

15/03/23: BACA by John Bulten Theme: Beach Booty

(This pirates' map depicts eastern Palm Beach County, Florida, showing the locations of the communities of Abacoa, Boynton Beach, and Boca Raton, in relation to the coastal road U.S. Alternate Route 1A. More information about the treasure hidden therein will appear in a later post.)

Rules: Either shade or add a single letter (A, B, or C) to each square so that each row and column contains exactly one A, one B, one C, and the rest shaded squares. Cells in the grid already marked with a letter can be shaded or remain unshaded. Clues outside the grid include both letters and numbers. Letters indicate the first letter seen from that direction. Numbers describe the size of groups of consecutive shaded squares in that row or column in order. There must be at least one unshaded square between groups.

Answer Entry: *Enter a nine-character string*, consisting of the number of the column where the B is placed in each row, starting with the top row and proceeding to the bottom.

		2	1	3	1				
		3	2	1	2				
	B	1	3	2	3				
C		A	B	A			B		B
		C	O	A			E		
2 4							A		
A							C		
3 3			P	B	C		H		A
A	B	B							
1 3 2							A		
		B	O	C	A		1		
A							A		B
	C						A		

15/03/25: Slithersweeper by John Bulten Theme: Cirrus Clouds

Rules: Place either 0, 1, or 2 mines into each empty cell so that each number represents the total count of mines in all neighboring cells, including diagonally adjacent cells. See also this example:

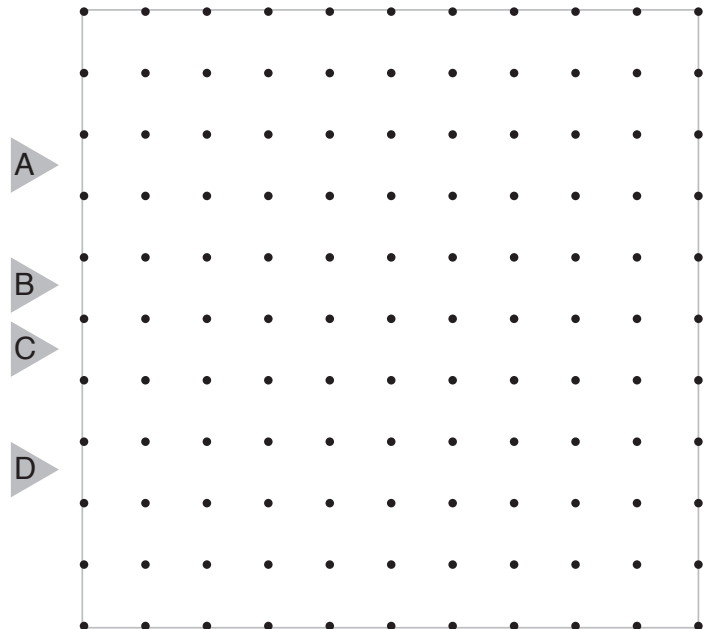
	4		4		3
3					
5		8	7		
		5	6		5
					2
2		6		2	

	4		4	●	3
3	●	●	●	●	●
5	●	8	7	●	●
	●	5	6	●	5
		●			2
2	●	6	●	2	

Also, all cells other than Minesweeper clues are Slitherlink clues. After solving the Minesweeper, *convert these cells' contents to numbers (use corresponding cells in additional grid)*, then draw a single, non-intersecting loop in the additional grid that only consists of horizontal and vertical segments between the dots, where the number inside each of these cells indicates how many of the four edges of that cell are part of the loop.

Answer Entry: Enter the length in cells of each of the internal loop segments from left to right for the marked rows, starting at the top. Separate each row's entry with a comma.

	6	4				5	5	4	
			9	8	5				6
7	10				7	7	11		
		9	11					9	7
6	7			7		9	9		
		9	10		7			9	7
6	8					7	8		
		10	8	7				7	5
7				4	6	7			
	3	4	3				3	2	



15/03/26:

Fillomino (Symmetry) by John Bulten

Theme: Hungry Hearts

Rules: Standard Fillomino rules. For artistic reasons, clues have been replaced with letters using the standard code A=1, B=2, etc. Also, all polyominoes should have rotational symmetry. Answer Entry: For each cell in the marked rows/columns, enter the area of the polyomino it belongs to. Use both digits for any two-digit number. Start with the 6th row, followed by a comma, followed by the 4th column.

D	E			C
			D	A
	D			
				B
A		F		
B			C	B



4	5	5	3	3	3
4	4	5	4	4	1
1	4	5	5	4	4
6	6	6	2	2	1
1	6	6	6	1	2
2	2	3	3	3	2



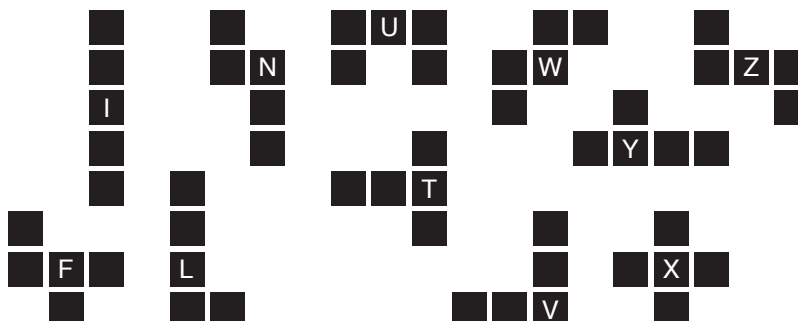
				A	C			
	F	E	E	D			M	E
A			B			B		
								C
C								
			F			F		A
	B	E			G	O	O	D
				G	O			

15/03/27: Tapa (Pentomino) by John Bulten Theme: White Whorl

Rules: Standard Tapa rules. Also, the Tapa wall in this puzzle is made using one of each pentomino given below the grid with no overlaps. Rotations and reflections are allowed.
(Note: There is no P pentomino here because it would violate Tapa rules).

Answer Entry: Enter letters for all pentomino segments from left to right in the marked rows, with one letter for each cell it appears in. Separate each row's entry with a comma, and use *CAPITAL LETTERS*.

						2					
			3					6			
A		1									
B									1	1	
	1										
C											
D										2	2
		5									
									2	3	
			5				2	4			
					1	3					















15/03/28:
 Hidden Shape Sudoku by John Bulten
 Theme: Double Domino

(Hidden shapes include a complete double-eight domino set. Double dominoes have been "doubled over" to fit within one square. Hidden names include J.S. Bach, Gabriel Faure, John Cage, and various chordal progressions and crossword game vocabulary.)










Rules: Standard Sudoku rules, using the letters A-H and a blank. Also, as in Shape Sudoku, there are some lettered shapes given beneath the grid that must be put in their proper places inside the grid; and, as in Battleship Sudoku, their proper places are indicated only partially. (Partial shape clues in the grid are not lettered but do not necessarily indicate the location of blanks.) The shapes can be rotated, but **cannot** be reflected; *they can touch but cannot overlap.*

Answer Entry: Enter the 3rd row from left to right, followed by a comma, followed by the 3rd column from top to bottom. (Use the capital letters A-H; use X for a blank.)

B

			H		F			G
G			A	D			E	
E							B	A
C						F	A	
	E			F			G	
	G	A						D
B	A							C
	C			A	H			B
H			C		E			

A

		A		B		C		D
A		E		F		G		H
B	A	B	A	C	A	D	A	E
C	A	F	A	G	A	H	B	C
D	B	D	B	E	B	F	B	G
E	B	H	C	D	C	E	C	F
F	C	G	C	H	D	E	D	F
G	D	G	D	H	E	F	E	G
H	E	H	F	G	F	H	G	H