

CENTRAL



PARK

Solution – Puzzle by Susan Glass and Aaron Fuegi

The three puzzles can all initially be solved independently and then in combination used to extract the answer phrase.

Shown here are the solved grids for the A. GROUND and B. AERIAL censuses together. The solved C. AURAL CENSUS grid is on page 2.

CA	IB	D	S	F	L	Z	ZO	SA	N	G	SS	A	ON	M	R	BA	OM	A	T
R	O	TL	EN	K	O	M	IE	F	SG	NE	ER	LE	D	I	A	C	AR	AN	O
G	S	NE	N	G	E	RM	O	A	E	A	ST	ME	NS	J	AN	P	N	AT	S
B	AR	BO	E	E	OZ	N	IT	DI	D	U	R	S	AN	DE	E	T	E	RO	A
S	OR	AR	BE	CO	E	O	S	TH	ET	AS	NG	C	B	A	T	E	U	RA	NE
C	N	F	ST	V	TR	CA	US	F	HE	HU	T	S	AN	G	D	R	ET	B	LD
DA	QU	E	FS	DE	LU	GA	GO	T	E	S	LK	CO	A	OO	E	AM	ME	RI	ST
F	LI	U	E	CH	I	MB	IT	B	LA	HI	H	B	L	AL	RY	CI	T	HY	Y

The dragon from the Paint-By-Numbers (PBN) is shown here in orange so as to distinguish the red letters from it. In reality, it should be red/burgundy. The blue/cyan squares from the PBN are only used later but are included here to show the full PBN solution.

Each of the Alphablocks/Categories boxes solves to four items in a category, each associated with a color, always including Red which are colored such above. The solutions are Restaurants: White CASTLE, Blue RIBBON, Olive GARDEN, Red BONES; Muppets FOZZIE (Brown), KERMIT (Green), Gonzo (Blue), Elmo (Red); Inside Out characters: SADNESS (Blue), FEAR (Purple), ANGER (Red), DISGUST (Green); Characters/Books: BlackADDER, Gray LENS MAN, Blue MEANIE, Red SONJA; Foods: BANANA (Yellow), CARROT (Orange), PEAS (Green), TOMATO (Red); European Locations: Red SQUARE, White CLIFFS, Blue DANUBE, Black FOREST; NHL Teams: COLUMBUS Blue Jackets, VEGAS Golden Knights, DETROIT Red Wings, CHICAGO Blackhawks; Superheroes: THE THING (Orange), FLASH (Red), THE HULK (Green), BEAST (Blue); Color Shades: CANARY Yellow, SAGE Green, COBALT Blue, BLOOD Red; Gems: EMERALD (Green), RUBY (Red), AMETHYST (Purple), CITRINE (Yellow).

Following the instruction from the AURAL CENSUS to look at the Red Cells under the Dragon, you can read the letters “BEASTS OF BU” taking one letter per box and reading in box order. This is the first half of the answer phrase.

Central Park Dragon Census Solution (continued)

The C. AURAL CENSUS solution is shown below, including the blue/cyan squares from the PBN which will be needed here. For each clue, an 8 letter word has been removed from the song lyric. Solvers must figure out these words and then enter them using three of the given Trigrams into the grid. The middle letter of the middle trigram is entered below the main grid, as indicated by the arrow, and these letters provide an instruction phrase. The placements of some middle trigrams are initially ambiguous but these ambiguities are resolved as you solve more of the clues.

The songs used all include a color in their title and the clues are color-coded to indicate this. For example, the first song is "Bein' Green" from The Muppet Show. All of the songs are listed on the next page.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
O	S	D	A	P	T	M	S	G	S	L	J	R	D	S	H	R	A	S	P
R	I	O	L	I	H	O	U	O	O	A	U	E	R	O	O	E	L	H	A
D	D	G	A	C	O	N	D	R	M	U	M	C	E	F	N	M	L	O	R
I	E	F	K	T	U	G	D	G	E	G	K	E	A	T	E	E	E	P	A
N	W	I	A	U	G	R	E	E	B	H	Y	I	M	W	S	M	R	P	D
A	A	G	Z	R	H	E	N	O	O	I	A	V	I	A	T	B	G	E	I
R	Y	H	A	E	T	L	L	U	D	N	R	E	N	R	L	E	I	R	S
Y	S	T	M	S	S	S	Y	S	Y	G	D	D	G	E	Y	R	C	S	E

A	R	E	D	C	E	L	L	S	U	N	D	E	R	D	R	A	G	O	N
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The middle trigram letters read, adding punctuation, "A: RED CELLS UNDER DRAGON" which is an instruction to read only the squares associated with Red items in the A. GROUND CENSUS grid and only read them if they fall directly under a red square that makes up part of the dragon. As stated above, these squares read "BEASTS OF BU".

A second instruction is provided by reading five extra trigrams that are not used to make up the 8 letter words. These trigrams in order are CCE LLS NEA THC YAN. Reparsed, this reads "C: CELLS NEATH CYAN" suggesting the solver should read the cells in this C grid that are under the squares colored blue/cyan in the PBN grid. These cells, read left-to-right, spell out "RGUNDY CD".

Combined, the answer is "**BEASTS OF BURGUNDY CD**". Solvers can find this, the latest album by the Squirrel Nut Zippers, on the rack of CDs in the house. This brings us back to the inspiration for this puzzle, the Central Park Squirrel Census (<https://www.thesquirrelcensus.com/>).

Central Park Dragon Census Solution (continued)

C. AURAL CENSUS SONG TITLES

1. Bein' Green
2. Little Red Corvette
3. Snoopy vs The Red Baron
4. Orange Colored Sky
5. Maxwell's Silver Hammer
6. Red Red Wine
7. Goodbye Yellow Brick Road
8. Blue Moon
9. Lady in Red
10. Itsy-Bitsy Teenie-Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini
11. Purple Rain
12. Bad Bad Leroy Brown
13. Tie a Yellow Ribbon
14. True Blue
15. 99 Red Balloons
16. I Guess That's Why They Cause it the Blues
17. Fields of Gold
18. Green Acres Theme
19. Silver Bells
20. Big Yellow Taxi