

FUNDAY TIMES



Storytelling at British Council Colombo

Pic. by Priyanka Samaraweera



LANDMARKS PAGE 2



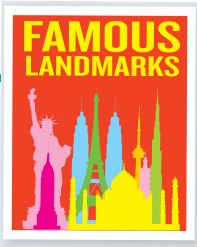
COMPETITIONS PAGES 4 & 6

(ONLINE)



EVENTS PAGE 5

KIDS NEWS PAGES 7 - 8



Hạ Long Bay

Hạ Long Bay or Halong is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and popular travel destination in Quảng Ninh province, Vietnam. The name Hạ Long means "descending dragon".

The bay features thousands of limestone karsts (land area made of limestone) and islets in various shapes and sizes. Hạ Long Bay is a centre of a larger zone that includes Bai Tu Long Bay to the northeast, and Cát Bà Island to the southwest. These larger zones share a similar geological, geographical, geomorphological, climate, and cultural characters.

Hạ Long Bay has an area of around 1,553 km² (600 sq mi), including 1,960 – 2,000 islets, most of which are limestone. The core of the bay has an area of 334 km² (129 sq mi) with a high density of 775 islets. The limestone in this bay has gone through 500 million years of formation in different conditions and environments. The evolution of the karst in this bay has taken 20 million years under the impact of the tropical wet climate. The geo-diversity of the environment in the area has created biodiversity, including a tropical evergreen biosystem and a seashore biosystem. Hạ Long Bay is home to 14 endemic floral species and 60 endemic faunal species.

Historical research surveys have shown the presence of prehistoric human beings in this area tens of thousands years ago. Hạ Long Bay also marked some important events in Vietnamese history, with many artifacts found in Bãi Thờ mountain, Đầu Gỗ cave and Bãi Cháy.

In 1962, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of North Vietnam listed Hạ Long Bay in the National Relics and Landscapes publication. In 1994, the core zone of Hạ Long Bay was listed as a World Heritage Site.

Overview

The bay consists of a dense cluster of some 1,600 limestone monolithic islands each topped with thick jungle vegetation, rising spectacularly from the ocean. Several of the islands are hollow, with enormous caves. Hang Dau Go (Wooden Stakes cave) is the largest grotto in the Hạ Long area. French tourists visited in the late 19th century, and named the cave Grotte des Merveilles. Its three large chambers contain large numerous stalactites and stalagmites (as well as 19th century French graffiti). There are two bigger islands, Tuần Châu and Cát Bà, that have permanent inhabitants, as well as tourist facilities including hotels and beaches. There are a number of beautiful beaches on the smaller islands.

A community of around 1,600 people live on Hạ Long Bay in four fishing villages: Cua Van, Ba Hang, Cong Tau and Vong Vieng in Hung Thang ward, Hạ Long city. They live on floating houses and are sustained through fishing and marine aquaculture (cultivating marine biota), plying the shallow waters for 200 species of fish and 450 different kinds of mollusks.

Many of the islands have acquired their names as a result of their unusual shapes. Almost all these islands are as individual towers in a classic fenglin landscape with heights ranging from 50 – 100 metres.

Another specific feature of Hạ Long Bay is the abundance of lakes inside the limestone islands. For example, Dau Be island has six enclosed lakes. All these island lakes occupy drowned dolines within fengcong karst.

Kids Encyclopedia Facts



Floating fishing village



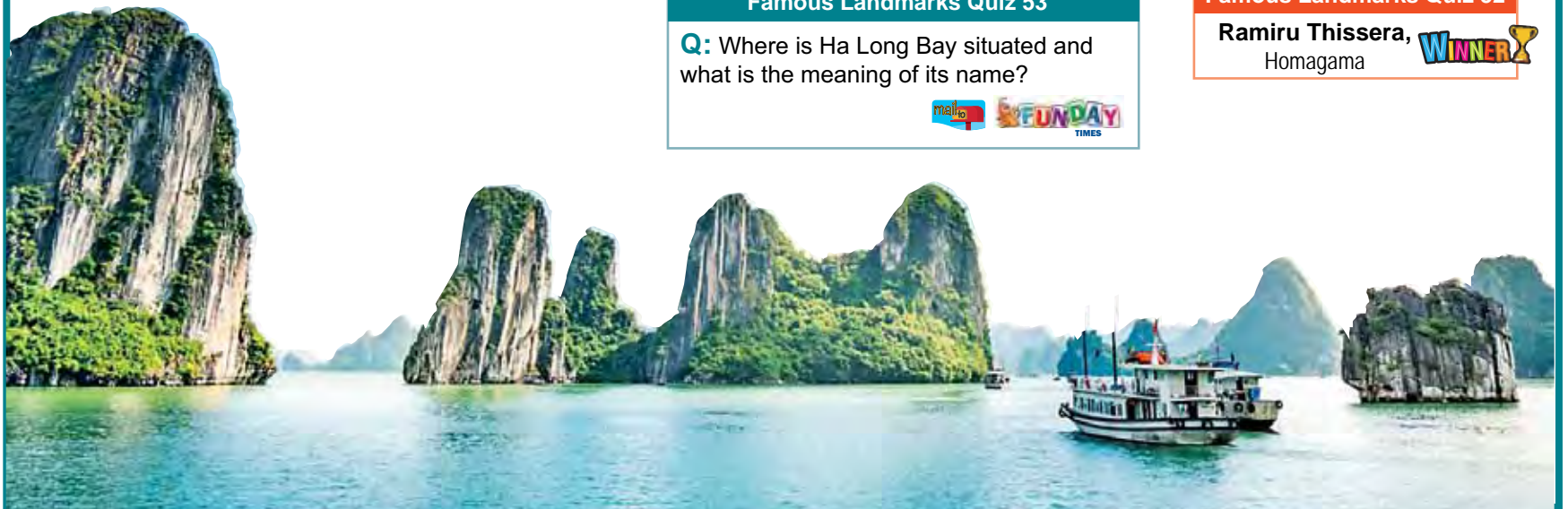
Famous Landmarks Quiz 53

Q: Where is Ha Long Bay situated and what is the meaning of its name?



Famous Landmarks Quiz 52

Ramiru Thissera,
Homagama



In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Events
- **Page 6** – Competitions
- **Page 7** – Wildlife Photography
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

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.

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.**

**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. Competition entries without the full
details requested above, will be disqualified.

**All competition entries should be
certified by a parent or guardian
as your own work.**

Closing date for this week's competitions:

November 6, 2024

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Happy Birthday



Maryam Irshad
8 years on October 26



Hayyan Hazmar
13 years on October 24



Kayley Wijesuriya
11 years on October 7

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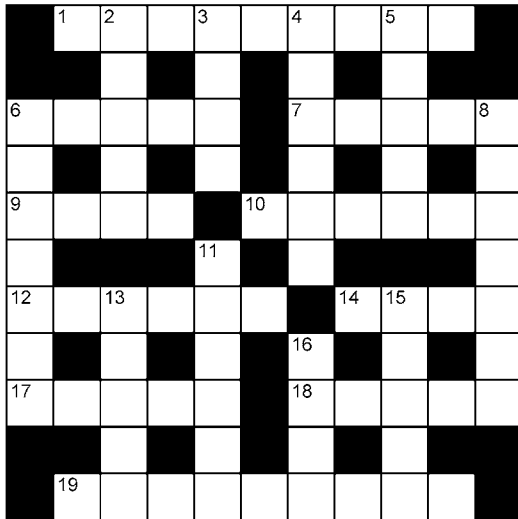
It's Your Bank

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Crossword – No. 2



Across

- 1 Abducted for ransom
- 6 Finished
- 7 A painter uses this
- 9 A hired car
- 10 Shuts
- 12 Thief
- 14 Restaurant meal list
- 17 Male duck
- 18 These are counted in an election
- 19 The day before today

Down

- 2 Alphabetical list at the back of a book
- 3 Naked
- 4 School students
- 5 Doors out of a building
- 6 Went in
- 8 Paper hankies
- 11 Choose
- 13 Part of a knife
- 15 More than is needed
- 16 Opposite of under



BICYCLE COMPETITION

You now have a chance to win a brand new **LUMALA bicycle** for your own. One lucky winner will receive a brand new Lumala bicycle each month.

All you have to do is fill in the Lumala Crossword No. 2, according to the clues given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard or paper, and send it to **Funday Times**.

Cut the strip '**LUMALA Crossword No. 2**' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

Age Group: 8 – 15 years

Entries should be certified as your own work by a teacher or parent.

Closing Date: October 31, 2024

Solution No. 1



Or

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7 – 9 years



- ▶ Amaan Yusuf, Colombo 6
- ▶ Shyma Nafees, Gampola
- ▶ Nethen Fernandopulle, Negombo
- ▶ Zuhaan Careem, Colombo 3
- ▶ Suganthan Labisashan, Matale

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

7 – 9 AGE GROUP

Help the Hedgehog through the maze to collect the mushrooms.



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Storytelling at British Council



An interactive storytelling session for kids conducted by British High Commissioner His Excellency Andrew Patrick was held at the British Council Library in Colombo on October 12, 2024.

Pix by Priyanka Samaraweera



Photos captured at the Colombo International Book Fair 2024 held at the BMICH recently.

Pix by Nilan Maligaspe & Eshan Fernando



Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

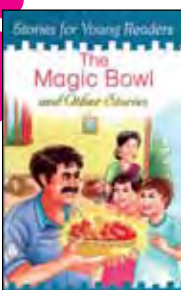
Word Count: 150

Topic: My favourite animal

Win: The Magic Bowl and Other Stories

Fascinating folk tales with fine illustrations make this series a perfect beginning for a child's library.

A collection of delightful stories that young readers will love!



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: A Halloween party

Win: Five on Kirrin Island Again by Enid Blyton

Uncle Quentin is working on secret experiments on Kirrin Island and he doesn't want anyone to visit, not even the Famous Five. But someone wants to steal his ideas and ruin his plans.

George is determined to protect her father and save her island. She can't do it without the others – can they help her in time?



Age: 13 – 15 years

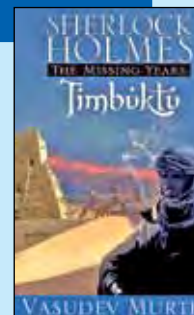
Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: World Food Day

Win: Sherlock Holmes - The Missing Years: Timbuktu by Vasudev Murthy

Still wondering what Sherlock Holmes was doing between his reported death in 1891 and his reappearance in 1894? The whole world knew that he died at the Reichenbach Falls, tumbling over the jagged cliff in a deadly embrace with his nemesis Moriarty.

But for history's greatest detective, "death" was only the beginning.



Write at the top of your Essay

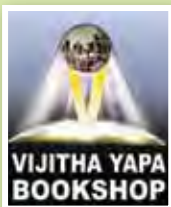
■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic



Or



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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



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Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

Hi Kids,

Please send in your Articles and Art for Kids' World, to be published in the Funday Times online edition and website.

As you can see, we have space only once a month for Kids' World articles and art in the print edition.

Therefore, we are planning to carry them every week in the Funday Times online pages as well as on the Funday Times website.

We also invite schools to send in their students' work for a school page in the online edition and website.

Thanking you in anticipation of your positive response.



Or



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FROM THE
EDITOR

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



Or



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Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval:

Date:

Best wildlife photographers for 2024

October 9, 2024

The winners of this year's Wildlife Photographer of the Year awards have been announced. The competition is put together by the Natural History Museum, in London.



Alberto Román Gómez was the winner in the Under 10 category. He titled this picture 'Free as a Bird'. He took the picture of the stonechat bird from the window of his dad's car. ▲



'An Evening Meal'. Winner of Age 11 – 14 category Parham Pourahmad, from the USA. ▲



'Life Under Dead Wood', taken by Alexis Tinker-Tsavalas. He won the 15 – 17 years category. It shows a springtail – a tiny creature only two millimetres long. ▲



Jack Zhi won the Birds category for this picture of a young falcon chasing after a butterfly. ▲



This picture was taken by Igor Metelskiy after six months of work surveying the locations of lynx. This one – having a stretch on a hill – was found in Russia. ▲



And on to another lynx – several if you can spot them – this was the winner of the Animal Portraits category. John Marriott was trekking through the snow for several days, following this family of lynx. ▲



Jirí Hřebíček won in the Artistic category by shaking his camera deliberately to take this interesting picture of a carrion crow. He called it 'The Artful Crow'. ▲

Shane Gross won the Wetlands: The Bigger Picture category for this picture of tadpoles swimming under a layer of lily pads. He snorkelled through a lake for hours before finding the perfect place to photograph the tadpoles. ▲



This fascinating picture taken by Thomas Peshank shows an Amazon River dolphin – which is one of two species of freshwater dolphins living in the Amazon and Orinoco basins. The dolphin is pink, and has evolved to explore the flooded habitats in the rainforest basins. ▲



This picture was taken by Robin Darius Konz, from Germany, and he called it 'Tiger in Town'. Robin was working with a documentary team in India when he took the photo. ▲

October 15

News in Pictures

**California, USA**

Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS, C/2023, with an 80,000 year orbit, passes behind geological formations, tufa spires at Trona Pinnacles, California. Named after the Chinese observatory and South African programme that detected it in 2023, the 'comet of the century' may have formed at a distance of up to 400,000 times that between Earth and the Sun. Its coma, or head, measures about 130,000 miles (209,000 km) in diameter, with a tail extending 18 m miles (29m km).

**Berlin, Germany**

An employee of Berlin Zoo holds a two-month-old giant panda cub, one of the two cubs of giant panda Meng Meng, at an enclosure at the zoo.

**Massachusetts, USA**

James Kennedy, a great-grandson of Ethel Kennedy and son of Joseph P. Kennedy III, sits in the back of a limousine following the funeral mass at Our Lady of Victory Church, of Ethel Kennedy, a long-time human rights advocate who endured a series of tragedies that included the assassination of her husband, Robert F. Kennedy.

**Nyeri County, Kenya**

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) rangers and veterinarians release elephants from the Mwea National Reserve out of a special transportation container during a translocation exercise at the Aberdare National Park, in Mweiga, Nyeri County.

**Texas, USA**

SpaceX's Starship flies during its fifth flight test, in Boca Chica, Texas.

October 14

**Chengdu, China**

Visitors browse the towering shelves at the Zhongshu bookshop.

**Cape Town, South Africa**

Juvenile Chacma baboons play on a vehicle during a raid on refuse bins by a troop of Chacma baboons foraging in the residential neighbourhood of Capri in Cape Town.

**Ahmedabad, India**

A man dressed as the demon-king Ravana reacts during Dussehra or Vijayadashami Festival celebrations.

Trieste, Italy

The Barcolana Sailing Regatta, the largest sailing regatta in the world, held in Italy.



Sources : Reuters & The Guardian