



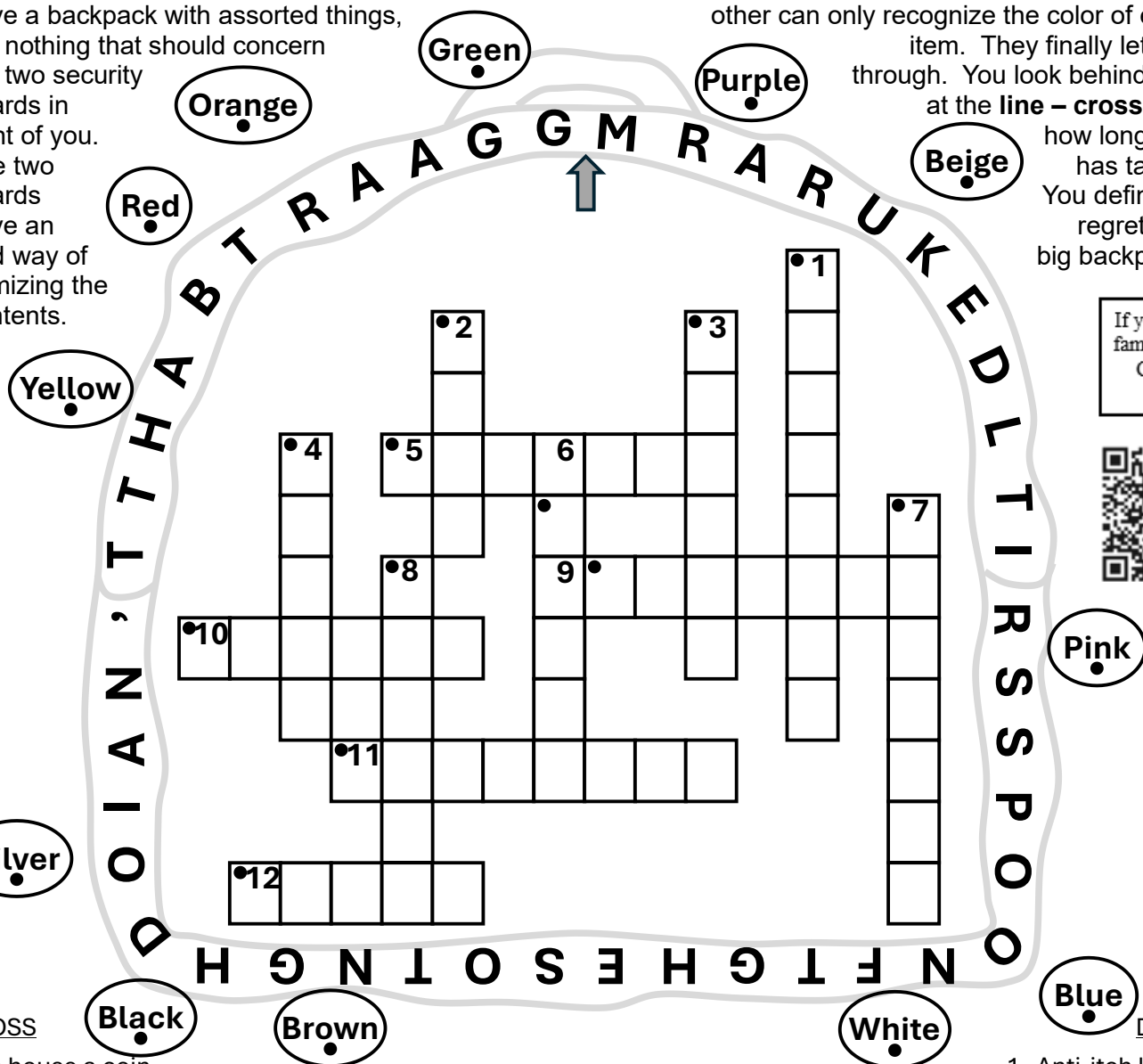
**Puzzled  
Pint**  
JANUARY 2026

# CRYPTICAL ENVELOPMENT



You get in line to enter the stadium. You have a backpack with assorted things, but nothing that should concern the two security guards in front of you. The two guards have an odd way of itemizing the contents.

One describes each item **cryptically**. The other can only recognize the color of each item. They finally let you through. You look behind you at the **line – cross** with how long this has taken. You definitely regret that big backpack.



If you're not familiar with Cryptic Clues



## ACROSS

- 5 To house a coin
- 9 Spirit maybe sounds like a confection for acquired tastes
- 10 Natural fiber in bed with a couple of thousand pounds
- 11 Mobile device program in hobbit's land yields gemstone
- 12 French newspaper lacking of French citrus

## DOWN

- 1 Anti-itch lotion from California, Louisiana, Michigan and Nebraska
- 2 Endlessly rotund stone fruit
- 3 Madagascar roti is stuffed with root vegetable
- 4 @treeblood turned up for Italian noodles
- 6 Delight in gherkin-based hot dog topping
- 7 The real drunk is a tanned hide
- 8 Primarily, the only meaningful and truly obligatory ketchup ingredient