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Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

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1) Name the capital city where, in the presence of King Harald V and Queen Sonja, Al Gore accepted the Nobel Peace Prize for spreading awareness of global warming and how to combat it.

Answer: Oslo.

2) As named by Al Gore in his Nobel acceptance speech, which 2 countries are the world's biggest producers of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases?

Answer: U.S. and China.

3) In which city were the other Nobel prizes besides the peace prize presented in a separate ceremony according to the plan of Swedish-born chemist Alfred Nobel, who set up the awards?

Answer: Stockholm.

4) Identify either Peru's former president of Japanese descent who was just sentenced to 6 years in prison for abuse of authority or Japan's famous mountain whose name begins his surname.

Answer: Alberto Fujimori or Mount Fuji.

5) Which country just moved its clocks back 1/2 hour to give more exposure to sunlight year-round by order of President Hugo Chávez?

Answer: Venezuela.

6) Identify the vitamin provided by the sunlight extension President Chávez said was his goal in the 1/2 hour time change in Venezuela.

Answer: Vitamin D.

7) In which country, having recently agreed to shut down its nuclear program, is the New York Philharmonic slated to perform in February in Pyongyang for the first time ever?

Answer: North Korea (it has begun disabling its main nuclear facilities).

8) Name the American composer with initials G.G. whose "American in Paris" is on the New York Philharmonic's program for North Korea, as just announced in New York.

Answer: George Gershwin.

9) Complete the title of the holiday play *La Virgen de _____*, performed annually at a Los Angeles 3,000-seat cathedral, telling the story of the Virgin who allegedly appeared to ask Aztec peasant Juan Diego to build a shrine to her in Mexico in 1531.

Answer: Guadalupe (Mexico's patron saint; Pope John Paul II canonized Juan Diego in 2002).

10) In that Mitt Romney is the first Mormon to seek the presidency, name both the one president who was Catholic and either of the 2 who were Quakers.

Answer: John F. Kennedy and either Herbert Hoover or Richard Nixon, respectively.

11) What word are some news reports now replacing with the softer-toned 2-word term *enhanced interrogation* in reports about waterboarding and the CIA's destroyed tapes?

Answer: Torture.

12) What name is given to the long-haired, free-spirited youths of the 1960s linked with the Volkswagen buses decorated with daisies appearing in the latest ads for GEICO?

Answer: Hippies (based on the slang term *hip*, meaning "cool," as in stylish).

13) In which state will newborns from Kittery to Caribou get applications to open a tax-free college savings account with \$500 donated by the founder of the Dexter Shoe Company, based in the Pine Tree State?

Answer: Maine (a pilot program begins this year, will go statewide Jan. 1, 2009).

14) The federal home mortgage lender called Freddie Mac was created in 1970 so that Fannie Mae, formed in 1938, would not control the market. What word beginning with *M* designates a business that controls a market because it has no competition?

Answer: Monopoly.

15) Complete the term _____ *chain* used to designate the natural sequence being threatened as small marine organisms die off from the ocean's increased acidity from absorption of greenhouse gases, meaning that the larger organisms have nothing to feed on.

Answer: Food chain (if microorganisms die, fish have nothing to feed on, meaning no fish for men).

16) According to the recently released Mitchell report, what class of drugs have more than 80 MLB players used to enhance performance despite ultimate harm to the body?

Answer: Steroids (former Sen. Majority head George Mitchell compiled Major League Baseball report).

HISTORICAL EVENTS - January 1-13 (Questions 17-24)

17) On January 3, 1959, which state became the 49th state?

Answer: Alaska.

18) Who was inaugurated as the first woman governor in the U.S., in Wyoming on January 5, 1925? Her surname also designates a vast ice shelf in Antarctica.

Answer: Nellie T. Ross (the Ross Ice Shelf borders the Ross Sea, an arm of the Pacific)

19) What is the date of the Christian festival of the Epiphany, which commemorates the adoration of the infant Jesus by the Magi who had come from the East?

Answer: January 6 (also called Twelfth-tide, Feast of the Three Kings, Feast of Lights)

20) Which U.S. state, whose capital city is the highest in the U.S., entered the Union on January 6, 1912? The Spanish word for "saint" is part of the name of its capital.

Answer: New Mexico (Santa Fe, its capital, has an altitude of about 7,000 feet).

21) On January 6, 1759, whom did Martha Dandridge Custis marry?

Answer: George Washington.

22) Complete 3 of the following "Four Freedoms" that President Roosevelt declared all citizens entitled to in his annual message to Congress on January 6, 1941: freedom of _____, freedom of _____, freedom from _____, and freedom from _____.

Answer: Freedom of speech, and of worship, and freedom from want, and from fear.

23) Identify the women's rights activist for whom the women's suffrage amendment introduced into the U.S. Senate on January 10, 1878, was named.

Answer: Susan B. Anthony (it was passed on August 26, 1920).

24) What is the name for the U.N. organ consisting of representatives from all member countries, which met for the first time in London on January 10, 1946?

Answer: General Assembly (each member may send 5 delegates but has only 1 vote).

25) What is the length of the side of a square whose area is 25% of a square foot?

Answer: 6 inches or 1/2 foot.

26) If the odds of an event occurring are 3 to 5, then how many favorable chances are in a total of 24 chances?

Answer: 9.

27) How many elements are in the intersection of the set of multiples of 5 with the set of the multiples of 15 from a range of 0 through 70?

Answer: 4.

28) What name is given to expressing 171 as 3^2 times 19?

Answer: Prime factored form or Prime factorization.

29) Name the air spaces around the nose and in the lower forehead where infections can from bacteria, viruses, and allergies cause inflammation and thick mucus.

Answer: Sinuses (recent study found that antibiotics don't really help sinus infections).

30) What word containing an *X* designates the part of the body that houses 2 elastic vocal cords atop the windpipe?

Answer: Larynx.

31) What word beginning with *H* designates the form of agriculture studied by David Bird, who grows over 4,000 orchids in an underground cave in Kansas City, Missouri?

Answer: Horticulture (art of cultivating flowers and other garden plants).

32) What part of the body, referred to by the term *lumbar*, have researchers just discovered is different in men and women to allow women to balance the weight of pregnancy?

Answer: Back or spine (specifically, lower back, which curves across 3 vertebrae in women, 2 in men).

33) What word beginning with *P* designates a song like "Gone Funky" that is a humorous imitation of country singer Alan Jackson's "Gone Country"?

Answer: Parody.

34) What 7-letter word designates a piece of art such as the Chicago Art Institute's sculpture *The Faun* supposedly created by artist Paul Gauguin in the 1880s but recently exposed as a clever fake produced in the 1990s? The same word designates a copied signature.

Answer: Forgery.

35) What word designates a "slushy" S sound such as that speech therapists hear as a defect in presidential contender Rudy Giuliani's speech?

Answer: Lisp.

36) The National Labor Committee just reported that major U.S. retailers are selling Christmas ornaments made in China by underage workers putting in long hours and paid less than the legal minimum. What word ending in *shop* names such an illegal operation?

Answer: Sweatshop.

37) Identify the trophy that Florida's Tim Tebow just won honoring him as the best college football player, making him the first sophomore ever to win it.

Answer: Heisman Trophy (Green Bay's Brett Favre was *Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year*).

38) Identify the 7-time Cy Young Award winner in Major League Baseball who is among those recently named as having used steroids.

Answer: Roger Clemens.

39) Define *locavore*, the New Oxford American Dictionary's "word of the year," using as clues *omnivore* and *carnivore* and the push to cut back U.S. dependency on fuel oil.

Answer: One who eats locally grown food (not that trucked in from faraway places).

40) Identify the planet named in the new word ending in *-ed* meaning "demoted or devalued" that was the American Dialect Society's 2006 word of the year.

Answer: Pluto (new word is *plutoed*, alluding to Pluto's demotion from planet to dwarf planet).

TIME MAGAZINE'S PERSONS OF THE YEAR

Vladimir Putin *Time's* choice for 2007, in recognition of his powerful role in shaping the world by restoring stability in Russia

J.K. Rowling* Author named 2nd Runner-up in 2007, for the impact of her 7-book series, including the "Dumbeldore's Army" antigenocide campaign

Charles Lindbergh *Time's* 1st titlist, in 1927, for his historic trans-Atlantic flight

Adolph Hitler 1938 titlist, exemplifying *Time's* policy of choosing the one who, "for better or for worse," most influenced world affairs, in this case, as head of Nazi Germany

Queen Elizabeth II Queen chosen in 1952 in recognition of her succession to the throne upon the death of her father, King George V

Nikita Krushchev Russian leader chosen in 1957, the year his country launched *Sputnik*, the world's 1st manmade satellite

First lunar orbit Event for which astronauts Borman, Anders, and Lovell were named 1968 titlists

Ayatollah Khomeini 1979 Iranian religious leader chosen as a "powerful force shaping the world" because of his role in the revolution that ousted the Shah

Computer 1982 titlist, the first object, or non-human, in recognition of its role in changing the way the world operates

Mikhail Gorbachev Russian leader chosen in 1987, for his policy of *glasnost*, or openness, and signing of an arms reduction treaty with the U.S.

Rudolph Giuliani New York City mayor named the Person of the Year in 2001, following the attack on the World Trade Center

Bill Gates/Bono** Microsoft philanthropist or activist rock singer who shared the honor in 2005 for their efforts in fighting poverty and AIDS worldwide

You 2nd person singular pronoun named the 2006 Person of the Year to mark the impact individual Internet users have in the modern world

Albert Einstein Scientist named *Time's* Person of the Century on December 31, 1999

1970s*** Decade in which *Time* gave the title to American Women, listing First Lady Betty Ford among those making advances in many areas

Franklin Roosevelt Only 3-time titlist—1932, 1934, and 1941—our only 3-term President

*Al Gore was 1st runner-up **Along with wife Melinda ***In 1975, specifically.

