put [your/one's] foot down
17. moan
18. gin rummy
19. near miss
20. shoulder
21. immaterialism
22. locomotive
23. dogma
24. Well off!
25. debriefing
26. kitty litter
27. tug of war
28. better butter
29. bird's nest soup
30. gut
31. off-putting
32. screw-loose
33. lemon
34. Venus
35. stolen [like this pun]
36. molar [ditto]