

Solution to Etchings

By Cierra McDonald

The puzzle is a 6x6 grid Sudoku, meaning that the integers 1-6 must appear exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 sub-region of the playing board. Each box contains a number pair rather than a valid Sudoku 1-6 integer, so you need to transform the number pairs into a single integer by using one of the given mathematical operators. Apply Sudoku rules to the mathematical operators and their possible answers to determine which operator and integer belongs in each box:

9 - 6	5 * 1	2 + 4	1 root 4	6 / 3	6 ^ 0
3	5	6	4	2	1
3 root 8	9 / 9	4 ^ 1	8 - 2	5 + 0	1 * 3
2	1	4	6	5	3
8 / 2	3 + 0	2 * 1	5 ^ 0	8 - 2	3 root 125
4	3	2	1	6	5
8 ^ 0	1 root 6	7 - 2	3 / 1	1 * 4	1 + 1
1	6	5	3	4	2
3 * 2	3 - 1	3 root 27	2 + 3	1 ^ 1	16 / 4
6	2	3	5	1	4
1 + 4	2 ^ 2	3 / 3	2 * 1	1 root 3	42 - 36
5	4	1	2	3	6

Now that you have placed the integers and mathematical operators in their correct locations, you can use the small etching as a legend to determine the final answer:

÷	2
5	-
√	2

9 - 6	5 * 1	2 + 4	1 root 4	6 / 3	6 ^ 0
3	5	6	4	2	1
3 root 8	9 / 9	4 ^ 1	8 - 2	5 + 0	1 * 3
2	1	4	6	5	3
8 / 2	3 + 0	2 * 1	5 ^ 0	8 / 2	3 root 125
4	3	2	1	6	5
8 ^ 0	1 root 6	7 - 2	3 / 1	1 * 4	1 + 1
1	6	5	3	4	2
3 * 2	3 - 1	3 root 27	2 + 3	1 ^ 1	16 / 4
6	2	3	5	1	4
1 + 4	2 ^ 2	3 / 3	2 * 1	1 root 3	42 - 36
5	4	1	2	3	6

9 6	5 1	2 4	1 4	6 3	6 0
A	H	O	D	E	S
3 8	9 9	4 1	8 2	5 0	1 3
T	S	P	B	Y	U
8 2	3 0	2 1	5 0	8 2	3 125
W	E	I	G	U	D
8 0	1 6	7 2	3 1	1 4	1 1
R	N	A	M	S	O
3 2	3 1	3 27	2 3	1 1	16 4
U	F	V	H	E	K
1 4	2 2	3 3	2 1	1 3	42 36
E	X	L	S	T	U

The final answer is **SAVE US**.