

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 17, 2023



FUN DAY

TIMES



World of Disney on stage

Pic. by Akila Jayawardena



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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:

January 3, 2024

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Competitions
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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.

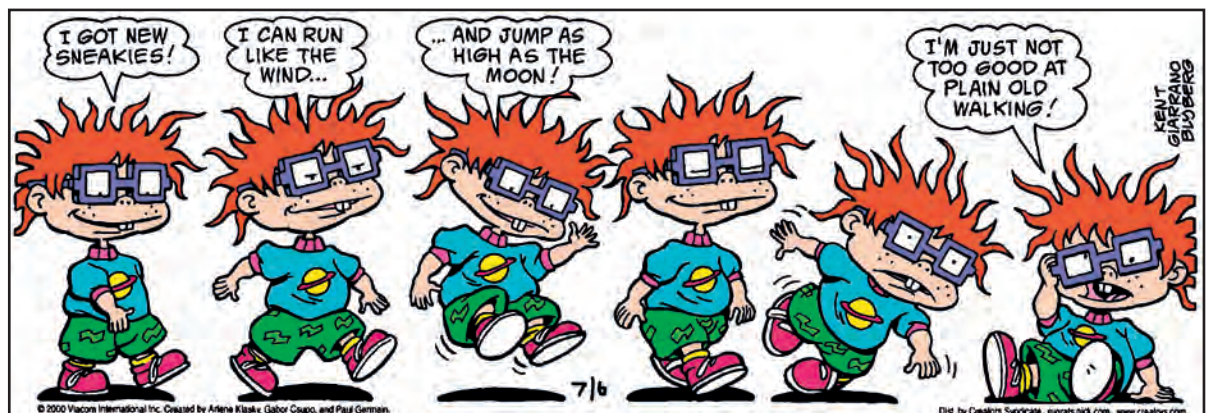


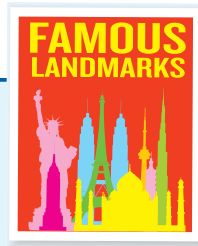
KinderCare Montessori House of Children held their year-end concert under the theme, 'The Wonderful World of Disney', on December 9, at the Buddhist Cultural Centre in Colombo.



Pix by Akila Jayawardena

Rugrats





The South Pole

The South Pole is the southern end of Earth's axis. The axis is an imaginary line through the centre of Earth around which the planet rotates. The South Pole is located in Antarctica.

Geographic, Magnetic and Geomagnetic Poles

In the geographic system of latitude and longitude, the South Pole is at 90° south. All the lines of longitude run between it and the North Pole.

Like the North Pole, the South Pole has a geographic pole, a magnetic pole, and a geomagnetic pole. The south poles lie in different locations in the southernmost area of Earth. The magnetic and geomagnetic poles constantly move position.

This geographic South Pole is not the same as the magnetic South Pole. Compasses point away from the magnetic South Pole, toward the magnetic North Pole. Although the geographic poles are fixed, the magnetic poles move slowly over time. The magnetic South Pole is now on the Adélie Coast, in the part of eastern Antarctica that is across the ocean from Australia.

The geomagnetic South Pole is the southern end of Earth's geomagnetic field. It currently lies on Antarctica near Vostok Station, a Russian research facility. The geomagnetic South Pole is exactly opposite from the geomagnetic North Pole.

A Year at the Pole

The geographic South Pole does not experience seasons, days or nights like most other places on Earth. At the pole, six months of darkness, or winter, follow six months of daylight, or summer. The Sun rises on about September 21. It appears to move in a circle until it sets on about March 22. For the other half of the year, the South Pole is dark. This phenomenon happens because, as Earth revolves around the Sun, Earth's axis stays tilted at the same angle.

During its six months of summer, the South Pole points toward the Sun. During its six months of winter, it points away from the Sun.

Exploration and Study

Antarctica is a difficult place to explore. The first efforts to do so and to reach the South Pole began in the early 1900s. Ernest Henry Shackleton, an Irish-born British explorer, almost reached the South Pole in 1909. The first people to succeed were the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and his four companions. They reached the pole on December 14, 1911.



1. South Geographic Pole
2. South Magnetic Pole
3. South Geomagnetic Pole



Amundsen's party at the South Pole ▲

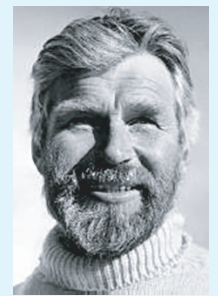


Robert F. Scott

British explorer Robert F. Scott had hoped to beat Amundsen to the pole, but he did not arrive until January 17, 1912. Scott and his men died on their return trip.

U.S. explorer Richard E. Byrd made the first flight over the South Pole on November 29, 1929.

In 1957 – 58, British explorer Vivian Fuchs led the first crossing of Antarctica by way of the pole.



Vivian Fuchs ▲

The group set out in tracked vehicles in November 1957. After making it to the South Pole, the group reached the opposite coast in March 1958.

In late 1956 a U.S. Navy team began building a station at the South Pole. The facility — called the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station — was improved in the 1970s and early 2000s. Scientists now live there year-round.

Source: Britannica Kids & Students

Famous Landmarks Quiz 47

Q: Name the first explorer to reach the South Pole and when was it?



Famous Landmarks Quiz 46

Senuli Rathnasekara, Angoda





Tomahawk Quiz No. 214

Questions for Tomahawk Quiz No. 214 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times print issue and e-papers of November 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023. 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. 214' 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: December 31, 2023



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QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 214

1. Who is Leonardo DiCaprio and what is he best known for?
2. What is a tsunami and what are the signs of a tsunami?
3. A giant pyramid discovered buried underground could be the oldest in the world, according to archaeologists. Where was it discovered?
4. Who is believed by archaeologists to be the first female ruler of ancient Egypt?
5. Kenya declared November 13 a holiday this year. What was the purpose of this holiday?

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7 – 9 AGE GROUP

Spot 6 differences between the pictures.

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7 - 9 years WINNERS!

- ▶ Vidasna Pilippuheva, Mt. Lavina
- ▶ Shyma Nafees, Gampola
- ▶ Musa Rinaz, Colombo 9
- ▶ Mathila Odamsath, Ruggahawila
- ▶ Ahamed Umair, Dehiwela

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



Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: A letter to Santa Claus

Win: The Magic Finger by Roald Dahl



To the Gregg family, hunting is just plain fun. To the girl who lives next door, it's just plain horrible. She tries to talk them out of it, but the Greggs only laugh at her.

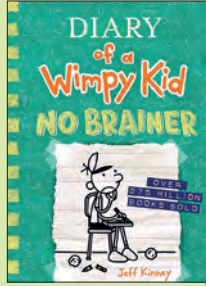
Then one day the Greggs go too far, and the little girl turns her Magic Finger on them. When she's very, very angry, the little girl's Magic Finger takes over.

Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: Planning Christmas gifts for your family

Win: Diary of a Wimpy Kid – No Brainer by Jeff Kinney



Up until now, middle school hasn't been a joyride for Greg Heffley.

So when the town threatens to close the crumbling building, he's not too broken about it.

But when Greg realizes this means he's going to be sent to a different school to his best friend, Rowley Jefferson, he changes his tune.

Can Greg and his classmates save their school before it's shuttered for good?

Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: What Christmas means to you

Win: Goodnight Mr. Tom by Michelle Magorian



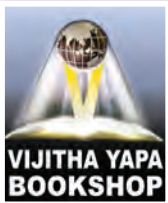
Timid, scrawny Willie Beech – the abused child of a single mother – is evacuated to the English countryside on the brink of World War II.

At first, he is terrified of everything, even of Mr. Tom, the gruff, kindly old man who has taken him in. But gradually Willie forgets the hate and despair of his past. He learns to love a world he never knew existed, a world of friendship and affection in which harsh words and daily beatings have no place.

Then a telegram comes. Willie must return to his mother in London. When weeks pass by with no word from Willie, Mr. Tom sets out for London to look for the young boy he has come to love as a son.

Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic



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.

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

FUNDAY TIMES 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

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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

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Or



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Paper Plate Christmas Tree

You will need:

- Paper plate
- Green paint & brushes
- Coloured paper
- Scissors, glue stick, stapler
- Hole punch
- Twine or ribbon/ yarn

Method

- Paint your paper plate a lovely Christmas Tree green. Let it dry and paint the reverse side.
- Whilst waiting for the paper plate to dry, you can start cutting out some circles for about 10 baubles and two paper stars.

Shaping the green paper plate into a Christmas Tree

- Once your paper plate is dry, get your scissors and cut a spiral into your paper plate to make the Christmas Tree Twirler. It should look a bit like a snail.

NOTE: The thicker your snail twirls the more compact your Christmas tree will be... the thinner... the more 'elongated' it will be.



Add your Christmas decorations

- Take a piece of string and tie a knot on one end. Then staple it into place.
- Next glue your paper star to the top of your tree – make the string stick between the 2 stars.
- Now comes the fun bit. Take your hole punch and make holes into your baubles and into your Christmas Tree Paper Plate. On the paper plate, try and spread them out evenly. It is really a matter of preference as to how many 'baubles' you would like to add to your Tree Twirler!
- Tie each bauble with a piece of string on to the tree.

Your Paper Plate Christmas Tree is done!



Source: RedTedArt

Sleeping for Seconds, Thousands of Times a Day

December 12, 2023

Chinstrap penguins in Antarctica have adapted to harsh conditions by sleeping in a very unusual way. They sleep in short bursts – about four seconds at a time. By doing this thousands of times daily, they get about 11 hours of sleep a day.

Chinstrap penguins get their name from the thin black line under their chins, which looks like a strap holding on a black hat or helmet.



Chinstrap penguins sleep in short four-second bursts.

Like other penguins, they spend much of their time in the water, catching fish to eat. But when the time comes to raise their young, they return to land.

Raising young penguins is a challenge. The eggs are often laid in nests made of small rocks to keep the eggs from freezing. One parent takes care of the nest for long periods of time, while the other parent hunts for food.

The parent must constantly keep a sharp lookout. Birds called brown skuas target the eggs and young penguins of

careless parents. Other penguins in these crowded areas may take stones from the nest, putting the young in danger.

But it's hard to stay alert and protect a nest 24 hours a day. Getting a good night's sleep could be deadly for the young. So chinstrap penguins have found an unusual way of solving the problem.

In a new study, scientists report that chinstrap penguins take thousands of tiny naps each day.

Each nap – or 'microsleep' – lasts only about 4 seconds.

By taking over 10,000 microsleeps a day, the scientists say the penguins get a daily total of about 11 hours of sleep.

Scientists became curious about whether the penguins were sleeping after one scientist, Won Young Lee, noticed that the chinstrap parents were constantly blinking their eyes. He wondered if more was happening than just blinking.

So he and group of scientists attached tiny electrical devices to the heads of 14 chinstrap penguins. The devices allowed the scientists to measure the brain activity of the penguins. At the same time, the scientists recorded the birds on video.

Eleven days of studying the penguins revealed that the tired parents were actually sleeping – very often, and for very short time periods.

Niels Rattenborg, one of the scientists, says the penguins are always "...blinking



Chinstrap penguin parents must keep a sharp lookout.



The scientists measured the brain activity of the penguins, and recorded the birds on video.

their eyes open and shut.

And they do it 24/7 for several weeks at a time." Dr. Rattenborg says it's surprising that they can keep going and raise their young.

It's not clear if the microsleeps allow the penguins to actually feel rested, or if it's just enough to allow them to keep going. But the penguins are able to keep the pattern up for weeks, which allows them to protect their nests, eggs and babies.

The scientists don't know yet if the penguins sleep this way at other times of the year, or only when they're raising their young. They also don't know if other kinds of penguins have similar sleeping habits.

Scientists who study how animals sleep say that this is an important study, and especially impressive because it was carried out in the penguins' natural environment.



December 12

News in Pictures



York, UK
Linnea Isén from Småland, Sweden, plays the role of Lucia as she sings with the London Nordic Choir performing in the annual Sankta Lucia: Festival of Light service in York minster.



Bogotá, Colombia
Tourist trains decorated with Christmas lights.

Jenin, West Bank
Israeli military vehicles block an ambulance during a raid in Jenin.



December 10

Oslo, Norway
Kiana Rahmani gives the Nobel peace prize lecture in the name of her mother, the imprisoned Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi.



December 11

Barcelona, Spain
A woman walks near clothes that lie at Sant Sebastià beach as the Open Arms NGO simulates the scene of a shipwreck to commemorate people who died in the Mediterranean Sea in 2023 while trying to reach Europe.



Nairobi, Kenya
A giraffe greets visitors to the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife giraffe centre.



Amecameca, Mexico ▲
A pilgrim carries an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe at Paso de Cortes. Every December 12, Mexicans celebrate the anniversary of the day when the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to an Indigenous man, Juan Diego, in 1531.



Harbin, China
Workers build structures for the 25th Harbin ice and snow world in China's northern Heilongjiang province.



Michendorf, Germany ▲
People dressed as Father Christmas run through the streets as they take part in the annual Nikolauslauf (Saint Nicholas run).

Source: The Guardian