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Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

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January 28, 2008

Volume 22/21

1) Identify the New Zealand beekeeper who conquered Mount Everest in 1953 and recently died at age 88 or the 2008 presidential candidate who was named for him.

Answer: Sir Edmund Hillary or Hillary Clinton.

2) Identify either the home country of Tenzing Norgay who served as Sir Edmund Hillary's guide in conquering Everest or the word beginning with *S* designating such skilled Himalayan guides.

Answer: Nepal or Sherpa.

3) Identify the new \$2,500 4-door subcompact car being marketed in India as a step-up from a scooter but not much larger, accounting for its 4-letter name in science meaning "one-billionth."

Answer: Nano (gas-driven car gets 50 miles per gallon, has top speed of 60).

4) Name the city whose famed Spanish Riding School known for its Lipizzaner stallions, located not in Spain but in Austria, is on the brink of bankruptcy.

Answer: Vienna (a U.S. tour has been canceled to save travel expenses).

- 5) Name the city where snow fell in the Green Zone and elsewhere for the first time in memory, disregarding the concrete barriers dividing Sunnis and Shiites.
Answer: Baghdad (one person said such "snow-rain" reportedly fell in the outskirts in the early '40s).
- 6) Identify the mount President Bush recently visited in Israel by giving the popular name for Jesus's sayings that begin with the word "blessed," as in the line "Blessed are those who are peacemakers for they will be called children of God."
Answer: (Mount of) Beatitudes (believed to be the site of the Sermon on the Mount)
- 7) Complete the name of the world's fastest growing airline _____ Air by completing the name of the country United Arab _____, whose largest city is Dubai, at 1.4 million.
Answer: Emirates (an emirate is a nation ruled by a prince or chief called an emir).
- 8) On which body of water is the United Arab Emirates located, bordering Saudi Arabia?
Answer: Persian Gulf.
- 9) Name the state that is the site of Muir Woods, the U.S. national monument that will in the spring celebrate its 100th birthday, having been created to preserve its redwoods.
Answer: California (just north of San Francisco).
- 10) Name the peninsular state that just announced the winner of a contest to write a song to replace its state song "Old Folks at Home," or "Swanee River" by Stephen Foster.
Answer: Florida (many consider old song racist, but legislators still must approve change).
- 11) What does *heist* mean as used in the headline "Atlanta vaults to top of heist list"?
Answer: Robbery or burglary (in this case, bank heists, topping the list with 351, followed by LA).
- 12) Identify the body part named in the term _____ marks used to designate specific line items for individual legislators' pet projects in a funding bill put before Congress.
Answer: Ear(marks; in 1996, there were 900 earmarks; in 2007, more than 11,100).
- 13) Name Alabama's largest city, whose skyline photo was mistakenly put on a European Parliament web site as a picture of England's 2nd largest city for which it was named.
Answer: Birmingham (photo error was on Web site of 3 British members of the European Parliament).
- 14) Name the memorial expected to open on the tidal basin between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials in 2009 if work begins as planned by April or May despite controversy over choosing the design of a Chinese national not an African American.
Answer: Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial (financed primarily by private money).
- 15) What word beginning with *F* designates the kind of experts called in to collect and study evidence in a lab setting to determine the facts of a crime, such as the Scotland Yard experts called in to investigate the death of Benazir Bhutto?
Answer: Forensic (Bhutto case is difficult since firefighters washed down the scene of killing).
- 16) The U.S. Senate recently passed a bill to stop Myanmar's export of which 2 gemstones, a red one designated July's birthstone and a green one used in Chinese jewelry and art?
Answer: Ruby and jade (ruby is listed for July on modern list and for December on ancient list).

HISTORICAL EVENTS - January 28-February 3 (Questions 17-24)

- 17) Name the space shuttle aboard which teacher Christa McAuliffe and 6 astronauts died when it exploded 74 minutes into its flight on January 28, 1986.
Answer: Challenger.
- 18) The first Englishman to circumnavigate the world died on his ship off the coast of Panama on January 28, 1596. Name him.
Answer: Sir Francis Drake.

19) Which oft-married English king died on January 28, 1547, and was succeeded by his 9-year-old son Edward VI?

Answer: Henry VIII.

20) Whom did President Paul von Hindenburg name as chancellor of Germany on January 30, 1933?

Answer: Adolf Hitler.

21) Who wrote the classic novel based on the adventures of sailor Alexander Selkirk, who was rescued from an uninhabited island in the South Pacific on February 1, 1709?

Answer: Daniel Defoe (used the events as the basis for *Robinson Crusoe*).

22) Which war officially ended when the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed on February 2, 1848?

Answer: Mexican War.

23) In which city, named for the leader called the "Man of Steel," did German troops surrender to the Russians on February 2, 1943, marking a turning point in WWII?

Answer: Stalingrad (Joseph Stalin's surname means "man of steel").

24) Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson, and Walter Johnson were among the 5 charter members of the Baseball Hall of Fame announced in 1936. Name either of the other 2.

Answer: Ty Cobb or Babe Ruth (the 5 were named on 2/2/1936).

25) Given that 32 kilometers is equal to 20 miles, how many kilometers are in 15 miles?

Answer: 24.

26) What is the distance around a semicircle whose radius is 8 inches?

Answer: $(16 + 8\pi)$ Inches.

27) A marathon who started at 11:35 A.M. and finished at 2:26 P.M. covered the distance in what time?

Answer: 2:51 or 2 hours 51 minutes.

28) What is the age of the oldest child in a family if their ages are in a 1:4:6 ratio and the sum of their ages is 33 years?

Answer: 18.

29) Which of the senses is referred to as *olfactory*, as used to describe the camouflage squirrels create by chewing up rattlesnake skins and smearing it on their fur?

Answer: Sense of smell.

30) What word based on that designating the study of plants designates a public garden often displaying plants of a particular region and used for scientific study and education?

Answer: Botanical (garden, such as the National Botanical Garden in Washington, D.C.).

31) What is the distinguishing feature of trees called conifers?

Answer: They produce cones (such as pines, spruces, and firs).

32) Name the species of the 440-lb. snake from which a 7-year-old was recently rescued as it tried to drag her into Brazil's rain forest after wrapping itself around her legs.

Answer: Anaconda (a passer-by severed the snake's head with a machete).

33) What term of Italian origin does a musician use for the speed of a piece of music, as in telling an orchestra to pick up the speed at which they are playing?

Answer: Tempo.

34) What term designates an unnaturally high voice in singing, as used especially to refer to a male voice used artificially to produce notes that sound like those of a female?

Answer: Falsetto.

35) Identify the Spanish master of geometric art called cubism whose painting stolen from Brazil's premier modern art museum last month was just recovered.

Answer: Pablo Picasso (stolen painting was *Portrait of Suzanne Bloch*).

36) Identify the Portuguese-speaking city set to open its annual 5-day pre-Lenten carnival featuring performances by samba groups in the Sambadrome stadium on February 1. Its name begins with the Spanish word for "river."

Answer: Rio de Janeiro.

37) Name the color of the carpet said to be missing when because of the writers strike, the Golden Globe Awards were announced at a press conference rather than presented to Hollywood stars dressed in their finest and paraded before the TV audience.

Answer: Red (carpet, as put down for important visitors to a country).

38) Give the full name of the Coretta featured in Pearl Cleage's new play *A Song for Coretta* staged in Atlanta in conjunction with the national holiday on January 21.

Answer: Coretta Scott King (Martin Luther King Jr.'s wife, who died Jan. 31, 2006).

39) Name the city whose WNBA team, the Storm, was just bought by a female Microsoft V.P. and whose NBA Supersonics may be moved to Oklahoma City.

Answer: Seattle (Storm's owner was in '81 drafted by former Women's Professional Basketball League).

40) If, as reported in a new NCAA study, college football players spend on their sport 4.8 hours more than the average work week, how many hours do they spend on it?

Answer: 44.8 (work wk. is 40; NCAA's 20-hour limit doesn't include training room or travel).

ON THE ROAD

- Romans** Civilization that built the eventually 560-km stone road called the Appian Way in 312 B.C., parts of which are still in use
- Silk (Road)** Chinese product named to designate the ancient trade road, or route, from China to Asia Minor and the Mediterranean
- Wilderness Road** . Road blazed by Daniel Boone from Virginia through Cumberland Gap into Kentucky and used by settlers moving west for over 50 years
- Potomac/Ohio** . . . Major rivers linked by the Cumberland Road opened in 1818, providing portage, or land travel, from Maryland to Wheeling, West Virginia
- Santa Fe Trail** . . . 19th-century trail or road from Missouri to New Mexico's capital
- 66** Double-digit route number of the 2,448-mile road completed in 1926 from Illinois to California, through KS, OK, TX, NM, and AZ
- Turnpike** Term for a toll road derived from the earlier designation for gates set across a road to halt passage until a toll was paid
- Trans-Canada*** . . Trans-_____ Highway crossing the world's 2nd largest country
- Trans-Siberian** . . Trans-_____ Highway crossing the world's largest country and named for its most northern area
- Skyline Drive** 105-mile mountaintop road in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park
- Blue Ridge**** 469-mile-long National Parkway through a range of the Appalachians from Virginia to Tennessee, as the longest narrowest national park
- Trail Ridge Road** . U.S.'s highest continuous highway, Colorado's Trail _____ Road, so named because it runs atop the Rocky Mts., crossing continental divide
- Pacific Coast Hwy** California scenic seaside highway known as the PCH, offering spectacular views often from high altitudes
- Florida** State whose 80-year-old Tamiami Trail links its east and west coasts
- Robert Frost** Poet who wrote the poem "The Road Not Taken"
- Rue** French word for "street," or road, as used in the title of the Edgar Allan Poe story "The Murders at _____ Morgue"
- Camino** Spanish word for "road" as in CA's *El _____ Real* linking its missions
- Yellow-brick Road** . Road Dorothy follows to the Emerald City in *The Wizard of Oz*
- Damascus** City toward which the biblical Paul was headed when he was blinded on the road and converted to Christianity
- Intentions** Word completing the saying "The road to Hell is paved with good _____," meaning that thought of a good deed is no good without action

*From Victoria, B.C., to Prince Edward Island **Land on either side is maintained by National Park Service

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