ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS

Pieces of Centaurs

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 $2\pi$ (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 "12"). 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 tau-day.com for a recent, and excellent, exposition) that $2\pi$ is a more natural constant, in many circumstances, than $\pi$. This number ($2\pi$) now has a name, the Greek letter $\tau$ (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 $\pi$ end with six consecutive 9's, the first 768 digits of $\tau$ end with seven consecutive nines.

A Puzzle
One-Pointers

Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan

Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia

3. anger, avarice, envy, gluttony, lust, pride, sloth

4. Bashful, Doc, Dopey, Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy, Sneezy

5. Erie, Huron, Michigan, Ontario, Superior

6. Antarctic, Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific

7. Earth, Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, Neptune, Pluto, Saturn, Uranus, Venus

8. Blitzen, Comet, Cupid, Dancer, Dasher, Donder, Prancer, Vixen

9. hearing, sight, smell, taste, touch

10. Aquarius, Aries, Cancer, Capricorn, Gemini, Leo, Libra, Pisces, Sagittarius, Scorpio, Taurus, Virgo

11. Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia

beets, carrots, celery, lettuce, parsley, spinach, tomatoes, watercress

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

Anagram Quiz 3

1. labile
2. bum corporation
3. Media-linked
4. absolutely
5. Mark Twain
6. irritableness
7. leashed
8. underprivileged
9. kindreds
10. dominate
11. disarmament
12. exterminate

13. ecologically
14. self-righteousness
15. fattening oil [or Oil]
16. genealogist
17. vary weight
18. hormones
19. asphyxiation
20. invaginated
21. coitus interruptus
22. black hole
23. organic
24. retraction

25. loan sharks
26. tolerate
27. passage
28. quagmires
29. under stress
30. hectareage
31. wealth
32. deaths
33. primates
34. gourmet
35. curlicue
36. minus
More What Four?  

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 / MIGRANE  
13. CONVULSE / IMPULSE  
14. CUSPIDOR / HUMIDOR  
15. ECLIPSE / TRAIPSE  
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  

1. damnation  
2. koala lumpers  
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]