

## Evasion of a bright-eyed rodent

Watch for paired letters when solving a clue and if you see them, consider using the Playfair Cipher to solve. If you're not familiar with the Playfair Cipher, look it up and learn how to use it! Like many ciphers, you may need to know a KEYWORD that must be plugged into the cipher before it can be solved.

It's possible to have a KEYWORD that contains duplicates of the same letter, but I try to provide hunters with KEYWORDS that have no repeat letters. For example, I'd use "SLEPT" rather than "SLEEP" or "YOGURT" rather than "TOAST".

The KEYWORD for the following Playfair Cipher is the type of animal in the picture you clicked on to begin this clue... but what IS that bright-eyed rodent? GERBIL? VOLE? MOUSE? Any of those would be great KEYWORDS. Maybe it's something else. . . .

Use the name of our furry little critter as a KEYWORD in a Playfair Cipher and solve for the following. Success will reveal a great tip for future treasure hunting success!

**BR HC RG ES BK NM RB MY**

Two-word solution:

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Watch out though! Sometimes Playfair Cipher clues use a string of letters. You'll have to pair them up yourself.

Use the same KEYWORD and see if you can solve the following:

**W Q O T B R M S T W F P I W**

Three-word solution:

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