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## 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.

April 28, 2008

Volume 22/34

1) Name the bordering Muslim nation whose Lollywood film industry just sent India one of its films for the 1st time in 43 years, though pirated copies of India's Bollywood films had long ago entered it.

**Answer: Pakistan (India banned its films after the 1965 war between them).**

2) Name either the militant Arab group in control of Gaza with whose leader Jimmy Carter recently met in Syria or the late Arab PLO leader on whose grave he placed a wreath in the West Bank.

**Answer: Hamas or Yasser Arafat.**

3) Name the U.S. Sec. of State who opposed Jimmy Carter's plan to meet Hamas even though he was in 1979 able to bring together Egypt's Sadat and Israel's Begin for the Arab-Israeli peace accord.

**Answer: Condoleezza Rice.**

4) After meeting with the Hamas leader, in which country did former President Carter meet with King Abdullah to brief him on it?

**Answer: Jordan (it's accused Hamas of stockpiling weapons in it)**

5) Which country hosted the Olympics when the flaming torch arrived underwater at the Great Barrier Reef in 2000 just as this year it is slated to ascend Mt. Everest?

**Answer: Australia** (China just canceled foreign coverage of Everest ascent, claiming "bad weather").

6) Which country introduced the relay of the Olympic flame from Greece to the site of the games in 1936, perhaps to assert itself as the "Master Race" and heir to Ancient Greece?

**Answer: (Nazi) Germany** (1936 route traced what was to be Hitler's advance east resulting in WWII).

7) To which Italian artist has a researcher attributed the drawings in a newly discovered chess book from the 1500s, in part because the artist illustrated a mathematics book by the same author, in keeping with his broad interests as a Renaissance man?

**Answer: Leonardo da Vinci** (some dispute the claim, though admitting he might have done it).

8) In which country was a new national opera house on the shore of a fjord just inaugurated by King Harald V during a performance attended by Queen Margrethe II of Denmark?

**Answer: Norway (in Oslo; white marble house is described as "sleek, white iceberg").**

9) A 92-year-old vet of the "Abraham Lincoln Brigade" of 3,000 U.S. volunteers who fought in another country's civil war in the 1930s just died. Name the country where they fought Franco and his allies, in his case after seeing Nazi planes bombing Guernica.

**Answer: Spain** (he believed if Franco & Hitler had been stopped there, might have been no WWII).

10) Which word did a family that just drove from Texas to D.C. to see Pope Benedict use to designate their journey as a trip of faith, similar to a Muslim's trip to Mecca?

**Answer: Pilgrimage.**

11) In which state do bush pilots provide most of the transportation to many towns since it has only about 14,368 miles of road for its 656,425 acres?

**Answer: Alaska** (because of weather, rugged terrain, etc., pilots there die at 5 times nationwide rate).

12) Which cities will host the 2008 Republican and Democratic conventions, the 1st named for the author of the New Testament epistles and the 2nd called the "Mile High City"?

**Answer: St. Paul (MN, 9/1-4) and Denver, (CO, 8/25-28), respectively.**

13) A Phoenix peak was just renamed for the U.S. Army member who was the 1st Native American female to die in combat. Identify its earlier name, now considered an offensive name for an Indian woman.

**Answer: Squaw (Peak; now named for Lori Piestewa, the Hispanic-Hopi woman killed in Iraq in 2003)**

14) Which kind of fish has the U.S. put off limits for commercial fishing on the California and Oregon coasts because of the low numbers of Chinook going inland to spawn?

**Answer: Salmon** (runs of 475,000 in past years expected to be about 45,000 this year).

15) Scientists believe the recent 5.2 earthquake centered in Illinois involved an extension of the New Madrid fault named for a town in which state, also known for its namesake battleship called "Mighty Mo" on which the war with Japan was ended in 1945?

**Answer: Missouri** (recent one felt as far away as Atlanta; 1811-1812 ones on fault felt even in Boston).

16) For adults who unexpectedly collapse, the American Heart Association now recommends which one action for CPR rather than its former 2-step program?

**Answer: Chest presses** (100 a minute, rather than mouth-to-mouth breathing and then chest presses).

#### **HISTORICAL EVENTS - April 28-May 31 (Questions 17-24)**

17) Who was stripped of his world heavyweight boxing championship on April 28, 1967, when he refused to be inducted into military service?

**Answer: Muhammad Ali** (formerly Cassius Clay).

18) In which city was George Washington inaugurated on April 30, 1789, as the 1st U.S. President?

**Answer: New York City.**

19) Who became the first U.S. President to appear on television when televised at the New York World's Fair on April 30, 1939?

**Answer: Franklin Delano Roosevelt.**

20) From which country did the U.S. buy the territory known as the Louisiana Purchase on May 2, 1803, though the treaty ceding the land to the U.S. was dated April 30?

**Answer: France.**

21) Give the Spanish name for the Mexican national holiday celebrating the May 5, 1862, defeat of French forces trying to seat Archduke Maximilian of Austria as emperor.

**Answer: Cinco de Mayo (literally means "Fifth of May").**

22) Name the composer whose *Ninth Symphony*, with its famous "Ode to Joy," had its premiere on May 7, 1824.

**Answer: Ludwig van Beethoven.**

23) Name the 1st product consisting of totally man-made fiber. This product, made of synthetic yarn developed by the Du Pont Company, went on the market May 15, 1940.

**Answer: Nylon stockings (hose; nylon was developed by Du Pont's W.H. Carothers).**

24) Who sent the first official telegram from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore, Maryland, on May 24, 1844? The system of dots and dashes used in telegraphy is named for him.

**Answer: Samuel F.B. Morse.**

25) What is the Greatest Common Factor of  $36a^3$  and  $90a^2$ ?

**Answer:  $18a^2$ .**

26) The ratio of 4 to 18 is the same as that of 6 to what number?

**Answer: 27.**

27) How many perfect square integers fall between 200 and 300?

**Answer: 3 (225, 256, and 289).**

28) One dekaliter plus one deciliter is equivalent to how many liters?

**Answer: 10.1.**

29) What word names both the part of the firearm behind the barrel and a birth or delivery of a baby positioned in such a way that the buttocks appear first rather than the head?

**Answer: Breech (from Old English for "leg covering"; britches for "pants" comes from breeches).**

30) What word designates any of the 3 million or so metal bolts or pins used to hold a ship like the *Titanic* together and rhymes with the *R*-word for the sound made by a frog?

**Answer: Rivet (new book says *Titanic* builder used poor ones when others unavailable; frogs say ribbit).**

31) Identify the chronic disorder of the respiratory system characterized by sudden wheezing, coughing, and difficulty in breathing, usually caused by allergies.

**Answer: Asthma.**

32) Name the tubes that branch off from the windpipe and go into spasms during an asthma attack.

**Answer: Bronchial tubes (or bronchi; each tube is called a bronchus).**

33) Name the Polish-born composer whose 24 piano Etudes will be broadcast by BBC radio in unbroken sequence during a program showing how he revolutionized piano music.

**Answer: Chopin (24 pianists will perform in the early May broadcast).**

34) Name the 19th-c. German composer whose 32 piano sonatas are being played in order at Carnegie Hall. He is one of the so-called 3 *B*'s and is character Schroeder's favorite.

**Answer: Beethoven** (*Peanuts'* comic strip character Schroeder can play all he wrote on a toy piano).

35) Name the U.S.'s largest Roman Catholic Gothic cathedral where Pope Benedict XVI just became the 1st pope to say Mass there. It's named for the patron saint of Ireland.

**Answer: St. Patrick's Cathedral (dating to 1879 and located on NYC's 5th Avenue).**

36) In 2009, the announcement of Oscar nominees is being moved from its usual Tuesday to Thursday so as not to conflict with which event of national interest on January 20?

**Answer: Inauguration.**

37) The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra just performed Wynton Marsalis's new gospel mass written for the 200th anniversary of NYC's Abyssinian Baptist Church located in which part of the city where African American arts had a Renaissance in the 1920s?

**Answer: Harlem** (upper Manhattan, named for a town in Holland, became black area WWI-era).

38) Name both the color of the jacket presented to Trevor Immelman as winner of the recent Masters golf tournament and the visiting NBA team wearing uniforms of the same color with whom he met in the locker room at Madison Square Garden in New York.

**Answer: Green and Celtics** (it was Immelman's 1st trip to New York).

39) What word beginning with *B* names the list on which Yankee reliever Joba Chamberlain has been placed to give him 3 days off to see his seriously ill father in Nebraska though it literally means "suffering from the death of a loved one"?

**Answer: Bereavement list** (some say MLB needs to rename list since it's really used for family leave).

40) What word beginning with *L* designates a book like the *Harry Potter* \_\_\_\_\_, which J.K.Rowling is protesting as violation of copyright since she says it simply compiles in dictionary form the fictional facts she provided in her series?

**Answer: Lexicon.**

### THE LAST, OR THE END

**Leonardo da Vinci** . Italian Renaissance artist who painted *The Last Supper*

**Fort McHenry** . . . . Maryland fort where at the end of an all-night British bombing attack on September 13-14, 1814, the U.S. flag was still flying

**John Adams** . . . . . Former President who on July 4, 1826, spoke his last words "Thomas Jefferson survives," not knowing that Jefferson had just died

**Alaska** . . . . . State known as "The Last Frontier"

**Sacramento** . . . . . State capital that in the 1860s was the last point on the Pony Express

**Georgia** . . . . . State that is the site of the southern end of the Appalachian Trail

**Hawaii** . . . . . Last state admitted to the Union, in August 1959

**Zimbabwe** . . . . . As listed alphabetically, the last of the world's nations

**Polaris** . . . . . Latin name for the star at the end of the handle of the Little Dipper

**Appendix** . . . . . Supplementary material at the end of a book or a small, apparently useless organ attached to the large intestine

**Palm Sunday** . . . . . Name given by Christians to day of Christ's last entry into Jerusalem

**Finale** . . . . . Word beginning with *F* used to name the last part of a performance

**Curtain call** . . . . . 2-word alliterative term for an appearance of performers on stage at the end of a play to acknowledge the applause of the audience

**Omega** . . . . . Last letter of the Greek alphabet, which completes the idiom *alpha and \_\_\_\_\_*, meaning "the first and the last"

**Spoon** . . . . . Last word of the nursery rhyme "Hey Diddle Diddle"

**11** . . . . . Number completing the idiom \_\_\_\_\_*th hour*," for at the last minute

**Swan song** . . . . . 2-word idiom for an artist's or composer's last work in that it alludes to the animal that allegedly sings only right before it dies

**Benediction** . . . . . Word beginning with *B* for a blessing at the end of a religious service

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