

PaizoCon 2021 Puzzle Hunt

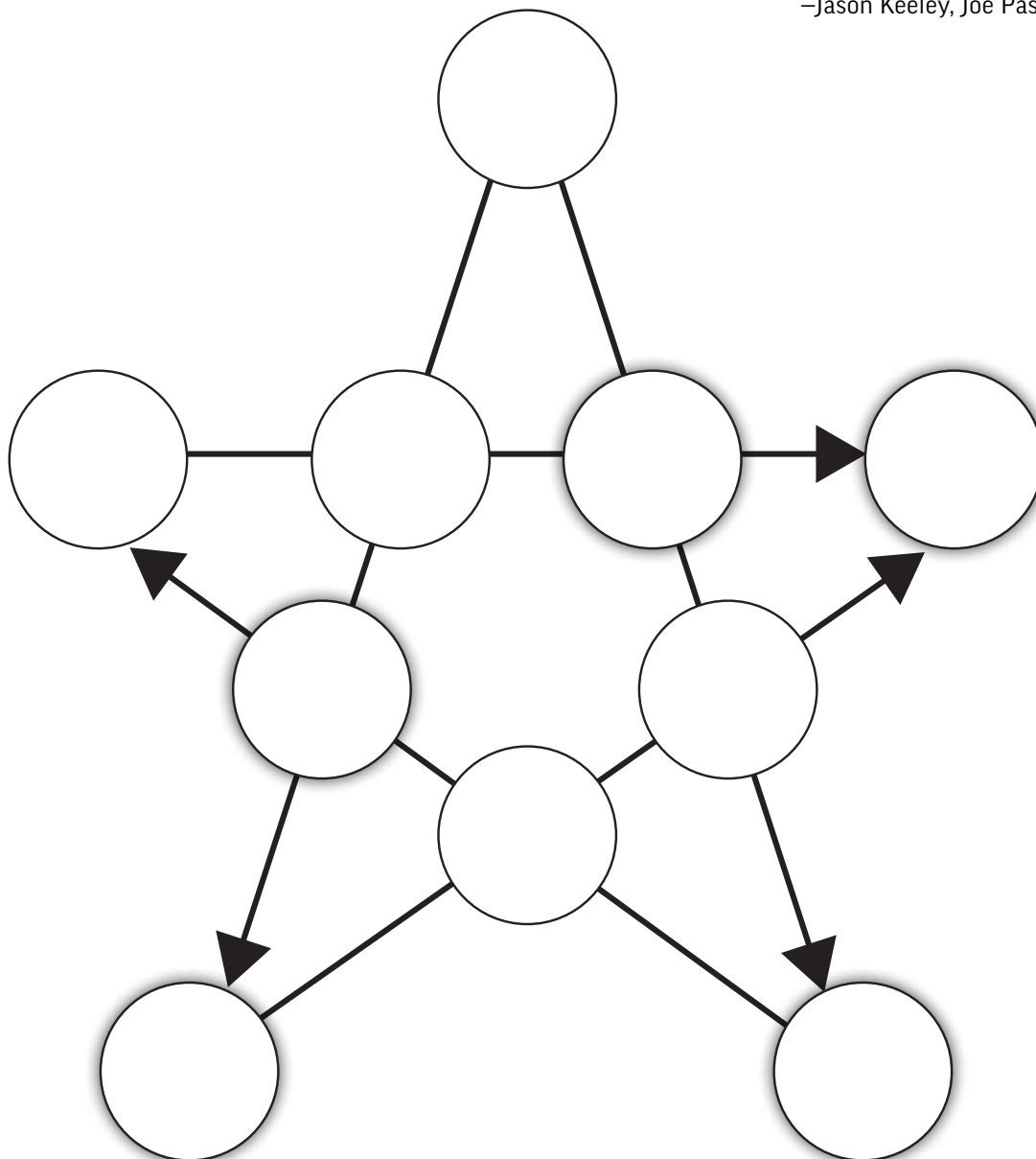
Welcome to the fifth annual PaizoCon Puzzle Hunt! We're taking this opportunity to celebrate our half-decade of puzzles by putting on an awards show, where we're inviting back some of our favorite puzzle types—and introducing one or two new ones! As ever, extra-special thanks go to **Sonja Morris** for her fantastic art design!

What Is a Puzzle Hunt?

A puzzle hunt is a set of puzzles, each of which has an answer that's a word or phrase. You'll need to think cleverly and logically to solve each puzzle. These answers are then combined in some way in a final puzzle that leads to an ultimate solution! Also, because we can't help ourselves, there is a **secret bonus puzzle**, just for kicks!

If you want some help, hop into the convention Discord channel dedicated to the puzzle hunt, where we're happy to give you a nudge in the right direction.

—Jason Keeley, Joe Pasini, Ron Lundeen



Join the Celebration!

Let's roll out the red carpet for our PaizoCon PuzzleHunt celebration! Shade in squares in the grid below to create a single, one-square-wide line (the red carpet) that observes the rules below. When you're done, the carpet will reveal this puzzle's final answer!

The red carpet must:

- begin in the lower-right shaded square
- end in the lower-left shaded square
- not touch itself orthogonally (diagonally is okay)
- leave behind 5 separate* non-carpeted spaces, each a different size (from 1 square to 5 squares)

*Non-carpeted spaces that touch diagonally count as separate. The squares in the grid with a number mark non-carpeted spaces that include that many squares (so the "3" square is part of the non-carpeted space with 3 squares).

		A			I
	0			0	
5			N	3	
N					
	T				L
				M	

Welcome the Gray Maidens

The stalwart Gray Maidens of Korvosa are, as in the 2018 Puzzle Hunt, unwilling to provide you much aid. Two of their members each want to provide you with half of the word you're seeking, but they don't want to risk the ire of their companions.

You can identify the helpful Gray Maidens because they've adjusted their appearance to be slightly different. Look carefully to identify them, and you'll have both parts of your word!

**AR****EM****ED****IT****LI****RE****TE****NE**

Hidden Colors

Both Starfinder and Pathfinder are known for their colorful characters, and the word search has been a staple of all but one PaizoCon Puzzle Hunt. In the grid below, search out every color of the rainbow (and then some!). The remaining letters will spell out a poetic clue for the puzzle's final answer. We've given you the first letter of each hidden word.

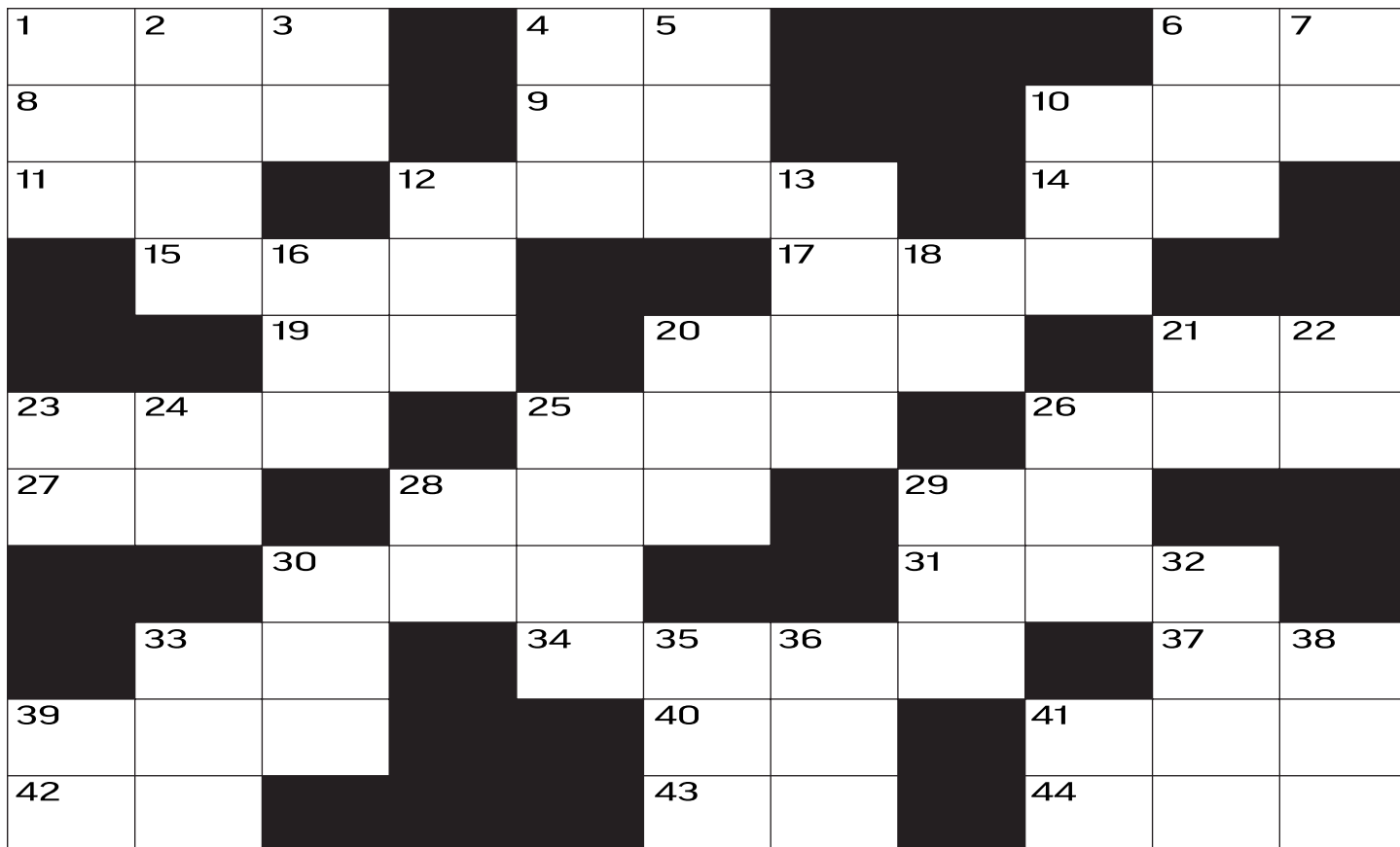
I	N	Y	T	S	I	L	V	E	R	H	I	S	P	U
Z	E	Z	A	K	C	A	L	B	L	E	F	U	C	A
O	L	U	L	R	O	F	C	N	W	O	R	B	H	Z
O	R	L	L	O	G	R	S	I	C	A	N	P	A	U
A	N	A	O	B	C	A	L	I	L	I	I	T	R	R
I	T	M	N	H	E	L	P	B	N	N	T	L	T	E
S	T	U	A	G	P	T	F	D	K	E	E	A	R	E
H	L	E	A	G	E	U	I	B	R	W	L	B	E	I
C	W	E	L	T	E	G	R	E	D	O	O	O	U	B
U	H	F	A	R	O	N	C	P	O	L	I	C	S	E
F	I	N	L	L	A	O	T	A	L	L	V	R	E	I
H	T	A	D	S	G	C	M	A	O	E	N	E	M	G
I	E	S	S	I	N	B	S	G	I	Y	T	H	I	E
N	K	I	G	R	E	E	N	A	E	L	U	R	E	C
T	I	S	C	R	M	A	U	V	E	A	L	L	E	D

A _____
A _____
B _____
B _____
B _____
B _____
C _____
C _____
C _____
F _____
G _____
G _____
G _____
I _____

L _____
M _____
M _____
O _____
P _____
P _____
R _____
S _____
S _____
T _____
V _____
W _____
Y _____

One, Two, Three

The goblins of the Mindsharp tribe have returned and wanted to help us make another crossword, but they still haven't learned how they usually work. Because of this, each square contains one, two, or three letters of that clue's answer.



Across

1. With 44-Across, where to find the final answer (6)
4. Pocket bread (4)
6. Smoking device (4)
8. Rod-and-reel action (7)
9. Moniker (4)
10. Gossip (7)
11. Build (5)
12. Agent of change (8)
14. Not poor (4)
15. Satisfy (7)
17. Property (6)
19. Require (4)
20. Burn a bit (5)
21. Mechanical repetition (4)
23. Having an overly liquid consistency (6)
25. Measured distance (6)
26. Shattered (6)
27. Horned animal (3)
28. Give amusement to (6)
29. Affectedly cute (4)
30. Source of light (6)

31. Complex protein (6)
33. Ship's pole (4)
34. Protection (8)
37. Fancy party (4)
39. Deltoid, e.g. (6)
40. Soup basis (5)
41. Chicken (6)
42. Propelled a projectile (4)
43. New York hitters (4)
44. See 1-Across (7)

Down

1. Temporary replacement (as a car) (6)
2. Careless (10)
3. Speaking fibs (5)
4. Birthday vessel filled with candies (6)
5. Meekly (6)
6. Throw a ball (5)
7. Mr. Dinklage (5)
10. Philanthropy (7)
12. Rang on the phone (6)

13. Physical force (8)
16. Elaborate clothing (6)
18. Dark beer (3)
20. Unaccompanied (8)
21. Chess piece (4)
22. Youngster (4)
23. Opposite of peace (3)
24. Sports group (4)
25. Contract double-talk (8)
26. In a relaxed way (6)
28. Shred (4)
29. A certain bill (6)
30. Stone fortification (6)
32. Unit of power (8)
33. Stadium character (6)
35. Crafted to order (6)
36. Vitamin D deficiency (7)
38. Places to store food (7)
39. Thick porridge (4)
41. Nat King – (4)

follow the Leaders

The best leaders are discovered, not born. Find the hidden word in each statement dealing with rulers, and unscramble the results to find the title.

Go consult a naive oracle.

— 2 9 — 21 —

Will the crow nest atop the elm?

— — — 20 5

A feline demon arched its back.

— 8 16 19 — — —

She hides pottery shards.

12 3 — — 10 —

“It’s about their safety,” ranted the bureaucrat.

— 22 11 14 — —

It’s not how much I do, it’s how much I efficiently do.

7 — — 17 —

“I wouldn’t contradict a tortoise,” advised the hare.

6 15 — — 4 — — 13

Together, alders might crowd a riverbank.

1 — — — — 18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22