

Name _____
Monday, June 13



Olympic Flowers

By Jody Williams

Flowers are given to winners at the Olympics. In 2002, the flowers were in a bobsled. Vonetta Flowers was on the bobsled team. They won a gold medal at the 2002 Olympics. Vonetta Flowers was the first African American to win a medal at the Winter Olympics.



She was first in her family to go to college. Vonetta ran track. Track was her favorite sport. She dreamed of running in the Summer Olympics. She tried but did not make it. Her husband wanted them both to try out for the bobsled team. He did not make it. She did. He was her coach.

Vonetta wrote a book. She wrote it after the 2002 Olympics. The book is called *Running on Ice*. In 2006, Vonetta went to the Olympics again. That year her team came in sixth. Vonetta has won many awards in her sport. She has also won awards for the kind of person she is. She tries to be the best she can be. She also makes others want to be their best. About her win, she said that she hoped it would help other African American boys and girls try winter sports.

Olympic Flowers

Questions

- _____ 1. Vonetta Flowers was a part of what team?
 - A. the bobsled team
 - B. the football team
 - C. the ski team
 - D. the hockey team

2. Vonetta Flowers was the first _____ to win a medal at the Winter Olympics.

3. What was Vonetta Flowers first in her family to do?

- _____ 4. Vonetta Flowers' favorite sport is track.
 - A. false
 - B. true

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Tuesday, June 14



Our Country's Flag

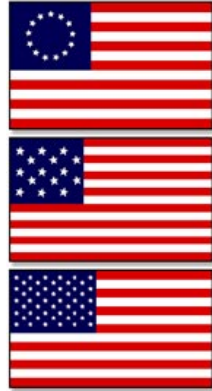
By Phyllis Naegeli

We call our flag "Old Glory," "The Stars and Stripes," and "The Red, White, and Blue." We carry it in parades. The *Pledge of Allegiance* is recited while we face our flag. Our flag is flown at public buildings. It is even on the moon! How did we get our flag? Why do we need one?

Many years ago, America was a British colony. We flew the British flag. We were loyal to the king. Then things changed. America wanted to be a new country. And, a new country needs its own flag.

There's a story that says Betsy Ross made the first flag. It seems George Washington thought it was important for the soldiers as they fought for freedom from England. So, George came to Betsy and showed her what he wanted. And Betsy made a flag. We're not sure that this story is true. Betsy Ross told her grandson it was. But there is no proof. Still, it is a good story. Maybe it is true.

We do know that there were many flags in the colonies. Some were red, white, and blue. Some were other colors. When the United States became a new country, it was time for a flag. In 1777, that's what happened. Congress decided the flag would have thirteen red and white stripes. It would have thirteen white stars on a blue background. But, they weren't specific about what the flag should look like. People made flags with stripes going up and down. Other people made flags with the stripes in the corner.



Stars were sewn in circles and squares. For years, many different flags with stars and stripes were used.

Then in 1812, England attacked America. The War of 1812 had begun. The British soldiers marched to the White House. They burned it down. During one battle, a fort was bombed. All night long the British attacked. Francis Scott Key watched the battle. He saw the flag flying over the fort. He hoped it would not come down. In the morning, he saw the flag still flying. He was so excited that he wrote a poem. It became our national anthem - *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

In 1818, Congress decided that we needed one flag. They said it would have thirteen red and white stripes. The stripes would go across the flag. In the upper corner would be a blue box with one white star for each state. When a new state was added, the flag would have a new star added. As the country grew, the flag changed many times. Today, we have fifty stars on our flag.

It is important to respect our flag. It should never touch the ground. It should be lit when flown at night. It should be hung properly. Public Law 829, "The Flag Code," tells all the ways to respect the flag.

On June 14, we celebrate Flag Day. The first Flag Day was held in 1877. This was when the flag was 100 years old! Today, our flag continues to be an important symbol of freedom.

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Our Country's Flag

Questions

1. Who told her grandson that she made the first flag?

_____ 2. How many stripes did Congress say the flag should have?

- A. none
- B. fifteen
- C. thirteen
- D. fifty

_____ 3. In 1777, Congress decided exactly what the flag should look like.

- A. false
- B. true

_____ 4. The national anthem was written during which war?

- A. the Civil War
- B. the War of 1812
- C. the French and Indian War
- D. the American Revolution

_____ 5. Where can we find the rules for the flag?

- A. in Public Law 829
- B. in the IRS code
- C. in the Bill of Rights
- D. in the Constitution

6. What do the stars on the flag represent?

_____ 7. The flag was ten years old on the first Flag Day.

- A. true
- B. false

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Hooray for Helen Keller!

By Erin Horner

Helen Keller was a great woman. She could not hear or see, but that did not stop her from doing many things. Helen was born on June 27, 1880. She was a healthy baby. Then she became sick. She had a very high fever. Helen almost died. She got better, but she was not the same. Helen's fever left her blind and deaf. This was hard for Helen and her family. She couldn't speak to her family. She didn't know what people were saying or doing. Helen's parents found a teacher for her. The teacher's name was Anne, or Annie, Sullivan. Anne moved in with the Kellers. Anne taught Helen by spelling words onto her hands. Since she couldn't hear or see, Helen learned by touch. Anne also helped Helen learn to speak and write and read Braille. Helen was very bright. When she was old enough, she went to college. Anne went with her. Whenever a teacher was teaching, Anne would spell all of his instructions into Helen's hands. Helen became famous. People all over the world wanted to meet her. She wrote books about her life. She traveled and gave speeches, too. She met many famous people. Helen Keller died on June 1, 1968. Her life inspired people. She was living proof that anything is possible. Hooray for Helen Keller!



Hooray for Helen Keller!

Questions

1. How did Helen Keller learn?

_____ 2. Which of the following things happened first?

- A. Helen wrote books.
- B. She learned how to read Braille.
- C. A fever left Helen blind and deaf.
- D. Helen went to college.

_____ 3. What can the reader infer after reading this passage?

- A. Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan spent a lot of time together.
- B. Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan liked to read books.
- C. College was a lot of fun.
- D. It is hard to be a teacher.

_____ 4. Choose the best title:

- A. Helen's Great Life
- B. How to Meet Famous People
- C. Can You Read Braille?
- D. A Nice Teacher Named Anne

Name _____
Wednesday, June 15



Riders in Red

By Mary Lynn Bushong

Flags flutter. Red coats rush by.
Dark horses race past you. A
crowd cheers, and music plays. It
is the Mounties' Musical Ride!

The Musical Ride is fun to watch.
The Mounties work hard to get it
right.

Mounties do not always ride
around. They do not always wear
red coats. They have a bigger job to do.

The Mounties were started in 1873. Prime Minister
Macdonald heard about bad men in the West. The men
were selfish. They wanted to make money. They did not
care who they hurt to do that. They were hurting the First
Nations.

Police were needed. The North-West Mounted Police were
formed. They went after the bad men and stopped them.

The Mounties rode horses. The horses helped them move
fast. Canada is a big land. The Mounties needed the horses.
That way, they could help more people.

Soon, trains went West. Men rode on the trains. Mothers
and children went West. They hoped for new lives.

Many people planned to be farmers. The Mounties helped
them find their land. They helped them know what to plant.



The Mounties helped keep the peace. Peace for the First
Nations. Peace for the settlers.

The Métis [MAY-tee] were unhappy. Too many settlers
were moving close to them. They thought their land would
be taken away.

The Mounties were sent in. They were to try to make
peace. They were too late. There were too few Mounties.
There were too many Métis.

The Mounties had to leave. They waited for help to come.
They were able to stop the fighting then.

More and more people moved to the Northwest. They went
for free land. They went for new lives. The Mounties were
there to help them all.

The Northwest had a lot of land. Some was good for farms.
Some was good for ranches. Some was good for forests.
Some was good for mining.

In the Yukon, there was gold. At first, it was just a little.
Then in 1896, more gold was found. It was a lot of gold!

People heard about it. They came to the Yukon. They came
from around the world. They all wanted to get rich.

The Mounties had a problem. Too many people were
coming. Some had no food or tools. A new rule was made.
People had to bring enough food to last for one year. If they
did not, they could not go into the Yukon. The Mounties
kept many men from starving.

The name for the Mounties changed two times. They
became the Royal North-west Mounted Police in 1904. A
few years later it was changed again. It became the Royal
Canadian Mounted Police.

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The Mounties still work to keep Canada safe. They are in the Arctic. They are in the mountains. They are in the Maritimes.

They have more than horses now. They have cars, trucks, boats, and planes. The Mounties help make Canada great!

Riders in Red

Questions

_____ 1. A musical ride is done by:

- A. Mounties
- B. A parade
- C. A fair
- D. A circus

_____ 2. Mounties wear black coats.

- A. False
- B. True

_____ 3. The Mounties were started in 1867.

- A. False
- B. True

_____ 4. What helped the Mounties move around faster?

- A. Cars
- B. Horses
- C. Planes
- D. Trains

_____ 5. The Mounties were the best helpers for settlers.

- A. False
- B. True

_____ 6. What was found in the Yukon?

- A. Silver
- B. Gold
- C. Oil
- D. Copper

_____ 7. What are Mounties called today?

- A. Royal North-West Mounted Police
- B. North-West Mounted Police
- C. Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- D. Royal Canadian North-West Mounted Police

_____ 8. The Mounties are still needed today.

- A. True
- B. False

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Thursday, June 16



Grandpa's Farm

By Mary L. Bushong

Jim opened his eyes and was startled for a moment. This was not his bedroom! Then he remembered. His family had arrived at his grandparents' home during the night. He bounced out of bed and looked out the upstairs window which looked out over the sun-warmed farm yard. Jim loved being on his grandparents' farm. He wished they could be here more often. Then he remembered the reason for the visit. Grandpa Ruger was sick.

Grandma gave Jim a big hug when he went downstairs for breakfast. "I'm so glad you were able to come and visit us," she said. "We have missed you. Sit down while I get you a bite to eat."

Grandpa was already up and working outside in the equipment shed when Jim stepped outside. He followed the sounds of clinking and clanking to where the older man worked on one of the machines.

"Good morning, Grandpa!" said Jim.

"Hello yourself!" said Grandpa as he reached out to shake Jim's hand. "It's good to see you. Is everyone else up?"



Jim shook his head. "I think Mom and Dad are still asleep."

"That's understandable. It's a long drive to make in one day," said Grandpa.

Jim looked at his grandfather. Dad must be wrong. Grandpa didn't look or act sick. That thought made him feel a little better. He stared back in the darkened corner of the building. "Is that a tractor back there?" he pointed.

Grandpa smiled. "Yes it is. My father bought it when he began farming this place, in 1928. I was about your age when he died. My four brothers and I farmed in his place for years afterward to keep the family together. They were tough years but good. That is only partly why this place is special to me. Let me show you something."

Grandpa led the way from the equipment shed to the large barn which stood nearby. "Your father grew up here. When he was about your age, he thought it would be fun to swing from one side of the hay mow to the other."

"What happened?" asked Jim.

"The rope wasn't quite long enough and he couldn't quite reach the other side. He ended up getting stuck in the middle, shouting for help," laughed Grandpa.

Jim laughed. He could almost see the scene in his mind's eye as he looked toward the roof. Grandpa took a few minutes to tell him other stories and time raced by. Jim was startled when he heard his father laugh behind them.

"I had forgotten all about that pig story," said Dad with a big smile. He held out his hand to shake his father's. "Good to see you, Dad. Have you been filling Jim's mind with all the silly things I did as a boy?"

"Of course," said Grandpa with a grin. "Isn't that the duty

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of every grandparent?"

They all laughed together.

Later that day, Jim and his Dad were sitting on the front porch, enjoying a cool drink. Jim remarked that Grandpa did not look sick. If he was sick, why was he working?

"No, he doesn't look like it," said Dad. "But you must remember that your Grandfather has known nothing but work his whole life. He's not happy doing nothing. He would even find little things to do on Father's Day when all the other dads were enjoying themselves. I learned how to work hard from him, but he also allowed me to learn to enjoy relaxing. He never had that opportunity. I used to get tired of hearing him say, 'let's get back to work, a farm doesn't run itself,' but we would talk about all kinds of things while we worked together."

"I guess he was a pretty good dad then?" asked Jim.

Dad looked over at Jim and smiled. "He is a good dad. I learned a lot from him and wanted you to get to know him a little better while you still could. That's what is making this Father's Day so special. It might be our last chance to celebrate with him." Dad drank the last of his lemonade. Then he winked at Jim. "Hurry up. We've got work to do. A farm doesn't run itself!"

Grandpa's Farm

Questions

1. Why was Jim disoriented when he woke up in his grandparent's house?

2. What kinds of things do you suppose Grandma Ruger would have made for breakfast?

- _____ 3. Which of these is not true? Jim's father was playing in the barn and he

- A. wanted to swing from one mow to the other
- B. got stuck in the middle
- C. decided to swing on a rope
- D. fell and broke his leg

- _____ 4. Jim's Dad heard Grandpa telling Jim stories about

- A. farming in 1928
- B. Jim's Dad when he was young
- C. the farm dog
- D. what Grandpa did as a boy

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5. What were the two reasons for Jim's family to visit his grandparents?

_____ 6. Why did Grandpa tell Jim stories about his Dad?

- A. to make his father look silly
- B. so they could laugh at Jim's Dad
- C. so Jim would understand his father better
- D. to share good memories that Jim's Dad might have forgotten
- E. both (c) and (d)

7. Why do you think Jim's Dad used his father's saying, "A farm doesn't run itself," when he used to hate it?

8. What historical event would have happened when Grandpa was young, and how would that have influenced why he worked so hard?



A Croc's Nose Knows

By Erin Horner

I always know when it's time for dinner at my house. Yummy smells make their way from the kitchen to my bedroom. If I use my nose to follow the trail, it will lead me right to a table full of food!

Did you know that crocodiles use their noses to find food, too? It's true. Crocodiles have small nostrils, but they have really long snouts. Inside these snouts are long nasal canals. The canals are full of special cells. These cells help crocodiles to have a very keen sense of smell. When he catches the scent of prey in the air, a crocodile can use his nose to smell his way to supper (or breakfast or lunch!). After he finds, attacks, and eats his prey, the crocodile rests and waits for his next meal. I guess my mom could argue that I do the same. Luckily for her, though, I don't attack my food. I just eat it!



A Croc's Nose Knows

Questions

1. What gives crocodiles their keen sense of smell?

_____ 2. After reading this passage, what can the reader conclude about crocodiles?

- A. Crocodiles' strong sense of smell helps them sense danger.
- B. If their sense of smell wasn't so strong, crocodiles might have a hard time finding food.
- C. They do not have a very strong sense of smell.
- D. They have small noses.

_____ 3. In this passage the word *keen* means _____.

- A. faint
- B. weak
- C. dull
- D. very good

_____ 4. The author probably wrote this passage to _____.

- A. Persuade you to eat more vegetables
- B. Inform you about a crocodile's sense of smell
- C. Describe the crocodile life cycle
- D. Demonstrate how she eats dinner

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The Mystery of the Bone that Grew

By Colleen Messina

Sarah loved her puppy. Spot was a beagle. He was white. He had a black spot on his back. He was a good friend for Sarah.

Spot loved bones. He chewed on them. He also buried them in the backyard. He dug in the black dirt with his little white paws. Later he found his bones to chew on again. It was a game Spot played.

One day Spot got a new bone. It was a big bone. Spot chewed it for a while. Then he buried it. Sarah watched Spot bury his bone. He covered it with dirt. Then Spot sat down and licked his little paws. Soon his paws were white again.

Sarah's mom thought that Spot had enough bones. The family did not get new bones for the puppy for a little while. Spot missed having new bones. He went to get an old bone. Spot went into the backyard. He dug up an old bone to chew on.

Spot dragged his bone across the yard. Sarah saw the bone. Her mouth made a big "O." The bone was bigger than any of Spot's bones. In fact, it was much bigger. It was almost as long as Spot. Did the bone grow? Sarah wondered about this big bone. She had never given such a big bone to her puppy. She did not understand why the bone was so big. It



was a mystery to her!

Spot looked very happy with this big bone at first. He tried to chew the end of it. Then he found out that the big bone was impossible to chew on. It was rock hard! Poor Spot could not chew this big bone. Sarah wondered more about the bone. She went to find her mother.

"Mommy, Spot found a bone," said Sarah.

"That's nice," said Mommy. Mommy had laundry to fold. She looked busy.

"But Mommy, it is a very big bone!" said Sarah. "I do not think we gave such a big bone to Spot."

"I am sure that big bone is fine," said Mommy. She did not want to worry about a big bone just then!

"Mommy!" wailed Sarah. "Don't you care about the big bone?"

Mommy sighed. She did not know why Sarah was so upset about a bone. She decided to go look at it. The laundry would have to wait.

"Show me the big bone," said Mommy patiently.

Sarah and Mommy went out to the backyard. Mommy saw the bone. Her mouth made an even bigger "O" than Sarah's had! Mommy knew that they had never given that bone to Spot. What a strange day! How did the bone grow? It was a mystery for them to solve.

Mommy looked at the bone. Then she had an idea. She told Sarah to put the bone in a plastic garbage bag. Sarah then washed her hands. Mommy told Sarah to get her coat. They were going to solve the mystery of this big bone.

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"Where are we going?" asked Sarah. This was exciting. Spot wanted to come, too. Spot had to stay home.

"It is a surprise," said Mommy with a smile.

They got into the car. Mommy drove across town. They got to the local museum.

"Will they tell us about this bone?" asked Sarah.

"I hope so," said Mommy.

Mommy knew a friend at the museum. The friend helped with the exhibits. Ms. Chu knew a lot about big bones. She was a paleontologist. She studied all forms of prehistoric life. Sarah liked Ms. Chu. Ms. Chu was careful and exact. She was a meticulous scientist.

Mommy showed Ms. Chu the bone. She told Ms. Chu about how Spot had found the bone in their yard. They did not ever give Spot that bone. Ms. Chu studied the bone. She ran her finger over it. She held it. Then she smiled.

"I think I understand why this bone is so big," said Ms. Chu. "It is a dinosaur bone!"

That explained why the bone was big. Ms. Chu asked Sarah if the other people at the museum could look at the bone. They wanted to study it. Maybe there was a dinosaur in Sarah's backyard.

Sarah said it was fine for Ms. Chu to keep the bone. She only had one question.

"Mommy," said Sarah. "Could we please get Spot a new

bone on the way home?"

Mommy thought that was a good idea.

The Mystery of the Bone that Grew

Questions

- _____ 1. What kind of dog was Spot?
- A. a mutt
 - B. a schnauzer
 - C. a beagle
 - D. a collie
- _____ 2. Where did Spot like to bury bones?
- A. in the backyard
 - B. at the beach
 - C. in the front yard
 - D. in the park
- _____ 3. What did Spot do after he buried a bone?
- A. washed his paws
 - B. took a nap
 - C. chased a ball
 - D. went for a walk
- _____ 4. What does a paleontologist study?
- A. carpentry
 - B. literature
 - C. art
 - D. all forms of prehistoric life

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Friday, June 17



Karl's Kitchen

By Kathleen W. Redman

"Welcome to the best cooking show on television-*Karl's Kitchen!*" the announcer said, "And now, here's Karl!"

"I'm so glad you could join us for this show," Karl said, looking at the television camera. "We have a recipe for a cake that everyone will love. First, though, I am going to take you on a tour of the kitchen in my house."

The picture changed. Karl was standing in front of a large, two-story white house. "Come on inside," he said. He turned and walked up the steps and through the door. The camera followed him.

Karl walked a few steps in a hallway and turned left.

"This is my kitchen," he said.

The camera made a sweep around the kitchen. It was huge. Everything was shiny and looked new. There was a gleaming stainless steel refrigerator, a range, two wall ovens, and a dishwasher. The countertops were pale green marble, and the cupboards were antique white. Pots of herbs sat in the windows.

"I just love working in this kitchen," Karl said. "There



is so much room. There is room for me to store all of my cooking and baking equipment and utensils. I even have places to put away the coffeemaker, toaster, and blender when I am not using them!"

"Karl," the announcer said, "I don't see any tableware-plates, spoons, knives, forks, cups, mugs, and things like that."

"No, I keep everything for the table in a cabinet in the dining room. "

Karl walked over to the refrigerator. He opened the two doors at the top. There were four drawers and four shelves inside. "I keep all my fresh fruits and vegetables in here," Karl said. "This drawer is just for eggs. This one is for butter, cheese, and other dairy foods."

He reached down and pulled open the large bottom drawer. "This is the freezer," he said. "Frozen foods like meats, some juices, and vegetables are here." Karl winked at the camera. "I keep a bit of ice cream in here, too," he said. "There is nothing like a good milkshake on a hot day."

Karl turned back toward the sink. "I have a double sink," he said. "It's really helpful when I wash and peel vegetables and fruit. This very high faucet is for filling big pots."

"Well, Karl, that's about all the time we have today. Thank you for the tour of your kitchen. Now, I can't wait to taste that cake you promised . . ."

"Cake! Oh, me! Oh, my! I can't believe I forgot about it," Karl moaned as he ran to one of the ovens. When he opened the oven door, black smoke came billowing out. Karl quickly closed the oven door.

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Karl's face turned bright pink. "I don't think we will be having any cake today," he said. He laughed nervously. "Would anyone like some juice or coffee?"

Karl's Kitchen

Questions

- _____ 1. Who is Karl?
- A. the assistant on a television program
 - B. the announcer on a television program
 - C. the chef on a television program
 - D. the director of a television program
- _____ 2. What kind of dessert did Karl promise his viewers?
- A. apple pie
 - B. cookies
 - C. candy
 - D. cake
- _____ 3. Whose kitchen was on the program?
- A. Karl's
 - B. the director's
 - C. President Bush's
 - D. Queen Elizabeth's
- _____ 4. What color and what size is Karl's house?
- A. blue, one story
 - B. white, two stories
 - C. blue, two stories
 - D. white, one story
- _____ 5. What are the countertops made from?
- A. light green wood
 - B. green plastic
 - C. light green marble
 - D. natural wood
- _____ 6. Where does Karl keep his tableware?
- A. under the wall ovens
 - B. in the kitchen
 - C. in the dining room
 - D. in the refrigerator
- _____ 7. What does Karl keep in the freezer besides meats, juices, and frozen vegetables?
- A. cheese
 - B. chewing gum
 - C. ice cream
 - D. milk
- _____ 8. What did Karl do to the cake?
- A. He baked it too long and burned it.
 - B. He ate it.
 - C. He put green frosting on it.
 - D. He didn't put eggs in it.

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Saturday, June 18



Mikey Two Eggs

By **KATHLEEN W. REDMAN**

Hi! My name is Beth. I would like to tell you a story about my little brother. He is four years old. His name is Michael Edward Peterson. We call him Mikey. Well, anyway, here is the story.

Last Tuesday was my birthday. It was my sixteenth birthday. It was a very special day for me. My father and mother had planned a big party for me. Everyone was busy decorating the family room. Mikey is too little to do much. We let him pick up the things we dropped. No one noticed when Mikey left the room. We were too busy.

We didn't know it then, but Mikey had gone to the kitchen. He had decided to make a cake for me. I love my little brother. He is such a sweetheart!

First, Mikey opened the cupboard. He found a box of cake mix. He looked at the pictures on the back of the box. He could read some words. Some were too hard for him. He saw a picture of a bowl, a spoon, milk, and two eggs.

Mikey went to the refrigerator. He opened the door. He got out a gallon of milk and some eggs. He put them on the counter by the sink. He got a bowl and a spoon. He put them by the eggs and milk.



The counter was too high for Mikey. He got a chair to stand on. He climbed up on the chair. He looked at the box again. The picture showed someone pouring the cake mix in a bowl. He did that. He only got a little bit of the cake mix on the microwave. A little bit went in the toaster, too.

The next picture showed someone breaking the eggs into a cup. Mikey got down off the chair. He could not find a cup. He got a glass for the eggs. He climbed back up on the chair.

Mikey broke one egg on the counter. The egg came out of the shell onto the counter. Some of it got under the coffeemaker. Some of it went under the blender. Mikey tried again. He hit two eggs together over the glass. One egg broke and fell into the glass! He broke another egg. Most of it went in the glass. Some of it fell on the floor.

Mikey climbed down off his chair. He scooped up the egg on the floor in a spoon. He climbed back up on the chair. He put the spoon in the glass. He stirred the eggs all up. There were only two or three small pieces of shell in the glass.

Now it was time to put everything together. Mikey poured the eggs into the bowl. He looked at the box. The picture showed two cups of milk. Mikey filled the glass with milk. He poured it into the bowl. He filled the glass again. He poured it into the bowl. He stirred it all up.

Mikey got down off the chair. He found a cake pan. He got back up on the chair. He tried to pour the mixture in the pan. It was too heavy for him. He spilled some of it on the stove. He spilled some of it on the counter. He spilled some of it in the sink. The rest of it went in the cake pan.

Mikey picked up the cake pan. He got down off the chair very carefully. He only spilled a little bit of the mix on the chair. He put the cake pan on the chair. He opened the oven

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door. He very carefully put the cake pan in the oven. He turned on the oven. He wanted it to bake fast. He turned the oven to the highest temperature: 500 degrees!

All of a sudden my mother said, "I smell smoke! Where is Mikey?"

All three of us started looking for Mikey and the smoke.

"Here he is," my father said, "in the kitchen."

My mother and I went to the kitchen. There stood Mikey. He was covered with cake mix! There was cake mix all over the counter. It was on the chair and the floor, too. There was cake mix on the stove burners. There was cake mix in the sink. There were eggs shells and egg under the coffeemaker and the blender. Smoke was coming out of the oven. What a mess!

"Mikey, what are you doing?" my father said. He walked over and turned off the oven. My mother opened the oven door. There was cake mix all over the oven. The mix in the pan was boiling!

"Mikey, what are you doing?" my mother said.

"I-I-I was just b-b-baking a cake for B-B-Beth," he said. He was getting tears in his eyes. He was starting to cry.

"Oh, Mikey, don't cry," I said. "I love you so much!" I hugged him. "I know it would have been a beautiful cake, too!"

Mikey wiped his eyes. "I love you, too, Beth," he said.

He only got a little cake mix on me.

I think I will call him "Mikey Two Eggs" from now on. I love my little brother.

Mikey Two Eggs

Questions

- _____ 1. How old was Beth last Tuesday?
- A. twelve
 - B. eighteen
 - C. sixteen
 - D. fourteen
- _____ 2. How old is Mikey?
- A. two
 - B. eight
 - C. six
 - D. four
- _____ 3. What room was being decorated for the party?
- A. dining room
 - B. family room
 - C. porch
 - D. living room
- _____ 4. What did Mikey want to make for Beth?
- A. a birthday cake
 - B. a birthday party
 - C. a dollhouse
 - D. some cookies

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Princess Pru's Party

By Mary L. Bushong

Princess Pru lived in Corella. She had a big room in the family castle all to herself. On one side of her room was a huge closet. It was stuffed full of clothes because of her shopping habits.

Nothing made Pru as happy as spending money did. She did not just spend, she splurged. Every week she went to the shops and bought things. Many times she got things she did not need.

Princess Pru never went shopping alone. She always took her friends Ann and Margie with her. The trouble was that she never bought anything for them. Not a button, bow, or dress. They thought that Pru was a very selfish princess.

One day, Ann and Margie were trying to stuff more new clothes into Pru's closet. It was very hard finding any room at all, because it was already full. Pru was taking a nap because shopping made her tired.

"It's no use, Margie," said Ann. "There is no more room in here. We can't fit these new things in. I wish Pru would give at least half of this stuff away."

"Yes," agreed Margie. "She has not even worn many of the things. They are still new. I wish she would give them to us. I would love to have some of these clothes."



"I am getting tired of having such a selfish friend," said Ann. "It's no fun being around her most of the time. Pru only thinks of herself."

"I can't figure out why she is so tired," said Margie. "We're the ones who have to put all of her things away."

Princess Pru lay on her bed. She had her eyes closed, but she was awake. It shocked her to hear her friends talking like that behind her back. At first she started to get angry, but then she wondered if their words were true. She thought back to many of the times they did things together. She could not remember a time when she had given gifts to her friends. Pru began to feel guilty.

Just as she was about to get up and apologize, a maid came to the door.

"The king would like to see you, Princess Pru," she said.

Pru nodded. "I will be back in just a few minutes," she said to her friends. "Will you wait for me?"

The girls nodded, and Pru rushed down to see her father. The king was looking at a pile of papers when she walked into the room. He frowned.

"Come here, Prudence," he growled as she came to him. "Look at all of these bills for clothes. Are you buying clothes for half the city?"

Pru shook her head. "Those are just for me," she said softly.

"It looks like you have become a very selfish princess," said King Waldo. "You must learn not to splurge on yourself this way. Someday you will be a queen. You must learn to put others before yourself. This spending on yourself must stop."

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"I was just thinking that I need to give some of my clothes away. I have too many. My friends think I am selfish," said Pru.

"They are right, I'm afraid," said the king. "What are you going to do about it?"

"I need to learn to be more generous," said Pru. "Could I splurge for my friends?" she asked hopefully.

King Waldo sighed. "If you no longer splurge on yourself, I will allow you to throw a splurge day party, one day a year."

"Oh, thank you, Dad!" she squealed as she hugged her father. "I can hardly wait to get back and tell my friends! We can all splurge together!"

Princess Pru's Party

Questions

- _____ 1. What thing would not belong in Pru's closet?
- A. dresses
 - B. skirts
 - C. paintings
 - D. shirts
- _____ 2. Pru sometimes bought her friends things.
- A. true
 - B. false

- _____ 3. Pru's friends were:
- A. Margie and Ann
 - B. Maggie and Ann
 - C. Margie and Anna
 - D. Maggie and Anna
- _____ 4. Pru bought clothes because she liked to shop.
- A. false
 - B. true
- _____ 5. What best gives the meaning of the word "splurge"?
- A. spending money on useful things
 - B. spending money on things others need
 - C. spending large amounts of money
 - D. buying things you need
- _____ 6. Why did Pru feel guilty when she heard her friends talking?
- A. She was afraid they were correct, and she had been selfish.
 - B. They told her father she wasn't nice.
 - C. She did not like gossips.
 - D. She thought they were telling lies about her.
- _____ 7. Who called Pru down to see the king?
- A. the maid
 - B. the butler
 - C. the cook
 - D. Pru's sister
- _____ 8. How would Ann and Margie react when they heard Pru's news?
- A. embarrassed
 - B. surprised
 - C. sad
 - D. confused

Name _____
Saturday, June 18



Cesar Chavez's Childhood

By Erin Horner

Have you ever changed schools? It's not always easy! It's hard to be the new kid. Cesar Chavez knew this feeling. He changed schools a lot. Sometimes Cesar went to a new school for only one week before it was time to move again! Cesar and his family were migrant farm workers. They moved from city to city and from farm to farm looking for work.



Cesar did not mind moving. He liked being with his family and didn't care where they lived as long as they were together. He didn't, however, like school. The Chavez family spoke Spanish. At school, Cesar was only supposed to speak English. This was hard. He got in trouble anytime he spoke in Spanish. When Cesar was fifteen, his dad was hurt in a car accident. He couldn't work and make money for his family. Cesar stopped going to school. He started working in the fields full time instead.

Cesar spent many hours in the hot sun each day. Picking crops made his hands very sore. Sometimes they bled. It made his back sore too. It was hard to bend over all day long. Even though Cesar worked very hard, he did not make very much money. Cesar used to earn twenty cents for each hamper of peas he picked. The hamper weighed

twenty five pounds!

Cesar saw that life was hard for his fellow farm workers. Since the growers did not pay them a fair wage, the workers had a hard time caring for their families. They did not have much money for food. Many couldn't afford to live in houses. Instead, they lived in tents. Some could not even go to the doctor when they were sick or hurt. They didn't have enough money to pay the doctor's bill.

Cesar never forgot this. When he was older he formed a union. The union worked hard to make sure that farm workers were treated more fairly. Farm workers still spend long days sweating in the sizzling sun. They still work bent over picking produce. Now, however, they are paid a fair wage. They are given breaks. They have clean water to drink and can rest in the shade. Cesar Chavez helped to change the way thousands of farm workers live and work.

Cesar Chavez's Childhood

Questions

1. Why did Cesar Chavez begin working full time when he was only fifteen?

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Tickling Our Funny Bones with Computer Art

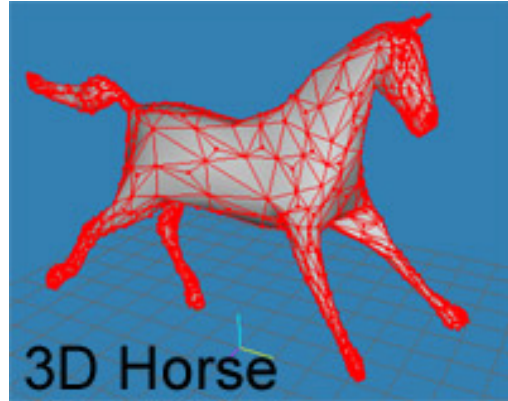
By Colleen Messina

People have used pencils and paintbrushes to create art for centuries. Today, artists have a new tool. Computer art is a whole new art style that can tickle our funny bones.

Computer art is any art created with the help of a computer. Computer art is used for ads. It is used on TV. And it is used to make movies. Computer artists have created Buzz Lightyear and other computer art friends to make us laugh.

Computer-aided design is called CAD. Not too long ago, computer games had flat shapes. These shapes chased each other across the screen. And that was it! Today, CAD designs everything from cars to space shuttles. You probably like CAD best in movies, though. *Toy Story* was the first computer-animated film. Pixar made the film in 1995. It won awards. Then, Pixar made a new movie. It became a huge hit. It was called *A Bug's Life*.

You can still do beautiful art with paintbrushes and pencils. But you could also use a computer, too. They can create fantasy lands. They can make huge dinosaurs. They make toys, bugs, and lost clown fish. You can easily find the perfect computer art to tickle your funny bone.



There is no limit to what CAD can do in the future. As Buzz Lightyear would say, "To infinity, and beyond!"

Tickling Our Funny Bones with Computer Art

Questions

1. What traditional art tools were mentioned in the article? Check both.
 - A. pencils
 - B. charcoal
 - C. crayons
 - D. paintbrushes
2. Which bone was mentioned in the article?
 - A. an ankle bone
 - B. a funny bone
 - C. a femur
 - D. a shin bone
3. What does the expression "tickle your funny bone" mean?
 - A. Something seems serious.
 - B. Something seems broken.
 - C. Something seems funny.
 - D. Something needs to be checked by a doctor.
4. Which movie was the first computer-animated film?
 - A. Over the Hedge
 - B. Finding Nemo
 - C. Toy Story
 - D. A Bug's Life

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Tree Squirrels

By Mary Lynn Bushong

You see them in trees. Sometimes they are on the ground. They have long bushy tails. Do you know what they are? They are squirrels.



Some people like squirrels. They think they are funny animals. Other people do not like squirrels. Many of the things they do are destructive. They nest in attics. They dig in flower pots. They raid bird feeders.

There are 300 different kinds of squirrels all over the world. There are just ten in North America.

Tree squirrels build their nests or dreys in hollow trees. If there are no hollow trees, they make nests in the high branches. Look up in the tops of trees where you live. If you see a ball of leaves, that is probably a squirrel nest.

The fox squirrel is the largest. The grey squirrel is medium sized. The red squirrel is the smallest. The grey squirrel is the most common.

Baby grey squirrels are only an inch (2.5 cm) long when they are born. They are called kittens or kits. There are two to five kits in a litter.

Until the babies are about two months old, they drink milk.

After that, they eat what their mother eats.

Squirrels are omnivores. That means they eat almost anything. We are also omnivores.

They eat nuts, acorns, bird seeds, fruit, song bird eggs, and mushrooms. They will also eat baby birds, leaves, berries, frogs, mice, tree buds, and insects.

Squirrels are in the rodent family along with rats, mice, beaver, ground hogs, and ground squirrels. They all have long front teeth that are made for chewing. Their front teeth never stop growing. They must keep chewing to wear them down.

There are many animals that like to eat squirrel. Some of those are skunks, raccoons, martens, opossums, foxes, and snakes. Hawks and owls also like to hunt squirrels. Dogs and cats will also hunt squirrels. There are even people who eat squirrels.

Squirrels are known as hoarding animals. That means they stash food away. That way they will have food when fresh food is gone.

Sometimes a single squirrel can have thousands of hiding places for food. They have very good memories for those places, too. They use land marks and sometimes smell to find the food caches.

Squirrels squeak when they are babies. When they get older they make a chuck chuck sound. It is often used to warn of danger.

A squirrel is an adult when it is one year old. They are old when they are six. They have been known to live 11 or 12 years before dying naturally.

It is rare for a wild squirrel to die a natural death. They are

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usually killed before that time.

Squirrels are many things. They are acrobats, thieves, comics, and pests. What are they to you?

Tree Squirrels

Questions

1. What are two things squirrels do to annoy people?

_____ 2. A squirrel's nest is called a _____.

- A. Drey
- B. Hollow
- C. Pine hole
- D. House

_____ 3. The smallest squirrel is called the _____ squirrel.

- A. Fox
- B. Red
- C. Grey
- D. Black

_____ 4. If someone is an omnivore they eat only meat.

- A. False
- B. True

5. What are three things a squirrel might eat?

_____ 6. Squirrels like to hoard or hide food for later.

- A. True
- B. False

_____ 7. Squirrels make no sounds.

- A. False
- B. True

_____ 8. Squirrels are part of the rodent family.

- A. False
- B. True

Name _____



Date _____

Reading Math

There are 7,843 eggs to be packed into cartons. What number is in the hundreds place?

Benjamin found 45 mudbugs. Is that an even number or an odd number?

When Megan packs candy in bags, she skip counts the pieces by fives. She has counted to 90 already. What are the next three numbers?

A roll of $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wide masking tape costs \$0.53 per yard. A roll of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch wide masking tape costs \$0.97 per yard. How much more does a 30 yard roll of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch wide masking tape cost than a roll of $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wide tape?

Hailey bought 6 pounds of ground beef. Her mother told her she could make 4 hamburger patties with each pound of beef. How many hamburger patties can Hailey make with the ground beef she bought?

Samantha made 18 hamburgers for her birthday party. She put lettuce and tomato on $\frac{1}{2}$ of them. She put onions and pickles on the rest of the hamburgers. How many hamburgers had lettuce and tomato on them?