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Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

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March 10, 2008

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1) Name the famous 13th-century conqueror whose early years are depicted in Kazakhstan's film *Mongol* that was one of the 5 nominees for the Oscar for best foreign language film this year.

Answer: Genghis Khan (Austria's *The Counterfeiters* won).

2) To which country, whose name means "free land," did President Bush on his African tour promise Africa's first elected female president, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, U.S. aid to help it rebuild?

Answer: Liberia (still recovering from 14-year civil war that ended in 2003).

3) Name the foreign capital where the New York Philharmonic just played for the 1st time, including in its program Gershwin, Wagner, and the North Korean national anthem.

Answer: Pyongyang.

4) Name the "heady" vegetable in the fermented dish Kimchi that Koreans eat with almost every meal and recently made in a space-safe version for South Korea's 1st astronaut's mission in April.

Answer: Cabbage (space version kimchi had to be bacteria-free).

5) Which Chinese port handles the most cargo by tonnage worldwide? Because sailors were often seized and forced to serve on ships to China, its name has come to mean "kidnap."

Answer: Shanghai.

6) Which port, whose name begins with *S* and means "lion city" in Malay, is the world's busiest port if counted by container rather than tonnage? The British once controlled it.

Answer: Singapore.

7) Name the ancient citadel or fortified hill in Athens where a new museum is slated to open in the fall near the ruins of the Parthenon and other ancient temples.

Answer: Acropolis (museum has spot for the Elgin Marbles friezes Greece wants Britain to return).

8) Name the country that wants back the Yale University Incan treasures that Hiram Bingham III excavated from Machu Picchu in the 1910s.

Answer: Peru (it says the treasures left the country as a loan for 12 months).

9) What colorful article of clothing is used metaphorically to designate workers like those of the Teamsters labor union that just endorsed presidential candidate Barak Obama?

Answer: Blue collar (one headline read "Teamsters Endorses Obama, Offering a Blue-Collar Lift").

10) In addition to having lived in the U.S. for 14 years, what other 2 requirements does the Constitution set for becoming President, one of which led to questions about McCain?

Answer: 35 years old and a "natural-born citizen" (McCain was born to U.S. parents on U.S. military base in Panama Canal Zone).

11) Which state has now become the leading state in generating electricity from wind, having once been known as the oil capital of North America?

Answer: Texas (it surpassed California 2 years ago).

12) Name the Great Lake on which a windsled serves as a school bus from an ice-locked island off northwest Wisconsin when the ice is not solid enough for an ice bridge.

Answer: Lake Superior (largest, coldest, deepest, and most western of Great Lakes).

13) What 5-letter word beginning with *A* designates any of the Pacific's uninhabited ringlike coral islands that scientists recently studied to see how people affect coral reefs?

Answer: Atoll.

14) The first 30,000 pages of the web *Encyclopedia of Life*, to catalog species on earth just went online. What other classification is used to give a species its scientific name?

Answer: Genus (as in *Canis familiaris* for dog species and *Canis rufus* for red wolf).

15) Because 2008 has a February 29, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums has named it the year of which animal as a way to focus public attention on preserving it?

Answer: Frog (organization deemed it appropriate for "Leap Year").

16) Name the class of animals the Association of Zoos and Aquariums wants to focus on by having named the frog as its emblem for the year.

Answer: Amphibians.

HISTORICAL EVENTS - March 10-16 (Questions 17-24)

17) To whom did Alexander Graham Bell send the first message via telephone on March 10, 1876, from one room to another? Sherlock Holmes's doctor friend shares his name.

Answer: Watson (message was "Mr. _____, come here. I want you").

18) On March 11, 1930, which President with a 4-letter surname became the first of 2 Presidents to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery?

Answer: William Taft (John Kennedy is the only other President buried there).

19) Who became the U.S.'s first female attorney general on March 12, 1993? Her name also designates a Nevada city.

Answer: Janet Reno.

20) Which country between Germany and Hungary did Nazi troops invade on March 12, 1938? It's drained by the Danube River and is known for its Lipizzaner horses.

Answer: Austria (native land of composers Mozart, Haydn, and Schubert).

21) Name the President whose impeachment trial began on March 13, 1868, and ended in an acquittal 2 months later.

Answer: Andrew Johnson.

22) Which planet, the 7th from the sun, was discovered by German-born English astronomer Sir William Herschel on March 13, 1781?

Answer: Uranus.

23) Which state capital held its first town meeting in Faneuil Hall on March 14, 1743? It is also the site of the Old North Church made famous in a Longfellow poem.

Answer: Boston.

24) Which New England state, nicknamed the Pine State, was admitted to the Union on March 15, 1820, as a free state by the Missouri Compromise?

Answer: Maine (the 23rd state admitted to the Union).

25) What is the ratio (in lowest terms) of the measure of the smaller acute angle to that of the larger acute angle in a right triangle if the smaller acute angle measures 24° ?

Answer: 4 to 11.

26) How many times from 12 midnight on Monday until 12 midnight on Tuesday does a digital clock display either all ones or all twos?

Answer: 6.

27) What is the largest perfect square integer that is a factor of 108?

Answer: 36.

28) What is the formula for the area of a circle if the diameter (d) is used rather than the radius r ?

Answer: $A = 1/4 \pi d^2$.

29) In which ocean does the cooling of waters called La Niña take place?

Answer: Pacific (specifically, the tropical Pacific).

30) What word beginning with M designates the measurement listed as 6.0 in reporting the recent earthquake in northeastern Nevada?

Answer: Magnitude (in geology, amount of energy released by an earthquake, as on the Richter scale).

31) Name the joint made stable by the ulnar collateral ligament and sometimes called the crazy bone or funny bone.

Answer: Elbow (recent news reported Seattle Mariner knuckleball pitcher Dickey has no such ligament).

32) Name the part of the body that is the site of AOM, or acute otitis media.

Answer: Ear (acute otitis is infection in the ear).

33) Identify the Greek word for "devil" beginning with B and borrowed from the Bible to name in part the newly found huge fossilized Madagascar toad also called "Devil Toad."

Answer: Beelzebub (frog was named *Beelzebubo*, from it and the Latin *bufo* for "toad").

34) Name the language that completes the following: The English language has Germanic origins but _____ was grafted onto it when the Normans conquered England in 1066.

Answer: French (linguist says English is close to reaching million words because of its changing nature).

35) What does the French word *beaux* mean as in the term *Beaux-Arts* naming the ornate style of Manhattan's Maritime Ferry Building with its rosettes and glazed blue tiles?

Answer: Beautiful or fine (*beaux* is the plural of *beau*).

36) What French word designates a piece performed in response to audience applause after the scheduled program ends, such as the New York Philharmonic's 3 in North Korea?

Answer: Encore (orchestra ended with final encore of "Arirang," a popular Korean folk song).

37) Identify the frothy coffee drink named in the new alliterative 2-word term _____ *liberal* as a way of making fun of or discrediting political liberals.

Answer: Latte liberal.

38) Spell both the word beginning with *S* meaning "follows in office" as in saying "Raul Castro _____ Fidel" and the word beginning with *S* meaning "separates or withdraws from" as in saying "Kosovo _____ from Serbia."

Answer: S-U-C-C-E-E-D-S and S-E-C-E-D-E-S (Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia).

39) What new facility was just opened in an Arctic mountain in Norway's Svalbard archipelago as protection for a Doomsday occurrence or as "a frozen Garden of Eden"?

Answer: (Global) seed vault (for storage of seeds from crops all over the world).

40) Complete the title of Lorraine Hansberry's play *A _____ in the _____* about a 1950s black family in Chicago just aired on TV with Sean "P. Diddy" Combs as Walter Lee.

Answer: A Raisin in the Sun (its title comes from Langston Hughes's poem "A Dream Deferred").

STATE QUARTER QUIZ (in order of their statehood)

- Delaware (1787)** Caesar Rodney on galloping horse and inscription "The First State"
Pennsylvania Keystone emblem, the motto "Virtue, Liberty, Independence," and the statue *Commonwealth*
New Jersey Emmanuel Leutze's painting *Washington Crossing the Delaware* (to attack at Trenton) and the slogan "Crossroads of the Revolution"
Georgia (1788) Peach, live oak sprigs, and motto "Wisdom, Justice, Moderation"
Connecticut Charter Oak, a stone wall, and the inscription "The Charter Oak"
Massachusetts *Minuteman* statue and the inscription "The Bay State"
Maryland Statehouse Dome in Annapolis and inscription "The Old Line State"
South Carolina Carolina wren and inscription "The Palmetto State"
New Hampshire "Live Free or Die," and the inscription "Old Man of the Mountain"
Virginia 3 ships, slogans "Jamestown 1607-2007" and "Quadricentennial"
New York Map with Hudson River/Erie Canal, slogan "Gateway to Freedom"
North Carolina (1789) Wright Brothers' flight at Kitty Hawk labeled "First Flight"
Rhode Island (1790) Sailboat in Narragansett Bay and slogan "The Ocean State"
Vermont (1791) Man collecting sap from sugar maples, Camel's Hump Mountain, and motto "Freedom and Unity"
Kentucky (1792) Mansion, thoroughbred racehorse, slogan "My Old _____ Home"
Tennessee (1796) Sheet music, 3 stars for 3 musical styles, words "Musical Heritage"
Ohio (1803) Early plane, an astronaut (for native sons John Glenn and Neil Armstrong), and slogan "Birthplace of Aviation Pioneers"
Louisiana (1812) Pelican, trumpet, musical notes, and inscription "_____ Purchase"
Indiana (1816) 500-style race car and inscription "Crossroads of America"
Mississippi (1817) Magnolia blossoms and leaves and inscription "The Magnolia State"
Illinois (1818) Abe Lincoln, slogans "Land of Lincoln" and "21st State/Century"
Alabama (1819) Helen Keller reading Braille, camellias, slogan "Spirit of Courage"
Maine (1820) Pemmaquid Point lighthouse on a stony cliff, white pine, 3-masted schooner, sea birds (the state "Where America's Day Begins")
Missouri (1821) Explorers in canoe, Gateway Arch, slogan "Corps of Discovery 1804-2004"
Arkansas (1836) Mallard duck, rice, cut diamond (largest diamond ever unearthed in U.S. was found near Murfreesboro), and tree-lined river scene

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