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Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

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1) In which world capital have archaeologists just discovered under a huge stone the burial chambers believed to hold the remains of the Aztec emperor who likely died in 1502, uncle of Montezuma?

Answer: Mexico City (stone has carving of the Aztec god of the Earth).

2) Which Spanish explorer, whose surname begins with C, in 1519 became the 1st European to make contact with the Aztecs, taking hostage Aztec emperor Montezuma?

Answer: Hernán (Hernando) Cortés.

3) Which country is running campaigns to increase its birth rate since its population began declining in the 1990s and is now at 141.4 million, though in area it's the Earth's largest country?

Answer: Russia (it occupies 1/7 of the Earth's land area).

4) Name 4 of the 7 nations besides Russia that border the Arctic region and by international law are given a 200-mile zone within it extending from their coastline.

Answer: Canada, U.S., Iceland, Greenland, Finland, Norway, Sweden.

5) Name the country that is facing difficulty as it trains its people for adoption of a jury system by 2009 in that its people adhere to the haiku saying "to not speak is a virtue."

Answer: Japan (it's held some 500 mock trials using the new system of 3 judges and 6 jurors).

6) Archaeologists say they may have found the remains of the son of Russia's last czar, Alexi, who suffered from which inherited so-called "royal disease" causing bleeding?

Answer: Hemophilia (Queen Victoria's daughters passed it to Spanish, German, Russian royalty).

7) Identify the world capital called the "Big Potato" that recently held a festival to honor this vegetable that is its top crop and held in high esteem for sustaining its people during times of famine since being introduced by Peter the Great over 300 years ago.

Answer: Moscow.

8) Fox Island, the New York island in upper Lake Ontario just sold at auction, is at the gateway to which island group in the St. Lawrence so named for their vast number?

Answer: Thousand Islands (263-acre Fox Island sold for \$3.78 million).

9) Name the Tuscumbia, Alabama, native to be depicted in Alabama's new statue to be sent to the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall in what will be the Hall's 1st of a disabled person and 1st of a child since it captures the moment the blind and deaf child discovered language.

Answer: Helen Keller (states can send 2 statues to Hall; Keller statue will replace Jabez Curry statue).

10) Atlanta's Millennium Gate now under construction has been called the biggest public monument project since which Washington, D.C., circular columned monument on the Tidal Basin dedicated in 1943 and having a 19-foot statue inside?

Answer: Jefferson Memorial (dedicated April 13, 1943, on 200th anniversary of Jefferson's birth).

11) Name the late cartoonist whose California museum just had its 5th anniversary, having had a quarter million visitors to see where Lucy, Linus, Pigpen, and others were born.

Answer: Charles Schulz (nicknamed Sparky since childhood; museum is in California).

12) Identify the religious person who is the focus of the new biography: *The Preacher and the Presidents: _____ in the White House*, written by Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy.

Answer: Billy Graham.

13) In surveying flood damage caused by recent powerful storms in the Midwest, Ohio's governor visited which badly flooded town that shares its name with Canada's capital?

Answer: Ottawa (storms brought tornadoes and interrupted Amtrak and interstate highway travel).

14) Of the travel sites considered endangered historic places, name either the historic New Mexico trade route whose Spanish name means "the royal road," or the historic U.S. route from Illinois to California where older mom-and-pop motels are disappearing.

Answer: El Camino Real (de Tierra Adentro) or Route 66.

15) Though the human body needs iron, copper, chromium, cobalt, and zinc, which element, known as Pb, though called the civilizing metal because of practical uses, is harmful to the body even in trace amounts, and particularly in the developing brain?

Answer: Lead (Greek physician Hippocrates described illness in a lead miner c. 400 B.C.).

16) Identify the element named for a race of giants in mythology that has replaced lead as the white pigment in paint.

Answer: Titanium (named for the Titans of Greek myth).

HISTORICAL EVENTS - September 10-16 (Questions 17-24)

17) On which Great Lake did Captain Oliver Hazard Perry achieve the 1st U.S. defeat of an English squadron on September 10, 1813? A New York canal shares its name.

Answer: Lake Erie (at the Battle of Lake Erie or Put-in-Bay).

18) Identify 2 of the 3 geographic sites where 4 planes crashed in a terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

Answer: New York City (World Trade Center); Arlington, Virginia (the Pentagon); and Pennsylvania (in a field).

19) Name the fort whose bombardment by the British on the night of September 13, 1814, prompted Francis Scott Key to write the U.S. national anthem at daybreak.

Answer: Fort McHenry (in Baltimore).

20) On September 13, 1788, which U.S. city did the Continental Congress choose as the seat of the U.S. government? It was once called New Amsterdam.

Answer: New York City (served as the U.S. capital from 1789-1790).

21) Identify the English explorer who on September 13, 1609, sailed the *Half Moon* down the river west of Manhattan that is now named for him.

Answer: Henry Hudson.

22) Name the German-born composer who finished his *Messiah* on September 14, 1741.

Answer: George Frederick Handel.

23) Which country, whose name means "The Savior," gained its independence from Spain on September 15, 1821, along with Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua?

Answer: El Salvador.

24) Name both the English city from which the *Mayflower* departed on September 16, 1620, and the New World site where its 102 passengers disembarked on December 26.

Answer: Plymouth (both are called Plymouth).

25) A cubic foot has what fractional portion of the volume of a cubic yard?

Answer: 1/27.

26) What is the sum (in degrees Fahrenheit) of 20°C + 20°F?

Answer: 88°.

27) What is the prefix used in metric measure for $\frac{1}{1000}$?

Answer: Milli-.

28) Traveling at a constant rate of 65 mph results in covering a distance of 325 miles in how many minutes?

Answer: 300.

29) What term using the Greek prefix for "on top of" designates the spot where an earthquake's energy is the strongest, or the spot directly above the quake's center?

Answer: Epicenter.

30) What is the common name for the seismic waves that frequently follow an earthquake of high magnitude?

Answer: Aftershocks.

31) What is the silent letter in the name of a large wave created by an undersea earthquake, such as that which hit Thailand in December 2004?

Answer: T (the wave is a tsunami, pronounced soo NAH mee).

32) What name beginning with *T* is given to a plant like the potato that is grown by re-planting the fleshy part of the stem dug up for eating since its buds produce new plants?

Answer: Tuber (potatoes, yams, and Jerusalem artichokes are examples of tubers).

33) Spell the name of the famous legendary bird for which Arizona's capital is named.

Answer: P-H-O-E-N-I-X (Phenix City, AL, dropped the O in its name sometime after 1900).

34) Spell the name of the breed of short-legged, long-bodied so-called "sausage dog" losing its appeal in its native Germany with a decreased birth rate of 35% over the last decade.

Answer: D-A-C-H-S-H-U-N-D.

35) Give the 3-digit telephone number once used for information that has come to be used as an idiom for information about scheduled events, as in time and place.

Answer: 411.

36) Give the 3-digit telephone numbers used nationally for both emergency service and for traffic information.

Answer: 911 and 511.

37) Identify the German-made car whose name a business columnist has suggested one use to remember the position of water, meal, and bread plate at one's place at a dinner table

Answer: BMW.

38) Of the kangaroos covered in Australian Tom Flannery's new book *Chasing Kangaroos*, identify the ones needing little water and sharing the name of European Union currency.

Answer: Euros (found in rocky ranges).

39) What title based on the ancient Greek tradition of crowning celebrated authors with a wreath of laurel did mtvU, MTV's college channel, just award to poet John Ashbery, whose verse will appear on 18 short spots promoting interest in poetry?

Answer: Poet laureate (Ben Jonson was England's 1st poet laureate, 1617; Charles Simic is U.S.'s).

40) Exactly what is a Benjamin as used in announcing that "Benjamins will get a new look" with a security thread that creates an optical illusion so as to protect the integrity of what amounts to over 70% of the \$776 billion of U.S. currency in circulation?

Answer: \$100 bill.

JACKS OF ALL TRADES

Jack Horner Nursery rhyme character who while eating his Christmas pie "put in his thumb/And pulled out a plum"

Jack the Ripper As known through history, the Jack who was the killer in the unsolved killings of at least 5 women in London in 1888

Jack Frost Personification of cold weather

Jack and the Beanstalk Nursery rhyme featuring the giant's rhyme: "Fie, fie, fo, fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman"

Jacques French equivalent for Jack, as in the children's song "Frère _____"

Jack o' lantern Another name for a Halloween pumpkin

Jack be nimble First 3 words of the nursery rhyme about jumping over a candlestick

Andrew Jackson 2nd general to be U.S. President, our 7th, nicknamed "Old Hickory"

Stonewall Jackson By nickname, the Confederate general whose death after losing an arm led General Lee to say, "He has lost his left arm but I my right"

"Jack" Kennedy 35th U.S. President as known by his nickname Jack

Jesse Jackson African American Rainbow/PUSH Coalition who made a run for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984 and 1988

Jackknife Dive in which the diver jumps up, then bends to enter water hands first

Jackson, MS State capital named for a hero of the War of 1812

Jacksonville, FL Port city on the St. Johns River close to the Atlantic Ocean named for hero of the War of 1812

Jackhammer Hand-held machine for breaking up concrete

Monterey (jack) California coastal city and peninsula for which the mild semisoft cheese called _____ jack is named

Jack Russell Sturdy-bodied terrier named for the English clergyman who bred it

Jack Nicklaus "The Golden Bear" golfer with a record 18 major PGA championships

