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## Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

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1) Spell the 4-letter word designating a trench such as the 10-foot-deep one Chad is building around its capital, Ndjamená, to pre-vent a repeat of an attack last month by rebels in pick-up trucks.

**Answer: M-O-A-T (in olden times, usually filled with water).**

2) Name the country where Columbia attacked a border rebel base from which attacks were launched on it. It's named for the line of latitude that runs through it.

**Answer: Ecuador (Venezuela ousted Colombian diplomats, but then relented)**

3) Name the country whose town of Longyearbyen, billed as the world's most northern town, just saw the sun again on March 8 for the first time since October.

**Answer: Norway (new global seed vault is not far from Longyearbyen).**

4) On which South Pacific island paradise, the largest in French Polynesia, did French artist Paul Gauguin live when he did the 1892 painting that Los Angeles' Getty Museum just bought?

**Answer: Tahiti (Arii Matamoe painting was privately owned in Switzerland).**

5) Which island, the Western Hemisphere's oldest black republic and poorest country, did First Lady Barbara Bush just visit to encourage its fight against AIDS and poverty?

**Answer: Haiti (it is the oldest black republic in the world).**

6) In an on-line contest to choose the cities to appear on a global edition of Monopoly, from which city was the name of the country dropped after pro-Palestinians protested since some Palestinians want the city as their capital?

**Answer: Jerusalem (Israel took eastern part of Jerusalem in 1967).**

7) Because of increasing world demand for the product, which country has just added 40 more communities to the 370 previously designated ones allowed to produce Champagne?

**Answer: France (land in area costs c. \$1.5 million for 2½ acres, same amount adjacent is just \$3,000).**

8) The price of gold just peaked at \$1,005 an ounce in the weight system in which a pound is the equivalent of 12 ounces, or 5,760 grains. What 4-letter word designates both this weight system and the ancient city on Asia Minor conquered by Odysseus and his men?

**Answer: Troy (weight system dates to that used by the French town Troyes in the 1300s).**

9) The price of gold has risen because of high demand from investors and less output in the country that is the largest producer. Name this country, whose administrative capital is Pretoria and legislative capital is Cape Town.

**Answer: South Africa (March 13, 2008, dollar hit a record low of \$1.56 to the euro).**

10) Name the just christened U.S. Navy ship having on its bow 2 gray bars honoring the Twin Towers since it's made of steel from their ruins and named for the WTC site.

**Answer: (USS) New York (christened at a shipyard in Louisiana and to be commissioned in fall, 2009).**

11) Which state has more telescopes operating than any other, including the world's most powerful, because of its clear skies and dry mountain air that make it ideal for viewing?

**Answer: Arizona (Large Binocular Telescope Observatory in southern Arizona is world's largest).**

12) In which state did the Dept. of the Interior just release hundreds of thousands of gallons of water from the Glen Canyon Dam into the Grand Canyon to help the ecosystem?

**Answer: Arizona (the water came from Lake Powell).**

13) A medic serving in Afghanistan just became the 2nd female since WWII to be awarded a silver star, the U.S.'s 3rd-highest medal for valor. Name either the 2004 Democratic presidential nominee or the current Republican candidate who also have silver stars.

**Answer: John Kerry or John McCain.**

14) What word beginning with *P* designates a dummy pill like those used in a recent study that found people got more relief from the pill if told it cost \$2.50 rather than 10 cents?

**Answer: Placebo (half of people in study were told it cost \$2.50, half told 10 cents).**

15) What does AC mean as used in reference to the work of the scientist for whom the new \$98,000 all-electric car Tesla is named?

**Answer: Alternating current (Serbian-born U.S. scientist Nikola Tesla pioneered in its use).**

16) Identify the Canadian Space Agency 12-foot robot named from a word beginning with *D* for "skillful" that was just sent aboard spaceship *Endeavor* for assembly at the international space station.

**Answer: Dextre (said as *Dexter*, and short for *dexterous*, meaning "skillful").**

### **HISTORICAL EVENTS - March 24-30 (Questions 17-24)**

17) On March 24, 1882, German scientist Robert Koch announced his discovery of the pathogenic germs of which disease sometimes referred to as TB?

**Answer: Tuberculosis.**

18) The patron saint of telephone, telegraph, and postal workers, is honored on March 24. Name this saint, the archangel who told Mary she was to be the Mother of Christ.

**Answer: St. Gabriel.**

19) On March 25, 1964, the British government donated an acre of land for a memorial to President John Kennedy at Runnymede, where which document was agreed to in 1215?

**Answer: Magna Carta.**

20) On March 27, 1964, in which state did an earthquake registering 8.5 on the Richter scale, the highest magnitude ever recorded in North America, kill about 120 people?

**Answer: Alaska.**

21) Name the state whose first settlement was established by Leonard Calvert on March 27, 1634, when he bought 30 acres of land on the St. Mary's River from Indians.

**Answer: Maryland.**

22) Which state is the site of Fort Christina in present-day Wilmington, where the first Swedish immigrants to the New World arrived on March 29, 1638?

**Answer: Delaware.**

23) Which citizens were given the right to vote in presidential elections under the 23rd Amendment, ratified on March 29, 1961?

**Answer: Residents of Washington, D.C.**

24) Which U.S. President did John Hinckley attempt to assassinate on March 30, 1981?

**Answer: Ronald Reagan.**

25) How many days are in the first three months of the year 2008?

**Answer: 91.**

26) What is the price per egg of 1½ dozen eggs priced at \$2.16?

**Answer: 12 cents.**

27) What is the value of  $(8y^2 - 8y)$  when  $y$  is 3?

**Answer: 48.**

28) Expressing the fraction  $7/50$  as  $1.4 \times 10^{-1}$  is expressing it in what form?

**Answer: Scientific notation.**

29) What are the tallest, largest, and oldest creatures on earth, as described by a 94-year-old New York arborist?

**Answer: Trees (there are pine trees 3,00 to 5,000 years old).**

30) What 7-letter word beginning with *L* designates a shallow body of water separated from a larger body by a coral reef?

**Answer: Lagoon.**

31) Based on traveling at a speed of 4,000 mph, approximately how many hours would it take a hypersonic aircraft to travel around the world?

**Answer: 6 hours (at equator, earth has a circumference of 24,900 miles).**

32) When scientists note that burning of fossil fuels and forests has resulted in "a slow drop in the pH of surface waters around the world," what is meant by pH, in that carbon dioxide from the burning is absorbed in water, where it forms carbonic acid?

**Answer: Measure of acidity of the sea (waters have become more acid, threatening sea life).**

33) Identify the style of country music played rapidly on a fiddle, banjo, or mandolin, whose name also designates the flora from which Kentucky takes its nickname.

**Answer: Bluegrass (music; Kentucky is known as the "Bluegrass State").**

34) Identify the stolen Edward Munch masterpiece *The \_\_\_\_\_* showing a figure with mouth agape soon to be back on public view in Oslo. Its title noun rhymes with *dream*.

**Answer: *The Scream*** (stolen and damaged in 2004, now restored, except for a humidity stain in corner)

35) Which President is featured in the new HBO mini-series being co-sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service to promote letter writing since he and wife Abigail shared over 1,100 letters between 1762 and 1801?

**Answer: John Adams.**

36) Complete the title of the 1985 Pulitzer play *Sunday in the Park with \_\_\_\_\_* now in revival on Broadway or give the 1st name of French artist Seurat who inspired it and who shares this name with the famed curious monkey of children's lit.

**Answer: George (spelled *Georges* in the case of Seurat, and *Curious George*).**

37) What does the French word *couture* mean in saying "Helmsley's couture up for sale," alluding to auction of hotel owner Leona Helmsley's property from Chanel and others?

**Answer: Fashion, or clothing** (*haute couture* designates "high fashion," or designer clothing).

38) Name the African American heavyweight boxing champion 1937-1949 featured in HBO's Maya Angelou-narrated documentary subtitled "America's Hero...Betrayed."

**Answer: Joe Louis** (enlisted in Army in WWII, had tax troubles from deductions he took for tickets he bought for servicemen to see his Army boxing exhibitions).

39) Identify the new Fox TV series featuring an immortal New York homicide detective and named for the 1624 Dutch settlement on Manhattan later renamed New York in 1664.

**Answer: New Amsterdam** (Coster-Waldau plays John Amsterdam, who will die only if finds true love)

40) Identify the cities, whose names begin with A and N respectively, between which the 1,100-mile Iditarod sled dog race that just ended has been run annually since 1973.

**Answer: Anchorage and Nome** (Lance Mackey won; it commemorates medical supply run in 1925).

### GIMME A V ! AS IN VICTORY

**Virginia** . . . . . State whose state university was founded by the 3rd U.S. President

**Vassal** . . . . . Person who worked the land for a feudal lord, or landowner, under the feudal system

**Vladimir** . . . . . First name of Russia's former President Putin, now prime minister

**Vermillion** . . . . . Bright vivid red pigment made of mercuric sulfide

**Vie** . . . . . 3-letter word meaning to compete against someone for something, such as a trophy

**Virgin Islands** . . Caribbean islands divided between Britain and the U.S.

**Vulcan** . . . . . Roman god of fire and metalworking, depicted by a huge bronze statue in Birmingham, Alabama, in honor of its steel industry

**Vernacular** . . . . . Language spoken every day by common people of a country or area as opposed to its literary form

**Vascular (system)** System of veins and arteries, within the human body

**V-A-N-E** . . . . . Spelling of *vane* as used to name a device for showing wind direction

**Victorian** . . . . . Having the strict moral standards of the 19th century, as named for the queen who ruled England from 1837 to 1901

**V-chip** . . . . . Device installed on a computer to prevent access to pornography or other objectionable material

**Valhalla** . . . . . Hall where Odin receives souls of slain heroes in Norse mythology

**Variegated** . . . . . Having many different colors, as in a kind of yarn

**V-E-I-L\*** . . . . . Spelling of the 4-letter word designating a *hijab*, a *chador*, or a *burqa*

**Vertex** . . . . . Point at which the sides of an angle intersect

**Vespucci** . . . . . Italian explorer with the 1st name Amerigo for whom America is named

**Velodrome** . . . . . Sports arena with a banked wall for bicycle or motorcycle racing

\*All are Muslim veils: *hijab*, head scarf; *chadra*, large black shawl, and *burqa*, robe covering body, head, and face

