

U.S. vs. Rumpelstilzkin

“All, rise.”

“Hear, Ye. Hear, Ye. The Federal Court is now in session, the Honorable Judge P. Piper presiding. Today the court shall hear the case of U.S. vs. Rumpelstilzkin, formally charged with attempting to purchase, for services rendered, the infant son of Governor and Mrs. Tom Thumb.”

Rumpelstilzkin has pled “not guilty” due to extenuating circumstances. His trial is being held at the U.S. Courthouse in Nashville, the Capitol City of Tennessee.

1. [HM] In which Tennessee county is the U.S. Courthouse located?
2. [HM] In what year and by what publisher was this Tennessee Highway Map copyrighted?

“The prosecution calls as its first witness the grandmother of Little Red Riding Hood.

“Granny, would you please tell the court what happened to you on the afternoon in question?”

“Yes, Sonny, I will. I was hiking along Donelson Pike near the Nashville International Airport [Nashville Inset] when a very kind farmer on a tractor pulling a wagon filled with straw offered me a ride. He said he was taking the straw to the Governor’s Mansion near Oak Hill.” [Follow 255 to U.S. 31]

Because he knew how slowly his tractor and wagon moved, the farmer purposely avoided heavy traffic by traveling over Donelson Pike, which eventually becomes Harding Place. These two roads are individual segments of Route 255. [Tennessee Highway Map Inset]. The farmer had paused to converse with Granny where I-40 crosses Donelson Pike at Exit 216.

3. [HMI] In which cardinal direction was the farmer traveling when he met Granny?
4. [HMI] How does the **Tennessee Highway Map** classify Route 255?

“Thank-you, Granny. You may step down.”

“The Prosecution now calls the woodsman who, you may recall, rescued Granny from the Big Bad Wolf.

“You were, I believe, the individual who spotted a strange little man dancing and singing in a clearing within the deep, dark woods?”

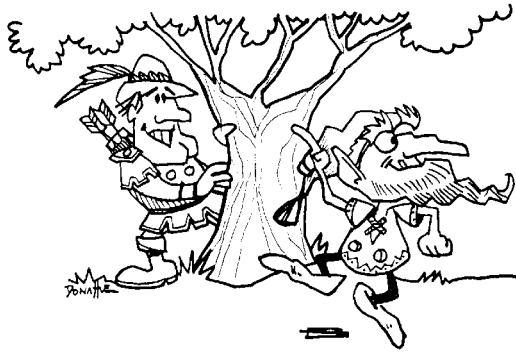


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“Yes, Sir. That was me.”

“Could you point to that clearing on the Scottsboro Quadrangle, please?”

“You are pointing to the SW graticule tic mark at the NE corner of Sector 7. Is that correct, Mr. Woodsman?”

5. [SC] State the **longitude** of the area to which the woodsman was pointing.
6. [SC] State the **latitude** of the area to which the woodsman was pointing.
7. [SC/NE] **True** or **False**: The contour intervals on the Scottsboro and Nashville East quadrangles are of equal value.
8. [SC] State the exact elevation at the location where the vertical and horizontal lines of the graticule tic mark intersect.
9. [SC] What governmental agency generally claims jurisdiction over the area pointed to by the woodsman?

“It would please the court if you were to repeat the lyrics of the song you overheard in the clearing that day. Do you remember those lyrics, Mr. Woodsman?”

“I’d be honored, Sir. I believe they went something like ...

‘No one has ever known it
‘Cept him who chose it
So, I solemnly swear by my chinny-chin-chin
That my name it is: **Rumpelstilzkin!**”

“Thank-you, Mr. Woodsman. You may step down.”

“The Prosecution now calls the Governor of Tennessee, the Honorable Mr. Thumb.

“Is it true, as rumor has it, Sir, that you actually threatened Miss Chrissy Snow, now your wife and the First Lady of the Great State of Tennessee, with imprisonment unless she spun several loads of straw into pure strands of gold?”

“I regret to say that that tale is indeed true, for at the time I truly believed that my darling Chrissy had neglected to pay to the state a portion of the gold I was certain she had spun prior to that first fateful meeting with Rumpelstilzkin.”

“If you don’t mind responding, Sir, did you have the straw taken to your mansion to be spun into gold, or did you have it taken elsewhere?”

10. [HMI] Why would the governor direct the court’s attention to the Nashville inset of the Tennessee Highway map instead of the main map on its reverse side?

“I had at first asked the farmer to transport the straw to my mansion. When it arrived, I had it rerouted to my secluded cabin in Dozier Hollow [Sector 7, Scottsboro Quad]. My cabin is located at the end of a short, unimproved driveway at the base of the 618-foot hill about one mile Northeast of Collins Lake. You must cross a small creek before pulling into the small parking space in front of my cabin.”

11. [SC] How many kilometers is the Governor’s mountain cabin from the clearing where the woodsman had first spotted Rumpelstilzkin?

From this clearing, Rumpelstilzkin could actually see the top of the 618-foot hill located behind the Governor’s house.

12. [SC] State the **bearing** from Rumpelstilzkin’s vantage point to the Governor’s cabin. [For reference, align a straightedge along an imaginary line connecting the NW and SW graticule tic marks.]

13. [SC] Is the stream over which the Governor’s driveway passes classified as **perennial** or **intermittent**?

14. [SC] What type of survey control marker is represented by the small brown “x” at the summit of the small hill behind the Governor’s secluded mountain cabin?

15. [SC] What is the elevation of the land on which the Governor’s cabin has been built? [Use the value of the contour lying directly adjacent to the cabin.]

16. [SC] What is the difference in elevation between the site of the Governor’s cabin and the top of the small hill?

17. Measure and record – to the nearest eighth of an inch – the distance from Governor Thumb’s cabin to the summit of the small hill directly behind it.

18. [SC] Use the map scale to determine the exact distance, in inches, from Mr. Thumb’s cabin to the summit of the small hill behind it. [A map’s ratio, or scale, can be stated in any unit appropriate to the map. A scale of 1:24,000, for example, may be express-

as a ratio of 1 inch on the map equals 24,000 inches on the land surface.] Hint: to find the answer to number 18, simply multiply the fraction found in number 17 by 24,000.

19. [SC] Convert the distance determined in number 18 above to feet. [Use the value as the difference in elevation between the land on which Mr. Thumb’s cabin stands and the top of the hill directly behind it in your calculations for number 20 below.]
20. [SC] Calculate the slope gradient, in feet per hundred feet, from Mr. Thumb’s cabin to the top of the small hill using the formula: $[\text{Rise in elevation/distance}] \times 100$.

“The Prosecution now calls Chrissy ‘Snow’ Thumb to the stand.

“Mrs. Thumb, did you indeed offer your first-born child to the defendant as he claims?”

“Yes, Sir, but you must understand the circumstances before you pass judgment on me. The bank was about to foreclose on our family farm. This caused my daddy to become very, very distraught. He thought, by claiming that I was able to spin ordinary straw into gold, the Governor would not wish my family to lose its farm and thus force us to leave Nashville forever. Daddy had no idea that the Governor, now my beloved husband, would demand that I actually do what he claimed I could!”

“Mrs. Thumb, will you describe for the court the exact location of your family farm?”

“Yes, Sir. My family farm is located within Pennington Bend on the Nashville East Quad, N Sector 2, midway between mile points 198 and 203 along the Cumberland River.”

21. [NE] Why is Chrissy not able to provide a PLSS description of her family farm?”
22. [NE] What road runs nearest Chrissy’s family farm?”
23. [NE] **True** or **False**. Since Chrissy’s father lived on the family farm all his life, it’s quite likely that he attended McGavock High School, located South of his farm, as a student.
24. [NE] What do the many meanders, or curves in the Cumberland River reveal about the relative age of the river?

“Mrs. Thumb, why did you agree to Rumpelstilzkin’s offer to spin straw into gold?”

“I was frightened. I did not wish any harm to befall me; nor did I wish any harm to come to Daddy. I wasn’t thinking of my future, and I had no boyfriend. Who would imagine that now, just a short year later, I would be mother to such a beautiful, darling son?”

“My son was born in Park Hospital [along Gallatin Avenue, near the Western boundary of the Nashville East Quad, just a short distance from the point where Gallatin departs the quad.] His daddy, the Governor, made the round trip to and from the hospital each and every day during his lunch hour until our son and I were permitted to go home.”

25. [NE] How far, in miles, did Governor Thumb have to travel each day to visit his wife and newborn son?

26. [NE] Into which quadrangle did the Governor travel upon leaving the hospital on his return trip to the State Capitol?

27. [NE] In which Sector of the Nashville East Quadrangle is Park Hospital located?

“The Prosecution rests its case and yields to the Defense.”

“The Defense calls as its first witness, Mrs. Thumb.

“Mrs. Thumb, will you please describe the circumstances under which you first met the defendant, Mr. Rumpelstilzkin?”

“I had met Rumpelstilzkin two days earlier at the Governor’s mountain cabin. I was locked inside a small room filled with straw. Except for the straw, the only items in the room were a small bed and a spinning wheel. I was in tears for I was unable to spin the straw into gold, and I was very frightened. All of a sud-



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den a little man appeared out of nowhere and asked why I was crying After listening to my tale of woe, he asked what I would give him if he were to spin the straw into gold for me. I offered him one of my most cherished possessions – my dear Mommy’s wedding ring. My Mommy and Daddy had been wed in the chapel located at 36° 09’ 23” N; 86° 40’ 00” W [Nashville East Quad]. He accepted my ring, sat down, and started to spin the wheel at a furious pace.

28. [NE] What is the name of the chapel where Chrissy’s parents had exchanged vows?

“When I asked the little man how he had learned of my plight, he replied that a mocking-bird high in the branches of a tree near the banks of the Cumberland River had whistled a secret tune that he, and he alone, could understand.

“When Governor Thumb entered the room the following morning and saw the gold, his greedy eyes sparkled. He led me into yet another room filled with an even larger amount

of straw and demanded that I spin this straw into gold also. Again I cried, and again the little man appeared. This time I offered him my necklace and, as before, he sat down and spun all the straw into gold.

“When the Governor entered my room the following morning, his eyes were again filled with greed. He led me to yet another room filled with an even larger pile of straw and demanded that I spin this straw into gold as well. That night when the little man reappeared, I had nothing left to offer. He scratched his head, seemingly pondering my fate. He then offered to spin all this straw into gold if I were to promise the surrender of my first-born child in return. Without hesitation I promised, and again the wheel began to whirl, transforming the straw into a glittering heap before my very eyes.

“When the Governor entered the room the following morning, tears of sorrow were streaming down his cheeks. Sobbing uncontrollably, he shared that he had selfishly permitted the gold to come between him and his true, passionate self. He knelt beside me and asked whether I could ever forgive him. To prove his sincerity, he ordered all the gold be taken to the Scottsboro Mission for distribution to Nashville’s less fortunate citizens.”

29. [SC] Does the grade of Old Hickory Boulevard, N Sector 2, gradually **decrease** or **increase** in elevation as one travels Northward from Scottsboro toward the Mission?
30. [SC] What type of stream is the small Eastward flowing tributary that joins Sulphur Creek a short distance SE of Scottsboro Mission?
31. [SC] Is the benchmark, located a short distance North of Scottsboro Mission, a **horizontal** or **vertical** control? [Important: refer to the symbol sheet.]

“You may step down, Mrs. Thumb. The Defense now calls the woodsman to the stand.

“When you first heard the broadcast on WMAK Radio that the Governor’s infant son was in danger of falling into the hands of a strange little man, where were you and how did you react?”

I was fishing in Cheatham Lake off Gower Island [Scottsdale Quad, NW Sector 1]. I suddenly remembered having seen a peculiar little man near Sherrell Hollow several weeks earlier, so I jumped into my boat and paddled to Mile 170 on the Cumberland River.”

32. [SC] How far above Cheatham Lake’s normal pool elevation does the highest land area of Gower Island lie?”
33. [SC] How many large falls or rapids did the woodsman encounter on his journey from Gower Island to Mile 170?

34. [SC] Between which two mile-markers along the stretch of river on which the woodsman traveled are the steepest banks located?
35. [SC] How far do these banks rise above normal pool elevation at this point along the river? [Reference the top of the cliff to the nearest index contour.]
36. [SC] How did the Cumberland River’s ancient meanderings, or continual changing in direction, affect the land areas through which it flowed?

“You may step down, Mr. Woodsman. The Defense now calls Rumplestiltzkin.

“Mr. Rumplestiltzkin, you entered a plea of ‘not guilty’ to the charge of attempting to purchase Governor and Mrs. Thumb’s son for services rendered. Is that not true?”

“Yes, Sir, that is true! Chrissy promised to surrender her first-born child to me if I were to spin an entire room of straw into gold for her. I did it! *So the kid’s mine!*”

“Hold on, Rumplestiltzkin! Are you not forgetting your promise to permit Chrissy to keep her child if she were but to guess your name?”

“But, Judge, that’s the point. She *did not guess* it. She sent out spies. She *did not* play fair!”

“Rumplestiltzkin, it is the determination of this court that you are indeed guilty of the crime with which you have been charged. Therefore, you shall be taken to the Tennessee State Prison where you shall serve a seven-year term without possibility of early release.”

Very few witnessed the defiant grin on Rumplestiltzkin’s face as he was handcuffed and led out of the courtroom. Those who did said nothing. They hugged their children extra tightly that evening, believing that they would now be safe from Rumplestiltzkin.

Special News Bulletin!

Wardens Putz and Cairns announced today that Rumplestiltzkin is no longer incarcerated in the Tennessee State Penitentiary. This morning, lying on his unmade bunk in his empty cell, was found a crumpled, hand-scrawled note that read ...

“They never knew it
Nor even suspected it.
To imprison an elf, with a magical whim
Simply *is not, cannot, and shall not* be done.
Rumplestiltzkin!



Illustration ©Michael Donahue 1996

“U.S. vs. Rumpelstilzkin”

Name _____

Maps and abbreviations used during this exam:

SC = Scottsboro, 7.5-Minute Quad
HM = Highway Map

NE = Nashville East, 7.5-Minute Quad
HMI = Highway Map Inset

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|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 24. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 25. _____ |
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| 21. _____ | |
| _____ | |
| 22. _____ | Total number correct: _____ |

“U.S. vs. Rumplestiltzkin”

Answer Key

1. Davidson
2. 1998, Rand-McNally
3. South
4. Paved
5. 86° 57' 30" W
6. 36° 10' N
7. False
8. 660 feet
9. Nashville-Davidson County
Metropolitan Government
10. It's drawn to a larger scale
11. 1.6 km
12. S 7° W [$\pm 1^\circ$]
13. Perennial
14. Spot elevation
15. 460 feet
16. 158 feet
17. 3/8 inch
18. 9000 inches
19. 750 feet
20. 21.07 feet / 100 feet
21. TN uses metes-and-bounds [or
similar response
22. Pennington Bend Road
23. False
24. It's an old river
25. Range: 4.9 to 5.1 miles
26. Nashville West
27. W Sector [or] Sector 4
28. Lakewood Chapel
29. Increase
30. Intermittent
31. Horizontal
32. 15 feet [or range: 15 to 34 feet]
33. None
34. 166 and 167
35. ≥ 375 feet
36. Flattened the valley [or similar]

**For information on how to order
a set of maps for “U.S. vs. Rumple-
stiltzkin” you may visit:**

<http://www.otherworlds-edu.com>