

Border Patrol

by Thomas Snyder

Hint: For each “border crossing”, a word can be formed from the two 2-letter state postal codes for that border, and some of the shady characters. The final answer is an 8-letter word made out of four states’ postal codes.

Answer Word: **MANDARIN**

Solutions to clues:

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|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 NEWSDESK | 9 INSOMNIA | 18 CONSTRICT |
| 2 SCOUTMASTER | 10 GIGAFLOP | 19 UNHARMED |
| 3 VACANCY | 11 SCIENCE | 20 SINEWY |
| 4 SLINKY | 12 COOKBOOKS | 21 BOHEMIAN |
| 5 MANHOLE | 13 WARRIOR | 22 CLAMSHELL |
| 6 COMPANY | 14 CORNMEAL | 23 FEMTOSECOND |
| 7 ALERTNESS | 15 CANVAS | 24 ORCHID |
| 8 TAILWIND | 16 AZIMUTH | 25 DEPARTURE |
| | 17 HARMONICA | |

Taking the Nth letter of the formed words, as indicated in parentheses for each set of shady characters, spells SMALL ORANGE OR ASIAN DIALECT which clues the answer **MANDARIN**.