

the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
MARCH 28, 2021

# FUNDAY TIMES

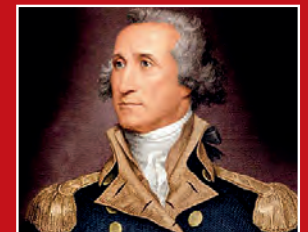


***Worshipping with flowers***

Pic. by Rekha Tharanganee



**MATHS**  
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**FAMOUS  
PEOPLE**  
**PAGE 5**



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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.

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

**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.

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

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

**Closing date for weekly competitions:**  
**April 14, 2021**

Telephone: 2479337/2479333  
 Email: [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)



## New Year Cover 2021

As the Sinhala and Tamil New Year approaches, it is time once again to think of the Funday Times New Year Cover.

Would you like to send in a picture for our New Year cover? If so, here's what you have to do.

Paint a picture to depict the traditions of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year and send it in to us.






**The painting should be on A 4 size paper.**  
**You could use any type of paint, crayons or chalk.**  
**Please make your picture bright and colourful.**

**All entries should be certified by a teacher or parent as your own work. Uncertified entries will not be entertained.**


The best entry will be used for the cover of the Funday Times New Year issue.  
 The winner will also receive a book voucher.

Wish you all happy painting!


**Closing Date : April 5, 2021**

**Harinie Prahakar**  
 14 years on March 28



**Mishenka Bandara**  
 8 years on March 28



### Read-a-Book and win a voucher from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop

Read any book of your choice and write briefly about it. What we want is not just a summary of the story but your views on the book.

The best account in the three age groups will be awarded book vouchers of Rs. 500 each from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop. Three winners will be selected each month.

**Your account should not exceed 200 words.**

Please indicate word count on entry.  
 Please fill in the coupon and attach it to your entry.

**Read-a-Book Competition**

Name : .....

.....

Date of birth : .....

.....

Address : .....

.....



.....


School: .....

Tel: .....

Finished book on : .....

.....

 Or 


 [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)

### Read-a-Book for February

**9 years and below**  
**Christelina Foenander** – *The Emperor's New Clothes* (Ladybird)

**10 – 12 years**  
**Rubiga Arunthavam** – *Diary of a Wimpy Kid – Hard Luck* by Jeff Kinney

**13 – 15 years**  
**Sandali Hapuarachchi** – *Cards on the Table* by Agatha Christie





March 24

# News in Pictures



**Nandgaon, India**  
Men daubed in colours throw coloured powder at each other during Lathmar Holi celebrations.



**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**  
The sun rises in front of the Christ the Redeemer statue, which is undergoing restoration to ensure that it looks its best for the returning tourists.



**Taipei, Taiwan**  
Two people stand on a statue of a horse during a photo call for an art performance by Paper Windmills Theatre.

**Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh**  
A young boy sits on a pile of burned items after a fire destroyed thousands of shelters in the Rohingya refugee camp.



**Ahmedabad, India**  
Labourers at a workshop making PPE kits, used as a preventive measure against Covid-19.



**Duesseldorf, Germany**  
Zeitfeld, meaning time field, an art installation by German artist Klaus Rinke, on display ahead of the country's changing of the clocks.

March 23

**Sydney, Australia**  
A boy paddling on a board in flood water as it continues to rain in Windsor suburb.



**Kfar Jalis, Syria**  
Syrian comedian Firas al-Ahmad, who dresses up as a clown to entertain children in camps for displaced people in the rebel-held north-west of the country, performs in the main square of a camp north of Idlib.



**Tel Aviv, Israel**  
Raif Lalo, a COVID-19 patient, votes in parliamentary elections inside an intensive care ward for coronavirus patients at Ichilov hospital. Israel is holding its fourth election in less than two years.

Source : The Guardian



# Packing oranges in a box

**Maths in Action 51**

By R. N. A. de Silva

**A**s oranges (or even apples) have a round shape, which we can name as spherical, packing them in boxes is difficult, as no matter how you pack them, there will always be gaps between them. This problem leads us to a mathematical question: How can we pack spheres into a box so that the volume of the gaps is as small as possible? This is to find an arrangement in which the spheres fill as much of the space as possible.

In 1611, Johannes Kepler came up with an idea that the best way to pack a space with spherical objects is to organize the spheres like a stack of oranges at a market. This is known as the Kepler conjecture. He was not able to prove the conjecture, but Carl F. Gauss constructed a limited proof in 1831. However, in 1998, Thomas Hales used a computer program to come up with a proof to show that Kepler was correct.

This technique of organizing them like a stack of oranges at a market is called face-centered packing. In this way a person can fill approximately 74% (the obtained value is  $\pi/3\sqrt{2}$ ) of a given volume if spheres are packed in a cubic box.

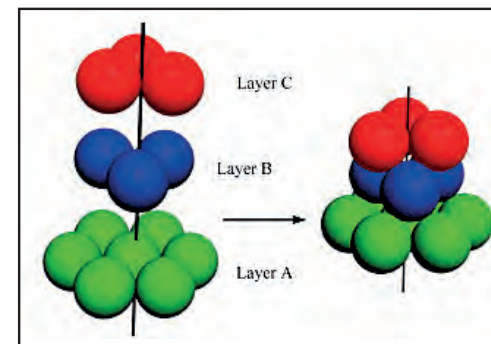


If they are dumped haphazardly, they will fill only approximately 64% of the volume. Similarly, if spherical objects are stacked in a face-centered manner in a cylindrical jar, they too will fill 74% of the volume, approximately. If they are randomly placed, they will fill approximately 71% of the volume.

Let us consider a box of length = width = height = 25 cm, where oranges are packed haphazardly. Assuming that the volume of an orange is  $250 \text{ cm}^3$ , how many oranges can you expect to have in the box?

Knowing that approximately 64% of the volume of the box are filled with oranges, we can estimate the number of oranges to be  $(\text{Volume of the box}) \times 64\% \div (\text{Volume of an orange})$ .

Therefore, the approximate number of oranges =  $25 \times 25 \times 25 \times 0.64 \div 250 = 40$



## Math Plot - 51

Try to find the solution to the following puzzle. You may send solutions with reasoning to

[ndesilva@osc.lk](mailto:ndesilva@osc.lk)

within the next three days.

Please include your full name,

date of birth, home address,

contact details and the name of

your school along with the solution.

**Which 4-digit number multiplied by 4 gives the same number in reverse?**

$(ABCD \times 4 = DCBA)$

## Math Plot 50 – Solution

The hidden code is 'WELL DONE'.

The winner is

**Chanithma Joseph**

of Taxila Central College, Horana.

Congratulations!

## Ginger Meggs



## Jokes

What's worse than finding a worm in your apple?



Finding half a worm!

Why did the firefly get bad grades in school?



He wasn't very bright.





# George Washington



*One of the most popular Presidents of the United States, George Washington is known for leading the Continental Army in victory over the British in the American Revolution. As the first President of the United States, he helped to define what the role of the president would be going forward.*

## Growing up

George was born on February 22, 1732 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He grew up in Colonial Virginia. His father, a landowner and planter, died when George was just 11 years old. Fortunately, George had an older brother named Lawrence who took good care of him, and made sure he was educated in the basic subjects like reading and math.

When George turned 16, he went to work as a surveyor. A few years later George became a leader with the Virginia militia and became involved in the start of the French and Indian War. During the war, he narrowly escaped death when his horse was shot out from under him.

## Before the Revolution

After the French and Indian War, George married the widow Martha Dandridge Custis. He took over the estate of Mount Vernon after his brother Lawrence died and raised Martha's two children from her former marriage. George and Martha never had kids of their own. George became a large landowner and was elected to the Virginian legislature.

Soon George and his fellow landowners became upset with unfair treatment by their British rulers. They began to argue and fight for their rights. When the British refused, they decided to go to war.

## The American Revolution

George was one of Virginia's delegates at the First and Second Continental Congress. This was a group of representatives from each colony who decided to fight the British together. In May of 1775 they appointed Washington as general of the Continental Army.

General Washington did not have an easy task. He had a ragtag army of colonial farmers to fight trained British soldiers. However, he managed to hold the army together even during tough times and losing battles. Over the course of six years George led the army to victory over the British. His victories include the famous crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas and the final victory at Yorktown, Virginia.

The British Army surrendered in Yorktown on October 17, 1781.

## Fun Facts

- He was the only president unanimously elected. Meaning all of the state representatives voted for him.
- He never served as president in Washington D.C., the capital that was named for him. In his first year the capital was in New York City, then moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- The story of George Washington chopping down his father's cherry tree is considered fiction and likely never happened.
- Washington gave freedom to his slaves in his will.

## Washington's Presidency

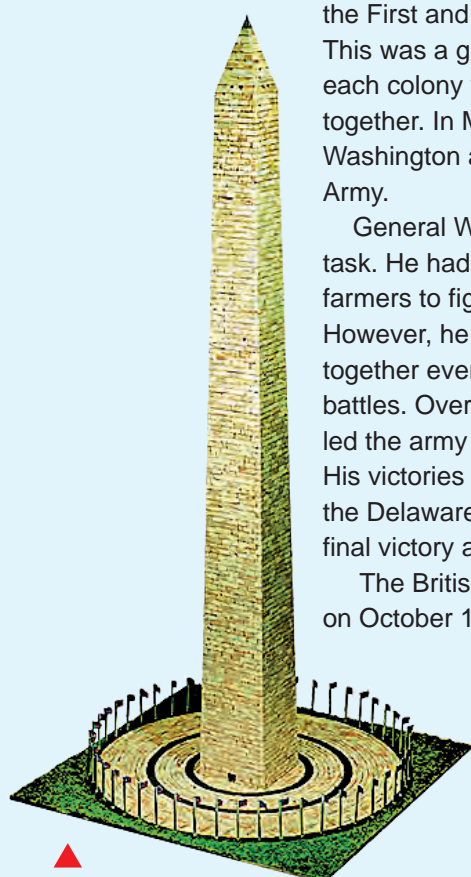
Washington was 57 years old when he was inaugurated as President. He served for two terms (1789 – 1797). These two terms were peaceful times. George established many roles and traditions of the President of the United States that still stand today.

He helped to guide the formation of the actual US Government from the words of the Constitution. He formed the first presidential cabinet which included his friends Thomas Jefferson (Secretary of State) and Alexander Hamilton (Secretary of the Treasury).

George stepped down from the presidency after eight years, or two terms. He felt it was important that the president not become powerful or rule too long, like a king. Since then only one president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, has served more than two terms.

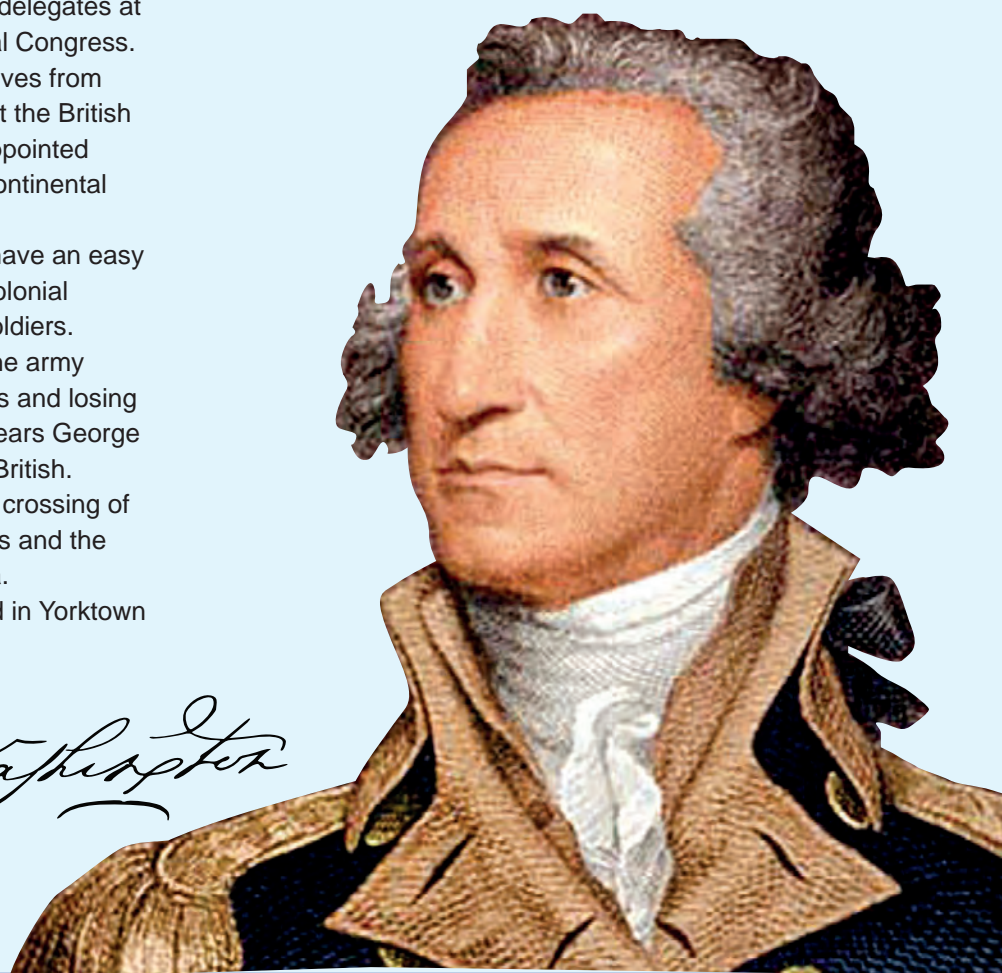
A few years after leaving the office of president, Washington caught a bad cold. He was soon very sick with a throat infection and died on December 14, 1799.

Source: Ducksters



**The Washington Monument  
in Washington, D.C.**

*George Washington*





## My little brother

I have a little brother called Kenula Hasodya. He is three years old and very mischievous. My little brother has got curly hair and pearly white teeth.

He likes to play and draw pictures with me. Little Kenula likes to eat sweets and fruits. He is very good at driving toy vehicles.

I am his best friend and I make sure he is safe all the time. I love my little brother. May the Triple Gem bless him!

**Eshalie Buvanija (6 years)**  
Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo 5

Please remember that ARTICLES, POEMS and PAINTINGS sent, will not be published unless they are certified as your own work by a parent or teacher.

Also please mention the topic, your full name, date of birth and address in your entry.

Articles should not exceed 200 words.

Art should be on A4 size paper. Remember to write the date that you send your entries.



## My new school bag

I have a new school bag. It is pink in colour. My mother bought it for me. There are many pockets and zippers in my new bag. I still didn't use it yet. But I like it very much.

**Raima Ghazni (6 years)**  
Najaa Int. School, Mt. Lavinia

## Sri Lankan yellow bird



**Savith Dileesha (11 years)**  
Vidura College, Colombo

## Save Water – Save You

Water is our life. If we run out of water, we will not be able to live. So we must have water. Not only you and me, the whole world will be a dead place, if we did not have water. Trees will die, animals that depend on trees will die and animals that live by eating other animals such as lions will die. Only the sun will roam the earth and cities will get abandoned.

Many countries are having problems with drinking water. But our country has a lot of water because of our forests. The key to saving water is saving forests. A main problem in some countries is waste from factories make pure water undrinkable. Chemicals like chlorine are added to make it drinkable but that is not a good solution.

The best practice should be to prevent polluting water with factory wastes. Water pollution at the beach is very common. Plastic bags are swimming in the sea like jellyfish. Toffee wrappers are like glimmering seashells on the shore.

Humans can change all of this. We can stop water pollution by disposing plastic waste correctly and not releasing them to the water. We can stop water wastage with small steps like, when brushing teeth, taking water to a cup and closing the tap. If you follow these steps and save water, water will save you!

**Mihela Gunaratne (9 years)**  
Ananda College, Colombo 10

## Power Station



**Umar Rushdie (Grade 3)**  
D. S. Senanayake College, Colombo 7

## Advantages and disadvantages of online school teaching

These days most schools are conducting online teaching because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our school is also having classes online for us.

Online school teaching is very useful and good during this time, as it helps us to continue our studies. But sometimes it can be difficult for us due to technical problems.

Some advantages are that, online teaching allows us to ask and get questions answered fast. Teachers can show us the relevant videos and up to date information material from YouTube and educational sites, to explain better. Also, we learn how to use computers and technology very easily because of this new way of learning.

Online classes are also less tiring because we don't have to travel and don't need to carry a lot of books. If we are sick, we can still listen to or watch the lessons later on, as it is recorded by the teacher.

But there are some disadvantages as well. We can have Wi-Fi problems or our computer might run out of battery. There may be connection problems and we won't be able to hear the teacher well. Our eyes get weak because we are looking at a screen for a long time. We feel lonely because our friends are not near us. We can get distracted easily as there are a lot of screens in front of us at the same time. Another problem is that our parents have to pay more for Wi-Fi and internet connections.

However, I like it because I do not have to walk around so much and feel tired. I can learn interesting things from the videos our teachers show online and learn more new things from around the world.

**Suhanya Gamaarachchi (Year 4)**  
Horizon College Int., Nugegoda

## Rabbits



**Yonali Dayananda (11 years)**  
Sheffield Int. School, Kotte

## My car



**Yashan Ibrahim (5 years)**  
Mattegoda



My favourite storybook character - Little Krishna



**M. Litheckshan (7 years)**  
Highlands College, Hatton

Anna & Elsa



**Diwya Rehinika (Grade 3)**  
Gamini Primary School

My school



**Uththara Yatawara**  
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Helicopter



**Saqeef-ul-Haq (6 years)**  
Matale Int. School

## Not blooming again

When the sun rises,  
I wake up in the morning,  
And the smell spreads  
To the whole village  
But I don't like fading... at sunset.  
I look forward to tomorrow,  
To wake up again in the morning  
But I can't do that  
Because, I am fading ...  
A flower... not blooming again.



**Sithmi Jayathissa (14 years)**  
Ingiriya

## Mr. Time

I'm Mr. Time, you all may know,  
With no stop but going more and more  
You would need, but I won't slow  
Because I'm the time you all know.

You birth, you die and I'll know  
because I'm more wiser than you!

I have friends just like you,  
Minutes, hours and seconds you know  
If one ever asked me who am I  
Future, today and past I am.

You must do things while I'm going  
Because you won't get me back  
when you want  
I'm here and more and more precious  
Than ever you know.

**Chanithma Joseph (14 years)**  
Taxila Central College

## Egypt

Egypt or 'The Land of the Pharaohs' is one of the most well-known places in the world. We know most of the information on a primitive civilization called the Egyptian civilization but there is still a lot more to discover.

Now, when we think of Egypt, we think mostly of the pyramids which are the greatest invention bestowed to the world by the Egyptians. These structures have a distinctive shape. They have a square base and sloping sides. The Egyptians buried their mummified Egyptian kings and queens (pharaohs). The youngest pharaoh is King Tutankhamen who became king in 1334 BC. When Tutankhamen died at the age of 17, he was buried with a face mask of pure gold over his face. His tomb was uncovered by Howard Carter.

For transportation, Egyptians used camels or papyrus reed boats. They also did well in agriculture. They used picture symbols called hieroglyphs.

Up to today, archaeologists are still uncovering more artifacts. Thanks to them and modern technology, we may finally be able to piece together the story of Egypt.

**Sanula Jayasena (10 years)**  
Lyceum Int. School, Panadura

## COVID-19 Vaccine

A fast-spreading virus called Corona was found in China in Wuhan in December 2019. After that the virus spread all over the world very quickly.

To fight against COVID-19, scientists did research for a medicine. The final medicine was a vaccine. India also made a vaccine called Covishield. India donated the vaccine to the South Asian countries. Sri Lanka also got 500,000 doses of Covishield vaccines.

We got the vaccines on January 28, 2021. The vaccines were handed over to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Bandaranaike International Airport by the

Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka.

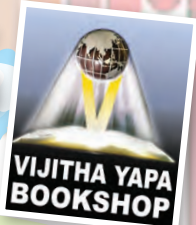
The first doses were given to the Tri Forces and health workers. After that the vaccines were given to the people living in the Western Province.

The Sri Lankan government is taking necessary steps to buy more and more vaccines from many other countries like China and Russia. The government and the health authorities believe that by giving the vaccine to many people it will help to control the spread of the virus.

**Biwoni Moses (Grade 4)**  
St. Nicholas' Int. College, Negombo



**Win super books from**



**Age:** 9 years and below

**Word Count:** 150

**Topic:** What is your favourite room in your house and why?

**Win:** 22 Revolutionary War on Wednesday (Magic Tree House) by Mary Pope Osborne



It is a dark and snowy night when the Magic Tree House whisks Jack and Annie back to the Revolutionary War. General George Washington is about to lead his army in a sneak attack against their enemy.

But now the terrible weather is making the great general question his plans.

**Age:** 10 – 12 years

**Word Count:** 150 – 200

**Topic:** How the weather affects us

**Win:** Five Have a Wonderful Time by Enid Blyton



The Famous Five are on holiday in horse-drawn caravans – and they've discovered a ruined castle nearby. But the ruin isn't deserted – the Five have seen a desperate face at the tower window!

Who is hiding in the castle?

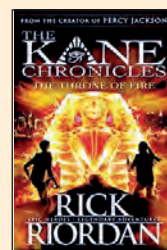


**Age:** 13 – 15 years

**Word Count:** 200 – 250

**Topic:** Helping someone who is differently-able

**Win:** The Kane Chronicles – The Throne of Fire by Rick Riordan



So the Egyptian gods are still running loose in the modern world; a bunch of magicians called the House of Life wants to stop them; And Apophis the giant snake of Chaos is rising.

**Write at the top of your Essay**

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

## Book Competition



### 9 years and below

Online classes

**Senuri Gunawardana**

Methodist College, Colombo 3

### 10 – 12 years

Benefits of a regular walk

**Aaminah Zeenah**

Ilma Int. Girls' School, Colombo 5

### 13 – 15 years

Why learning history is important

**Tharuka Kuruppuarachchi**

S. Thomas Preparatory School, Colombo 3

## Easter treats at Hilton Colombo

With Easter fast approaching, Hilton Colombo is bursting with an array of spectacular and classic Easter treats as well as gourmet delicacies, making it the ideal place to find that perfect gift for chocoholics or prepare to indulge your own sweet tooth as Lent comes to an end.

Hilton Colombo's restaurants have also introduced seasonal surprises to their menus to celebrate the end of Lent this Easter, be it with the eggnog and chocolate chip ice cream at Graze Kitchen, or the classic chocolate Easter Bunny at Café Kai.

Discover an impressive Easter Brunch at Graze Kitchen on Easter Sunday (April 4) from 12nn to 2.30p.m., and enjoy a bountiful meal with the entire family. And, of course, "Bunny Ears" will be hopping around and distributing colourful chocolate eggs to all the children.

From April 2 - 4, 2021 your Easter egg hunt at Café Kai gets even more exciting with the range of chocolate eggs available from Chocolate Rochers.

Call the F&B Reservations Desk on +94 11 2492492 for more information.



Rugrats

