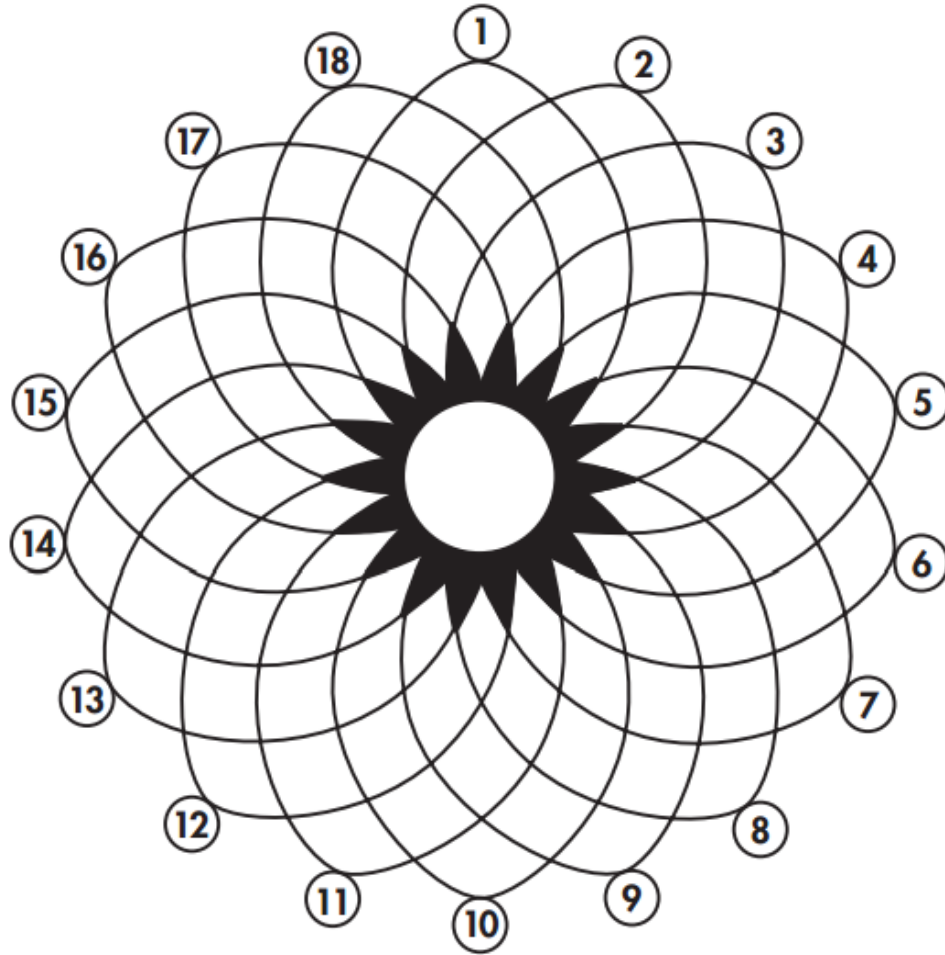


Crushed Petals



Clockwise:

1. It can be synthesized entirely from a combination of gold and oxygen (8)
2. Ultimate goal (5)
3. Performer that wore a gold dress in the closing ceremonies of the London Olympics (4 4)
4. 90's Fiennes role (3 5)
5. Minor pronouncement? (7)
6. Degraded (3 5)
7. Hammett's Asta, for one (9)
8. Speak on behalf of (5 3)
9. CSI role, perhaps (7)
10. The second decimal place, ledgerwise (7)
11. Simple solution (6)
12. New Journalism practitioner (6)
13. Mistreat, coarsely speaking (4 2)
14. Nocturnal, a la neon (4 4)
15. Weight (10)
16. Part of many longer flights (8)
17. Pinkerton was stationed there (8)
18. Saucer's contents, possibly (7)

Counter-clockwise:

1. "Paris Hilton", "Halle Berry", or "Bruce Willis" (9)
2. Take flight while on vacation, maybe (8)
3. Legendary craft associated with Thor (3-4)
4. With "The," neutral party during WWII (7)
5. "Paradise Lost" setting (11)
6. Write autobiographies, perhaps (5)
7. They're designed to accommodate large heads (9)
8. They may fall for their leading ladies (10)
9. Rate (7)
10. Subject to reverse osmosis, say (7)
11. Production with a noticeable drop-off in attendance? (7)
12. Once-popular television D. J. (6)
13. More amicable (with) (7)
14. Occupations not performed while seated (3-3)
15. It's non-negotiable (7)
16. Sister to Scrooge (8)
17. Cherokee, e.g. (6)
18. Prop for Schwarzenegger, conceivably (7)