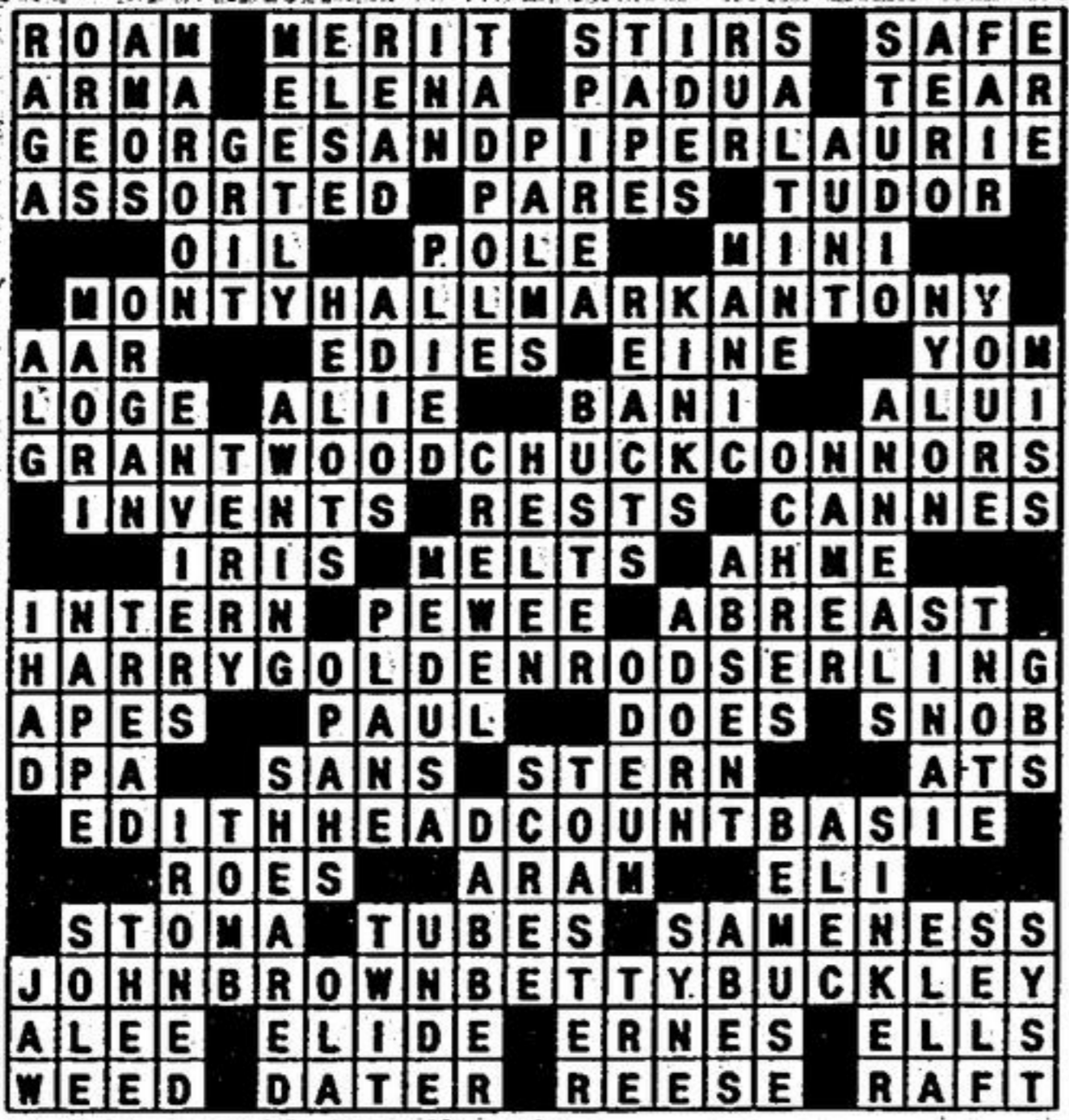


Answers



Trivia

# Scalping goes back 2,500 years to the Scythians of Russia

**Q. Is it true that North American natives did not invent scalping but learned it from white settlers?**

**A. Yes.** Although old Hollywood movies would make you think otherwise, the practice of scalping went back at least 2,500 years ago to the Scythians of southern Russia.

According to the book, *Heritage of Canada*, scalping in North America probably began with a governor of the New Netherlands colony who wanted Indians killed. He paid for the scalps and believed they were good proof of the death.

Apparently by the 18th century the British were paying for French scalps, and vice-versa,

and both paid for natives' scalps.

Indians did take up the practice and in some tribes the taking of scalps became a symbol of warrior status.

Scalps were usually taken from the dead, but in some cases people were scalped and still lived. Some were then allowed to return home as a warning of what could happen.

**Q. How many people touch a piece of mail sent from Toronto to Vancouver?**

**A.** Since the post office mechanized its sorting process in the late 60s and early 70s, human hands have had considerably less contact with the mail. With today's technology, Canada Post spokesperson Ida Irwin of Ottawa says as few as four people will actually touch a letter from the moment it's dropped in a mail box in Toronto, until it is placed in a mail box in Vancouver.

The first point of human contact is the postal employee who clears the mailbox where the letter was deposited.

The piece of mail is then transported to a mail sorting plant where machinery takes over for the next few steps.

It is mechanically deposited into a machine which cancels the stamp, before being automatically sorted on another machine.

The human touch re-enters the picture when a postal worker takes the letter off the sorting machine in bundle form and places it into a wire cage for transport to Vancouver. The cage is loaded onto a truck and eventually moved to an airplane for its flight west.

In Vancouver, it is sorted by machine into a letter carrier's "walk" before human hands place it into a bin to await the carrier. The final set of hands to make contact are those of the carrier who places the letter in your mail box.

Irwin said mechanization of the post office did not reduce jobs at the post office.

However, the introduction of postal codes did result in a leaner workforce at Canada Post and the introduction of electronic equipment is expected to cut more jobs.

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