THE HINDU IN SCHOOL
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878
30-MINUTE ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN - 32
CONTACT US school@thehindu.co.in

Fun facts

1. A meteor explosion went undetected!

On December 18, 2018, a space rock entered Earth's atmosphere and exploded over the Bering Sea with the force of roughly 10 atomic bombs, but went undetected. This was said to be largely because the meteor exploded in a remote location. Then how do we know about it? NASA's Terra satellite and Japan's Himawari satellite spotted it. The fireball blast was the second most powerful explosion of the 21st Century.

Q. Find out about the first fireball explosion of this Century.

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2. The smallest bone in the body.

Our ear has three sections – outer, middle and inner ear. Stapes in the middle ear is the smallest bone in the human body. A stirrup-shaped bone, it transmits sound vibrations from the incus, another tiny bone in the middle ear, to the oval window, a membrane covering the entrance to the cochlea in the inner ear.

Q: What is the other name for the ear drum?

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Answers
1. The 2013 explosion over Russia's Chelyabinsk produced a shock wave that injured over a thousand people.
2. Tympanic membrane

Hello there...

- **I am a Komodo dragon,** the biggest and heaviest lizard on Earth. I am found only on Indonesia's Lesser Sunda Islands.
- I have a long tail, rows of 60 serrated teeth and long, deeply forked tongue.
- I am not picky about food. I eat anything and everything – from deer, water buffalo, dead animals to even young komodo dragons.
- I have a unique way of killing my prey. I launch a surprise attack on a prey that passes by and knock it down using my huge feet. Then use my sharp teeth to tear it down. Even if the prey escapes at this stage, it will die soon of blood poisoning because my saliva contains 50 strains of bacteria. Using my strong sense of smell, I trace down the dead animal and have a hearty meal.

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: REUTERS

- **I am an axolotl,** a type of salamander, found only in the lake of Xochimilco in Mexico.
- I am known for my rare trait of neoteny, which means I retain larval features throughout life. I have feathery external gills fanning out from my head. I can also regenerate lost body parts.
- As a bottom feeder, I do not chew my food, but simply suck them in, sometimes along with gravels. The gravels do come in handy to grind my food. My diet consists of mollusks, worms, insect larvae, crustaceans, and some fish.
- I am classified as a critically endangered species. Pet trade, urbanisation and invasive species are the main threats.

Find out: Which is the largest coral reef system in the world?

_____

Answer: The Great Barrier Reef

War of words

Unlike schools in the U.S., most schools in India make it compulsory for students to wear uniforms. But there are many arguments and counter arguments on this. Put on your thinking caps and get ready to argue:

Should wearing school uniforms be compulsory for students?

Yes	No
_____	_____
_____	_____

Unscramble...

...to discover marine animals

AP

1. HPNLOID _____
2. HALEW _____
3. KRHAS _____
4. RULSAW _____
5. LESA _____

Answers: 1. Dolphin, 2. Whale, 3. Shark, 4. Walrus, 5. Seal

Get creative, fill in the speech bubbles, scan your entry and send it to schoolgthehindu.co.in with your details. The subjectline must be join the conversation.

Heritage trail

Read the clues and guess the UNESCO World Heritage Site

1. At 5,895 metres, it is the highest point in Africa and stands in this national park.
2. Located in the east African country of Tanzania, the majestic snowcapped peak surveys the savannah grassland down below.
3. The rainforest at its base is home to an impressive but endangered doversity of wildlife ranging from colobus monkeys, blue monkeys, elephant and giraffe, to water buffalo and antelope.
4. The national park, established in 1973, spreads over 75, 575 hectares, protecting the largest freestanding volcanic mass in the world.
5. The volcanic mass has three cones – Mawenzi and Shira which are extinct, the third being the highest peak Kibo, which is dormant at the moment.
6. The park was declared a World Heritage Site in 1987 because of its exceptional natural beauty, and its rare endangered plants and animals.

FILE PHOTO

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Answer: Kilimanjaro National Park

The W Corner

WHAT is the peloton?

When watching cycling races, you might have encountered the word "peloton". Are you aware of what the peloton in road cycling means? Do you think you can guess the answer? Fill in the space provided and check it with the answer.

_____
_____
_____

Answer: In a road bicycle race, the peloton refers to the main group of riders who are almost packed together as they are cycling. The word is from French, originally meaning "ball, heap, platoon" and is used here since it best expresses the concentrated grouping of the pack. The cyclists often ride in a peloton as the riders in the group will be able to save energy by riding close to, or behind, other riders.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Word of the day

Minimalism

Minimalism was an art movement that began in the U.S. in the mid-20th Century. As the self-explanatory word suggests, the art created during the time focussed on keeping the depiction and creation to a bare minimum. This was evident in not just visual arts such as painting, sculpture, photography, films, etc. it was visible in music too. Gradually, the idea of minimalism spread to one's lifestyle. In the last decade or so, many people across the world have begun embracing minimalism as a way of life, and are living a simple life only with things they absolutely need. It is believed that the resultant clutter-free life can have positive impact on not just human well-being but also on the planet, since it is seen as a sustainable way of living.

Example: Minimalism can help us appreciate what we really value in life.

ACTIVITY

Use the word of the day in a sentence of your own.

_____
_____

Journal Writing

Dear Diary

It's been almost two months since schools were shut...

_____
_____
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_____

Imagine and write. You may even type a note and mail it to us at **school@thehindu.co.in.** We will select a few for publication when we resume

Today's Diary Pick

Dear Diary,

I jumped out of my bed with enthusiasm. My brother was still sleeping. He was only a month old and didn't know that we were going on our first road trip to Tiruvananthapuram. I was five years old. My father parked his truck out and attached a trailer. My mother was busy preparing snacks and pakode. I like pakode, especially in the rainy season. We packed our snacks and our backpacks. As we drove past the rainforests, I was amazed at how green and dark the trees were. We saw the picturesque "Dudhsagar Falls". After three days we reached our destination. We enjoyed the beauty of the place. Rainbows, houseboats, backwaters... it was a lovely 10-day break.

Sanskar Anand, Class VII,
D.A.V Public School, Jehanbad (Bihar)

Dear Diary,

It was my first road trip. Our family visited our native place. It was a 12-hour journey. We packed a lot of dry snacks. We began our journey at 4 am. As it was his practice, my father initially played devotional songs. We took breaks for breakfast, lunch and tea. My brother and I read books, played games, etc. My mom recalled her childhood in our native place. It was really exciting for us to listen and imagine life in a village where even electricity supply for 24 hours was a miracle.When we reached our destination, my grandparents welcomed us with lots of love. The greenery around me stole my heart. It was an amazing and unforgettable trip.

Hema Kaushik Grade VII,
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Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., and Printed by D. Rajkumar at Plot B-6 & B-7, CMDA Industrial Complex, Maraimalai Nagar, Chengleput Taluk, Kancheepuram Dist., Pin: 603209. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
Regd. TN/ARD/17/2012-2014 • RNI No. 1001/1957 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 143 • No. 116