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Columbus, GA 31906
1-800-654-1052

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Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

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November 26, 2007

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1) Name either the Muslim country of King Abdullah who recently became the 1st of its kings to visit the pope at the Vatican or the Tibetan Buddhist leader the pope plans to meet with next month.

Answer: Saudi Arabia or Dalai Lama.

2) Name the country where voter turnout is about 95% since voting is compulsory for citizens 18 or older, meaning that most of the nation actively participates in sending lawmakers to Canberra.

Answer: Australia.

3) Name the country whose leader, the 1st woman to be elected president of an African nation, recently received a U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom. Its name means "free land."

Answer: Liberia (Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is its president; U.S. author Harper Lee was also among the 8 to whom Pres. Bush gave medals).

4) To which African country have an estimated 7,000 elephants now returned from neighboring Uganda or Kenya to which they fled during its 22-year-long civil war? Its capital is Khartoum.

Answer: Sudan (Africa's largest; it's now had 2 years of peace).

5) What food, known as "chips" in England, has been returned to its original name in the Congressional cafeterias, having been altered there in 2003 out of anger with France for not joining the U.S. in the Iraq war effort?

Answer: French fries (Congressional cafeterias began calling them "freedom fries").

6) Name the former PLO leader for whose remains a new \$1.75 million mausoleum was just unveiled at the PLO presidential compound in the West Bank 3 years after he died.

Answer: Yasser Arafat (he died of unknown cause in a Paris hospital at age 75).

7) Which bordering country, usually neutral in wars, is now discounting some German books, threatening the German practice requiring bookstores to sell books at fixed prices?

Answer: Switzerland (Germans use set price to keep small publishers and bookstores in business).

8) Which African country on the Strait of Gibraltar just recalled its ambassador from Spain after Spain's king and queen visited 2 Spanish territories it says belong to it?

Answer: Morocco (they visited Ceuta and Melilla on the south shore on the Mediterranean).

9) The Senate just passed its 1st override of a veto by Pres. Bush, giving final approval to a water projects bill. How many votes were needed for the 2/3 vote required on a veto?

Answer: 67 (a 2/3 majority; Senate passed measure by a vote of 79-14).

10) Name the late African-American Supreme Court justice with initials T.M. to be played by Laurence Fishburne in a one-man show set to open on Broadway in the spring.

Answer: Thurgood Marshall (Court's 1st African American; earlier run starred James Earl Jones).

11) Name the historic theater in Washington, D.C., trying to raise \$40 million for renovation by the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth since it is where he was killed.

Answer: Ford's Theater.

12) Lincoln's 1863 "Gettysburg Address" began "Four score and 7 years ago," referring to the U.S.'s founding. Use scores to express the years between 1863 and 2007.

Answer: 7 score and 4 years.

13) Identify the Episcopal cathedral in New York City, the world's largest such structure, where scaffolding on a tower was just removed after 15 years of construction. It's named for the author of the New Testament's 4th Gospel.

Answer: Cathedral of St. John the Divine (the sculptors finished their part in 1992).

14) A ghost found on surveillance videotape in the courthouse of the state capital whose name means "holy faith" was recently found to be nothing more than a bug on the lens. Name this city, founded in 1610 as the capital of the Spanish colony of New Mexico.

Answer: Santa Fe (it's been a seat of government longer than any other state capital).

15) One biologist explaining the need to keep water flowing from Atlanta downstream to protect river mussels described them as the "harbinger species," warning humans of the health of the river, much like which animal used to warn of bad air in a mine?

Answer: Canary (mussels also help filter pollutants from water and are food for other wildlife).

16) What word beginning with *G* designates the total content of an organism's DNA, such as that just decoded for the cat, adding it to the list of 2 dozen other mammals decoded?

Answer: Genome.

HISTORICAL EVENTS - November 26-December 2 (Questions 17-24)

17) On November 26, 1864, which author sent a handwritten manuscript of his new work to 12-year-old Alice Liddell as an early Christmas present?

Answer: Lewis Carroll (the work was *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*).

18) About which author did President Lincoln say on meeting her on November 26, 1862, "So this is the little lady who made the big war"?

Answer: Harriet Beecher Stowe.

19) On November 26, 1991, Congress adopted the name Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument for what had been the Custer monument. In which state is it located not far from Billings?

Answer: Montana.

20) On November 28, 1520, which Portuguese explorer sailed out of a strait named after him to resume the journey that made him the first to sail across the Pacific Ocean?

Answer: Ferdinand Magellan (he died in 1521 in the Philippines).

21) Which American commander, with a crew of 3, became the first to fly over the South Pole, doing so on November 29, 1929?

Answer: Richard E. Byrd.

22) In which city did the U.S. and Great Britain sign a provisional peace treaty on November 30, 1782, a year prior to their signing a definitive treaty?

Answer: Paris (known as the Treaty of Paris).

23) Give the interrogative pronoun that as an acronym names the U.N. agency that in 1988 declared December 1 as World AIDS Day.

Answer: WHO (for World Health Organization).

24) In which city in which state did Rosa Parks, the "Mother of the Modern Civil Rights Movement," refuse to give up her seat to a white man on a bus on December 1, 1955?

Answer: Montgomery, Alabama.

25) How many 2-digit positive integers are multiples of both 6 and 15?

Answer: 3.

26) How many $\frac{1}{16}$ inch line segments are in a line segment of length $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches?

Answer: 42.

27) If $3x + 3y = 108$, then what is the value of $(4x + 4y)$?

Answer: 144.

28) What is the largest possible perimeter of an isosceles triangle having sides of 8 inches and 12 inches?

Answer: 32 inches.

29) Identify the natural product from the sap of tropical plants named to designate a check not covered by sufficient funds in the bank and therefore said to "bounce."

Answer: Rubber.

30) Identify the Roman god of the forge named in the word for the process man uses in heating rubber, metals, and other natural products to give them strength and flexibility.

Answer: Vulcan (process is called vulcanization).

31) On average, an individual hair grows about one centimeter monthly, meaning a growth of how much in the maximum of 7 years it can grow before falling out?

Answer: 84 centimeters.

32) Scientists just found in Utah some 500-million-year-old fossilized animals strikingly similar to which existing sea animals so named because they look like amorphous blobs?

Answer: Jellyfish.

33) Spell the French term *troupe* as used to designate a group of performers, as in ballet.

Answer: T-R-O-U-P-E.

34) What term for the pope originated from the Latin for "bridge maker" and has within it the Latin word *pont* for bridge?

Answer: Pontiff (from *pontifex*, in pre-Christian times designating the emperor as the highest priest).

35) What 4-letter acronym meaning "very quickly" also names Atlanta's Atlantic Station Access and Mobility Program, which urges Atlantic Station residents to go carless?

Answer: ASAP.

36) What do DA and AG stand for in the headline "DA, AG divided over murder case"?

Answer: District Attorney and attorney general.

37) The N.F.L.'s oldest former player just died at age 104. Name the former Major League baseball player with whom he played football at Columbia University in 1922 and who later died of a neurological disease causing muscular weakness now known by his name.

Answer: Lou Gehrig (Lou Gehrig's disease, or ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis).

38) Name the award for fielding excellence given annually to one player in each fielding position in the American and National leagues and recently won by 2 Atlanta Braves.

Answer: Golden Glove (won by Braves Jeff Francoeur and Andruw Jones, his 10th straight).

39) What word beginning with *L* designates the words of a song, as used in the headline describing a new pop album by the Shins: "Infectious Melodies and Wry _____"?

Answer: Lyrics.

40) Porter Wagoner, who recently died at age 80, was host of the longest-running country-music variety show in TV history. Name both the show and the city where it runs live.

Answer: Grand Ole Opry in Nashville (TN).

DOUBLE LETTERS: A-O

Aaron (A) Moses's brother who leads the Israelites into the Promised Land, according to the Bible

"Jabberwocky" (B) Lewis Carroll poem with the line "'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves"

Cabbage (B) Vegetable grown along with potatoes in the forbidden garden patch where Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit loses his shoes

Mecca (C) Birthplace of the prophet Muhammad, the holiest city of Islam, located in Saudi Arabia

D-Day (D) June 6, 1944, the day the Allies invaded France during WWII to liberate it from the German control

Coffee (E) That which a barista specializes in, often called java

O'Keeffe (F) Surname of the late Southwest artist Georgia known for her desert paintings and up-close paintings of single flower blossoms

Boondoggle . . . (G) Word beginning with *B* for a project of little value, as used by a State Department official to describe some state-funded Congressional travel

High horse (H) 2-word term for the steed that someone who thinks you're uppity tells you figuratively to get off of

S-K-I-I-N-G . . . (I) Spelling of the name of the sport divided into alpine and cross-country

Hajj (J) Arabic word for a pilgrimage such as that made to Islam's holiest site

Bookkeeper . . . (K) Word with 3 pairs of double letters designating one who keeps the records or accounts of a business

Dolley Madison (L) First name of the President's wife who saved Gilbert Stuart's painting of George Washington when the British burned the White House in 1814

Commutative . . (M) Term describing the mathematical law expressed by $a \times b = b \times a$

Bicentennial . . . (N) 200th anniversary celebration

Football (O) Name the British give to what Americans call soccer