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TIDBITS® IS FASCINATED BY
FISH
by Janet Spencer

There are more species of fish than all other groups of vertebrates combined. Come along with Tidbits as we learn some fascinating facts about fish!

FISH EYE

- When it is young, a flounder looks like most other fish, swimming upright with one eye on each side of its head. But as it moves into adulthood, one of the eyes will migrate to the other side of the head over the course of about five days. With two eyes on the same side of its face, the flounder has remarkably acute binocular vision. The fish lies on the sandy bottom, waiting for a shrimp or small fish to wander by, and then uses its excellent vision and perfect depth perception to snatch the creature in a sudden ambush.
- The four-eyed fish has fishy bifocals built into its eyeballs, so it can swim with the top half of its eyes out of the water watching the surface, while the bottom half of the eye is submerged under the water.
- Many fish are able to change their coloration to blend into the background. When a flounder is placed on a checkerboard, it can perfectly render the pattern by rearranging the distribution of skin pigments. However, if one of the flounder's eyes is blinded or covered with sand, the mimicry is harder for it to achieve.

turn the page for more

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FISH EYE (cont'd)

- Fish are able to use the calm surface of the water as a mirror to spot meals or prey that are located out of the line of direct sight. A bluegill might be able to see a predatory pike hiding on the far side of a rock by looking at the reflection on the surface of the water.
- Birds that eat fish have a higher catch rate when conditions are windy rather than calm. This is because when the surface of the water is still, a fish underwater is able to see what's happening above the water, and can take quick evasive action when it spots a bird. When the water is ruffled, the fish can't see as well.
- Will a fish fall for an optical illusion? In a study, redbtail splitfins were trained that they would get rewarded with food if they chose the longer of two lines. When presented with an optical illusion, they chose the line that appeared to be longer. When trained to choose the circle that was larger, they chose the one that seemed to be bigger in the context of the optical illusion.

FISH BRAINS

- Common myth states that the memory of a goldfish is only three seconds long. However, research contradicts this. One experiment involved discerning how acute a goldfish's sense of color was by training individual fish that they could find food inside a tube of a specific color. Tubes of many colors were then presented to the fish, including hues that were very subtly different from the tube they were supposed to go to. The fish demonstrated that they have a very acute sense of color. A year later, the same fish used in this study were mixed with a bunch of fish that had never been through the experiment. When placed in a tank with many tubes of various colors,



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TIDBITS
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TRIVIA NEWSFRONT

1. The female frilled shark has the longest gestation period of any known vertebrate, carrying the hatched young inside her for how long?
2. Which has more taste buds: a channel catfish, or a human?
3. What percent of saltwater fish are able to transition between male and female?
4. What percent of fish species provide some kind of parental care to their young?
5. The pygmy goby fish has the shortest maximum lifespan of any vertebrate. How long does it live?

the experienced fish immediately sought out the exact color of tube they remembered, in spite of not having seen any tubes at all in the intervening year. (cont'd)

- An experiment testing the memory of fish involved the crimson-spotted rainbowfish. Fish were placed in a large tank in groups of five at a time, and a net was slowly dragged from one end of the tank to the other. There was a hole in one part of the net that would allow the fish to escape, if they were able to find it. The net was dragged through the tank five different times. At first the fish panicked and hugged the edges of the glass, but by the fifth time, all of the fish had learned where the hole in the net was, and used it to escape. Eleven months later, the same fish were retested. In the intervening period

TRIVIA NEWSFRONT ANSWERS

1. The gestation period of a frilled shark is three and a half years.
2. A 15-inch channel catfish has about 680,000 taste buds located all over its entire body including the fins. That's 100 times more taste buds than humans have.
3. Over 25% of all fish species that inhabit saltwater coral reefs are able to transition from male to female and back again.
4. About 25% of fish species stick around to provide at least some kind of parental caregiving to their young.
5. The pygmy goby has a maximum lifespan of 59 days, the shortest lifespan of any vertebrate.

they had not been in that tank and had not seen the net with the hole in it. Still, all of the fish remembered on the first try exactly where the hole in the net was located. Eleven months is equal to about a third of the rainbowfish's lifespan.

Continued pg.4



TIDBITS GOES LONG.....

New York resident Nancy M. Johnson invented the hand-cranked ice cream maker in 1843, a contraption with a movable crank and center paddle mixture. It took about 45 minutes of cranking for the ice cream to develop. It was a popular item, and 70 improvements soon after made the machine more popular.

- * "Where do I keep my makeup wipes? On my nightstand, or better yet on my bed so that I don't come home and not take off my makeup." -- Y.E. in Florida
- * "When making cookies that are dropped by the spoonful, dip your spoon in milk first, then scoop. The dough drops perfectly, and the milk does not affect the finished cookie at all." -- F.D.
- * "If you're having trouble opening a jar, try slipping on a pair of latex dishwashing gloves for extra traction. Also try banging a little around the edge of the metal lid to disturb the vacuum seal. This has worked for me many times. Just be careful not to bang it so hard that you break the glass jar!" -- A.L.
- * "Place a section of newspaper in the bottom of

- your fridge to catch spills and to absorb odors. Line your vegetable crisper drawer with a paper towel, especially if you keep your potatoes in the refrigerator. Finally, do not store your milk on the door, because items there are subject to increased temperature fluctuation, every time you open the door to decide what to snack on!" -- M.R. in
- * "If you want to ripen avocados fast, put them in a brown bag and add a slice of lemon." -- Pat
- * No need to purchase pricey seed-starting kits, use a toilet paper roll instead! Just cut the roll in half, set upright in a tray, fill with dirt and seeds, water, and away you go. When you start a tray inside, you should be ready for planting after the danger of frost is over.

GRIN and BEAR IT

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"Let's round up them toys, pardner!"

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

* It was English theologian Edwin Abbott Abbott who made the following sage observation: "Men are divided in opinion as to the facts. And even granting the facts, they explain them in different ways."

* You may be surprised to learn that hot and cold running water has been around for thousands of years. Members of the upper class in ancient Egypt used copper tubing to pipe it into their homes.

* If you take a close look at New Hampshire's Constitution Bill of Rights, you'll find "the right of revolution" enshrined therein.

* GPS is a powerful tool that has changed the way we navigate the world. Of course, it's not without its problems. Take, for instance, the case of the 23-year-old Canadian woman driving through

the Ontario town of Tobermory. She was a stranger there, so -- as most of us would -- she was using her GPS. Evidently, she was so intent on following the directions provided to her that she wasn't paying attention to where those directions were taking her -- that is, until she ended up in Georgian Bay. She made it to shore safely, but her car didn't.

* It seems that artist Leonardo da Vinci pioneered the paint-by-numbers style of art. He would sketch a piece, then number certain sections for his assistants to paint.

* Before the middle of the 18th century, it was not unusual for members of a play's audience to be seated onstage, just a few feet from the performance. If viewers thought an actor's performance was particularly bad, they might even try to bump the performer off the stage.

Thought for the Day: "It's splendid to be a great writer, to put men into the frying pan of your imagination and make them pop like chestnuts." -- Gustave Flaubert

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

5					3	2		
	4			5				9
		9	1				7	
9			5		1			7
	1			8		3		
		3	2				4	
		6			8	7		
7			4					3
	3			9			6	8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

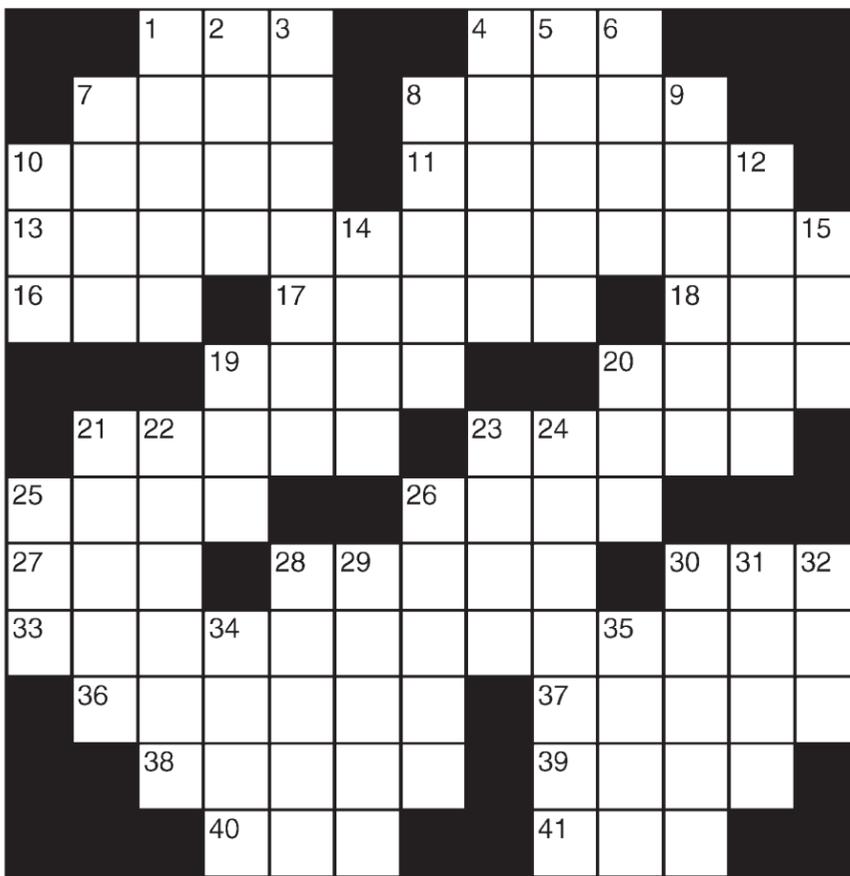
◆ Moderate ◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Chaps
- 4 Insane
- 7 Location
- 8 Skeptical sort
- 10 Original "Trivial Pursuit" edition
- 11 Traitor Benedict
- 13 Monopoly avenue neighboring "Go"
- 16 Winehouse or Poehler
- 17 Wooden strips
- 18 I love (Lat.)
- 19 Big party
- 20 Always
- 21 Fischer's



- 23 Cloys
- 25 "Hey, sailor!"
- 26 Legend
- 27 — de Janeiro
- 28 Occurrence
- 30 Hot tub
- 33 1970s TV hospital drama
- 36 Ending that may be grand
- 37 Point-and-click device
- 38 Follow
- 39 Bridge, in Brest
- 40 That woman
- 41 Powerful stick
- 8 — blanche head
- 9 Stick firmly
- 10 "Today Show" rival, for short
- 12 Knighted women
- 14 Chows down
- 15 Neither mate
- 19 "30 Rock" star
- 20 Biblical verb ending
- 21 Main
- 22 Sweatshirt that can cover your
- 23 Harmonization
- 24 Try
- 25 Upper limb
- 26 Brawl
- 28 PayPal currency
- 29 Worth
- 30 "Beat the Clock" challenge
- 31 Nuisance
- 32 Exist
- 34 Quaint stop-overs
- 35 Midday

DOWN

- 1 TV's "The Project"
- 2 Needle case
- 3 Gets snug and cozy
- 4 Gift from a wise man
- 5 Paquin and Pavlova
- 6 "My Heart Will Go On" singer
- 7 Appear to be

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COLDSTREAM HOT CHOCOLATE

- 1 cup water
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 squares (2 ounces) unsweetened chocolate, chopped
- 4 cups milk
- marshmallows or whipped cream

In saucepan, combine water, sugar and chocolate. Cook and stir until chocolate melts. Gradually add milk. Heat but do not boil. Remove from heat. Beat with rotary beater until frothy. Serve in big, fancy mugs. Top each with whipped cream or marshmallows.

(This recipe is from my "CHOCOLATE LOVER'S COOKBOOK" available at Bookingham, DeMilles, Swan Lake.)

To make COFFEE CHOCOLATE prepare as above except stir two tablespoons instant coffee into chocolate -water mixture before heating. To make SPICY CHOCOLATE prepare as above but stir in 1 teaspoon cinnamon and 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg into mixture before heating! Enjoy!

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: Q equals T

MH O FUDOWQMP PUBYVN HFUD
JOFAOJ NWR BY LNQQMWL
ANYOFOQNR, XUB DMLKQ AOX
QKNX OFN YUVNA OYOFQ.

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FISH BRAINS (cont'd)

- Sharks learn to head directly to a fishing boat the moment the engine shuts down, because that indicates the fishermen on board have hooked a fish and have stopped the boat in order to reel it in. If the shark gets there first, it can steal the fish from the fishermen.
- A group of cod were outfitted with tags attached to their dorsal fins which helped researchers identify individual fish in the tank. The tank was rigged with a self-feeder and the fish were trained to pull a looped string in order to open a door that would release fish food. The fish soon learned that if they caught their identity tag on the loop, they could open the door more quickly and efficiently and thereby feed themselves better. Researchers watched in astonishment as the fish practiced, over and over again, the specific move required to hook the loop on their plastic tags to hone the technique.

IT'S A FACT

- Hagfish produce large amounts of slime when threatened. The slime clogs the gills of predatory fish, threatening to suffocate them.

FISH NOSE

- A researcher working with minnows noticed that when he accidentally injured one, the other fish in the tank began darting around in panic. Further experiments showed that minnows release a pheromone when injured, which warns other fish in the vicinity. The cells in the skin of the fish that release this chemical are so sensitive that they release the scent even when the fish is gently placed on a moist paper towel. The pheromones are so powerful that if a thousandth of a milligram of chopped minnow skin is dropped into a 4 gallon aquarium, the other fish can sense it. That's equal to chopping a marshmallow into 20 million pieces and dropping one of those specks into a sink full of water, and still being able to taste the sweetness. Minnows can even pick up this scent when exposed to the poop of pike that has eaten minnows. The minnows do not react to the scent of pike poop when the

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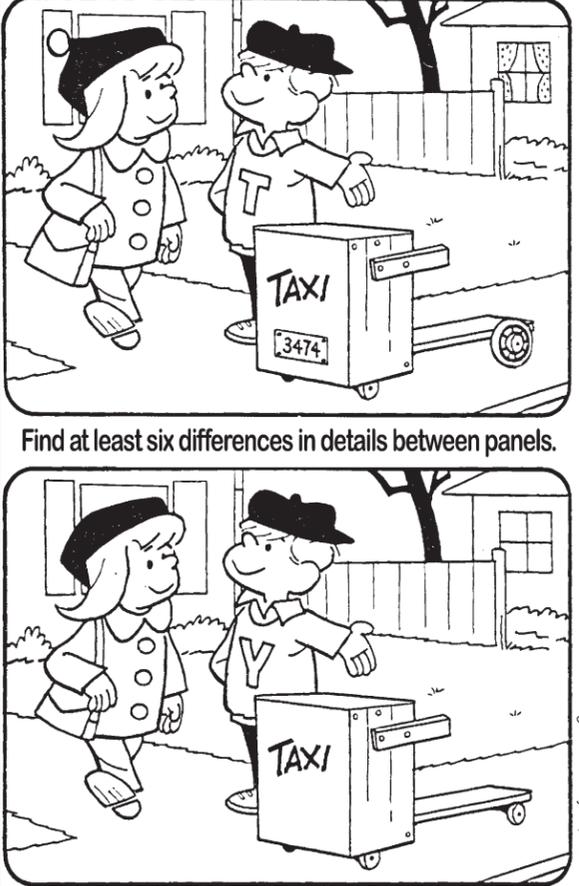
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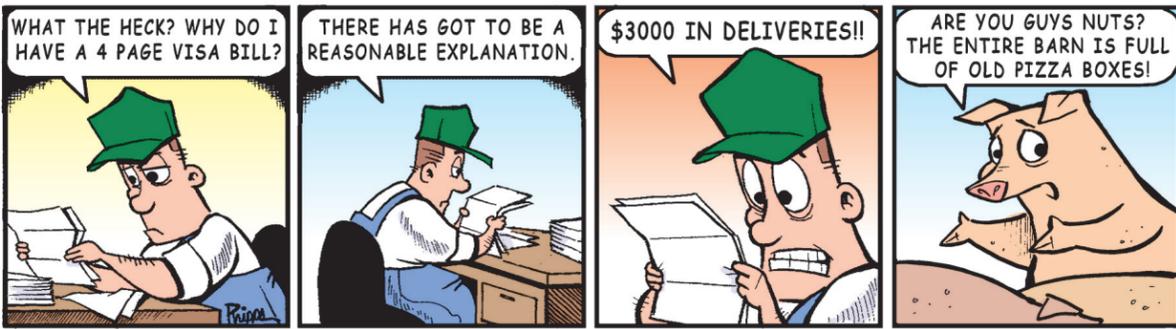


Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hat is different. 2. Purse is smaller. 3. Letter is different. 4. License is missing. 5. Curtains are missing. 6. Wheel is different.

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pike have been eating swordtail fish, but only when they've been feeding on other minnows.

- A sockeye salmon can smell shrimp extract even when diluted at one part shrimp to a hundred million parts water, equal to five teaspoons dissolved in an Olympic-size swimming pool. Other types of salmon can detect the scent of a seal even when diluted to one 80 billionth, equal to a drop in the same swimming pool. But the American eel takes the top prize for being able to pick up scents, able to pick up one ten millionth of a drop of a scent diluted in an Olympic pool.

HUNTING BUDDIES

- Groupers and moray eels often team up to go hunting together. The grouper is the more effective hunter in open water, but the moray eel can flush prey out of tight crevices. The grouper makes a shimmying motion in front of the eel to signal readiness to hunt, and will point out the specific location of prey by doing a headstand right above where a meal is hiding.

TIDBITS

NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE

Like most fish, swordfish are cold-blooded, but they do have the ability to heat up their eyeballs, raising the temperature to 82 F (28 C) even in water that is nearly freezing. Hot eyeballs are better at spotting prey than cold eyeballs.



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Community Events

Shuswap Naturalist Club meeting Tues., April 3rd, 7 pm. Guest speaker Jim Cooperman, author of Everything Shuswap will talk about his book and recent conservation efforts being made in the Shuswap. Salmon Arm Secondary School, Sullivan Campus, 1641 - 30 St NE in the library. Everyone welcome.

INDOOR FLEA MARKET/ GARAGE SALE
12:30 Pm to 3:30 pm March 17th, April 21st & may 19th third saturday of the month, at the downtown activity centre 451 shuswap st. S.W. Admission, \$2 donation going to the proposed shuswap performing arts centre to reserve a table, \$10, call 250-832-2300 new or used items, crafts and produce accepted

The Blind Bay Garden Club is your time to discuss your love of gardening. Learn, share, or just enjoy friendship with fellow gardeners every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10:00 to 12 noon. Address is 2510 Blind Bay Road, Blind Bay. Contact us for information at blindbayhall@gmail.com or check out our new web site at www.blindbaymemorialhall.ca or call 250-675-3139.

The Keg, Barrel and Plate:

Come and enjoy tastings and sips from our many fine Shuswap area wineries, breweries, distilleries, sausage and cheese makers on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2018 from 12 noon - 4:00 pm at the Blind Bay Memorial Hall, 2510 Blind Bay Road, Blind Bay - Tickets: \$10.00 each (Sorry, no minors allowed). FMI: See our Facebook page Blind Bay Memorial Hall and Reedman Gallery or our website: <https://www.blindbaymemorialhall.ca>

St Patrick's Day Dinner & Dance Fundraiser

to be held at the Shuswap Lake Estates Community Centre on March 17th at 2405 Centennial Dr, Blind Bay. Dance to live music by the "SULTANS" Cocktails at 5PM and Dinner at 6PM. Tickets \$45.00. For more information and tickets call Doug at 250-803-8930

Turn on your IRISH. We are having a St. Patrick's Day dinner and dance on Sat March. 17 at the Shuswap Lake Estate Community Centre. Dress up in your favourite Green! Tickets are \$45, cocktails at 5pm, dinner at 6 pm. Cash Bar only. Roast Beef Dinner, Sing some Irish Music, Safe Ride Home, Live Music by the Sultans. Do the Jig! Do the Jive, Rock and Roll! Tickets available at the Shuswap Estate office, Lindy's Boutique or call Doug at 250 803 8930. Come on out to support this fund raising event and have some fun. Gather your Friends. Irish tradition "Have more friends than you can hold in your house" Bring your friends! Support Copper Island Health and Wellness Centre. Gather a group together and call Doug 250-803-8930 or Shirley today 250-675-2354.

The regular meeting of the Shuswap Garden Club is March 22nd. at 7p.m. in the Scout Hall. Our guest speaker is Carolyn "The Orchid Lady".

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- The canned luncheon meat called Spam was introduced by Hormel in 1937. Canning meat was a novel idea. In an era where preserving meat was difficult, Spam was an immediate hit. By 1940, it's estimated that 70% of Americans had tried it.
- Spam was created to make use of surplus pork shoulder, mixing it with ham, salt, sugar and sodium nitrite. It has the same basic ingredients as hot dogs.
- The name was the invention of Ken Daigneau, who won \$100 in a contest to come up with the best name for the new product. It probably didn't hurt that Ken was the brother of a Hormel executive at the time. There is a lot of speculation about what the word "spam" stands for, including "spiced ham," "special processed American meat," "spare meat," and "shoulders of pork and ham." But the truth is that no one really knows.
- Spam got a big boost in popularity at the onset of World War II when it was difficult to get fresh meat to soldiers. During the war, Hormel sold more than half of its output to the U.S. government, which supplied not only the armed forces of the U.S., but also the soldiers of the U.S.S.R. Over 100 million pounds of Spam were consumed by Russian forces during the war. "Without Spam, we wouldn't have been able to feed our army," Russian Premier Nikita Krushchev later said. It was so prominent that Uncle Sam was nicknamed "Uncle Spam."
- Spam was also popular during the Korean War, and the natives developed a taste for it. Even today, South Koreans consume more Spam than any other country except the U.S.

- Spam is hugely popular in the Philippines, leading Hormel to donate more than 30,000 pounds of it after the 2009 typhoon there.
- In the U.S., Hawaiians eat the most Spam per capita of any state in the U.S. with an average of 12 cans per year. It's so popular that McDonald's across the region have added it to the menus. Texas takes second place, followed by Alabama and Arkansas. It's now sold in over 50 countries around the globe.
- In the U.S., some 3.6 cans of Spam are consumed every second, making it the top-selling canned meat. Over 44,000 cans of Spam, or 33,000 pounds, are produced every hour worldwide. In addition to the U.S., Spam is produced in seven other countries: Australia, Denmark, UK, Japan, Philippines, South Korea and Taiwan.
- One can of Spam contains nearly 100 grams of fat, over 1,000 calories, 240 milligrams of cholesterol, and 4,696 milligrams of sodium, nearly double the USDA's recommended daily allowance of sodium.
- In a Monty Python sketch in 1970, Mr. and Mrs. Bun enter the Green Midget Café in Bromley, England, and ask what's on the menu. The answer is Spam, Spam, Spam, more Spam, and nothing but Spam. A group of Vikings at the next table burst into song about Spam. When the technological age led to a flood of unsolicited emails, these unwanted emails became known as spam: "What's in my email in-box? Spam, spam, spam, more spam, and nothing but spam."
- Today, there are 14 varieties of Spam available around the world, and you can visit the Spam Museum in Austin, Minnesota near the Spam packing plant. Take a tour led by a "Spambassador," and try your hand at packing a can of Spam yourself.



"Notice how they always follow political speeches with _____ commercials?"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Delight

ASLEEP

Rant

IRATED

Bright

TADRIN

Edge

GRIFEN

TODAY'S WORD

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1. Bloke | ___ E ___ | Track down | ___ O ___ |
| 2. Boxer's accessory | ___ V ___ | Spherical map | ___ B ___ |
| 3. Beehive product | H ___ | Cash | M ___ |
| 4. Create a new gizmo | ___ N ___ | Buy stocks | ___ S ___ |
| 5. Labyrinth plant | ___ Z ___ | Augusta's state | ___ N ___ |
| 6. Batman's cohort | ___ B ___ | Violin's coating | ___ S ___ |
| 7. Zoo swinger? | M ___ | Braying animal | D ___ |
| 8. Backbone | ___ P ___ | Gleam | ___ H ___ |
| 9. Clergyman | ___ A ___ | Human being | ___ E ___ |
| 10. Cologne's river | ___ I ___ | Lake Geneva's river | ___ O ___ |

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PAW'S CORNER By Sam Mazzotta

Jealousy Disrupts Doggie Household

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My two dogs, "Jake" and "Albie," are normally real sweethearts. But over the past few months they have been increasingly nasty to one another. Jake is five years older than Albie, who the shelter told me is about four years old. If Albie sees Jake lying in the sunny corner of the kitchen, he growls and barks. Jake will growl and bark right back. Last week they came very close to fighting. What can I do to stop this once and for all? -- Gerry in Las Cruces, New Mexico

DEAR GERRY: Dust off your dog-training manual -- you're going to need it. Basic commands like "sit," "stay," quiet" and "leave it" are very helpful in defusing a situation between two house-mate dogs.

Sometimes dogs exhibit jealous behavior for no apparent reason; other times something has changed in the household, and therefore the overall dynamic -- a new roommate, new pet or new baby; shifting the furniture around; or even decorating for the holidays. Whatever the cause, you must re-establish order. Your dogs need to know that no matter what else has changed, you're still head of the house.

Make sure that you show no favoritism. When it's time for treats, both dogs get treats (and only if they're both sitting calmly). When one is curled up in his doggie bed, the other should be, too. Take them for longer walks to burn off more energy, and work with them on basic commands. What if this doesn't stop their behavior? You will need to separate them into different rooms if a verbal "leave it" command doesn't work. If their behavior worsens, contact a pet trainer.

Send your questions, tips or comments to ask@pawscorner.com. (c) 2018 King Features Synd., Inc.



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SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Please; 2. Tirade;
3. Radiant; 4. Fringe

Today's Word

ASPIRIN

Even Exchange

answers

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Fellow, Follow | 6. Robin, Rosin |
| 2. Glove, Globe | 7. Monkey, Donkey |
| 3. Honey, Money | 8. Spine, Shine |
| 4. Invent, Invest | 9. Parson, Person |
| 5. Maize, Maine | 10. Rhine, Rhone |

CryptoQuip

answer

If a romantic couple from Warsaw end up getting separated, you might say they are Poles apart.



5	7	1	9	4	3	2	8	6
6	4	2	8	5	7	1	3	9
3	8	9	1	2	6	5	7	4
9	6	4	5	3	1	8	2	7
2	1	7	6	8	4	3	9	5
8	5	3	2	7	9	6	4	1
4	9	6	3	1	8	7	5	2
7	2	8	4	6	5	9	1	3
1	3	5	7	9	2	4	6	8



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Reason was a friendly, trained family pet, who'd had multiple drugs illegal in food animals. The kill buyer would simply sign a form saying she was drug free, and off she'd go to someone's dinner plate. Reason's owner told the auction her two horses were NOT to be sold for meat. Yet BC Horse Angels fought the kill buyer for both mares. They are now adopted to loving homes.



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