THE HINDU IN SCHOOL
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878
30-MINUTE ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN - 50
CONTACT US school@thehindu.co.in

Fun facts

1. Flightless parrot?

Yes, the Kakapo is the only parrot species in the world that cannot fly. Endemic to New Zealand, it has bright yellow-green plumage with a prominent facial disc of soft feathers. Weighing between 4 and 9 pounds, it is the world's heaviest parrot. It has a strong, sweet smell which enables its predators to easily locate it.

Q: The Kakapo is also called _____.

2. Surviving against odds

Rhinos are majestic mammals but they are being poached for their horns which are used in traditional medicine. A rhino's horn is not made of bone but of a protein called keratin which is found in our hair and nails. Did you know that a rhino's horn if trimmed can grow back? However, trade in rhino horn is illegal. Today, less than 30,000 rhinos are left in the world of which 70% live in South Africa.

Q: Where are the greater one-horned rhinos found in India?

_____

Answers
1. Owl parrot
2. In Assam's Kaziranga National Park

War of words

Strike up a debate on the given topic

Everyday, thousands of trees are uprooted, forest lands cleared to make room for sprawling cities and infrastructure. Last year, 2,100 trees were cut down in Aarey forest in Mumbai to build a metro car shed. So put on your thinking cap and get ready to argue on:

Should there be stricter laws against cutting trees in India?

Yes	No
_____	_____
_____	_____

Word of the day

Insidious

The word insidious is an adjective used to describe something or someone that acts gradually, subtly and stealthily causing harm. It also describes something that operates in a seemingly harmless way, but actually with grave cumulative effect.

Origin of the word: Insidious has its origin in the Latin word *insidiosus* meaning cunning or deceitful, which in turn comes from the word insidiae, which means to sit in waiting for an ambush.

Used in a sentence: Fatty liver is an insidious disease and presents with vague symptoms.

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

_____

_____

Earth watch

Match the description with the right word

K.V.S. Giri

1. A sudden and short spell of heavy rainfall.	a. Radioactive.
2. Creatives active at night.	b. Arid.
3. Land that is dry and has very little water.	c. Cloudburst.
4. A substance used to remove useless plants / weeds.	d. Nocturnal.
5. Anything that emits radiation.	e. Herbicide.

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

Word tour

This week, we focus on **Switzerland**. Here are some facts

- Switzerland is a landlocked country in Central Europe. The capital is Bern and the largest city is Zürich. Switzerland is a Federal republic. Simonetta Sommaruga is the President.
- The headquarters of the United Nations and CERN, the world's largest particle physics laboratory, are in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Switzerland is a mountainous country. It encompasses parts of the Alps that run through Europe.
- The country is also famous for cheese, chocolates and watches.
- Some of the most popular sports in Switzerland are skiing and snowboarding.

Choose the correct answer:

1. Name the children's book that is set in the idyllic rural landscape of Switzerland and tells the story of a little girl who lives with her grandfather.

A. Heidi
B. Matilda
C. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

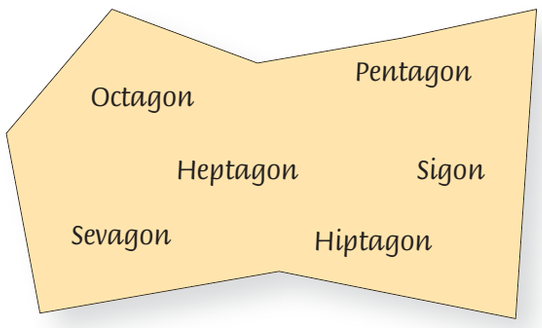
2. Switzerland is the birthplace of this humanitarian organisation. Name it.

A. Greenpeace International
B. Red Cross
C. Amnesty International

Answers: 1. A, 2. B

Fun with Shapes

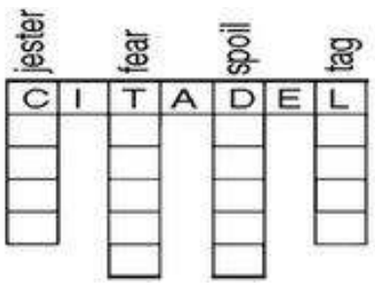
From the words given below, circle the one which means a 'seven-sided polygon'



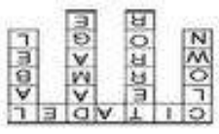
Answer: Heptagon

Drop down

In the squares going down, fill in the answers to the clues provided



Answer:



(Content provided by Amrita Bharati)

Journal Writing

Dear Diary

My strongest emotion at the moment is ... because....

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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.

The W Corner

WHAT are zing bails?

When watching cricket these days, you would have seen that the bails light up when the ball hits the stumps. Are you aware what these zing bails are? Do you think you can guess the answer? Fill in the space provided and check it with the answer.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

PHOTO: AFP

Answer: Zing bails are a recent technological innovation in cricket that allows the umpires – both on field and the third umpire – to make better judgements regarding certain decisions. The LED or zing bails are smart bails that are designed in such a way that they light up when the bails have been dislodged from the stumps. This way, the exact moment when the dislodge process has been completed can be easily identified, allowing umpires to make correct decisions.