

The grid represents a map rotated roughly 45 degrees from normal. Clashes (letters of crossing entries not matching) occur in five appropriately positioned cells forming a theme. Numbers in brackets indicate the cells available for each entry. (This is not necessarily the length of the solution since entries associated with clashes each contribute at least two letters to the cell in which the clash occurs.) The clashing letters can be arranged to form names of thematic areas. For submission solvers must enter the initial letter of each name in the five cells.

Three clues consisting of wordplay only have surface readings [not their solutions] hinting at the theme. Their clue numbers, one used twice, can form a thematic date. The eight circled letters can be arranged to provide the location of the theme.

### May 2026 Slot 7 by Flowerman

1	2		3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10
11		12			13							
○		14				15		16				
17					18			19		20		
	21									22		
23	24	○		25	26							
27	○	28	29		30							
31							32	33	34	35		36
37		○	38				39	40				
41									42		43	
44		○		45		46						
		47						48				
49							50		○			

**Across**

- 1 Special force securing power plant (6)
- 5 Native American unionist wearing hat in northern Alabama (7)

**11** Luncheon's ending with perfect fruitcake (5)

**13** Guard in Lima getting tossed about (6)

**14** Delays? It was chaotic (5)

- 16** Baron probing star soprano about insults (5)
- 17** Dance by revolutionary lacking heart (4)
- 18** Fellow not partaking in free sack of tea biscuits (8)
- 21** Regret boycott covering musical genre (5)
- 22** Father ignoring son's displeasure (3)
- 23** Dutch leader out of touch, perhaps lacking intelligence (5)
- 26** Canadian city's noted criminal comprehending my French (8)
- 29** Crafty types with schemes to acquire recipe (7)
- 31** Sailors drinking coffee after backing incitements (8)
- 33** Medicos upset after losing company money (5)
- 37** Children's nurse discarding extremely nutty bread (3)
- 39** Lymphatic tissue in bowel is not regressing (5)
- 41** They feel advance payment holds queen back (8)
- 42** Fourteen convicts (4)
- 44** Kentucky private exhausted after last of landings (5)
- 46** Considers prizes if the whiskey's good (5)
- 47** On radio set of programmes about edible grain (6)
- 48** Follow recurrent segment of the US news (5)
- 49** Unfavourable if a manifold's losing current (7)
- 50** Dude regularly interrupting deal ordered off (6)
- 10** Shrinks from German city visiting Carlsbad's centre (7)
- 12** In the middle of bridge partners feeding cardinal (5)
- 13** Apart from the opening, Heston bombed in plum part (5)
- 15** Saint with money for urchin (4,5)
- 19** Corps beginning to hear ordnance (5)
- 20** Boastful person taking out second bird (4)
- 24** Put a barrier around cavorting naked men, mostly British (8)
- 25** Worried husbands avoiding unbeliever (5)
- 27** Players welcoming article on Australian card game (7)
- 28** Depression in heads of departments evaluating books (4)
- 30** On way up perhaps Connery claiming local is overprotective (7)
- 32** In the kitchen, Rod starts to scale tropical fish (5)
- 34** Maybe Jersey cattle finally removed from ground in Dales (6)
- 35** Sounds like a queen turned soprano without intention (5)
- 36** Head of surgery exploited nurses Sierra discovered (6)
- 38** Lodge in Prince Edward Island invested in area for driving (5)
- 40** Decided Jack cheated, but not initially (5)
- 43** Bond unhappy with M leaving base (4)
- 45** Miss the mark in paper round (3)

### Down

- 1** Birds heading north after the first day breathed unusually (6)
- 2** Eccentric's reported stage in development (4)
- 3** Mixing leisure with these fields of study could make Laurel messier (6)
- 4** American novelist's smile mostly fake (5)
- 6** Nameless marine shocked about the intensity at the front (7)
- 7** Females rejecting neuter males (3)
- 8** Hebridean lugging up seal bones (5)
- 9** Fragrant amaryllid sure to be cultivated (8)