



# FUN DAY TIMES



**Little kids pray for peace**

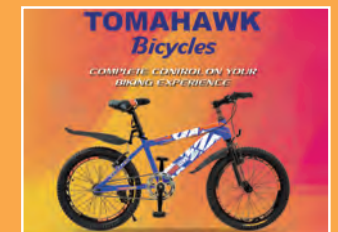
Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



**FUN STUFF**  
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**LANDMARKS**  
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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 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:**

**June 1, 2022**

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

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



Kids of Immy Kids International celebrate Mother's Day

Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

**Win super books from**



**Age:** 9 years and below

**Word Count:** 150

**Topic:** Decorating for Vesak

**Win:** Secret Seven Fireworks by Enid Blyton

Jack's little sister Susie is so annoying! She's decided to form her own detective club and is trying to outdo the Secret Seven. Then some money is stolen and she's a suspect. But even Susie wouldn't do something that bad... would she?



**Write at the top of your Essay**

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic



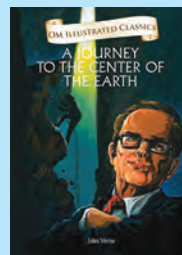
**Age:** 10 – 12 years

**Word Count:** 150 – 200

**Topic:** Vesak sightseeing

**Win:** A journey to the Centre of the Earth by Jules Verne (OM Illustrated Classics)

A German professor comes across a coded message which would reveal the path to the centre of the earth. He becomes obsessed with the idea of undertaking the journey. Fighting against all odds and protests, he leads his nephew and a guide, Hans, through volcanic tubes, tunnels and a sea infested with horrific monsters for a dangerous yet adventurous journey to the centre of the earth!



**Age:** 13 – 15 years

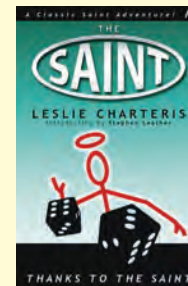
**Word Count:** 200 – 250

**Topic:** The significance of Vesak

**Win:** Thanks to the Saint by Leslie Charteris

Simon Templar is the Saint – daring, dazzling and just a little disreputable. On the side of the law, but standing just outside it, he dispenses his own brand of justice one criminal at a time.

The Saint has become better known – but that just increases the number of people who seek out his help. In these nine short stories, Simon has a chance to show off his skills.





# Shwedagon Pagoda



**Shwedagon Pagoda or Paya is the biggest and the grandest Pagoda in Yangon, Myanmar in Southeast Asia. It is also known as the Great Dragon Pagoda and Golden Pagoda. This temple is an important Buddhist monument with a long history that is surrounded by legends.**

**A pagoda is a type of temple, usually consisting of a tower with multiple levels. Shwedagon is actually a stupa, which is a sacred Buddhist structure in the shape of a bell, often with a relic inside it.**

Shwedagon Pagoda is called the pride of Myanmar and totally deserves that title. As you arrive in Yangon, you can't help but notice the magnificence of this pagoda as it glimmers in the backdrop in the heart of the city. It is built on an elevated hill so you will notice it from a distance as you move around within Yangon.



Great Dragon Pagoda in 1825 ▲

## The legend and a little bit of history

Legend has it that it was built more than 2600 years back and is the oldest Buddhist stupa in the world. The Pagoda stores significant holy relics of four previous Buddhas. The relics contain a few strands of hair of Gautama Buddha, water filter of Koṇāgamana, a piece of the robe of Kassapa and the staff of Kakusandha.

As per the fable, two brothers Taphussa and Bhallika, from the ancient city Balkh (present day Afghanistan) got the opportunity to meet Lord Gautama Buddha when he was alive and received eight of the Buddha's hairs. The brothers travelled to Myanmar (then known as Burma) and found Singuttara Hill with the help of the King Okkalapa of Burma. This is where the relics of other Buddhas previous to Gautama Buddha had been preserved.

## Destruction and restoration

Several kings and queens of Burma had a role to play in raising the height of the stupa. The pagoda survived many earthquakes but the biggest damage was caused by an earthquake in 1768 that brought down the top of the pagoda. King Hsinbyushin later raised it to its current height of 99 m (325 feet).



## All that glitters – gold and gems

This stupa that is plated with 8688 sheets of gold, shimmers in the day light and sparkles when it's dark – is indeed a sight to behold!

It is studded with more than 7000 diamonds and



precious gems like rubies, sapphires, topaz along with a massive piece of emerald. It is said that the emerald bounces off the last rays of the sun as it sets. The crown is topped by a diamond bud called 'sein bu' which carries a 74-carat diamond.

Source: Drifter Planet

## Famous Landmarks Quiz 31

**Q:** Name the relics contained in the Shwedagon Pagoda



# Tomahawk

## Quiz No.195

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 195 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of April 3, 10, 17 and 24, 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. 195' 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.

One lucky winner will receive a brand new **Tomahawk Mountain Bike** 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: May 31, 2022**

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



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## QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 195

1. Which species of animal do dogs trace their origins to?
2. Name two famous paintings by Leonardo da Vinci.
3. What is considered the most important event in the Christian calendar?
4. Name the World Heritage Site in Australia that officially has a dual place name.
5. What is the scientific name for the Bobcat?

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- \* Improves fine motor skills.
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- \* Improves concentration.

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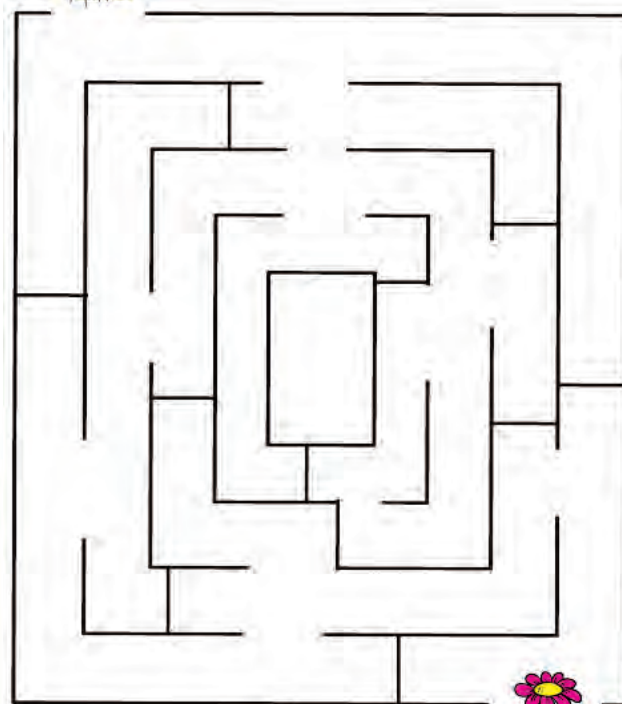
**NOTE**

Please log on to the Funday Times website on [www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk) or check out the Sunday Times epaper on [www.sundaytimes.lk](http://www.sundaytimes.lk) for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.

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**4 – 6 AGE GROUP**

Help the bee reach the flower.



# Chipmunk



**C**hipmunks are part of the squirrel family, and while they look similar to their bushy-tailed cousins, chipmunks are actually smaller, with alternating light and dark stripes along their cheeks and backs.

There are 25 species of chipmunk, 24 of which live in North America. Chipmunks are excellent tree climbers and swimmers who live in a variety of habitats, including plains, mountains, forests, and deserts. Chipmunks like to live alone in holes or burrows called dens.

Chipmunks hibernate in cold weather, which means they spend most of the winter sleeping in their dens.

One chipmunk can gather up to 165 acorns in a day. In just two days, a chipmunk can collect enough food to last an entire winter, although chipmunks typically hoard much more food than necessary.

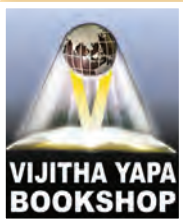
Chipmunk young are born in late spring, and stay in the nest for up to six weeks. Female chipmunks have one or two litters per year, each with four or five babies.

Chipmunks are 7.2 to 8.5 inches (18.5 to 21.6 centimetres) long including their tails, which can account for nearly half of their length.

**Common Name** - Chipmunk  
**Scientific Name** - *Tamias*  
**Type** - Mammal  
**Diet** - Omnivore  
**Average Life Span in the Wild** - 2 to 3 years  
**Size** - 4 to 7 inches;  
**tail** - 3 to 5 inches  
**Weight** - 1 to 5 ounces



Source: National Geographic Kids



## 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.**

**Please fill in the coupon and attach it to your entry.**

### Read-a-Book Competition

**Name :** .....

**Date of birth :** .....

**Address :** .....

**School:** .....

**Tel:** .....

**Finished book on :** .....



## 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

May 11

## Leadership changes around the world

### Sri Lanka's Prime Minister steps down after violent protests

Following violent protests, Sri Lanka's prime minister, Mahinda Rajapaksa, has stepped down. Mr. Rajapaksa and his family have led the south Asian island nation for nearly 20 years. His brother, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, is still the country's president.



People have been protesting against the Rajapaksas since mid-March.

The Rajapaksas are accused of managing the country poorly. Because of their decisions, Sri Lanka can't repay the huge amounts of money that it owes.

As a result, Sri Lanka can't afford to bring much-needed supplies to the island. There are shortages of food, medicine, fuel, and electricity. Prices have gone higher and higher. People have been protesting against the Rajapaksas since mid-March. Most of the protests have been peaceful.

But violence broke out Monday after supporters of the prime minister attacked the protesters.

Nearly 200 people were injured, and at least seven people have died.



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2020.

The ex-prime minister was rescued on Tuesday as thousands of protesters stormed his home. Several houses owned by supporters of the Rajapaksas were set on fire.

President Rajapaksa has declared a state of emergency and a nationwide curfew.

### Dictator's son elected president of the Philippines

Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. seems to have easily won the election for president in the Philippines. It will take days for a final count, but Mr. Marcos appears to have won roughly 55.8% of the vote. His closest opponent, Leni Robredo, took just 28%.

Mr. Marcos is the son of Ferdinand Marcos Sr., a brutal leader who controlled the Philippines from 1965 to 1986. Under the older Mr. Marcos, thousands of people were arrested, tortured, and killed.

Mr. Marcos Jr. made careful use of social media to show his father's time as president as a "golden age" for the Philippines. Mr. Marcos was helped by joining forces with Sara Duterte, the daughter of the current president, Rodrigo Duterte. Ms. Duterte was also easily elected.

During the election, Mr. Marcos talked about "unity", but he didn't give many details about his plans. Because of his father's actions, many people are worried about what Mr. Marcos may do as president. Some people expect him to follow the example of the current president, Mr. Duterte.



Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. seems to have easily won the election for president in the Philippines.

### Sinn Fein wins election in Northern Ireland

Sinn Féin has won the election for Parliament in Northern Ireland, taking 27 of the 90 seats in the Northern Ireland Assembly. That's a huge change, since the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which supports strong ties to the United Kingdom (UK), normally does much better in Northern Ireland's elections.

The surprising result is related to Brexit, the UK's decision to leave the European Union. Many people in Northern Ireland are extremely upset over the UK's final Brexit deal and the barriers it put in place between the UK and Northern Ireland.

Sinn Fein is expected to name Michelle O'Neill as Northern Ireland's first minister. But Ms. O'Neill may not be able to do much. Northern Ireland has special power-sharing rules. Under these rules, Sinn Fein can only form a government if someone from the DUP acts as deputy first minister.

DUP leaders have said that they won't take part in a government until the Brexit rules for Northern Ireland are changed, and that's unlikely to happen.



Sinn Fein is expected to name Michelle O'Neill (above) as Northern Ireland's first minister.



#### Northern Ireland

Ireland and Northern Ireland are both part of the same island. But Ireland is part of the European Union, and Northern Ireland is part of the UK.

Sinn Fein, a political party once linked with a terrorist group, has a goal of having Northern Ireland leave the UK and become part of Ireland.

Source: NewsForKids

May 11

# News in Pictures



**Tehran, Iran**  
Members of the Iranian Red Crescent Society perform in a ceremony marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the relief and rescue organization.



**Stung Treng, Cambodia**  
A female giant freshwater stingray, weighing 181kg and measuring 3.96m long, is released after it was caught by fishermen in the Mekong River.



**Tibet autonomous region, China**  
Namkha, a Sherpa, takes care of her granddaughter while working in the fields.

**London, UK**  
Laura Sharpe examines Florence Nightingale's original lamp at the Florence Nightingale Museum, which re-opens to the public on Thursday on International Nurses' Day and Florence's 202<sup>nd</sup> birthday.



**Oaxaca, Mexico**  
People participate in the holy cross of the fishermen procession where families follow the cross by boat to its place of sanctuary.

**Florida, USA**  
Vervet monkeys roam free near the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood international airport. More than 40 descendants of vervets that escaped from a now-closed breeding facility are living in the area.



**Colombo, Sri Lanka**  
Pedestrians pass a burned-out bus near the former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's official residence, a day after it was torched by protesters. Five people were killed and nearly 200 wounded in a wave of violence after weeks of protests over the country's worsening economic crisis.

May 10



**London, UK**  
Prince Charles sits on the throne, the imperial state crown at his side, for the state opening of parliament.



**Somerset, UK**  
Four-month-old spectacled bear cub twins play in their enclosure at Noah's Ark zoo farm in Clevedon, where the Andean bears, the only bear species native to South America, are slowly venturing from their cubbing den to spend more time outdoors with their mother.

Source: The Guardian