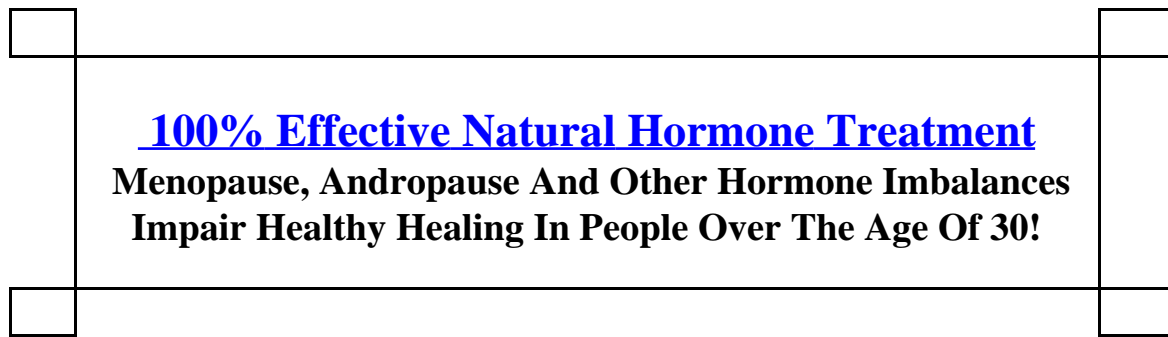


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Sudoku Puzzles Are Challenging – But They're Not Only For Math Majors

By Mary Murtha

Sudoku puzzles have reached legendary popularity over the past few years. If you play regularly,

then you have a pretty good idea what makes this puzzle game so special. If you have never played before there is only one question to ask. Where have you been? Open your eyes and grab a pencil, because it is time to join the rest of civilization.

If you are looking to find information on Sudoku puzzles, do not fear. The Internet is an amazing source of information on Sudoku. If you log on to your favorite web search engine, enter in the phrase "Sudoku puzzles," click the search button and let the World Wide Web do the rest. Within seconds you will find millions upon millions of sources about Sudoku. Just to warn you, you will be shocked at the extent of the following this logical and challenging puzzle game has.

When you first encounter the Sudoku puzzle, try not to think about mathematics. Sudoku does not require any math skills. It is an exercise in logic and logic alone. When you see the numbers try to remember that you will not have to add, multiply, divide, subtract or take the square root of anything. Sudoku is all about reasoning and it can give your brain a pretty good workout. The average solving time for Sudoku Puzzles is between 10 and 30 minutes. Of course, seasoned professionals and Sudoku prodigies can whiz through them in no time.

There are nine 9 x 9 grids inside a box. Some of the spaces in the sudoku puzzle are filled in with clues and numbers. The point of the game is to use those numbers and clues to figure out how to fill in the empty spaces. It sounds pretty easy and in some cases the puzzles can be created to be fairly simple. But as you become more experienced you can test your concentration with more difficult puzzles.

If you start playing Sudoku puzzles you will learn pretty quickly why it is considered one of the most addictive puzzle games in history. Do not take my word for it, pick up a book or log onto one of the millions of web sites dedicated to this great and innovative puzzle game.

To learn more about the Sudoku Game

http://www.sudokudome.com/Articles/Sudoku_Game.php

and

Sudoku Puzzles

http://www.sudokudome.com/Articles/Sudoku_Puzzles.php

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<http://www.sudokudome.com>

Boost Your Child's Brainpower With Sudoku!

By Lindsay Small

In less than a year the Sudoku bug has infected huge numbers of the UK population, and it is fast spreading across the world! Why has a simple logic puzzle become so popular, and how can your kids benefit?

Sudoku puzzles were first published in the US in the 1970s and are sometimes known as "Number Squares". They have been popular for many years in Japan, where the name "Sudoku" (meaning "single number") was coined. The current craze was started late in 2004 when a UK newspaper started publishing the puzzles. Within weeks the puzzles were picked up in other newspapers and Sudoku became the pastime of choice for commuters, parents - and even kids!

>From a parent's point of view, Sudoku puzzles are perfect for long journeys, waiting rooms, and rainy afternoons. They are being found more and more in the classroom as teachers wake up to their benefits and use them as time-fillers for children who finish early, as whole class activity, or as "homework". Indeed, the UK government-produced Teachers magazine has recommended that Sudoku puzzles are used in the classroom as brain exercise!

As well as developing your child's logic and reasoning skills and concentration, Sudoku puzzles, if done at the right level, build your child's confidence. Children of all abilities enjoy the challenge of a Sudoku puzzle, if the puzzle is age-appropriate. Bear in mind that many of the puzzles published in newspapers are too difficult for younger children, so it is worth seeking out puzzles made especially for kids. Children as young as five years old can try the 4x4 grids, then build up to the 6x6 grids and finally the traditional 9x9 grid.

Why are Sudoku so appealing? Firstly, although Sudoku grids usually use numbers, your child does not need mathematical skills to solve the puzzles - only logic. Using logical reasoning appropriate to his/her age, your child decides how to place numbers into a Sudoku grid. There is only one correct answer for each puzzle, no guessing is necessary, and the rules are easy to learn. The more puzzles you do, the better you become. Each puzzle typically takes a child about 20-30 minutes to complete, and gives them a real sense of satisfaction when finished!

And that, really, is the secret of their popularity. You feel good when you finish one! And then you want

to try another one, and another

Lindsay Small is the owner of Activity Village, packed full of fun and educational activities for kids. Do you have children aged 2–10? Visit

<http://www.ActivityVillage.co.uk>

to find free kids crafts, printables,

educational resources, worksheets, coloring pages and puzzles, jigsaws and, of course, Sudoku puzzles!



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