

Central Square

Square Pegs

3		
2		

Who doesn't love a good game of Battleship, the game which requires you to put pegs in squares to find a fleet using the process of elimination? We certainly enjoy it.

This puzzle is like a game of Battleship. Each line below contains two clues with answers which are ten letters long in total; each pair of answers fills one row or one column of the 10x10 grid, in the order they are clued. The lines for row A and column 1 have been marked; all the other lines have been alphabetized.

Once the crossword is completed, you will need to find a fleet within the 10x10 crossword grid. The fleet consists of an aircraft carrier (5 squares long), a battleship (4 squares), a cruiser (3 squares) and a destroyer (2 squares), and no segment which is part of any ship is adjacent to any part of any other ship, even diagonally.

Finding the positions of the fleet should help you identify something else you don't normally need to peg in a game of Battleship.

Rows:

- A. Retirement fund org. (3) / In few words (7)
Gobsmacked by grandeur (4) / Prestigious New Orleans university (6)
Gov't. Org. known for fighting pollution (3) / Nation surrounded by a single neighbor (7)
Like Hyundai or Psy (6) / CCLXIII × IV (4)
Meghan who sang "Dear Future Husband" (7) / Period of time (3)
Retain documents for the future (7) / Response upon seeing a mouse (3)
The latest digital gizmos (4) / Listless and low on energy (6)
Three sheets to the wind (6) / Support for a proposal? (4)
Wrapped in bandages (7) / Video feed provider (3)
Winsome, like a Scottish lass (5) / Is slack-jawed in astonishment (5)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A										
B										
C										
D										
E										
F										
G										
H										
I										
J										

Columns:

1. Trick-taking card game for three (4) / Butters up the Butterball (6)
Ancient and mysterious (6) / Central American berry (4)
At the height of fashion (2 5) / Sergeant, for short (3)
Deep and profound sadness (6) / Shed many tears (4)
Exclamation of startled fear (5) / Host at a wedding reception (5)
How a knight would address his lord (5) / Optimistic to an unreasonable degree (5)
Shade of the city Dorothy sought (7) / Mammal similar to a moose (3)
So-called circus "performer" (4) / Yellow chaser of ghosts (3-3)
Solidly in one's corner (6) / Back awhile ago (4)
Wetter than partly cloudy (5) / Show one's gratitude (5)

Battleship clues:

- All four ships cross at least one of the two grid diagonals; two of them cross both diagonals.
Only two ship segments are squares where two entries of the same length cross; both of them are in row H.
The ship segments contain one I among them, but no E's or S's.
Rows B and C do not contain any ship segments; neither does column 7.