



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.

December 17, 2007

Volume 22/17

1) Identify the narrow Indonesian island with a 4-letter name near Java that just hosted the U.N. climate conference and was, before rising tides from global warming, considered a tropical paradise.

Answer: Bali (once called "the Jewel of the East").

2) One goal of the Bali climate conference is to begin work on a treaty to replace which climate treaty due to expire in 2012 named for the Japanese city where it was drafted?

Answer: Kyoto Treaty (all major industrialized nations but U.S. signed it).

3) What is meant by *monarchs* in the headline "Monarchs protected by curb on logging in Mexico"?

Answer: Butterflies (millions migrate to mountains in Mexico each winter).

4) Name the rain forest with 1/5 of Earth's fresh water and about the size of the continental U.S. that experts say may lose 60% by 2030 because of climate change and deforestation.

Answer: Amazon (the largest, covers parts of 8 South American countries).

5) Which Islamic country did the headline "A Large Shadow Cast by an Absent Country" refer to in asserting that fear of it was the one thing everyone at the recent Middle East peace conference in Annapolis had in common?

Answer: Iran (new U.S. report says Iran dropped its nuclear weapons development program in 2003).

6) Name the Disney pair called Paperino and Paperina in an Italian court's erring summons calling for the flat-billed animals to appear in the trial of a man accused of counterfeiting Disney products.

Answer: Donald Duck and Daisy Duck (named as damaged parties).

7) Name the country whose National Theater in Prague is to undergo 3 years of repair to restore its original splendor.

Answer: Czech Republic.

8) Mudslides from the recent so-called "perfect storm" in the U.S. Northwest halted trains between Portland, Oregon, and which Canadian city, the largest in British Columbia?

Answer: Vancouver.

9) Name the 55-year-old U.N. tower for administrative offices that along with its General Assembly Hall is set to undergo a \$1.876 billion renovation over the next 5 years.

Answer: Secretariat (in Manhattan, on the banks of the East River).

10) Name the gas whose reserves are running low on Earth because of increased demand in electronic production and research even though the sun produces volumes of it.

Answer: Helium (2nd lightest gas; sun's energy comes from fusing of hydrogen atoms to form helium).

11) Which woman now has a namesake Freedom rose honoring her for her action December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, AL, considered the birth of the civil rights movement?

Answer: Rosa Parks.

12) Which state is promoting holiday tourism in its capital with the slogan: "In 1539, De Soto celebrated the holidays here. 468 years later, it's your turn"? It's named from the Spanish for "Feast of Flowers."

Answer: Florida (for promotion of Tallahassee, where De Soto celebrated Christmas).

13) Name the device that the American Medical Association says leads to increased physical activity in that it records daily steps and people using it want to run up the count.

Answer: Pedometer (those using it show significant decreases in body mass index and blood pressure).

14) Meteorologists say Earth's tropical belt has expanded 200 miles or so in the last 25 years, meaning it now extends beyond which 2 lines north and south of the Equator?

Answer: Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn.

15) What term completes the following statement about the writers' strike: The average income for Writers Guild of America members is \$204,000, but, the _____ income is only \$5,000, meaning that half of the members make \$5,000 or less?

Answer: Median.

16) Name the carcinogenic, or cancer-causing, insulation material of the 1950s to be removed from U.N. headquarters as part of its renovation.

Answer: Asbestos.

HISTORICAL EVENTS - December 17-31 (Questions 17-24)

17) On December 17, 1903, in which state did the Wright brothers make their first powered flight, on Kill Devil Hill near Kitty Hawk?

Answer: North Carolina.

18) Give the Spanish words for "the peace" that identify the capital of Bolivia, the country named for the "George Washington of South America," who died December 17, 1830.

Answer: La Paz (Bolivia is named for Simón Bolívar).

19) From which country did President Thomas Jefferson purchase nearly a million square miles for about \$20 per square mile on December 20, 1803?

Answer: France.

20) According to Governor William Bradford's *History of Plymouth Plantation*, in which year did the Pilgrims land at Plymouth, Massachusetts, on December 20?

Answer: 1620 (December 21 is Forefathers Day).

21) Give the Hebrew name, meaning "dedication," for the annual Jewish "Feast of Lights" commemorating the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in 165 B.C., this year celebrated from December 22 through December 29.

Answer: Hanukkah (also Hannuka or Chanukah).

22) Identify the city in which George Washington officially resigned his commission as commander in chief of the Continental Army before Congress on December 23, 1783.

Answer: Annapolis (Maryland).

23) Name the 1921 Christmas Day baby who grew up to found the American Red Cross.

Answer: Clara Barton (born December 25, 1921, in Oxford, Massachusetts).

24) Identify the joint of the body whose name completes that of the South Dakota site where over 200 American Indians were massacred by the U.S. Cavalry on Dec. 29, 1890.

Answer: Knee (the site is referred to as Wounded Knee).

25) What is the surface area of a small rectangular solid matchbox measuring 3 inches long by 2 inches wide by 1 inch high?

Answer: 22 square inches.

26) If a trapezoid has a height of 8 units and an area of 120 square units, then what is the sum of its parallel bases?

Answer: 30 units.

27) What is the arithmetic mean of $\frac{1}{9}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$?

Answer: 13/72.

28) Use scientific notation to express 9 raised to the third power.

Answer: 7.29 x 10².

29) What name is given to the field of invisible lines of force that wrap around Earth and meet at its poles?

Answer: Magnetic field.

30) Identify the birds used to send messages in WWI and WWII whose ability to return home is now believed to depend to some extent on an iron mineral called magnetite in its beaks that aligns itself to magnetic fields.

Answer: Homing (or carrier) pigeons (also used in Korean War).

31) What is the scientific name for the slime that is gaining popularity for conversion into biodiesel oil and includes both single-celled plants and large seaweeds?

Answer: Algae (some varieties are as much as 50% oil).

32) What is the meaning of *rhinoplasty* designating the surgical procedure *High School Musical* 2 star Ashley Tisdale recently had done to correct a deviated septum?

Answer: (Plastic) surgery on the nose.

33) With the advent of electric guitars, what word beginning with A was added to *guitar* as a new term for the original one producing sound without electric amplification?

Answer: Acoustic (guitar; such new coinages necessary to distinguish original are called retronyms).

34) A recent study showed that the more a word is used, the less it evolves, or changes. Illustrate this by giving both the single standard past participle of the common verb *eat*, as in *had _____*, and the 2 standard forms for the less used verb *sink* in past tense.

Answer: Eaten and sank and sunk (as used to say "the ship sank, or sunk, yesterday).

35) Identify the presidential candidate whose given name is really Willard Milton, the Willard for hotel-founder J. Willard Marriott, his father's friend and fellow Mormon.

Answer: Mitt Romney (Mitt is short for Milton).

36) Name the animal featured as a Parisian chef in the animated film *Ratatouille*, which just won 13 nominations for the Annie Awards honoring animation.

Answer: Rat (or rodent; Annie Awards will be announced on Feb. 8).

37) Name the specialty of the scientists called arborists, whom those in the Southeast are now consulting frequently about drought-related problems in their own yards.

Answer: Trees (arborists say tall trees are likely to suffer most in the drought).

38) Name the schools slated to play in the BSC, or Bowl Championship Series, January 7 in New Orleans, when Baton Rouge's Fighting Tigers take on the Big Ten's Buckeyes.

Answer: LSU (Louisiana State University) and Ohio State.

39) What do the letters *c.c.* stand for on an email, alluding to the paper once used in a typewriter to make multiples of a document and now replaced by copying machines?

Answer: Carbon copy (alluding to carbon paper once used to make multiple copies in a typewriter).

40) Identify the surname shared by the man presumed dead in 2002 but recently found and arrested in England on charges of fraud and the man who introduced his theory of evolution in his 1859 book *Origin of Species*.

Answer: Darwin (John, who is claiming amnesia, and Charles, the renowned scientist).

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Menorah 9-branched candelabrum used in the celebration of the Jewish Feast of Lights, or Hanukkah, or Chanukah

Kwanzaa December festival during which African Americans light 7 candles in the 7-branched kinara to celebrate their African roots

Calvin Coolidge . President with the initials C.C. who in 1923 started the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the White House

Dusk 4-letter word for a time of half-light in the evening before night

Twilight 8-letter word for the time of half-light between sunset and dark

Aurora Borealis . Latin-based name for the colorful Northern Lights seen in Arctic skies

Tunnel Where trouble ends according to the idiom *Light at the end of the _____*

Lightning* Completion of the saying _____ *never strikes twice*, meaning that something bad that has happened is unlikely to happen again*

Firefly Another name for a lightning bug

Rods and cones . 2 kinds of receptor cells for light in the eye's retina

Thomas Edison . Inventor who in 1879 developed the first practical incandescent light bulb

Fluorescent Kind of light bulb coated with a substance that produces light when an electric current causes a vapor within to bombard it with electrons

Laser Device that emits light in a narrow beam used in surgery, named with the acronym for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation

Light year Unit used to measure distances in space and equivalent to the distance light travels in one year

Albert Einstein . . Physicist known for his formula "Energy equals mass times the speed of light squared," or $E = mc^2$

Phosphorescence A giving off of light caused by the absorption of radiation, as in certain rocks and fish

*In reality, lightning is likely to strike in the same place if the conductor, such as a tree, is still in place.