



Building Blocks | a cryptic puzzle by *Emily Cox & Henry Rathvon*

Answers to clues for the Across rows are broken into two-letter segments, yielding building blocks for a certain construction project. For example, ANSWER would be broken into AN, SW, and ER, and these blocks could be placed anywhere in any order in their designated row. Their positions are cemented by answers to Down clues, which are entered normally in the order listed. The 12 letters protruding to the left and right of the grid, reading downward, show the object of the construction project.

Across

- 1 ▶ "Building Blocks" is ABCs with a twist (6)
 - ▶ Hammers first of messages in front of wall, and jumps over (6)
- 2 ▶ Fate who spun fabric with hoop (6)
 - ▶ Playboy roast host entering flawlessly (6)
- 3 ▶ Some dirt on guest's shoe part (6)
 - ▶ Public outcry in favor of invading old Mideast alliance, shortly (6)
- 4 ▶ French sea songs linked with trendy cargo vessel (8,4)
- 5 ▶ Mocking is included in extract (8)
 - ▶ Suit jacket (4)
- 6 ▶ Manage to get by shark circling Ed (4,2)
 - ▶ See about national legislative body (6)

- 7 ▶ Spoke second, with help (4)
 - ▶ Glimpse things GI recycled (8)
- 8 ▶ Observes article we had moved up and down (8)
 - ▶ Run into a Hindu hero (4)
- 9 ▶ Arriving outside corral, perched, balancing (12)
- 10 ▶ Utah ski resort where vows are exchanged, for the most part (4)
 - ▶ Pasta truck, one carrying a huge amount (8)
- 11 ▶ Free, secure mobile (6)
 - ▶ Visored "Star Trek" officer in charge ordinarily (6)
- 12 ▶ Seniors holding vote for mystery writer (6)
 - ▶ Very small adolescents with place to work out (6)

Down

- a ▶ Caught by ogre, I yell bloody murder (6)
 - ▶ Reed, e.g., altered academic award (6)
- b ▶ Potential zombies right inside thickets (7)
 - ▶ Son or daughter tossed coins (5)
- c ▶ Tale about New England mothers performing construction work (12)
- d ▶ Refuses to practice (4)
- e ▶ Judge dined after start of recess (4)
 - ▶ Current diet overhauled (4)
- f ▶ Hogwarts's primary network infiltrated by a big friend of Harry Potter (6)
 - ▶ I realize initially it is eye trouble (6)
- g ▶ Trims back company's wall covering (6)
 - ▶ Savory turnover and bagel eaten by Gregor in "The Metamorphosis" (6)
- h ▶ Frozen mummy came in unexpectedly (6)
 - ▶ Affect brat with performance (6)
- i ▶ Down in the dumps, exhaled out loud (4)
 - ▶ Settle down before a long tale (4)
 - ▶ Swing around boatload in the sound (4)
- j ▶ Concert venue sound equipment struck radiator (12)
 - ▶ Square dance group changing coat before start of dance (5)
 - ▶ Wins over close listeners (7)
- k ▶ Big jocks love being hugged by artistic Grandma (6)
 - ▶ Crews on either side of East Indian river (6)

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