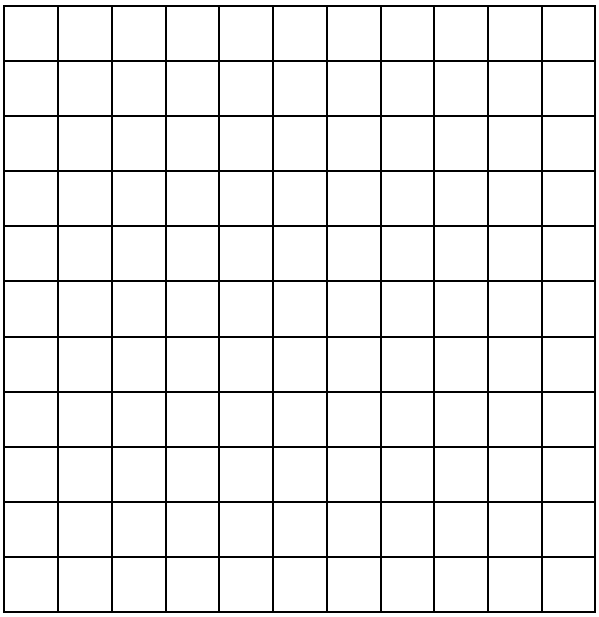
Puzzle #102 – November 2006 "Terra Firma"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to eight letters, five are capitalized, one is an acronym, and one is archaic) then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Six across words and six down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is removed. Those twelve letters, taken in order in across and down words, spell a two-word phrase related to a three-word phrase hidden in the completed grid. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.



Across

1. Edith, upset, started rocking and trembling
2. Proficient at short division
3. It's too late to get a seat
4. Money covers a dog and a container
5. Darwin's troubled secret
6. Odd reverie about Papa's getting relief
7. Actor going back for computer
8. Ladies going back for scoria
9. Pick right one for Orestes's sister
10. Fiddles and candles—about 1000
11. Tokyo mistaken for another city
12. Filmed a cetacean eating fish
13. Heartless automaton gets implant
14. A cultural item of prime meaning
15. Paul's getting not as much
16. Observer has new look of scorn
17. Chalcedony, silver and astatine fused with energy
18. College degree in laundry
19. River city getting rain aplenty
20. He's Irene's father
21. Implement for piercing small fruit
22. Moving tartly like a noisy snake
23. Moon, Earth keep in close proximity
24. A prophet of India and South America will get one a hotel

Down

1. Case of sedatives
2. A string of beads? A sorry mess!
3. Prions containing a charged particle
4. Gas inundates long ship's hold
5. Determined to finish a meal
6. Small task ending in 168 hours
7. Harry's true comfort
8. Daniel shot, dropping one ruminant
9. Advance of democracy to the left
10. Pole talks back
11. Announcer embraces head of two-ton animal
12. The lady's lad dancing for a royal messenger
13. Scent arising from marjoram or arrowroot
14. Penny to help getting settled
15. Read nonsense about California gallery
16. Al grabs small shrub
17. Shaking a belt is barbarous
18. Château Rauzan-Ségla has a distinctive character
19. Standard cut, in a manner of speaking
20. Series has Troy in place of new character
21. I see Sam struggling to get connected
22. Hide and head of tiger wrapped in ribbon
23. Keen to get guinea for a caterpillar
24. Quickly drop 100 in change