

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
JANUARY 3, 2021

FUN DAY TIMES



New Year Greetings!

Pic by Nilan Maligaspe



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**Please send
competition entries to:**



Funday Times
C/O the Sunday Times
P.O. Box 1136, Colombo.
Or
8, Hunupitiya Cross Road,
Colombo 2.

**All competition entries should be
certified by a teacher or parent/
guardian as your own work.**

Competition entries without the
full details requested above,
will be disqualified.

**Please write the name of the competition and
the date clearly at the top of your entry and
include the following details:**

Full Name (including Surname),
Date of Birth, Address,
Telephone No. and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

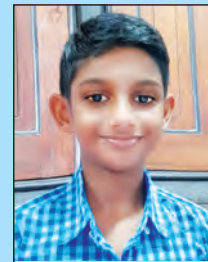
**Please note that competition entries
(except Reeves Art) are accepted by email.**

Closing date for weekly competitions:

January 20, 2021

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Nithum induwara
8 years on January 4

From a Young Reporter

The Science of Mirages

Have you ever found the sight
of an unmistakable blue oasis,
in an endless desert puzzling,
when there is actually nothing?
Whether it's a parched traveller
traversing the Sahara or the sight
of water puddles on a hot pavement,
it's all down to a common optical
phenomenon that can be explained
by the Physics of Earth's
atmosphere.

Our atmosphere can cause some
distant images to undergo an effect
called '*refraction*'. You can try this
out yourself by dipping a spoon

inside a glass of water. The bending
observed is caused due to light rays
passing through one medium into
another of different densities,
in the above instance from air to
glass. Refraction is strongly
affected by varying temperature.

When the air near ground level
is heated by contact with the hot
ground, it becomes less dense.
This is because the air near the
heated ground becomes considerably
hotter than the air above, causing
refraction of light rays, bending
towards the cooler region.



Often a patch of sky is mirrored
in the hot air giving the shimmering
appearance of a pool of water.
As a result, objects and the horizon
appears distorted to the observer.

There are two main mirages.
The inferior mirage is produced
when light rays approach a hotter
region and are refracted away
as in a desert mirage.
Eventually the mirage image is
seen below the actual object. ▼



▲ A superior mirage occurs when air
below the line of sight is colder than
that above and light rays are bent
downwards. The image appears above
the true object, hence the name
superior. A complex example for
this would be the 'Fata Morgana',
commonly witnessed as a narrow belt
above the horizon, in Polar Regions.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ Mirages were the basis for many legends about phantom islands in the sky and mystical oases.
- ◆ The 'Repeat sunset' is a mirage where the sun appears to set, then reappears, and sets again later. This was witnessed in April 1915 on an expedition led by Ernest Shackleton.

Priscilla Rambukkange
(14 years)
Hillwood College, Kandy

December 29, 2020

News in Pictures



Beijing, China
Frozen waterfalls in Shenquanxia scenic area in Mentougou District of Beijing.



Hawaii, USA
The continuing eruption in the Halema'uma'u crater at Kilauea volcano. On December 28, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) field crews measured the lava lake as 179 metres deep. The Halema'uma'u crater erupted on December 20, 2020 after a 4.4-magnitude earthquake hit the south flank of the volcano.



Chittagong, Bangladesh
A Rohingya refugee lifts an infant as they wait in a naval ship to be transported to an isolated island in the Bay of Bengal.

Oxfordshire, UK
The River Thames floods the surrounding pathways and fields in Henley-on-Thames.



Harbin, China
The 22nd Harbin Ice and Snow World opens officially, showing ice and snow wonders to tourists from all over the world in Songbei, Heilongjiang province.



Lesconil, France
A big wave crashes on a pier in front of a house in western France as Storm Bella caused torrential rain and heavy winds in much of France.



Derby, UK
People enjoying the fresh snowfall in the wintry weather in Darley Park.

Tehran, Iran
A health worker prepares an injection for a woman during the first trial phase of a locally made Iranian vaccine for Covid-19 disease in Iran's capital.



New York, USA
A pedestrian makes his way across a lightly trafficked intersection in Times Square. While there will be a ball drop in Times Square on New Year's Eve, it will be primarily for TV cameras as the usual tightly packed crowds of revellers will not be permitted due to the pandemic.

Tomahawk

Quiz
No. 179

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 179 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of December 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2020.

All you have to do is to find the answers to the questions given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard. Cut the strip 'Tomahawk Quiz No. 179' seen at the top of this page and paste it on your postcard. Please get your entries certified as your own work by a teacher or parent.

Two lucky winners
will receive brand new
Tomahawk Mountain Bikes
with the compliments of
Tomahawk Bicycle Mall

All Funday Times readers between 8 – 15 years
are eligible to participate.

(Those who have already won a bicycle
are not eligible to participate.)

Closing Date: January 31, 2021



Or



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QUESTIONS — Quiz No. 179

1. How many vertebrae can be found in the neck of a human being?
2. Who was the first person in the UK to receive the Pfizer/BioNtech Covid-19 vaccine?
3. On which day was the 'Christmas Star' visible for the first time in 800 years? Name the two planets that caused this appearance.
4. For which Roman god is the first month of the year – January, named after and why?
5. Who permanently established January 1st as New Year's Day?

4 – 6 AGE GROUP

Circle the biggest in each row.



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We regret we are unable
to publish winners this
Sunday since we are
working from home.



Or



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