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## Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

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1) What word beginning with *P* designates a multistory Buddhist temple such as the bellshaped one in Rangoon from which monks marched out for protests against Myanmar's military government?

**Answer: Pagoda (specifically, the Shwedagon Pagoda).**

2) The U.S. Navy is altering the landscaping and structure of a 1960s complex in California since seen from space via satellite images it resembles the crosslike Nazi symbol known by which name?

**Answer: Swastika (arms of cross are bent).**

3) On October 1, which country marked its founding in 1949 as "The People's Republic" with a display of its red flag bearing 5 yellow stars, including a large one for the Communist Party?

**Answer: China (4 smaller stars stand for groups of workers).**

4) In which former Soviet republic is a water project funded by rising oil exports underway to raise the level of its almost dried up Aral Sea by 6 meters? Its name begins with *K*.

**Answer: Kazakhstan (former 3rd largest inland sea is down 90% since '60s)**

5) Among the Louvre treasures in a new Atlanta High Museum exhibit are 6 wall paintings excavated from which ancient town near Naples buried by volcanic ash in A.D. 79?

**Answer: Pompeii (Atlanta museum has a 3-year partnership with the Louvre).**

6) Identify either the Italian term for "outdoor dining" literally meaning "in the fresh" or the similar word for a painting done directly on *fresh* plaster, like those from Pompeii.

**Answer: Al fresco or fresco.**

7) To report the economic progress of Hispanics in the U.S., which river is named to represent them in the headline "The \_\_\_\_\_ Rises" since it separates Mexico from the U.S.?

**Answer: Rio Grande (poverty rate for U.S. Hispanics has dropped by 1/3 since 1994, is now 20.6%).**

8) Name the event of October 4, 1957, fifty years ago, that prompted the U.S. to increase tenfold the funds spent on science, education, and research.

**Answer: (Russia's) launching of satellite Sputnik.**

9) Show your knowledge of citizenship by naming what males in the U.S. must by law do at age 18, as asked about in #57 on the new test for immigrants seeking citizenship.

**Answer: Register for "Selective Service" (or military draft, though U.S. now has volunteer army).**

10) Answer the following questions on the test immigrants take to become citizens: What is the economic system in the U.S., and why does the flag have 13 stripes?

**Answer: Capitalism and to represent the original, or 13, colonies.**

11) Some 2,000 people just gathered in Macon, GA, in a failed effort to break the group record for which cigar-shaped instrument played by humming into a center mouthpiece?

**Answer: Kazoo (Rochester, New York, set world Record with 2,679 people on New Year's Eve).**

12) What 4-letter word designates a voting district in a city such as Atlanta's 4th one where a new intown park is being created or New Orleans' 9th one hard hit by Katrina?

**Answer: Ward (Atlanta is building a storm water pond system that will be the park's centerpiece).**

13) Identify the female double name used to designate the largest student lending institution, as used in the recent headline "Deal to Acquire \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Could Be In Jeopardy."

**Answer: Sallie Mae (investors just backed out of \$25 billion offer, want a lower price tag).**

14) An Emory U. grad recently named as one of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's 10 Outstanding Americans said he was inspired to found his HERO program for children affected by HIV/AIDS while working in Kenya in IT, or which field?

**Answer: Information technology (HERO stands for Hearts Everywhere Reaching Out for Children).**

15) Scientists say that regardless of anything done now, global warming will cause oceans to rise one meter in about a century, meaning that the U.S. mainland would lose a land area about the size of which state that entered the Union in 1863 during the Civil War?

**Answer: West Virginia (U.S. would lose about 25,000 square miles).**

16) Name the life-saving surgery 1st successfully performed by new Congressional Gold Medalist Dr. Michael DeBakey at Baylor U. in 1964, using a leg vein to reroute blood.

**Answer: Heart (coronary) bypass (DeBakey, age 99, was just awarded the medal).**

#### **HISTORICAL EVENTS - October 15-21 (Questions 17-24)**

17) Name the state where Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas engaged in a series of 7 debates, the last of which was held on October 15, 1858, in the town of Alton.

**Answer: Illinois.**

18) Identify the American born October 16, 1758, who compiled America's earliest dictionaries, and whose name still appears in the title of some current editions.

**Answer: Noah Webster.**

19) Identify the abolitionist who on October 16, 1859, seized the U.S. Arsenal at Harpers Ferry in what is now West Virginia and was later captured and hanged for the raid.

**Answer: John Brown.**

20) Identify the French woman who allegedly showed her haughtiness by saying of the people's lack of bread, "Let them eat cake!" She was beheaded on October 16, 1793.

**Answer: Marie Antoinette (translated as "Qu'ils mangent de la brioche!").**

21) Based on a survey completed on October 18, 1767, the Mason-Dixon Line was set as the boundary between which 2 states, the "Old Line State" and the "Keystone State"?

**Answer: Maryland and Pennsylvania (line named for surveyors Charles Mason, Jeremiah Dixon).**

22) Name the famous educator, founder of Tuskegee Institute, whom President Roosevelt invited to the White House for dinner on October 18, 1901.

**Answer: Booker T. Washington.**

23) Name the territory, now a state, over which the U.S. flag was formally raised on October 18, 1867, after Secretary of State William Seward purchased it from Russia.

**Answer: Alaska.**

24) Name the Virginia site where British leader Lord Cornwallis surrendered more than 7,000 English and Hessian soldiers to George Washington on October 19, 1781.

**Answer: Yorktown.**

25) What is the quotient when the quantity  $(45x^2 - 65x)$  is divided by  $5x$ , if  $x \neq 0$ ?

**Answer:  $9x - 13$ .**

26) What is the result when  $0.\overline{3}$  is multiplied by 0.3 [READ  $0.\overline{3}$  as "point 3 repeating"]?

**Answer:  $1/10$  or  $0.1$ .**

27) What is the radius of the largest circle that can be inscribed inside a rectangle measuring 9 cm. wide by 14 cm. long?

**Answer: 4.5 cm.**

28) What is the smallest value  $x$  can be in the number  $47x8$  to cause that value to be multiple of 6?

**Answer: 2.**

29) Name the coldest spot on Earth, where the average temperature in January, its warmest month, is minus  $18^\circ$  F.

**Answer: South Pole.**

30) Name the species of animal having, like the human, a 4-chambered heart but one much larger in proportion to body weight, and a lung system taking up 20% of the animal's volume, enabling at least one variety to cover 7,000 miles without stopping?

**Answer: Birds (one bird was just tracked on a 7,146 mile non-stop flight from Alaska to New Zealand).**

31) Name the body organ targeted by use of a defibrillator, now available for emergency use in many public places.

**Answer: Heart (a defibrillator restores normal heart beat via a brief electric shock).**

32) Name the molecule that carries oxygen to the blood and which, when deficient in the body, produces the condition called anemia.

**Answer: Hemoglobin.**

33) Forensic sculptors now often help authorities identify skeletons by making sculptures of their faces. What 4-letter word names such a sculpture of a person's head and neck?

**Answer: Bust (sculptor makes plaster bust from latex mold of skull, then molds face from clay).**

34) Name the occupation of either a *barista*, linked with a now widespread Seattle-based company, or a *barrister*, the latter used primarily in Britain and exemplified by Mr. Jaggers in Dickens' *Great Expectations*, or Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

**Answer: Coffee maker or lawyer, respectively (Harper Lee wrote *To Kill a Mockingbird*).**

35) Identify the short Oxford dictionary's new entry meaning "to flatten" or "crush" that is basically a *portmanteau* combining the first sound of *smooth* with the last of *squash*.

**Answer: Smoosh (in *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, 6th edition).**

36) Identify the British author known for his portmanteau words such as *chortle*, from *chuckle* and *snort*, from *Through the Looking Glass*.

**Answer: Lewis Carroll.**

37) In promoting global action to deal with climate change, what sport did a columnist name in saying, "the world resembles a \_\_\_\_\_ table: movement of one ball propels others"?

**Answer: Pool.**

38) What is the chief food served at the new California-based El Pollo [pronounced PO YO] Loco fast food chain that just opened its 1st of 50 slated for near Atlanta, pitting its grilled specialty against the popular Southern fried at KFC?

**Answer: Chicken (*pollo* is Spanish for "chicken"; *loco* means "crazy").**

39) Name the nursery tale character shown in a new Kraft ad sharing a grilled cheese sandwich with the Big Bad Wolf who otherwise, as in the tale, might have eaten her.

**Answer: Little Red Riding Hood.**

40) The new film *In the Valley of Elah*, starring Tommy Lee Jones looking for missing son just back from Iraq, is named for the Bible site where which person slew which giant?

**Answer: David slew Goliath (film's based on true story about a missing Fort Benning, GA, soldier).**

### CA, BUT NOT CALIFORNIA

- Carnivore** . . . Flesh-eating animal as opposed to one that feeds on plants  
**Calcium** . . . . Element whose compounds are used in quicklime, plaster, and cement  
**Caribou** . . . . Large reindeer of North America  
**Canines** . . . . Pointed teeth between the incisors and the bicuspid  
**Carotid** . . . . Either of the 2 main arteries in the neck that carry blood to the brain  
**Capillaries** . . Tiny hairlike blood vessels linking arteries and veins  
**Carpal** . . . . Term for "wrist" used in naming the ailment \_\_\_\_\_ *tunnel syndrome*  
**Cartesian** . . . Word based on the name of French mathematician René Descartes used to label a coordinate system using 2 numbers to locate a point in a plane  
**Canberra** . . . Capital of Australia  
**Cannes** . . . . French city on the Mediterranean known for its annual film festival  
**Cascade(s)** . . Mountain range whose highest peak is Mount Ranier  
**Calypso** . . . . Island nymph who promised Odysseus immortality if he'd stay with her or Caribbean music of the same name popularized by Harry Belafonte  
**Castanets** . . . Hand-held, shell-like percussion instruments used by Flamenco dancers  
**Calliope** . . . . Greek muse of epic poetry for whom the carnival keyboard instrument with steam whistles is named  
**Cantata** . . . . Musical composition sung by a chorus and soloists, especially at religious holidays such as Easter  
**Carmen** . . . . French opera by George Bizet about a beautiful fiery-tempered gypsy who leaves Don José for a bullfighter  
**Cassanova** . . 18th-century Italian adventurer whose name has become a metaphor for man known as a great lover  
**Carnegie** . . . . Scottish-born U.S. steel magnate known for establishing libraries in the U.S.  
**Calder** . . . . 20th-century U.S. sculptor with 1st name Alexander known for his mobiles  
**C-A-C-H-E** . Spelling of *cache* [cash], designating a hiding place for treasure

