



FUN DAY TIMES



POSON
PAGE 2



STORY
PAGE 3



LANDMARKS
PAGE 4

Introducing Buddhism to Lanka

By D. C. Ranatunga

Being the day that Buddhism was introduced to Sri Lanka, Poson Poya is an important day for Buddhists in Sri Lanka. This year the Poson Poya day is on Thursday, June 24.

Looking back, it was during the time kings ruled Sri Lanka. King Pandukabhaya had ascended the throne in 437 B.C. (Before Christ) and 70 years later the city of Anuradhapura had been established as the ruling city. King Devanampiyatissa ascended the throne in 307 B.C.

According to the Mahavamsa – the Sinhalese chronicle, the Buddha had paid three visits to Sri Lanka – first to Sri Pada (popularly known as Adam’s Peak), next to Mahiyangana in the Uva Province, and then to Kelaniya, the holy place near Colombo.

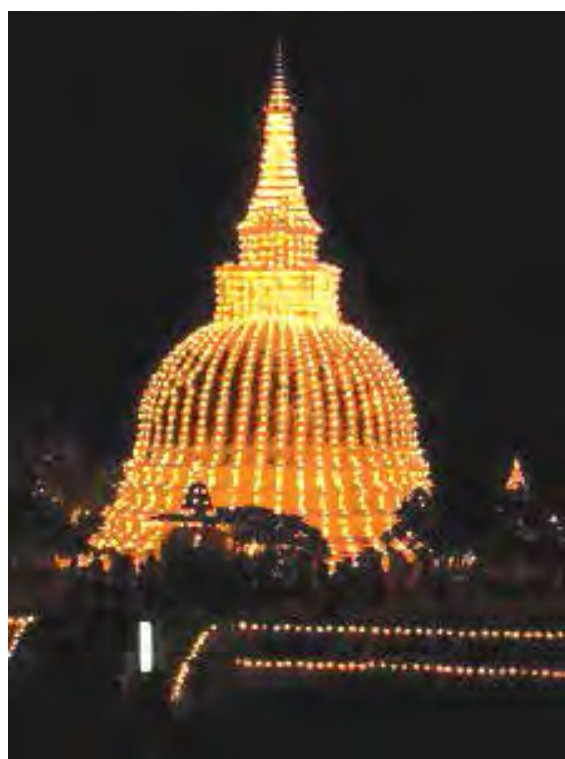


During such a visit by King Devanampiyatissa, he heard someone calling him ‘Tissa Tissa’. He was taken aback since no one would dare call him by name, being the ruling king. As he looked towards the side from where he heard his name, he saw someone in yellow robes appearing on the huge rock at Mihintale, a few miles away from Anuradhapura. The king immediately threw his weapons aside and greeted Arahat Mahinda, inviting him to come down and select a suitable spot to stay.

Once a spot was selected in the Mahamevuna Uyana – the quiet park with trees all around, the king got his assistants to prepare suitable facilities for Arahat Mahinda to meditate and to introduce the religion to the people.

Thus Buddhism was not strange to Sri Lanka.

While ruling the country, the kings were used to visiting various parts of their kingdom and also to get about in merriment, along with the palace assistants. They usually went about carrying their weapons which were used for their safety or to aim at a jungle animal purely for the fun of it.



Poson lights at Thanthirimala



A temple mural depicting Poson

Pix: The Sunday Times archives

NOTE

Please log on to the Funday Times website on www.fundaytimes.lk or check out the Sunday Times epaper on www.sundaytimes.lk for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.

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:

July 7, 2021

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Happy Father's Day, Thaththa!

By Manoshi de Silva

"Thaththa doesn't love us!" Vinuri's mother, who was cooking in the kitchen, stopped what she was doing and stared at her. Vinuri looked down and scraped the table with her finger. "Why would you say something like that *Doni*?" Vinuri didn't answer her mother.

The thought that her father didn't love them, had come to Vinuri's mind a few weeks previously. This had happened when she was talking to a classmate over the phone.

"What are you doing?" Vinuri asked, "I am so bored at home with nothing to do!"

"We are having a nice time because of the lockdown," replied Dinishka, Vinuri's friend. "Thaththi is at home all the time now. So we get to play with him all the time!"

Vinuri was surprised. Her parents never played with her. Her father was always working. Her mother was always busy with the housework. Even her older brother who was getting ready for his O'Level exam, didn't have any time to spend with her.

"So, what do you all play?" Vinuri wanted to know.

"We play cards, carom, catchers... Thaththi even comes to play in our play house!" giggled Dinishka. Vinuri frowned, feeling slightly jealous and also sad for herself.

Vinuri's father worked at a hospital. He was not a doctor, but these days he was as busy as one. He worked during night shifts and slept during the day time. Vinuri hardly even saw him on some days. If she put the TV too loud or dropped something, she was sure to get scolded by him. He seemed to be always in a hurry and always in a bad mood.

"He never plays with me!" Vinuri finally managed to mutter, because her mother kept on staring at her for an answer, after her accusation. Vinuri's mother managed a slight smile.

"But you know how busy he is *Doni*."



"He has no time for me and he's always mad at me," complained Vinuri, looking at her mother from the corner of her eye.

Vinuri's mother came out of the kitchen and gently held Vinuri by her shoulders. She sat in front of Vinuri, stared at her for a little while and forced a smile. "It's a difficult time we are all going through and you know that." Vinuri just stared blankly. "Hospitals are very busy these days and the hospital staff has to work very hard," her mother explained gently.

"Thaththa has to work during the night and that makes him very tired. Have you ever been up the whole night?" Vinuri remembered staying up late for a party once. She was very tired and sleepy the next day.

"Then why won't he leave his job?" Vinuri asked her mother. "If he leaves it, how are we to survive, *Doni*?" Vinuri's mother sighed. "We pay for our food, clothes, electricity bills for our TV and fridge, and everything else from what Thaththa earns. He works very hard to make our lives easy!" Vinuri's mother stared at her and continued, "Thaththa is sacrificing his comfort to make our lives comfortable." Vinuri was silent. Although she knew all this, she never really bothered to think about it before.

"You know he can't play with you because he needs to rest during the day time, to stay up during the night. He's very tired but he never complains

about it. But when you are tired, it's difficult to be in a happy mood and we have to understand that *Doni*."

Vinuri remembered the days her father was less busy. How they went to the beach and how her father played with her and *Aiya*. Her father walked out of the room just then, to quickly have his meal and get ready to go back to work. He looked tired and his eyes looked very sleepy. Vinuri felt sorry for him. Vinuri understood that her Thaththa was working so hard in silence, to make life easy for her family.

Vinuri felt bad for accusing her father of not loving them.

The truth was that he was a hardworking and responsible father. But maybe he just didn't know how to express his love through words. And that was why he never said that he loved them, but only expressed it through his actions by working hard, day and night to fulfill their needs. Vinuri wanted to do something to let her father know that he was appreciated. She wanted to tell him that she knew how much he sacrificed to make their life better.

One morning, a few days later, Vinuri's father woke up for his alarm. It was a Sunday. But still it was no holiday for him. He wished he could stay at home, relax and read a paper. But he had no choice; he had to report to work. A neatly folded, piece of white paper, near his pillow, caught his eye just then. He picked it up, curiously. But when he opened the paper, it made him smile.

The white paper was a 'Thank You' card. Written with a glitter pen, in Vinuri's round handwriting. It said how much Vinuri's father was appreciated, for caring for his family. There were beautiful stickers pasted all over it, with a small photo of their family pasted at the bottom. Vinuri's father felt all his tiredness disappear and he felt warm and happy after a long time.

"Happy Father's Day, Thaththa!" it said at the bottom.



Maha Bodhi Ta Htaung



Maha Bodhi Ta Htaung (Burmese - 'a thousand great Bo trees') is a famous Buddhist region and monastery located in Monywa Township, Sagaing Region, Myanmar (Burma). It is famous for the Giant Standing Buddha statue, the third tallest in the world. This Sāsana (religious) site contains thousands of Buddha statues beneath thousands of Bo trees, the Giant Reclining Buddha Statue, Aung Sekkya Stupa, and other large Buddha statues. Currently, a Sitting Buddha Statue, which is expected to become the world's largest Sitting Buddha Statue, is in construction. Many Buddhist monks can study the Buddhist Pariyatti literature at the monastery. Moreover, meditation centres or Vipassānā centres are opened at this monastic site both for monks and laypersons.



History

Maha Bodhi Ta Htaung was founded by Maha Bodhi Ta Htaung Sayadaw Ven. Nārada on May 5, 1960. He planted thousands of Bo trees throughout his life on recalling that the Buddha attained Enlightenment beneath the Bo tree in Bodh Gaya, India.

He started to plant them on a 15 acre plot, with Nan Oo Sayadaw, the grandson of

King Mindon, at 8.55 a.m. on May 6, 1960. Bo trees hold religious significance for Buddhists since it is the tree under which Lord Buddha attained Enlightenment.

Previously the monastery was just a small one for Khatakan villagers. Now, the 15 acre Bodhi Ta Htaung (One Thousand Bo Trees) Auspicious Ground has been extended to 250 acres. It is lush and green with more than 9,000 Bo trees. The monastery is famous both in Myanmar and the world since it has got many thousands of Bodhi trees.

Laykyun Sekkya Statue

Built in 1995, the Laykyun Sekkya Buddha Statue is 116 m (381 feet) high with 31 floors, referring to the 31 Realms of Life Cycle according to Buddhist literatures.

The mural paintings in every floor for each Realm are very interesting and famous. The pedestal is 13.5 m (44 feet) high. It is the third tallest Buddha statue in the world.

Laykyun Sekkya Statue

Aung Sekkya Pagoda



Reclining Buddha Statue



Source: Wikipedia

Backyard Wildlife Photography Competition for Kids



In celebration of World Environment Day 2021, the WNPS WILD KIDS invites you to 'BACKYARD WILDLIFE' Photography Competition

for all children between the ages of 6 - 15 years.

We encourage children to look outside and connect with nature at their doorsteps.

There is a myriad of spectacular birds, odonates, butterflies and spiders amongst other life that call our backyards their home.

So put on your safari shirt and hat, grab your camera and let's get exploring and photographing!

We will pick a weekly winner every Wednesday till the end of June and the weekly winner will receive a book on 'Mammals' by Dr. Sriyanie Miththapala.

Mail your images to: wnps@sltnet.lk or WhatsApp to: 071 664 6664



Let's read with Room to Read!

Dear Children,

Today's story is called 'Under the Sea'.

Most of the earth is covered by the sea. There is so much flora and fauna under the sea.

I am a sea turtle, will you come with me to see that diversity?



Let's begin...

Today I also go to the sea. There is biodiversity under the sea like on dry land. Seaweeds are moving in the water. The coral reef spreads continuously. Clownfish are living symbiotic relationships with anemones.



Eel is waiting for the prey to come. There are seahorses jumping in the water, one after another. A crab walks slowly between the stones. An octopus caught the crab quickly. This is my friend. That turtle may be finding a jellyfish. Jellyfish is one of our favourite foods. Dolphins help others in trouble. Dolphins are one of the most intelligent animals on earth. I stayed a lot of time under the sea. Now it's time to come back.

-The End-

Access the full story with illustrations via Room to Read's [Literacy Cloud](#).

Room to Read seeks to transform the lives of millions of children in low-income communities by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education around the world. Room to Read's Literacy Program transforms primary schools into child-friendly learning environments that enable children to become life-long, independent readers. To support the program further, they publish children's books in local languages.

These books are now available in English and local languages via their digital library - the [Literacy Cloud](#) where more than 1000 books from all Room to Read countries are available to read online. Once logged-in, viewers can also access books as read-aloud videos, save their favourite book to read offline and have access to other learning material.

These story books are published by Room to Read, who believe that *World Change Starts with Educated Children*. The book highlighted today was first published by Room to Read Sri Lanka in Sinhala in 2019, which belongs to its first nonfiction story collection.

This week's trivia

Name five things you saw under the sea.

Send your answer to literacylk@RoomtoRead.onmicrosoft.com and stand a chance to win a storybook by Room to Read!

One lucky winner will be chosen every week and the prizes will be given at the end of the series.



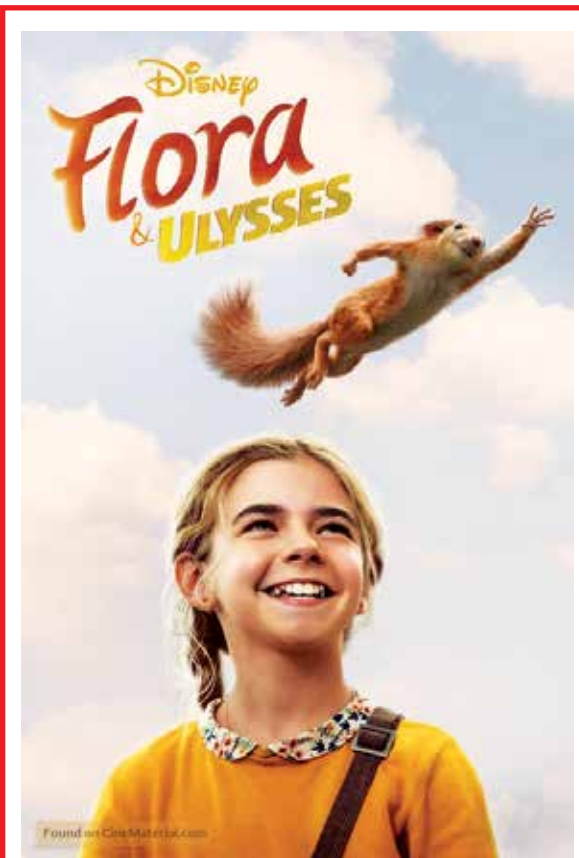
Clownfish are living symbiotic relationships with anemones.



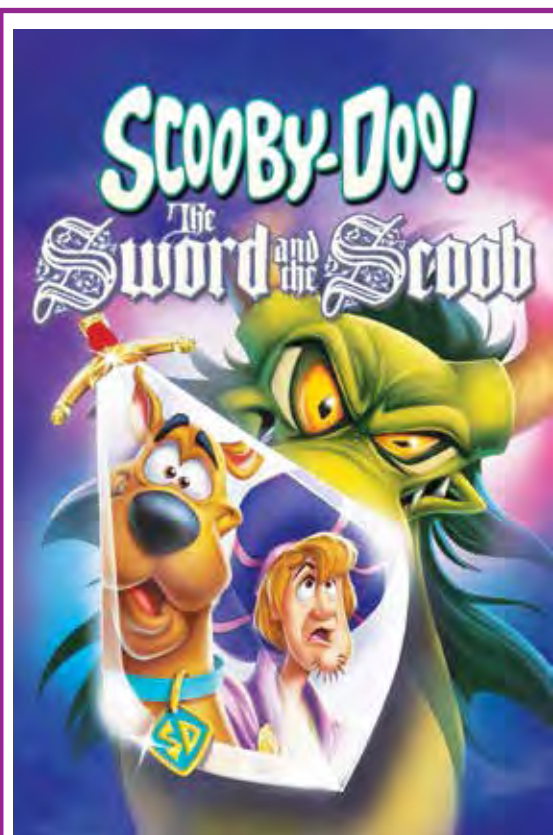
Eel is waiting for the prey to come.

Kids Movies in 2021

Look out for these movies during the year...



Flora & Ulysses
 Release Date: February 19, 2021
 Flora, a 10-year-old girl with an imaginative mind, rescues a squirrel she names Ulysses. She is amazed to discover he possesses unique superhero powers, which take them on adventures of humorous complications that ultimately change Flora's life and her outlook forever.



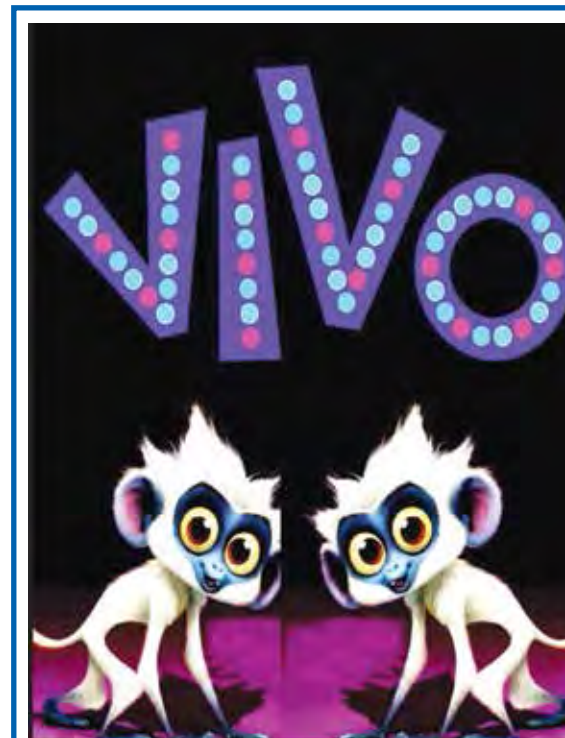
Scooby-Doo! The Sword and the Scoob
 Release Date: February 23, 2021
 An evil sorceress transports the gang back to the age chivalrous knights, spell-casting wizards, and fire-breathing dragons. While there, Shaggy unwittingly pulls out Excalibur from a nearby stone to cut a block of cheese and now no one is sure who the rightful ruler is!



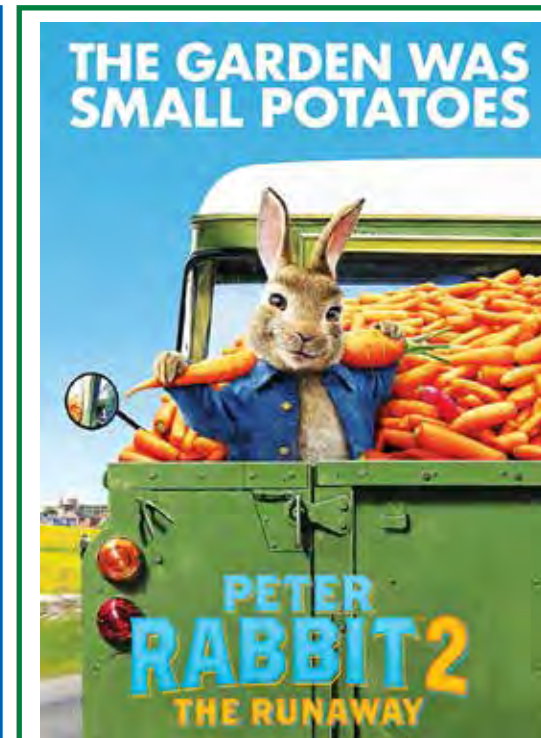
Raya and the Last Dragon
 Release Date: March 5, 2021
 Disney's first movie for 2021 is an animated film about Raya, an aspiring protector of a mystical Dragon Gem. When trouble strikes in her world of Kumandra, she must find the last dragon to help save humanity. Kelly Marie Tran stars as Raya, and Awkwafina is the voice of a water dragon.



Spirit Untamed
 Release Date: June 4, 2021
 Dreamworks has 'Spirit' fans excited with a big-screen feature in the works. It'll follow the early adventures of the plucky Lucky Prescott and her untamed stallion.



Vivo
 Release Date: June 4, 2021
 Broadway fans can get excited for this one: Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda wrote a spate of brand-new songs for this Sony Pictures animated film, about a music-loving monkey and his travels around places like Havana and Miami.



Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway
 Release Date: June 11, 2021
 This movie by Columbia Pictures was supposed to come out in time for last Easter — let's hope it has better luck this time around. This time, Peter ventures out beyond the garden walls when he becomes a runaway bunny.



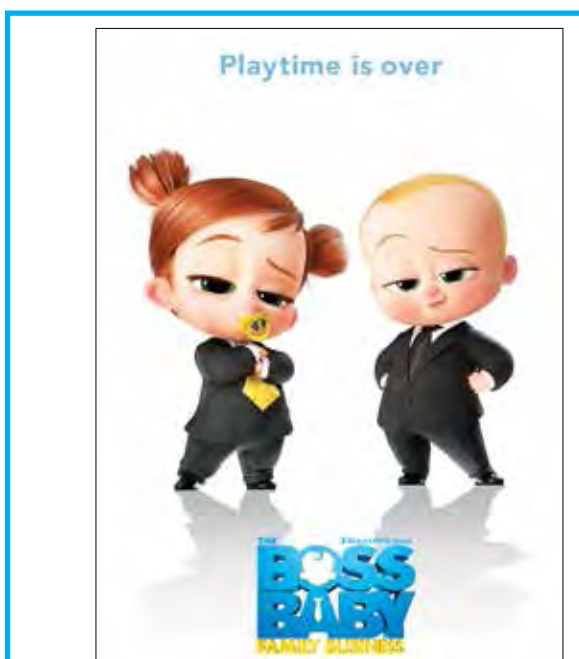
Ainbo
 Release Date: March 18, 2021
 'Ainbo - Spirit of the Amazon' is the epic journey of a young hero and her Spirit Guides, "Dillo" a cute and humorous armadillo and "Vaca" a goofy oversized tapir, who embark on a quest to save their home in the spectacular Amazon Rainforest.



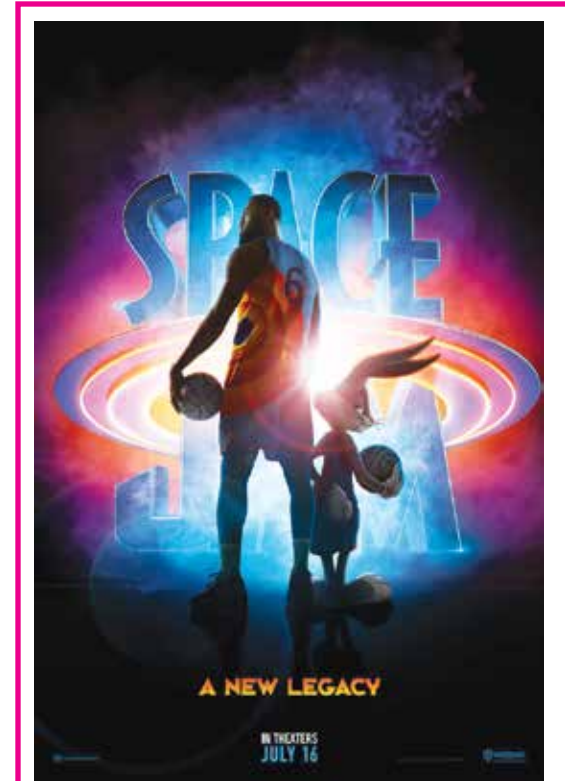
The Mitchells vs. the Machines
 Release Date: April 23, 2021
 Young Katie Mitchell's road trip with her quirky family is upended when they find themselves in the middle of the robot apocalypse and suddenly become humanity's unlikely last hope. With help from two friendly robots, the Mitchells must now come together to save one another - and the planet - from the new technological revolution.



Cruella
 Release Date: May 28, 2021
 Emma Stone takes on the role of the infamous Disney villain in a film that explains how Cruella de Vil became Dalmatian-obsessed to begin with. It takes place in the fashion world in London during the 1970s, so expect some outrageous Cruella fashions.



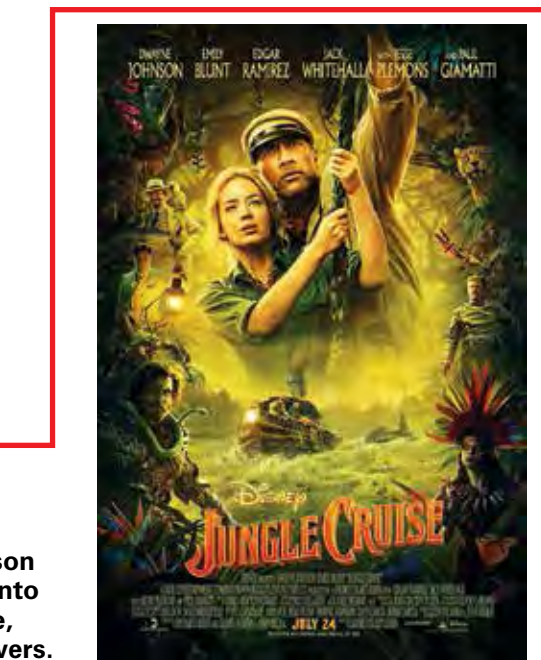
Boss Baby: Family Business
 Release Date: July 2, 2021
 Fans of the first 'Boss Baby' movie or the 'Boss Baby: Back in Business' series on Netflix, will be happy to know there's another bundle by Dreamworks on the way. This time, Tim and Ted are grown-ups who — at the behest of Tim's infant daughter — have to turn back into babies to help stop an evil villain.



Space Jam: A New Legacy
 Release Date: July 16, 2021
 Basketball superstar LeBron James teams up with Bugs Bunny and the rest of the Looney Tunes to defeat the Goon Squad and save his son, in this long-awaited sequel.



Hotel Transylvania 4: Transformania
 Release Date: July 23, 2021
 Johnny, wanting to feel like a closer member of the family, uses an invention to turn himself into a real monster. But will the monsters also use the machine to turn into people? It's a monster mash if there ever was one.



Jungle Cruise
 Release Date: July 30, 2021
 This family adventure film is based on the Disney theme park attraction. Dwayne Johnson and Emily Blunt star as an unlikely duo sent into the wilderness by river to find the Tree of Life, which is said to have mysterious healing powers.

June 15

News in Pictures



Santiago, Chile
Ring-tailed lemurs sit on the bonnet of a vehicle while feeding inside Buin Zoo. The largest private zoo in Chile is experiencing serious economic problems due to the closure of its doors as a result of the prolonged quarantine measures. It has started a campaign called "Sponsor an Animal", to raise money to maintain the animals.



Shenyang, China
An image of youths, created by growing different varieties of rice, is displayed in a paddy in China's north-eastern Liaoning province.

Ascot, England
The Tootsie Rollers arrive for day one of Royal Ascot. Racegoers are being welcomed back for the first time since the pandemic began.



Mediterranean
Migrants in the Mediterranean await rescue by members of the Doctors Without Borders organisation.



Seoul, South Korea
Tightrope walker Nam Chang-dong performs during a traditional festival at Namsangol Hanok village in Seoul. Only 30 audience members were allowed to attend the performance.

June 14

Warsaw, Poland
People come to see the rare blooming of the endangered Sumatran titan arum, or corpse flower, that is in full bloom for just a few hours and emits a rotten meat odour. Hundreds of people waited for hours in cold wind to see the unusual flower.



Edinburgh, UK
A one-tonne wicker 'Beltie bull', hand sculpted by willow artist Trevor Leat, is hoisted into position after arriving in the Scottish capital, where it will be a centrepiece at the Royal Highland Show.



Brussels, Belgium
The Manneken Pis statue is decorated with a NATO costume as the organisation's summit takes place in Brussels.

Source : The Guardian

Tomahawk

Quiz No. 184

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 184 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2021. 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. 184' 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

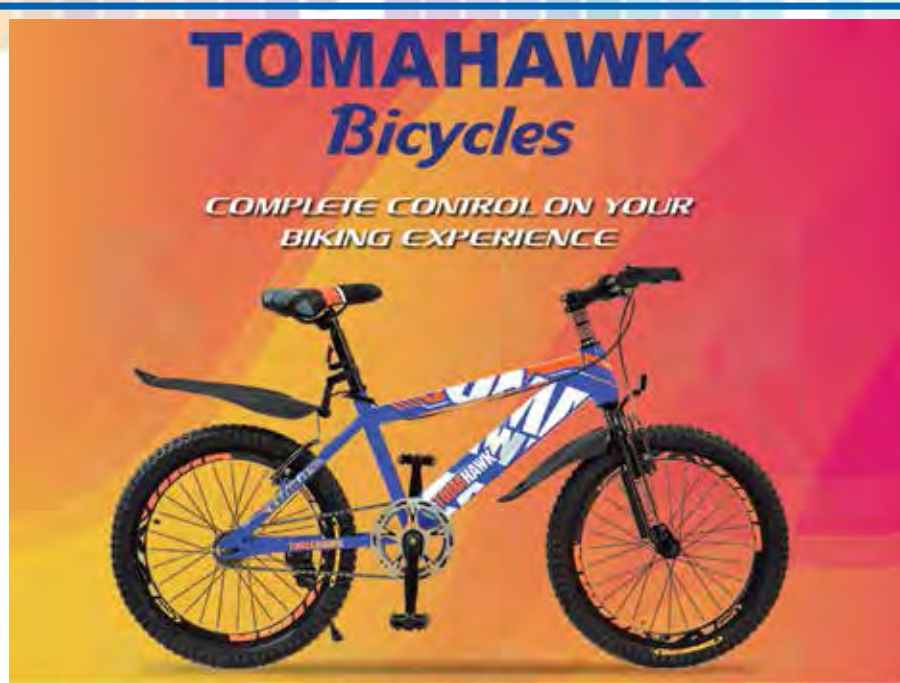
All Funday Times readers between 8 – 15 years are eligible to participate.

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

Closing Date: June 30, 2021



fundaytimes1@gmail.com



@TOMAHAWKBICYCLEOFFICIAL | 245 B, GALLE ROAD, COLOMBO 04 | BAMBALAPITTIYA - 011 250 7307 | @TOMAHAWKBICYCLES

QUESTIONS – Quiz No. 184

1. Who first published the Michelin Guide and what is it now famous for?
2. What is the discovery that made Edward Jenner world famous?
3. Name three animals that make their homes in hollow logs.
4. Where are the Ajanta Caves located and who re-discovered them?
5. The Koch Snowflake is one of the earliest fractals to be found. Name the mathematician who described it.



Panther Educational activities are specially designed to assist a child's brain development

Awakens A Child's Mind



#249 Hospital Road, Kalubowila | 011 4377029
#96 Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02 | 011 4377025



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

We regret that we are unable to announce Winners this week since we are working from home. Stay safe.

4 – 6 AGE GROUP

Match each insect to its shadow.

