

# An Inconvenient Puzzle

by Negroni

This puzzle is about impermanence, so solve with a pencil. The across clues will all be affected by climate change, in the following ways:

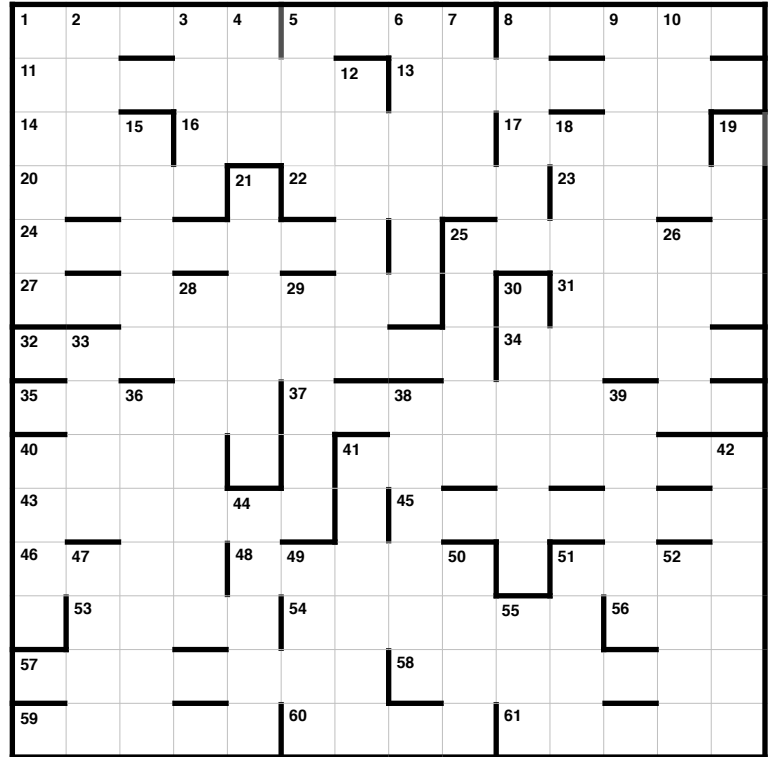
**Fires (10 clues):** Burn (remove) one word before solving the clue, and circle the first letter of the word to be removed.

**Hurricanes (9 clues):** Scramble (anagram) one word in the clue before solving; if the anagram is the *n*th word in the clue, circle the *n*th letter in the clue, before alteration.

**Rising Temperature (8 clues):** Add the letter T to one word in the clue before solving; if the T is added as the *n*th letter of the word, circle the *n*th letter of the clue, before alteration.

**Drought (7 clues):** Remove an appropriate set of letters from one word before solving, and circle the *n*th letter of the clue, where *n* is the number of letters removed from the word.

All the letters, in clue order, will spell out an appropriate &lit cryptic clue with enumeration (3 4). The answer will affect the grid itself by prompting you to erase certain contiguous letters from the grid. When they are all removed, the letters higher up in the puzzle will move down to take the place of the removed letters until there are no more blank spaces with letters above. In the transformed grid, the middle two rows will spell out two inevitable consequences of the &lit clue's answer.



## Across

- 1 On reflection, mostly panic, worn away Earth is a treasure (5)
- 5 UNIX program opts to save using deprecated operation (4)
- 8 Seize bank behind waterfront of Cairo (5)
- 11 Eastern European male communicated interminable, hostile screed (7)
- 13 Inclined to be indebted to gloomy doula (7)
- 14 Olfactory unpleasantness returned after 50 shot in Ennis (3)
- 16 In favor of Roman's "I Refuse Failure" (6)
- 17 Chekhov: umbrageous central characters in *Lain Egg* (4)
- 20 Leave out meditation chant with yogi's last trainee (4)
- 22 A minor key in *Awful Lies*? (5)
- 23 India and initially Bangladesh take first person to be declared a metrical unit (4)
- 24 Many a deep though evil cutting attack with sword tip (7)
- 25 Never without limits, left after revolutionary cheese (6)
- 27 CC search engine claims crucifix is darkly menacing (8)
- 31 Level note and reserve note (4)
- 32 Chilean city forecasts draconian chaos (9)
- 34 Improper waterline holds bit of thermal info gathered in secret (5)
- 35 Airman be with lots of risk? (5)
- 37 Sates expert professions (9)
- 40 Access saps with like four turns (4)
- 41 Lima's founder, a Greek character actor who is overly emotional and angry (8)
- 43 Slight expletive from lawyer and leader of Microsoft recalling meal (4 2)

- 45 Liu and Cano mixing it up at the opera's *Legendary Trone*, informally (7)
- 46 Brasilia caiman: scarier South American food (4)
- 48 Cutter of potatoes captivated brainy triceratops (5)
- 51 Easily one tenth of turnover made cold (4)
- 53 A kid's hairy creatures? Restrain about 100 (4)
- 54 Are licensed, affirmative, to waterboard mother and terrorist in front (6)
- 56 The usual, in brief slandering state Democrat (3)
- 57 Artistic person with intensely pigmented features and grace wearing lapel attachment, perhaps (7)
- 58 Sprite, cleansed, evens out having indeterminate sex (7)
- 59 Cite torture around Whitewater a couple times (5)
- 60 Defense PAC not allowed to oust leaders (4)
- 61 Humans finally fixed Earth with temperature dropping and crop rotation (5)

- 9 Spirit, as being entering a never-ending life at traditional mass, for example (7)
- 10 Silent-sounding bubbly brand (4)
- 12 Luck of the Irish not available in small jet (6)
- 15 Horned mammal is turning head around (5)
- 18 Country contest approaches Tennessee in the morning (7)
- 19 Confused rube at ride-share firm (4)
- 21 City in central India's ironed out (6)
- 25 Mentor over half of popular music festival (5)
- 26 Mythical animal from the South German Sea (4)
- 28 Destroyed canoe pics off limits to airline in TV show (7)
- 29 One obsessive enthusiast takes page to feed into computer (5)
- 30 California returns sporting little, small flowers (6)
- 33 Bones of a son or daughter extremely deficient (4)
- 36 Certain Muslims' political ideology beset leader of Indonesia (7)
- 38 Somewhat soul-eyed human rights activist, to ex-husband Raphael (6)
- 39 Some computers trick one with regression (5)
- 40 Global feminist movement's five down, yes? (1-3)
- 41 Obamacare pursues computer monkey from Portugal (6)
- 42 Walk unsteadily, weirder after first of drinks (6)
- 44 Going backwards through generic powerful hurricane (5)
- 47 Sail corner with guide, we hear (4)
- 49 Include me for one minute (1'1 2)
- 50 Auctioned wheels? \$0 for each revolution (4)
- 51 Craving sound quality, wanting piano (4)
- 52 Pot grower rejected smoker in Sicily (4)
- 55 Sierra is a girlfriend, informally (3)

## Down

- 1 A lead weight has center replaced by oxygen for poise (6)
- 2 Rising spirit spells catastrophe (4)
- 3 Umpire tore beginner apart (4)
- 4 Demon's focus is angst-filled music genre (3)
- 5 In retrospect, tax collector takes interest in digital assistant (4)
- 6 Crystallize deity from below in dangerous turn (6)
- 7 In audition, be obligated to play a violin, perhaps a woodwind (4)
- 8 Cold loads, hot fabric (5)