

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MAY 18, 2025

FUN DAY TIMES



**Methodist
College
Walk 2025**

Pic. by Priyanka Samaraweera

COMPETITIONS
PAGES 2, 3 & 12



EVENTS
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STORY
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Follow us on
www.fundaytimes.lk

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.

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:
June 4, 2025




Telephone: 2479337/2479333
Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



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  fundaytimes1@gmail.com

FROM THE EDITOR

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.

Read-a-Book for April

9 years and below
Yashan Ibrahim
Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie

10 – 12 years
Sanuthi Saveithma
How To Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell



Read-a-Book Competition

Name :




Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

  Or  fundaytimes1@gmail.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Senod Wanniarachchi
5 years on May 18

Thisuli Wanniarachchi
8 years on May 15

Lanka Alzheimer's Foundation launches Children's Book on Dementia Awareness

The Lanka Alzheimer's Foundation (LAF) recently launched a pioneering children's book aimed at fostering awareness, empathy and understanding about individuals living with dementia.

Beautifully illustrated and designed for children aged eight years and above, 'Malithi's Diary - Learning about Dementia' offers a heartfelt exploration of Dementia, helping young readers navigate the changes they may witness in loved ones while promoting meaningful family conversations.

For more information, please contact:
Lanka Alzheimer's Foundation: +94 11 2667080
Email: alzheimers@alzlanka.org Website: <https://alzlanka.org/>





Schoolchildren at the book launch with LAF Directors.



25th Anniversary

Funday Times turns 25 years in August this year. To celebrate this milestone we are planning a grand competition in four segments, Essay, Art, Poetry and Photography, for our young readers. We thank you all for being with us through the years and hope you continue through the coming years as well.



Essay Competition

Age Group: 9 years and below

Topic: Reading as a hobby

Word Count: 150 – 200

Age Group: 10 – 12 years

Topic: Benefits of reading

Word Count: 200 – 250

Age Group: 13 – 15 years

Topic: What you find interesting in newspapers

Word Count: 250 – 300

Poetry Competition

Age Groups: 6 – 10 years and 11 – 15 years

Entries for Poetry Competition could be sent on **any topic of your choice**. The topic should be clearly stated on your entry.

Word Count: 100 – 150

Art Competition

Age Groups: 4 – 9 years, 10 – 12 years and 13 – 15 years

Topic: An interesting event

You could use any art medium such as paint, crayons etc.



Photography Competition

Age Groups: 6 – 10 years and 11 – 15 years

Topic: Nature and the Environment

Closing Date: July 1, 2025



or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Entries for all competitions should include your Full Name, Date of Birth, Home Address, Telephone Number and School.

All entries should be certified by a parent or teacher as your own original work. Winners will be awarded attractive prizes!

Paddington Bear storytelling sessions at British Council Libraries

British Council Libraries in Colombo, Kandy and Jaffna had storytelling sessions under the theme 'Paddington Bear' followed by an exciting Paddington themed activity session including colouring, dot to dot and puzzles.

Little ones were enthusiastic in listening to these sessions of the UK's favourite bear 'Paddington'.

Children learned about the work of Michael Bond and his stories of Paddington Bear. They also learned about the bear from Peru and what he discovered on his travels and how he enjoyed marmalade sandwiches.

You are interested in bringing your school and listening to a story at British Council libraries, please write to us via library.events@britishcouncil.org to get an appointment, on first-come, first-served basis.



▲ Kandy



▲ Colombo



◀ Jaffna ▲

'MC Shines 2025'



It was an evening of fun, fellowship and fond memories as one of Colombo's oldest girls' schools – Methodist College – held their 'MC Shines 2025' – Walk and Carnival on May 3 with 'Metho' girls past and present rallying round to support their school.

The Walk started off from the Marine Drive entrance of the school, and then wound its way to the Bambalapitiya junction

before heading back to the school along Galle Road.

A fun-filled carnival at the school saw everyone enjoying rides and games, fun stalls, food, music and much more.

'MC Shines 2025' was held to raise funds for the school's building projects.

Pix by Priyanka Samaraweera



Maple Kids International held celebrations for the Vesak Festival on May 7, 2025 at the school premises.

Pix by M.A. Pushpa Kumara

Salar de Uyuni

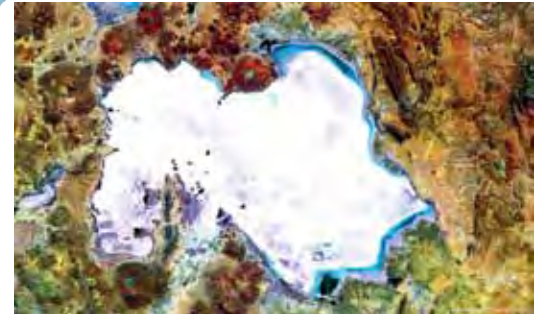
Salar de Uyuni is the largest salt flat in the world covering an area of 4,086 miles. It is located in the Potosi and Oruro departments of southwest Bolivia. It features vast expanses of glistening white salt. Approximately 11 billion tons of salt is believed to be within this salt desert.

These salt flats account for 50 to 70% of the world's lithium reserves. It is at an elevation of 3,656 metres above the average sea level. There is limited vegetation and wildlife in the region but it has 80 visiting and migrating bird species.



Salar de Uyuni

Aerial view ▶



Quick Facts

- During the rainy season, these flats become a lake. Light gets perfectly reflected so it becomes the largest natural mirror in the world.
- In Spanish, Salar de Uyuni is also referred to as 'Salar de Tunupa' meaning 'salt flat enclosure'.
- NASA uses these salt flats to figure out the positioning of satellites because it can be easily spotted.
- The salt crust of these flats can range from a few centimetres to 10 metres in thickness.
- This crust serves as a source of salt and also covers a pool of brine.
- This salt desert has a train cemetery, where trains were used in mining industries until 1940.
- Salar de Uyuni was formed when Lago Minchin dried up. It was a prehistoric lake that once covered the majority of southwest Bolivia.
- Earlier it was believed that this region was completely flat but some small undulations were discovered later.



Salty statue of an ancient god.



Source: Easy Science for Kids

Famous Landmarks Quiz 60

Q: What is Salar de Uyuni and where is it located?



Famous Landmarks Quiz 59

Yonal Batuwita, **Kotte**

Why I like to read

Reading is a very good habit that one needs to develop in life. It develops our mind and gives us knowledge and lessons for life. It keeps our mind active and enhances our creative ability. Reading is a pleasure, a challenge and a choice.

I began to enjoy reading from a young age. I love reading books, newspapers and magazines. When I get a book I love, I like to finish it on the same day itself.

Reading books is very important in the life of a student. It enhances our knowledge and broadens our minds. Books are known to be like a best friend as we can rely on them when we are bored, upset, depressed, lonely or annoyed. They will accompany us anytime we want them and enhance our mood.

Newspapers provide information and general knowledge. It provides news about a country's economic, political situations,

sports and entertainment. It helps us become informed citizens and to make better decisions.

Magazines are very helpful for classroom activities. Reading them regularly can help improve our vocabulary and reading comprehension skills. Reading magazines about our areas of interest relieves our minds and can help reduce stress levels.

The habit of reading is one of the best qualities that a person can possess. Once you start reading, you can experience a whole new world.

It is very important to develop a good reading habit. We must all try to read on a daily basis for at least 30 minutes, to enjoy the sweetness of reading.

Abdullah Ilham (12 years)
Alethea Int. School, Dehiwala

Kingfisher



Mohamed Imaadh (15 years)
Royal Institute Int. School

Beauty of Nature



T. W. Sulaksha (Grade 3)
Ladies' College, Colombo

Take an ultimate visit to Beijing!

Beijing, alternatively known as Peking, is the crown jewel of China. Its tapestry is woven with threads of history so rich and vibrant that it's impossible not to be captivated. If China is your next chapter, Beijing should be the prologue. You can immerse yourself in a world of ancient wisdom, modern marvels and the warmth of the Chinese people.

Indulge your wanderlust with a pilgrimage to the Great Wall, a sinuous dragon snaking across the land, and the Summer Palace, an imperial oasis where time stands still. The Forbidden City, a colossal masterpiece of architecture, is a must-see, as is the spiritually uplifting Temple of Heaven. Tiananmen Square, a vast stage for history and Beihai Park, a serene escape, offer contrasting experiences. For a taste of Tibetan Buddhism, the Lama Temple is a living, breathing sanctuary.

Beijing, a city that tantalizes the senses, offers a culinary journey as diverse and captivating as its history. At the heart of the city's gastronomic scene lies Peking duck, a masterpiece of culinary artistry. Its crispy skin and tender meat have captivated palates for centuries. Beyond this iconic dish, Beijing boasts a vibrant street food culture.



From the aromatic skewers of grilled meats to the delicate dumplings filled with a variety of flavours, the city's street vendors offer a tantalizing array of options.

Beijing's restaurants offer a sophisticated blend of traditional and contemporary cuisine. With its rich culinary heritage and innovative chefs, Beijing continues to be a gastronomic paradise for food lovers from around the world.

Having savoured the splendor of these iconic sites, you'll undoubtedly find yourself yearning to revisit this captivating city. Beijing is a kaleidoscope of experiences, a symphony of sights and sounds. Without hesitation, I hope you embark on this extraordinary journey. In my eyes, it's the undisputed queen of Chinese cities.

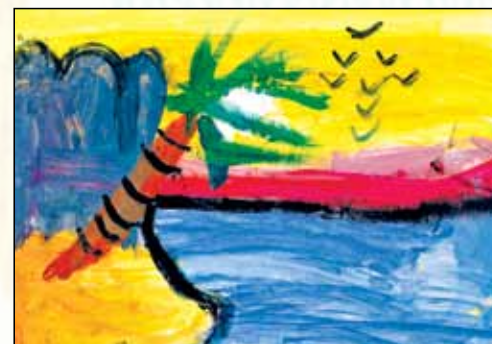
Ayansa Sudasinghe
Vidura College, Colombo

Forest



Senura Sewmina (12 years)
Maharagama Central College

Seaside



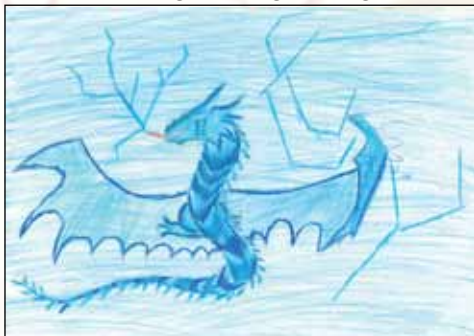
Maryam Irshad (8 years)
Muslim Ladies' College, Colombo

My cat on the swing with its friends



Ranaya Abeywickrama (6 years)
Southlands College, Galle

Blue Lightning Dragon



Lewmitha (Grade 5)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

My best friend



Siheli Rajapaksha (7 years)
Matale Int. School

Jungle



Anaam Kamaal (7 years)

What I know about Earth Day

Earth is the wonderful and amazing planet where we live in common. Earth gives us clean air, fresh water, plants and many more. Therefore we should give something back to the Earth by showing our love and care for it.

Each year on April 22 more than a billion people celebrate Earth Day globally under different themes. The theme for Earth Day 2025 is 'OUR POWER, OUR PLANET.' This theme encourages use of clean energy for a sustainable future.

The Santa Barbara oil spill in America in 1969, paved the way to create Earth Day. There were no environmental protection acts, rules or regulations to protect the environment before 1970.

Senator Gaylord Nelson along with Denis Hayes proposed Earth Day to protect the environment against harmful activities. The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970 in America.

We can celebrate Earth Day to protect the planet from pollution and deforestation. As children we can plant trees, save energy by switching off unnecessary bulbs, clean up the surroundings, learn about nature and support for recycling.

These simple acts multiplied by millions can make the difference to save Mother Earth.

Seja Abeywickrama (10 years)
Southlands College, Galle

My new teacher

My new teacher is Ms. Anusha. She teaches us many subjects. She also teaches us good habits. She is very good and very intelligent. She has a very good personality. She has a smiling face. All the students like her very much. I am very proud of my teacher.



Kenudi Wagolla (Grade 2)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

From an overseas reader

Hero Award

I am giving my Hero Award to my grandmother, and her name is Sujatha. She lives in Sri Lanka.

I give the Hero Award to her because she teaches me. She is kind to me, and buys sweets. So that is why I am giving the Hero Award to my grandmother.

Another reason why I am giving the Hero Award to my grandmother is because she is taking care of me. She does lots of charity. I want to be like her.

Thisuli Wanniarachchi (7 years)
St. Joseph's Primary School,
NSW, Australia

The importance of water in our lives

Water is a gift of nature. It is the most essential substance on Earth. Humans and animals can live for several days without food but it's difficult to live without water for more than three days.

According to scientific experiments, more than 75% of water is in the blood of a healthy person. Therefore, it proves that water is very important for the survival of humans and animals.

We get water from several sources and rain is the main form. There are many advantages that people gain from water. Especially, people use water for drinking, washing, cooking, bathing, agriculture purposes and for different industries etc. Likewise, water is essential for animals too.

They also need water for drinking and bathing.

In short, all living beings on Earth won't survive without water. As we know, fresh water is a scarce resource. There are many places in the world where water is insufficient for people and animals. Therefore, we always have to preserve water and get the maximum benefit from the available water resources.

In ancient times, King Parakramabahu said that water should not flow to the sea without getting the maximum use of it. Accordingly, let's save water to protect our lives and animals' lives.

Sithuli Dissanayake (12 years)
Hillwood College, Kandy



Please remember that **ARTICLES, POEMS and PAINTINGS** sent, will not be published unless they are certified as your own work by a parent or teacher. Also please mention the topic, your full name, date of birth and address in your entry. Articles should not exceed 200 words. Art should be on A4 size paper.

From a Funday Times Young Reporter

I am a little philatelist

I love collecting stamps. I got into stamp collecting by accident. On that day, we left for the village on the Ruhunu Kumari train. A German family boarded the train at Maradana station. I was six years old at the time. They sat next to us, and the older woman with them smiled and said 'Hi.' I became friends with them.

"What is your hobby?" the lady asked me. I told her that my hobby was collecting stamps. She asked for my address, and she still sends me stamps from all over the world. I keep in touch with her online as much as I can.

A postage stamp is a mark placed on a letter or package being mailed, to show that the postage has been paid. Stamps often have interesting designs, which is one of the reasons collecting them is such a great hobby for young children. It's true that not only children, but also adults, enjoy collecting stamps. It is a wonderful experience to keep the stamps neatly in a book or album, to look for stamps you don't have, and to exchange them with friends.



I am registered with the Sri Lanka Stamp Bureau and I receive stamps issued by the Bureau throughout the year by mail. The envelope always comes with my name on it, and I really enjoy receiving it.

Stamps are like books — each stamp can be enjoyed and read like a page in a book. Collecting stamps and books brings me great joy. By examining and learning about stamps, our knowledge increases a lot. Sometimes it's a wonder just how much can be learned from such tiny stamps.

There are many things we can learn from collecting stamps. You don't need a large collection to learn a lot; even with a few stamps, you can discover great details. A good stamp collection is like an encyclopedia — it tells the history of a country. It's a wonderful way to explore world history, politics, culture, natural heritage, animal husbandry, industry, historical events, archaeology and much more. It also helps us learn about our country's natural heritage — our forests, animals and streams, which are as valuable as anything in the world. Stamps also tell the story of our industries, nourished by our own abilities. They are like a silk road that connects our country to the world.

Using stamps is important for promoting tourism and attracting tourists easily, as it helps show the value and importance of our own heritage to the world.



Collecting stamps is a great way for young children like me to learn on our own from an early age.

I have a large collection of stamps from countries like Sri Lanka, Japan, Switzerland, Germany and the United States of America. Whenever I receive a stamp that isn't in my collection, I feel incredibly happy — it's like getting a new storybook you've been waiting to read.

My brother and I collect stamps together. Stamp collecting is a very interesting hobby. With a small stamp, we can improve our knowledge, happiness and fun, as well as develop qualities like neatness, diligence and hard work. Stamps are also a good investment for the future.

Thenuri Keerthisena (Grade 10)
Maliyadeva B. V., Kurunegala



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



fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

.....

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval:

Date:

.....

False Friends

By Manoshi De Silva

There was a flock of pigeons that lived close to the town. There weren't many trees around, but there were lots of tall buildings. Sometimes people threw crumbs and seeds for the pigeons and they came down to eat those. They roosted in the tall buildings and ceilings at night.

There were three close friends in this flock of pigeons. They always called themselves 'the three best friends' and promised each other to always be there for each other. They always came down to the ground to feed together. They also loved to fly together, play and do somersaults in the endless blue sky.

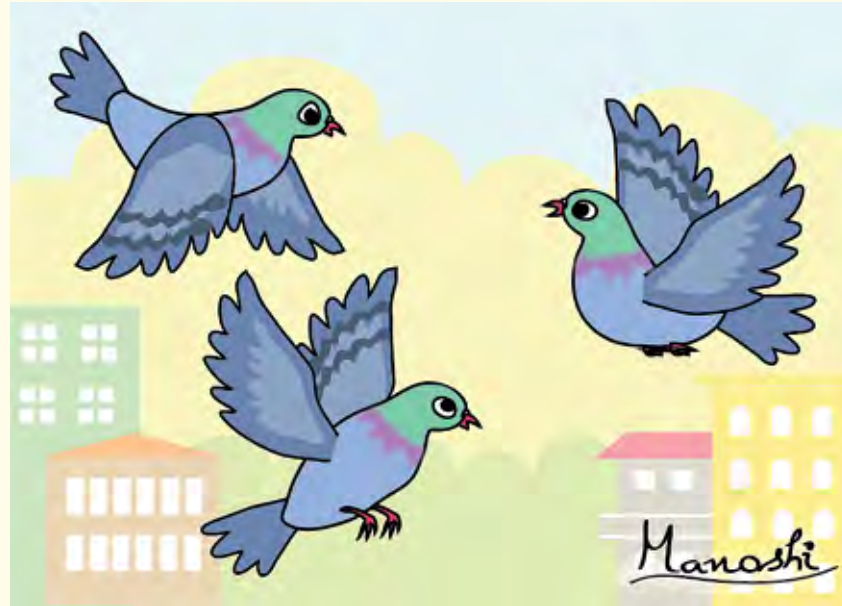
One day, as the three pigeons were playing together, one challenged the other two, to see who could fly the fastest, while doing somersaults in the sky. The other two friends accepted the challenge. So, the three pigeons started flapping their wings freely and flew as fast as they could, while somersaulting. They were enjoying the day and having a lot of fun.

It was all fun and games until one pigeon lost its balance and went down like a dry leaf. He fell down on to the pavement. His two friends quickly came down to see if he was okay. They both turned their heads this way and that way, and examined their friend who fell down. "Thank goodness, he's alright!" said one friend. "Yes, let's continue our game," said the other friend.

"But my wing is hurt," said the pigeon who fell down. "You are just imagining it! Come on, let's go," urged the other two.

That's when they saw a stray cat slowly approaching them. Usually, the pigeons were not an easy catch for the cat. But this time they sensed the danger. "Let's get away from here!" shouted one pigeon as he flapped his wings. "Yes, let's go," said the other one, who also flapped his wings and flew up.

But the pigeon who fell down, found it difficult to move his wing. He couldn't flap it and it was painful. It was then



that he realized that he had injured his wing after the fall. "I can't fly," he cried. "I think my wing is broken!" His two friends flew high and hovered at a safe distance. "Please don't leave me, the cat will catch me. Please help me," cried the injured pigeon.

"Please call the others. If the whole flock comes here, the cat will get scared and run away," shouted the injured pigeon, dragging his wing. "If we try to chase the cat, he might catch one of us!" said one of his friends. "Yes, we can't go down. If we go down to help him, we will also fall into trouble," said the other friend.

The two pigeons flew away, leaving behind their injured friend. "There's nothing we can do," they said without even trying to help, because they were only worried about their own safety. The injured pigeon closed his eyes tight. He was too scared to look and he was also feeling very sad. He had trusted his friends. They were together all the time. But as soon as he was in trouble, they left him behind. "The cat will catch me any moment now," he thought sadly.

But things took an unexpected turn. The cat ran past the pigeon. Someone chased it away. It was a lady and she came near the injured pigeon and picked him up very gently. Then she examined his wings. "Oh no, I am in trouble again," thought the pigeon, his heart beating fast.

The lady's touch was kind and comforting. So the pigeon stopped struggling. She took the pigeon home and put him in a cage. "This is the end

of my freedom," thought the pigeon feeling very sad. The lady then took the pigeon to a veterinary doctor. The vet examined the pigeon well, gave some medicine and instructed the lady on how to care for it.

During the next few days, the pigeon was well looked after and given nice food. Day by day his wing got better and stronger.

One day the pigeon could flap his wings without feeling any pain. The lady watched him stretch his wings and took him out to

observe him. "You are better now. You can go back home," she said.

The lady released the pigeon where she had found him before. The pigeon flew away as soon as she opened the door of the cage. The pigeon was very grateful to her. He knew he had gotten better because of her loving care. It felt so good for him to fly freely in the blue sky again.

"Look, he's back," shouted one of the friends who had abandoned him when he was hurt. "And he can fly again," shouted the other friend. "Where were you all these days? We thought the cat caught you," said one. "We are so happy to see you again," cooed the other one. "Now we can all play together again. Remember we are friends forever! We always stick together!"

"But where were you two, when I was in trouble?" asked the pigeon who injured. "You two left me when I was helpless and in danger. You both didn't even try to help me!"

The two friends didn't know what to say. "But you are here now and you are okay," said one. "Yes, the three of us are together again," said the other friend.

"True friends stick with you through thick and thin," said the injured pigeon. "What is the use of friends who are with you when you are well, but leave you when you are in trouble? I don't need such friends!"

He then flapped his wings quickly and flew away from them, feeling happy that he was well and free again, and feeling happier to be away from false friends.

Leo XIV has been elected as the new Pope

May 9, 2025

A new Pope has been chosen as leader of the Catholic Church.

Robert Francis Prevost, aged 69, is the first North American to be elected to the role and he will be known as Pope Leo XIV.

Leo XIV was elected by a group of senior priests called cardinals after Pope Francis passed away on Easter Monday 2025.

The world knew that a new Pope had been chosen when, following the tradition, white smoke billowed from a Vatican chimney.

Speaking to a crowd of 40,000 people in St. Peter's Square in the Vatican City, Pope Leo XIV brought a 'greeting of peace', and encouraged people to 'help us, and help each other, build bridges'.

Who is Pope Leo XIV?

Pope Leo XIV was born in Chicago in the United States in 1955.

'I was born in the United States... But my grandparents were all immigrants, French, Spanish... I was raised in a very Catholic family, both of my parents were very engaged,' he said.

He served as an altar boy and was ordained as a priest in 1982 before moving to work in Peru in South America three years later. He stayed there for many years gaining Peruvian nationality, and becoming an Archbishop.

In his first speech as Pope he spoke in Italian, but also spoke partly in



Robert Francis Prevost is the 267th person to become Pope.

Spanish as a nod to Peru. 'Hello to all and especially to those of my diocese of Chiclayo in Peru, a loyal, faithful people accompanying the bishop and helping the bishop,' he said.

What does the Pope do?

The Pope is the head of the Catholic Church, and leads 1.4 billion Roman Catholics around the world. Part of the Pope's duties involve giving mass and



Pope Francis delivering a blessing in St. Peter's Square in 2023.

holding regular appointments at the Vatican. These include a weekly blessing for tourists and pilgrims every Sunday from the window of his private study overlooking St. Peter's Square.

The Pope also leads the religious

celebrations of all the major Catholic festivals of the year, including Christmas and Easter.

At least once every five years the Pope must meet with more than 5,000 bishops from around the world – that's roughly 1,000 a year, or 20 a week. The Pope also travels around the world visiting churches

and communities to offer blessings and meet believers. The Pope also meets world leaders, celebrities and members of royal families.

Why does the Pope change his name?

When a Pope is elected, he chooses a papal name as part of his new role. Robert Prevost, the new Pope, has chosen the papal name of Leo XIV. The letters XIV after his name are actually the Roman numbers for 14, as he is the 14th Pope to choose the name Leo, and the first in more than 100 years.

Popes have the freedom to choose any name they want, but many choose names with significance, such as a saint's name, the name of a previous Pope, or a name that has personal or religious meaning.

World leaders send congratulations

Leaders from around the world have been offering their congratulations to Pope Leo XIV. UK Prime Minister Sir. Keir Starmer said his election 'is a deeply profound moment of joy for Catholics in the United Kingdom and globally, and begins a new chapter for the leadership of the Church and in the world.'

US President Donald Trump has called it a 'great honour' to have a Pope from the USA.

Peru's president, Dina Boluarte, described Pope Leo as Peruvian 'by choice and conviction'. 'The Pope is Peruvian; God loves Peru,' she added.

French President Emmanuel Macron called the election an 'historic moment' for the Catholic Church, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen expressed hope that Pope Leo would 'use his voice on the global stage to promote peace, human dignity and unity.'

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky offered his congratulations to the new Pope and expressed his hope for the Vatican's 'continued moral and spiritual support', and Russian President Vladimir Putin wished the new Pope 'success'.



Pope Leo XIV gave his first speech as Pope from a balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square in the Vatican, in front of 40,000 people.

Source: CBBC Newsround

May 14

News in Pictures



Hanoi, Vietnam

People gather to watch a procession carrying relics of Lord Buddha as part of Vesak celebrations.



Alberobello, Italy

The peloton rolls out of town as cyclists compete in the Giro d'Italia race.



Vatican City

Italian tennis player Jannik Sinner meets Pope Leo XIV during a private audience at the Vatican.

Cannes, France

Robert De Niro receives an Honorary Palme d'Or Award from Leonardo DiCaprio during the opening ceremony and the screening of the film "Partir un jour" (Leave One Day) at the 78th Cannes Film Festival in France.



Cairo, Egypt

Sudanese families who fled the civil war in their country wait at a bus station to return home after the army took control of the country.



Thokoza, South Africa

Maria Molefe, 72 years, dances while competing in the Sukuma Mbokodo support group's elderly beauty contest.



Mount Athos, Greece

Father Isaiah uses a crane to receive supplies at Simonopetra Monastery, which is built on a steep rock that is more than 1,000 feet high.

May 13



Magelang, Indonesia

Paper lanterns are released during a ceremony on Vesak Day, an annual celebration of Lord Buddha's Birth, Enlightenment and Passing, at Borobudur temple in Magelang, Central Java province, Indonesia.



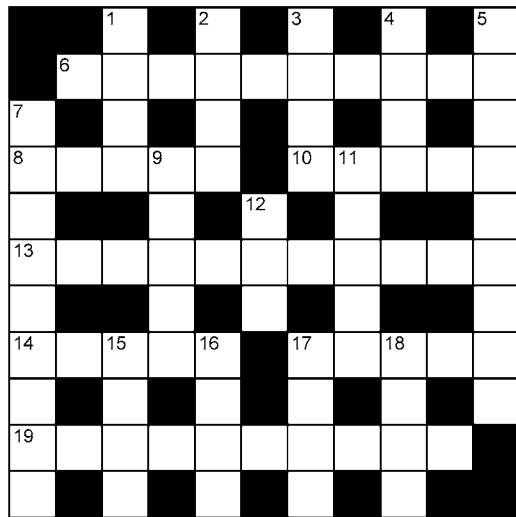
Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir

A father walks with his daughters as schools reopen after the ceasefire announcement between India and Pakistan, in Srinagar, Indian Kashmir.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters

MAY 18, 2025

LUMALA Crossword – No. 9



- Across**
- 6 Something a singer holds
 - 8 Opposite of full
 - 10 A digging tool
 - 13 Measure temperatures with this
 - 14 More pleasant
 - 17 A striped animal
 - 19 Toilets

- Down**
- 1 Walk with a hobble
 - 2 Mix black with white to make this colour
 - 3 Gorillas
 - 4 A long comfortable seat
 - 5 A practice for a play
 - 7 A four-sided shape
 - 9 The number in a trio
 - 11 A part of something
 - 12 A one-legged jump
 - 15 A hole in a hill
 - 16 These followed the Pied Piper
 - 17 Nil
 - 18 An alcoholic drink

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

Closing Date:
May 28, 2025

Solution No. 8



Age Group: 8 – 15 years

LUMALA 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. 9, 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. 9**' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

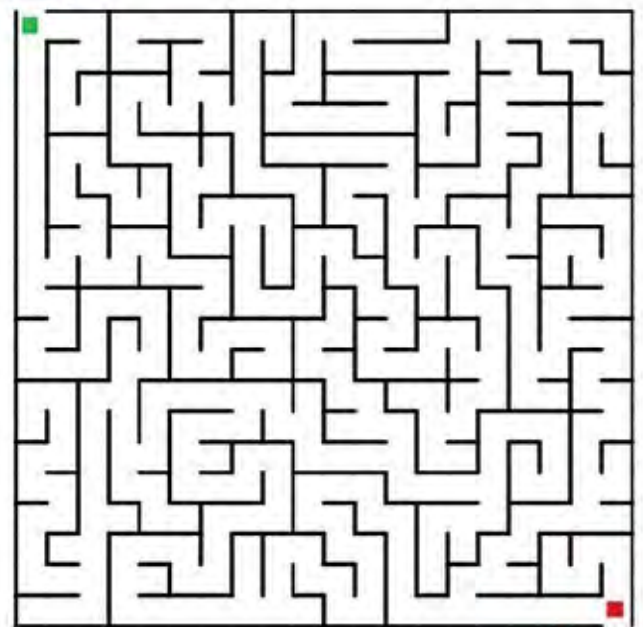


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