

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 28, 2021

FUN DAY TIMES



A fun two-wheeler

Pic. by Jayarathna Wickramaarachchi



**CHRISTMAS
COVER
PAGE 2**



PAGE 3



**MATHS
PAGE 4**

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www.fundaytimes.lk

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:
December 15, 2021

Telephone: 2479337/2479333
Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Yumna Fazlin
10 years on November 29

Nashadh Nihad
12 years on November 23

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.

Christmas Cover 2021

Hey Kids! It is time once again to think about the Funday Times Christmas Cover. We invite our readers to send in their paintings for the Christmas Cover Competition.

Entries for the Christmas Cover should be of a suitable Christmas theme. You could use any type of paints or crayons you like, but try to make your picture colourful and creative. **All entries should be on A 4 size paper.**

Please write Christmas Cover at the back of your picture, along with your **Name, Date of Birth, Address, Telephone number (if any) and School.**

All paintings entered for this competition should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher. Uncertified paintings will not be considered for the prize.

Closing Date : December 10, 2021

The best picture will adorn the cover page of our Christmas issue.
The winner will also receive a prize.

This competition is open to children between 4 – 15 years of age.
Good luck and happy painting!

Or
fundaytimes1@gmail.com

‘Let’s Read with Room to Read’

Week

WINNERS!

- 1 Julian De Sylva
- 2 Vilara Wijenayake
- 3 Mumudi Gajadeera
- 4 Liza Yogeshwaran
- 5 M. R. F. Reema
- 6 Esandi Ranasinghe
- 7 Eshalie Buvanija
- 8 Buddhini Kumarathunga
- 9 Onithi Herath
- 10 Ann Amodya
- 11 Biwoni Moses
- 12 Ruzaiq Junkeer

Room to Read Story of the Week

Under the sea
Volleyball
Secret Owner
Two Mice
Puppy hears a noise
Unnie and Innie
Lucky Time
Pig leads the way
What is peace
Rabbit becomes a chef
Clever tortoise
A different kind of flower

Stories from Sri Lanka

♥ 0 📖 243 Level 2

Luv's New Look
Author Magdalena Cooper
Illustrator Chandana Bandara Samarak...

♥ 4 📖 677 Level 2

Rabbit Becomes a Chef
Author Magdalena Cooper
Illustrator Chamath Prasanga Lokuliyana

A message from Room to Read

Room to Read is a global nonprofit organization that works on bringing quality education to children in low-income communities. Our Literacy Program aims to develop children's ability to read and write with comprehension by the age of 10 and instill a habit of reading in children so that they can become lifelong, independent readers.

To do this, we encourage children to read story books. Beginner readers need books designed for their skill levels. Unfortunately, books for early readers are often limited or nonexistent in the communities and countries we work.

To remedy this, Room to Read publishes local language story books that readers at various levels can enjoy. These books cover topics that capture children's imaginations and make reading fun. Our goal is to inspire children to read, expand their minds, and develop a lifelong love for reading and learning.

As COVID-19 started taking over the world and restricting education in schools, we expanded our digital library titled the 'Literacy Cloud' to include more than 1000 books from all Room to Read countries for children around the world to access and read online. The books are available in both English and other local languages. The books chosen for the above competition are also chosen from our digital library.

While we send our heartiest congratulations to the above winners, we believe that every child who read our books in the Sunday Times series is a winner. The more we read, the more we expand our vocabulary, improve imagination, and develop our ability to read and write with comprehension.

Keep reading!

Little Porcupine's Cave

Once upon a time there was a family with a beautiful garden. I am the youngest in the family. Every day I put water and fertilizer to the plants in our little garden.

One morning while I was watering the plants, I saw a small cave. I could not imagine if it was a rabbit's cave or a porcupine's cave.

I left some tomatoes, carrots and potatoes in the grass near the cave and waited for someone to come, but nobody came out.

The next day I went to the cave and put my hand inside it. Then someone dragged me into the cave. What I saw inside was a beautiful jungle. The jungle was so beautiful. It was full of colourful flowers, butterflies, porcupines, mongooses, beautiful birds, tiny piglets and sweet fruits too. I wanted to go further in the jungle.

Going forward I saw a beautiful waterfall. The waterfall was surrounded by fruit trees. Next to the waterfall there was a large watermelon plantation. A small group of porcupines took me to the watermelon garden.

When I saw the watermelon, I wanted to taste it. I ate watermelon until my stomach was full. I fell asleep on top of a watermelon.

I woke up suddenly and I was on a bed of gold.



I looked around, it was like a royal palace. I went and opened the door of the room and it opened into a beautiful central courtyard.

In the courtyard there was a pond of shining blue water, there was a school of goldfish in the pond, each of them beautiful second to none. I wanted to take some water in to my hand. Surprisingly the water turned into glowing blue sapphires. Instead of putting them back into the pond, I put them in my pants pocket.

Suddenly I remembered home. My mother must be looking for me. I was scared and began to cry. The porcupines saw me weeping. They took me to the door of the cave. The porcupines pushed me out of the cave. I was blown away and fell back into my backyard. No one knew that I was not at home. I went slowly and checked the time, surprisingly only two minutes had passed. Mom called me for tea.



As I sat at the tea table I felt something in my pants pocket. I couldn't believe it, I caught glowing little sapphires. Soon after tea I ran into my room and hid the glowing blue sapphires in my wardrobe.



Every day when I see the cave, my mind takes me back to that fairy world.

Hiruka Abeysinghe (11 years)
Dharmaraja College, Kandy

A diver in the sea



Yenuli Bavishya (Grade 3)
Polymath College

Day and night scenery



Shayan Safwaa (Grade 3)
Alethea Int. School, Dehiwala

The Jungle Book



Aamir Hashmy (5 years)
Matale

My dusky night sky



Tiana Hanis (Grade 3)
Alethea Int. School, Dehiwala

A ship



Uvindu Rathnayake (Grade 6)
Lyceum Int. School, Wattala

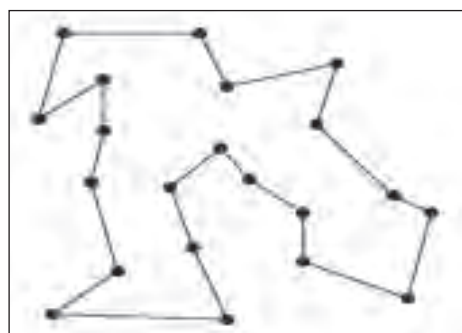
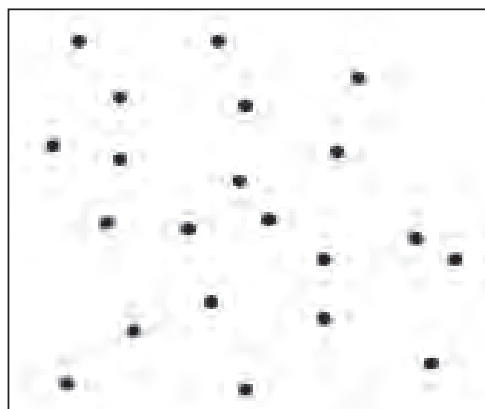


During the lockdown period, food transport providers would have had to attend to deliveries covering a wide range of locations. To cover all required locations and get back to the food outlet, the driver has to take the shortest route, as going even 1 km more than necessary may add to the cost of transportation.

Finding the best possible route is well known to mathematicians, and it is known as the 'Travelling Salesman Problem'. It deals with the following question: "Given a list of sites and the distances between each pair of sites, what is the shortest possible route that visits each site exactly once and returns to the origin site?" This problem said to be formulated in 1930 has commanded much attention because it is easy to describe but difficult to solve.

The problem can be solved by considering all routes to determine the shortest one. However, as the number of destinations increases, the corresponding number of routes also increase exponentially. With 10 destinations, there can be more than 300,000 routes to consider and with 15 destinations, it could exceed 87 billion.

Consider the following diagram indicating the sites by dots. The next diagram is a possible solution.



This is a well-known algorithmic problem in the field of Operations Research, which is a branch of mathematics and computer science. Three popular approaches are given below:

1. The Nearest Neighbour Method

This algorithm can be summarized as follows:

- Select a random city as the starting city.
- Find the nearest unvisited city and go there.
- Mark the current city as visited.
- Are there any unvisited cities?
If yes, go back to (ii).
- Return to the starting city.

2. Brute-Force Method

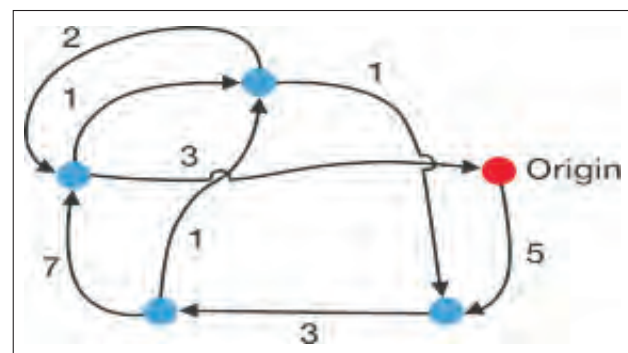
The Brute Force approach calculates and compares all possible permutations of routes or paths to determine the shortest unique solution.

3. Greedy Algorithm Method

A greedy algorithm works in phases. At each phase, you take the best you can get, without regard for future consequences. The idea is that by choosing a local optimum at each step, you will end up at a global optimum.

The Travelling Salesman Problem has several applications such as planning, logistics, and the manufacture of microchips. Slightly modified, it appears as a sub-problem in many areas, such as DNA sequencing.

In fact, you may be taking this approach in your own life. If you have a series of errands to accomplish, you mentally calculate the most efficient route to make each stop, minimizing time and energy.



Math Plot - 59

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

		30	
12	36	?	35
	4	49	
		14	

Find the missing number.

Math Plot 58 – Solution

The solution is 4 2 5 1 3 or in reverse order.

The winner is **Dawood Zubair** of LPF Academy, Colombo. Congratulations!

Tomahawk

Quiz
No.189

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 189 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of October 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 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. 189' 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: November 30, 2021

mailto: Or  fundaytimes1@gmail.com

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QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 189

1. Name three countries that celebrate Children's Day on October 1.
2. Which country issued the world's first adhesive stamp and what is the stamp named?
3. What is Origami?
4. When is UN Day celebrated and what does the blue colour in the UN flag represent?
5. Name the mathematical puzzle invented by French Mathematician Edouard Lucas.

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4 – 6 AGE GROUP

Match each animal to its shadow.



November 23

Lunar eclipse

November's full moon - also known as the Beaver Moon - reached its peak over the weekend, turning the moon various shades of red. But, did you know, in certain parts of the world it was the longest partial lunar eclipse in 600 years!

The Moon does not give out any light of its own - it shines because its surface reflects the light from the Sun. During a lunar eclipse, the Earth moves between the Sun and the Moon, cutting off the Moon's light supply. When this happens, the surface of the Moon takes on a reddish glow instead of going completely dark.

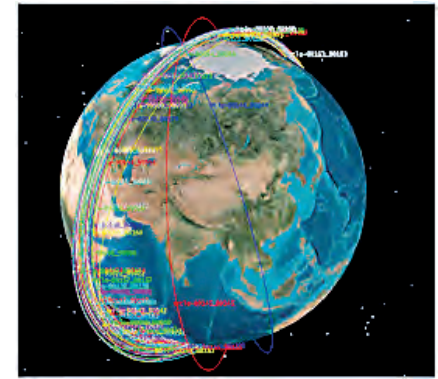


The full Beaver Moon can be seen rising above New York's famous skyline. The partial lunar eclipse was visible in North and South America, with later parts also visible in Australia and northeast Asia too.

CBBC Newsround

Russia blasts satellite, creates dangerous space debris

Last week, Russia used a missile to destroy a satellite, sending thousands of pieces of the satellite flying through space. Russia's actions have put astronauts and spacecraft in greater danger. They have also caused serious concerns back on Earth.



The picture above shows the paths of some of the pieces.

On November 15, Russia used a missile to blow up one of its old satellites. The satellite, called Cosmos 1408, was no longer working.

The blast resulted in pieces of the satellite flying through space at speeds of roughly 7,000 mph.

The seven astronauts in the International Space Station had to take shelter in the capsules that brought them to the space station.

The satellite exploded into at least 1,500 flying pieces that are big enough to track from Earth, as well as hundreds of thousands of smaller ones. These flying bits are known as "space junk" or "space debris". Space debris is a huge problem, and it's getting worse quickly.

Since humans began going into space, debris has been collecting. Some of it is old satellites or spacecraft, or parts of rockets that launched spacecraft. Some of it comes from parts that have been lost or have broken up or broken off.

News For Kids

Ocean wilderness needed to protect underwater world

A wildlife charity is calling for more marine wilderness areas to protect bigger fish that need space, including many species of sharks and large fish like groupers, jacks, and snappers.

A new study of the global state of marine coral reef wilderness by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and university collaborators has found that remote ocean wilderness areas are sustaining fish populations much better than some of the world's best marine reserves.

Findings from the study show that remote reefs shelter many important and threatened species that require large spaces, like sharks, groupers, jacks, and snappers.

Marine biologists examined coral reefs located over four hours from people and nine hours from urban areas.

They found that fish stocks in those remote wilderness areas was about one third higher than the numbers found in even the best-managed, oldest, and largest marine reserves that were located nearer to people.

A recent initiative by the United Nations, called 30x30, seeks to protect at least 30 percent of the land and sea by 2030.



It says that as little as two percent of coral reefs are being fully protected in marine reserves.

The charity calls for the last remaining areas of remote ocean wilderness to be given special status and protection.

CBBC Newsround

November 23

News in Pictures



Wigan, UK

A drone flies past Luke Jerram's Floating Earth. The 10-metre-diameter replica of the planet, projected with high-resolution imagery taken from NASA, will hover over Pennington Flash for several days, as part of a celebration of Wigan and Leigh's watercourses. It is the first time one of Jerram's globes has been floated on an open expanse of water.



Vienna, Austria

A man passes a closed Christmas market next to St. Stephen's Cathedral. Austria went into a nationwide lockdown on Monday to combat soaring coronavirus infections.

Abbotsford, Canada

A house and a barn are surrounded by flood waters on a farm in British Columbia.



Jerusalem, Israel

Ari Levi, an archaeologist at the Israeli antiques authority, holds an ancient shekel coin made of pure silver, which was used for trade in Jerusalem about 2,000 years ago during the Second Temple period. It was discovered at the City of David excavation site.



Cairo, Egypt

Used cars are piled at a scrap-yard in Helwan. An increasing number of vehicles are being either scrapped or recycled in an attempt to lower pollution.



Los Angeles, USA

Coldplay and BTS perform during the American Music Awards at the Microsoft Theatre in California.

Frankfurt, Germany

The French urban climber Alain Robert, popularly known as the French Spider-Man, climbs the 154-metre-high Skyper building.



November 22



Barneveld, the Netherlands

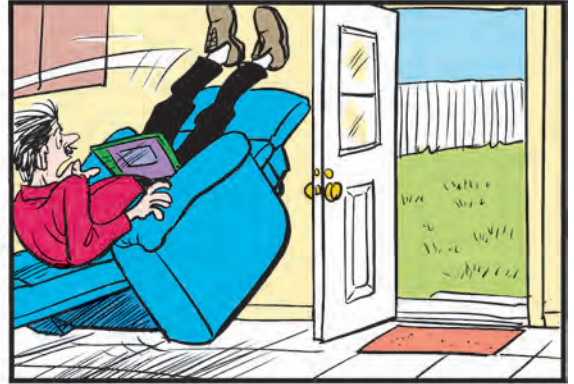
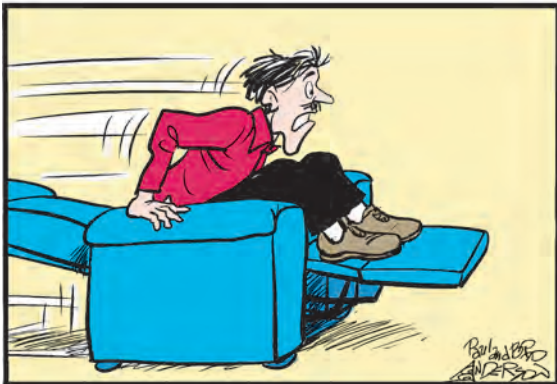
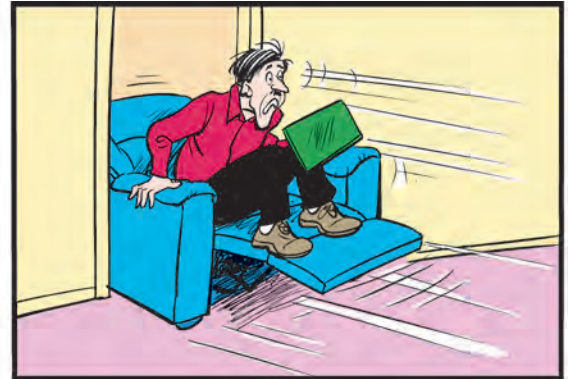
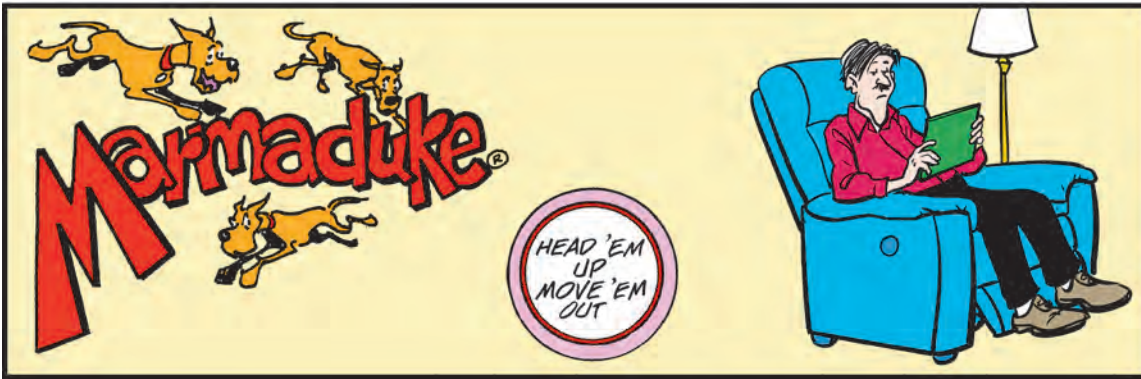
Sustainable Christmas trees are harvested for rental by a tree grower in De Glind. The trees are planted back after Christmas in January and grown without fertilisers or chemical pesticides.

Beijing, China

Video footage appears to show missing tennis player Peng Shuai signing large tennis balls at the opening ceremony of Fila Kids Junior Tennis Challenger Final.



Source: The Guardian



DOG GONE FUNNY BURBANK, IL
MARGARET SEIDERS-METZ HAS MUFFIN, A SHIH TZU, WHO IS THE HOUSEHOLD TIMEKEEPER. WHEN MUFFIN WANTS TO GO TO BED, **EVERYONE** GOES TO BED. WHEN MUFFIN IS TIRED, SHE **JUMPS** ON MARGARET'S BED, **SCRUNCHES** UP THE PILLOWS AND **PULLS DOWN** THE COVERS.

Ginger Meggs



Rugrats

