

SOLUTION

EVOLUTION

Each of the clues provided involves either a letter addition, removal or alteration. The modified clues provide a word which itself undergoes the same alteration to form five independent word chains, all culminating in the word BRAINS.

Forbids (≠)use	B(R)ANS
Sores or wea(r →l)s	B(R→L)AINS
Mill(i)er's leftovers	BRA(I)NS
Greenba(n →c)k	BU(N→C)K
(S→K)id's bed	BUN(S→K)
You might spread b(a→u)tter on them	B(A→U)NS
Moves, with a very slow pa(t→c)e	(T→C)RAWLS
Fills with gle(p →e)	(P→E)LATES
Harvested seeds of (b→g)rass crops	(B→G)RAINS
Patterns found on a plai(n→d) fabric	GRI(N→D)S
Sl(a)y looks	GR(A)INS
(M→H)utt's debtor	(M→H)AN
Pin(s→e) Tree State	MAIN(S→E)
So(r→m)e underground pipes	(R→M)AINS
F(e)ather, for instance	MAN(E)
Hor(i)se's locks	MA(I)NE
Large, flat (b→p)lots of land	(B→P)LAINS
P(i)lots or schemes	PLA(I)NS
Stegosaurus spin(e) features	PLAT(E)S
Pig (n→t)ails, for instance	PLA(N→T)S
(P)ointed instruments, often electrified	(P)RODS
Drought (b)enders	(B)RAINS
Drives (g)out	(G)RIDS
Fishing p(i→o)les	R(I→O)DS
Writes in a fa(s)t manner	(S)CRAWLS
Lays with limbs s(c→p)anned out	S(C→P)RAWLS
(N→L)ags behind	TRAI(N→L)S
(B→T)eaches a task	(B→T)RAINS
Fishes, with a net dra(i→w)n through the water	TRA(I→W)LS
(B→Y)um's opposite	(B→Y)UCK

The resulting five words chains are given below:

HAN	YUCK	PRODS	ELATES	SPRAWLS
MAN	BUCK	RODS	PLATES	SCRAWLS
MANE	BUNK	RIDS	PLATS	CRAWLS
MAINE	BUNS	GRIDS	PLANS	TRAWLS
MAINS	BANS	GRINS	PLAINS	TRAILS
RAINS	BRANS	GRAINS	BLAINS	TRAINS
BRAINS	BRAINS	BRAINS	BRAINS	BRAINS

Taking the first letters from each initial word, in increasing length, spells the answer **HYPES**.