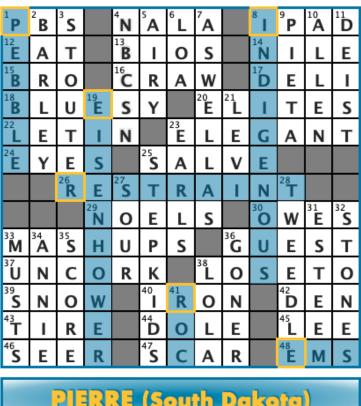
Before you even started the grid, you should've noticed something odd about this puzzle: the meta prompt had a bunch of odd capitalized letters. If you extracted those letters in order, you could've made out the postal abbreviations for six states: AR - OH - NE - AZ - RI - SC. Since the prompt asked for a state capital, one logical next step would've been to look up the capitals to those states. Then, you could've found 6 clues that described each of the resultant state capitals. Taking the first letters of the grid entries from those clues spelled out PIERRE, the contest answer and the state capital of South Dakota.



## ERRE (South Dakota)

the AnsweR tO tHis NEw metApuzZle offeRIng is a State Capital

State		Capital	Suitable clue	Grid word	
AR	Arkansas	Little Rock	Bit of gravel	PEBBLE	P
ОН	Ohio	Columbus	Word found on many October calenders	INDIGENOUS	ı
NE	Nebraska	Lincoln	President whose nickname appears in crosswords way more often than his actual name	EISENHOWER	E
ΑZ	Arizona	Phoenix	Mythical bird	ROC	R
RI	Rhode Island	Providence	Frugality	RESTRAINT	R
SC	South Carolina	Columbia	Outerwear manufacturer	EMS	E