

NAME: Curtis and DeeAnn's crossword ("PirATE Pieces")

HINTS: Do some of these blanks look too short for the words that should be in there?

Have you noticed that all these words have something in common? (Point out title "Pirate Pieces"... pronounce it like "eight," not "ate," and point out the 8 gold coins piled up on either side of the puzzle like "pieces of eight.")

11-down should be DATE... why is it only 2 spaces instead of 4? If the first space must be "D," what would make sense in that second space? (Try saying the word out loud.)

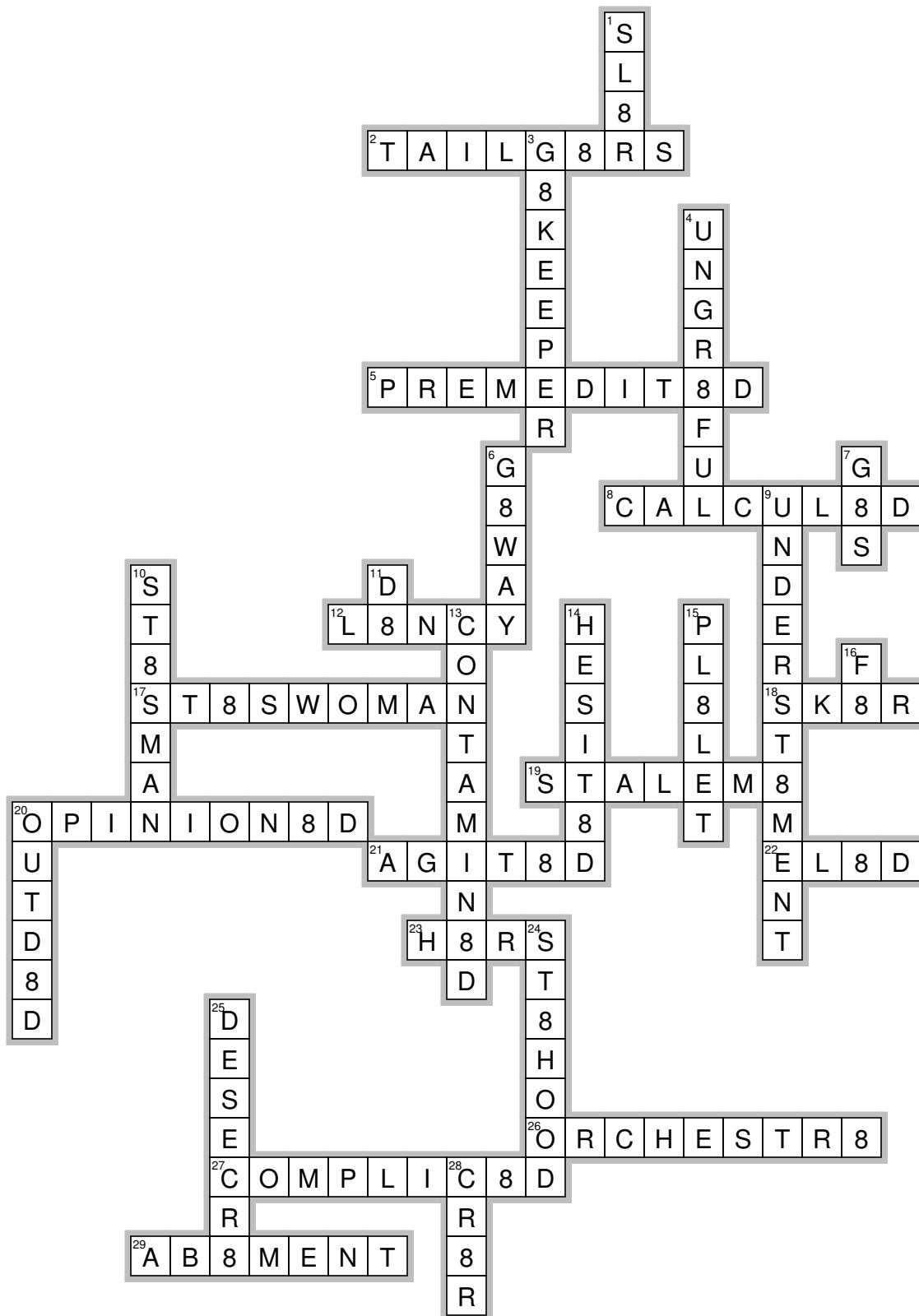
Same hint for 7-down (GATES), 16-down (FATE), and 23-across (HATERS).

18-across (SKATER) should help, if they're familiar with the Avril Lavigne song "sk8r boi" (verify that the clue is NOT misspelled).
See file "pir8words2_answerkey.pdf" for all crossword answers in grid. NOTE: some clues have changed in final version of puzzle, but answer words and grid numbers are the same.)

METHOD: Solve the crossword puzzle, replacing any occurrences of the substring "ATE" with the single character "8". Then follow the red-dotted line path (starts near the center of the grid) to pull out letters, one cell at a time. This spells the message "WHAT CAPTS WIFE LAMENTS." Recall the lyrics to the Paul & Storm song to get...

SOLUTION: SEAMEN (with *six* letters, you perv)

Talk Like a Pir8!



Talk Like a Pir8!

Across

2. TAILG8RS — People who really want to read your bumper sticker
5. PREMEDIT8D — With malice aforethought
8. CALCUL8D — A type of risk
12. L8NCY — Bane of online FPS gamers everywhere
17. ST8SWOMAN — Distaff version of [STATESMAN clue]
18. SK8R — Type of boi to whom Avril might say "see you l8r"
19. STALEM8 — What you might call a Mexican standoff
20. OPINION8D — What all flamewar participants are
21. AGIT8D — Shaken, not stirred
22. EL8D — Very happy
23. H8RS — They gonna hate
26. ORCHESTR8 — Done to symphonies and heists
27. COMPLIC8D — Another song by [SKATER clue] girl
29. AB8MENT — Often done to asbestos or taxes

Down

1. SL8R — Supergirl actress Helen
3. G8KEEPER — a.k.a. Zuul
4. UNGR8FUL — Children, to many a parent
6. G8WAY — Hugo-winning 1977 novel by Frederik Pohl
7. G8S — Bill from Redmond, Washington
9. UNDERST8MENT — e.g., "Simon Pegg did not like The Phantom Menace."
10. ST8SMAN — A likable politician, or a deceased one
11. D8 — February 21, 2012 is today's
13. CONTAMIN8D — What happened to Dr. Seth Brundle's teleporter
14. HESIT8D — What Lt. James T. Kirk did aboard the USS Farragut
15. PL8LET — Thrombocyte
16. F8 — e.g., died in a fire
20. OUTD8D — So five minutes ago
24. ST8HOOD — Florida got this on March 3, 1845
25. DESECR8 — What Buffy might do to a site in search of a fresh vamp
28. CR8R — As seen in Tunguska and Chicxulub