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## Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

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1) Name the British prince recently withdrawn from Afghanistan after news that he had been serving with his men in the combat zone for 10 weeks leaked out.

**Answer: Prince Harry (3rd in line to throne\*).**

2) Name the country that recently elected as president the hand-picked successor of its president since 2000, who is now to become prime minister, meaning he still has control.

**Answer: Russia (Dmitry Medvedev won, will replace Vladimir Putin).**

3) Name the city where demonstrators climbed onto the roof of the Parliament House to protest a 3rd runway to Heathrow Airport.

**Answer: London.**

4) Name the 2 houses of parliament that hold their sessions in London's Parliament House.

**Answer: House of Commons and House of Lords.**

**\*Prince Charles, his father is 1st; older brother William, 2nd).**

5) Name the architectural style of London's Parliament House with its pointed arches, high vaulted ceilings, flying buttresses, spires, and gargoyles.

**Answer: Gothic (or neo-Gothic, more precisely).**

6) Name the French impressionist who painted London's Houses of Parliament multiple times to show changes in light, just as he did multiple paintings of water lilies in France.

**Answer: Claude Monet.**

7) What was the WWII-era Luftwaffe, which just made the news when a German found directions to buried Nazi booty in a notebook of a former Luftwaffe radio operator?

**Answer: German Air Force (notebook was his father's; search has begun in cave near Czech border).**

8) From which country did the Nazis take the legendary Amber Room treasure from a 1711 palace built for Catherine I and now perhaps buried on Germany's Czech border?

**Answer: Russia (Amber Room got its name from its amber wall hangings).**

9) Of the EU nations refusing to recognize Kosovo's independence, name the one whose Basque area on the Bay of Biscay near the French border has long sought independence.

**Answer: Spain (its officials say they fear Kosovo independence could inspire other separatist movements)**

10) Identify the Portuguese word for "new" that completes the term *bossa* \_\_\_\_\_ designating the Brazilian music combining samba and jazz now celebrating its 50th anniversary.

**Answer: Nova (*bossa nova* is from Portuguese *bossa* for "trend" and *nova* for "new").**

11) Identify the decade in which the U.S. Civil War took place, which, according to a recently released study, only 43% of 17-year-olds knew. Though the war led to the abolition of slavery, civil rights didn't come until King's campaign 100 years later.

**Answer: 1860s (specifically, 1861-1865; King gave his "I Have a Dream Speech" in 1963).**

12) The author of the new book *The Age of American Unreason* notes that in a 2006 poll only 23% of U.S. young people with some college could locate Iraq on a map. Show your knowledge by naming 3 of the 6 countries that border it.

**Answer: Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Turkey (listed clockwise, east to north).**

13) What kind of rodent is designated by the Spanish term *ratón*, which Venezuela's President Chavez wants business and tech workers to use instead of its English equivalent?

**Answer: Mouse (as used for controlling the cursor on a computer screen).**

14) Give the common name for Hansens's disease, whose victims in the Hawaiian Islands were until 1969 forcibly exiled to a peninsula on Molokai to live there till death.

**Answer: Leprosy (relatives want Congress to approve memorial to those who died on Molokai).**

15) Identify the nursery rhyme character whose name is used to designate in space science a planet that can support life because it is neither too hot nor too cold, just as the character ate the porridge that was just right, neither too hot, nor too cold.

**Answer: Goldilocks (planet; NASA's sending Kepler next year to find frequency of these in our galaxy)**

16) Name either the equation used since the 1960s to estimate the likely Goldilocks planets in our galaxy or the 1st British seafarer to sail around the globe who shares its name.

**Answer: Drake equation (named for U.S. scientist Frank Drake) or Sir Francis Drake.**

### **HISTORICAL EVENTS - March 17-23 (Questions 17-24)**

17) Name the country whose patron saint is commemorated on March 17.

**Answer: Ireland (its patron saint is St. Patrick).**

18) In which year did the Congress of Confederate states adjourn for the last time?

**Answer: 1865 (on March 18).**

19) In which decade did Soviet cosmonaut Alexi Leonov take the first space walk?

**Answer: 1960s (on March 18, 1965).**

20) From which autonomous, or self-ruling, region of China did the Dalai Lama flee on March 19, 1959?

**Answer: Tibet.**

21) Name the British Parliamentary act that took effect on March 22, 1765, as a way of having the colonies help pay for maintaining the British army stationed in America.

**Answer: Stamp Act.**

22) March 23 is called Liberty Day in honor of Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" speech given in 1775 in St. John's Church in which inland city on the James?

**Answer: Richmond.**

23) Which group was granted the right to vote in U.S. elections by the 26th Amendment, proposed by Congress on March 23, 1971?

**Answer: 18-year-olds.**

24) On March 23, 1743, King George II stood up when he heard the "Hallelujah Chorus" in the *Messiah*, setting a tradition that still holds. Name the composer of the *Messiah*.

**Answer: George Frederick Handel.**

25) A horse that runs 2 miles in 5 minutes is running at a rate of how many miles per hour?

**Answer: 24.**

26) If freshmen represent  $\frac{3}{8}$  of the Hartford High Band, then how many degrees of a circle graph are needed to represent them?

**Answer:  $135^\circ$ .**

27) The square root of 50 times the square root of what other integer yields a result of 40?

**Answer: 32.**

28) When the midpoints of 2 adjacent sides of a square are connected, the square has been divided into a triangle and what other polygon?

**Answer: Pentagon.**

29) What does the 11-word mnemonic device "My Very Exciting Magic Carpet Just Sailed Under Nine Palace Elephants" help students remember now that some say there are 11, not 9, including the 3 called dwarfs?

**Answer: 11 planets (Mercury/Venus/Earth/Mars/Jupiter/Saturn/Uranus/Neptune/Pluto/Eris/Ceres).**

30) Where do marsupial frogs carry their eggs for 60 to 80 days prior to their hatching?

**Answer: In a pouch (on the back; marsupials, like kangaroos, carry developing young in frontal pouch)**

31) What is a frog called when newly hatched and living in water?

**Answer: Tadpole (or polliwog).**

32) Name the 3-stage process of physical change occurring in the development of most frogs.

**Answer: Metamorphosis (from egg, to tadpole, to mature frog; fully developed frog absorbs its tail).**

33) What word beginning with *P* is used to designate newspapers and magazines based on the fact that they appear at regularly scheduled intervals, as every week or month?

**Answer: Periodicals.**

34) What compound word designates an actor who has studied a role played by another in order to take over that part should the star fall ill or be unable to perform?

**Answer: Understudy (an actor in a NY audience recently took over midway when a bass lost his voice).**

35) Name the New York City museum designed by Frank Lloyd Wright that is slated to open another museum in Abu Dhabi 35% larger than its ship-like one in Bilbao, Spain.

**Answer: Guggenheim (Frank Gehry designed Guggenheim Bilbao and will design Abu Dhabi's).**

36) In which foreign capital did the world's largest airport terminal just open, at nearly 2 miles long, and with 64 restaurants but no store with foreign periodicals?

**Answer: Beijing (Chinese government censures press; airport has 175 escalators, 437 moving sidewalks).**

37) What word beginning with *B* names both the old fortified area at Manhattan's tip where the old ferry building is being renovated and, in baseball, the pitcher and catcher?

**Answer: Battery (up to 17 ferry lines once traveled between Manhattan and Brooklyn).**

38) The umpire who was behind the plate for 1974's record-tying 714th home run just died at 79. Name both the player who hit the 1974 homer and the one whose record he tied.

**Answer: Hank Aaron and Babe Ruth (umpire wore same jacket while working Sandy Koufax's perfect 1971 World Series game and Aaron's 714th home run).**

39) Name the sport Russia is trying to reinstate as its national sport, with the return of stars from North America, like Alexei Yashin, who won 2 Stanley Cups with the Red Wings.

**Answer: (Ice) hockey.**

40) Name the 2 New York City baseball stadiums to be replaced by new ones next year, one of which opened in 1923 and was updated in 1974, and the other dating to 1964.

**Answer: Yankee Stadium and Shea Stadium (Mets home; Billy Joel's 7/16 concert will be its last)**

#### STATE QUARTER QUIZ (in order of statehood, 1837-1959)

**Michigan (1837)** . . . Upper and Lower Peninsulas and inscription "Great Lakes State"

**Florida (1845)** . . . . . 16th-century Spanish galleon, a space shuttle, palm trees, and slogan "Gateway to Discovery"

**Texas (1845)** . . . . . Star, rope or lariat border, and inscription "The Lone Star State"

**Iowa (1846)** . . . . . Prairie schoolhouse, people planting trees, and inscriptions "Foundation in Education" and "Grant Wood" (its postal code is 2 vowels)

**Wisconsin (1848)** . . . Holstein cow, wheel of cheese, ear of corn, and motto "Forward"

**California (1850)** . . . Soaring condor, Yosemite's "Half Dome," and inscriptions "John Muir" and "Yosemite Valley"

**Minnesota (1858)** . . . Lake with a loon on the water, 2 people fishing from a motorboat, a slogan "Land of 10,000 Lakes"

**Oregon (1859)** . . . . . Crater Lake, some conifers, and the inscription "Crater Lake"

**Kansas (1861)** . . . . . A buffalo standing on a grassy area and a sunflower

**West Virginia (1863)** The New River and the New River Gorge Bridge

**Nevada (1864)** . . . . . 3 mustangs, snow-capped peaks, sagebrush, slogan "The Silver State"

**Nebraska (1867)** . . . . . Pioneers in ox-drawn covered wagon and Chimney Rock

**Colorado (1876)** . . . . . Rocky Mountains and alliterative inscription "Colorful \_\_\_\_\_"

**North Dakota (1889)** Pair of grazing bison, buttes and canyons of its Badlands region

**South Dakota (1889)** Pheasant in flight above Mount Rushmore Monument\*

**Montana (1889)** . . . . . Bison skull, mountains tapering to plains, slogan "Big Sky Country"

**Washington (1889)** . . . King salmon, Mount Rainier and inscription "The Evergreen State"

**Idaho (1890)** . . . . . Peregrine falcon and Latin motto *Esto Perpetua* (known for potatoes)

**Wyoming (1890)** . . . . . A bucking horse and rider and inscription "The Equality State"

**Utah (1896)** . . . . . 2 locomotives nearing golden spike, slogan "Crossroads of the West"

**Oklahoma (1907)** . . . Scissortail flycatcher and Indian blanket wildflower

**New Mexico (1912)** . . . Zia sun symbol and inscription "Land of Enchantment"

**Arizona (1912)** . . . . . Grand Canyon, saguaro cactus, and inscription "Grand Canyon State"

**Alaska (1959)** . . . . . Grizzly bear clutching a salmon, North Star, slogan "The Great Land"

**Hawaii (1959)** . . . . . King Kamehameha I stretching his hand toward the state's 8 major islands and motto *Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono*

\*Featuring faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln

