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Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

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1) Name the religion of those opposing the dredging of a shipping channel in that they regard the shoals as having been created by the god Rama to give passage between India and Sri Lanka.

Answer: Hindu (India has announced plans to dredge channel).

2) Name the sun-dried material made of a mixture of earth and straw used in constructing most of the 85% of the buildings recently destroyed by an earthquake in Pisco, Peru.

Answer: Adobe (Peru lost 173 churches, historic buildings in quake).

3) Name the Islamic republic whose supreme leader is religious leader Ayatollah Khamenei, not its President Ahmadinejad, who recently came to New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly.

Answer: Iran (religious leaders still control dress, social behavior).

4) At which Ivy League university, founded as King's College in 1754 and renamed after the Civil War, did Iran's president speak during his recent visit to New York City?

Answer: Columbia University (see footnote, p. 2 for Ivy League list).

5) What 4-letter word designates a man who is part of a religious order of self-denial such as the Buddhist ones who recently led a protest against Myanmar's military government?

Answer: Monk (military killed 9 people, arrested 300, including some monks, on 9th day of protest).

6) Give the word of Spanish origin and beginning with *J* used to designate a group of military officers in control of a government, such as the group in control in Myanmar.

Answer: Junta (*J* is pronounced as *H* as in Spanish; military took over in 1988).

7) What ordinal number designates the "world" of developing nations for whose children the new sturdy, inexpensive, low-energy XO Laptop due out next month was developed?

Answer: 3rd (world; "Give one, get one" sale in U.S. offers 2 for \$399, with one to go to 3rd world).

8) What common name beginning with *S* does the public give to an infection caused by the antibiotic-resistant bacteria called MRSA whose spread in hospitals Britain is trying to prevent by banning neckties and long sleeves for doctors since they can carry it?

Answer: Staph (MRSA is short for *methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus*).

9) What number is to be embedded in 2 watermarks in the redesigned Lincoln bill to make sure it "screams" its denomination so it can't be used to make counterfeit \$100 bills?

Answer: 5 (bleached \$5 were being made into \$100 bills since Lincoln and Franklin watermarks matched)

10) What is a *loonie* as used in the recent report saying "For the first time since Gerald Ford was president, the *loonie* can buy as much as the greenback"?

Answer: Canadian dollar (coin features a loon, or hooping bird; "greenback" refers to U.S. dollar bill)

11) Name the President depicted by a maze cut into cornfields in Michigan, where he grew up and which he represented in Congress for years before becoming president in 1974.

Answer: Gerald Ford (it says "President Ford" across top and "Thanks" below).

12) What 4-letter word designates a narrow head of land jutting into the sea like that in Massachusetts where locals are trying to protect the view from late artist Edward Hopper's home on the spit of land called _____ Cod?

Answer: Cape (Cod; locals want to stop planned 6,500 sq. ft. house on 9.3 acres next to Hopper's home)

13) Laurel Burch, the artist known for her T-shirts, ceramics, and jewelry with fanciful cat designs, recently died at age 61 from complications from a bone disease that resulted in over 100 bone fractures and is similar to which bone disease linked with old women?

Answer: Osteoporosis (she had a painful congenital form called *osteopetrosis*).

14) What word beginning with *P* designates the marital practice advocated by Mormon sect leader Warren Jeffs, recently convicted of forcing a 14-year-old girl to marry in 2001?

Answer: Polygamy (having many wives, *poly-* for "many," *gamous* for "marriage"; sect broke away when Mormon church renounced polygamy in 1890).

15) Complete the short form Oxford Dictionary's newly added term _____ *footprint*, defined as "the amount of greenhouse gas emission an individual is responsible for."

Answer: Carbon.

16) Give the prefix for "mind" as in the term _____ *somatic* used by Peruvian doctors in explaining that reported illness from alleged fumes of a recent meteorite crash might have been simply "in the mind" in that they found no evidence of toxic fumes at the site

Answer: Psycho- (meteorite made a 65-ft. wide, 15 ft. deep crater in an isolated area of southern Peru).

HISTORICAL EVENTS - October 8-14 (Questions 17-24)

17) Who portrayed himself on the October 8, 1938, cover of the *Saturday Evening Post*?

Answer: Norman Rockwell.

*Ivy League consists of Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, U. of Penn., Princeton, Yale.

- 18) By tradition, what animal is said to have caused the October 8, 1871, fire that destroyed a large part of Chicago with the loss of about 300 lives?
Answer: (Mrs. O'Leary's) cow.
- 19) Name the coastal city in Georgia where exiled Polish patriot Count Casimir Pulaski was wounded during an attempt to retake it from the British on October 9, 1779.
Answer: Savannah (Pulaski died on October 11).
- 20) Which Ivy League school was founded in Branford, Connecticut, on October 9, 1701, and moved to New Haven in 1716?
Answer: Yale University.
- 21) Which Icelandic-born Norse explorer is credited with the discovery of North America in A.D. 1000 on October 9?
Answer: Leif Eriksson (Eiriksson; Ericsson).
- 22) After being charged with income tax evasion, which Vice President resigned his office on October 10, 1973?
Answer: Spiro Agnew.
- 23) On October 11, 1868, who filed papers to patent an electric vote recorder for Congressional votes as the first of his 1,093 U.S. patents, the most ever issued to one person?
Answer: Thomas Edison.
- 24) On October 14, 1964, who became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize? He later donated the \$54,000 awarded him to the causes of the civil rights movement.
Answer: Martin Luther King Jr.
- 25) What is the sum when the multiplicative inverse and additive inverse of $\frac{1}{3}$ are combined?
Answer: $2\frac{2}{3}$ or $\frac{8}{3}$.
- 26) $0.\overline{21}$ reduces to what common fraction?
Answer: $\frac{7}{33}$.
- 27) Which category of angles have a supplement that is an obtuse angle?
Answer: Acute (angles).
- 28) The square root of 9 is what fractional portion of the square of 9?
Answer: $\frac{1}{27}$.
- 29) What part of the body does *ossification* refer to, as used in naming the condition for which April car crash victim Governor Jon Corzine just underwent surgery?
Answer: Bone (doctors had to remove excess bone tissue produced as a broken bone healed).
- 30) What exactly is the femur, one of the 15 bones Gov. Corzine broke in the April crash?
Answer: Thighbone (extending from hip to knee; the excess bone developed around it).
- 31) What name is given to a whirlwind of water such as the one that recently appeared over Fort Myers Beach, FL, and became a tornado wrecking 150 homes in Cape Coral?
Answer: Waterspout.
- 32) What alliterative 2-word name beginning with *D* designates a whirlwind of loose soil seen over dry land?
Answer: Dust devil.

33) What name is given to a short novel such as either of the 2 in Ray Bradbury's recently released book *Now and Forever*?

Answer: Novella (or novelette; Bradbury's are *Leviathan '99* and *Somewhere a Band Is Playing*).

34) Name both the physical form of the Jewish holy text called the Torah, which is printed on parchment and kept rolled up, and the number of books within it, accounting for its alternate name *Pentateuch*.

Answer: Scroll and 5 (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy).

35) Name the expensive seafood product internationally banned from export in its wild form since the sturgeon that produce it are being killed before they have time to reproduce.

Answer: Caviar (sturgeon is now being farmed, or produced in tanks, in the U.S.).

36) What word beginning with *H* names the Middle Eastern dip made from garbanzo beans and served with pita chips being pushed at the School Nutrition Association's annual meeting as a healthy food to be served in schools?

Answer: Hummus.

37) Name the long-hoped-for waterway between Asia and Europe now passable for the 1st time because of global warming, as Arctic ice has receded to about 1 million sq. miles.

Answer: Northwest Passage.

38) Name the waterway opened in 1914 to give a new short route between Europe and Asia.

Answer: Panama Canal (still shortest route; Northwest Passage would cut trip by thousands of miles).

39) What 4-letter word designates an actor like Frenchman Marcel Marceau, who just died at age 84, having become famous worldwide for his form of acting without speaking?

Answer: Mime (as famed character Bip, Marceau wore white face paint, soft shoes, and a battered hat).

40) What 3 letters, the first of which stands for "uniform," designate an Internet address, such as <http://www.patrickspress.com>?

Answer: URL (for "uniform resource locator").

ORDINALS, NOT ORDNANCE

- 18th Birthday at which one becomes legally eligible to vote in the U.S.
 - 70th Birthday at which one becomes a septuagenarian
 - 25th A silver wedding anniversary
 - 200th Birthday celebrated at a bicentennial
 - 3rd In a competition, rank indicated by a yellow ribbon
 - 13th* Birthday at which a Jewish boy has a bar mitzvah, or coming of age ceremony
 - 11th Idiomatically, the last hour before something is due or for a turn of events
 - 6th Idiomatically, the sense giving one the ability to see what's coming
 - 5th Idiomatically, in terms of wheels, an extra, and unwanted, person
 - 7th Idiomatically, the heaven one is said to be in when ecstatically happy
 - 3rd Idiomatically, the "degree" designating intensive questioning, as of a suspect
 - 7th In order of publication date, rank of the novel *Harry Potter in the Deathly Hallows* in the Harry Potter series
 - 1st In area from largest to smallest, GA's rank among states east of the Mississippi
 - 2nd In population, from largest to smallest, Texas's rank among the 50 states
 - 49th In chronological order of joining the Union, Alaska's rank in the 50 states
 - 5th In distance from the sun, closest to farthest, Jupiter's rank among the 8 planets
 - 49th Parallel that is the border between the northwestern U.S. and Canada
 - 10th Last amendment of the Constitution's Bill of Rights
 - 13th Constitutional amendment establishing black suffrage, or voting rights
 - 19th Constitutional amendment establishing woman suffrage, or voting rights
 - 3rd Chronological rank of the Germany empire, or "Reich," under Hitler
 - 3rd Chronologically, Thomas Jefferson's rank as U.S. President
- *Jewish girls now have bat mitzvahs, marking their coming of age