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Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

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1) Which of the **new** 7 wonders of the world, dating to between B.C. 200 and 220 A.D., is said to be rapidly disappearing because of sandstorms, with its 15-foot height reduced to 6½ in some areas?

Answer: Great Wall of China (37 miles of 3,980-ft. wall are at risk).

2) Identify the Central American country just south of Honduras where category 5 Hurricane Felix made landfall, leaving 52 dead, after moving in from the Caribbean. Its name begins with *N*.

Answer: Nicaragua (after hitting Dutch isles Aruba, Curacao, and Bonaire).

3) Name the London site holding England's Crown Jewels whose 522-year-old corps of guards now has its first woman member though it has stood guard over royal women held prisoner there.

Answer: Tower of London (its guards are nicknamed "Beefeaters").

4) Name the king who founded the Tower of London shortly after conquering England in 1066.

Answer: William the Conqueror.

5) Which African country, whose name also designates a gold coin once used in Britain, is so lacking in electrical power that students of all ages head to airports at dusk to study by lights in its parking lots? It shares its name with neighboring _____-*Bissau*.

Answer: Guinea (on Atlantic south of Senegal; only 1/5 of its people have electricity)

6) According to a recent report, the world had 9.5 million millionaires in 2006, with the rich growing by 20% in which country known for handling U.S. customer service calls?

Answer: India (Singapore also had a 20% increase of rich people).

7) Identify the union of truck drivers that has protested recent plans to comply with the 1992 NAFTA treaty by letting Mexican truckers haul cargo anywhere in the U.S. Its name dates to the time when drivers moved cargo on wagons pulled by teams of horses.

Answer: Teamsters (treaty was signed in 1992, put into effect January 1, 1994).

8) As its name says, to which area does the free trade agreement NAFTA apply?

Answer: North America (NAFTA stands for North American Free Trade Agreement).

9) Name the country to whose leader President Bush announced the U.S. would consider a peace treaty if it gave up its nuclear weapons program and began allowing inspection of plants on September 11, thus officially ending a war fought in the 1950s.

Answer: North Korea.

10) Among the *New York Times's* recent list of rules for college students new to the city was a warning not to swim in the 2 rivers surrounding Manhattan, namely which 2, one of which is named for its location in relation to the island?

Answer: Hudson (on the west) and East River (obviously, on the east).

11) Which President initiated the March of Dimes, whose history is part of a new Smithsonian exhibit on polio at the treatment center he founded in Warm Springs, Georgia?

Answer: Franklin D. Roosevelt (founded March of Dimes to raise money to fight polio).

12) Which President designed the newly restored octagonal home Poplar Forest for his retirement, modeling it on the work of the Italian architect who inspired his Monticello?

Answer: Thomas Jefferson (modeled after the work of Renaissance architect Palladio).

13) Name the author on whose Baltimore grave a black-clad mysterious visitor has allegedly left 3 roses and a bottle of cognac every January 19 since 1949 in what a 92-year-old has recently claimed was a hoax he created in the 1970s to promote the site.

Answer: Edgar Allan Poe.

14) Which Alabama author broke her habitual silence at Hank Aaron's induction into Alabama's Academy of Honor, surprising all since she has followed the tenet: "Writers should be read, but neither seen nor heard" since publication of *To Kill a Mockingbird*?

Answer: Harper Lee (British author Daphne du Maurier made the statement about writers).

15) Use of paint containing a toxic biocide was just banned by an international maritime treaty, meaning that the paint can no longer be used on which mode of transport?

Answer: Ships (biocide was mixed in to kill barnacles and algae on bottom of ships).

16) Name the ductile reddish metal now so costly that thieves, especially in poor Caribbean countries, are stealing it from power and telephone lines for sale to scrap companies. even sawing off the arms of a statue of soccer star Pele for the Cu in its alloy bronze.

Answer: Copper.

HISTORICAL EVENTS - September 17-23 (Questions 17-24)

17) In which year did delegates from 12 states unanimously approve the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia on September 17?

Answer: 1787 (Rhode Island did not send delegates).

18) Which 2 countries signed an accord on September 17, 1978, at Camp David, Maryland, after negotiations overseen by President Jimmy Carter?

Answer: Israel and Egypt.

19) Name the President who said in his Farewell Address of September 17, 1796: "'Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world."

Answer: George Washington.

20) On which day of the week, named for the Norse god of war, does the U.N. open its annual regular sessions of the General Assembly?

Answer: Tuesday (the third Tuesday of September, which is September 18 this year).

21) Identify the biblical patriarch whose name completes *Plains of _____*, the designation for the Quebec site where the French surrendered to the British on September 18, 1759.

Answer: Abraham (Plains of Abraham).

22) Of Ferdinand Magellan's 5 ships that set out from Spain on September 20, 1519, which one shares its name with the capital of British Columbia?

Answer: Victoria (this was the only ship to complete the voyage).

23) In which year did West Germany come into formal existence on September 21, four years after the end of WWII?

Answer: 1949.

24) Name the Cabinet post established September 22, 1789, after the Departments of State, War, and Treasury, and under the Continental Congress held by Benjamin Franklin.

Answer: Postmaster-general (Samuel Osgood was the 1st postmaster-general of U.S.).

25) If 4 is 80% of 5, then 5 is what percent of 4?

Answer: 125.

26) What is the result (in kilometers) when 555 meters is subtracted from 1.4 kilometers?

Answer: 0.845 kilometers.

27) What is the height of a right triangle whose area is 72 square feet and whose base is 18 feet?

Answer: 8 feet.

28) The greatest common factor of 12 and 18 is what fractional portion of the greatest common factor of 18 and 27?

Answer: 2/3.

29) What name is given to both the frame or body of a ship and the outer covering of a seed or fruit?

Answer: Hull.

30) What 5-letter verb beginning with *S* means "to produce or deposit" and appears in the context of fish depositing their eggs or storms producing tornadoes?

Answer: Spawn.

31) What measure, equivalent to one nautical mile per hour, is used in naming the speed of the current of a river or the speed of a boat or ship on a body of water?

Answer: Knot (New York's Hudson and East rivers flow as fast as 4 knots, or 4 nautical miles an hour)

32) In nautical miles, what is the circumference of the earth at the equator, based on the fact that a nautical mile is the equivalent of one minute of longitude and each degree of longitude is broken into 60 divisions called minutes?

Answer: 21,600 nautical miles.

33) Give the common name for helianthus, the indigenous New World flower worshipped by Aztecs, Incas, and Native Americans and linked with Van Gogh by his paintings.
Answer: Sunflower (named from the Greek *helios*, for "sun," and *anthos* for "flower").

34) Name the country where amateur archaeological groups are being backed by the government in their digs to protect ancient Etruscan tombs from grave robbers.
Answer: Italy (Etruscan refers to ancient land Etruria in Tuscany area of Italy).

35) Identify the Japanese word for "good-bye" that names the 1957 film in which Miyoshi Umeki, who recently died at age 78, became the first Asian to win an Oscar.
Answer: Sayonara (based on James Michener novel; she won best supporting actress).

36) Identify either the submarine 20,000 leagues under the sea in a Jules Verne book or the line of exercise machines with the same name created in the 1960s by Arthur Jones, who just died at age 80.
Answer: Nautilus (machines have a gear resembling a mollusk called a chambered nautilus).

37) Identify by acronym the company once known as the International House of Pancakes, which in the summer announced it would buy the Applebee's restaurant chain.
Answer: Ihop.

38) What name, now used for a lie detector, did Thomas Jefferson give to his copying device with 2 pens writing simultaneously now on display at his restored Poplar Forest?
Answer: Polygraph (*poly*, for "more than one," and "graph," for writing).

39) Identify the word from Italian for "a master of an art" used as the nickname for Luciano Pavarotti, the famous Italian tenor who recently died at age 71. It ends in the letter *O*.
Answer: Maestro (Pavarotti was called "the Maestro" and "King of the High C's").

40) According to a pathologist, one of the German composers known as the 3 *B*'s died from lead a physician used in treating swelling in his abdomen. Identify this composer, the idol of piano-playing Schroeder of the *Peanuts* comic strip.
Answer: Ludwig van Beethoven (Johannes Brahms and Johann Sebastian Bach are other 2 B's).

TALKING IN COLOR

Red Color used to describe Lisa Rinna as TV Guide's _____ *carpet* host at the Emmy Awards, designating her as the interviewer of the stars

Blue/Gray Colors representing, respectively, Union and Confederate troops in the Civil War as based on their uniforms

Blue Color used to name the Navy performing air group known as "Angels"

Green Label for materials and construction considered environmentally friendly

Red Color used in naming the tide of blooming algae that scientists believe produces a toxic acid harmful to fish, birds, and humans

Red By name, the color of the square in front of the Kremlin in Moscow

Green By name, the color of the U.S.-protected zone in Baghdad

Yellow In English, China's Huang He River, its 2nd longest

Pink By species name, the color of the 780,000 salmon now racing up Washington's Puyallup River for spawning in one of the biggest runs in years

(Gordon) Brown British prime minister who replaced Tony Blair in June 2007

Yellow Beach warning flag indicating medium hazard, moderate surf and current

Red Ribbon pin for Aids/HIV awareness

Pink Ribbon for breast cancer awareness

Yellow Ribbon showing support for U.S. troops or for POWs and MIAs

Red Ribbon for heart disease awareness

Yellow Lance Armstrong bracelet promoting cancer research and awareness