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AWARD
WINNING!**

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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NATIONAL NEWS

Presidential
nominees
are official

p4



PEOPLE

Octopus
expert has
new show

p9



HOW TO

Celebrate
spring with
marbled eggs

p25



March 29, 2024 • Vol. 5, Issue 205 • \$5.99

Making sense of the world



THE WEEK Junior

**THE BEST
MAGAZINE FOR
CURIOUS
KIDS**

MARCH MADNESS!

Use our brackets to
follow the biggest event in
college basketball **p18**





ACROSS THE COUNTRY
The 40 finalists in this year's Regeneron Science Talent Search were from 36 high schools in 19 US states.

This year's top winners (from left): Thomas Cong, Achyuta Rajaram, and Michelle Wei

Who is Maya Ajmera?



Maya Ajmera (above) is president and CEO of the Society for Science and a past participant in the Science Talent Search. She founded the nonprofit Global Fund for Children, which works on behalf of vulnerable young people around the world, and is the award-winning author of more than 20 children's books.

Science award winners named

On March 12, 10 high school seniors from across the US were awarded top prizes in a prestigious competition called the Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS). A total of 2,162 students competed this year.

What is the competition?

STS is the country's oldest and most distinguished youth STEM competition. It was started in 1942 by a nonprofit organization now called the Society for Science, in partnership with Westinghouse Electric Corporation. In 1998, the computing company Intel began running STS, and in 2017, the drug company Regeneron took over. Each year, Regeneron awards \$3.1 million in prizes to students and their schools. Past winners have gone on to start companies, lead government agencies, invent medical treatments, and win major awards, including 13 Nobel Prizes.

How does the contest work?

Any US high school senior can apply by submitting their independent research project, which is reviewed by experts in the entry's subject area. Projects are judged on scientific rigor (how well a project meets scientific standards), creative and original thinking, and the student's potential to be a leader. The judges first

choose the top 300 students, then narrow that number down to 40 finalists who attend STS Finals Week in Washington, DC. There, the 40 students present their research to a panel of judges and thousands of guests, including leading scientists. The top 10 winners are announced at a ceremony, which was hosted this year by Soledad O'Brien, an award-winning journalist.

What do the students win?

Each of the top 300 students is awarded \$2,000, and each of their schools also receives \$2,000 to support STEM education. They are also invited to apply for a summer internship at Regeneron. Finalists win prizes ranging from \$25,000 to the first-place prize of \$250,000.

Who were the top winners?

Achyuta Rajaram, age 17 and from New Hampshire, won first prize for developing an automatic way to discover which parts of a computer model are involved in making decisions. His research helps reveal how computers "think," which judges said will lead to more effective, fair, and safe artificial intelligence (AI) results. Second place and \$175,000 went to Thomas Cong, age 17 and from New York. He investigated the fast growth of certain types of cancer, in particular those that

attack the immune system (part of the body that fights off infections). He identified differences in these cancers that will offer new insights into cancer studies and could lead to new therapies. Michelle Wei, age 17 and from California, won third place and \$150,000. She worked on solving a computer programming problem that will help companies improve their production processes, schedule airline flights, and distribute electrical power, among other solutions. Her innovation could help businesses in many industries. Learn more at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Regeneron2024.

How did people react?

Rajaram said he was shocked and excited to win and offered advice to students who want to apply to STS. "Be really, really curious about everything," he said. He plans to continue his research as a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology next year. Maya Ajmera, head of the Society for Science, called the students' work inspiring. "These young people are trying to solve the world's most challenging problems," she said. George D. Yancopoulos, president and chief scientific officer of Regeneron, spoke about all the finalists when he said, "Their extraordinary achievements at such a young age give me hope that they will go on to deliver major innovative breakthroughs that will greatly benefit humanity."



Soledad O'Brien

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (2); NINTENDO; NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/HARRETT SPARK; JODI LEVINE FOR SUPERMARKET; ON THE PAGE: COSTA GROUP; GOODWILL; LAMIA APSUHA; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT: PAGE: SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE/CHRIS AXTERS PHOTOGRAPHY (2); GETTY IMAGES (2); @CREATIVITYMAG/ TWITTER



Gender balance at 2024 Olympics

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced that there will be an equal number of male and female athletes at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. The Games, which will take place from July 26 to August 11, will be the first gender-equal Olympic Games in history, with 5,250 men and 5,250 women participating.

The first modern-day Summer Olympics in 1896 included only male athletes. Women first competed in the 1900 Summer Games in France, where 22 of the 997 athletes were female. By the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, women made up 48% of all athletes.

As part of a greater push for gender equality, the 2024 Summer Games will also have a more balanced competition schedule and provide equal media coverage to women's sports. "No organization or country can afford to leave the skills of 50% of the population behind—either in sport or in society at large," IOC President Thomas Bach said in a statement.



Starship on the launch pad

DID YOU KNOW?
At a height of 397 feet, Starship is 40 stories tall and about 90 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty.

SpaceX launches Starship rocket

The private space company SpaceX launched its Starship spacecraft from Boca Chica, Texas, on March 14. It was the third launch attempt for Starship, which SpaceX hopes will one day transport astronauts to the Moon as part of the Artemis III mission spearheaded by NASA (the US space agency).

Starship is the tallest and most powerful rocket system ever to go to space. Although the whole system is known as Starship, it consists of two parts—a spacecraft called Starship and the Super Heavy rocket booster it sits on. Ultimately, SpaceX plans to make both sections reusable so they can each make multiple trips. The sections are made of stainless steel, and the spacecraft has special black tiles to help it withstand the heat generated when it returns to Earth.

On Starship's first test flight in April 2023, the spacecraft exploded four minutes after takeoff. On the second try in November 2023, the two parts separated as planned, then exploded. On the third try, Starship made it into orbit for the first time but likely blew up after re-entering Earth's atmosphere.

Even so, the mission achieved important goals and was considered a success. The spacecraft's six engines set off before it separated smoothly from the booster, which is called "hot staging." It also traveled farther than ever, and scientists were able to test its engines and open a cargo door remotely.

Bill Nelson, the head of NASA, congratulated SpaceX on the successful test flight. Gwynne Shotwell, the president of SpaceX, called it an "incredible day." SpaceX hopes to make at least five more test flights before the end of 2024.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A RECORD-BREAKING BERRY
A blueberry grown in Australia has been declared the world's heaviest. Weighing 20.4 grams (.72 ounce), it's about 70 times heavier than the average wild blueberry. One of the growers called it "something very special."



The blueberry

A GOLDEN DISCOVERY
A 14-karat gold Lego piece donated to a Pennsylvania thrift store has been auctioned for \$18,101. Only 30 of the one-inch masks from Lego's Bionicle line were made in 2001. The store will use the money from the sale to support its mission of helping people overcome challenges.



The Lego mask

CELEBRATING WORDLE
Wordle, the hit game in *The New York Times* in which players guess a five-letter word, reached its 1,000th puzzle. To celebrate, the Empire State Building was lit up in Wordle colors. The paper also held a series of giveaways based on previous Wordle solutions, like DONUT (free donuts) and MOVIE (discounted film passes).





President Joe Biden

Former President Donald Trump

WOW!
Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th US President (1901–1909), was the youngest person to take the oath of office at age 42.

The first rematch



The first Presidential rematch was in 1800 between John Adams (above left) and Thomas Jefferson (above right). In 1796, Adams had defeated Jefferson to become the second US President. Four years later, they ran for President again, along with other candidates. This time Jefferson prevailed, becoming the third US President.

Presidential candidates are official

President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump are set to be the Presidential nominees for the nation's two major political parties on November 5, Election Day. The contest is a rematch of 2020, when Biden, a Democrat, defeated Trump, a Republican.

What happened?

On March 12, Biden became his party's presumptive (expected) nominee when he won the Democratic primary in Georgia. A primary is a nominating contest that a political party holds in many states to determine a candidate for office, such as for President. Hours later, Trump became the presumptive nominee for the Republicans when he won the Republican primaries held in Georgia, Mississippi, and

Washington. The nominations will become official at the parties' conventions this summer.

Why is this race historic?

This is the first time the same two candidates will run for President in back-to-back elections since 1956. In that race, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a Republican, ran for re-election against Adlai Stevenson, a Democrat, whom Eisenhower had defeated in 1952. During the rematch in 1956, Eisenhower was again victorious over Stevenson and went on to serve a second term as the 34th US President.

Has an ex-President ever been re-elected?

Grover Cleveland, a Democrat, is the only US President to be re-elected after losing

the Presidency. He was elected in 1884 and served as the nation's 22nd President from 1885–1889. Four years later, Cleveland lost to Benjamin Harrison, a Republican who became the 23rd President. During that time, Cleveland went to work at a law firm in New York City. In 1892, the two ran against each other again. This time, Cleveland defeated Harrison and became the 24th President.

What will happen next?

The Republican convention is scheduled to take place from July 15 to 18 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Democrats will hold their convention in Chicago, Illinois, from August 19 to 22. Biden and Trump will campaign against each other until Election Day.

WORD OF THE WEEK

ROCKET

Space rockets took their name from something much more down to Earth. The word "rocket" began with the Italian *rocca*, meaning the stick or spindle on which wool was wound for spinning. The name was later used for certain fireworks and spacecraft because they are also cylindrical.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

March 24, 2002 History made at Academy Awards

On March 24, 2002, the top acting prizes at the Academy Awards went to Halle Berry for best actress and Denzel Washington for best actor (both shown at right). This was the first time a Black man and Black woman won these awards in the same year, the first best actress award for a Black woman, and the second best actor award for a Black man. "This moment is so much bigger than me," Berry said.



Sonia Sotomayor (left) and Amy Coney Barrett

Court justices focus on civility

Sonia Sotomayor and Amy Coney Barrett, two of the nine justices of the US Supreme Court (highest court of law), appeared together at a conference in Washington, DC, on March 12 to promote civility in US politics. The two justices, who rarely share the same opinion on court cases, said all the justices speak to one another with respect. "We don't sit on opposite sides of an aisle," Barrett said. "We all wear the same color black robe."



An electric bus

Milestone for electric school buses

Thomas Built Buses, a company that makes school buses, has delivered its 1,000th electric bus. Unlike traditional buses, these vehicles don't release harmful gases into the air. The bus was one of eight that went to the Meriwether County School System in Georgia. "We will continue to partner with districts in leading the way toward an electric school bus future," said the bus company's president.

New York City to get tiny forest

A "tiny forest" smaller than a tennis court will be planted on Roosevelt Island in New York City this spring. Officials said the forest, consisting of 1,000 native plants, trees, and shrubs, will help the city's environment by providing a home to birds and other wildlife, cleaning the air, and increasing floodwater absorption.



A rendering of the forest

GETTY IMAGES (3); THOMAS BUILT BUSES; SUGI; ON LEFT PAGE; GETTY IMAGES (6)



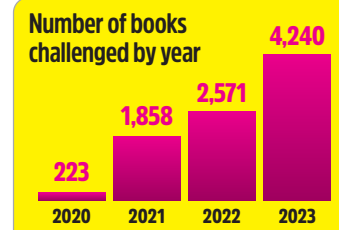
More books are being challenged.

DID YOU KNOW?
Delaware and Vermont were the only states that did not receive challenges to book access last year.

Book ban attempts increase

Efforts to challenge or ban books from schools and public libraries reached an all-time high in 2023, according to a new report released by the American Library Association (ALA) on March 14. When people challenge a book, they try to have it permanently removed from libraries or schools because of its content.

The ALA said there were more than 1,247 demands to restrict books last year, the most since the group began gathering data 20 years ago. The demands called for the removal of 4,240 titles, which was a 65% increase from 2022, when 2,571 titles were targeted. The



count is based on reports from libraries and the media, and the ALA said the actual number of challenges may be significantly higher.

School officials, parents, and other members of a community challenge books because they disagree with or find offensive. According to the ALA, 47% of the targeted books had racial

or LGBTQ themes. One reason for the increase in challenged books in 2023 is that many individuals and groups called for hundreds of titles to be banned at a time, the ALA reported.

The increase in challenges has states divided. In about 12 states, including Florida and Texas, lawmakers are taking measures to make it easier to restrict book access. About 20 other states, including Illinois, have introduced legislation that promotes the "right to read" and would protect libraries from having to take books off their shelves because of challenges.

"There's always going to be books on the shelves that

we might not agree with, but they're there for another reader," ALA executive Deborah Caldwell-Stone told *The New York Times*. Caldwell-Stone said she hopes that the number of challenges will begin to decrease as people realize that libraries have a mission to serve everyone.

The ALA will release its annual list of the top 10 most challenged books on April 8.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Raccoon wanders into busy Toronto McDonald's" *UPI*





Around the world



Discarded clothing

Amsterdam, the Netherlands Befriending the city's rats

Some Dutch scientists are calling for Amsterdam to become a rat-friendly city by providing special rodent feeding areas in parks so people can get to know the creatures. Despite their reputation for being dirty, rats are very clean animals and are "very good at recycling," said scientist Maite van Gerwen.



A rat by the Amstel river

Paris, France Lawmakers vote on fast fashion

France's National Assembly has voted in favor of making fast fashion less attractive to customers. Fast fashion is a term for inexpensive, low-quality clothing items that are made quickly to keep up with trends. New measures include requiring companies to tell customers about the environmental impact of their products, pay an extra tax on each item they sell, and limit their advertising.



A parade in Tuscany

Italy Plan to encourage historical festivals

Italy's government hopes to attract more tourists to quiet hilltop villages and towns by promoting historical re-enactments, including horse races, processions, and made-up military battles. Some of these festivals date back centuries, but as interest in them has grown recently, towns have started inventing new ones. Supporters say the events bring in hundreds of millions of dollars through tourism.



A cocoa tree

Abidjan, Ivory Coast Shortage makes chocolate expensive

The International Cocoa Organization said it expects worldwide production of cocoa beans to decrease by 11% this season due to extreme weather and diseases that harm plants. Ivory Coast and Ghana, the top suppliers of the beans, have produced one third less than they did at this time last year. The price of cocoa has risen to record highs, affecting chocolate makers and consumers.

Lagos, Nigeria Boosting kids' art

A gallery is supporting young artists, ages 4 to 17, by helping them sell their artwork around the world. The Children's Art Gallery accepts artwork from any child. It has discovered artists like 11-year-old Fiyinfoluwa Adeniji, who earned about \$650 for two of his paintings. The gallery works with the children's families to ensure the money made from art sales goes toward their education, healthcare, and creative pursuits.



Children's art on display

GETTY IMAGES (4); ALAMY (3); EYEVINE SHUTTERSTOCK (2)

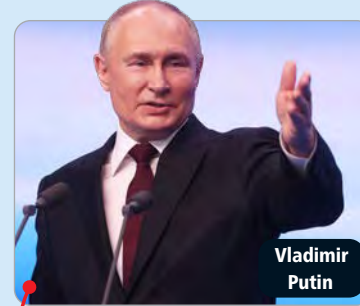
Sankt Corona am Wechsel, Austria Summer sports take over

A ski resort in Austria is turning to summer sports after an unusually warm winter left it with hardly any snow. Less snowfall means the skiing season has ended earlier than expected, so the trail construction team at the resort has removed the last remaining snow on the ski slopes. People are now using the slopes at this resort, and others like it, for activities such as mountain biking and hiking.



Biking is replacing skiing.

Around the world



Vladimir Putin

Russia Putin reinstated for fifth term

Russian president Vladimir Putin won another six-year term in elections held March 15–17. Russia's election commission said Putin received 87% of the vote, but most of his opponents were barred from running and international leaders said the elections were not fair. Russians opposing Putin stood at polling centers on March 17 to show their dissent.



Refugees and politicians

New Delhi, India Controversial refugee law takes effect

Some people who have been treated badly because of their religion in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan will be given the chance to become Indian citizens as a result of the Citizenship Amendment Act, which has now taken effect. The law has sparked protests, however, because although it will let religious groups such as Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Christians become citizens, Muslims cannot apply.



The Catbus

Nagakute, Japan Famous Catbus introduced in park

Electric vehicles designed to look like an iconic film character have been introduced to Ghibli Park, a theme park in Japan. The Catbus, a living bus with 12 legs and a cat's face, appears in the animated movie *My Neighbor Totoro*, made by the Studio Ghibli film company. The real-life Catbus has glowing eyes and fur-covered seats. It can transport six passengers at a time and will help people travel through the park.



The ship

The Gaza Strip Aid ship loaded with food arrives

A boat carrying nearly 200 tons of food arrived in Gaza on March 16 to bring some relief to the more than one million people there who are at risk of famine (extreme lack of food) amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas. The shipment was organized by the nonprofit World Central Kitchen, which has now begun preparing to send a second boat with more food.



Is spring a better season than fall?

While some people can't wait for spring to start, others love fall most of all.

What you need to know

- According to the Farmer's Almanac, spring in the US starts on the day of the vernal equinox in March, when day and night have an almost equal number of hours.
- Weather scientists, however, consider March 1 the beginning of spring.
- The almanac says September's autumnal equinox is the first day of fall, while scientists use September 1.
- In the US, the average temperature on spring days is about 51° F, and in the fall it's nearly 54° F.



Last month, a famous weather-predicting Groundhog did not see his shadow—which, according to legend, means an early spring is on the way. Many people celebrated. They're ready to shed their winter jackets, take in spring's lush greenery, and enjoy seasonal holidays like Holi, Nowruz, Easter, and Passover. Other people want to skip right ahead to fall, when the trees put on a magnificent show of vibrant gold, orange, and purple leaves. They love cooler air, pumpkin spice, and fall holidays like Halloween. In one study, 45% of respondents said fall is their favorite season, while spring was in third place. So what do you think? Is spring a better season than fall?

Yes—goodbye, cold winter

Spring is all about new beginnings. After a long, dreary winter, there's nothing better than seeing the frost thawing and flowers blooming. The days are getting longer, and when the brain is exposed to more sunlight, it releases a chemical called serotonin that can boost your mood. In spring, you know summer (and summer break!) is coming up, but in fall, the dark, cold winter is next. Spring also feels like a time of opportunity. You can open your windows, step comfortably outside, go for a bike ride, or head to a farmers market for seasonal produce like carrots, apricots, and strawberries. That spring picnic is calling your name!

No—fall colors are gorgeous

It's time to bring out your best sweaters, favorite boots, and spookiest costumes! The heat of summer is over, and cool, cozy days are ahead. School starts again, and soon you'll get to see your friends and settle into a comfortable routine. And fall is so distinct. It's full of beautiful colors, slanting light, yummy spices, changing leaves, and crisp air. It's also the start of the holiday season with Halloween, Thanksgiving, and more. That makes fall the ideal time to gather with your loved ones and enjoy s'mores, go apple picking, stop by a pumpkin patch, or race to the finish at a corn maze. What fun!

YES Three reasons why spring is a better season than fall

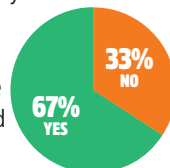
- 1 Spring brings beautiful flowers, happy times, and an end to frigid days.
- 2 Forget about 4 p.m. sunsets—more sunlight cheers people up. And it only gets better, with summer around the corner.
- 3 After months of cold weather, spring is a perfect time to get outdoors for long walks and picnics.

NO Three reasons why spring is not a better season than fall

- 1 Fall means the warm, sticky days of summer are over, and you'll get to see school friends again.
- 2 Fall colors are the best. The turning leaves make it feel like you're in a painting.
- 3 It's the start of the holiday season, which means it's time to plan your Halloween costume and think about Thanksgiving.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked you if private jets should be allowed. Two thirds of you voted in favor of this kind of exclusive travel, while a third voted against it.



The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think spring is a better season than fall or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.



A sea-life storyteller

Dr. Alex Schnell shares what makes the octopus special in a new TV series.

Dr. Alex Schnell has spent her career studying sea life, particularly the lives of octopuses. She is the producer and principal storyteller of the new National Geographic documentary series *Secrets of the Octopus*. It premieres on NatGeo on April 21 and on Disney+ and Hulu the next day.

Schnell grew up in Sydney, Australia, and told *The Week Junior* that she spent time after school exploring the sea along the rocky coastline. She studied marine biology in college and then attended the University of Cambridge in England, earning her doctorate in the psychology of cephalopods—the group of animals that include octopus, cuttlefish, and squid.

Secrets of the Octopus is the third installment of NatGeo's *Secrets of...* franchise, which is in collaboration with

renowned filmmaker James Cameron. The first was *Secrets of the Whales*, followed by *Secrets of the Elephants*. This new three-part series dives into the remarkable traits of octopuses, such as how they shift in shape and color to avoid predators.

Schnell has served as a marine expert for other wildlife film projects, including *Planet Earth III*, but this was her first time in front of the camera. In it, she takes viewers underwater to see octopuses in their natural habitat and tells stories about how they display human-like thinking.

When Schnell began focusing on octopuses, she said they were seen as mythical sea creatures. Now she enjoys people's growing fascination with them. Her advice to young people who have a special interest in a topic is to "stay true to your field" and "follow that passion."



DID YOU KNOW?
There are about 300 different species of octopus, and most prefer to live on the seafloor of warm, tropical waters.

Video game honor

Koji Kondo, who composed the original theme music for Nintendo's *Super Mario Bros.*, has been inducted into the Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame in Las Vegas, Nevada. He is the first composer to receive the honor, which is given to people who have had a significant impact on the video game industry. Kondo, age 62, grew up in Japan and has created the music for other popular games, such as *The Legend of Zelda*. He said he is happy to know that his music has brought joy to gaming experiences.



Style icon mourned

Iris Apfel, an influential interior designer who became famous in her 80s for her colorful personal style, died on March 1 at age 102. Born in Queens, New York, in 1921, she grew up to run a successful interior design business alongside her husband, with movie stars and nine US Presidents as clients. Apfel's life was tied to fashion, and in 2005 the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City staged an exhibition of her costume jewelry and clothing. In her 90s, she appeared in ad campaigns for Kate Spade and MAC Cosmetics. "Fashion should be fun," she once said.

OVERHEARD



"Writing has always been a way for me to figure out what I'm feeling."

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/HARRET SPARK/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC; GETTY IMAGES (3)

GETTY IMAGES



NIFTY NOSES
Salmon use their sense of smell to help them find their way during migration.

Saiga antelopes travel up to 600 miles a year.

Epic migration journey

The world's longest migration is that of the Arctic tern. These birds spend most of their year traveling more than 18,000 miles from the Arctic Circle to the Antarctic Circle, chasing summer weather conditions across the globe. The birds save energy by gliding on ocean breezes, and they can sleep and eat in the air.



An Arctic tern

Migrating species need protection

A report has pointed to the importance of protecting the world's migrating species—those that regularly travel to another location in order to survive. Migrating animals might be looking for food, better weather, or a mate. They include mammals such as whales and gorillas; amphibians, like toads; reptiles, including turtles; insects; fish; and birds.



Gorillas are migrating mammals.

The State of the World's Migratory Species report was created by the United Nations (UN, a group of 193 nations working together). In 1979, members of the UN signed an agreement to protect 1,189 migrating species. The recent

report looked at the health of those protected species and found that nearly half of their populations are getting smaller and more than one fifth are at risk of extinction. Migrating species face many threats because they often move through varied habitats. For example, more than 1.5 million wildebeest migrate through Tanzania and Kenya to follow seasonal rains each year, crossing rivers where predatory Nile crocodiles live. The biggest threat to migrating wildlife, however, is human activities such as hunting, fishing, and building projects that destroy habitats or block migration routes.

It's difficult to protect migrating species due to the distances they travel. For example, monarch butterflies fly 3,000 miles every fall from northeastern North America to Mexico. The report recommends that countries create protected land areas to give animals a safe route. It also urges governments to do more to solve climate change and reduce noise, light, and plastic pollution.

The report highlighted projects that have helped migrating species. In the South Atlantic Ocean, rules that stopped the hunting of humpback whales helped boost their numbers from 450 in the 1950s to more than 25,000 today. In Central Asia, a wildlife refuge has helped raise the saiga antelope population from 50,000 to more than 1.3 million. Inger Andersen of the UN Environment Programme said, "There is hope."

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Columbia River Gorge, Oregon

The Columbia River Gorge sits near the Cascade Mountain Range in Oregon. The gorge, which is a steep valley between the mountains, is 85 miles long and almost 4,000 feet deep. It was shaped by floods and volcanoes thousands of years ago. In 1986, President Ronald Reagan established part of the gorge as a National Scenic Area, which is protected by the federal government. The area is known for its waterfalls and hundreds of wildflowers like daisies and buttercups. Bobcats, black bears, beavers, pikas, and Northern spotted owls also live there.



Pikas are related to rabbits.



FISH FACT
There are four different marlin species recognized in the world: black, blue, striped, and white.

This fish's stripes can turn a brighter color.

Marlins change color when hunting

Striped marlins are one of the top predators in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Now researchers have learned that the fish change the color of their stripes while hunting, which may help them work together during a hunt.

When hunting in groups, each marlin takes turns attacking prey. This requires the fish to coordinate with one another. A new study analyzed video footage of marlins attacking schools of sardines. The researchers found that a marlin's stripes would become brighter when it began to

attack its prey, then dim back to their normal color after the attack ended.

Experts already knew that striped marlins can change color, but this is the first time the behavior has been linked to hunting. The researchers believe it is a way for marlins to communicate with one another as they hunt. It may also be a way of confusing their prey. Scientists are curious to know whether marlins change colors when hunting alone. They are also investigating whether other species of predatory fish change colors while they hunt.

Animal of the Week Brazilian flea toad



In a recently published paper, scientists suggested that the Brazilian flea toad is the smallest vertebrate (animal with a backbone) in the world. Two of the creatures could sit on an average adult's fingernail.

- **HABITAT:** Two forested hills in Bahia, Brazil
- **SIZE:** Just over a quarter-inch long
- **DIET:** Small ants and tiny insects called mites
- **FUN FACT:** The Brazilian flea toad is actually a frog. When scientists first found it, they got its species wrong.

Good week / Bad week



Snakes
Snakes have evolved more quickly than other reptiles, a study found. This ability has made it easier for them to adapt to their changing environment by altering their body shapes and diets. Experts say snakes are still evolving today.



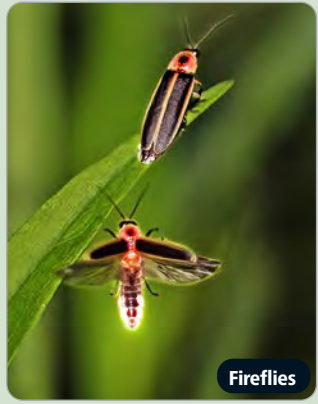
Right whales
North Atlantic right whales are becoming smaller in size over time. Research found that this is making it less likely for females to give birth to calves. Experts are concerned about the health of these critically endangered creatures.



"How do bugs communicate with each other?" Adam, 9, Minnesota

Rebecca Roland
Public affairs specialist, National Park Service

Insects have many ways to communicate. Some, like grasshoppers and beetles, make sounds. Others, like fireflies, emit light. Bugs may also use repeated movements, vibrations, or body colors to convey messages, but the most common method is to release a chemical signal or smell.



Fireflies

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the National Park Service at nps.gov.

ALAMY, RENATO GAGNA/BIOTROPICA, GETTY IMAGES (3), ONI LEFT PAGE-GETTY IMAGES (5)



A magical city of art, culture, and fun

Discover what makes this Florida metropolis so distinctive in the US.

Miami is a city rich in culture and history. Get to know the place that local residents have dubbed “the Magic City.”



Julia Tuttle

History of Miami

The name Miami comes from a Native American name for a local river, “Mayaimi” (“big water”). A small, peaceful tribe called the Tequesta lived in the region that is now Miami for centuries until the Spanish claimed it in about 1566. The Tequesta died as a result of settlement battles and disease brought by Europeans, with few survivors by the 1800s. In 1821, the US acquired Florida from Spain. Ohio native Julia Tuttle moved to the area in 1891, buying land and donating it so others could settle there. In 1895, she convinced railway executive Henry Flagler to extend a train line from Palm Beach south to Miami to attract more people. Called “the Mother of Miami,” Tuttle is the only woman to have founded a major US city.



Royal Palm Hotel

A growing city

On April 13, 1896, the first train arrived in Miami. The city was incorporated (founded) with 424 registered voters later that year. Flagler soon opened the Royal Palm Hotel, one of the first resorts in the region aimed at drawing tourists and wealthy patrons to Miami’s warm temperatures and scenic beaches. The population continued to grow into the 1900s, reaching 30,000 in the 1920s. To create more usable land, Florida began to drain and clear the Everglades, a wilderness of wetlands, marshes, and forests. The land was advertised nationwide to entice people to move to Miami.



A view of Ocean Drive in South Beach, Miami

POPULAR DESTINATION
Miami welcomes about 14 million tourists every year.

SPECIAL HONOR
In 2017, Little Havana was named a national treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

DID YOU KNOW?
Miami is the only US city sandwiched between two national parks: Everglades National Park and Biscayne National Park.



A rooster in Little Havana

Around town

One of the oldest neighborhoods in Miami is Historic Overtown. It was settled in the 1890s by Black workers who built Miami’s railroads and hotels but were not allowed to live in other areas of the city due to racism. Today it has a historic theater and museums honoring Black history and culture. During the Great Depression (1929–1939), Jewish investors who moved to Miami built small, brightly colored Art Deco-style hotels in South Beach. In the 1950s, many people from Cuba fled their country and communism (a social system with no private property), and immigrants from Latin American and Caribbean countries moved to the Riverside area of Miami. It became known as “Little Havana,” named after Cuba’s capital city. Calle Ocho (8th Street) is the center of social and commercial life in Little Havana and is dotted with rooster sculptures.



Street art in Wynwood

Miami now

About 450,000 people live in Miami today, and New York City is the only US city that receives more visitors per year. Attractions include beaches, restaurants, shops, Zoo Miami, museums, and distinctive parking garages (including one designed to look like a jigsaw puzzle). The first phase of the Underline—a 10-mile urban park with trails, a public gym, and art spaces located under Miami’s elevated railroad—opened in 2021. Wynwood (also called the Design District) is currently considered one of Miami’s hippest neighborhoods, known for its colorful murals and an outdoor museum featuring street art.

Foods of Miami

Cuban sandwich

Miami’s version of this classic from Cuba features smoked ham, roasted pork, Swiss cheese, pickles, and mustard.



Stone crabs

A local delicacy found off the coast of South Florida, stone crabs have been on the menus of some of the most renowned restaurants in Miami for more than 100 years.



Jerk chicken

A beloved dish in Miami’s large Jamaican and Caribbean community, jerk chicken is prepared by generously coating the chicken in a unique “marmalade” of spices, herbs, and peppers.



Arepas

This South American-inspired dish is made with dough from ground corn and stuffed with fillings like avocado, chicken, and cheese.

Torta helada

This pretty-in-pink cake came to Miami by way of Peru. It gets its bold color from strawberry jelly, although some bakers use peach or orange jelly instead.





DID YOU KNOW?
Hadrosaurs were large dinosaurs that walked on two legs, and their name means “bulky lizard” in ancient Greek.

A rendering of a duck-billed dinosaur

Did dinosaurs swim to Africa?

For many years, scientists have believed that some dinosaurs could wade and paddle around in the water, but they did not think the creatures were strong swimmers. A recent study of dinosaur fossils discovered in what is now Africa have challenged this theory.

The fossils came from a group of dinosaurs called hadrosaurs. They are known as duck-billed dinosaurs because their snouts were shaped like a duck’s bill. These creatures first appeared in what is now North America during a period known as the late Cretaceous, between 100 million and 66 million years ago.

The fossils were from the skull, arm, and leg of three hadrosaur species, one smaller and two larger. The team of researchers think the skull belonged to an entirely new species, named *Minqaria bata*. It was between 9 and 13 feet long and weighed about 550 pounds, making it about the size of a pony. Though it was small compared to other hadrosaurs, *Minqaria bata*’s bones indicate that it was fully grown. Its body was very similar to European hadrosaurs, which suggests that they were related.



Most dinosaurs waded but did not swim.

During much of the Cretaceous period, North America was connected by land to Europe and Asia, and Africa was a huge island separated from Asia and Europe by a sea. Duck-billed dinosaurs eventually spread into Europe and Asia by crossing the land. The bones in Africa, however, puzzled scientists because the dinosaurs would have had to cross hundreds of miles of water to get there—but how?

The scientists concluded that the duck-billed dinosaurs must have gotten to Africa by swimming or floating. “The Cretaceous lasted nearly 100 million years. A lot of strange things will happen in that time—including dinosaurs crossing seas,” said Nicholas Longrich, an author of the study. According to the study, the three species of duck-billed dinosaurs found in Africa indicate that the creatures did more than make their way to that continent. They also evolved (changed very slowly over time) there. “These duckbills [may be] the most surprising find of my career,” Longrich said. “If you asked me what kind of dinosaurs we’d find in Africa, a duckbill is the last thing I would have imagined, let alone three species.”

Dinosaur walking styles



An artist's rendering of dinosaurs

Some dinosaurs were huge, some were fierce, and many were both. According to a new study, however, it wasn’t just these qualities that helped them rule the planet for more than 160 million years—it was also the way they walked.

Early dinosaurs walked on their hind legs and were able to run and move quickly. This helped them catch food and avoid predators. Over time, dinosaurs adapted to also walk on four legs and were able to live and find food in all kinds of environments. At a time when the land was changing rapidly, this gave them an advantage over other creatures that weren’t as diverse. Other species died out, while dinosaurs thrived.

ORRSPORT/GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY; EMANUELE ALCONE/SNSF; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)



Smart mouthguards protect athletes

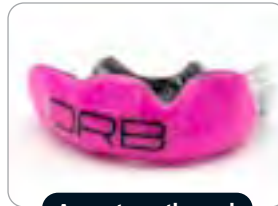
Professional rugby players in the UK are wearing smart mouthguards to protect them from serious injuries during games. Rugby is a contact sport, which means that players often come into physical contact with each other. Similar to American football, it’s common for players to tackle each other, and sometimes a player hits their head.

Players usually wear mouthguards to protect their teeth, but the smart mouthguard has extra features. It includes sensors that can detect how hard a player was hit during a collision. If a player is hit many times or with a lot of force, the mouthguard sends an alert to a medical team. The player can then be checked over for head injuries by a doctor.

In the US, the National Football League (NFL) has been running a program to test smart mouthguards for several years. Players on NFL and college teams have worn the technology, as have other athletes, including boxers and soccer players.

Scientists for the rugby leagues and the NFL are studying data collected from smart mouthguards. The information will help them learn about the link between how hard someone is hit and the risk of head injury so they can make rule or equipment changes.

The data will also help them continue to improve the smart mouthguards. Sports safety experts said the technology could also be used by non-professional players in the future.



A smart mouthguard



Mouthguards protect teeth but can also gather useful information.

FUN FACT
Rugby was invented in 1823 in Rugby, England, by a boy who was playing soccer and disregarded the rules, creating a new game.



Some of the Treasure of Villena collection

Ancient treasures made from meteor

Artifacts found in Spain may have been crafted with iron from a meteor that fell to Earth a million years ago. The Treasure of Villena is a collection of 59 bowls, bottles, and jewelry made between 1500 and 1200 BCE. Most were made from gold or silver, but some include iron.

Scientists recently analyzed two iron items—a bracelet and a decorative sphere—and found that their metal composition was similar to iron from a meteor.

When the treasures were created about 3,000 years ago, people in that area were not using iron mined from Earth. The team believes the iron in the bracelet and sphere was likely from a meteorite found in the area.

Artifacts made with meteoritic iron have been found elsewhere in Europe, but these are the first ones found in this part of Spain. The team thinks the items were made by skilled artisans who figured out how to work with the new material.



A robot that monitors trees



The Avocado

A company in Switzerland has invented a new robot that can move within the canopy of a tree, allowing researchers to explore harder-to-reach forest areas. Named Avocado after its shape, the robot was inspired by the movements of flying squirrels and ballooning spiders.

Avocado is fastened to a tree branch or drone and can be raised or lowered on a cable. Small propellers on both sides help it move left or right. A camera collects data and also helps Avocado spot obstacles, like branches, and move away from them.

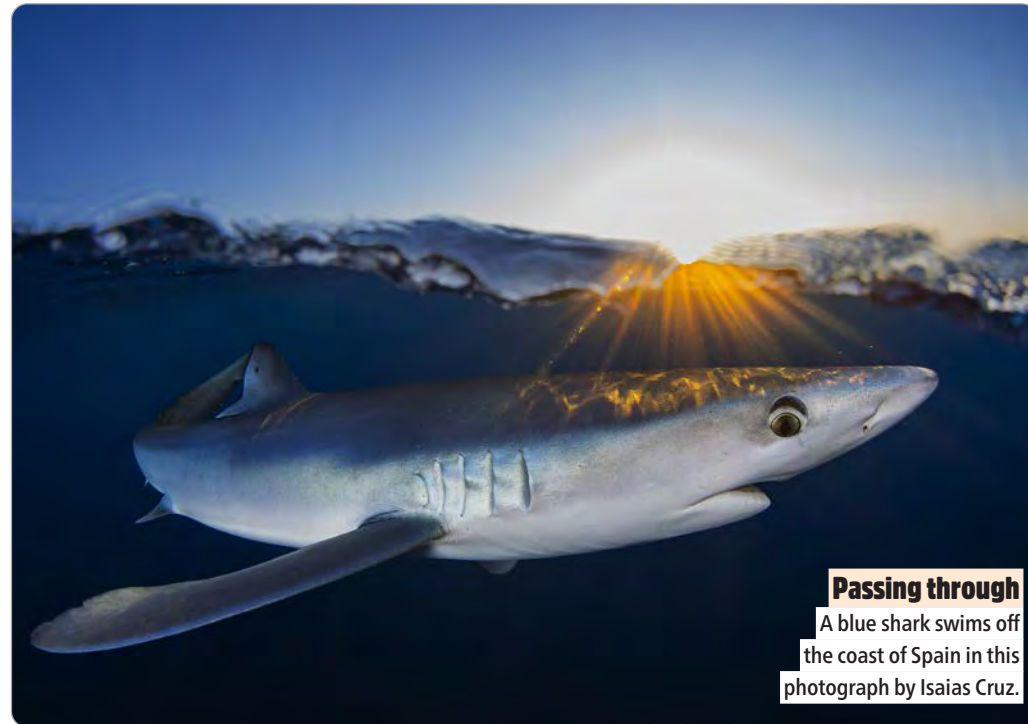


Photos of the week

2024
UNDERWATER
PHOTOGRAPHER OF
THE YEAR
FINALISTS



Easy being green
Sunbong Jung snapped this picture of a tiny puffer filefish in the Philippines.



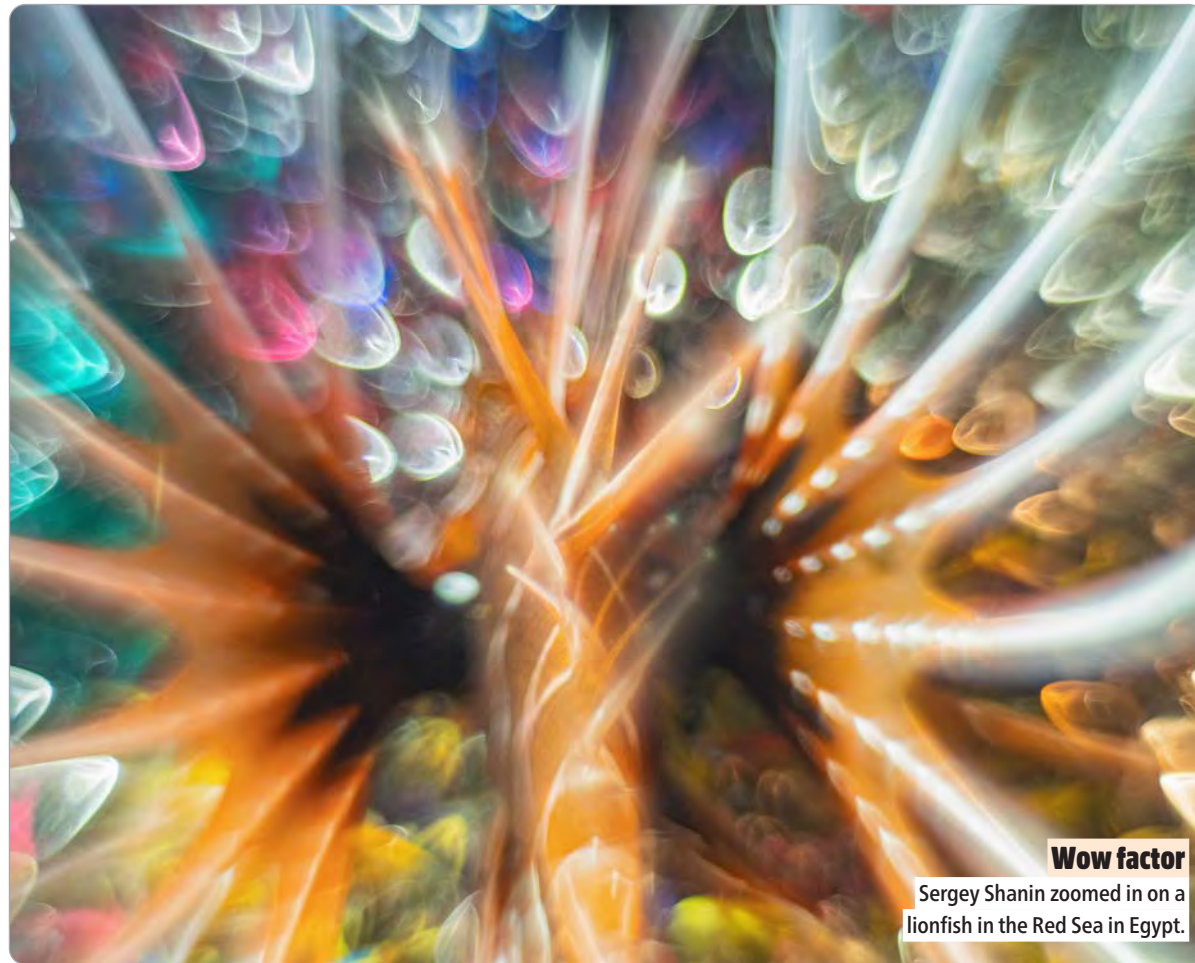
Passing through
A blue shark swims off the coast of Spain in this photograph by Isaías Cruz.



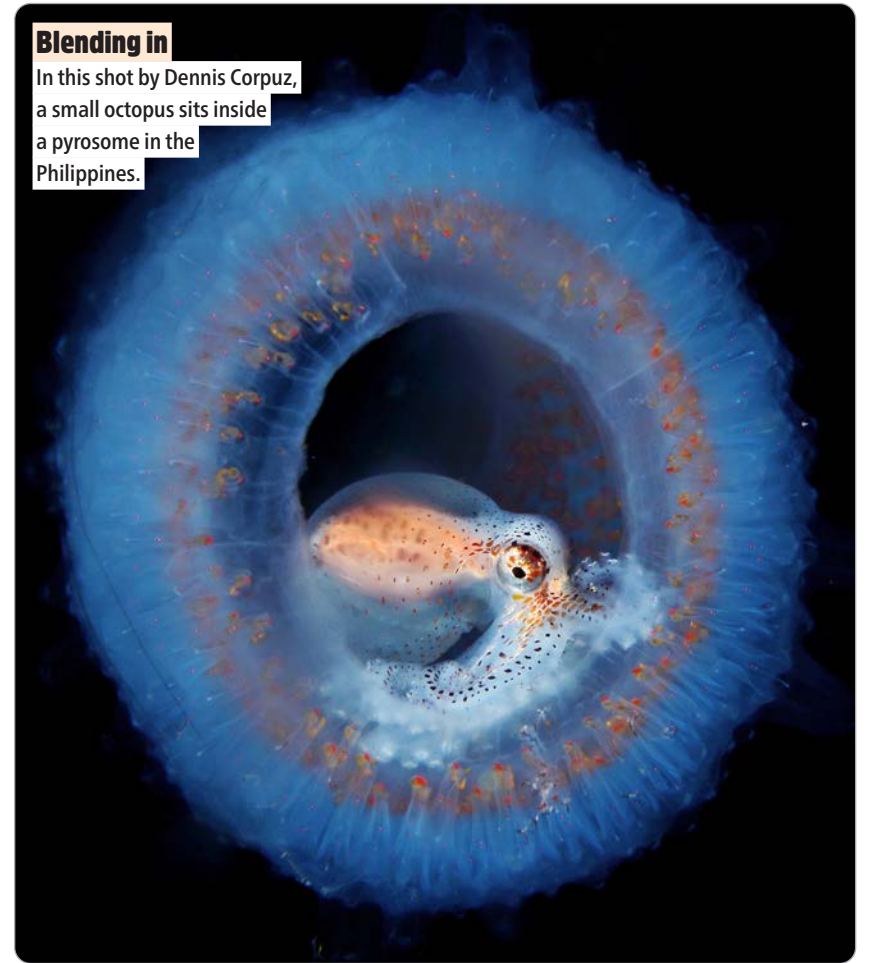
Open wide
JingGong Zhang took this photo of two eels in Japan.



Vivid view
Enrico Somogyi took this photo of a sea slug and shrimp in the waters off Bali.



Wow factor
Sergey Shanin zoomed in on a lionfish in the Red Sea in Egypt.



Blending in
In this shot by Dennis Corpuz, a small octopus sits inside a pyrosome in the Philippines.

ENRICO SOMOGYI; ISAIAS CRUZ; SERGEY SHANIN; SUNBONG JUNG; DENNIS CORPUZ; JINGGONG ZHANG



Photos of the week



Biggest event in college

The NCAA men's basketball tournament will be played in 14 locations before wrapping up in Glendale, Arizona.



NCAA TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

What's happening

Each spring, the top college basketball teams play in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament, also called March Madness. The field is made up of teams that won their conference tournaments and those chosen for their strong regular-season records. The winner of each game moves to the next round.

Men's teams to watch

UConn was named the tournament's overall top-ranked team as they look to become the first back-to-back men's champion since 2007. Another contender for the title is Purdue, led by senior center Zach Edey (averaging 24.4 points per game). Experts also point to Houston as a popular pick to make a deep run

in the tournament, thanks to their relentless defense. They've held their opponents to the fewest points per game in Division 1 basketball. Two high-flying underdogs to watch are Samford and James Madison. They are both among the top 10 highest-scoring teams in the nation, averaging 86 and 84.4 points per game, respectively.

basketball starts now!

Most of the women's tournament will take place in two cities before it moves to Cleveland, Ohio, for the Final Four.



NCAA TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

Women's teams to watch

South Carolina, coming off their second consecutive undefeated regular season, is the top overall seed. After falling short in the national semifinals last year, they enter this tournament trying to complete the first fully undefeated season since 2016. Iowa, which knocked out South Carolina last season, is

among the favorites to be crowned champion, which would be the university's first title. Their star guard, Caitlin Clark, led the country in points and assists per game this season. Two more teams to watch are defending champion LSU, led by forward Angel Reese, and USC, whose star freshman JuJu Watkins scored the second-most points per game this season with 27.

Find out more

Use these brackets to follow the men's and women's tournaments. Predict which team you think will win each game and who will be the semifinalists and champions. To learn more about teams and players, visit ncaa.com. You can download printable versions of these brackets at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Brackets2024.

GETTY IMAGES (2)



Art inside the Rabbit hOle

DID YOU KNOW?
The first children's picture book is thought to be *Orbis Sensualium Pictus*, which was published in 1658 and translates to "Visible World in Pictures."



Bringing books to life

The Rabbit hOle in North Kansas City, Missouri, is a museum filled with 3D versions of art from popular children's stories.

A new immersive museum celebrating children's books has opened in North Kansas City, Missouri. The Rabbit hOle is located in a 99-year-old warehouse and has more than 30 exhibits featuring characters and scenes from beloved stories.



A tiger from Sam and the Tigers

The museum was created by Pete Cowdin and Debbie Pettid, who used to own and operate a local children's bookstore. Like the Rabbit hOle, the shop was filled with 3D art related to books. Pettid said a goal for the museum is

"to connect people to children's books and their creators in fun and discoverable environments." Visitors enter through a burrow belonging to an original character, Fox Rabbit—a fox raised by bunnies. He is known as the museum's "true founder" and "guiding spirit."

Each book highlighted inside the Rabbit hOle was chosen based on factors that include its importance in the history of American children's literature and whether it could inspire "an interesting exhibit and experience," spokesperson Emily Hane told *The Week*

Junior. Illustrations brought to life include the great green room from *Goodnight Moon* and the city from the cover of *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, plus characters such as Madeline and the *Caps for Sale* peddler. Everything was made by an in-house team of designers, artists, and fabricators, Hane said, and there are plans to add more elements.

Along with the exhibits, the Rabbit hOle has a bookstore, print shop, story lab, and maker space. Hane said the overall hope is that visitors to the museum "will be inspired to pick up, share, and read a book and to appreciate the artistry and culture of children's literature."

COURTESY OF THE RABBIT HOLE (3); PLANET WORD; SETH KAY/THE ERIC CARLE MUSEUM OF PICTURE BOOK ART; UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY'S MAZZA MUSEUM

More spots for book lovers



Planet Word

This Washington, DC, museum highlights the power of language. In an exhibit called *The Library*, visitors can place books on a special table that activates related sounds and animated projections.

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

This Massachusetts museum was co-founded by Eric Carle, the famous author and illustrator of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and other books. It exhibits works by him and other artists.



University of Findlay's Mazza Museum

The world's largest collection of original artwork by children's book illustrators is at this museum in Ohio. The Mazza has another gallery at the ProMedica Museum of Natural History in Toledo.



NOISE MAKER
The highest-pitched animal call ever documented came from a clear-winged woolly bat.

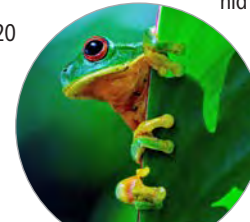


A howler monkey in *Earthsounds*

Series highlights nature sounds

A new documentary series is revealing the special ways animals communicate in nature. *Earthsounds*, which is on Apple TV+, relied on advanced technology to uncover different noises, including ones that human ears usually don't pick up. To create the show, more than 3,000 hours of audio was recorded in the wild.

Earthsounds was filmed across 20 countries on all seven continents. Executive producer Sam Hodgson told *The Week Junior* that the goal of the show was "to sort of eavesdrop" on animals and "hear our planet like never before." Among the animals highlighted are



A red-eyed tree frog

grunting koalas, a frog choir, howler monkeys competing in a voice-off, and meerkats that use a silent sound system so they can communicate without alerting predators. The series also features non-animal sounds, such as the buzz of the radiant northern lights.

Nearly every species in *Earthsounds* had to be recorded with its own type of microphone setup. One big challenge was capturing the mating calls of rarely filmed snow leopards in the Himalayas, a mountain range in Asia. To do that, the production team created camera rigs with microphones and hid them in the area for two years.

To expose sounds that only certain animals can detect, the team used an editing technique called pitch shifting. It allowed them to lower the pitch on recorded dolphin clicks and hear the chatter of 1,000 dolphins, each with their own whistle.

Hodgson said most people will be surprised by some of the "unusual and otherworldly" sounds in the series. But the show is meant to be soothing, too. As executive producer Alex Williamson told *The Week Junior*, "Research suggests that listening to the sounds of nature is good for mental health and well-being."

READER RECOMMENDS



The Spiderwick Chronicles PG (Prime Video, Paramount+, or rent on other platforms)

"A boy named Jared Grace and his family move into their great-great uncle Arthur Spiderwick's house and experience something insane! At first they don't know, but there are goblins surrounding the house. Jared finds a book his uncle wrote about magical creatures. A warning says it should not be read, but he opens it anyway. Mulgarath, a shape-shifting ogre who leads the goblins, wants the book, and eventually they get past a protective barrier around the house. Can the family defend themselves? Find out!" Gianna, 10, New York

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



The Casagrandes Movie (Netflix)

This new movie features the family from Nickelodeon's *The Casagrandes*. Ronnie Anne is turning 12 and is upset when a surprise trip to Mexico ruins her birthday plans. But when an ancient preteen demigod appears, she must prevent it from destroying the world.



Wonka (Max)

The hit 2023 movie musical about candymaker Willy Wonka from the Roald Dahl book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* is now streaming. A young Wonka hopes to open his own candy shop, but an evil trio behind the world's top three chocolate stores wants to stop him.



Critter Fixers: Country Vets (NatGeo) (Disney+) (Hulu)

Longtime friends Dr. Vernard Hodges and Dr. Terrence Ferguson are busy veterinarians in rural Georgia. This new season of their reality series follows the doctors and their staff as they manage emergency office visits and farm calls and tend to their animal patients.

On screen



A game for Princess Peach fans

Princess Peach: Showtime! is a dramatic new action-adventure game. It is out now exclusively for the Nintendo Switch.

Fans of Super Mario games know Princess Peach as one of Mario's friends and the ruler of the Mushroom Kingdom. In games released in the US in the 1980s and early 1990s, she was called Princess Toadstool. Back then, her main role was being kidnapped by the villain Bowser and rescued by Mario. Since then, Peach has starred in her own game, 2005's Super Princess Peach, and has been a playable character in games such as Mario Kart and Super Smash Bros.

Showtime! begins with Peach visiting the Sparkle Theater with friends to see a new show. Before it gets started, a portal opens up to deliver an evil sorceress named Grape and her minions, the Sour Bunch. It's not long before Peach goes from an

audience member to the star of the show, as she teams up with the Sparkle's floating star guardian, Stella, to eject the evil intruders.

A lot of the gameplay is inspired by the theater world. Every level is a new set, such as the Wild West, outer space, and under the sea, and each one has different challenges and attacks by the Sour Bunch. Peach makes



costume changes that give her new abilities and powers that match each set. The characters she becomes include Ninja Peach, who wields a pair of kunai (short knives); Cowgirl Peach, who rides a horse and is a master with a lasso; and Patisserie Peach, who bakes and decorates treats in minigames.

The game isn't too difficult, so it's great for any skill level. Still, there are fun ways to make it more challenging, such as by unlocking and collecting sparkle gems or looking for secret rooms.

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

DETECTIVE DEXTER

Apple Podcasts, Spotify

Dexter, a French bulldog living in New York City, leads a secret life when his human goes to work. He heads to his office on the fire escape and uses his observation skills to solve mysteries for other dogs. Each episode of this show is a different case, and one involves a notorious cat burglar.



APP OF THE WEEK



APPLE SPORTS

Apple App Store

Keep track of the latest news about your favorite teams with this new app. As of now, it covers 10 leagues—including MLS, the NBA, and the NHL—and more will be added. You can find information such as live scores, stats, lineup details, upcoming game schedules, and play-by-play information.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

PINK CREATURE FROM DOWN UNDER

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-PinkCreature

This video from wildlife channel Brave Wilderness goes into Australia's desert to look for a rare turtle frog (below). Along the way, you will learn about the western shingleback, the spiny-tailed gecko, and other local animals.



NINTENDO (S); LITTLE EARS MEDIA; APPLE; BRAVE WILDERNESS VIA YOUTUBE

Book club

BOOK OF THE WEEK

The Color of Sound

By Emily Barth Isler

(Carolrhoda Books)

Despite being a musical genius, Rosie hasn't played the violin in more than two months. Her entire life has revolved around lessons, practices, and performances. Now she's "on strike" because she doesn't have any good friends. Her parents are upset with her choice. What they don't realize is that music still swirls in Rosie's mind. The seventh grader has synesthesia, a condition that allows her to experience sounds as textures and colors. Rosie hasn't told anyone about it but wonders if someone in her family has it too. Instead of attending music camp in the summer, Rosie goes to her grandparents' house. She and her mom are staying there for six weeks because Rosie's grandma is sick. While exploring her grandparents' backyard, she discovers a shed with a girl her age inside. She's shocked to learn that the girl is her mother when she was Rosie's age. Their conversations unravel secrets that help Rosie better understand her family and herself. Packed with classical music references and a sprinkle of magical realism, this heartfelt story ends on a high note. You may also enjoy a subplot about a group of friends Rosie meets at the library. *Ages 10 and up*

ASK THE AUTHOR

Emily Barth Isler

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

What is synesthesia?

Synesthesia causes a person's senses to become combined and connected in ways that are not typical. For example, a person with synesthesia might taste colors or feel sounds.

Why did you want to write about synesthesia?

I wanted to shed light on the fact that our brain differences can be our superpowers and that being neurodiverse can be a great thing.

Did you play an instrument growing up?

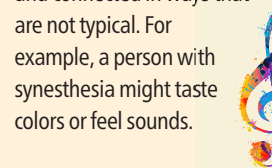
Yes, I played the viola and harp, and I was a classically trained singer.

How is Rosie similar to other children?

Rosie is not sure how to fit in with her peers, and she wants to figure that out. I think most kids can relate to that feeling.

What would you do if you could time travel?

I'd go back and tell my younger self to worry less.



4 books that show you how to sketch

Use these picks to draw your favorite characters or create your own.

Minecraft: How to Draw

Illustrated by Joe McLaren

(Random House Children's Books)

The book begins with step-by-step instructions on how to draw mobs, plants, and structures from Minecraft. You'll finish by putting everything together in a scene. Using graph paper can make it easier to sketch your Minecraft creations. *Ages 6 and up*

New Kid Sketchbook

By Jerry Craft

(Clarkson Potter)

Jordan, the main character from the graphic novel *New Kid*, introduces this book,

which explains how to create speech bubbles, single-panel comics, and entire comic pages. It comes with a ruler you can use to draw straight lines for comic panels, and there's plenty of space for your doodles. *Ages 8 and up*

The Official Harry Potter How to Draw

By Isa Gouache, illustrated by Violet Tobacco

(Scholastic Inc.)

Find out how to sketch more than 30 characters and objects from the Harry Potter series. There are beginner, intermediate, and advanced drawings to choose from. Beginner drawings include Harry's signature round eyeglasses and the Sorting Hat. *Ages 7 and up*

The Official Wings of Fire How to Draw

By Maria S. Barbo, illustrated by Brianna C. Walsh

(Scholastic Inc.)

This book contains simple instructions to help you sketch 25 dragons and one cute sloth from the Wings of Fire series. Although all the dragons look different, they start with the same simple shapes, which makes drawing them easier. *Ages 7 and up*

READER RECOMMENDS



The Tiger Rising

By Kate DiCamillo

"This book is about a boy named Rob who finds a tiger in the woods behind the motel where he lives. Rob is sad and lonely, and he is bullied and doesn't have any friends. So finding the tiger gives Rob the power of the tiger. The story is dark and gloomy, but in some parts it is heartwarming and sunny. This book would be awesome to read in your free time." Julia, 10, South Carolina

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



How to...



FUN FACT
In the game of pickleball, players are referred to as "picklers."

Learn to play pickleball

Give this popular and social sport a try with these tips.

Pickleball is a sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong and is played on a court. It's a simple game for beginners to learn and can be played competitively. It is also the fastest-growing sport in the US. If you've wanted to try playing it—or improve your game if you already play—here's how you can get started.

Get what you need

The only equipment you need for pickleball is a paddle and the Wiffle-like ball that's used in the game. Pickleball courts are much smaller than tennis courts—20 feet wide by 44 feet long. To find a court to play on, use the Pickleball+ app, or go to the USA Pickleball Association's court locator website. With an adult's supervision, you can even use sidewalk chalk to make a court in an empty driveway. Be sure to wear sunscreen and sunglasses or a cap to shield your eyes from the sun.

Understand the game

Pickleball is played by using your paddle to serve the ball over the net to your opponent. It can be played between two opponents, but it's commonly played

as doubles (a team of two players on each side of the net). It can be played to a point limit, which is typically 11. The side leading by two points wins.

Find a class

First, you can check whether your local recreation department offers youth pickleball classes or find out from your physical education teacher whether pickleball lessons will be taught during gym class in school. You can also ask a trusted adult if any family or friends play pickleball and can teach you the game. To understand some of the basics, you can watch the video at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Pickleball.



Be a pickler!

Learn the rules

As you play pickleball, you'll learn the rules of the game. For example, unlike tennis, in pickleball you'll serve the ball underhanded. You'll also find that after being served the ball, you must allow it to bounce on the ground once before hitting it back. You'll learn new lingo, too, like "the kitchen" (the "no volley" zone on both sides of the net where no hitting the ball is allowed). Finally, to improve your game, practice—and have fun!

Court etiquette



Avoid collisions When you're playing doubles, you don't want to bump into your teammate. Make a plan to simply yell out "mine" or "yours" to determine who's going to hit the ball.

Respect other games If you need to chase after a ball that's ended up on another court, remember to wait for a pause in their game to retrieve it.

Practice good sportsmanship Pickleball can get competitive, but remember that it's still a game. Keep a positive attitude and if a call is in question, give the point to the opposing side. Finally, when the game is over, meet at the net to tap paddles like experienced players do.



How to...



Create eggs with a marble effect

What you'll need

- Eggs
- Medium bowl and white vinegar (optional)
- Rimmed baking sheet or shallow baking pan
- Shaving cream
- Spatula
- Food coloring (neon or deep colors work best)
- Skewer or straw (to stir food coloring)
- Paper towels
- Wire cooling rack

Instructions

1. Have an adult help you hard-boil eggs and let them cool. Optional step: Place the hard-boiled eggs in a bowl and pour the vinegar over them. Soak them for about 15 minutes and then dry them off. This will help the egg absorb more dye for brighter colors.
2. Fill the baking pan or sheet with a thick layer of shaving cream (or whipped topping—see "Tips") and smooth it out with the back of a spatula.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring in one or more colors to one corner. Drag the skewer or straw through the food coloring to make stripes or swirls.
4. Dip the egg into the cream and roll it so it gets fully covered. Try to do this in one motion so the colors don't blend and get muddy.

5. Set the egg onto a paper towel or wire cooling rack to dry for at least 20 minutes until the cream has completely dried.
6. Use a paper towel to dab off the excess cream. You can add more drops in different colors to another section of the cream on the baking sheet and repeat steps 4 through 6. If you like, you can re-dip a dried dipped egg to add another layer of color.

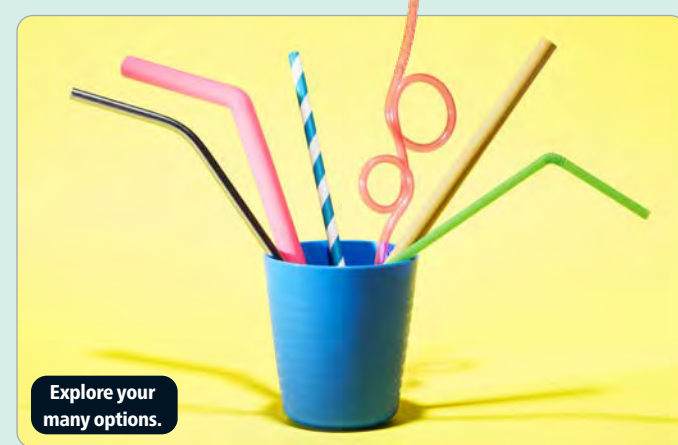
TIPS

- If you plan on eating the eggs, you can use store-bought whipped topping (like Cool Whip) instead of shaving cream. Store the eggs in the refrigerator.
- To prevent food dye from staining your fingers, wear rubber gloves or use tongs to lift the eggs out of the cream.

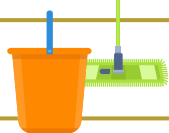


ECO TIP OF THE WEEK FIND THE REUSABLE STRAW FOR YOU

Reusable straws help the environment because they keep single-use plastic straws out of oceans and landfills. There are several types of reusable straws you and your family can consider when looking for the ones that work for you. For example, silicone straws are durable, soft, and temperature-resistant for both cold and warm drinks, and come in bendy shapes. Bamboo straws are plant-based and biodegradable and will last for many uses. Stainless steel straws are easy to clean and won't retain the taste of your beverages. Whichever straw you choose, give it a frequent scrubbing with a straw brush to clear it of any drink residue.



Explore your many options.



Puzzles



Keyword crossword

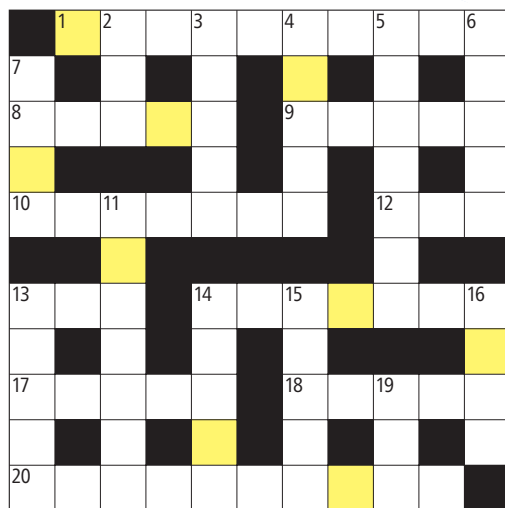
Once you have completed the crossword, transfer the letters in the yellow boxes, in order, into the boxes below to get the answer to the Keyword question.

ACROSS

- 1 Sport with equipment that includes the parallel bars
- 8 Pathway between sections of seats in a theater
- 9 South American animal with very soft wool
- 10 What a circus performer may swing on
- 12 It flows from a pen
- 13 Furniture tested three times by Goldilocks
- 14 Odd and unusual
- 17 Punctuation mark between items in a list
- 18 Sound that might alert firefighters
- 20 They're sometimes referred to as "shades"

DOWN

- 2 It's *oui* in French and *sí* in Spanish
- 3 Female equivalent of a nephew
- 4 Figure out the answer to
- 5 Kind of restaurant where you might order spaghetti
- 6 Feared marine animal with a telltale fin
- 7 Simple flotation device that might be inflatable
- 11 Segment of every insect behind the head and thorax
- 13 "That's why they pay me the big _____" (money)
- 14 Puny
- 15 Highways, streets, and so on
- 16 Red-furred Muppet with a high, giggly voice
- 19 Traditional lumberjack tool



Keyword question: What items were made for nearly 250 years out of boiled goose feathers wrapped in leather?



CODE CRACKER

In this coded list of spring-cleaning supplies, every letter has been replaced with a substitute. The same substitutions are used throughout the list. Hint: Every X here is an uncoded U. Use the letter patterns you find to crack the code.

P H M X L L M X P J

S Y H X X F H O K Y Z K M

M X L L K M W O T S K P

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.



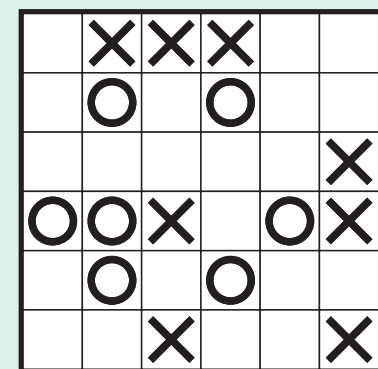
THREE FOR ALL

Sort this list into three familiar three-part phrases, like THREE-RING CIRCUS or SALT LAKE CITY. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

UP POINT STAND GOOD FREE PERIOD STRAIGHT STARTING TRIAL

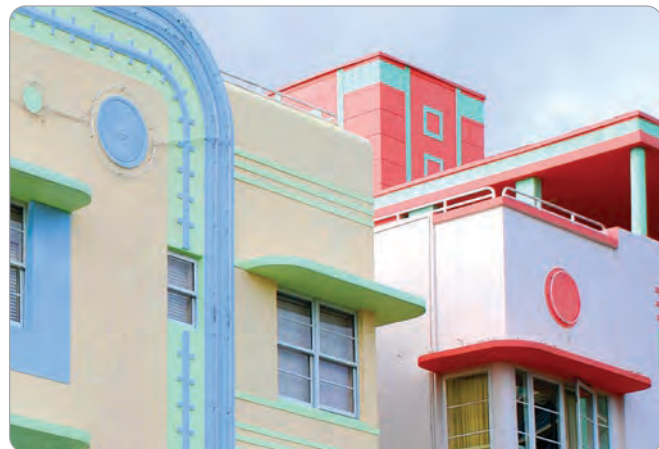
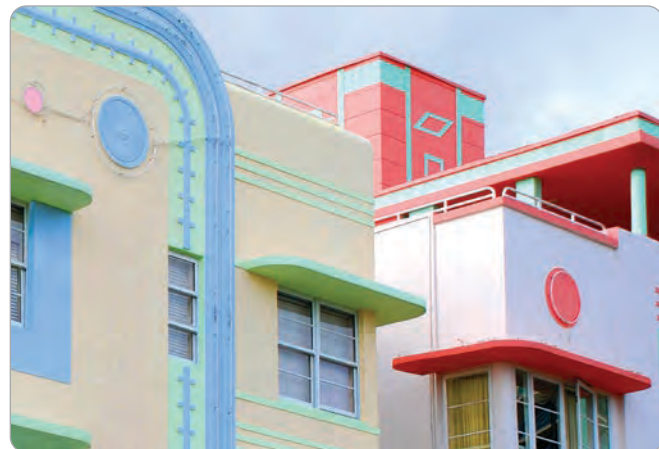
Hit or miss

Place an X or O in each empty square so there are never more than three X's or O's together in a row, column, or diagonal. Hint: If you find three in a row of one letter, you can put the other letter into the spaces at either end.



Spot the difference

These two pictures of Miami houses appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?



That's unbelievable!



Alex the Great

Alex the rabbit drives to fame

A huge rabbit has hopped into the spotlight after videos of him in a miniature car were shared online. Alex the Great, who lives in California and weighs 30 pounds, was rescued by Kei Kato and Josh Row in 2020. He became a certified therapy animal, visiting hospitals and airports to calm sick patients and nervous flyers. "He makes people feel better," Kato said, "and he loves the attention." When he is not volunteering or cruising around in his car, Alex attends charity events and San Francisco Giants baseball games. "He truly just loves people," Row told ABC News.



One patron's feline fine

Another way to pay library dues

The Worcester Public Library in Massachusetts has come up with a creative way to deal with late book returns. During the month of March, people with overdue materials can provide cat pictures instead of paying fines. Not a cat owner? Not a problem. People can draw a cat—lions and tigers included—or get creative. "We take a lot of honorary cats," said library director Jason Homer. "Any ungovernable animal." The program has been a purring success, with debts cleared for more than 400 borrowers in the first five days of what the library calls "March Meowness."



It was a roaring crowd.

Dressed-up dinos go dancing

At Legoland California, 1,273 dancing dinos gathered together to attempt a world record. The number to beat for the world's largest dinosaur costume party was 252, according to Guinness World Records. Legoland invited people to "unleash your inner dinosaur" at the event and offered free admission to the park for attendees wearing full dino attire. Along with celebrating Legoland's 25th birthday and dancing to a brass band, partygoers were treated to an announcement that the park's new Dino Valley area will open on March 22.



Real or fake?

Is this a platform we can all get behind?

A hopeful hippo for President

Later this year, people across the country will be voting for the next US President. One candidate who will be running in the election is Timothy, a hippopotamus from the San Antonio Zoo in Texas. In his campaign, Timothy has promised that every US citizen would be able to have at least one nap per day. He also wants all schools and offices to have a mandatory snack time to make people happier and more productive. Do you believe this story is real, or are you hippo-critical?*

*Real! The zoo has launched T-shirts and other merchandise to promote Timothy's campaign, featuring the slogan "Naps for All." They will use the money raised by the campaign to help protect wildlife.

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

SLOWAGRIGADE/IG; ALEX THE GREAT/TOO/IG; COURTESY OF THE WORCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY; LEGOLAND; SAN ANTONIO ZOO; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)



Your turn

Editor's note



I am so impressed with the winners of this year's Regeneration Science Talent Search (p2). Out of thousands of entries to the nation's most prestigious STEM competition, 10 talented high school students received the top prizes. The submissions, which were judged on criteria such as scientific rigor and original thinking, focused on artificial intelligence, cancer treatment, and other complicated subjects. I can only imagine how much time, thought, and effort the students put into completing the projects. They—and everyone who competed—should be congratulated for their dedication, determination, and desire to improve the world. I agree with Maya Ajmera, the president of the organization that has been overseeing the awards for nearly 80 years. She said, "The remarkable intellect and ingenuity of these students serves as an inspiration for us all."

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

Big benefits of therapy dogs

“I believe the unconditional love and affection of dogs can be powerful in helping children deal with stress and anxiety. That’s why I worked to bring Indy, a therapy dog, to my school twice a week. I spoke to experts, dog breeders, and other schools that had successfully implemented such a program and created a proposal that would work for my school. I then presented it to my principal, who was very supportive. I think every school can benefit from having a therapy dog on campus.”



Shrey, 11, Massachusetts

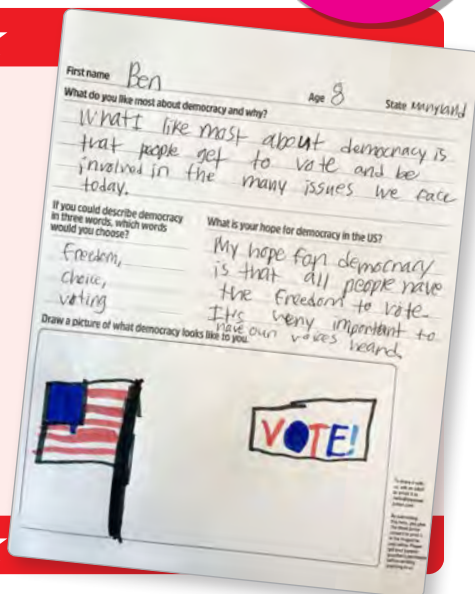
JOKE OF THE WEEK
How can you spot a dad joke?
The punchline is always apparent.

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.



Your dream for the nation

Ben, age 8, of Maryland likes that in a democracy people get to vote and be involved. He hopes that all people have the freedom to vote because it's important for their voices to be heard. As a reader of *The Week Junior*, you may have opinions about your hopes for the US. If so, we want to hear them! Go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to download a form, like the one at right. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the submissions on this page in future issues.



CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Helen Keller International

Disability rights activist Helen Keller co-founded this organization in 1915. It provides crucial health services, such as eye examinations to prevent vision loss for children and adults in need. It also fights hunger by distributing vitamin supplements and food to communities. The group has reached about 73 million children in 20 countries. Find out more at helenkellerintl.org.



Your turn



CELEBRATE READING!

If you've enjoyed National Reading Month in March, tell us about what you read and have an adult email it to us with your photo at hello@theweekjunior.com. For a list of our 50 Books for 50 States, go to kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.

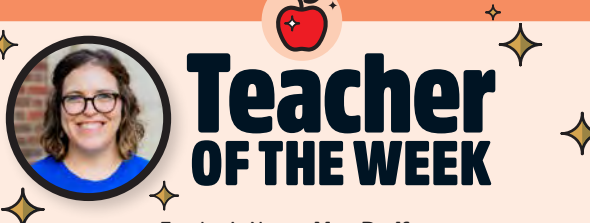


“I loved reading *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency* from *The Week Junior's* 50 Books for 50 States list for Read Across America.” Sutton, 8, New Jersey

“I read two books from the Read Across America feature. I thought *Frindle*, set in New Hampshire, was a page-turner! I give it a five-star review! *The Marvellers*, set in Louisiana, was very good too. I would recommend it, 10/10.” Lorenzo, 9, Illinois



“I loved reading *The Secret Files of Fairday Morrow* about a girl who moves from Manhattan to Connecticut and solves a mystery about a Victorian house. It is spooky but interesting.” Hannah, 8, New York



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mrs. Redfoot**
School: **Normal Park Museum Magnet School**

“Mrs. Redfoot is my favorite teacher. She always makes sure everyone is included. She is really funny, too. She helps me when I am confused and makes me feel more confident. Mrs. Redfoot makes fourth grade learning fun! I love it when she reads a book to the whole class. We recently read *Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie: The Oregon Trail Diary of Hattie Campbell*. I wish she could be my teacher every year.”

Georgia, 10, Tennessee

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.



GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Keyword answer: golf balls

Code cracker
scrub brush
vacuum cleaner
rubber gloves

Three for all
good starting point
free trial period
stand up straight

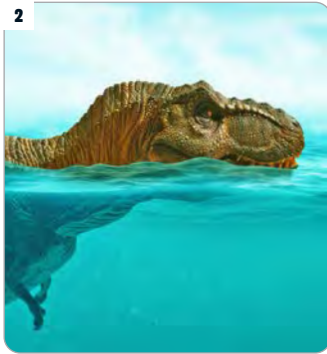
Quiz answers (from page 30) 1 Fox Rabbit 2 False. They thought dinosaurs were not strong swimmers. 3 c) Violin 4 Octopus 5 a) Grape 6 c) Arctic tern 7 False. They wear smart mouthguards. 8 c) 1896 9 a) Achyuta Rajaram 10 True 11 b) Grover Cleveland 12 Cat pictures 13 True 14 b) Georgia 15 1,273



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What character is the "guiding spirit" of the new museum The Rabbit Hole?



2 True or false? For many years, scientists thought dinosaurs were strong swimmers.

True False

3 Rosie goes on strike from playing what instrument in the book *The Color of Sound*?

a) Harp b) Piano c) Violin

a b c

4 Which sea creature has marine biologist Dr. Alex Schnell spent her career studying?

5 In the video game *Princess Peach: Showtime!*, who leads the Sour Bunch?

a) Grape b) Cherry c) Lemon

a b c

6 Which animal has the longest migration?

a) Wildebeest b) Monarch butterfly

c) Arctic tern

a b c

7 True or false? Rugby players in the UK wear smart helmets to prevent head injuries.

True False

8 In what year did the first train arrive in Miami, Florida?

a) 1821 b) 1891 c) 1896

a b c



ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.



9 Who won first place in this year's Regeneron Science Talent Search?

a) Achyuta Rajaram b) Michelle Wei

c) Thomas Cong

a b c

10 True or false? Over 3,000 hours of audio was recorded for the series *Earthsounds*.

True False

11 Who is the only US President to be re-elected after previously being voted out of office?

a) Benjamin Harrison b) Grover Cleveland

c) Dwight Eisenhower

a b c

12 What has the Worcester Public Library been accepting as payment for late fees?

13 True or false? A striped marlin changes the color of its stripes during a hunt.

True False

14 The Thomas Built Buses company sent its 1,000th electric bus to a school district in what state?

a) California b) Georgia c) Illinois

a b c

15 How many people gathered at Legoland California in dinosaur costumes?

THE WEEK Junior

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**GLACIAL
GOAT**

Mountain goats, which are closely related to gazelles and African antelopes, are the symbol of Glacier National Park in Montana.