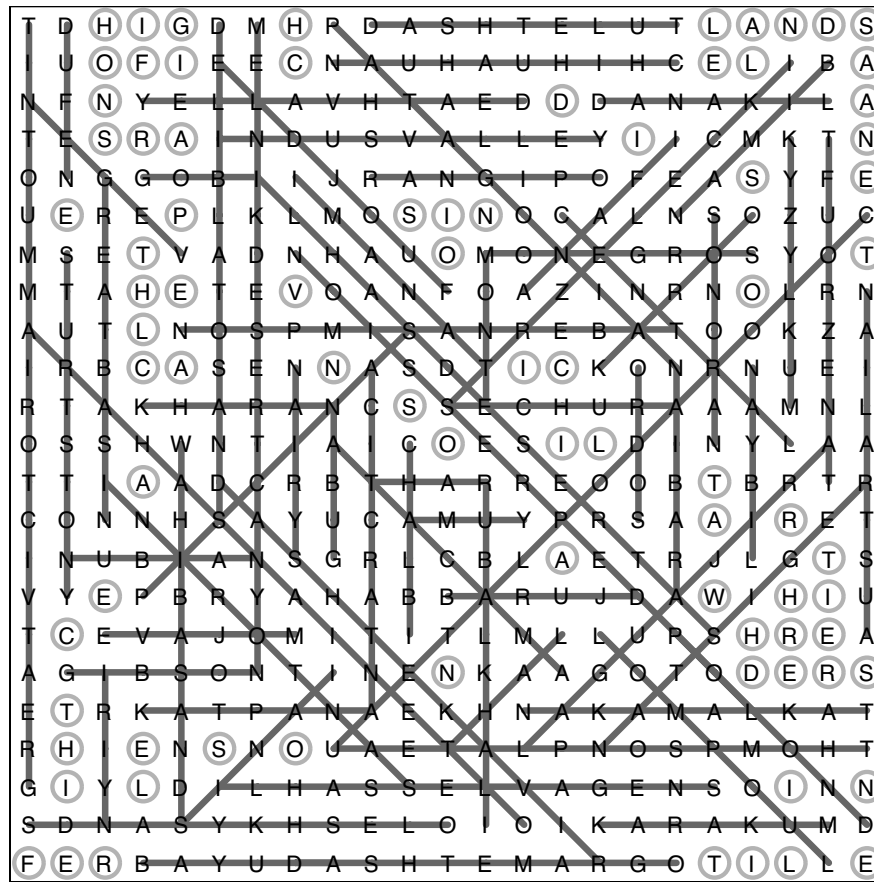


MONSTER FIND-A-WORD

ARID LANDSCAPES

The listed naturally occurring and man-made dry landscapes can be found in the grid in straight lines up, down, forwards, backwards or diagonally. Once you have found all of them, the remaining letters will reveal an area which doesn't climatically qualify as desert – however effectively is one, on account of the described phenomenon.



SOLUTION

HIGHLANDS OF ICELAND; AS RAIN SEEPS INTO THE VOLCANIC SOIL AT A RATE WHICH RENDERS THE SOIL INFERTILE.

LATERAL THINKING: CRYPTIC

Use the cryptic clues to solve this crossword with a twist.

ACROSS

1. One of the first residents to pay up, right? (7)
5. Portion Meg sent off (7)
8. Every other carpet suitable (3)
9. "Snake type," Anne said (6)
10. The extremities of displeasure are dreadful! (4)
12. Haphazardly let her kestrel out (6-7)
13. Men cower in confusion at recent arrival (8)
14. See me sounding sordid (5)
16. Make provision for Tom to lodge with queen (5)
18. Critical of semi-scarce object (8)
22. Fundamental justice in body-part trading? (2,3,3,2,3)
24. Half an earphone for frontiersman Wyatt (4)
25. Dawdle strangely like a duck? (6)

26. Sit in a different position if it is a contraction (2'1)
27. Tastes specimens (7)
28. Compensation regarding frock (7)

DOWN

1. Breaking into pieces? Splendid! (8)
2. Back in flat, Otto combined figure (5)
3. Dear John or a knife (6,6)
4. In part, where is Sue to redistribute? (7)
5. So a Communist rose high? (6)
6. Mare comes up, circles round pig and delivers witty remark (7)
7. Endings of subject with some humdrum wearisome topics (6)
11. City roads in front are more advanced (7,5)
15. Exits and regresses right away (8)



17. Disguised as a ragman? (7)
19. Might the chef clam up when it's on the menu? (7)
20. They give support for headless weasels (6)
21. Scared about Lebanese trees (6)
23. Exclusive eastern tile returned (5)