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Middle School Weekly



Emphasizing both News and Academics

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1) After its parliament voted down renewal of the mission, from which ocean did Japan call home its warships that have since 2001 refueled coalition ships in its role as a U.S. ally in the Iraq war?

Answer: Indian Ocean (Pres. Bush wants Japan to reconsider).

2) On August 6, 1945, on which site did WWII pilot Col. Paul War-field Tibbets, who recently died at 92, drop the first atomic bomb?

Answer: Hiroshima (piloting the *Enola Gay*, named for his mother).

3) In which country has Gen. Musharraf suspended the constitution, removed the chief justice, and deployed troops, saying rising Islamic extremism forced the measures? It borders Afghanistan.

Answer: Pakistan (some 700 lawyers have been arrested for protesting).

4) Identify either Britain's former prime minister said to be receiving an advance of \$9 million for his memoir or its female one whose memoir was on the New York Times best-seller list in 1993-1994.

Answer: Tony Blair or Margaret Thatcher (Bill Clinton got \$10M).

5) Identify the former British prime minister whose painting given to President Truman in 1951 is set to be auctioned by Truman's daughter. He and Truman helped end WWII.

Answer: Winston Churchill.

6) The painting Winston Churchill gave to President Truman depicts a Moroccan city with mountains in the background. Identify these African mountains, named for the Titan forced to carry the heavens on his shoulders in Greek myth.

Answer: Atlas Mountains (extending from southwest Morocco to northern Tunisia).

7) Which Mexican state on the Yucatan Peninsula recently had its worst flooding ever and is by name linked with the trademark for a hot sauce made from spicy red peppers?

Answer: Tabasco (week of heavy rain left at least 80% of state drowned in water).

8) Name the country where King Abdullah is trying to establish a huge university near the port of Jidda on the Red Sea to help it catch up with the West in science and technology despite obstacles of Islamic censoring and ban on women in classrooms with men.

Answer: Saudi Arabia (females enter class via separate doors and stay behind partitions for lectures).

9) When Pres. Nicolas Sarkozy recently addressed Congress, he was following the tradition set by which of his countrymen who was the 1st foreign dignitary to address it, in 1824, and whom Thomas Jefferson entertained in the Rotunda of the University of Virginia?

Answer: Marquis de Lafayette.

10) Name either the world's top oil producing country or the palace where its king recently visited Queen Elizabeth II for what was the first such state visit in 2 decades.

Answer: Saudi Arabia or Buckingham Palace (Saudi king is King Abdullah).

11) Which federal group is the subject of Jeffrey Toobin's 2007 work *The Nine*?

Answer: Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court.

12) Name the city whose National Civil Rights Museum at the site where MLK Jr. was shot is drawing criticism for having a governing board too white and too tied to big business.

Answer: Memphis, Tennessee (MLK Jr. was assassinated there in 1968).

13) The U.S. Supreme Court just agreed to review the \$2.5 billion in damages charged to Exxon for its huge 1989 Valdez oil spill into a water passage off Alaska known by which geographic term also designating that which is measured in decibels?

Answer: Sound (specifically, Prince William Sound).

14) Identify the huge Florida freshwater lake near Orlando whose aging earthen dike around it has recently been found to need urgent repairs.

Answer: Lake Okeechobee (it's the 2nd largest freshwater lake in contiguous U.S.).

15) The ghost town of Terlingua, Texas, was recently the site of a reunion of some 400 members of Mexican families who from 1903 to 1946 worked in mines there excavating quicksilver, or specifically, which poisonous element so named for its color?

Answer: Mercury (Terlingua likely named for 3 tongues (*lingua*) used there: Indian, Spanish, English).

16) At which site did Peggy Whitson and Pamela Melroy just become the first 2 women to work there together as leaders, one as chief and the other as mission commander?

Answer: International Space Station (Whitson is the station chief, and Melroy is the *Discovery* mission commander).

HISTORICAL EVENTS - November 19-25 (Questions 17-24)

17) Name the national cemetery dedicated on November 19, 1863, by Abraham Lincoln.

Answer: Gettysburg National Cemetery.

18) In which state did Franklin Roosevelt lay the cornerstone for the first presidential library, his own, at Hyde Park on November 19, 1939?

Answer: New York.

19) Aboard which ship was Peregrine White born on November 20, 1620, in Massachusetts Bay? He was the first child born of English parents in the New England colonies.

Answer: *Mayflower* (Oceanus Hopkins, also a boy, was born during the voyage).

20) On November 20, 1789, when New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights, how many amendments did they ratify?

Answer: 10.

21) Which scientist announced he had invented a "talking machine" on November 21, 1877, in Menlo Park, New Jersey?

Answer: Thomas Edison.

22) On November 21, 1789, which state became the 12th to ratify the U.S. Constitution? It was the birthplace of Virginia Dare, the first English child to be born in America.

Answer: North Carolina (she was born on its Roanoke Island on 8/18/1587)

23) In which city was President John Kennedy killed by Lee Harvey Oswald in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963?

Answer: Dallas.

24) On November 24, 1874, Joseph Glidden was granted a patent for the fencing material that made possible the development of the Great Plains for farming. Name this material.

Answer: Barbed wire.

25) What is the simple rate of interest if Paula borrowed \$600 for 2 years and repaid \$696 at the end of the 2 years?

Answer: 8%.

26) Given that the measures of the 3 largest interior angles of a quadrilateral comprise $\frac{7}{8}$ of its total angle measure, then what is the measure of the smallest angle of the quadrilateral?

Answer: 45° .

27) An equation such as $xy = 600$ where y decreases as x increases is an example of which type of variation between values?

Answer: Inverse.

28) What is the cube root of 0.125?

Answer: 0.5.

29) Identify the mollusk with a 4-letter name dredged from Icelandic waters and said to be the world's longest-lived animal, at 400+ years old, based on growth lines on its shell.

Answer: Clam (its name is used figuratively for a close-mouthed person).

30) What besides plant-based foods does a lacto-vegetarian eat?

Answer: Milk and milk products.

31) What prefix for "bone" is used with *path* to designate a physician with a D.O. degree whose practice is based on the idea that musculoskeletal problems cause other disorders?

Answer: Osteopath (like other physicians, they're licensed by the state).

32) Which word from the Greek for "new" designates the rare, inert gaseous element that was newly discovered in 1898 and whose atomic number is 10?

Answer: Neon.

33) Identify the internationally recognized voice radio call for help based on the French for "help me" and often linked with sinking ships. It includes the name of a month.

Answer: May day (based on the French *m'aidez*, meaning "help me.")

34) Translate the French line "Bienvenue à la Maison-Blanche" that President Bush used to toast France's president, Nicolas Sarkozy, at a dinner in his honor at the White House.

Answer: Welcome to the White House.

35) What word beginning with *I* designates the kind of comedy or drama that actors make up on the spot from audience suggestions and without benefit of a prepared script?

Answer: Improv (or improvisation).

36) What word designates decorative handwriting using special pens such as that done in gold outline on thin black lines in the copy of the Koran believed to be the oldest?

Answer: Calligraphy (copy of Koran, recently sold at auction, dates to 1203).

37) A new documentary features interviews with 10 men who made trips to which space site between 1968 and 1972, including Buzz Aldrin, who was the 2nd to set foot there?

Answer: The moon (Neil Armstrong, 1st on moon, does not appear in film *In the Shadow of the Moon*).

38) Identify the scientist who in Mary Shelley's 1818 novel created the monster now known by his name and featured in a new off-Broadway musical trying to be true to the book.

Answer: Victor Frankenstein (book is *Frankenstein; or the Modern Prometheus*; play, *Frankenstein*).

39) The recently released Forbes.com annual list of Top-Earning Dead Celebrities again has which Rock 'N Roll star known as "the King" at its top?

Answer: Elvis Presley (Beatle John Lennon was 2nd; cartoonist Charles Schulz, 3rd).

40) The last survivor of the 12 U.S. men who won track and field gold medals in the 1936 Olympics just died at 92. Name the African American who won 4 of these.

Answer: Jesse Owens (who was also African American, along with 4 others of the 12).

GREATS

NC/TN States whose separating boundary is formed by the Great Smoky Mts.

Great Salt Lake . . . Largest lake in the western U.S. and the saltiest since its waters evaporate rather than drain out via streams

Australia Country, or continent, having off its northeast coast the Great Barrier Reef, extending about 1,250 miles along its Pacific Coast

Great-aunt Relationship of your mother's sister to you

Great Britain Island comprising England, Scotland, and Wales

Great Plains North America's huge dry grassland extending from Montana and North Dakota to Texas

Marmaduke Great Dane featured in a one-panel comic strip

Humpty Dumpty . . Nursery rhyme character who "had a great fall"

Oaks Trees named in the saying "Great _____ from little acorns grow"

Strokes Word completing Ben Franklin's lines: "Little _____/ Fell great oaks"

Lake Superior Greatest of the Great Lakes, covering 31,700 square miles

Great Wall of China . . . 4,000-mile-long hand-built structure the Ming dynasty built in the 1400s to keep out invaders

G-R-A-T-E Spelling of the homonym for the *great* meaning "large"

Alexander the Great . . . Macedonian king who conquered most of western Asia in 300s B.C.

Rift* 4-letter word for a break or opening used to name Africa's steep-walled Great _____ Valley caused by shifts in Earth's tectonic plates

Great Basin Large desert region, or depression, centered in Nevada so named because all its streams drain inside the area, making it a kind of sink

Great Divide** . . . The Great _____ designating the boundary in between U.S. waters flowing into the Pacific and into the Atlantic**

Great Depression . . The Great _____ designating the economic period that began with Black Thursday, October 29, 1929, when the stock market crashed

***In some parts the walls rise 6,600 ft. **Also called the Continental Divide**

