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Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

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November 5, 2007

Volume 22/11

1) Based on a recent find of marine trash from about 164,000 years ago, in which country did the earliest humans survive the Ice Age in an area around Mossel Bay east of Cape Town?

Answer: South Africa (cave there gave 1st sign of humans eating seafood).

2) Identify the world's largest tropical lake, where water hyacinths brought to Kenya's shores a decade ago are now choking out fish.

Answer: Lake Victoria (growth has made parts of lake look like a prairie).

3) What does WMD stand for as used in the recent headline "Nations rehearse WMD interception," reporting the participation of 7 countries in mock exercises in the Pacific?

Answer: Weapons of Mass Destruction.

4) What does *Holy See* mean as used in the headline "Holy See's #2 official will visit Cuba"?

Answer: Vatican (or seat of the Pope; Cardinal Bertone will go to Cuba).

5) Giant screen in Times Square recently carried a performance of the Yellow River Piano Concerto written in 1969 to mark the end of the Cultural Revolution in which country?

Answer: China (show was aired as a gesture of goodwill between China & U.S).

6) With which Asian country, known for its nomadic yak herders, did the U.S. just sign an agreement to search its ships if they're suspected of carrying WMD even though the country is landlocked in the Gobi Desert and has no navy?

Answer: Mongolia (State Dept. says agreement is to cover ships other countries operate using its flags).

7) China has announced plans to create a national park larger than the U.S.'s largest, namely which one lying mostly in Wyoming?

Answer: Yellowstone National Park (extends into Montana and Idaho).

8) Name the Russian jeweler for the royals who designed the Rothschild family's soon-to-be-auctioned 1902 enamel-and-gold egg with a jeweled rooster that pops up every hour.

Answer: Fabergé (egg, valued at \$18 million, is one of few made for other than Russia's ruling family).

9) Name the country whose king was portrayed dancing with teacher Anna Leonowens in the film version of *The King and I*, starring Deborah Kerr, who recently died at age 86.

Answer: Thailand (based on true story *Anna and the King of Siam*, its earlier name).

10) Of the 13 largest cities highly vulnerable to rising seas within the next decades, name the one once called "Venice of the East," a city of 10 million that is Thailand's capital.

Answer: Bangkok (some say it will be under water in 15 to 20 years).

11) Name the U.S. city whose Qualcomm Stadium, the home of the NFL's Chargers, recently opened its doors to evacuees fleeing Santa Ana-spread fires in California.

Answer: San Diego (at least 2,000 homes destroyed, half a million people displaced in San Diego area).

12) A recently filmed docudrama focuses on the role of blacks in the Civil War, including that of college-educated Elizabeth Bowser who spied for the Union by playing a slave in Jefferson Davis's home in the 2nd Confederate capital. Name it.

Answer: Richmond (after Union took it, Danville, VA, was capital; 1st capital was Montgomery, AL).

13) Social Security benefits will rise 2.3 percent in January, meaning that the average check of \$1,055 will show an increase of how much to the nearest dollar?

Answer: \$24.

14) What does the Latin word *emeritus* mean when used to describe the 71-year-old German who won the 2007 Nobel in Chemistry as an emeritus professor at an institute in Berlin?

Answer: Retired (but holding an honorary title as professor).

15) What issue is the focus of late October's Red Ribbon week first observed in 1988 with President and Mrs. Reagan as its first honorary chairpersons?

Answer: Awareness and prevention of drug (and alcohol) abuse.

16) Name the Buddhist practice promoted by scientists and the Dalai Lama as effective in treating patients suffering from depression.

Answer: Meditation (Dalai Lama has accepted a professorship at Emory University in Atlanta).

HISTORICAL EVENTS - November 5-11 (Questions 17-24)

17) Of Brahms, Chopin, Mozart, or Tchaikovsky, which one died November 6, 1893, and is especially remembered for his ballets *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker*?

Answer: (Peter) Tchaikovsky.

18) Name the river at whose mouth in the Oregon Territory explorers Lewis and Clark sighted the Pacific Ocean for their first time on November 7, 1805.

Answer: Columbia River.

19) Which animal did cartoonist Thomas Nast introduce on November 7, 1874, to represent the Republican Party?

Answer: Elephant.

20) In which century was the Louvre, originally a royal residence, opened to the public in Paris on November 8 during the period of the French Revolution?

Answer: 18th century (in 1793).

21) Name the city where a wall was ""opened" on November 9, 1989, after having divided the city for 28 years.

Answer: Berlin.

22) In which year was the Mayflower Compact signed by 41 Pilgrims aboard a ship anchored off Massachusetts on November 11?

Answer: 1620.

23) Who wrote the song "God Bless America," which was first sung by Kate Smith on the radio on November 11, 1939? He shares his surname with a European capital.

Answer: Irving Berlin.

24) What name is now given to what was once called Armistice Day, the holiday celebrated on the anniversary of the November 11 armistice ending WWI in 1918?

Answer: Veterans Day.

25) What is the difference in the smallest 3-digit prime number and the largest 2-digit prime number?

Answer: 4.

26) What mixed number is the cube of the mixed number $1 \frac{1}{3}$?

Answer: $2 \frac{10}{27}$.

27) What name is given to line \overline{AC} in rectangle $ABCD$?

Answer: Diagonal.

28) If Thomas gained 25 pounds during his first year in college and now weighs 225 pounds, what was his percentage gain that year?

Answer: $12 \frac{1}{2}\%$.

29) Identify the animal with a 4-letter name that Linnaeus called *Scalopus aquaticus*, thinking that its webbed front feet meant it was aquatic though it really uses these feet to dig tunnels through land.

Answer: Mole (scalopus is from Greek for "blind rat"; it can dig about 18 ft. of tunnel in an hour).

30) Give the common name for the snout beetles used as agents to control the growth of floating hyacinths in much the same way that the boll variety eat cotton crops.

Answer: Weevils (authorities say they will soon make a dent in hyacinths in Lake Victoria).

31) Name the color of the vegetables having a high concentration of the anti-oxidant beta-carotene helpful in preventing cancer, heart and lung disease, and even aging.

Answer: Orange or yellow (such as carrots, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, squash, and apricots).

32) Beta-carotene is also helpful in that the body is able to convert it into which vitamin important to vision and the skin and also known as retinol?

Answer: Vitamin A (also helps maintain urinary tract and respiratory and digestive systems).

33) Identify the German composer with initials R.W. whose opera *The Valkyrie* a group of Arab and Israeli musicians just said they would perform in Germany next year despite Israel's long unofficial ban on his works because of his link with Hitler.

Answer: Richard Wagner (performance is gesture of peace, slated for an arena built by Hitler).

34) Intruders recently made a 4-inch gash in the 2nd arch of the bridge in the impression-istic painting *Pont d'Argenteuil*, done by which artist whose multiple paintings of water lilies are also held by the same museum, Paris's Musée d'Orsay?

Answer: Claude Monet.

35) What word having the Greek root for "circular" or "general" names the kind of book J.K. Rowling said she intends to write giving all the facts about Potter and his world?

Answer: Encyclopedia (of Harry Potter; while visiting Los Angeles, Rowling said she hasn't begun it).

36) Name the book that recently sold for over \$2.3 million and is believed to be the oldest known copy of the Islamic holy book.

Answer: Quran (or Koran; this copy was written in 1203).

37) What does *Rx* as used in the headline *Rx for Doctor Deficit*, highlighting a story calling for more doctors to meet the needs of a growing and aging population in Georgia?

Answer: Prescription (Atlanta's population has more than doubled to 4.4 million in past 3 decades).

38) Name 4 of the 6 huge states bordering Colorado that have no major league baseball team, making them likely fans of the Rockies against the Red Sox in the World Series.

Answer: Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico (Red Sox won, 4-0).

39) Name the Broadway musical in which 2003 *American Idol* winner Clay Aiken is slated to take the role of Sir Robin in January as part of its spoof on King Arthur's Camelot.

Answer: Spamalot.

40) Name both the dog who goes with Dorothy to Oz and the dog of film and TV introduced in 1943's *Come Home* who are nominees for London's Dog Walk of Fame.

Answer: Toto and Lassie (all Lassie productions have starred a collie descended from 1st one).

FOCUS ON FIRE

- Prometheus** Titan who stole fire from Mt. Olympus to give to man in Greek myth
Arson Crime of setting fires with malicious intent, as in some recent CA fires **Inferno**
. Term beginning with *I* meaning a place of intense heat, as in hell
Jack London Author of the short story "To Build a Fire," set in Canada's Far North just as is his book *The Call of the Wild*
Pyro- Prefix for "fire" used in the term _____ *technics* designating fireworks
Firefly Beetle also called a lightning bug because of its luminescent abdomen
F-I-E-R-Y Spelling of *fiery* as used in a phrase like "fiery furnace"
Firewall Computer term for a security measure preventing access to a network
Burning bush Fiery medium through which God spoke to Moses on Mount Horeb according to the Old Testament's book of Exodus
Brimstone Ancient word for sulfur in the biblical phrase *fire and _____* designating the rain by which God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah
Propane Colorless gas used as a fuel in gas grills and often referred to as LPG*
Whites of their eyes Words completing American officer William Prescott's famous Bunker Hill command, "Don't fire until you see the _____ of their _____"
Smokey Bear Forest Service's fire prevention mascot since the 1940s
Chicago City whose water tower was one of few structures to survive its 1871 fire by legend said to have been started by Mrs. O'Leary's cow**
War of 1812 War during which troops set fire to the U.S. Capitol
Fahrenheit 451*** Ray Bradbury novel in which a fireman's job is to set fire to books
Andirons Metal supports to hold up logs in a fireplace, once called *fire dogs*
Dalmatian Breed of dog firehouses once used to prevent theft of the horses that pulled their wagons and now traditional as a firehouse mascot
*Liquefied petroleum gas **In 1893, a reporter admitted making up cow story. ***Paper burns at 451 F.

CORRECTION: Issue 22/10 List: Minerva McGonagall, not McHonagall, changes herself into a cat.

