



Fun facts

1. Hardy tardigrades

Tardigrades, also known as water bears, are microscopic, usually about 0.5 mm long. These water-dwelling, eight-legged micro-animals can survive extreme heat and cold, even radiation in space. They are often found on mosses and lichen. Did you know when short on water they can dry out for years and revive without any damage when reintroduced to water?

Q: There are over _____ known species of tardigrades.

2. Conspicuous by its absence

It is one of the common letters in English but does not figure even once when you write numbers 1 to 999 in words, of course without the connecting word. Clue: It's the first letter of the alphabet. Yes, it's the letter 'a' which figures for the first time in the word "Thousand."

Q: The English alphabet consisted of 27 letters till 1835. What was the 27th letter?

Answer: 1. 'a'
2. It was ampersand.

Country hopping

These four images are representative of a south-east Asian island nation. Name it.

Hint:

1. The largest island nation in the world, it is famed for its batik tradition.
2. Borobudur, the 9th-Century Buddhist temple situated in central Java is the largest Buddhist temple in the world.
3. Krakatoa is just one of the several volcanoes in this highly seismic region, which is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire.
4. The country's national animal is the Komodo dragon.



Answer: Indonesia

PHOTOS: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, AFP

Puzzling math

Can you guess how many 9s are there between 1 and 100?



Answer: 20

Picture story

Come up with a witty caption for this photo



A couple of cuddly clouded leopard cubs play in their enclosure at a zoo in France. Can you sum up the picture in a few words? Be creative!

Native connect

Match the following endemic species to the region they are native to

1. The **marine iguana** is the only modern iguana that can forage in the sea. It sneezes frequently to expel salt from the glands near its nose. Marine iguanas feed mainly on green algae.
2. The **white oryx** is an antelope that became extinct in the wild in the early 1970s. It was reintroduced in 1980. It has a white coat and brown legs. Both male and female oryxes have long, straight horns.
3. The **wombat** is a muscular quadrupedal marsupial, with a backward pouch. It digs extensive burrows with its rodent-like teeth and claws. A wombat's scat is cubic-shaped.
4. The **kakapo** is a flightless nocturnal parrot. Kakapos freeze when startled. They can store large amounts of energy as body fat.
5. The **giraffe weevil** has an enormously long neck, which it uses to build its nest. It also has a unique red shell called elytra, covering its hind legs.

- A. New Zealand
- B. Australia
- C. The Galapagos Islands
- D. Madagascar
- E. The Arabian Peninsula

Answers: 1. C, 2. E, 3. B, 4. A, 5. D

High five

A quiz on India, its people, culture and lots more

1. Which Union Territory was merged with Daman and Diu in January 2020?
2. Which city was earlier called Pataliputra?
3. The country's first national park is named after a hunter-turned-conservationist. Who is it?
4. On which lake did the country's first floating post office come up?
5. Which footballer is referred to as 'The Sikkimese Sniper'?

- a. Dal Lake.
- b. Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- c. Bhaichung Bhutia.
- d. Patna.
- e. Jim Corbett.



Answers: 1. b, 2. d, 3. c, 4. a, 5. c

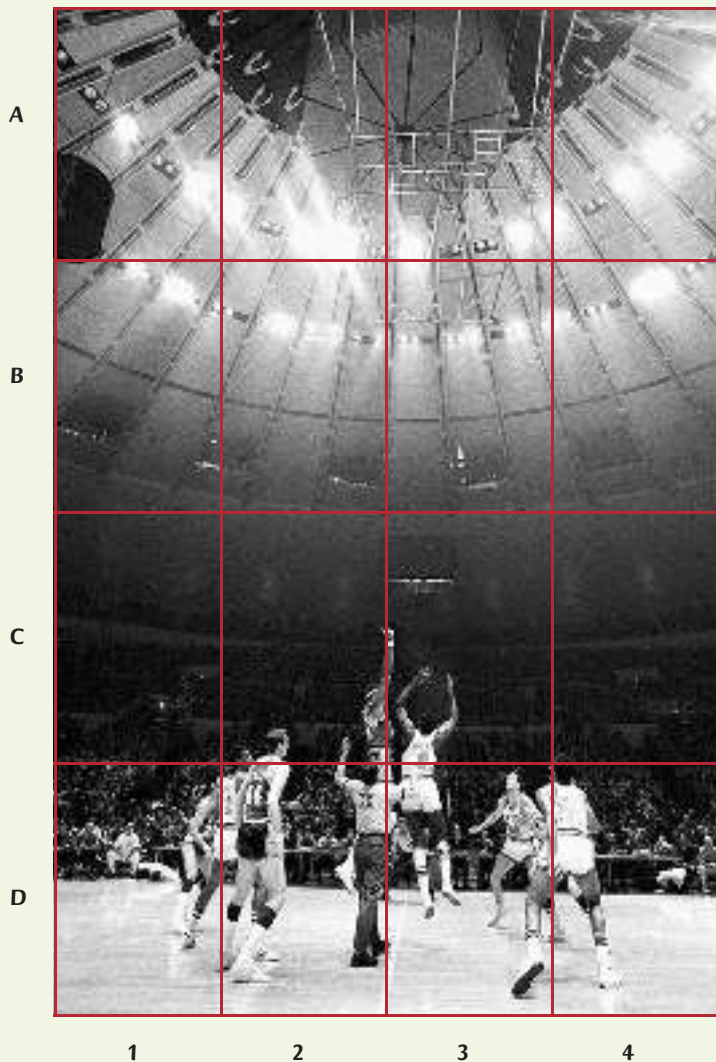
The W Corner

WHERE is the ball that Los Angeles Lakers and New York Knicks tipped off with in their Game 7 of the NBA Finals in 1970?

The grid lines are only to help you and parts of the shuttlecock might be in more than one box too! Find that one box where the shuttlecock is or find them all if you think it is in more than one box...

Answer: _____

Answer: According to the grid lines, the shuttlecock can be found in C3.



PHOTOS: LARRY C. MORRIS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Journal Writing

Dear Diary

I think the best piece of advice I ever received was...

Use your imagination and write a note in 150 words. Mail it to school@thehindu.co.in with the subject line: Journal Writing. The best pieces will be published on Page 3 in the Inbox column from Monday to Friday.

Word of the day

Relegation

The word relegation refers to the action of assigning someone or something to an inferior rank or position. It is popularly used in sports, where it corresponds to the transfer of a sports team or player to a lower division of the league.

In use from the 1580s, the word has seen a steady increase in usage over time. In fact, the usage has multiplied manifold since the 1800s and has peaked since the second half of the 20th Century – probably due to its association with sports.

The root word of relegation is *relegare*, which comes from the Latin word *relegatus* or *relegare*. The word *relegare* can be broken down into *re* for "back" and *legare* for "send with a commission". Initially used to mean "to banish or to send into exile", the meaning "to place in a position of inferiority" was recorded from 1790.

Usage: English Premier League clubs that are near the bottom of the points table are against relegation and promotion for the next season if the current campaign cannot be completed.

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