

Walkthrough for Hydroxychloroquine Logic puzzle – 24/5/20

HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE

What a fantastic word, and I gather a fine anti-malarial drug, though possibly not applicable to the current pandemic.

There are a number of approaches that can be taken to solve this puzzle but here is one. No letter can appear more than once so the 13 letters in the grid are:

CDEHILNOQRUXY

There are 4 letters used more than once, HORY, 3 of which go into the 3 blue squares in the 2nd column. H must be adjacent to Y and O must be adjacent to R, so the 4th letter used more than once must be in the 1st or 3rd column:

4 th		4 th		
		4 th		
4 th		4 th		

The number of letters used more than once (4) + the number of letters in the second half of the alphabet (7) – the number of letters used more than once and in the second half of the alphabet (3) = 8, which is the same as the number of blue + green squares.

This means that all the letters used more than once or in the second half of the alphabet are in either a blue or green square. So H must be in a blue square and the missing 4th letter used more than once is in a green square:

		4 th		
		4 th		

However there are 4 letters that touch at least 2 of HORY – CDLX, these letters must also be in the 1st or 3rd column, filling the first 3 columns.

The letters in the last 2 columns are then EINQU.

Q and U have to be in adjacent green squares in the last two columns, so must be in the bottom row. Also Q is adjacent to O, so O must be the missing 4th letter used more than once and in the middle of the grid:

		O		
			Q	U

N must be in a green square and the last 2 columns can be finished:

			N	E
		O	I	
			Q	U

The 4 remaining squares that are not blue are CDLX.

X must be the green square, L is adjacent to O and Y is adjacent to CDX so must be in the middle of the blue column:

		X	N	E
	Y	O	I	
		L	Q	U

So the final diagram is:

D	R	X	N	E
	Y	O	I	
C	H	L	Q	U

Keep safe!