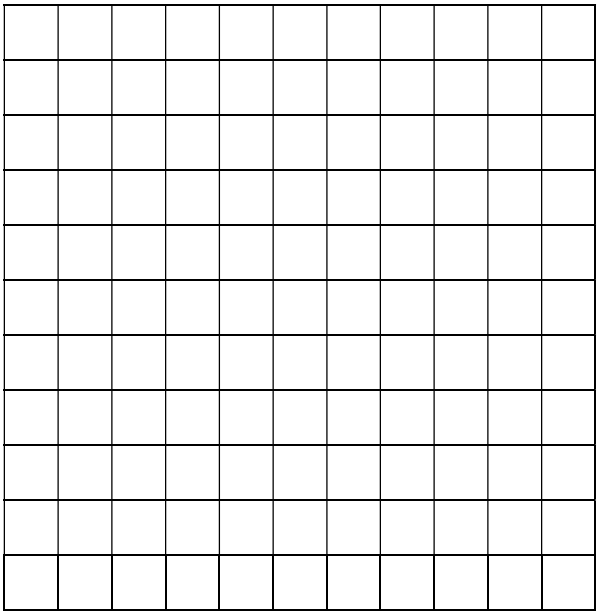
Puzzle #45 – February 2005 "Surface Tension"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from three to eight letters and include four proper names), 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 margin continue on the next line below; down words that don't end at the bottom margin continue in the next column to the right. Six across and five down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is removed. Those eleven letters, taken in order, spell a word related to the five mystery entries. As ever, I am indebted to Kevin Wald for help with the clues.



Across

1. In a dream, stirred a briny liquid
2. Spanish for rope or line that's curved
3. Theme of this puzzle: Surface Tension
4. I recalled a title for a rainbow
5. Put out of excellent school
6. Teddy has letters and locks
7. *Mystery entry*
8. Don't start to talk in climax
9. Beginning of slow rise as decoy
10. Ran into unclad male lead, for instance
11. Ancient order has late retreat
12. *Mystery entry*
13. Color of Chinese city
14. *Mystery entry*
15. Went around carrying a tropical plant
16. Provide food service including small cruet
17. Chained wild animal
18. Left money in den
19. Sawbones grabs head of tuna fish
20. Replicate bit of light in photoreceptor
21. Smash and burn about a thousand
22. The author's subject
23. Platform position captivates large number

Down

1. *Mystery entry*
2. Island knockout leads to bad mood
3. Headless newborns with start of rare disease
4. Pour liquid from crude canteen
5. Eros sexually embracing Diana
6. Medicine begins in repair of blood
7. Reportedly cool country
8. Plant to contend with nitrogen
9. Roman preservative found in Thessaly
10. Coats for golfer holding title
11. Relation of animal and cowgirl
12. French sailor holds line for fish
13. A lot of luck gets bird in lake
14. Mother holds note up as a point of reference
15. Runs off energy in feed
16. Confined in open territory
17. Furtive group hides note
18. Extra meal, but with only one pint
19. Too bad about hydrogen having substance
20. Mutual confusion in this French pile
21. *Mystery entry*
22. All but one from Paris engaged in actual retaliation
23. Ring put together with a note in folded paper

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