

Caesar Shifts Rock

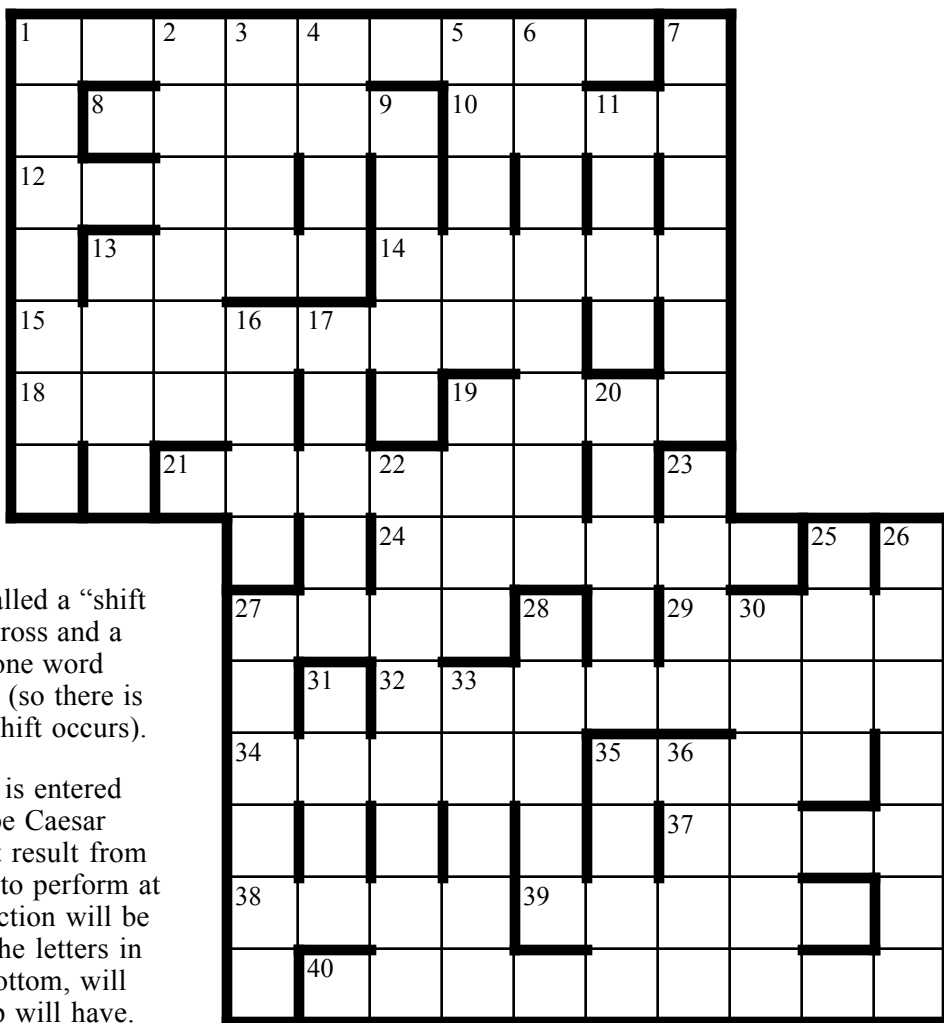
by Ucaoimhu

The beautiful Rocky Mountain landscape we see around us is the result of a lot of tectonic shifting. In tribute, this puzzle involves a lot of shifting, too. Specifically:

(1) For some clues, which work normally, each answer must be entered in the grid with one letter “Caesar shifted” by three (that is, shifted three positions forward in the alphabet, cyclically: A to D, B to E, . . . , Z to C). The resulting entry will always be an 11C word; in one case it will actually be an answer to another clue.

Each grid square containing a shifted letter is called a “shift square”; every shift square is part of both an Across and a Down word. For half of the shift squares, only one word shifts at that square; for the other half, *both* do (so there is no conflict between the words to signal that a shift occurs).

(2) For each of the remaining clues, the answer is entered normally, but one letter in the clue itself must be Caesar shifted by three before solving. The letters that result from these shifts, in clue order, will say what action to perform at every shift square from (1). The result of this action will be helpful in properly interpreting the grid; also, the letters in the shift squares, read left to right and top to bottom, will tell you what those who complete this final step will have.



ACROSS

1. Sorb nut at Ben's is one paying rent indirectly (9) [NI3]
8. Sends messages to group taking Texas back (5)
10. Use the eyes of a nobleman (4)
12. Jay, by force, put in American type of radio (2/2, *abbr.*)
13. I wouldn't say that peon is weird (4)
14. Forbid nonsense remarks intended to sting (5)
15. Making years lively but uncertain (8)
18. Ms. Derek will plant seeds in a fibrous container (4)
19. Wheels with a bit of electric charge (4)
21. Prim future poll participant locks up room (6)
24. Beer dispenser exhibits left kneecap after loping a little (6) [NI2]
27. Was the first revolving Indian restaurant (4)
29. Scurried after loud actress Drescher (4)
32. Get pinged by Curt after trimming documents (8)
34. Hammy actor Pitt gets Lily, to start with (5)
35. Mistake virus at first for bacterium (4)
37. Mentioned sorbet, pastry, and game that becomes little kippers (1 3) [NI3]
38. Litigate against a stooge hitting your bar for sport (4)
39. “This kitchen item extrudes grain,” my man said (5)
40. GE exec dirties doily when spilling odd items in an agitated state (9)

DOWN

1. Substitute, having no hoops, juggled Don's toy box (7)

2. Get dirty, noisy, cow-hunting bird that flies around before mooning (6)
3. Compact piece of top-end stereo equipment (4)
4. Belgian and English drips start to request to be in France (4)
5. A terrible pain pertaining to a bee (5) [NI3]
6. Bra-changing lass in northeast wind of 32–38 MPH (4 4)
7. Gay about sailors that marooned Robinson (6)
9. Do Salk's competitor and a Peruvian box, perh.? (5)
11. Reportedly pays money for unplayed games (4)
13. Crank rotated well, not badly (4)
16. Spot a single man when playing backgammon (4)
17. Half of them improperly take pulse (5)
19. Visit purely to support Colorado's leadership (4)
20. Row about the vacuous western (5)
22. In 2010, Gore will meet next, less beringed, radical leader (7 1)
23. Move lightly with one foot (4)
25. Misguidedly prepare endlessly starchy or sugary food (4)
26. Elf athlete's letter twice describes lady pursuing wild Huns in a bold manner (7) [NI3]
27. Corrupt rocker Snider wails in bachelor pads, ultimately (6)
28. Randi edited *The Worst of Ali* (5)
30. Sub, sent northward to stop Communist, is employed for other purposes (6)
31. Hera finally abandons phony German woman (4)
33. Laugh vocally when lusting friend causes chaos (5)
35. Fifty-one, in fleeing Qatar, originally move quickly (4)
36. Fib about primarily chitinous parasites (4)