

### 3. Canada Thrust by Ucaomihu

(Solve only after solving Puzzles 1 and 2.)

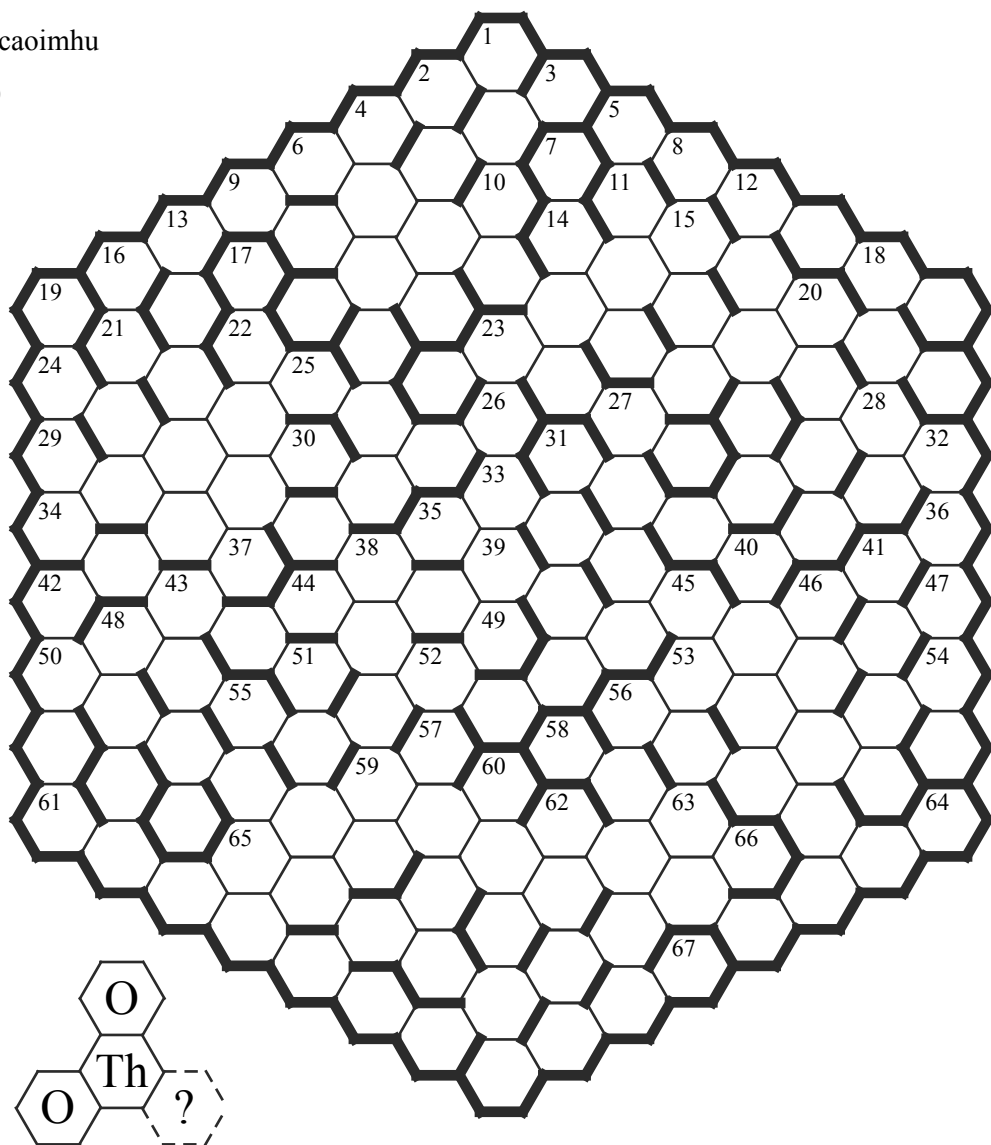
Eagle-eyed fans of the movie *WarGames* know that one computer scenario listed there was CANADA THRUST; now you too can explore this scenario around the clock! Specifically, this grid has three kinds of THRUST hexes; read each kind *clockwise around the grid, starting at 12 o'clock* (and heading towards the center — the hex marked 39 — in case of ties):

(a) Each of nine hexes will be the intersection of a southbound **thru st.** with its cross street(s); the former will have a different letter in that hex than the latter. The through-street letters will say what you can do on through streets; the cross-street letters will say what kind of virtual trip you can make on cross streets.

(b) Each of nine answers must have one letter added before entry, representing a southbound group of flyers generating **thrust**. (One altered entry will be a technical flight-related term.) The hexes the flyers *point to* will say what these flyers can produce. One ambiguity exists here; either way you resolve it will result in a meaningful phrase (one result is “larger” than the other). Don’t worry about what you choose to do; it’s just a simulation.

(c) The grid contains six molecules of **Th rust** (that is,  $\text{ThO}_2$ ), each of which is a set of three hexes as shown to the right (in some orientation, but with the O’s always  $120^\circ$  apart); note that this means that some answers in this puzzle must be entered with a TH sequence in one hex. Since  $\text{ThO}_2$  is used in gas lanterns, each such molecule illuminates the hex  $120^\circ$  away from both O’s (shown with a question mark); the illuminated hexes will show another means of illumination used in this puzzle.

(d) Of the clues *not* yielding an (a) street answer, (b) flyer answer, or (c) TH answer, 24 must be altered before solving by changing a single letter to another letter. For each Straight Down clue of this kind, write down the letter before and after changing; these pairs, in clue order, will form a wordplay-only clue for part of the title of this puzzle, and will also say what the through-street message from (a), your chosen message from (b), and the message from (c) all are.



(e) Since none of this has any real-world significance, it is clearly perfectly safe to write down the through-street message from (a) and your chosen message from (b) in these boxes:

(a)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(b)	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

and write the (i) number sequence from Puzzle 1 alternating with the number sequence from Puzzle 2 (like two players taking turns in a game) in these boxes:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

and use the numbers to index into the letters, thus yielding this harmlessly nonsensical eleven-letter sequence:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(f) Oh no! The computer running this simulation has discovered the real-life launch codes! Specifically, when you changed letters in (d) for the Down Left clues you were *encoding* them using one code, and when you did the same for the Down Right clues you were encoding them using a different code. If you *decode* the eleven-letter sequence from (e) using the Down Left or Down Right code, depending on whether you chose the larger answer or smaller answer (respectively) in (b), you will get your final result.

(g) Clearly, your choice in (b) was more important than you thought. Each of the 19 clues not yet used in this puzzle has wordplay that yields an extra letter at the start or end of the answer. The extra letters at the start will say what making the correct choice in (b) is; those at the end will say specifically what the correct choice there is.

## CLUES

### DOWN LEFT

1. A Nevada city tourist's vacuous, childish retorts (*hyph.*)
3. Inexpensive jalopy is beneath Charlie
10. Mitch is absent from float again
15. Also known as a spinning ship propeller
20. Assorted notes kept by comedian Fields (*abbr.*)
25. Is coating cake externally!
26. Quartet you'd fine when examining Schiavone's rocket (*hyph.*)
28. Reportedly draws digits in a shot
30. Silver-and-green fish
32. Nonsense from reflective Granite State drunkard
33. Petroleum magnate finally showing alien Cobb the sludger
36. Bodine damaged nets and small, small pictures
37. Game maker lives before retro era
39. Same horas in alternation for 1,000,000,000 years
45. Don't talk about fate and sin
47. Kilmer from *Tor Gun* and *Eastern Lowland*
49. Also, Thomas incorporates African language
54. Test gold and aluminum
57. Before Norman's leaden laughs, time is lacking
60. Mr. Morita, you know Dad
62. City removed goo
63. Like a chicken part from Lara that's on the Frito
64. Ucaoimhu took a chair where some Arizonans are
66. Origins of rather expensive (if very effective) raid in Scotland
67. Give up grain, reportedly

### STRAIGHT DOWN

1. Topaz ovals partly resembling sea near the Crimea
2. At the end, Jules Verne almost completely rotated guns
4. Turned up no honey wine or spirit
5. Field mouse of Nevada (huzzah!)
7. True successor of those people
8. Soil-damaged paintings
12. Scripture he is to twist
13. *When Mike Says Aye*, Tom's California opera
16. Randomly seen blade [NI2+]
17. It's her corrupt tax agcy. (2 wds., *abbr.*)
18. Enthusiastic about crushing a western alliance (*abbr.*)
19. Bogs free of water serpents
20. Make the fourth of Luna's first bovine sounds
23. Silver clothing of autonomous Turkish officials [NI3]
27. Loud Japanese carp are going to emulate stakes
31. Trio of neoclassicists has oaken head of Roman emperor
32. Thus, that thing upset a Spaniard's uncles
38. Regarding the aforementioned child with a cap (2 wds.)
40. Cad exhibits a dhal-like motion when unclad
41. Does rest of fabric surfaces
42. They appear in some names at Harvard Club, before beer
43. Regret tossing round French coin
45. Milk producers standing outside o' Greek porticoes
46. Poles, etc. emptied girls' loos
48. Barbarians obtained horses
51. Three-letter sequence bedecking 6.40% of Sean's snoot
52. Cookie boxes hit a Chicago hub
55. Spanish child of the literary Anaïs and Oscar
56. Fried veal's something soothing
60. Skin of fruit on your tongue
62. Just exposition

### DOWN RIGHT

5. In the red-orange part of a building
6. No one contends with groups of ships
9. Is miring old-style peso badly
11. Rower Joan's bared, circling limb [NI2]
14. Dues from exceptional 51,511-homer-hitter Mel and singer Missy
21. Two fingers held up against gin cocktail (2 wds.)
22. Couple at the ford in Evanston loves fat derived from fruit (*abbr.*)
23. Board dropping its clothing, cobalt, and gasoline supplier
24. Semi seldom carries Greek isle's stores
29. Gore or Mondale chewed sea-green, spherical vegetables
31. No, 40% shall emulate one who's fabled to avoid snacking
33. Dr. Seuss's last name upset (e.g.) one actress named Ward
34. King called "Forkbeard" or "Stanislav," disheartened by random yea
35. Peer before the proper time
44. Honk horn initially for canine, say
48. Strategy game bearing chic Italian name
50. Form of verb carless Maoris utter, essentially
53. Drinks with nib in one's mouth
56. Only part of a shoe
58. Way to detect planes after the first lunar month
59. Twin antiaircraft battery with a mast of 6.5 grams
61. Vegetable soup does not contain minor ovarian hormone
62. Show bio worker Thompson going after French insect
65. Mideastern desert vulture's outside with dancer Kelly, pirouetting