



P.O. Box 5189
Columbus, GA 31906
1-800-654-1052

Visit us on the web at
www.patrickspress.com

Middle School Weekly

Emphasizing both News and Academics

The Middle School Weekly is published in 34 4-page issues from August 29 to May 1 - except for two winter issues plus the summer bonus issue for a total of 35 issues.

January 21, 2008

Volume 22/20

1) Liberia's former president Charles Taylor is now on trial for war crimes linked with funding of the militias that took over diamond fields in which country whose name means "lion mountains"?

Answer: Sierra Leone.

2) Name the city and home to the World Court where Liberian Charles Taylor is being tried because of concerns that to try in Sierra Leone's capital Freetown could provoke more unrest.

Answer: The Hague (administrative capital of The Netherlands).

3) Identify the Muslim title Iraq's Shiite militia leader al-Sadr is seeking by resuming his seminary studies and that Iran's religious head Ali Khamenei already holds.

Answer: Ayatollah (title for a Shiite religious authority worth of imitation).

4) The Italian premier recently announced emergency measures to deal with a garbage crisis linked to organized crime that controls the system in which city whose natives are called Neapolitans?

Answer: Naples (once named Neapolis, meaning "new city").

5) What title beginning with *D* formerly used in France for the heir to the throne completes the description of Benazir Bhutto's 19-year-old son as "a modern-day _____" with his father acting on his behalf while he finishes at Oxford?

Answer: Dauphin (son Bhutto Zardari has been named chairman of his mother's party).

6) Name the African country whose inflation rate is said to be near 100,000 percent under President Mugabe's government that seized private farmlands, creating a food crisis.

Answer: Zimbabwe (central bank has issued 750,00 Zimbabwe dollars worth about 37 U.S. cents).

7) Geographyzone.com offers an international challenge to locate 10 countries on a map. Show your skill by telling in which body of water the Republic of Maldives is located.

Answer: Indian Ocean (it's threatened by rising seas as it consists of 1,200 low coral islands; a Boy Scout recently saved its president from an assassination attempt by grabbing the attacker's knife).

8) Among early suggestions for the 7 Natural Wonders of the World to be chosen in 2009 are Ayers Rock and the Galapagos Islands, belonging respectively to which 2 countries?

Answer: Australia and Ecuador.

9) In which country did Barack Obama's paternal relatives gather to hear radio news of the New Hampshire primary despite the violence there between Obama's family tribe and that of President Kibaki whose reelection some say was rigged?

Answer: Kenya (a relative there said Obama planned to urge Pres. Kibaki to seek a negotiated solution).

10) Name the U.S. commonwealth with its own flag and Olympic team whose possible bid for statehood can only be decided by Congress, via a binding referendum for the island.

Answer: Puerto Rico (bill for referendum has passed committee but Congress hasn't voted on issue).

11) Identify the 2007 Toyota pick-up trucks being recalled because of problems with a shaft connected to the rear axle by naming the frozen treeless plains of the Arctic.

Answer: Tundra.

12) Identify the river whose water Kansas and Nebraska are fighting over and that shares its name with the party founded in 1854 to protest allowing slavery in the 2 states.

Answer: Republican River (along Kansas/Nebraska border; named for a branch of Pawnee Indians).

13) Identify the replica of Christopher Columbus's ship named with the Spanish for "little girl" that recently caught fire as it sailed away from Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Answer: Niña (fire caused about \$40,000 in damages but the ship was saved).

14) Give the 2-word term for the kind of punishment New Jersey became the first in 42 years to abolish in December, replacing it with life in prison without parole.

Answer: Capital punishment (same month, U.N. also voted 104-54 for moratorium on death penalty).

15) Name either the state where a meteor left a hole 4,180 ft. wide 50,000 years ago or the Red Planet that scientists say may be hit by a 164-ft. space rock about January 30.

Answer: Arizona or Mars (Arizona's crater is 570 ft. deep).

16) What is considered the prime source of the nitrogen that flows from the Mississippi into the Gulf creating an oxygen-depleted 7,900-sq.-mile dead zone suffocating to sea life?

Answer: Fertilizer (nitrogen produces great growth of algae, which in turn soaks up oxygen).

HISTORICAL EVENTS - January 21-27 (Questions 17-24)

17) Name the world's 1st nuclear submarine, christened January 21, 1954. It shares its name with Captain Nemo's submarine in *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*.

Answer: Nautilus (it was not launched until January 17, 1955).

18) Name the Supreme Court case resulting in the January 22, 1973, decision that struck down laws restricting abortions during the first 3 months of pregnancy.

Answer: *Roe v. Wade*.

19) Name the tax that the 24th amendment, ratified on January 23, 1964, eliminated as a preliminary to voting in federal elections.

Answer: Poll tax.

20) The 20th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified on January 23, 1933, moved the presidential inauguration from March 4 to which date?

Answer: January 20.

21) Which country seized the U.S.S. *Pueblo* on January 23, 1968, in the Sea of Japan, claiming it was on a spy mission? The crew was held for 11 months.

Answer: North Korea.

22) Name the English monarch at whose daughter's wedding German composer Felix Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" was played for the first time, on January 25, 1858.

Answer: Queen Victoria (her daughter married the Crown Prince of Prussia).

23) Which country celebrates its founding as a British colony on January 26, the 1788 date when a shipload of convicts arrived at Botany Bay?

Answer: Australia (on the same day they went to Port Jackson, present-day Sydney).

24) In which decade did astronauts Grissom, White, and Chaffee die during a launching simulation test of *Apollo I* on January 27?

Answer: 1960s (in 1967).

25) The least common multiple of 16 and 24 is how many times as great as their Greatest Common Factor?

Answer: 6.

26) What is the lowest term fraction that is equivalent to the repeating decimal $0.\overline{36}$?

Answer: 4/11.

27) For the formula $I = Prt$, in what unit is t expressed?

Answer: Years.

28) A trip of 320 miles can be covered in 5 hours by averaging what rate?

Answer: 64 MPH.

29) What kind of organism was recently depicted in a bathtub washing his limbs or appendages, with the caption "Two down, six to go" in a *Rhymes With Orange* cartoon?

Answer: Spider (true insects have only 6 legs).

30) Identify the 4-letter word that designates the casing for the seeds in a cotton plant and is a homophone for a circular container.

Answer: Boll (a homophone for bowl).

31) Complete the following concerning 2007's 1st-ever genetic map of a human's "diploid" genetic sequence, or all the DNA in both sets of _____ inherited from parents.

Answer: Chromosomes (scientist Craig Venter published his own full genome).

32) A Notre Dame astrophysicist believes the Christmas star of the Bible was likely an alignment of the sun, moon, and which 2 planets, the largest in our solar system?

Answer: Jupiter/Saturn (4/17/6 B.C.; he discounts novas/comets since ancients saw them as omens).

33) What prefix meaning "earth" completes the term _____-*cotta* designating baked clay used in statuary, such as the ancient statues of the Hindu god Vishnu recently stolen from an airport in Bangladesh?

Answer: Terra(-cotta).

34) Identify the words beginning with *C* designating, respectively, a group of nations joined together for a common purpose, as in an alliance, and what students are engaged in when working together cooperatively to produce a single product, like a giant art work.

Answer: Coalition and collaboration.

35) Name Gary Paulsen's Newbery book now out in a 20th anniversary edition with new line drawings to enhance the tale of the boy stranded alone in the Canadian wilderness.

Answer: *Hatchet*.

36) Name the Harlem Renaissance poet whose lines beginning "I am the darker brother" Denzel Washington as Professor Tolson recites in the movie *The Great Debaters*.

Answer: Langston Hughes (from "I, Too, Sing America"; NYC just staged his play "Black Nativity").

37) Answer the following question from Mathcounts new in-school math club program: At what time is the sum of the digits on a 12-hour digital clock the greatest?

Answer: 9:59 (sum 23; clubs have monthly competitions letting students compete just with themselves).

38) What verb beginning with *R* designates what a firefighter did when he used a rope to descend a wall to rescue an Atlanta man from a car suspended from a parking deck?

Answer: Rappelled (accept *rappel*, present tense).

39) What does the French word *sans* mean in the headline "Late shows back, sans writers"?

Answer: Without (Jay Leno's/Conan O'Brien's shows aired without writers 2 months after strike began)

40) What 4-letter prefix beginning with *N* names the technology used to create the world's smallest Bible, a Jewish Bible inscribed on a chip smaller than 1/2 a grain of sugar?

Answer: Nano (created by Israeli scientists; previous smallest was 1.1 inches, weighed 0.4 ounces).

HOME, SWEET HOME

Birds Animals that live in a zoo's aviary

Belfry Bell tower where bats often reside, as in the alliterative phrase *bats in the _____*, used to mean "crazy"

Den 3-letter word designating a lion's home, as in the biblical story of Daniel

Sty 3-letter word designating a pen where domesticated pigs and hogs live

Paddock Word beginning with *P* designating an enclosure where horses are housed

Warren Word beginning with *W* naming an area where rabbits live in burrows

Beavers Animals that live in a lodge near a dam they have built

Adobe Home of the U.S. Southwest built of sun-dried clay and straw

Long house 2-word term for a Native American communal house with a central corridor, so named for its rectangular, rather than square, shape

Chateau Word beginning with *C* for a French castle or fine home on a wine estate

Chalet Word beginning with *C* for a wooden Alpine home with a sloping roof

Villa Word beginning with *V* for a large, luxurious house in Italy

Argentina* Country whose presidential home is the Pink House in Buenos Aires

Bungalow Word beginning with *B* naming a one-story cottage, usually with a porch

Garret Word beginning with *G* for an attic room or loft, such as that in which 4 characters in Puccini's opera *La Bohème* live in Paris's Latin Quarter

Grotto Word beginning with *G* designating a cave like the one where Romulus and Remus were allegedly cared for by a she-wolf

Pent house 2-word term for a usually lavish home on the top floor of a building

Flat British term for an apartment home

Barracks Lodging for military personnel

Prairie style Style of home developed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright to blend in with the flat plains of the Midwest for which it is named

*Called *La Casa Rosada* in Spanish; now home to Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, its first elected female president

