

What's Your Story?

2022
ASRP

JUNE 1 - AUGUST 31

P.S. SCAN OUR QR CODE
FOR MORE DETAILS.

Complete this puzzle, and claim your badge on Beanstack to earn a ticket. Each ticket you earn will enter you into a drawing for the chance to win. Earning more tickets will increase your chances of winning a prize!

New puzzles are available for pick up each Monday during the summer. The answers will be posted the following Monday online and in the library.

Participate virtually through Beanstack (neenahlibrary.beanstack.org) or pick up a paper copy of the challenge at the Reference Desk.

Week 7: Crossword Puzzle

Crossword Puzzles are over 100 years old!

December 21, 2013 marked the Centenary of the Crossword. Liverpool journalist Arthur Wynne who was born on June 22, 1871 is credited as the inventor of the crossword. The game has been called "the most popular and widespread word game in the world".

As a young man, Wynne emigrated from England to the United States and got a job with the 'New York World'. One day, his editor asked him to invent a new game for the newspaper's Sunday 'Fun' section. Wynne claimed his inspiration came from an ancient Roman game played in Pompeii called 'Magic Squares', in which players were given a list of words and letters on tiles to make into patterns on a table.

Wynne created a larger and more complex grid, and provided clues instead of giving the necessary words. He called it 'Word-Cross' game. Wynne's puzzle first appeared in the December 21, 1913 edition of the 'World', as one of the

'Fun' section's 'mental exercises.' It was diamond-shaped, without blackened-out squares, and with easy clues. However simple, it was a huge success.

A few weeks after the first 'Word-Cross' was printed; the name was changed to 'Cross-Word' as a result of a typesetting error. It has been known as a 'crossword' ever since.

Before long other newspapers borrowed Wynne's puzzle; the first book of crossword puzzles was published in 1924. By then, the fad had traveled back to Wynne's homeland. In 1930, the London Times printed their first sample of what had only recently been dubbed 'the crossword puzzle.'

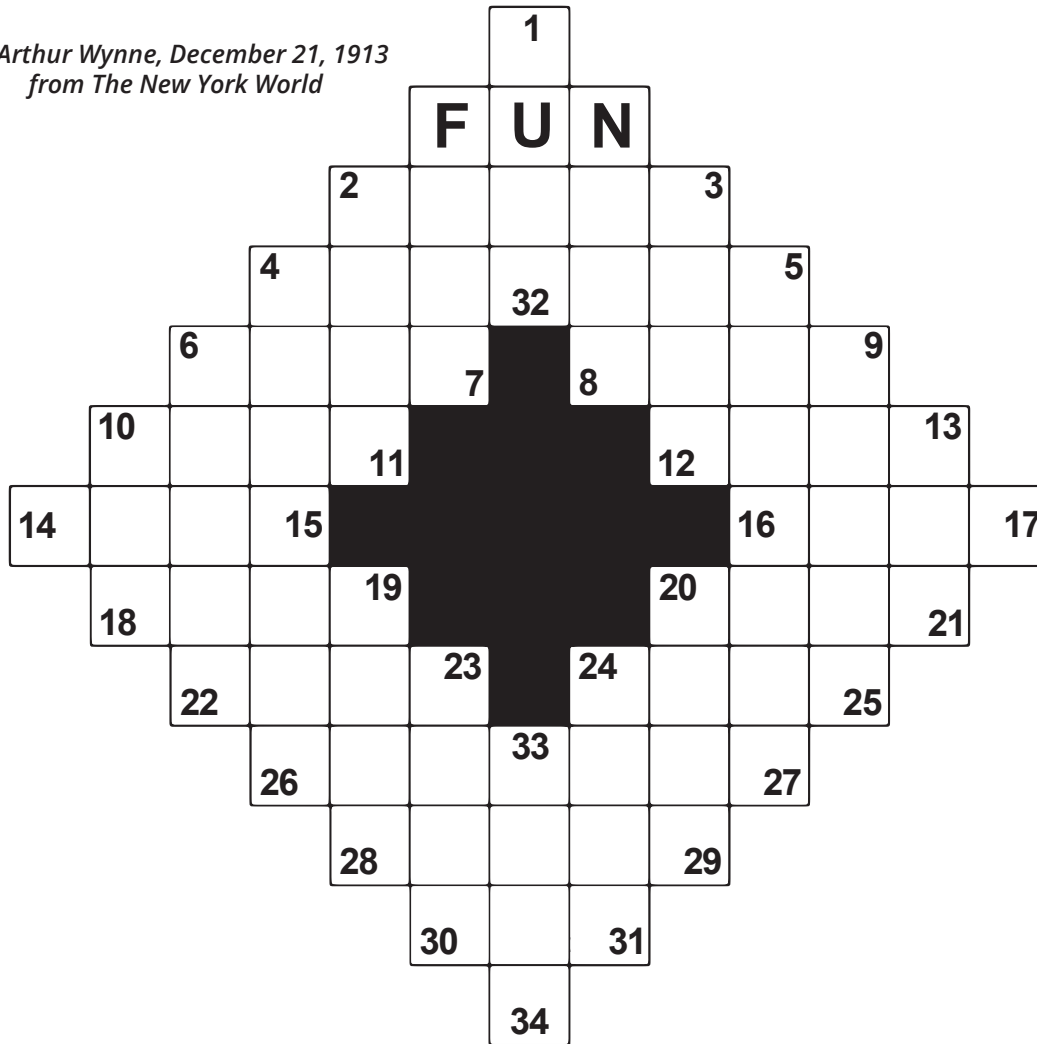
After 1942, it was the New York Times that set the standards for professional crosswords: e.g., symmetrical grids, with answers at least three letters long. In time, the puzzles also became more subtle, including pun-based clues, multiple-word answers, and overarching themes.

Today, crossword puzzles can be found in every major alphabet-based language, all over the world. In the US, the annual American Crossword Tournament (founded 1978) draws experts from every walk of life. Arthur Wynne's 'mental exercise' has become an international institution.

Fun fact: A crossword enthusiast is called a 'cruciverbalist'.

Now flip the page over and see if you can complete the first crossword puzzle!

By Arthur Wynne, December 21, 1913
from *The New York World*



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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2-3. What bargain hunters enjoy. | 6-22. What we all should be. |
| 4-5. A written acknowledgment. | 4-26. A day dream. |
| 6-7. Such and nothing more. | 2-11. A talon. |
| 10-11. A bird. | 19-28. A pigeon. |
| 14-15. Opposed to less. | F-7. Part of your head. |
| 18-19. What this puzzle is. | 23-30. A river in Russia. |
| 22-23. An animal of prey. | 1-32. To govern. |
| 26-27. The close of a day. | 33-34. An aromatic plant. |
| 28-29. To elude. | N-8. A fist. |
| 30-31. The plural of is. | 24-31. To agree with. |
| 8-9. To cultivate. | 3-12. Part of a ship. |
| 12-13. A bar of wood or iron. | 20-29. One. |
| 16-17. What artists learn to do. | 5-27. Exchanging. |
| 20-21. Fastened. | 9-25. To sink in mud. |
| 24-25. Found on the seashore. | 13-21. A boy. |
| 10-18. The fibre of the gomuti palm. | |