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Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

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October 22, 2007

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1) What word designates the religious communities or homes Myan-mar's government ordered Buddhist monks to vacate after weeks of pro-democracy protests in which the monks had participated?

Answer: Monasteries.

2) Name the city where a 150-year-old chestnut tree was recently saved from being chopped down since Anne Frank wrote of it in the diary she kept while hiding from the Nazis in WWII.

Answer: Amsterdam (Netherlands; see footnote, p. 2).

3) Name the South American country that is today the world's top exporter of soybeans and beef, in part because of research that has turned a huge plain south of its Amazon region into a grain belt.

Answer: Brazil.

4) Identify the term beginning with S for a flat tropical grassland like Brazil's grain belt and designating a Georgia port city founded by James Oglethorpe.

Answer: Savanna (or Savannah, as in the name of the city).

5) Name the country where former chess champion Garry Kasparov recently entered the presidential race.

Answer: Russia (elected the candidate of the "Other Russia" coalition).

6) Identify the 14th century B.C. boy ruler named in the title of the exhibition _____ *and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs*, which is slated to open soon at London's O2 arena.

Answer: Tutankhamen (or King Tut; his tomb was found almost intact by Hugh Carter in 1922).

7) Identify the carrier for the dengue fever now spreading throughout Latin America and being targeted by fumigation efforts.

Answer: Mosquitoes.

8) What was being mined by the 3,200 miners recently rescued after being trapped for 24 hours in a deep shaft in South Africa, which is the world's top producer of this resource?

Answer: Gold.

9) What word containing a *Q* names a court proceeding such as the one being held in England to determine when, where, and how Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed died in 1997?

Answer: Inquest.

10) Identify the Julia just inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame for her TV series and books bringing French cuisine to the U.S. In France, she would be *L'Enfant*.

Answer: Julia Child (inducted posthumously; Hall of Fame is in Seneca, New York).

11) Name the law a Minnesota woman was recently found guilty of violating when she illegally downloaded music and shared it with others online.

Answer: Copyright law (federal jury ordered her to pay record companies \$220,000 in damages).

12) What law was the Internet phone company Vonage found guilty of violating in the court decision ordering it to pay damages to Sprint for using its technology illegally?

Answer: Patent law (Vonage recently settled dispute with Sprint for \$80 million).

13) Identify the former U.S. Vice President who won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, awarded jointly to him and to the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Answer: Al Gore (in recognition of his work on global warming).

14) Name the worm-shaped body organ now believed to produce good bacteria for the digestive system though long thought useless and often routinely removed since people live fine without it.

Answer: Appendix (when infected, it can rupture, spreading bacteria through the body).

15) Identify the 10,000 units of hereditary chemical information in mice that 2 Americans and a Briton manipulated for study in work that just won them the Nobel in medicine.

Answer: Genes (they altered or deactivated genes to study how they affect health and disease).

16) Identify the body in space that Japan's newly launched satellite SELENE is now orbiting, as the first to orbit there since the U.S.'s Apollo program.

Answer: Moon (SELENE stands for Selenological and Engineering Explorer, and alludes to Selene, the mythological goddess of the moon).

HISTORICAL EVENTS - October 22-28 (Questions 17-24)

17) Who became the first president of the Republic of Texas on October 22, 1836?

Answer: Sam Houston.

* Anne said of seeing the tree and sky through attic skylight, "As long as this exists...I cannot be unhappy."

18) Of composers Liszt, Beethoven, Bach, and Mozart, which one was born in Hungary on October 22, 1811, and is known for his *Hungarian Rhapsodies*?

Answer: Franz Liszt.

19) On which island country did President Kennedy impose a naval blockade, on October 22, 1962, and demand that the Soviet Union remove its missiles from there?

Answer: Cuba (known as the Cuban Missile Crisis).

20) Identify the winds that blew out of the desert on October 25, 1993, spreading firestorms throughout Southern California. Their name contains the Spanish word for "saint."

Answer: Santa Ana winds.

21) Name the country whose forces Henry V of England defeated on October 25, 1415, at the Battle of Agincourt during the Hundred Years' War.

Answer: France.

22) Which canal in which state opened on October 26, 1825, as the first major U.S. man-made waterway? The canal was known as "Clinton's Folly" or "Clinton's Ditch."

Answer: Erie Canal in New York (De Witt Clinton was the governor).

23) Name the king of England crowned on October 26, 1760, and still holding the throne at the time of the American Revolution.

Answer: George III.

24) In which city did the world's first underground and underwater rail system begin operating between City Hall and West 145th Street on October 27, 1904?

Answer: New York City.

25) What property is used to remove the parenthesis in the expression $4 + 5(9x - 2)$?

Answer: Distributive (property).

26) $3\frac{2}{3}$ yards is equivalent to how many inches?

Answer: 132.

27) $2^5 + 2^4$ is equivalent to the product of 4 times what integer?

Answer: 12.

28) What type of line is perpendicular to the line through $A(7,3)$ and $B(-2,3)$?

Answer: Vertical line.

29) Name the igneous rock from Stone Mountain, Georgia, used in the steps for the east wing of the U.S. Capitol and in other Washington, D.C., federal buildings.

Answer: Granite.

30) What word designates a mix of metals, such as the lead solder with tiny amounts of lead in it used in electronics to prevent tiny tin "whiskers" that can damage electronics?

Answer: Alloy (scientists say EU ruling banning the lead will threaten pacemakers, missiles, etc.).

31) Name the fastest land animal, an endangered African big cat that lost 90% in population last century because of demand for its spotted coat and loss of the savannas it inhabits.

Answer: Cheetah (none in the wild in India since 1952 though once prevalent there).

32) Use the initial letters *C* and *P* to give 2 of 5 other names given to the native American big cat called a mountain lion.

Answer: Cougar, catamount, puma, panther, and painter.

33) What 3-syllable word meaning "most important" or "major" is used to designate the leader and soloist of an instrument group within an orchestra, such as the violins?

Answer: Principal (as in *principal violin*).

34) What word designates the orchestra section consisting of such instruments as timpani, triangle, and cymbals?

Answer: Percussion.

35) Identify the famed New York orchestra as of September conducted by new director Alan Gilbert, whose mother is in its violin section. Its name literally means "loving music."

Answer: New York Philharmonic (40-year-old Gilbert is 1st native New Yorker to direct it).

36) Name either of the 2 conditions required for Muslim's 5 daily prayers that Malaysia's 1st astronaut may have trouble heeding aboard the space station because of lack of gravity.

Answer: Kneeling or facing Mecca (astronaut Sheikh Muszaphar left for space station 10/10).

37) What coin is now recommended for use in testing tire tread for wear, setting as a new higher safety standard the 4/32-inch depth left if all of Washington's head can be seen?

Answer: Quarter (to replace penny test, which set 2/32-inch depth as minimum).

38) Name the state hoping for increased tourism because of the new film *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* since it is where James lived and died.

Answer: Missouri (film stars Brad Pitt; Ford shot James in the back).

39) Name the U.S. President who is the focus of the new biography *Prophet from Plains*.

Answer: Jimmy Carter (he grew up in Plains, Georgia, and still maintains a home there).

40) Name the Supreme Court justice whose recently published memoir, *My Grandfather's Son*, focuses on his life before joining the Court as its 2nd-ever African-American.

Answer: Clarence Thomas (Thurgood Marshall was Court's 1st African-American).

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

Thames	River that runs through London and is the longest entirely in England
Rio Grande . . .	River that flows through El Paso, Texas, dividing it from Juárez, Mexico
Mississippi	River that flows between St. Louis, Missouri, and East St. Louis, Illinois
Euphrates	River that flows past the ruins of the ancient city of Babylon in Iraq
Avon	River that flows through playwright William Shakespeare's home town
Ganges	River that flows through Calcutta and that Hindus consider most sacred
Colorado	River that flows through the Grand Canyon and forms the Arizona/ California border before emptying into the Gulf of California in Mexico
Nile	River that rises near the Equator and flows 4,145 miles to empty into the Mediterranean north of Cairo, making it the world's longest river
Ohio	River formed by the Monongahela and Allegheny in Pittsburgh, PA, that is the U.S.'s most heavily used commercial river
Jordan	River that separates the northern part of Israel from its neighbors to the east before emptying into the Dead Sea
Potomac	River separating Washington, D.C., from Virginia
Amazon*	River that flows 4,000 miles through Brazil into Peru, making it the world's 2nd longest
Columbia	River that flows through a gorge in the Cascade Mountains to form the boundary between Oregon and Washington
James	River that flows past the site of the 1st permanent English colony in the New World, founded in 1607
Hudson	River that lies west of Manhattan, separating it from New Jersey
Charles	River that flows through Boston, separating it from Cambridge, named for the only English king ever beheaded, in 1649

*It carries more water than any other river, more than Mississippi, Yangtze, and Nile together.