

# Merry Hex-mas

—Corey Plover

M, A and L come running at you exclaiming that they've discovered a tunnel under one of the stalagmites. You're tempted to prod them about how they managed find this, when you notice M limping slightly. Climbing down the shaft, the four of you find yourselves squeezing through a perfectly normal Christmas scene. Well, perfectly normal apart from the fact that everything is ten times flatter than it ought to be.

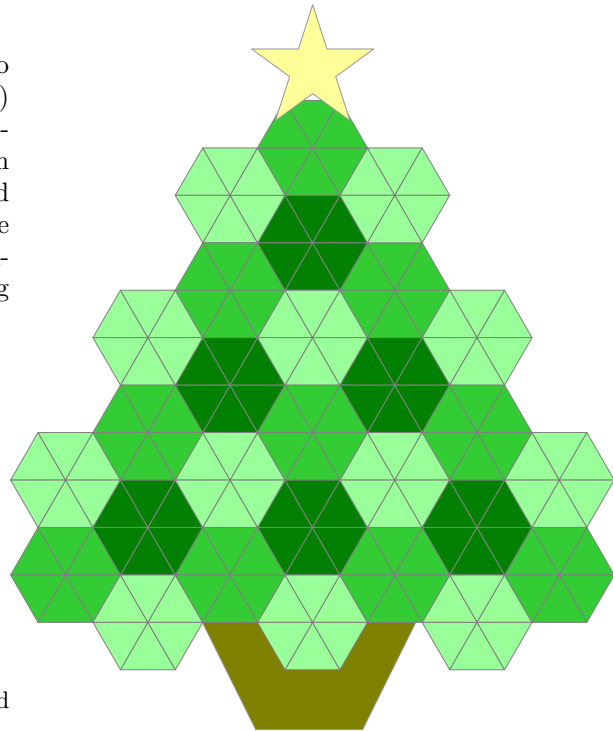
First the festive music and now this! Space and time is definitely distorted here.

**Instructions**

The grid is a triangular one, divided into hexagons with marked (but not numbered) centers. Each horizontal row contains between one and three clued entries, with their dividing points to be determined (the bottom row is spread across three hexagons). Each hexagon contains one six-letter answer, with direction and starting point to be determined.

**Hex Clues**

- Belonging to Hitler
- But
- Captain of the *USS Enterprise*
- Cessations of breathing
- Close by means of a knot (2 words)
- Discover
- Doctor portrayed by Burt Lancaster and Marlon Brando
- Esprit de corps
- Female given name meaning wisdom
- Fifth largest country
- Habituated
- Indemnify against loss
- Joint injury
- Leash
- Like Lemony Snicket's elevator
- Moves in a rhythmical manner
- Muslim denomination
- Non-Hispanic person
- Object (esp. a molecular or magnet) that is oppositely charged at two points
- Patton Oswalt's character from *The King of Queens*
- Pertaining to the samba
- Reinforced undergarment
- Roman goddess of childbirth and midwifery
- Sample, esp. perfumes
- Syntactic analyser
- Tended
- Unable to
- Uterine opening

**Row Clues**

1. Enemy
2. Least airtight
3. 1/100th of an Ångström
4. Captured or rounded up
5. Adhesives  
Former policeman (hyph.)  
Police rank (abbrev.)
6. Most tidy  
Unusual
7. Year of completion of Trajan's Column  
Diamorphine  
Common adolescent affliction
8. Set aside  
Serious injuries  
High regard
9. 3.26156 light years  
Bombing of Britain in World War II (2 words)  
Decreed
10. Kerchiefs worn on the head  
Smokin' Joe, boxer  
Heeding
11. Capital of Lesotho  
Second most intelligent creatures on Earth, according to Douglas Adams  
Pass through a phase
12. Extinct reptiles