



FUNDA Y TIMES



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(ONLINE)



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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 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 this week's competitions:

November 15, 2023

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



In our online issue this week:

- Page 5 – UN Day
- Page 6 – Kekulu Art Competition / Read-a-Book Winners
- Pages 7 & 8 – Halloween

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.

'Tis the Season

Dance Works Centre featuring Soul Sounds Academy, celebrated Christmas early with their concert 'Tis the Season' on October 20 and 21. The festive event was directed and choreographed by Kanthi Ranchigoda and Soundarie David Rodrigo.

Dance items were set to toe-tapping numbers such as Mariah Carey's 'All I Want for Christmas'.

The students – some as young as three years of age – dressed in glittery outfits to show off their hip-hop skills to 'Jerusalema'. Students also danced the roles of fairies and wood sprites in a modern ballet item set to a jazzy version of 'Joy to the World'.



Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

Happy Birthday



Maryam Irshad
7 years on October 26



Mohamed Yazeed
4 years on October 23

Photographs of members and non-members between 4 – 15 years, for the birthday page, should reach us at least ten days before the birthday, along with a letter from a parent giving full details.

Maths in Action 77

By R. N. A. de Silva

Transcendental Numbers



In school, you have solved many algebraic equations. Algebraic numbers are all the numbers that are roots to polynomial equations with rational coefficients. Rational numbers are those which can be expressed as a ratio of two integers such as 0, 5, 2/3 and 12/7. The remaining numbers are called irrational numbers such as $\sqrt{2}$, $\sqrt{3}$, π and e . The solution of $2x + 5 = 0$ is $-5/2$. Therefore $-5/2$ is algebraic. Similarly, the roots of $x^2 - 2x - 3 = 0$ are -1 and 3 which are algebraic. The roots of $x^2 = 2$ are $\sqrt{2}$ and $-\sqrt{2}$ which are algebraic. It may be difficult to think of a number that is not algebraic. But they exist.

Numbers which are not algebraic are called transcendental. Examples include π and e . All transcendental numbers are irrational but not all irrationals are transcendental. $\sqrt{2}$ is an irrational number but not a transcendental number as it is a root of $x^2 = 2$. Although there are more transcendental numbers than algebraic numbers, proving a number is transcendental is quite difficult.

The French mathematician Joseph Liouville proved the existence of transcendental numbers in 1844. He gave the first example with the number 0.11000100000000000000001000..... which in mathematical notation is written as $\sum_{r=1}^{\infty} 10^{-r!}$

Here $r!$ is read as 'Factorial r '. $1! = 1$, $2! = 1 \times 2 = 2$, $3! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 = 6$ and so on. This means that in the above number, 1s occur only in the 1st, 2nd, 6th, 24th, 120th etc., places. Hence, he gave the first provable transcendental number. Today, this is known as the Liouville constant. In 1873, the French mathematician Charles Hermite proved that the Euler number e is transcendental. $e = 2.718281828.....$

In 1882, German mathematician Ferdinand Von Lindemann proved that π is transcendental. German mathematician George Cantor surprised many mathematicians by demonstrating that a majority of real numbers are transcendental. Yet, only a few are known and named.

transcendental number

Liouville's Constant:

$$L = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{10^{n!}}$$

One of the first transcendental numbers!

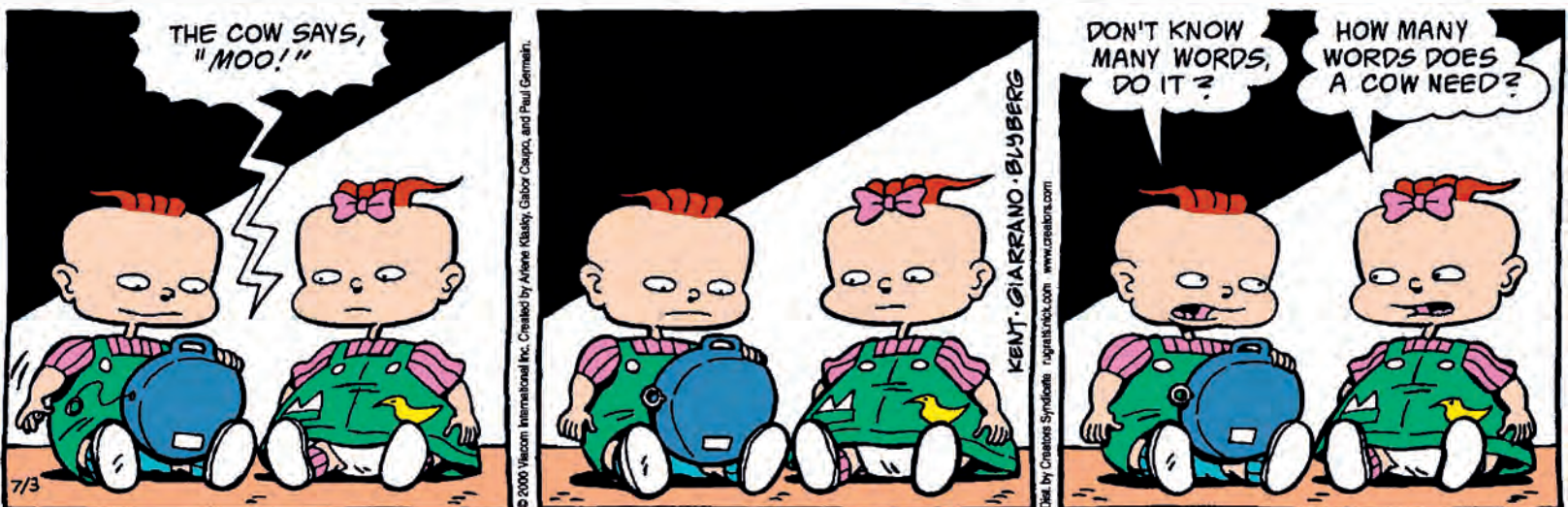
HIDING BETWEEN ALL THE ORDINARY NUMBERS WAS AN INFINITY OF TRANSCENDENTAL NUMBERS WHOSE PRESENCE YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE GUESSED UNTIL YOU LOOKED DEEPLY INTO MATHEMATICS.
- CARL SAGAN -

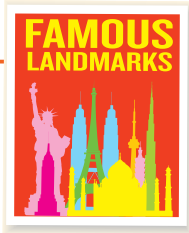
Math Plot - 77
Try to find the solution to the following puzzle. You may send solutions with reasoning to rnades@gmail.com within the next three days. Please include your full name, date of birth, home address, contact details and the name of your school along with the solution.

If 3, 2, 4 = 9 4, 3, 5 = 16
5, 4, 6 = 25 6, 5, 7 = 36
then 7, 4, 8 = ?

Math Plot 76 – Solution
The answer is 5121.
The winner is Sajeewan Ananthan of St. Peter's College, Colombo. Congratulations!

Rugrats





Sahara Desert



The Sahara Desert is the largest hot desert on Earth (the cold desert of Antarctica is larger). The Sahara has played an important role in the development of African culture and history.



Where is the Sahara Desert?

The Sahara Desert is located in North Africa. It covers much of North Africa stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea. North of the Sahara is the Mediterranean Sea. South is the Sahel region that sits between the desert and the African Savanna.

The Sahara covers large sections of eleven different countries including Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Western Sahara, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad and Sudan.

How big is it?

The Sahara Desert is huge. It covers an area of 3,629,360 square miles and is still growing. From east to west it is 4,800 miles long and from north to south it is 1,118 miles wide. If the Sahara were a country it would be the fifth largest country in the world, larger than Brazil and only slightly smaller than the United States.

How hot does it get?

The Sahara Desert is one of the most consistently hottest places on Earth. The average temperature during the summer months is between 100.4 °F (38 °C) and 114.8 °F (46 °C). In some areas the temperature can exceed 120 °F for several days in a row.

The overall climate of the Sahara makes it a difficult place for any life to exist. It is hot, dry and windy. Even though it is so hot during the day, the temperature can drop rapidly at night. Sometimes to below freezing. It rarely rains in the Sahara. Some regions can go years without seeing a drop of rain.



Landforms of the Sahara Desert

The Sahara Desert is made up of several different types of landforms including:

- **Dunes** - Dunes are hills made of sand. Some dunes in the Sahara can reach over 500 feet tall.
- **Ergs** - Ergs are large areas of sand. They are sometimes called sand seas.
- **Regs** - Regs are flat plains that are covered with sand and hard gravel.
- **Hamadas** - Hamadas are hard and barren rocky plateaus.
- **Salt Flats** - A flat area of land covered with sand, gravel and salt.

Living in the Desert

Even though it is difficult to survive in the desert, some powerful civilizations have formed in the Sahara. Larger cities and farming villages tend to form along rivers and oases. For example, the Ancient Egyptians and the Kingdom of Kush formed great civilizations along the Nile River. Some peoples, like the Berbers, survive by being nomads. They constantly move around to find new areas to graze their livestock and hunt for food.

Desert Caravans

Trade routes across the Sahara Desert were an important part of the economies of Ancient Africa. Goods such as gold, salt, slaves, cloth and ivory were transported across the desert using long trains of camels called caravans. The caravans would often travel in the evening or morning hours to avoid the heat of the day.



Interesting Facts

- The word "Sahara" is the Arabic word for desert.
- The Sahara used to be a lush region with many plants and animals. It began to dry up around 4000 years ago due to a gradual change in the tilt of the Earth's orbit.
- The highest point in the Sahara Desert is the volcano Emi Koussi in Chad. Its peak is 11,302 feet above sea level.
- Despite its large size, only around 2.5 million people live in the Sahara Desert.
- The most common language spoken in the Sahara is Arabic.

Source: Ducksters

Famous Landmarks Quiz 45

Q: How many countries does the Sahara Desert spread across? Name five.

Famous Landmarks Quiz 44

Aysha Manaal,
Kolonnawa

United Nations Day

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

United Nations Day, celebrated since 1948, marks the anniversary of the UN's inception on October 24, 1945. The UN is the world's largest international organisation, with the UN system comprising over 30 affiliated organisations, specialised agencies, programmes and funds. It mainly aims to maintain international peace and security, protect human rights, deliver humanitarian aid, promote sustainable development and uphold international law.

Headquarters: New York City, United States
(on international territory)

Main Offices: Geneva (Switzerland), Nairobi (Kenya), The Hague (the Netherlands), and Vienna (Austria)

Official Languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish

Incumbent Secretary-General: António Guterres

History of the UN

Following World War II, representatives of 50 countries gathered at the United Nations Conference on International Organisation in San Francisco, California, in April 1945. Over the next 2 months, the UN Charter, which established a new international organisation that was hoped to prevent anymore world wars, was drafted and signed.

The UN officially came into existence only after the Charter was ratified by its five permanent members (China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States), and a majority of its member countries.



UN Charter

The UN today

In its nearly eight decades, the UN has moved with the times and ensured its aims remain relevant. For example, in 2015, it released the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development containing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognising that ending poverty and other issues must go hand-in-hand with strategies to improve health and education, reduce inequality, and trigger economic growth, while tackling climate change and working to preserve the natural environment.

Currently, following the recent developments in the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict, the UN has been involved in getting humanitarian aid across into Gaza whose borders have been sealed, with no access to power, water or food.



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza, calling for aid to be allowed into Gaza last week. (Al Jazeera)



The UN Secretariat building (left) under construction in New York City in 1949, and the Secretariat and General Assembly buildings in 1990 (right). (UN Photo)

The UN's predecessor

The League of Nations was established in 1919, in the aftermath of World War I, under the Treaty of Versailles with the aim of promoting international cooperation and achieving peace and security. It ceased to exist on April 20, 1946, after handing over all its assets to the United Nations, and granting complete control of its Library and archives to the UN Secretariat.

Earlier international organisations

Before the World Wars, countries created international organisations to cooperate on specific matters, such as the International Telecommunication Union (established in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union), and Universal Postal Union (established in 1874). Today, they are both UN specialised agencies.

Global Media and Information Literacy Week

The world is flooded with information (both factual and false), and while some are swamped with it, others have no access to it at all.

Due to this and the need to distribute factual, timely, targeted, clear, accessible, multilingual, and science-based information, the UN General Assembly designated October 24 – 31, as Global Media and

Information Literacy Week to raise awareness on the matter.

This year's theme is Media and Information Literacy in Digital Spaces, highlighting the importance of media and information literacy when navigating the digital world, such as knowing to verify information before believing it, and thinking before sharing it with others.



SIDDHALEPA **Kekulu Kinder ART COMPETITION - 2023**

Application Form

Child's Full Name :

Date of Birth :

Permanent Address and Telephone Number :

Email Address :

Kindergarten Name and Address :

Kindergarten Principal's Name :

Phone Number :

Kindergarten Email :

District :

Kindergarten Principal's Signature :

1. Eligible only for children of 2 ½ to 5 years of age.
 2. Competition topic is 'Our Family'.
 3. Drawing can be submitted only on an A4 sheet using pastels only.
 4. Should be certified by the Kindergarten Principal, that the drawing is done by the child.
 5. It is mandatory to paste the application to the back of drawing.
 6. Certificates are given only for drawings where application form is filled correctly.
 7. The product wrappings and the drawing to be enclosed in an envelope without stapling together and sent to the following address before 30th November 2023.
 8. Address: Hettigoda Industries (Pvt) Ltd., No. 33/3, Sri Dharmarama Road, Ratmalana.
 9. It is important to have filled the application form correctly. If not, the drawing will be rejected.
 10. Any clarifications on the competition, please call Yuresh on 077 244 0442 or Isuru on 077 261 3255.
- It is mandatory to include a product wrapping from any of the following product categories, to partake in the competition.



Kekulu Baby Soap



Kekulu Toothpastes



Kekulu Baby Cologne



Kekulu Toothbrush



Kekulu Baby Soap 5 in 1



THE OFFICIAL RADIO PARTNER



OFFICIAL PRINT PARTNER



OFFICIAL BANKING PARTNER

* Important Notice – To all Kindergarten Principals, please ensure that all drawings are submitted with the correct product wrappings to the above address before 30th November, 2023.



Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given below 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:

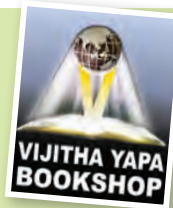
Young Reporters who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.



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, 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 :

Read-a-Book for September



9 years below

Methuka Wijetilleka
'Awesome Friendly Spooky Stories'
by Jeff Kinney

10 - 12 years

Tenitha Wijetilleka
'Demon Dentist'
by David Walliams

13 - 15 years

Dananga Karunarathne
'They Both Die at the End'
by Adam Silvera

Halloween Traditions

October 23, 2023

Halloween, celebrated annually on October 31st, is filled with eerie costumes, spooky decorations and sweet treats. While the holiday has evolved into a festive, commercial occasion, its roots run deep in history.

Let's explore the origins of Halloween and some of the fun customs associated with it.

The holiday's origin

Halloween's roots can be traced back to the Celtic festival of Samhain. The Celts were a group of people that lived in what is now Ireland and parts of France over 2,000 years ago. They believed that the spirits of the dead returned to Earth on Samhain.



From *The Book of Halloween (1919)* showing several Halloween activities.

To appease them and protect themselves from harm, they lit bonfires and wore costumes made from animal heads and skins.

The Romans took over the Celtic territory in 390 BC. They adopted the traditions in AD 1000 for All Souls' Day by dressing up as saints, devils and angels. The celebration was initially



held on November 2nd. However, it was later moved to October 31st and renamed All-Hallows. This later evolved into Halloween.

The holiday was introduced in America in the mid-1800s. It was an instant hit with residents of the Southern Colonies. They marked the day by sharing ghost stories, dancing and singing to remember the deceased.

By the end of the century, Halloween's popularity had spread across the US.

Trick-or-treating

Trick-or-treating can be credited to the Roman All Souls' Day. On this day, residents in need would knock on the doors of the wealthy and offer a prayer for their dead in exchange for "soul cakes." "Souling," as it was called, took a twist when Irish and Scottish kids, dressed in costumes, started getting treats for singing or reciting poems. Immigrants from the two countries introduced the fun custom to America in the early 20th century, and the rest, as they say is history!

The original treats of choice were fruit, nuts, coins and small toys. In the 1950s, candy companies introduced small, individually wrapped confections during Halloween.

That helped increase sales. But candy did not become the dominant treat until the 1970s after parents began to fear accepting anything unwrapped.



Today, over 600 million pounds (272 million kg) of candy are sold yearly on Halloween! The holiday accounts for about 10% of annual candy sales. It yields manufacturers over \$2.6 billion every year.

Jack o' lanterns

No Halloween is complete without a spooky Jack-o'-lantern. This fun custom was started by the Irish. They carved lanterns from turnips and potatoes to ward off evil spirits.



The Irish started the tradition of carving lanterns during Halloween.

When the immigrants arrived in America, they discovered pumpkins. Since then, the orange gourds have become the fruit of choice.

Candy corn

Candy corn became popular after the Goelitz Confectionery Company began mass production in the 1880s. The candy maker initially marketed the treat as "Chicken Feed." They sold it in a box featuring a rooster with the tagline, "Something worth crowing for."

However, around 1950, people began to hand out candy corn to trick-or-treaters. The harvest-themed sweets were especially popular in rural America, and a new tradition was born.

Today, nearly 35 million pounds (15.8 million kg) of candy corn is sold during Halloween.

DOGO News

Halloween and other spooky holidays from around the world



United States: ▲
There is no country that celebrates Halloween quite like the US. There are parties, costumes and who can forget Trick-or-Treating? The holiday is so big, even presidents get involved. In the past, the White House has been decorated with giant pumpkins and in 2017 it was covered in cobwebs and huge spiders.



Philippines: Filipinos like to go to cemeteries on All Saints' Day to visit their loved ones, and they often hold parties with food and music.



Ireland: The Jack-o'-lantern is thought to have come from an Irish myth about a man known as Stingy Jack who played a trick on the devil. In Ireland, people would carve scary faces into turnips to frighten away bad spirits, including Stingy Jack. In the US, carving a pumpkin has replaced turnip carving and this has become popular in the UK as well.

Nepal: Gai Jatra is a festival celebrated for eight days every year in Nepal at the end of the summer. Families who have lost a loved one in the past year lead a cow through the street, and if a cow is not available, then they dress a child up as a cow instead. Festival-goers wear bright colours and come together to celebrate their loved ones with drum music, masked dances and comedy. ▶



China: The Hungry Ghost Festival is a summer festival where people burn paper money, food and incense to pay respect to their ancestors. Families will write their ancestors' names on lanterns made out of wood and paper before placing them on a river. They believe that ghosts will follow the lanterns as they float away down the river. ◀



Japan: In Tokyo, people get well and truly into the Halloween spirit. Halloween is seen by many people around the world to be an American holiday, but lots of people love to celebrate it here because they can dress up in fun costumes. ◀



Mexico: The 'Day of the Dead' is a colourful and lively celebration. The festival is led by the Aztec goddess Mictecacihuatl, also known as the Lady of the Dead. Festival-goers wear decorated skull masks or paint their faces to look like skulls. If this sounds scary, don't worry. The Day of the Dead is a happy occasion, to celebrate life and loved ones that have passed on. ▲



Germany: A woman practices her zombie shuffle before starting a zombie walk through the city of Berlin. Zombies are fictional creatures and are a popular choice for fancy dress during Halloween. Zombie walks are held all over the world. ▲

Hong Kong: The Hungry Ghost Festival is celebrated in many different countries across Asia, including Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan. In Hong Kong, these performers are holding a long, decorated dragon, which they will carry through the streets as part of the celebrations. ▼



Source : CBBC Newsround