



P.O. Box 5189  
Columbus, GA 31906  
1-800-654-1052

Visit us on the web at  
[www.patrickspress.com](http://www.patrickspress.com)

## 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.

April 7, 2008

Volume 22/31

1) To ready it for its 120th anniversary, which tower some called "useless and monstrous" when built in 1889 as the world's tallest structure is now set for temporary changes in Paris?

**Answer: Eiffel Tower (viewing deck will be expanded by raising it 905 ft.).**

2) Which disease did the World Health Organization say has again been eradicated in Somalia, after a 2005 outbreak, though eradicated in the Americas by the Salk and Sabine vaccines in 1994?

**Answer: Polio (first eradicated there in 2002; Nigeria now has 90% of cases).**

3) Identify the sea where the U.S. Coast Guard rescued 42 crew members after a fishing boat sank off Alaska's Aleutian Islands.

**Answer: Bering Sea.**

4) Which Asian country, whose motto is "In pursuit of gross national happiness" and whose name is close to that of a lighter fluid, recently moved toward democracy by electing a Parliament?

**Answer: Bhutan (ending has short *a*, unlike *butane* lighter fluid).**

5) Identify the South Pacific island where a tourist was just charged with taking an ear from one of its 600 giant stone statues there when it was found in 1722 on a spring holiday.

**Answer: Easter Island (Dutch explorer found it on Easter Sunday and so named it).**

6) Identify the German word used to name high-speed roads such as the one in Austria that recently had a 70-vehicle pileup during a snowstorm.

**Answer: Autobahn (bahn is German for "road"; speed limit on this Vienna-Salzburg road is 80 mph).**

7) After 19 years with a Russian ballet company, the donkey Monika has retired, having performed principally to carry servant Sancho Panza in a ballet based on which famous Spanish work by Cervantes about a would-be knight who jousts with windmills?

**Answer: Don Quixote.**

8) What exactly is the London Eye, where 400 people were recently trapped because of a mechanical fault? It was built for the Millennium celebration and follows the prototype of one introduced at Chicago's 1893 Columbian Exposition, or World Fair.

**Answer: Ferris wheel.**

9) Two Missouri rivers that recently flooded are linked by name with rivers in the East. Identify either the one linked by name with a Massachusetts river Thoreau wrote about or the one linked with the site of the U.S.'s 1st permanent English town settlement.

**Answer: Meramec (MA one is Merrimack, Indian for "swift water") or James (at Jamestown, VA).**

10) What word designates Arkansas's Black River as one that flows into a larger one, in this case, the White River, which in recent flooding crested 6½ feet above flood stage?

**Answer: Tributary.**

11) Because of the soaring price of zinc, copper, and nickel, which coin now costs 1.7 cents to make, meaning a loss of 70% every time one is produced?

**Answer: Penny.**

12) Which coin costs 10 cents to make, meaning a profit of 60% for each one produced?

**Answer: Quarter (nickel costs double its value, or 10 cents, to make).**

13) Which state is threatening the Palisades above the west banks of the Hudson River by allowing the steep cliffs to be cut into for condos directly across from Manhattan?

**Answer: New Jersey.**

14) Identify either the California-based environmental group that is for the first time in its 116-year history endorsing a product, specifically, Chlorox's new Green Works line, or identify the Spanish word for saw-toothed mountains, as in a California range.

**Answer: Sierra Club (John Muir was its 1st president) sierra (as in Sierra Nevada in eastern CA).**

15) According to space photos, spring has "greened up" in the U.S. northeast 8 hours earlier every year since 1982, and is more than a week earlier now than as reported in the 1845-47 journals kept by which naturalist during his stay on Walden Pond?

**Answer: Henry David Thoreau.**

16) Identify the animals migrating out of snow-covered Yellowstone Park in a search for food and being killed by hunters or rangers to prevent spread of brucellosis to cattle, though the plains were once, as the folk song says, "a home where the \_\_\_\_\_ roam."

**Answer: Bison (or buffalo; 1,195, or about a quarter of the herd, have been killed).**

#### **HISTORICAL EVENTS - April 7-13 (Questions 17-24)**

17) What name is often used for Siddhartha Gautama, the religious figure whose birth in India about 563 B.C. is commemorated on April 8?

**Answer: Buddha (the founder of Buddhism).**

18) In which state did Robert E. Lee surrender to Ulysses S. Grant on April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court House?

**Answer: Virginia.**

19) In which group of islands did 37,000 troops walk about 70 miles on a death march to prison camps on the Bataan Peninsula after surrendering to the Japanese in 1942?

**Answer: Philippines (the surrender took place on 4/9/1942).**

20) Name the black contralto who sang on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1939, from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial after having been denied use of the DAR's Constitution Hall.

**Answer: Marian Anderson.**

21) What name is given to the period of federal occupation of the South that President Rutherford B. Hayes ended with his April 10, 1877, orders for troop withdrawal?

**Answer: Reconstruction.**

22) The U.S. patent system for protecting inventors' rights was set up in the U.S. on April 10, 1790. What word designates an author's rights to sale of material he has written?

**Answer: Copyright.**

23) On April 11, 1898, against which country did President William McKinley ask Congress for a declaration of war?

**Answer: Spain.**

24) On which New Hampshire mountain, named for a President, was the highest velocity natural wind in the U.S. recorded, at 231 miles per hour, on April 12, 1934?

**Answer: Mount Washington (the state's highest).**

25) The difference between positive 7 and negative 5 is how many times as great as the sum of those two numbers?

**Answer: 6.**

26) If  $ab - ac = ad$ , then what is the value of  $(b - d)$  assuming  $a \neq 0$ ?

**Answer:  $c$ .**

27) What is the perimeter of a right triangle having legs of 9 inches and 12 inches?

**Answer: 36 inches or 3 feet or 1 yard.**

28) What number serves as both the median and the mean of the prime numbers between 10 and 20?

**Answer: 15.**

29) To which of the 3 classes of rocks does sandstone belong, meaning that it is formed when erosion and weathering break down rocks into small pieces that are then moved by water and wind to other sites where they harden into new forms of rock?

**Answer: Sedimentary.**

30) Name the class of rocks to which pumice and granite belong, meaning they have been forced up from Earth's mantle, often by fiery eruptions, for which they're named.

**Answer: Igneous (from Latin for "fire"; this class is source for the other 2 classes).**

31) Name the animals of the order Lepidoptera featured in the Smithsonian's only exhibit charging a fee, justified it says, because they live only 2-4 weeks and must be replaced.

**Answer: Butterflies.**

32) What 4-letter word designates the stage of metamorphosis a butterfly spends in a *chrysalis*, or firm case similar to a cocoon?

**Answer: Pupa.**

33) Use the initials P.H. to give a *euphemism* for what was called a "lunatic asylum," such as West Virginia's 19th-century one now open as a museum under that name.

**Answer: Psychiatric hospital (many object to restoring name "Lunatic Asylum" for the museum).**

34) What word names not only a long pole extending from a derrick to guide something being lifted but also, as an example of onomatopoeia, a loud sound as from an explosion?

**Answer: Boom.**

35) What interrogative pronoun is the last word of the new animated box office hit featuring a fight for survival in the Jungle of Nool and entitled *Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a \_\_\_\_\_*?

**Answer: Who (in the film title used as a noun naming the residents of Who-ville).**

36) The MIT expert who created a breakthrough conversational computer program in the 1960s recently died. Identify his program named after the female character who practices and learns proper English in the Broadway musical *My Fair Lady*.

**Answer: Eliza (Doolittle; the show is based on the play *Pygmalion*).**

37) What does the abbreviation AI mean in technology, as exemplified to some degree by the 1960s conversational computer program Eliza and the space robot Dextre?

**Answer: Artificial intelligence.**

38) Identify both the word designating a portrait showing just one side of the face, such as the recently found oil painting of Mozart, and the 2-word term for a painting of an arrangement of objects, such items on a desk or table.

**Answer: Profile (4th known portrait of him at peak of career in Vienna) and still life.**

39) Where did the Boston Red Sox and Oakland Athletics open the major league baseball season this week, meaning that Sox fans had to rise at 6:00 a.m. to see it live on TV?

**Answer: Tokyo (Japan).**

40) Name the PGA golfer whose streak of 7 tournament wins, including the Target World Championship, was just ended by Australian golfer Geoff Ogilvy at the Doral in Miami.

**Answer: Tiger Woods.**

## ANIMAL TALK

**Butterflies** . . . To have apprehension, as before a speech, is *to have \_\_\_\_\_ in the stomach*

**Fly** . . . . . To be a concealed observer is to be a *\_\_\_\_\_ on the wall*

**Monkey** . . . . . To make mischief is to engage in *\_\_\_\_\_ business*, as in the children's book series about the curious George

**Cat/canary** . . . Alliteratively, to be smug is *to be like the \_\_\_\_\_ that swallowed the \_\_\_\_\_*

**Bats** . . . . . Alliteratively, to be a little bit crazy is *to have \_\_\_\_\_ in the belfry*

**Frog** . . . . . To be hoarse, or unable to speak in a normal tone, is to have a *\_\_\_\_\_ in one's throat*

**Pig** . . . . . Alliteratively, something whose worth is unknown is *a \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_*

**Cow** . . . . . Alliteratively, to have a good way of making money is to have a *cash \_\_\_\_\_*

**Hog** . . . . . Alliteratively, to live very well, or lavishly, is *to live high on the \_\_\_\_\_*, alluding to where the best meat is

**Camel** . . . . . To bring to disaster is to be the *straw that broke the \_\_\_\_\_'s back*, alluding to its role as a beast of burden, or ship of the desert

**Bull** . . . . . To take decisive action is *to take the \_\_\_\_\_ by the horns*, as at a rodeo

**Horse** . . . . . Alliteratively, to be arrogant or look down on others is to be *on a high \_\_\_\_\_*

**Horse** . . . . . Basically unknown political candidate who gains support is a *dark \_\_\_\_\_*

**Hog** . . . . . Driver who takes more than his or her share of the road is a *road \_\_\_\_\_*

**Wolf/sheep** . . . To put on a show of innocence or kindness in order to work harm is to be *a \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_'s clothing*, alluding to an Aesop tale

**Wolf** . . . . . To give a false alarm is *to cry \_\_\_\_\_*, alluding to the tale of a boy who calls for help so often that when an animal really threatens, he's not believed

**Kangaroo** . . . Alliteratively, an unauthorized or unfair court of law is a *\_\_\_\_\_ court*, possibly alluding to the court's *leaping* into action without due process

**Bear** . . . . . A stock market with falling prices is a *\_\_\_\_\_ market*, possibly implying that investors retreat from the market just like the animal hibernates in its den