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## Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

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October 1, 2007

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1) A 13-ton bell held by Harvard for decades was just returned to the Moscow monastery where it was rescued from religious purges of which Russian leader 80 years ago, so named for "man of steel"?

**Answer: Stalin (U.S. industrialist saved 18 bells from purges in the 1920s).**

2) Name the former South African President and Nobel Peace Prize winner who recently attended the unveiling of a statue in London's Parliament Square honoring him for his role in ending apartheid.

**Answer: Nelson Mandela (near Abe Lincoln, Winston Churchill statues).**

3) Identify the peninsula jutting out from northern Germany on which 2 replicas of Iron Age horns stolen and melted down 200 years ago were recently recovered by Danish police.

**Answer: Jutland peninsula.**

4) Some Israelis have recently expressed anger over the government's deal to buy Audi cars from which German automaker whose popular Beetle model was inspired by Hitler himself?

**Answer: Volkswagen (also made vehicles for Third Reich during WWII).**

5) Which independent country lying entirely within the capital of another country just began a charter airline to carry pilgrims from that larger country to Catholic holy sites?

**Answer: Vatican (City; it lies within Rome and has an area about as large as a city park).**

6) In which country having the abbreviation UAE has the not-yet-completed Dubai Tower just become the world's tallest free-standing structure, having reached 1,822 feet?

**Answer: United Arab Emirates (tower, also called Burj Dubai, just surpassed Toronto's CN Tower).**

7) In which Central American country, marked by recent gang violence and drug lords, did a native Mayan woman who won a Nobel Peace Prize for aiding Mayan causes while living in Mexico just lose a bid for the presidency?

**Answer: Guatemala (some say Nobelist Rigoberta Menchú didn't seem tough enough to curb violence).**

8) Identify either the word naming the year of rest that by biblical commandment Jewish farmers in Israel must give their fields every 7th year or the similar word for the day biblical law sets aside for rest each week, as in "Remember the \_\_\_\_ to keep it holy."

**Answer: Sabbatical or Sabbath (some rabbis allow farmers to rent fields to non-Jews that year).**

9) Name the country where a greenish, allegedly 7,000-carat diamond, twice as large as the world's largest, has been found and is now being held in a vault in Johannesburg.

**Answer: South Africa (find has not been certified and some are skeptical about claim).**

10) Name the Nevada mountain range where a search for the wreckage of record-setting aviator Steve Fossett's plane was recently called off, after 17 days and 474 flights.

**Answer: Sierra Nevada (he's been missing since he took off for short flight on Labor Day).**

11) Which state is the setting for the fictional town of Lake Wobegon, created by Garrison Keillor for his radio show *Prairie Home Companion* and 5 novels, one of which is new?

**Answer: Minnesota (new book is *Pontoon*).**

12) A new U.S. postage stamp commemorates the 1947 Mendez case that opened California public schools to Mexican-Americans and later influenced the 1954 Supreme Court case that desegregated U.S. schools. Complete its name: \_\_\_\_ vs. *Bd. of Ed. of Topeka*.

**Answer: Brown (versus Board of Education of Topeka).**

13) Google Inc. just offered a \$25 million "X Prize" to any company that can land a robotic rover on which body in space for a trek of at least 1,312 feet across its lunar surface?

**Answer: Moon (rover must collect and return prescribed data, including videos, from its trek).**

14) Beat 59% of those polled by calculating correctly the difference between a \$10 price marked down 50% and a \$10 price first reduced by 25% and then by another 33%.

**Answer: No difference.**

15) What word designating the result of oxidation of metals is used in the idiom \_\_\_\_ *belt* naming the Midwest area hard hit by loss of steel mills and other heavy industry?

**Answer: Rust (belt).**

16) In science, what term designates a rock like the 15.5-ton one whose proposed sale is opposed by an Oregon Indian tribe who consider it sacred since it came from space?

**Answer: Meteorite (until it hits earth, it's called a meteor; just a 30 lb. piece of this one is to be sold).**

#### **HISTORICAL EVENTS - October 1-7 (Questions 17-24)**

17) Which of the following was proclaimed head of Spain's nationalist government on October 1, 1936: Benito Mussolini, Pablo Casals, El Greco, or Francisco Franco?

**Answer: Francisco Franco.**

18) On October 1, 1880, which great composer of march music became conductor of the U.S. Marine Corps Band? He is known as the "March King."

**Answer: John Philip Sousa.**

19) Name the U.S. President born in Plains, Georgia, on October 1, 1924. He served from 1977 to 1981.

**Answer: James Earl Carter.**

20) British officer Major John André was hanged as a spy on October 2, 1780, after plotting with which American soldier to capture West Point?

**Answer: Benedict Arnold.**

21) Name the Nez Perce Indian chief who surrendered to troops in Montana on October 5, 1877, after a 1,700-mile retreat, saying, "From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

**Answer: Chief Joseph.**

22) On October 6, 1847, Charlotte Brontë used the name Currer Bell to publish her novel *Jane Eyre*. What word designates a "false name" used as a pen name?

**Answer: Pseudonym.**

23) Name the country whose president, Anwar el-Sadat, was assassinated on October 6, 1981, while reviewing a parade commemorating the country's 1973 war with Israel.

**Answer: Egypt.**

24) Name the bridge dedicated at Lake Havasu City, Arizona, on October 7, 1971, and now a popular tourist attraction, though it's not, as the nursery rhyme says, "falling down."

**Answer: London Bridge.**

25) What is the percent increase in the price of a gallon of milk if it changes from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per gallon?

**Answer: 60%.**

26) How many days are in the first three months of the year in a leap year?

**Answer: 91.**

27) 50% of 84 is equal to 60% of what numbers?

**Answer: 70.**

28) What is the product of the one-digit prime numbers?

**Answer: 210.**

29) Identify the term for a solid object orbiting the sun and smaller than an asteroid.

**Answer: Meteoroid.**

30) Identify the term for a small celestial body made of dirt and ice and having a tail.

**Answer: Comet.**

31) What is the popular 2-word term for a meteor that burns up in the Earth's atmosphere?

**Answer: Shooting star.**

32) Though it's not the closest to the sun, which planet has the highest average surface temperature because of its heavy atmosphere that creates a greenhouse effect, trapping all of the heat it collects?

**Answer: Venus (2nd planet from the sun).**

33) Complete the Latin term *status* \_\_\_\_ used in a headline to express Germany's seeming satisfaction with things as they are in that Chancellor Merkel has a 70% approval rate.

**Answer: Status quo (Merkel has focused on worldwide environmental issues rather than home issues).**

34) What does the Spanish word *quince* mean, as used in the word *Quinceañera* designating a Latina girl's birthday celebration similar to a "Sweet 16" party in the U.S.?

**Answer: 15 (the quinceañera celebrates a Latina girl's 15th birthday).**

35) Name the author with initials *R.K.* who wrote these lines General Petraeus alluded to in response to the ad calling him "General Betray Us" in the New York Times: "If you can keep your head when all about you/Are losing theirs and blaming it on you...."

**Answer: Rudyard Kipling (from poem "If," which Petraeus said a friend sent him after ad appeared).**

36) Identify Philip Glass's opera about the surrender that ended the Civil War by naming the site where this took place, or where Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant.

**Answer: Appomattox (San Francisco Opera is set to stage the world premiere in October).**

37) Identify Michael Bond's fictional Peruvian bear whose adventures after showing up at a railroad station in London wearing a shapeless hat are set to be filmed in Hollywood.

**Answer: Paddington Bear (a Harry Potter producer is to make the live-action/computer-based films).**

38) What word beginning with *G* is used to designate a novel in comic strip form, such as those in Britain's new "Agatha Christie Comic Strip Editions"?

**Answer: Graphic (novel).**

39) Which newspaper, known for its use of color and graphics, and with the U.S.'s largest weekday circulation, just celebrated its 25th birthday?

**Answer: USA Today (with a weekday circulation of 2.3 million).**

40) Name the princess whose death in a car crash was featured on the front page of *USA Today's* 1st edition, September 15, 1982, since she was earlier a Hollywood star.

**Answer: Princess Grace (of Monaco, formerly Grace Kelly).**

### FL, BUT NOT FLORIDA

- Flounder** . . . Fish whose name is used as a verb meaning "to struggle clumsily"  
**Fluoride** . . . Compound added to city drinking water to prevent tooth decay  
**Flat** . . . . . In music, designating a note one half-step lower than the named note  
**Flattery** . . . Word completing the saying "Imitation is the sincerest form of \_\_\_\_"  
**Flag** . . . . . Item referred to as Union Jack, Old Glory, or Jolly Roger  
**Flotsam** . . . Debris afloat at sea after a shipwreck, as used in the phrase \_\_\_\_ and jetsam  
**Flamingo** . . Long-legged, long-necked wading bird with pinkish feathers  
**Fledgling** . . Word ending in *-ing* for a baby bird that has just gotten its flight feathers  
**Fleet** . . . . . Synonym for *armada*, as in the Spanish armada that the British defeated  
**Fleming\*** . . Scientist who discovered penicillin from finding mold growing in a petri dish he had not washed before leaving on vacation  
**Fluid** . . . . . Synonym for one of the 3 states of matter  
**Flambeau** . . A "beau" that is a flaming torch  
**Flower** . . . . Organism with an anther, a stigma, a sepal, an ovary, a pistil, and a stamen  
**Floodplain** . Flat area of land along a stream or river subject to flooding  
**Flint** . . . . . Form of quartz used to start a fire in that it produces a spark when struck  
**Fleur-de-lis** . French name for "flower of the lily," a design often used in fabric  
**Flanders** . . . Northern area of Belgium where a Dutch dialect called Flemish is spoken  
**Flea market** . Outdoor market for sale of used goods  
**Flanker** . . . . Football player stationed wide of the formation, such as a pass receiver  
**Flamenco** . . Spanish gypsy dance or the guitar music that accompanies it  
\*Specifically, Scottish-born scientist Alexander Fleming

