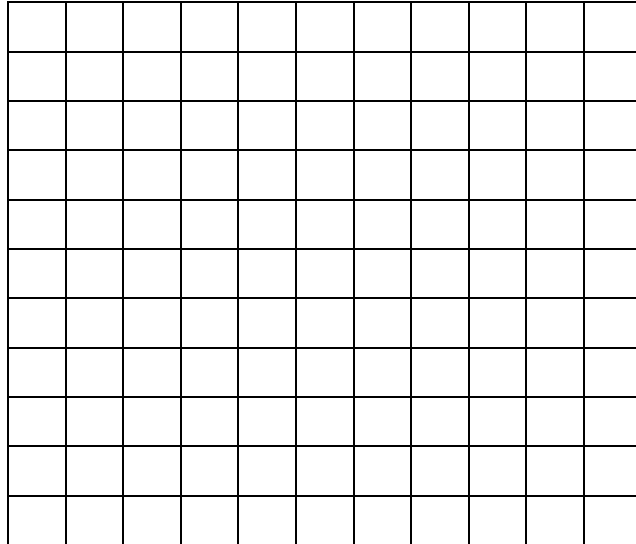


Puzzle #45 — February 2005 "Surface Tension"

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