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Middle School Weekly

Emphasizing both News and Academics

The Middle School Weekly is published in 34 4-page issues from August 29 to May 1 - except for two winter issues plus the summer bonus issue for a total of 35 issues.

March 31, 2008

Volume 22/30

- 1) Name the one-time country and now autonomous region where protests by Buddhist monks recently turned violent in its capital, Lhasa, on the anniversary of its 1959 uprising against Chinese rule

Answer: Tibet.

- 2) NATO says it may not admit the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia unless it gives up its name since which bordering country on the Aegean has a northern province of the same name?

Answer: Greece.

- 3) Which country just reached an agreement in a dispute that might have split it along language lines between its northern Dutch-speaking Flanders and its southern French-speaking Wallonia?

Answer: Belgium (dispute ended with deal to form new government).

- 4) The Olympic torch just lit in Athens will be relayed to 135 cities, then in May reach the top of the world's highest mountain. Name both this peak in Tibet and the country on the peak's other side.

Answer: Mount Everest and Nepal (20,000 will bear torch, 130-day tour)

5) In which country once ruled by Muslims have mosques virtually vanished, with only 12 built since the 1400s though its Muslim population has in the last 10 years grown from 50,000 to about a million as immigrants have poured in from Africa?

Answer: Spain (King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella defeated last Moorish ruler in Spain in 1492).

6) An Icelandic consul just gave Brigham Young University a 400-year-old Bible written in what is now the modern Icelandic language. Name this language branch that includes Icelandic and Norwegian and is used to describe its mythology, whose chief god is Odin.

Answer: Norse (in Norse myth, Odin is the creator of the cosmos and humans).

7) The popularity of St. Patrick's Day in the U.S. is attributed to the 500,000 Irish who settled here as a result of the 1845-46 fungus that attacked which crop, creating famine?

Answer: Potatoes (according to author of new book *The Potato in World History*, fungus originated in Mexico, then went to U.S. in 1843, crossed over with seed potatoes ordered by Belgium farmers).

8) Give the common names for both the pachyderms recently honored on a day dedicated to them in Thailand and the dromedaries judged for looks and dressage in beauty pageants in Saudi Arabia, where they are also used for racing.

Answer: Elephants and camels (camel breeding is multi-million dollar industry in Saudi Arabia).

9) Which gray animals, reintroduced in the Rockies 13 years ago, were just removed from the endangered list, to the relief of Western ranchers who blame them for loss of sheep?

Answer: (Gray) wolves (they now number 1,500 in the area where reintroduced).

10) Name the U.S. presidential candidate whose best-selling memoir *Dreams from my Father*, which in part tells of his school years in Hawaii, was just published in French.

Answer: Barak Obama (German translation came out in Germany a day later, Italian one last fall).

11) Identify the 1st name of Maine's Senator Snowe who was just honored with a 122-ft. snow-woman in Bethel, Maine, or identify Washington's capital that shares her name.

Answer: Olympia (Bethel had record-breaking snowfall after a year with almost none).

12) Identify both how often the U.S. conducts an official census of its citizens and the legislative body whose membership is determined by this census.

Answer: Every 10 years and House of Representatives (a state's number of representatives is based on its population; effort is underway to automate part of 2010 one).

13) New Jersey's newly Gov. David Paterson is legally blind, meaning his visual perception after correction is at best 10 times less than that of normal vision of 20/20. Express this "legally blind" definition in terms of 20 feet.

Answer: 20/200 (meaning to see only at 20 feet what most see at 200 feet; Paterson's best is 20/400).

14) Identify the Greek letter used to designate a competitive high achiever like the recently fallen former New Jersey Gov. Eliot Spitzer or, in the animal world, the pack leader.

Answer: Alpha (a beta is the opposite—nice, popular, willing to work toward compromise).

15) Because of expected changes in U.S. population, some say the nation will need 26,000 more geriatricians by 2030 since they specialize in treating what kind of patients?

Answer: Elderly (experts say there could be nearly 80 million people over 65 by 2030).

16) Scientists just stated that there is likely to be an ocean 50 or 60 miles below the surface of Saturn's largest moon. Identify this moon named for the giants of Greek myth.

Answer: Titan (it's spinning faster than expected, its outer shell moving alone, implying liquid below).

HISTORICAL EVENTS - March 31-April 6 (Questions 17-24)

17) Which day in the U.S. is known as *poisson d'Avril* in France?

Answer: April Fools' Day, on April 1 (*poisson d'Avril* means "April fish").

18) Which European discovered Florida on April 2, 1513, and claimed it for the King of Spain while seeking a legendary spring known as the Fountain of Youth?

Answer: Juan Ponce de León.

19) In which state did a lone rider set out on April 3, 1860, from St. Joseph to begin the rather short-lived but historic Pony Express service to deliver mail to California?

Answer: Missouri (another rider set out from Sacramento).

20) On April 4, 1581, Queen Elizabeth I knighted the captain who was the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe. Name him.

Answer: Sir Francis Drake (his ship was the Golden Hind).

21) Name the Jamestown tobacco planter who on April 5, 1614, married the beautiful Indian princess Pocahontas.

Answer: John Rolfe.

22) Which word completes the official name of the church that Joseph Smith organized on April 6, 1830: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day _____?

Answer: Saints (also known as the Mormon Church).

23) Against which country did the U.S. declare war on April 6, 1917, to enter WWI?

Answer: Germany.

24) Name the expedition leader who, along with black assistant Matthew Henson and 4 Eskimos, reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909.

Answer: Robert E. Peary.

25) What is the next term in the sequence 1, 2, 5, 10, 17, 26, 37, ____?

Answer: 50.

26) If the area of an equilateral triangle is $16\sqrt{3}$ [READ: Sixteen times the square root of 3] square feet, what is this triangle's perimeter?

Answer: 24 feet.

27) What fraction, in lowest terms, is equal to $0.\overline{18}$ [READ: point 18 repeating]?

Answer: 2/11.

28) Which pair of consecutive positive even integers have a product of 224?

Answer: 14 and 16.

29) What usually genetic dysfunction in the cones of the eye affects about 20 times as many males as females?

Answer: Color blindness.

30) Name not only the heavy gas that surrounds Saturn's moon Titan and is on earth emitted by cattle but also the compound with formula NH_3 that scientists believe is a component of Titan's likely internal ocean and on earth is often found in household cleansers.

Answer: Methane and ammonia (can be caustic, as in recent gas leak at Arkansas plant).

31) The moon Titan is even larger than what was traditionally our solar system's 2nd smallest planet. Name this planet, now considered the smallest of the full-sized planets.

Answer: Mercury (Pluto, traditionally considered the smallest, is now considered a dwarf planet).

32) Name both the positive terminal of an electric battery and the positive atomic particle in the nucleus of every atom.

Answer: Cathode and proton.

33) The new book subtitled *My Own Tale as Written by Me With a Goodly Amount of Murder* reimagines the life of the villain in Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. Name him.

Answer: Long John Silver (book *Silver*, so subtitled, is by Edward Chupack).

34) Name the 19th-century Englishman featured in the new biography *The Man Who Made Lists*, which shows him as an 8-year-old already engaged in the classification that led to his well-known 1852 thesaurus, or book of synonyms and antonyms.

Answer: Peter Mark Roget (his Roget's Thesaurus was updated by heirs for century, now by others)

35) The only woman and last surviving member of the 1930 all-black college debate team featured in the 2007 movie *The Great Debaters* just died at age 96. Identify this black Texas college founded in 1873 or the sly cartoon coyote that shares its name.

Answer: Wiley College or Wiley (E. Coyote).

36) The new 65,000-square foot indoor water resort in suburban Chicago has an indoor beach lined with wooden chairs named for which chain of upstate New York mountains?

Answer: Adirondack (chairs, slatted & long-backed; *adirondack* comes from Iroquois for "bark eater").

37) Name the 19th-century Scottish-born philanthropist responsible for developing New York City's branch library system, which has just announced a \$1 billion expansion, as well as for building over 1,400 other libraries across the U.S. His initials are A.C.

Answer: Andrew Carnegie.

38) Name both the state where the LA Dodgers have held spring training since 1948 in the "Grapefruit League" and the state to be their new spring home in the "Cactus League."

Answer: Florida (in Dodgerville in Vero Beach) and Arizona (in Glendale, a suburb of Phoenix).

39) Identify the grated cheese often used on pasta dishes that the European Court of Justice has ruled can be sold by that name only if made near the Italian town it's named for.

Answer: Parmesan (made near Parma for 800 years).

40) What 4-letter word designates a trick like *phishing*, beginning with *ph* and designating an Internet scheme of tricking people into giving confidential financial information?

Answer: Scam (IRS says phishing tops its scam list).

UNCENSORED 4-LETTER WORDS

Trek A journey, or the bicycle company that made the carbon-fiber bike on which Lance Armstrong won his 1st Tour de France in 1999

Colt* Inventor of the revolver, the kind of gun Jack Ruby used to kill Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated President Kennedy, or a young horse

Pole Anode or cathode of a battery, or a citizen of Poland

Cube 3-dimensional figure whose surface area is found by the formula $A = 6a^2$, a being the length of a side

Gill Fish organ comparable to a human's lung

Ulna Bone from the elbow to wrist on the little finger side of the arm

Corn Major crop used to produce ethanol and the largest crop in the Americas

Polk/Taft** .. Prior to 1971, either of the 2 U.S. Presidents to fit this category

Iowa State whose postal abbreviation consists of 2 vowels

Utah/Ohio ... Other 2 states to fit this category

Hope*** In a family of 3 daughters, 2 of whom are named Faith and Charity, name expected for the 3rd, at least biblically*

Nile World's longest river

Imam Muslim religious leader

Yo-yo Toy that has its ups and downs

Toto Dorothy's dog in *The Wizard of Oz*

Nana Darling family's dog in *Peter Pan*

Cove Sheltered inlet, as in Maine

Pike Great Lakes fish or a road, especially one originating as a toll road

*Ruby used a Colt Cobra revolver **Since 1971, Ford and Bush, 2 of them ***Corinthians 13:9-13

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