



Water Magic

by Philip Z Loh

The expanding brain meme! What if words expanded as you read down the image? That's how this came to be.

Solvers may find certain words helpful to figure out what to do – e.g., a river triangle is a DELTA, and a language variant is a DIALECT. The pattern you'll use – add a letter and then anagram (ref: confused) – is easy to spot here.

Within each row, word answers are in alphabetical order. However, the final row is colored yellow. That signifies that that row is important – in this case, it is important ordering information.

Pipe material	Hurt	Maryland athlete, commonly
LEAD	PAIN	TERP
River triangle	Unsuitable	Type of dish
LEAD + T = DELTA	PAIN + T = INAPT	TERP + I = PETRI
Toy that gets hit	Plunder	Followed
INAPT + A = PINATA	PETRI + A = PIRATE	DELTA + I = TAILED
Commander	Language variant	Artist
PINATA + C = CAPTAIN	TAILED + C = DIALECT	PIRATE + N = PAINTER

Reading the additional letters down each chain but ordered by the final row, one finds the answer TACTICIAN, who is essentially tasked to blow other people's minds.

ANSWER:
TACTICIAN