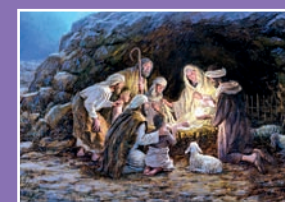




FUNDAY TIMES

We wish you
Peace & Joy
this Christmas!



CHRISTMAS
PAGE 3



LANDMARKS
PAGE 4



STORY
PAGE 5



Art by Neil Toolikkaa
(11 years)

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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.

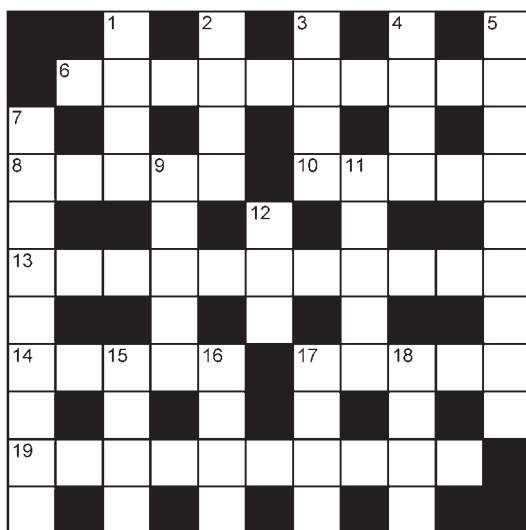
Closing date for weekly competitions:

January 5, 2022

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Junior Crossword – No. 963



Across

- 6 A singer might hold this
- 8 Very annoyed
- 10 A digging tool
- 13 A jumping insect
- 14 To cook meat and vegetables inside an oven with fat
- 17 Pleasant smell
- 19 Fabric furniture covering

Down

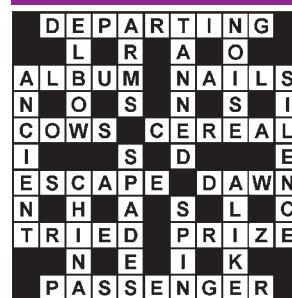
- 1 A crown-wearing man
- 2 Black plus white makes this
- 3 Gorillas
- 4 A long soft seat
- 5 A practice for a play
- 7 Very risky and unsafe
- 9 Has a lie down
- 11 Something you write on
- 12 Bashful
- 15 A throbbing pain
- 16 Have a conversation
- 17 Busy small insects
- 18 A rower pulls on these



Please enter your full name, date of birth, home address, mobile number and school.

All entries must be certified by a teacher or parent as your own work.

Solution - No. 961



Mihiranga de Silva,
Galle

'Tales from the School Days' Competition



- ▶ Shenesi Silva, Moratuwa
- ▶ Meera Chand, Colombo 6
- ▶ Hiruni Kumarathunga, Galle
- ▶ Nethmi Batuwita, Kotte

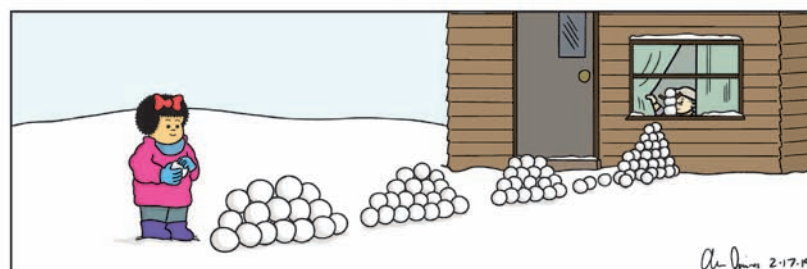
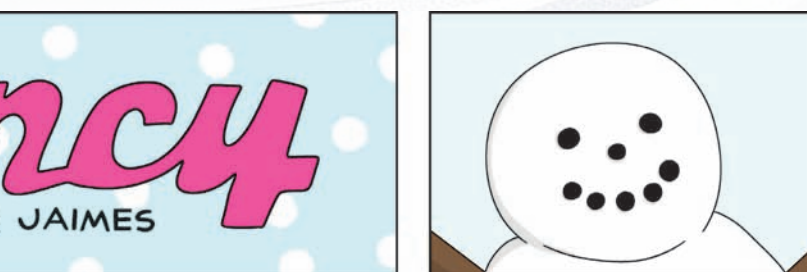
- ▶ Vilara Wijenayake, Kurunegala
- ▶ Imran Hameed, Colombo 5
- ▶ Kaveesha Ranasinghe, Nittambuwa
- ▶ Yusuf-ul-Haq, Matale



Kimberley Wijesuriya
13 years on December 1

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.





By Cecilia Hewavitharana

Christmas is celebrated annually on December 25, to mark the birth of Jesus Christ. It is celebrated by non-Christians as well, despite being a Christian holiday and is arguably the biggest holiday season worldwide. However, in the Christian calendar, Easter is considered the most important event, followed by Christmas.

The Nativity

Over 2,000 years ago, when the Roman Emperor decreed that a census be taken, everyone was required to return to their hometowns.

Among them was Mary and her husband Joseph, who were travelling from Nazareth.

Once they reached Bethlehem, they were unable to find accommodation, so they are believed to have taken shelter in a cave. That night, Mary gave birth to Jesus. The Baby was then visited by shepherds who were told by angels of His birth.



There are a number of Yuletide traditions, notably recreating the Nativity scene, exchanging gifts, sending Christmas cards, decorating Christmas trees, singing Christmas carols and partaking in special meals.



Popular Christmas food includes Christmas Cake, Christmas Pudding, Gingerbread and Christmas Cookies.

Twelve Days of Christmas

Days after Jesus was born, three Magi (Wise Men) followed a bright star (Star of Bethlehem) to where Jesus was and brought Him gifts.



This visit is commemorated by Christians on the feast of Epiphany (normally on January 6, of the next year) and the season of Christmas normally spans the time from Christmas Day to the Eve of Epiphany.



Although Christmas is associated with receiving gifts from Santa Claus and decorations, this often overshadows the most important aspect of the festive season: giving to those less fortunate.

'A Christmas Carol'

This novella by Charles Dickens, tells the story of a miser who is visited by the spirits of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Yet to Come, who each whisk him away to see the impact his lack of kindness and generosity has on others as well as himself, which prompts him to change his ways.

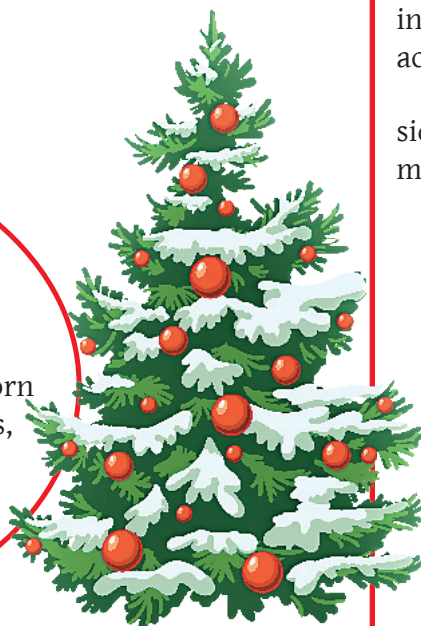
The WWI Christmas Truce

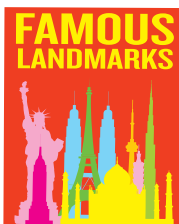
On Christmas Eve of 1914, in the midst of World War I, German troops in the trenches began singing carols, such as Silent Night (*Stille Nacht* in German) and the British Forces joined in from across No Man's Land.

This led to a brief truce between the opposing sides in certain areas and on Christmas Day, they met, exchanged gifts and even played football.



According to the Bible, Jesus is the Son of God, and a descendant of King David but He was laid in a manger (a feeder for animals) after He was born and His first visitors were poor shepherds, which was meant to emphasize the importance of humility.





St. Paul's Cathedral

St. Paul's Cathedral, London, is an Anglican cathedral, the seat of the Bishop of London and the mother church of the Diocese of London. It sits on Ludgate Hill at the highest point of the City of London and is a Grade 1 listed building. Its dedication to Paul the Apostle dates back to the original church on this site, founded in AD 604. The present church, dating from the late 17th century, was designed in the English Baroque style by Sir Christopher Wren.

The cathedral is one of the most famous and most recognisable sights of London. Its dome, framed by the spires of Wren's City churches, dominated the skyline for 300 years. St. Paul's is the second-largest church building in area in the United Kingdom after Liverpool Cathedral.



Sir Christopher Wren

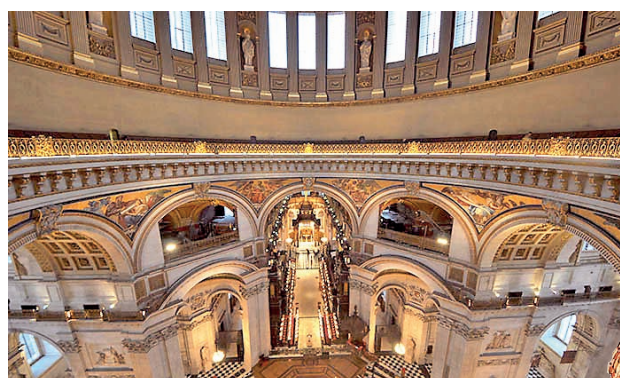
Interesting Facts

- The cathedral was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, as an important part of a huge rebuilding plan, after the Great Fire of London in 1666. Wren also designed over 50 other London churches.
- St. Paul's Cathedral was the tallest building in London from its construction until 1967. The dome is the second largest in the world at 366 feet high and is reached by climbing 259 steps.
- The present cathedral was built between 1675 and 1710, although other church buildings have stood on the same spot.
- Old St. Paul's Cathedral was started by the Normans and completed by about 1240.

- The cathedral's crypt is the largest in Western Europe and extends the entire length of the building. There are over 200 monuments and memorials in the crypt.
- The cathedral was hit by several German bombs during the Blitz in World War 2. One was removed before it exploded; had it done so, it would have totally destroyed St. Paul's.
- Sir Christopher Wren was the first person to be buried in St. Paul's Cathedral. The cathedral's largest monument is that to the Duke of Wellington, depicting the Duke riding a horse.
- Funeral services for several famous people have been held at St. Paul's, including Winston Churchill and Lord Nelson.
- It was the site of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee service in 1897.
- The wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana was also held there.
- St. Paul's Cathedral has been painted by such famous artists as Pissarro, Canaletto and Turner.
- It has also been shown in several films, including Mary Poppins, Sherlock Holmes and one of the Harry Potter films.

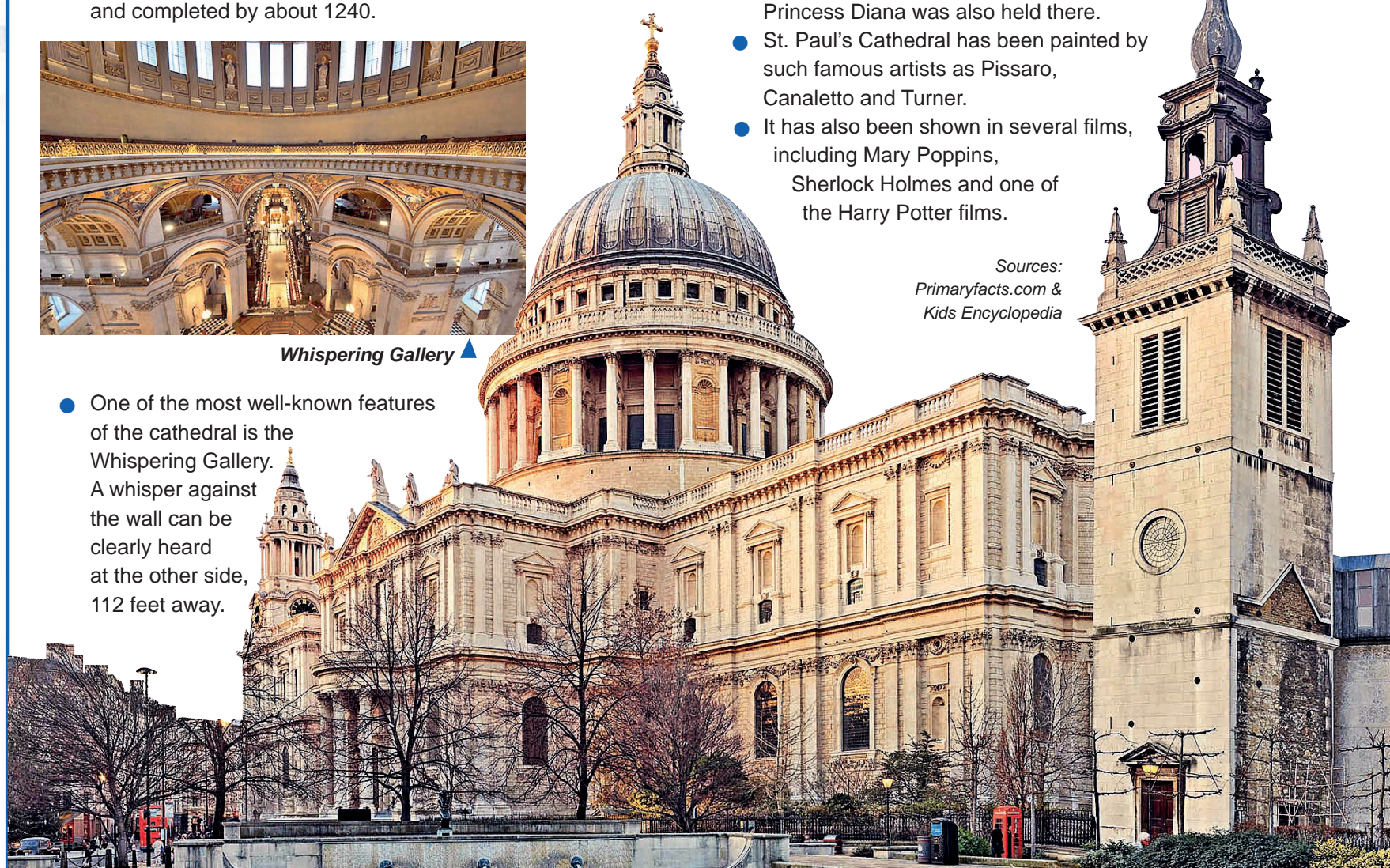
Sources:

Primaryfacts.com &
Kids Encyclopedia



Whispering Gallery

- One of the most well-known features of the cathedral is the Whispering Gallery. A whisper against the wall can be clearly heard at the other side, 112 feet away.





T'was the Night before Christmas

By Manoshi de Silva

A little mouse lived in a small hole, in the wall of a small house. In this house lived a small boy and his grandmother. Every night the boy's grandmother would tell stories or recite poems before tucking the boy into bed. The boy enjoyed listening to these and so did the little mouse, who quietly sat by his small door, enjoying the stories by Grandma. As Christmas came closer, most of these stories and poems turned out to be about Christmas and both the boy and the little mouse loved listening to them even more.

One night Grandma recited a famous poem;

"T'was the night before
Christmas,
When all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring,
Not even a mouse!"

The little mouse couldn't contain his giggles after hearing this. "Squeak!" he chuckled. "What was that?" the boy and Grandma looked around. The little mouse quickly hid behind his little door and closed his mouth with his paws. He then slowly peeped out again. "Was that a rat?" asked Grandma, sounding worried. The boy looked around and saw the tiny pair of round eyes staring at him from the small hole in the wall. But when he saw how scared the mouse looked, he didn't feel like telling his Grandma that there was a mouse in the room. So he decided to keep quiet about it. "Please continue with the poem Grandma," he urged her, as if nothing had happened.

The little mouse waited till Grandma left and slowly came out. "Thank you!" he said to the boy who stared at him without even blinking. "If you told Grandma about me, she would have chased me from here!"

"She's a nice person but she's just scared of mice," shrugged the little boy. "Do you also listen to her stories and poems?"

"I do," said the mouse, "I especially love the Christmas stories about beautifully decorated Christmas trees and presents. But I've never celebrated Christmas!"

"Why not little mouse?" asked the boy.



"Because I live alone, you see. I have no family. Also I am very poor. I don't even have a cloth to cover myself from the cold," answered the little mouse. The boy felt very sad.

"Why won't you join us for Christmas lunch?" asked the boy.

"I don't think Grandma would like that very much," sighed the mouse and crept back into his hole feeling very sad.

The next night the little boy and the little mouse, listened to another one of Grandma's Christmas stories. She finished the story saying, "Christmas is about love. It's about sharing and togetherness."

"Grandma, can I share with a less fortunate one this Christmas?" asked the boy.

"Of course," said Grandma and the little boy smiled. He had someone in mind.

A couple of days before Christmas, the little mouse looked out of his little door, to talk to his new friend, the little boy. But the boy seemed very busy with something and hardly even came to his room. The little mouse went back into his burrow and sobbed, feeling lonely. He listened to Grandma singing a beautiful Christmas carol about love and sharing happiness that night. The little mouse wiped his tears and went to sleep.

It was the day before Christmas. The little mouse got up after his afternoon nap. When he looked at his little door, he noticed that something was blocking it. He wondered what was

going on and who had blocked his door. "Maybe Grandma found out about me. Maybe she closed the door so that I can't come into their house anymore!" panicked the little mouse.

But when he went near the door, he couldn't believe his eyes. There were lots of little presents kept outside his door almost completely blocking it. The little mouse came out to observe. "These are all for you my little friend," said the little boy, smiling brightly.

"You are so kind!" said the little mouse. "No one likes me because I am a poor little mouse.

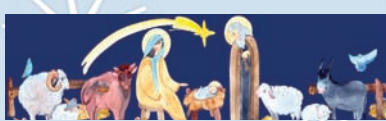
But you have been very kind to me!" The mouse opened his gifts one by one. There was a piece of a nice, warm blanket to cover him and food and other things to make him comfortable. The little mouse was so touched.

"Today is Christmas Eve. Aren't you putting up a beautiful Christmas tree, like the ones in Grandma's stories?" asked the little mouse. The boy shook his head sadly. "We don't have any money for decorations," he sighed.

It was the night before Christmas. The boy and the little mouse listened to Grandma's Christmas story. She kissed the little boy goodnight and turned the light off. The little mouse came out. "Come near the window my friend," he told the little boy, "I have a surprise for you!" The boy got out of his bed and went near his window. The small evergreen tree outside his window was shining and sparkling as if it was decorated with a thousand lights. It was twinkling like it was covered with stars. When he opened the window the light fell inside his room and the house. "What a beautiful Christmas tree!" he shouted in surprise. "This is my gift for you!" said the little mouse. "I got my friends, the fireflies to light it up for you."

"What a wonderful Christmas this turned out to be!" smiled the boy.

"T'was the night before Christmas, when all through the house, Christmas lights were sparkling, decorated by fireflies and a mouse!"



From a Young Reporter

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Christmas, the most joyous time in the world, is celebrated by Christians around the world and even by non-Christians. Christmas celebrates the Birth of Jesus Christ and it is a joyful month for the people who celebrate.

It's a time for family and friends, exchanging of gifts and helping the needy.

How do we celebrate?

- Attending Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve
- Making the crib
- Putting up the Christmas tree
- Decorating the house
- Singing carols

Wherever you go, the Christmassy feeling will be felt. Cities, malls and hotels are decorated. Children look forward to unwrapping their presents on Christmas morning.

One thing I like about Christmas is dressing the Christmas tree and the house, while listening to Christmas carols. It is a month of celebration and religious activities to me.

Legendary Santa Claus

Santa Claus is a key Christmas figure for children. He gives presents to children on December 24th at midnight. Santa Claus' name has been transformed as it was originally Saint Nicholas, a saint who gifted to the poor and the needy.



Elves

Elves are the little helpers of Santa Claus. They help Santa make toys for children and check who is on the 'naughty or nice' list.



Reindeer

Reindeer are cute animals who help Santa fly his sleigh to deliver the presents on Christmas Eve.

And the most famous reindeer of all is - 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer'.



Some famous Christmas carols

- Silent Night
- O Come All Ye Faithful
- O Holy Night
- We Three Kings
- Away in a Manger

Some famous Christmas movies

- A Christmas Carol
- Home Alone
- The Grinch
- The Christmas Chronicles



Have a Happy Holiday during this most wonderful time of the year!!

Arianna Seneviratne (12 years)
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo



Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given and send it in to us along with a recent report or interview not exceeding 300 words.

Photographs or illustrations would enhance the report.

Young Reporters who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

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Address:

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Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval:

Date:

.....



Christmas Art



Kumudika Shehan (15 years)
Horana Rajakeeya Vidyalaya



Roshendi Fara (14 years)
St. Nicholas' Int. College, Negombo



Supeja Fernando (12 years)
Musaeus College, Colombo



Dewmi Jayasinghe (14 years)
Hillwood college, Kandy



Dylan Roshan (7 years)
S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Colombo



Dinitha Wijeweera (13 years)
Ananda College, Colombo



Atarah Roshan (10 years)
Bishop's College, Colombo



Haajara Nawshad Ali (9 years)
Loyal Ladies' College



Dona Tharushi Siriwardana (15 years)
Colombo Int. School



Ann Amodya (14 years)
Ave Maria Convent, Negombo



Esandi Ranasinghe (7 years)
Musaeus College, Colombo



Tomahawk

Quiz No. 190

Questions for Tomahawk Quiz No. 190 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of November 7, 14, 21 and 28, 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. 190' 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: December 31, 2021



Or



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QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 190

1. a) When is World Tsunami Awareness Day held?
b) Name two natural defenses that help mitigate the impact of a tsunami on land.
2. Who produced the world's first permanent image and what was it named?
3. Give the scientific name for the tree which produces the beans that chocolate is made from. What is the literal meaning of this name?
4. Finding the best possible route between several points, is a well-known problem to mathematicians. What is this problem called?

100 piece
Christmas
Puzzle



Christmas
Colouring &
Activities!



THE
Perfect
Gift
THIS
CHRISTMAS



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7 – 9 AGE GROUP

Spot 6 differences between the two pictures.



A lucky winner each week
will win a 100 piece 'Santa' puzzle
during the month of December.



Or



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