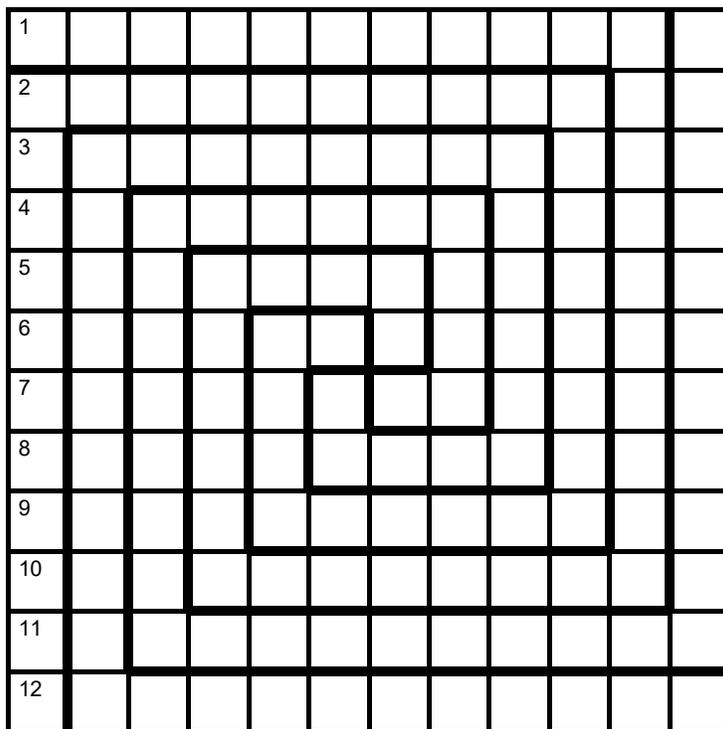


MISSING LINKS

A chain of answers begins at each corner square, following the path to the center of the grid. Each chain's clues are presented in the correct order, but at least one link (entry) in each chain is unclued. These unclued entries are examples of an appropriate category. Each Row contains one, two or three answers; there are no divisions, empty spaces or bars separating Row answers. Row clues are also presented in the correct order.

Constructed in 2016.

**Northwest**

African country with the highest grade for Obama

Faint illumination

Seconds of fright could make trick-or-treaters scream

Polyester contains hydroxides

Northeast

Webs protecting the opening of spider egg repositories

Dark-purple fruits from mountainsides outside of Peru's capital

Professor Trelawney shows class

Southern European peninsula is a sparsely settled place

Clip the tail of Piglet, the smallest in the litter

Dane sacked Yemeni seaport

Southeast

Parable featuring a Middle Easterner
Two members of racing club in major Moroccan city
Sexy orange tee adopted by Clapton
Paradise Lounge's right next to animal shelter
Organization for attorneys with a college degree
Inert fluid packed with a piece of dangerously flammable material

Southwest

Low to the ground, unfinished outbuilding is flattened
Doing a 180, vote against Republican House Speaker Paul
Rats root all over the place; they move in circles
Taking \$1,000, permanently depart one's country for Abu Dhabi or Dubai, perhaps

Rows

1. Irish county's winery requirements (5)
Sailor Sam's back, riding in fancy new car (7)
2. Camel roamed dry ground (9)
Beer guy pitches Michelob at first (3)
3. Pay attention to Carol almost framing jerk (6)
Kid who's a menace broke a Commandment in retrospect (6)
4. End racy novel with passion (7)
Wagon loaded with a unit jewelers use (5)
5. Earnestly start to dress at the crack of dawn (6)
Joints train violin players? (6)
6. Refined tea sets for places like Downton Abbey (7)
Vows of love in high school (5)
7. Curtail search for member of Attila's group (3)
Oddly overlooked hot-air propulsion device (3)
Involve stranger in tale (6)
8. Disparaged ruler's shot down (7)
Explosive content of report investigators turned over (5)
9. Slots for TV programs broadcast seriatim (8)
Discussion of wave function (4)
10. A hut's dilapidated state (4)
Respiratory organ beginning to go bad (4)
\$100 off chicken cages? Sorry (4)
11. Vocal group mentioned in a bunch of papers (5)
Outspoken brute stood up for cafes (7)
12. West Coast city is mad at NASA appropriating two watering holes (5,7)