

A Purim Puzzler

by Andrew Marc Greene

Each of the first eight puzzles can be solved with a five-letter word. Enter those answers in the "megillah" at the bottom of page 2 and follow the instructions to learn a little-known and completely untrue fact about Purim!

1. "No Soap, Radio!"

Fine clothing fit for royalty plays an important role in the Purim story.

- * Start with a two-word phrase, eight letters total, that appears on the label of an article of fine clothing in front of the word "ONLY".
- * Copy the first letter of the second word to the end of the first word, and copy the original last letter of the first word to the start of the second word. (What you get will no longer spell anything until the final step.)
- * Find an article at one end, and move it to the other.
- * Insert a single letter somewhere in the string so that the symbol for gold appears.
- * Move the space one position to the left
- * Add a single-letter Roman numeral at the start of the string
- * What you have now is a clue to your five-letter answer word

4. "A Common Bond"

What (five-letter) adjective describes all of these items?

- * A United States president who is buried alongside his father, who was also a United States president
- * The U.S. state whose motto translates as "By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty."
- * The element that forms the hardest naturally-occurring substance
- * The object around which Titan orbits
- * The Pokemon whose fire burns hotter if it has experienced harsh battles
- * The Beethoven symphony featured in *Fantasia*
- * Avenue of the Americas

2. "Portrait of a Queen"

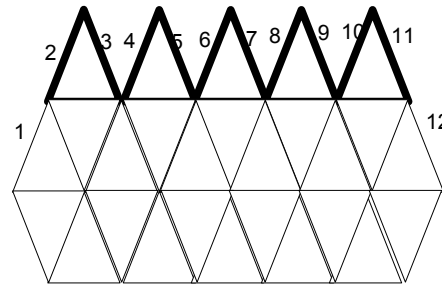
It's not exactly paint-by-numbers, but you have some work to do on the crown to get to the picture's finish. (Your answer is a five-letter word.)

Rightward diagonals:

1. Ruby-colored
2. Bishop's crown
4. Highest points
6. Make impure
8. Number of corners on a hamentasch
10. Mild oath

Leftward diagonals:

3. Get stuck
5. Played a role
7. Circus star, sometimes
9. Makes less viscous
11. Kind of heron
12. Summer drink



5. "And Esther Wrote..."

A simple question, with no tricks: What is the last name of the author of "Robinson Crusoe", "Moll Flanders," and "1665: A Journal of the Plague Year"? (Your answer has five letters.)

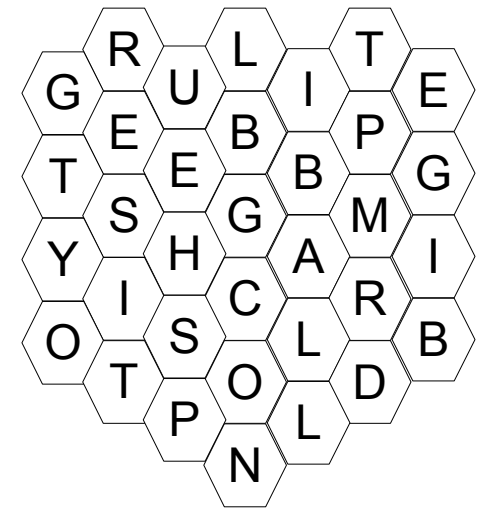
3. "Keeping Kosher"

The midrash tells us that Esther kept kosher in the palace by eating beans.

The items listed below are treyf. Very very treyf. Remove them from the menu (hexagonal grid) by crossing them out.

Words don't go in a straight line, but are formed by moving from cell to adjacent cell. A letter in the grid may be used more than once, even in the same word, but you must move from one cell to the next even if the letter is the same. (So, for example, in the word "letter" you could use the same cell for both Es but you could not use the same cell for both Ts.)

When you have eliminated all the non-kosher food from the menu, what remains (read from top to bottom) will be kosher. That is your five-letter answer word.



BACON
BIGMAC
CHEESEBURGER
LARD
OYSTER
RABBIT
SCALLOP
SCAMPI

