

## Cryptic Squares

EACH OF THE EIGHT 5 × 5 WORD SQUARES has one entry that is too long. Enter five of the six letters in the grid, and leave one sticking out. The five letters you enter will also make a legitimate word. As a final step, the eight letters that stick out can be anagrammed into a description of the time you have put into this endeavor.

The clues are shown below by square, with the order left for the solver to determine. Hints are provided in the boxes below for those who need them. There is one contraction, one hyphenated term, and thirteen proper nouns. Everything else is playable in Scrabble. Thanks to Eric Klis, Bob Fink, and Jerry Miccolis for test-solving and editorial suggestions.

### Square 1

- Capricious wants didn't exist
- Clumsy steer found in the forest
- Demonstrate subdued range
- Stingers for Episcopalians, often
- Emporium featured in most *Oresteia*
- Bottom's character's dubbed
- Crack encrypted stream
- Bench duty?
- Chutzpah never worked
- Last road carries Elroy's dog

### Square 2

- Prawns do a number on a well-known boy from Pondicherry
- Stones hit angry coterie from both sides
- That woman's ranting to Rosemary and Mary Jane
- Grade improved due to mystery award
- Puncture is clean wound
- Shiny up around part of a maple
- Peeks out and stays useful
- Glimmer around fluid ash
- Drop deductions from flimsy paycheck
- Boy, a little less dip

### Square 3

- Surprisingly eager to bury the hatchet
- Register one for wolverine
- Market for silver or some antimony

- Rent after the first, if you don't mind
- Hogan's nervous, I hear
- Climax with Tom's replacement
- So sea sick at watering holes
- No calf crazy for bird of prey
- Impulses surge after rehabilitation
- A long, long way to run, finally cut short by debility

### Square 4

- Brewski on a Mediterranean island
- Good riddance to literature on Apple's operating system
- Jason mangled the last name of a band of brothers
- Made up stuff taking on new ideologies
- Commemoration to a saint
- Peg sasses indiscriminately
- Delivery person finally gave us chocolate stout
- Abode might be made from this material!
- Remains calm and quiet
- Huge predicament turned around instead

### Square 5

- To her friends, "one of the most over-rated actresses in Hollywood" is merely confused, having lost energy
- Famous author from French fifth column
- Crazy morning for procreus

- Chatbot similar to being interrupted by former spouse
- Great bargain with least maneuvering
- Someday fillies may be found in Oklahoma reservations
- Bum taped by magician
- Keep oxygen around sealant
- A depression in her voice, she warbled hello
- Favor the outlines of preliminary offer

### Square 6

- Gaming platform's pitch: Breaking into artificial intelligence
- LPs offered at discounts
- In anticipation of the general assembly's befuddled backing
- Forces sequence with unsatisfactory notices
- Braun groomed Jimmy
- False danger leads to shakedown
- Guzzle very loudly, as before
- Face-saving run for satirical play
- Demean by one-third, maybe
- Wild leeks are silky

### Square 7

- Only a little bit of weight in inducement as broadcast
- A fellow provocateur

- Least false fake news
- A puzzle to blow one's mind
- Once again, feign slumber
- Retreats on New England streets
- Home game's riveting finale
- Part of suit involving backslap elimination
- It has its own layer, with zero limitation
- Mark, leading the division, is a visceral part of the whole shebang

### Square 8

- Edited Time's issues
- Annoyed to be seated out of order
- Refuse leaders of each jurisdiction encompassing Connecticut
- Yes, in Bolivia tin creates passive resistance
- Nuts or just hearsay?
- At first, technicians sever current
- Introduced me to crack NPR reporter
- An approval, comparatively
- Wipe out pitcher's stats by the end of June
- Robert's child or Michael's may appear in an old calendar missing November

Word describing the time put into solving this puzzle:

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HINTS

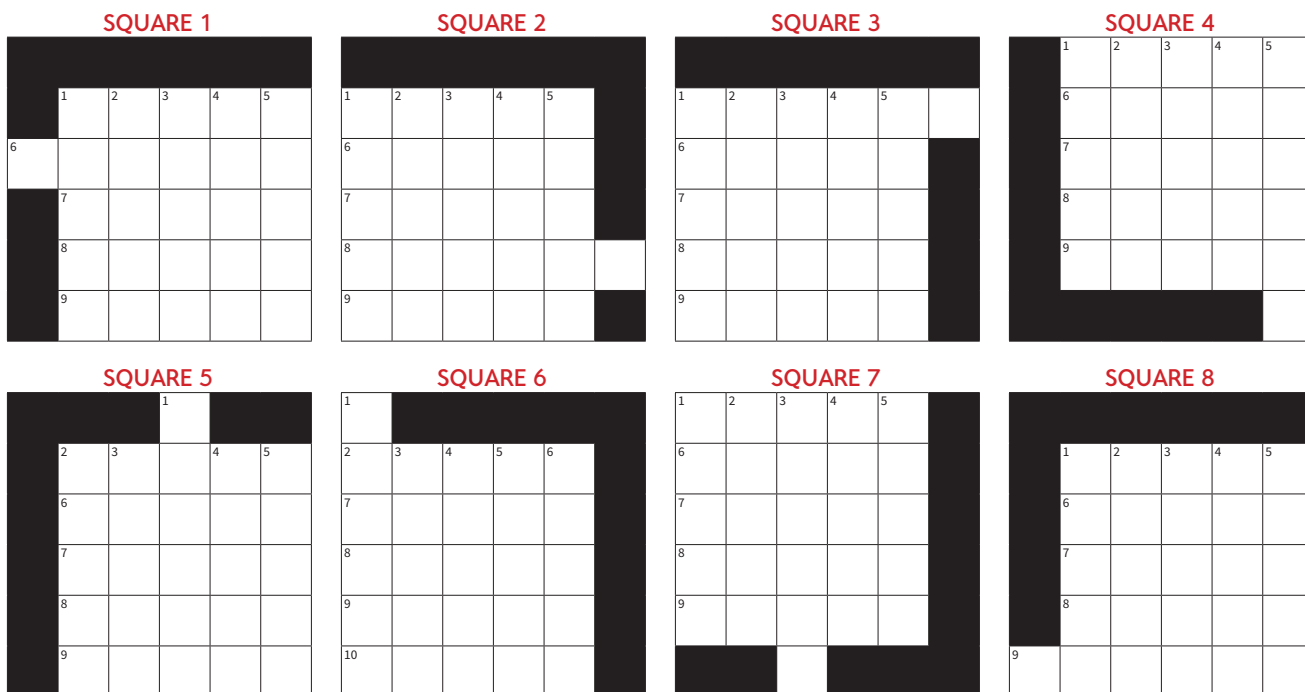
Position of 6-letter words:

Square 1-7th clue  
 Square 6-4th clue  
 Square 7-5th clue  
 Square 8-2nd clue

Position of all words:

Square 1-1A, 5D, 8A, 1D, 7A, 9A, 4D, 2D  
 Square 2-8A, 7A, 3D, 4D, 5D, 1D, 1A, 6A  
 Square 3-2D, 3D, 6A, 8A, 9A, 4D, 5D, 1A, 7A, 1D  
 Square 4-1A, 6A, 7A, 3D, 4D, 5D, 8A, 2D, 9A, 1D

Square 5-9A, 7A, 2D, 8A, 5D, 2A, 6A, 4D, 3D, 1D  
 Square 6-8A, 9A, 3D, 1D, 7A, 6D, 2A, 5D, 4D, 10A  
 Square 7-1A, 4D, 5D, 2D, 3D, 9A, 6A, 7A, 8A, 1D  
 Square 8-3D, 9A, 1A, 8A, 6A, 5D, 4D, 7A, 1D, 2D



## Previous Issue's Puzzle—Death Be Not Proud

In this puzzle, the challenge was to find one anagram per sonnet line of things that are commonly buried or found underground.

### *Aging in Place*

*You do not need to speculate: I'm crazy.* (Time capsule)

*My liver's apt to give out anytime.* (Silver)

*I tried to sell the tulip man a daisy.* (Platinum)

*I let my son be tainted in this rhyme.* (Bones)

*The hateful toller's anything but lazy.* (Fallout shelter)

*Our temple once held Kaddish for a mime.* (Petroleum)

*My diction parses hip, like early Jay-Z.* (Sapphires)

*I beat the best like mere lads in my prime.* (Emeralds)

*But now, alas, the chat involves the will,* (Hatchet)

*Before one leaves the bio null and void.* (Bullion)

*The lapses in me acts like Soy Boy Floyd.* (Pearls)

*A bruise is hardly prelude to a kill.* (Rubies)

*But no one cares a bit, and so—good-bye.* (Caesar)

*The maid nods; all is clear; the end is nigh.* (Diamonds)

### Solvers

Many people sent in “bandit” for line 13 rather than “Caesar,” which is what I had in mind. I have two problems with “bandit.” First, I don’t see how you connect it to something buried or found underground. But okay, maybe after bandits do their banditing, they need to go underground. Eh, okay. The second problem is that if you use “bandit,” you don’t have a proper noun in the list, and the instructions said there was one. “Caesar” is someone strongly connected to burying, as in Marc Antony’s famous speech from Julius Caesar (“Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears; I come today to bury Caesar, not to praise him.”) Nonetheless, I’m an easy grader, and I can’t deny that “bandit” is a two-word anagram in that line, so it’s close enough to being correct.

*Jina and Michael Accardo, Anthony Amodeo, Dean Apps, Lois Cappellano, Todd Dashoff, Mick Diede, Deb Edwards, Bob Fink, Mendy Friedman, Bruce Fuller, Phil Gollance, Pete Hepokoski, Eric Klis, Paul Kolell, Ken Kudrak, Ben Lynch, Jerry Miccolis, Jim Muza, David and Corinne Promislow, Alan Putney, Jay Ripps, Bill Scott, Doug Szper, T. O. C. E. (Sean Donohoe and Josh DenHartog), James and Betsy Uzzell*

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