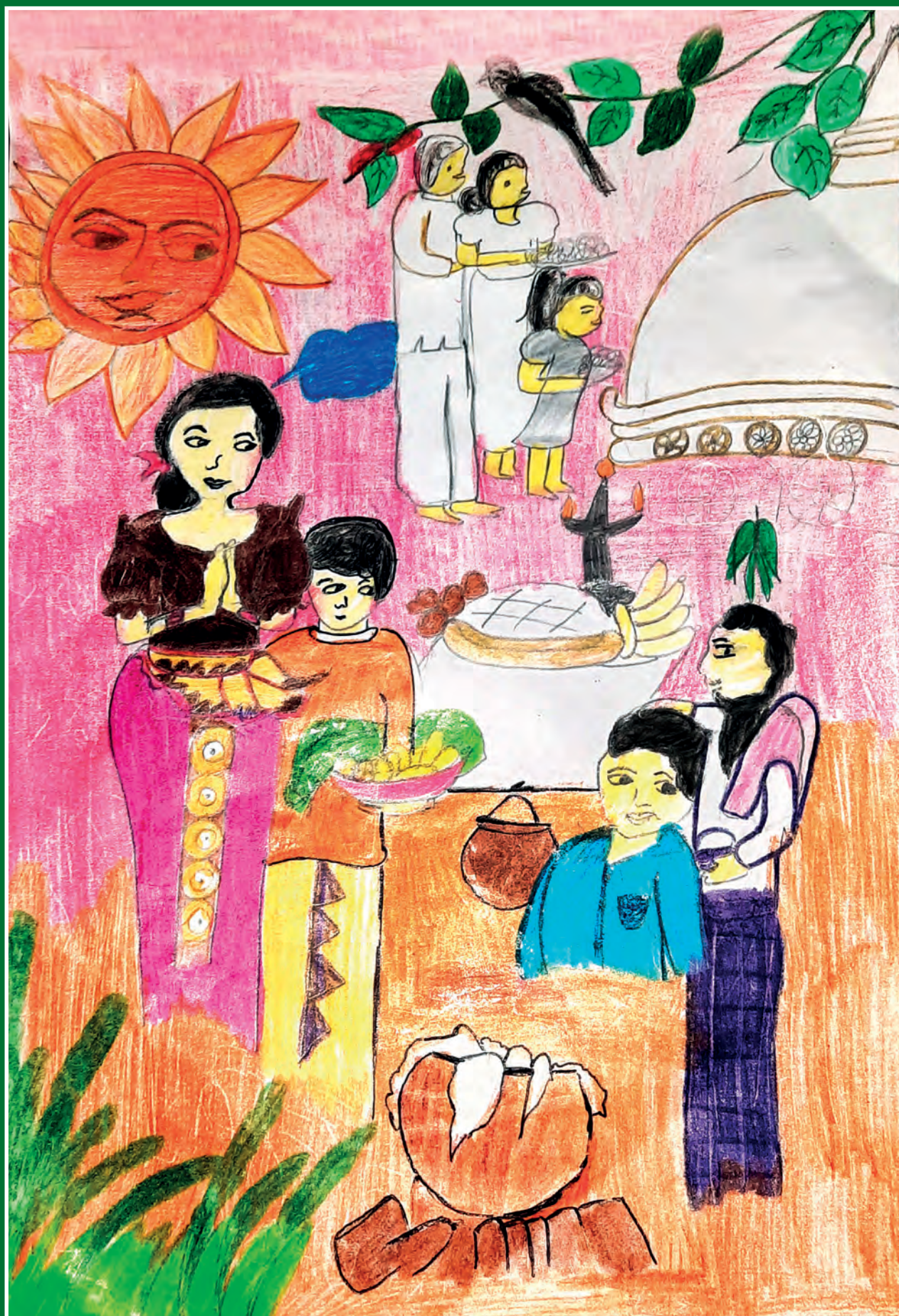




# FUNDA Y TIMES



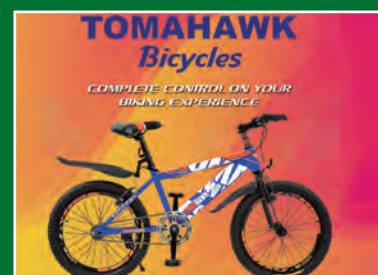
Happy  
Sinhala & Tamil  
New Year!



**AVURUDU ART**  
PAGE 2



**STORY**  
PAGE 3



**COMPETITIONS**  
PAGE 4



**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 27, 2022**

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

**BRITISH COUNCIL**

**Age groups:**  
**6 – 10 years**  
**11 – 15 years**  
**Word limit: 100 Words**

**Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.**

**6 – 10 years**

**In the morning**

There is a beautiful rainbow  
 In the sky,  
 But the sun is very shy,  
 When the birds fly while singing a song,  
 All the other animals dance along.

The children run around,  
 While making a beautiful sound,  
 They put their hands up in the air,  
 Just like they really care.

In the morning I see a tree,  
 And every day it grows in front of me,  
 A squirrel always climbs up the tree,  
 And grabs a mango and he slides down  
 while shouting “Weee!”  
 While mother is cooking,  
 I get ready for school.

Senuri Abeysinghe  
 Methodist College, Colombo 3



**Poetry Competition**

This is your chance to get your poem published here. Entries should be in your handwriting and clearly certified by a teacher or parent as your own creation. Your poem should be posted to Funday Times with ‘Poetry Competition’ written at the top of the entry. The winner of each age category will be awarded a British Council Young Learner's Library membership.

**11 – 15 years**

**The calling of dusk**

The patterns of clouds adorn,  
 The sky like a canvas,  
 Feels like I'm newly born,  
 With the blowing wind endless.

The blackbirds flying,  
 Like workmen from their job,  
 Shouting, screaming and rippling,  
 Like a noisy mob.

The drowning sun, shiny and red,  
 Is snatching at the horizon,  
 Making the flowers dead,  
 But, hoping again to be risen.

Under the rustling trees,  
 I sit and see leisurely  
 The dancing shadows of trees,  
 The dusk is calling dearly.

Arthana Rajapaksha  
 Newstead G.C., Negombo

Please write **the date** at the top of your entry.

**Avurudu Art**



**Rasandi Ranasinghe (6 years)**  
 Musaeus College, Colombo



**Siluni Rathnayake (7 years)**  
 Lyceum Int. School



**Julian De Sylva (6 years)**  
 Majorie De Alwis School, Nugegoda



**Hikma Manajir (14 years)**  
 Springfield College, Kandy



**Senura Sewmina (9 years)**  
 WP/Pili/ Boralessgamuwa Model Primary School



**Karen Jeevaprakash (Grade 1)**  
 Sussex College, Badulla



**Thisara Thiwanka (9 years)**  
 WP/Pili/ Boralessgamuwa Model Primary School



**Thenuda Warnasooriya (10 years)**



## The 'Avurudu Uthsawaya'

By Manoshi de Silva

A poster was put up at the village junction announcing the upcoming 'Avurudu Uthsawaya', held annually to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. Bindu was excited. Last year he took part in a few events but didn't win anything. This year he was determined to win at least one gift.

Bindu decided to take part in the sack race and the bun eating competition this time. Bindu's elder brother was interested in the cycle race. Bindu's father was one of the chief organizers of the celebration.

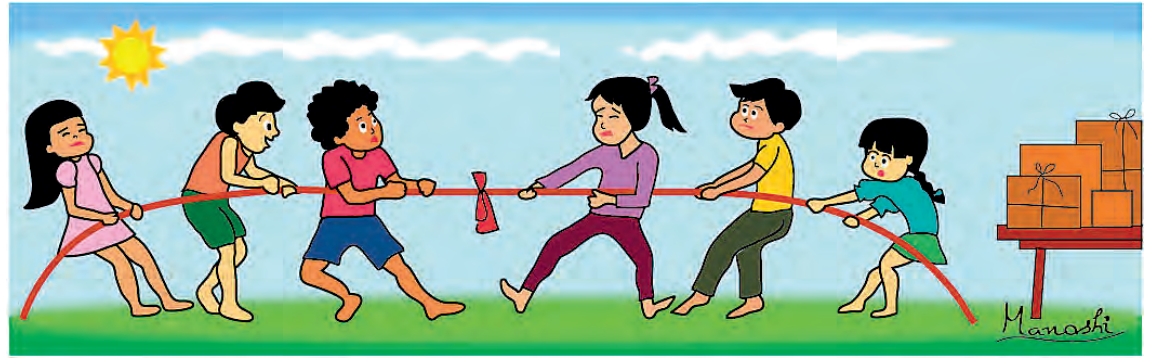
A week before the Avurudu Festival, the organizers brought the gift boxes for the events, for safe keeping at Bindu's house. The cardboard boxes were kept in their storeroom.

"As one of the chief organizers, I am responsible for these gifts. So make sure that nobody goes into the storeroom for any reason!" Bindu's father told his family members sternly.

One morning Bindu's father was already at work and Bindu's mother was going to go to the market. "The two of you stay at home and don't go anywhere," instructed Bindu's mother as she left. "Malli, I need to go and practice my cycling," said Bindu's brother after awhile. "Don't go anywhere. I'll be back soon!"

Bindu watched his brother take off. He then went straight into his father's room. In his father's drawer were many keys. He identified the storeroom key at once. Bindu's heart was beating fast - he knew he was about to do something wrong. His father had forbidden anyone from going into the storeroom. But his curiosity was just too much. "I'll just look at the gift boxes. I won't even touch them!" he promised himself.

The room was full of different sized boxes. Each box had the name of the event written on them. Bindu carefully looked around for the gift boxes for the sack race and the bun eating competition and found them. "I'll just see what's inside. After that I'll close them again," thought Bindu. The sack race had an alarm clock and the bun eating competition had a mug. "These are boring gifts!" thought Bindu, "if I win, I wouldn't like to receive these at all!"



Bindu opened a few other boxes packed for the other events. One of them had a nice cap and there was a kite in another. Bindu swapped the gifts and put the ones he liked in the boxes for his events. There was a big box with the words "Tug-of-war winning team" written on it. But Bindu didn't bother to read the name of the event. He just wanted to see what was in such a big box.

Bindu carefully opened the box. It was full of large chocolate slabs for each member of the winning team. He took all of them out and put them into the two boxes for his events. But he couldn't find anything to put into the now empty, Tug-of-war box.

He opened another box for another event and found a big packet of tea leaves. He put that into the Tug-of-war gift box. Then he proceeded to open the other boxes and kept on swapping gifts till all the boxes finally had something in them. Then he carefully closed all the boxes as they were before, and slowly came out of the storeroom.

The day of the 'Avurudu Uthsawaya' Bindu and his family went there early, taking the gift boxes in their van. Everyone got excited as the games started. The first event was the Tug-of-war. The two teams started pulling the rope whilst the onlookers cheered.

Bindu took part in the two events he was interested in and managed to win the sack race. He was happy because he knew what the gift was. "If I won the bun eating competition I could have got the kite and more chocolates," he thought, looking jealously at the boy who had won it.

Towards evening, the distribution of gifts took place. The announcer called out the winning team of the first event; the Tug-of-war. The chief guest looked surprised as he lifted the big box which wasn't the least bit heavy. The team leader received the gift and the announcer invited him to

open it and to hand over one gift each, to all the team members.

The team leader opened the box and took out a big pack of tea leaves. He looked around in confusion. So did the organizers. It was the gift which Bindu replaced after taking the chocolates. Bindu started to sweat. He didn't realize the mistake he'd made, until now. "I should have bothered to read the event name written on the box," he thought looking around in guilt.

"Where are the chocolate slabs for all the team players?" asked an organizer. They started to open the other gifts one by one and were very surprised to see that all the gifts were mixed up. The gift distribution was temporarily halted and the winners were asked to come the next day.

The crowd left in confusion and Bindu slowly went near the organizing committee. As he got closer, he started crying because he knew he was in big trouble. He told them what he had done and Bindu's father was very angry. He wanted to punish Bindu at once. But an elderly uncle stopped him and asked Bindu why he did it.

"I wanted to have nice gifts for myself!" bawled Bindu and the organizers who were angry ended up laughing.

"Avurudu is a time for sharing. These gifts were to be shared with all participants."

"I know how wrong I was," cried Bindu. "Please forgive me!"

"Avurudu is also a time for forgiving others' mistakes," smiled the elderly uncle. "Bindu has learned his lesson, so he will be forgiven. But there will be a small punishment. He has to rearrange all these boxes with the correct gifts!"

"I will do it," promised Bindu. "I now understand that Avurudu is not about being selfish and enjoying alone, but sharing and enjoying with everyone!"



# Tomahawk

## Quiz No.194

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 194 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of March 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

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: April 30, 2022**

### Tomahawk Quiz No. 193

- ▶ Tharindu de Silva, Galle
- ▶ Vithyashini Lakshmanan, Colombo 6



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### QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 194

1. Name two of Alexander Graham Bell's most famous inventions.
2. In which country is the Giant's Causeway situated and what type of rock are its columns are made of?
3. What is the theme for World Water Day 2022?
4. Who is the current president of Ukraine?
5. Name the French mathematician who discovered many theorems about the 'cycloid' and state a modern use of its mathematical properties.



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#### 4 - 6 years



- ▶ Samudi Suhansika, Boralesgamuwa
- ▶ Shahzaad Ghaney, Colombo 2
- ▶ Moditha Wijesinghe, Weliveriya
- ▶ Mohamed Rayyan, Colombo 3
- ▶ Nethen Fernandopulle, Negombo

Winners please call Funday Times on 2479333/2479337 and arrange to collect your prizes.

### 4 - 6 AGE GROUP

Colour the picture.



Or



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



# Leonardo Da Vinci

**Leonardo da Vinci was a genius in many fields. He excelled at painting, drawing, sculpture, architecture and engineering. He was a leading figure of the Italian Renaissance, a period of great achievement in the arts and sciences.**

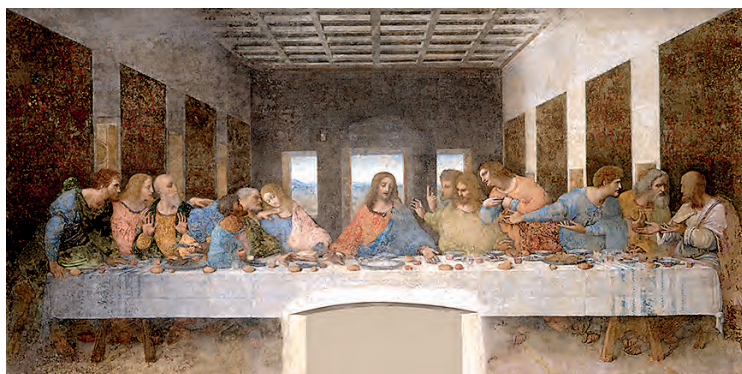
**Leonardo's paintings 'Mona Lisa' and 'Last Supper' won him great fame. But he is also well known for his scientific studies.**

## Early life

Leonardo da Vinci was born on April 15, 1452, near Vinci, a small town near Florence in Italy. When he was about 15, he began studying with the artist Andrea del Verrocchio in Florence. Verrocchio taught him about painting, sculpture and the design of mechanical devices.

## Paintings and notebooks

Leonardo worked in Milan as a painter and engineer for the Duke of Milan from 1482 to 1499. He completed only six works in 17 years, but these finished works include 'The Last Supper' and 'The Virgin of the Rocks.'



**The Last Supper** ▲

'The Last Supper' is an immense wall painting in the dining hall of the monastery of Santa Maria delle Grazie. Both paintings are widely acknowledged to be artistic masterpieces.

In 1980, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared Santa Maria delle Grazie with 'The Last Supper' a World Heritage site.

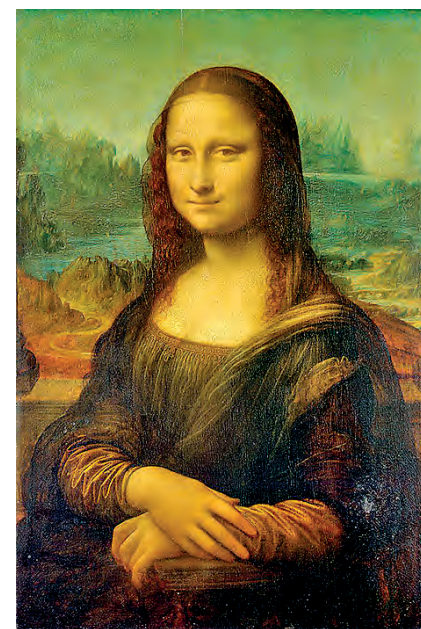
While in Milan, Leonardo also became interested in observing nature. He thought that by carefully observing objects and accurately



drawing them, an artist could obtain scientific knowledge. Leonardo recorded his observations in a series of notebooks. The notebooks cover a variety of subjects, including painting, architecture, machinery, the structure of the human body and the science of flight. For example, more than 300 years before flying machines were perfected, Leonardo developed plans for an airplane and a helicopter.

## Later years

In 1503, Leonardo returned to Florence. There he continued his scientific studies and worked on four great paintings, including the 'Mona Lisa'. He spent some of his later years in Milan and Rome. In 1516, he moved to Cloux (now Clos-Lucé), France, to work for the French king. He spent most of his time there editing his writings. Leonardo died in Cloux on May 2, 1519.



**Mona Lisa** ▲



## Fun Facts

- Da Vinci was a gentle man who loved animals. He was a vegetarian – rare in his day. He sometimes bought live animals in the market and let them go.
- Da Vinci left several notebooks of his ideas. Bill Gates bought some of his notes for \$30 million.
- Da Vinci was fascinated by the human body. He examined dead bodies to learn more. Later, the Pope forbid this work.
- After the Duke of Milan fell from power, Da Vinci worked for the Pope. Later he worked for King Francis I, King of France.
- The king gave Da Vinci an elegant manor. It is said that the king cradled Da Vinci's head as he died.



## NASA's final Moon rocket test cancelled

April 5, 2022

NASA has cancelled an important test of its giant Space Launch System (SLS) rocket because of safety issues.

Known as the “wet dress rehearsal,” it was due to be the final major test before the Artemis 1 mission this summer – an un-crewed flight to the Moon.

However, a problem with the launch platform meant that a key part – which helps to “keep out hazardous gases” – failed, cancelling the countdown test.

The US space agency hopes to send astronauts back to the Moon by 2026.

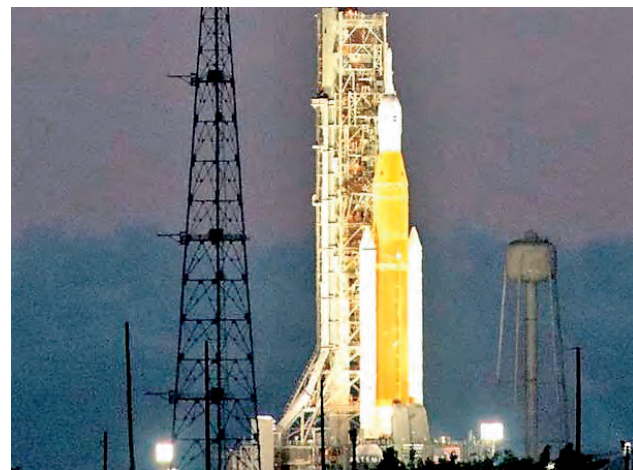
It is the latest delay to hit NASA's plans, which had originally aimed to complete a Moon landing in 2024.

The US team will now try again to complete testing.

If it goes to plan next time, the Artemis 1 rocket should do a crewless flyby of the Moon in a mission lasting around 26 days.

In May 2024, the Artemis 2 mission will do the same journey but with a crew inside.

Following that, Artemis 3 will send the first woman and first non-white astronaut to the Moon.



NASA's SLS rocket with the Orion spacecraft aboard is seen at sunrise before the the Artemis I launch team cancelled the wet dress rehearsal test.

The last time a person landed on the Moon was in 1972.

CBBC Newsround

## 'Endurance' found after 106 years

April 4, 2022

The search for famed polar explorer Ernest Shackleton's ship *Endurance*, which sank in 1915, is finally over. On March 9, 2022, the *Endurance22* expedition team announced the wreck had been found in the Weddell Sea off the coast of Antarctica.

The 106-year-old vessel lies at a depth of about 10,000 feet. It is just four miles away from the last location recorded by *Endurance's* captain Frank Worsley. The ship's near-pristine condition can be explained by the lack of wood-eating marine organisms in Antarctica's freezing waters.

Mensun Bound, Director of Exploration on the expedition, said in a statement. “This is by far the finest wooden shipwreck I have ever seen. It is upright, well proud of the seabed, intact, and in a brilliant state of preservation. You can even see ‘*Endurance*’ arced across the stern.”

Shackleton and his crew of 27 left England aboard the 144-foot *Endurance* in 1914. The ship was headed to a bay on the Weddell Sea – the starting point of Shackleton's attempt to be the first to cross Antarctica by foot.

However, in early January 1915, *Endurance* was 100 miles from its destination when it got stuck in the Weddell Sea's thick ice.

Several attempts to free the ship failed, and things got only worse as the



The *Endurance* is in near-pristine condition.

temperatures dropped.

By the end of February, the *Endurance* was firmly settled in the thick ice. The stranded crew spent the next eight months aboard the ship, hoping to complete the journey when the weather improved. However, on November 21, 1915, the massive boat succumbed to the heavy pressure from the ice and sank.

On April 24, 1916, the brave explorer and a handpicked crew of five embarked on the treacherous 800-mile open-boat journey across the freezing Southern Ocean waters. The exhausted adventurers made it to the Whaling Station on South Georgia Island after 16 days

After several challenges, the expedition members were finally picked up from Elephant Island on August 30, 1916. Shackleton never achieved his dream of crossing Antarctica on foot. However, the polar explorer's ability to survive and keep his crew members safe while stranded for nearly two years made him a hero worldwide.

## A new home for Stan, the T. rex fossil

April 5, 2022

In 2020, Stan, one of the world's largest and most complete *Tyrannosaurus Rex* (*T. rex*) skeletons, was auctioned for a record \$27.5 million (\$31.8 m with fees and costs).

The precious fossil, bought by an anonymous private buyer, led many paleontologists to fret that the *T. rex* was lost to science forever. As it turns out, they had nothing to worry about.

On March 23, 2022, the officials of Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, revealed that the 39-foot-long (11.7-metre-long)

*T. rex* will be a star attraction in their new Natural History Museum scheduled to open in 2025.



Stan, the *T. rex*, will be on display in Abu Dhabi's new Natural History Museum.

DOGO News



April 5

# News in Pictures



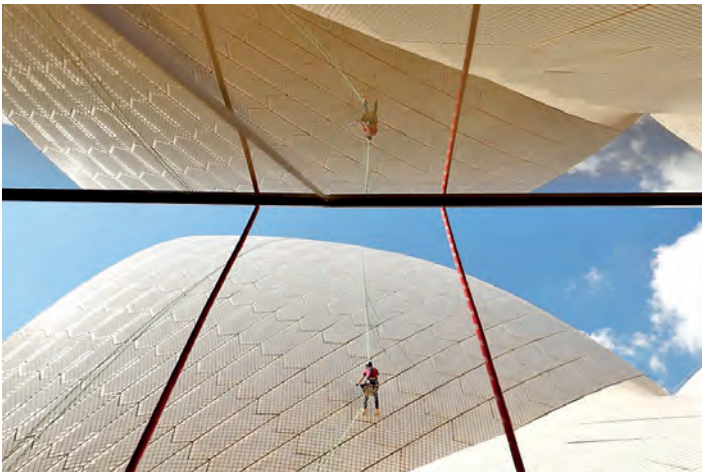
**Stockholm, Sweden**

A new selfie 'museum' makes visitors both the artist and the exhibit. The Youseum has no works of art on its walls, instead its brightly decorated rooms are meant to serve as fun backgrounds for visitors' selfies or videos.



**Ronda, Spain**

Members of the Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno brotherhood adjust the esparto belt of the statue of Christ on top of a weighted structure, known traditionally as 'paso', in preparation for Holy Week processions.



**Sydney, Australia**

Building operations staff inspect tiles on the Sydney Opera House sails. The 'tile tapping' test is conducted every five years.

**Memphis, USA**

The Rev. Jesse Jackson visiting the Lorraine motel in Tennessee, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot and killed on April 4, 1968.



**Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

A 40-metre-high statue of Genghis Khan surveys the plain in the Tsonjin Boldog region, an hour from the capital. Visitors to the monument, made of stainless steel, can take a lift to the upper part.



**Naples, Italy**

Ukrainian and Russian dancers take part in a benefit concert at the San Carlo opera house to raise funds for the Red Cross and champion the cause of peace in Ukraine.

**Hong Kong, China**

An aerial photo shows lines of graves at the Chinese Christian cemetery on the western side of Hong Kong. Relatives visit cemeteries to honour their ancestors during the annual Tomb Sweeping Day, known locally as Ching Ming.



**Doradal, Colombia**

The Colombian authorities have declared the deceased drug lord Pablo Escobar's herd of 'cocaine hippos' an invasive species to tackle their growing numbers. As the animals do not have a natural predator in Colombia, they are a potential problem for biodiversity, scientists say.



**Oxford, UK**

A 12ft art installation, Standing With Giants, has been unveiled in Broad Street to pay homage to the people of Ukraine.



Source: The Guardian