

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MARCH 20, 2022



FUN DAY TIMES



Relaxing in the water

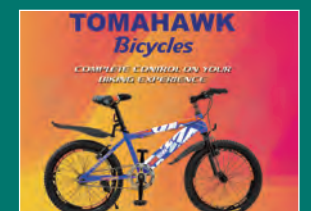
Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



FUN STUFF
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WATER DAY
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COMPETITIONS
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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 Number 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 6, 2022

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

KIDS IN COLOUR With **REEVES**
 Colours For Young Artists

Kids in Colour together with Reeves Art Competition is conducted monthly. A topic is given for each month. Three winners from three age groups will be selected. Winners will be announced on the second Sunday of each month and all winners will receive an attractive gift pack from Reeves.

Please note that all paintings should be certified by a teacher or parent, refer page 2 for further details.

All paintings should be on A4 size paper
 Please write Reeves Art Competition at the back of your entry, together with your name, date of birth, address, telephone no., and school.

Topic - Wildlife
Closing Date : March 31, 2022

Mail to:
 Kids in colour with Reeves Art Competition
 Funday Times
 C/O The Sunday Times
 8, Hunupitiya Cross Road, Colombo 2
 P.O Box 1136 Colombo

Winners of Reeves Art Competition please contact us in order to collect your prizes!

Wax Crayons • Oil Pastels • Paint Sets • Colour Sets • Water Colours • Oil Colours • Poster Colours • Powder Paints • Brushes

Ninehearts (Pte) Ltd. 758/1, Baseline Road, Colombo 09. Contact: 0112 663500 / 2 687541 / 077 387039. Email: photoproducts@ninehearts.com

New Year Cover 2022

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 to us.

The painting should be on A4 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!

 **FUNDAY TIMES** Or  fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Closing Date : April 1, 2022





Jokes

What did the ocean say to the shore?
Nothing, it just waved...

How do you get in touch with a crab?
Call him on his shell-phone...

Who cleans the ocean?
The mer-maids...



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.

York International Pre-School Convocation 2021






The Pre-School Convocation 2021 of York International School, Kadawatha was held on February 25, 2022 at the school auditorium. It was a colourful event filled with a variety of performances by Pre-School, Elementary and Primary students of the school.

World Water Day 2022

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

World Water Day has been celebrated annually on March 22 since 1993, in order to raise awareness of the lack of access to clean water faced by over 2 billion people around the world and to remind people with access to it not to waste it.



▲ Cenote in Yucatán, Mexico

The UN General Assembly declared the period from March 22, 2018 to March 22, 2028 as the **International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development**, to meet the increasing water-related challenges.

The right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is recognised as a **basic human right**.

The 6th Goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all UN member states, is **“Clean Water and Sanitation for all by 2030”**.

2022 Theme: Groundwater – making the invisible visible

What is groundwater?

Groundwater is the water found underground in aquifers and is mainly replenished by rain and melted snow that seeps into the ground. Groundwater can be extracted through wells and pumps and is an important source of water in arid areas.

It is also responsible for feeding springs, rivers, lakes and wetlands, which eventually find their way into the ocean.

Aquifer – a body of porous rock or sediment saturated with groundwater.

Groundwater is the source of approximately 40% of all water used for irrigation.

Issues

● Pollution

Groundwater can be polluted by both natural (geogenic) contamination and human activities (anthropogenic contamination). Geogenic contamination includes naturally occurring arsenic and fluoride. Anthropogenic contamination includes unsustainable agricultural practices (which can lead to high levels of nitrates and pesticides), urbanisation (e.g. chemical waste contamination) and climate change (rising sea levels cause salt to contaminate groundwater).

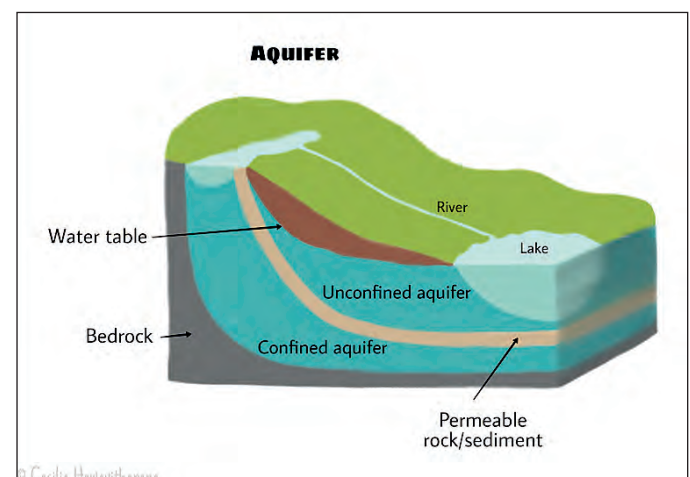
● Over-extraction

If groundwater is extracted at a larger amount than it is replenished, it can cause aquifers to dry up, which can lead to the rivers, lakes or wetlands they feed drying up as well, especially during hot weather.

In some cases, the ground above the dried-up aquifer can sink.

Cenotes

In the Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico, there are natural wells or reservoirs called cenotes where the limestone surface has collapsed to reveal the groundwater below.



Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System (NSAS)

The NSAS is one of the largest known aquifer systems in the world, covering an area of approximately 2.6 million square kilometres and spanning four countries in North East Africa – Egypt, Libya, Chad and Sudan.

It holds water deposited thousands of years ago, which has been undisturbed and, therefore, categorised as fossil water or paleowater.

Tomahawk

Quiz No.193

Questions for Tomahawk Quiz No. 193 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of February 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2022.

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. 193' 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

QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 193

1. When is World Wetlands Day celebrated?
2. Name three Ramsar Sites in Sri Lanka.
3. Name the famous poet who first used the English version of the name, 'The Bridge of Sighs'?
4. Why do Arctic foxes have small ears?
5. State an important mathematical property of a Reuleaux Triangle and give an example of its application in modern design.

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: March 31, 2022

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Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: The uses of water

Win: Cosmic Colin Sneazy Alien Attack by Tim Collins

When Harry the alien lands his spacebin in his friend Colin's garden, it's time for an adventure. There's just one problem – they'll have to take Colin's naughty, snotty little brother with them.

Colin's day is about to turn Cosmic! But when aliens attack, will it end in disaster?



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: Water is essential for us

Win: Five have a Wonderful Time by Enid Blyton

The Five are on a caravanning holiday when they spy a ruined castle on top of a hill. Then they spot a desperate face in the tower window and an adventure beckons.

Who is hiding inside the castle – and why?



Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: What you know about World Water Day

Win: The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

Whisked from his comfortable hobbit-hole by Gandalf the wizard and a band of dwarves, Bilbo Baggins finds himself caught up in a plot to raid the treasure hoard of Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon...



mail

Book Competition



9 years and below

My favourite subject
Seneli Perera
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7

10 – 12 years

Why is it important to learn your mother tongue?
Balasubramaniyam Shavik
Royal Int. School

Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

Duck-Billed Platypus

Duck-billed platypuses are small, shy animals. They have a flattened head and body to help them glide through the water. Their fur, dark brown on top and tan on their bellies, is thick and repels water to keep them warm and dry even after hours of swimming.

The duck-billed platypus's head and body grow to about 15 inches (38 cm) and its tail grows to about 5 inches long (13 cm). Their most remarkable feature is their amazing snout. It looks like a duck's bill, but is actually quite soft and covered with thousands of receptors that help the platypus detect prey.

Males are also venomous. They have sharp stingers on the heels of their rear feet and can use them to deliver a strong toxic blow to any foe.

Platypuses spend most of their time alone, sleeping or eating.

These mammals are bottom feeders. They scoop up insects and larvae, shellfish, and worms in their bill along with bits of gravel and mud from the bottom. All this material is stored in cheek pouches and, at the surface, mashed for consumption. Platypuses do not have teeth, so the bits of gravel help them to "chew" their meal.

Platypuses are long-lived, surviving 20 years or more in captivity and up to 12 years in the wild. Scientists think these fascinating creatures are the earliest relatives of modern mammals. Recent studies show that they first evolved more than 112 million years ago, well before the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Source: National Geographic Kids



Common Name – Platypus
Scientific Name – *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*
Type – Mammals
Diet – Carnivore
Size – Head and body: 15 inches; tail: 5 inches
Weight – 3 pounds



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 Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval: Date:

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

Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com



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.**



Or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

March 15

A huge elephant banquet!

National Elephant Day in Thailand is on March 13, a day that celebrates an animal which holds importance in the country's culture. Nearly 60 elephants were brought together to mark the occasion.

The day was first introduced by the Thai government in 1998. It's celebrated every year on the day when the white elephant was added to the old version of the Thai flag.



Elephants are a big source of national pride for Thailand and they play an important part in the country's history. They've been used for labour, transport and battlefield triumphs by warriors and kings.

This event took place at Nong Nooch Tropical Garden in Thailand's eastern Chonburi province.

The elephants were treated to a huge banquet to celebrate. A whopping two tonnes of fruits and vegetables were laid out on an eight-metre wide table for the animals to munch on.

The colourful fruit selection included watermelons, bananas and pineapples.



Despite the importance elephants hold in Thai culture, it's not all good news for the animals. Animal rights groups have long been calling for the elephant camps in Thailand to end animal shows and rides, branding the shows as a form of animal abuse.

CBBC Newsround

Galapagos Islands: New species of giant tortoise discovered

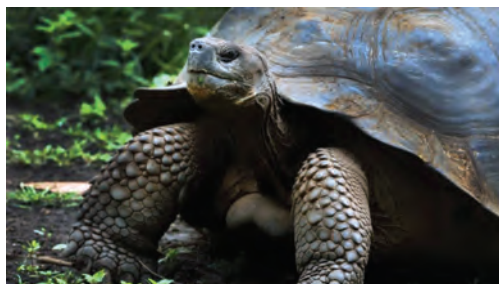
A new species of giant tortoise has been discovered in the Galapagos Islands, in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Ecuador.

Researchers took DNA samples from the animals living on one island and found that they had never been recorded before.

Scientists compared the genetics of giant tortoises on the island now, with tortoise bone samples from 1906 and discovered that they were different. This surprise meant the scientists had discovered a new species!

Researchers from the University of Newcastle in the UK and Yale University in the USA, found that the DNA samples from museums, did not match the tortoises living on the island now.

It was thought that the tortoises living on San Cristóbal, the fifth largest island of the Galapagos, all came from



one single species called *Chelonoidis chathamensis*.

But this new discovery of species suggests that there may be many tortoises on the island currently which are from a different species.

Scientists will try to recover DNA from the bones of shells of the tortoises in museums, so they can see if the tortoises living now will need to be given a new name and understand how they are related to each other.

The Galapagos islands are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, because of its huge amount of wildlife and biological diversity.

There are species on the islands that aren't found anywhere else in the world.

CBBC Newsround

Seven-year-old presents petition to Scottish Parliament

When Callum Isted saw plastic water bottles being thrown away at his school, he raised money to buy all the students reusable bottles. And he didn't stop there. Last week, he became the youngest person to bring a petition before Scotland's Parliament.

Callum Isted is a 7-year-old who goes to Dedridge Primary School in Livingston, Scotland. When he sees a problem, he doesn't just ignore it – he tackles it.

Callum noticed lots of single-use plastic water bottles being thrown away at his school. So he came up with a plan. He raised money by walking from one Scottish coast to the other along the John Muir Way. That's 134 miles (216 km) long. By the time he had finished, he had raised \$1,850 (£1,400).

That was more than enough to buy a reusable water bottle for all of the 185 students at his school.

Callum then started a petition asking the Scottish government to supply all primary school students with a reusable metal water bottle. He also wants the government to fix broken taps in schools to make it easier to refill water bottles. Callum went before the ministers in Scotland's Parliament that handles petitions and explained his concerns and why he thought it was important to stop using single-use plastic bottles, "because animals could get injured or die."



He also pointed out that, "Humans could get ill if they eat fish that has eaten plastic. It's called microplastics."

NewsForKids

March 15

News in Pictures



France
This photograph shows sand from Sahara that fell overnight covering the snow, in Piau-Engaly ski resort, southern France. Orange cars, dusty subway corridors, a blocked and yellowish horizon: a thin layer of sand from the Sahara fell on March 14, 2022 night in Madrid and a good part of Spain, before going up towards France.



Dungeness, England
A group of people thought to be migrants including young children are brought in to Dungeness, Kent, by the RNLI charity following a small-boat incident in the Channel.

Chennai, India
Hindus pull a chariot carrying a statue of Kapaleswarar during an annual festival.



Hangzhou, China
Flight attendants of Zhejiang Loong Airlines undergo rigorous posture training for the Asian Games, to be held in September.



Moreton Morrell, England
Newly-born spring lambs on Nethermorton Farm at Moreton Morrell College in Warwickshire.



Kyiv, Ukraine
A firefighter rescues a dog from an apartment building after it was shelled.

March 14

Sanaa, Yemen
A malnourished baby receives treatment at Sabeen hospital. UNICEF has said millions of people face hunger unless urgent action is taken in Yemen.



Yangon, Myanmar
Water sprays as people fill up containers. Thousands of people face water shortages due to power outages in the city.



Kandahar, Afghanistan
A farmer works in a poppy field in Zhari district.

Source : The Guardian