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Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

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1) In which country did fire likely set by an arsonist destroy a 610-year-old wooden structure known as the Great Southern Gate that was part of Seoul's original walls?

Answer: South Korea (suspect has allegedly confessed to arson).

2) Name the small oil-rich desert country where 5 U.S. universities now offer degrees at Education City, a 2,500-acre campus in Doha, its capital. It's the only nation whose name begins with Q.

Answer: Qatar (schools include Georgetown, Cornell, and Carnegie Mellon).

3) Which country recently won the African Cup of Nations soccer championship when its Pharaohs defeated Cameroon 1-0?

Answer: Egypt (for a record 6th win, and the 2nd in a row).

4) Venezuela is paying over \$500,000 for a global warming research expedition to Antarctica aboard a Navy vessel belonging to which country on the Atlantic whose capital is Montevideo?

Answer: Uruguay (it denies planning a military alliance with Venezuela).

5) Name the tiny dust-like particles found in a plant's anthers that scientists recently used to track down the source of some counterfeit drugs in China.

Answer: Pollen (calcite mixed in it was linked to mining area in S. China where drugs were produced).

6) Name the world's largest victory arch, the Parisian structure commissioned by Napoleon I in 1806 in honor of his armies where a museum was recently reopened.

Answer: Arc de Triomphe ("Arch of Triumph," completed in 1836, after Napoleon lost power).

7) A leatherback turtle, one of the world's most endangered animals, was recently tracked on a 13,000 mile search for food, from Indonesia to which major U.S. port city in Oregon near the junction of the Willamette and Columbia rivers, then back to Hawaii?

Answer: Portland (Willamette is pronounced wuh-LAM-it).

8) What word is used to describe the 28-mile electronic fence the U.S. is set to approve on the Mexico/Arizona border since, as on a computer screen, it is not an actual fence?

Answer: Virtual ("fence" includes 98-foot unmanned towers equipped with surveillance technology).

9) Which U.S. state recently celebrated its 275th year, having been founded on Feb. 12, 1733, by James Oglethorpe as the last of the original 13 colonies?

Answer: Georgia.

10) Which river feeds Lake Mead, the reservoir researchers recently said could run dry in 13 years, putting both Las Vegas and Phoenix at risk? A state shares its name.

Answer: Colorado (their conclusion is based on unchanged demand and climate change as predicted).

11) Name the President whose lock of reddish hair is among those locks from the 1st 12 Presidents now on display, having been collected in the 1840s and '50s. He's called a Renaissance man, having been a scientist, architect, inventor, and scholar.

Answer: Thomas Jefferson ("hair album" is so fragile, all but Washington's are shown by photo).

12) Name the 3 "states" that recently voted in what were called the Potomac or Chesapeake primaries, one of which has no voting members of Congress and whose residents can vote in presidential primaries but not in elections. Obama won in all three.

Answer: Virginia, Maryland, and District of Columbia.

13) Complete the Latin term *pro* _____ to describe the effort of ad agencies in promoting without charge the TAP campaign urging U.S. diners to order tap water and donate the \$1 saved to provide clean drinking water for children in the 3rd world.

Answer: Pro bono (literally, "for the good"; TAP campaign will be waged in over 12 cities in March).

14) Name the city where the Harley-Davidson Museum is to open this summer, having been the company's home for over 100 years. It's also known as "beer capital of the world."

Answer: Milwaukee.

15) Name the "colorful" disease for which thousands in Paraguay are demanding a vaccination campaign a week after the first case there in 34 years.

Answer: Yellow fever.

16) Identify both the word beginning with *J* that designates the yellowing of the skin caused by yellow fever and the body part that the fever damages, leading bile to color the skin.

Answer: Jaundice and liver.

HISTORICAL EVENTS - February 25-March 2 (Questions 17-24)

17) On February 25, 1870, Hiram Revels became the 1st black in the U.S. Senate when he began serving Jefferson Davis's unexpired term. Which state did he represent?

Answer: Mississippi.

18) In which state was the Grand Canyon National Park established on February 26, 1919?

Answer: Arizona.

19) Which U.S. President joined Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai in issuing the "Shanghai Communiqué" on February 27, 1972, to describe their historic discussions?

Answer: Richard Nixon.

20) Frenchman Michel de Montaigne, born February 28, 1533, was the first to use which literary form defined as "a brief piece of prose expressing a personal point of view"?

Answer: Essay.

21) In which year, the first of his administration, did President Kennedy establish the Peace Corps on March 1? He was assassinated on November 22, two years later.

Answer: 1961.

22) Name the famous aviator whose baby was kidnapped by Brunt Richard Hauptmann in New Jersey on March 1, 1932, prompting the act making kidnapping a federal offense.

Answer: Charles Lindbergh (the infant's body was found 10 weeks later).

23) Which state declared its independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836?

Answer: Texas.

24) In which state did Congress establish Mount Rainier National Park on March 2, 1899?

Answer: Washington.

25) Two raised to the third power is what percent of 2 raised to the fifth power?

Answer: 25.

26) For the division problem with divisor of 12 and dividend of 43, the remainder is how much more than the quotient?

Answer: 4.

27) If y is equal to the square root of the quantity $(16 - x)$, then what value of x yields a y value of 3?

Answer: 7.

28) Which pair of integers have a product of -120 and a sum of -14?

Answer: -20 and 6.

29) Which animals are the most numerous of existing mammals, one form of which is the animal sign for this year on the Chinese calendar and in the 1300s spread the plague?

Answer: Rodents (this is the Year of the Rat on Chinese calendar and rats spread the Black Plague).

30) Name the 2nd most numerous type of mammal, which has 1,100 species living across the world, and is also the only mammal that can fly.

Answer: Bat(s).

31) Identify the modern naval device that is named with an acronym and is comparable to what is called echolocation in bats.

Answer: SONAR (sound navigation and ranging; bat uses echoes from sounds it emits to find objects).

32) A recently found fossil of what is believed to be the most primitive bat doesn't have the enlarged cochlea found in bats today. In what part of the body is the *cochlea* located?

Answer: Ear (specifically, the spiral or snail-shaped cavity in the inner ear, for better hearing).

33) The director of 185 telecasts from opera, orchestra, dance, and theater halls of a New York center just died at age 86. Identify this multi-hall center named for a President.

Answer: Lincoln Center (TV show *Live from Lincoln Center* first aired in 1976).

34) Spell both the word designating a sculpted border on an inside or outside wall of a building and its homophone meaning "to become a solid at 32° F."

Answer: F-R-I-E-Z-E and F-R-E-E-Z-E.

35) What does WTC stand for in the recent headline "Court declares that woman died in WTC attack, in reference to a missing physician whose body has never been found?"

Answer: World Trade Center (her family believes she went in to help victims).

36) The 15-inch hound Uno who just won best in show at the Westminster dog show is of which breed, possibly named from the Old French for "loud mouth"?

Answer: Beagle (first ever "best in show" win for the breed).

37) Identify the annual award presented by the Surgeon General to honor excellence in the military health system named for the legendary King Arthur's sword.

Answer: Excalibur.

38) Identify the dramatic Latin American ballroom dance with alternating long and short quick steps recently found to help patients with Parkinson's disease improve balance. The first syllable of its name designates both a Chinese dynasty and a soft drink.

Answer: Tango (as in Tang dynasty A.D. 618 to 907 and the soft drink tang).

39) For which Italian artist is the surgical robot with up to 4 arms and flexible wrists named since as a Renaissance man he is also known for scientific drawings of the human body?

Answer: Leonardo da Vinci ("Vitrurian Man" drawing has 2 superimposed figures, giving it 4 arms).

40) Complete the name of New York City's new vegetarian fast food restaurant _____ *Burger* by giving the 3-letter word for a Buddhist philosophy of meditation.

Answer: Zen Burger (owners hope new restaurant will be the first of a U.S. chain).

TICKER-TAPE PARADES (1960-2008)

John F. Kennedy . . . Democratic presidential nominee honored in October 1960

John Glenn Astronaut honored in 1962 after his first ever orbiting of the earth

New York Mets NY baseball team honored upon entering the National League in 1962

South Korea Country whose leader Chung Hee Park was honored in 1965, thirteen years after U.S. troops went to protect it from Communist invaders

Neil Armstrong *Apollo 11* commander honored in 1969 after being the 1st to set foot on the moon

Pope John Paul II . . . Pope honored in 1979, named for a Gospel writer and for the Jew converted near Damascus and known for his New Testament letters

Vietnam War War whose vets were not so honored until May 7, 1985, ten years after troops returned home

Iran Country that had held hostage the Americans honored on January 30, 1981, upon their release

New York Giants . . . NYC team **not** honored after its 1987 Super Bowl victory because Mayor Koch didn't want to honor a team based in New Jersey

Nelson Mandela South African anti-apartheid activist honored in 1990 after being released from prison

Persian Gulf War* . . . War whose returning vets were honored on June 10, 1991

Korean War Vets . . . War whose vets were not so honored until June 25, 1991, 38 years after the armistice was signed

New York Rangers . . Team honored in 1994 as winner of the Stanley Cup in hockey

New York Yankees . . Team honored 8 times, the last in 2000 as World Series champions

*New York Giants were not commemorated for their Super Bowl victory in 1991 because the Gulf War had just begun, making celebration inappropriate. Their 2008 ticker-tape parade was the 1st for a football team.