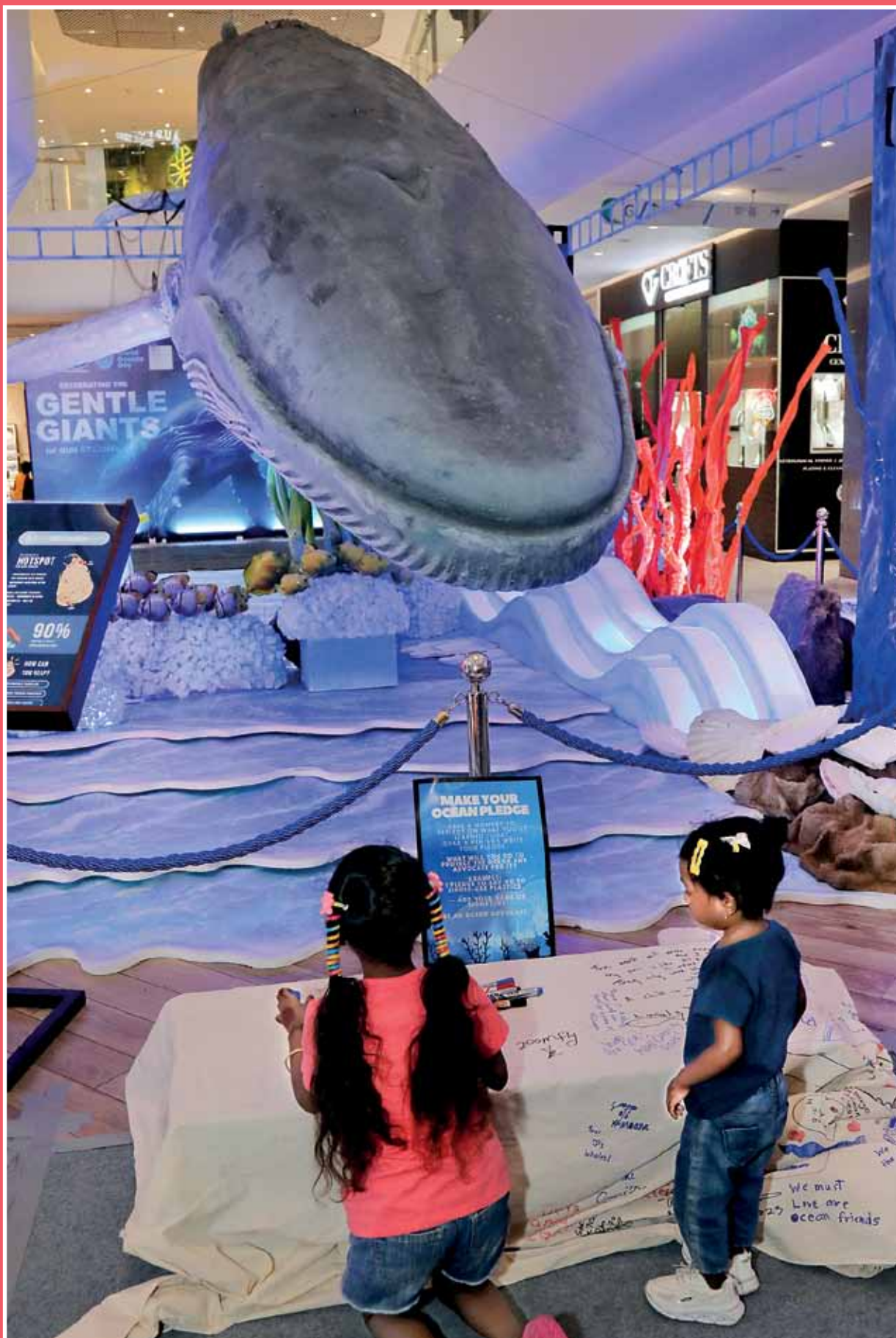


# FUN DAY TIMES



***Celebrating Oceans Day***

Pic. by  
M. A. Pushpa Kumara



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COMPETITIONS**  
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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 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:**

**July 2, 2025**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

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



### ***Making Waves: Girl Guides take the lead on World Oceans Day!***

Since April, a group of enthusiastic Girl Guides aged 12 to 17 have been on a special mission — learning all about climate change and how to protect our planet's oceans. They've been part of an exciting adventure through the Educating Girls for Climate Action project!

On June 8 and 9, at the World Oceans Day celebrations in Colombo and Kandy,

their hard work made a big splash!

A team of Girl Guides transitioned from learners to Climate Leaders as they led fun and inspiring workshops supported by a committed team of British Council Youth Climate Alumni to their peers in Colombo and Kandy.

The event highlights included quizzes, puzzles and concluded with a gallery walk full of creative posters.



**Kandy**



**Colombo**



### ***Celebrating the Gentle Giants of our Oceans***

World Oceans Day celebrations organised by The Pearl Protectors in collaboration with Colombo City Centre were held on June 7 and 8, 2025.

Several key features were the launch of the Largest Blue Whale Mural (Whale in Agony), activities such as 'Matha' Pledge, a marine innovation corner, awareness activities and an ocean art and photography exhibition. The festivities were rounded out by an awards presentation to the winners of the online art competition.

#### **School Category Art Winners**



**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Chanudi Kumarapperuma**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:  
Dinali Weragoda**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:  
Sethun Athugala**



**Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara**







# 25<sup>th</sup> 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.



## 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



## Photography Competition

**Age Groups:** 6 – 10 years and 11 – 15 years  
**Topic:** Nature and the Environment

## 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

## Art Competition

**Age Groups:** 4 – 9 years, 10 – 12 years and 13 – 15 years  
**Topic:** An interesting event  
Art should be sent on A4 Paper  
You could use any art medium such as paint, crayons etc.



**Closing Date:** July 31, 2025



or



[fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto: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!

Sponsors



## In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Father's Day
- **Page 6** – Competitions
- **Page 7** – Kids' News
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

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.



**Suganthan Labisashan**  
8 years on June 20



**Yashan Ibrahim**  
10 years on June 15



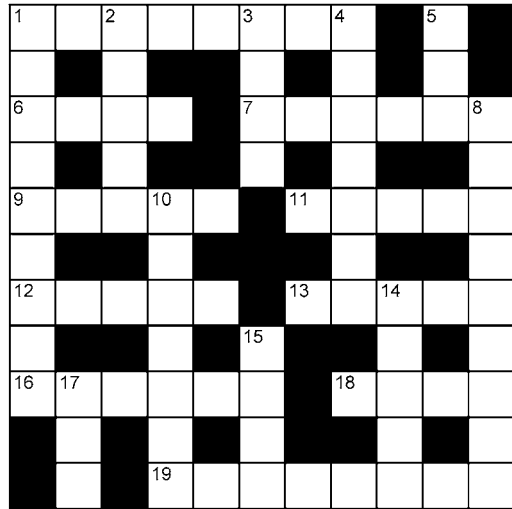
Crossword No. 6



**Yhogeeshaan Mohan**, the winner of Lumala Crossword No. 6 collected his bicycle from the Lumala Showroom recently.



**LUMALA Crossword – No. 10**



**Across**

- 1 Letters A to Z
- 6 Young woman
- 7 A spider spins this
- 9 Perhaps
- 11 Frown angrily
- 12 Gets closer
- 13 Circular in shape
- 16 Follows first
- 18 A bee's noise
- 19 A firework held in your hand

**Down**

- 1 Quarrels
- 2 Birthday celebration
- 3 Opposite of front
- 4 Cigarettes contain this
- 5 Frozen water
- 8 A big, earth-moving machine
- 10 Rabbit holes
- 14 Normal
- 15 A thought
- 17 A long fish

**Solution No. 9**



**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. 10, 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. 10**' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

**Age Group: 8 – 15 years**

*Closing Date: June 30, 2025*

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

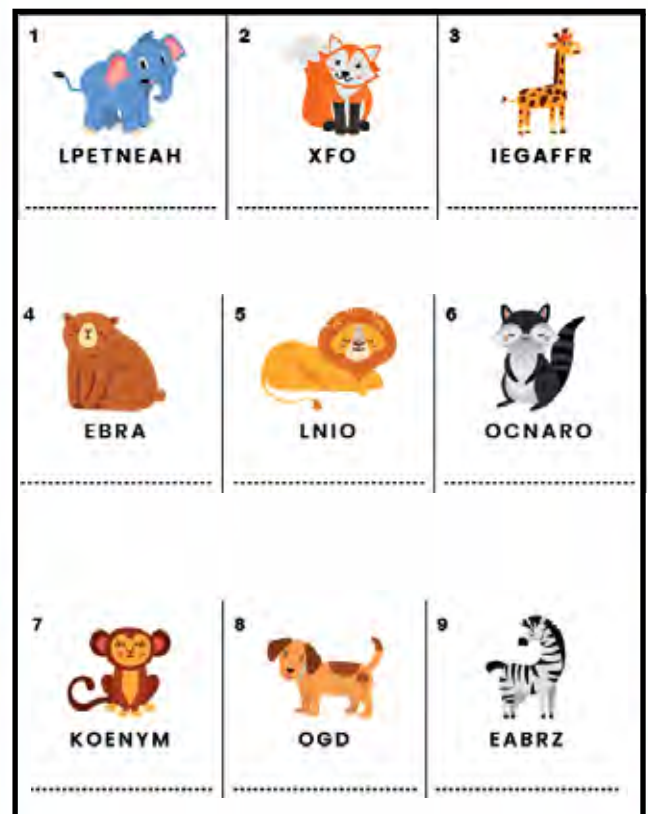


@LUMALABIKES | 119, OLD GALLE RD, HENAMULLA, PANADURA TEL: 077 755 2222 | LUMALA

Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

**7 – 9 AGE GROUP**

Unscramble the names of the animals.



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- Improves problem solving skills.
- Improves decision making skills.

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**7 – 9 years**



- ▶ Shazad Ghaney, Colombo 2
- ▶ Janithya Kalhari, Walasmulla
- ▶ Mohamed Asjadh, Colombo 3
- ▶ Nazrath Imthiyaz, Colombo 14

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

FUNDAY TIMES | Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com



# Father's Day

Compiled by Arrenga Nadaraja

Father's Day, recognises fathers', grandfathers', uncles' and fathers in-law for all that they do for their loved ones. It is celebrated in many cultures on the third Sunday in June and some on March 19 (St. Joseph's Day).

The United States of America (USA) was one of the first countries to celebrate Father's Day in Washington. Sonara Smart Dodd is credited with starting Father's Day as it is said that she heard a sermon on Mother's Day about mothers' and thought that there should be a day to celebrate fathers' too. Father's Day in the USA was officially recognised as a holiday by President Richard Nixon in 1972.

Many countries of the world celebrate Father's Day namely, Canada, United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, Australia, Germany, Italy, Thailand and more. Although June is the most common month, many countries celebrate Father's Day on different days.

Russia for example celebrates on February 23 which is called 'Defender of the Fatherland Day.' In Australia and New Zealand, Father's Day is celebrated on the first Sunday in September, while



## Fathers are called different names in different countries;

**Sri Lanka** – *Thaththi* or *Thaththa*  
**Spain** – *Padre*  
**France** – *Papa*  
**Germany** – the standard term is *Vater* (though not commonly used),  
**Australia** and the **USA** – it's *Dad* (amongst others).

Norway and Sweden celebrate on the second Sunday in November.

It is said that people wear a red rose as a symbol of a father who is alive and white for a father who has passed away.

What you can do for your *Thaththa* on Father's Day is visit his favourite places, play a board game as a family, make handmade or homemade gifts, go on a road trip or make a special meal for him.

## Let's look at how Father's Day is celebrated around the world...

- Thailand celebrates Father's Day to honour the birthday of King Bhumibol Adlyadej, a past king, who is remembered for his kindness and compassion. The Bangkok Mass Transit System allows fathers and their children to travel free on this day.
- In Italy, children recite a poem and people thank their fathers for the gift of life and what they do for their children.
- La fête des pères*, known as Father's Day in France didn't begin till the 1950s but is celebrated with thoughtful and personalised items, and quality time is spent with family.
- In the United Kingdom, it is a national holiday and people spend time with their families, do outdoor activities, go out to celebrate, give cards and gifts as well.



Thailand



Sri Lanka



USA



Germany

- Germany celebrates *Männertag* (Mens Day) on Ascension Day, a public holiday that falls 40 days after Easter.

All the gentlemen take part in celebrations on this day with their families, with barbeques or outdoor activities.



Italy

Sources: [Britannica.com/bkkids.com/liveinitalymag.com/bbc.co.uk](http://Britannica.com/bkkids.com/liveinitalymag.com/bbc.co.uk)



Win super  
books from

Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: My father

Win: Wonka by Sibeal Pounder

Ever since he was a child, Willy Wonka dreamed of making chocolate and sharing it with the world...

This delicious tale of dreams, friendship and chocolate is based on the motion picture 'Wonka', directed by Paul King who created the story and wrote the screenplay with Simon Farnaby.



Age: 10 – 12 years

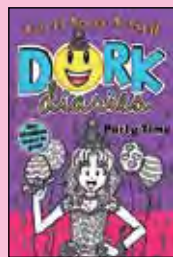
Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: The Festival of Posen

Win: Dork Diaries – Party Time by Rachel Renee Russell

When Nikki hears the rumour that Brandon is going to the Halloween Dance with Mackenzie, she makes other plans. But it's not true!

Can she go to the dance with Brandon, her friends... and help at her sister's party all on the same night?



Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: Protecting our ocean

Win: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

In July 1942, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family attempt to flee the horrors of Nazi occupation.

Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in hiding.

Her diary remains the single most poignant true life story to emerge from the Second World War.



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, 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.

FROM THE  
EDITOR

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



## 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: .....

.....

## Leaders, scientists meet to protect oceans

June 11, 2025

On Monday, scientists and government leaders came together in Nice, France for the third United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference. The meeting is focused on the many challenges facing the world's oceans and what can be done to help. The event comes as the US has suddenly taken a step back from protecting the oceans.

The UN Ocean Conference is an international meeting aimed at helping the world do a better job of protecting the oceans. It was first held in 2017. This year's meeting is being held in France from June 9 to 13. It's hosted by the governments of France and Costa Rica.

Scientists from around the world met last week in Nice to discuss ocean problems and to come up with suggestions. This week, government leaders, scientists and others are working to turn those suggestions into real actions that can be taken to protect the oceans.

Scientists point out that we already know a lot about the problems facing the oceans and the actions needed. Scientist Diva Amon, who works at the University of California, Santa Barbara, says we already know "...more than enough for global leaders to make the right decisions to save our oceans."

During the week, many countries are expected to announce promises to take stronger action to protect oceans. Samoa has already announced that it is

creating nine new marine parks to protect 30% of its waters. The United Kingdom is expected to announce an increased ban on ocean trawling, a very damaging method of fishing that drags big nets on the ocean floor.

One important goal for the Ocean Conference is the High Seas Treaty. This treaty is a 2023 agreement to create protected areas out of 30% of international waters by 2030.

International waters are areas of the sea that don't belong to any country. Currently, about 50 countries have signed the deal. The treaty will only become active once 60 countries sign it. That's something French President Emmanuel Macron hopes

will happen by the end of this year.

In the past, the US has played a major part in studying and protecting the sea. But this year's meeting is happening at a time when the US government has changed its ideas about science and protecting the oceans. Under President Donald Trump, many US government scientists who study the sea have had their jobs cut. The US government hasn't even sent any scientists to the meeting.

This year, one area that's getting more attention is the deep sea. Most of the ocean – about 90% – is the deep sea, but scientists still don't know a lot about this part of our oceans.

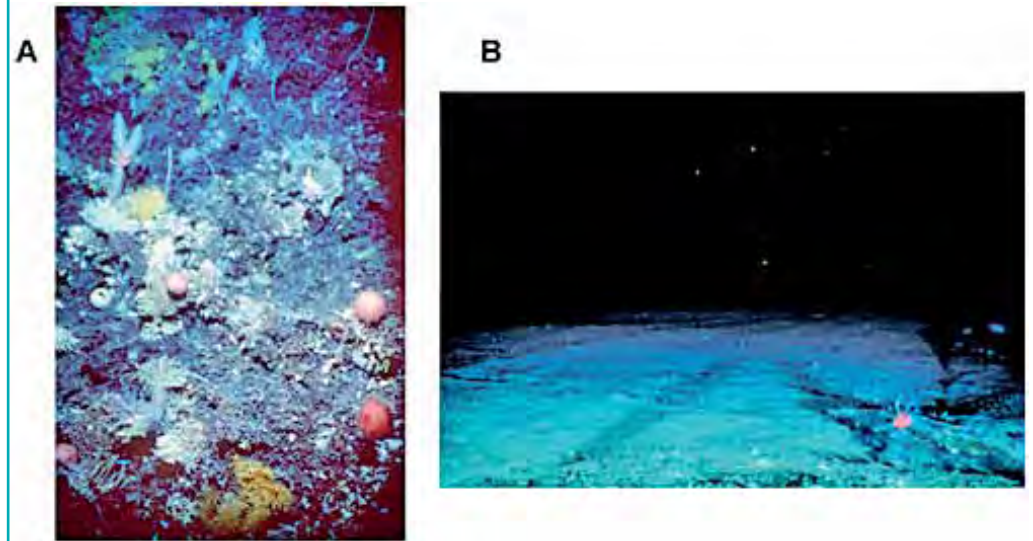
But they do know that the deep sea is also getting warmer because of climate change.

Many scientists are calling for a ban on deep-sea mining, which could cause serious damage to this important area. Mr. Trump, on the other hand, is working to promote deep sea mining. UN leader Antonio Guterres warned, "The deep sea cannot become the Wild West."

### Oceans Under Stress

Oceans are incredibly important for life on Earth. They cover about 71% of the planet. Oceans provide food and jobs, and they play a key part in controlling the world's weather.

But oceans are under serious threat from human activity. They are being heavily polluted, especially with plastic. Because of climate change, oceans are getting warmer and sea levels are rising. About 90% of the heat from global warming is stored in the world's oceans. Over-fishing is also affecting the entire web of sea life found in our oceans.



In the photos (above), A. shows life in an area of the sea floor that hasn't been trawled. B. shows an area after trawling.



UN leader Antonio Guterres, (above), warned, "The deep sea cannot become the Wild West."

Source: NewsForKids



June 11

## News in Pictures

**Vatican, Vatican City**

A young faithful holds a toy lion wearing papal clothing, on the day of Pope Leo XIV's general audience in St. Peter's Square.

**Graz, Austria**

People light candles at the main square in Graz in honour of the victims of a deadly shooting at a secondary school.

**Ahmedabad, India**

An elephant tries to eat leaves from a man's costume during a religious procession, before an annual chariot procession called 'Ratha Yatra.'

**Sliema, Malta**

A full moon known as the Strawberry Moon rises behind the steeple of St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral and the dome of the Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Valletta, as seen from Sliema.

**Delft, The Netherlands**

The wind-powered *strandbeests* (beach beasts) by Theo Jansen, which have been exhibited along the Dutch north sea coast, are moved to a permanent home in a former cable factory near the Dutch artist's home.

**Roslin, Scotland**

A conservator examines stonework on the south facade of Rosslyn chapel, which featured in the film 'The Da Vinci Code', during annual maintenance work.

**Bruton, UK**

A pilot checks rigging inside a hot air balloon before a sunrise launch over Gilcombe farm in Somerset, to announce the 'Show of Hands' Music and Arts Festival.

**Portsmouth, UK**

A standard bearer watches as the former Royal Navy destroyer HMS Bristol, which was deployed in the Falklands war, is towed out of the harbour to be taken to Turkey and recycled.

**Los Angeles, California, USA**

Police officers and members of the California National Guard stand next to demonstrators outside the Edward R. Roybal Federal building during a protest against federal immigration sweeps in downtown Los Angeles.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters