

the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 7, 2025



# FUN DAY TIMES



***Happy to be on stage***

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



**COMPETITIONS**

**PAGES 2 & 4**



**REPORT**

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**ONLINE**



**ANIMALS**

**PAGE 5**



**PAGE 6**

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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:**  
**December 24, 2025**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

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



## Christmas Cover 2025

Hey Kids! It is time once again to think about the Funday Times Christmas Cover. We invite our readers to send in their paintings for the Christmas Cover Competition.

Entries for the Christmas Cover should be of a suitable Christmas theme. You could use any type of paints or crayons you like but try to make your picture colourful and creative. **All entries should be on A4 size paper.**

Please write Christmas Cover at the back of your picture, along with your Name, Date of Birth, Address, Telephone Number (if any) and School.

**All paintings entered for this competition should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher. Uncertified paintings will not be considered for the prize.**

*The best picture will adorn the cover page of our Christmas issue. The winner will also receive a prize. Good luck and happy painting!*

**Age Group: 4 - 15 years**

**Closing Date : December 14, 2025**



Or



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

## Maple Kids Graduation Day



**Maple Kids International held their Graduation Day on November 28, 2025.**

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

### In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Animals
- **Page 6** – Crafts
- **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.



**Netana Krause**  
**7 years on December 10**

## Happy Birthday

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.



From a Funday Times Young Reporter

## Solar-powered animals

**T**raditionally and conventionally, only plants are considered to be food producers, as they bear chloroplasts, holding chlorophyll, the light catching pigment responsible for the conversion of water and carbon dioxide to simple sugars.

Other than plants, photosynthetic capabilities appear among;

- ◆ Algae
- ◆ Cyanobacteria
- ◆ Sponges
- ◆ Corals and sea anemone

However, in the animal kingdom, it is quite rare and less known.

Some so called 'solar-powered' animals containing green pigment challenge this common perception.

Some quite fascinating examples are,

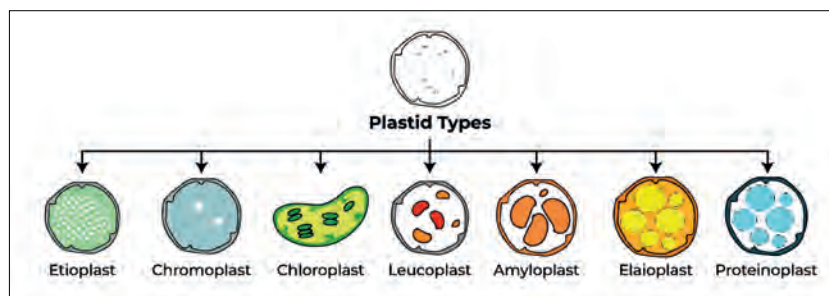
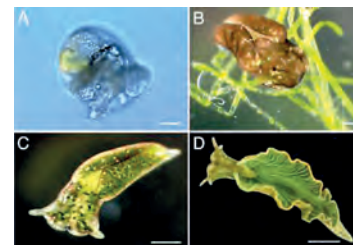
Common Name	Scientific Name
Sea Slug	<i>Elysia chlorotica</i>
Spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>
Oriental Hornet	<i>Vespa orientalis</i>
Pea Aphid	<i>Acyrtosiphon pisum</i>

### The curious case of *Elysia chlorotica*: the fascinating half animal – half plant

Commonly known as the Eastern Emerald, Elysia is a small to medium-sized species of green sea slug. It acquires plastids (membrane bound organelles in plants, containing pigments) when it feeds on algae. Then these plastids are kept inside the cells of the Eastern Emerald Elysia. This makes the slug, green in colour.

After that Elysia (being an animal) is able to capture sun-rays and use the energy to convert water and carbon dioxide to simple sugars.

Even though, these plastids are not passed to the next generation, it is able to keep them for its lifespan of nearly 10 months. After it has acquired enough plastids, Elysia lives as a 'plant' and completely depends on self-provided energy.



### More Fun Facts

◆ The eggs of the spotted salamander have a symbiotic (close interaction) relationship with algae. Algae live inside the eggs and provide oxygen to the developing embryos through photosynthesis.



◆ The oriental hornet can harvest solar energy through a special pigment called xanthopterin in its exoskeleton, which helps convert light into electrical energy.



◆ Pea aphids can produce carotenoids, which are pigments used in photosynthesis, allowing them to harness some energy from sunlight.



Mumudi Gajadeera (12 years)  
Horizon College Int., Malabe



## 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](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)



### Young Reporters Coupon

Name: .....

Date of Birth: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

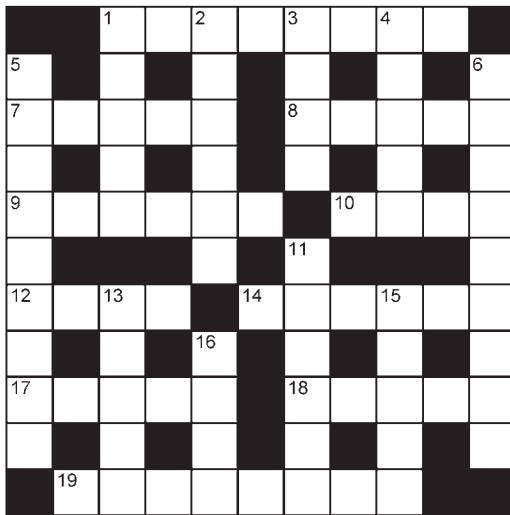
School: .....

Parent's approval: .....

Date: .....



**LUMALA Crossword – No. 16**



**Across**

- 1 Young people
- 7 Without any decoration
- 8 This is needed for swimming
- 9 Opposite of winners
- 10 Let fall
- 12 An animal with horns
- 14 Go on a trip
- 17 Footwear
- 18 Sound that is loud or unpleasant
- 19 The people in Japan

**Down**

- 1 Applauds
- 2 Take no notice of
- 3 The break of day
- 4 Go in
- 5 Say you are sorry
- 6 Spinning aeroplane part
- 11 Medal for third
- 13 Smell
- 15 A singer's instrument
- 16 The largest continent

**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. 16, 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. 16**' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

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

*Closing Date: December 31, 2025*

**Solution No. 15**

B	A	C	K	B	O	N	E	S
A	R	L	I	O	U	M	K	
L	I	O	N	R	A	B	B	I
E	N	D	E	C	A	R	G	O
R	X	C						
I	D	E	A	S	F	E	T	C
N	M	S						
A	S	S	I	S	F	I	R	E
A	N	A						
D	E	A	R	M	U	F	F	S



**Ayuni Amarasekera,**  
Kandana



@LUMALABIKES

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**4 – 6 years**

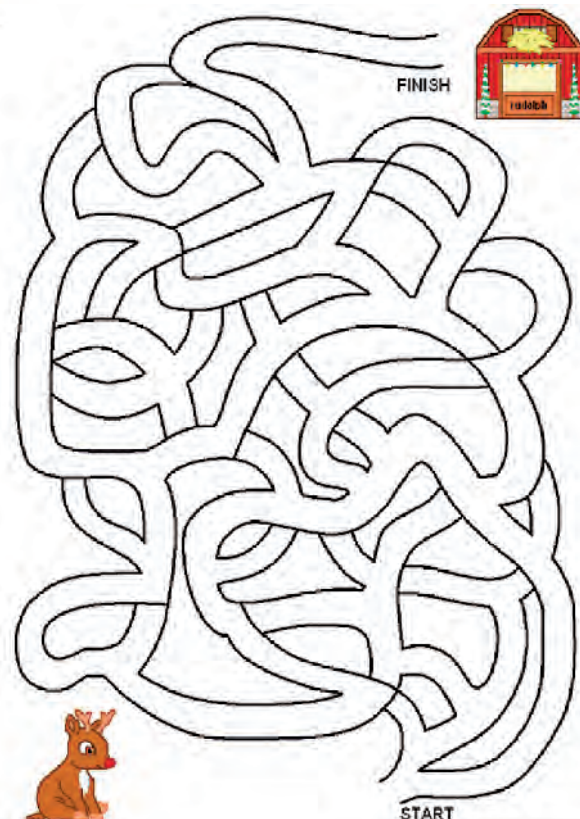


- ▶ Nemiah Thambimuttu, Colombo 2
- ▶ Mohamed Muad, Dehiwela
- ▶ Sayyaf Riswan, Beruwala
- ▶ Fathima Zeeva, Dehiwala
- ▶ Ayadh Abdul Malik, Colombo 2

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

**4 – 6 AGE GROUP**

Help the reindeer find his way back to the barn.



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# Snow Leopard

A snow leopard peers down from a craggy rock ledge high in the peaks of Mongolia. She's on the lookout for a snack. The animal's spotted beige fur allows her to blend in almost completely with the rocks, making the cat a nearly invisible hunter. Noticing a wild goat grazing below, the feline creeps across the ledge on her silent, furry footpads. Then she rockets down the slope. The wild goat scrambles to escape. With one 30-foot leap the cat catches up and pounces. Seconds later, she's secured her meal...

## Ghost cats

These endangered cats are nearly impossible to see — they've even earned the nickname "ghost of the mountains." Their spotted coats act as cloaks of invisibility by blending into the rocky mountains of the 12 Central Asian countries where the cats live: Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Their range spans about two million square miles, which is about half the size of Greenland.

The mountains the snow leopards call home are rugged and extremely cold in the winter. But these cats have some amazing body parts that make living in the area no big deal.

In addition to camouflaging them, a snow leopard's soft, dense fur keeps it warm in the bitter cold. Their large paws work like snowshoes, letting the cat walk on snow without sinking. And their long, heavy tail helps them keep their balance while they're chasing prey. At night, the cats curl their tails around their bodies like a cozy scarf to keep warm — and to stay hidden while sleeping.

## Searching for Snow Leopards

Few humans have seen snow leopards in real life, but hunting scenes like the one above have been captured by researchers who spend countless hours searching the mountains of Central Asia for snow leopards. Researchers think only 3,500 to 7,000 snow leopards exist in the wild, but no one knows for sure.

Snow leopard experts need to gather more information



about the secretive cats' lives to help protect them. Researchers use high-tech tools to spy on the shy animals. They gently trap the wild cats to examine them and put on satellite radio collars to track where the cats roam. Motion-activated digital cameras capture images of snow leopards,



**COMMON NAME:** Snow leopards  
**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Panthera uncia*  
**TYPE:** Mammal  
**DIET:** Carnivore  
**SIZE:** Four to five feet with a tail up to 36 inches  
**WEIGHT:** 60 to 120 pounds



there are, how they live, and what threatens their survival.

## The real threat

Even though snow leopards live in some of the most rugged mountain terrain on Earth, people pose the biggest threat to their survival.

Poachers can sell a snow leopard's hide and bones for thousands of dollars. Herders often kill any snow leopard that attacks their livestock. Hunters target ibex, wild sheep and other animals for food and trophies — removing important snow leopard prey. The more scientists can learn about snow leopards, the better they can protect these rarely seen cats from humans who harm them.



## FUN FACTS

- ✦ The snow leopard's wide nose warms cold air before it enters its lungs.
- ✦ Snow leopards can mew, growl and puff ... but they can't roar.
- ✦ Adult snow leopards are solitary, but young siblings will cuddle and play.
- ✦ Snow leopards have powerful legs and can jump as far as 50 feet.

Source: National Geographic Kids



## Yarn wrapped Christmas Tree ornaments

### What you need

- Green yarn
- Pom poms in various sizes and colours
- Glitter pom poms are optional but certainly fun
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- White glue



### Method



Cut the triangles out of cardboard (this being a job for the adult as cardboard can be quite tricky to cut).

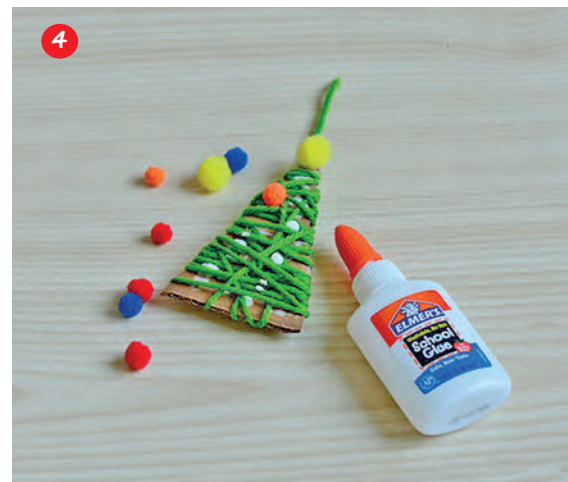
Tie the yarn to the triangle, somewhere in the middle. You can add some glue to secure the yarn before continuing.



Add a generous amount of white school glue on one side of the triangle.



Start wrapping the yarn all around the triangle – make sure you wrap the yarn around all three sides of the triangle.



When you are happy with how the wrapped tree looks like, finish up by tying the yarn – make a knot and secure it with some glue. You can add more glue in order to glue on the pom poms (if you were super generous with the white school glue before, there might be enough already).



If you want to make this into a Christmas ornament just tie some yarn to the back/ top of your Yarn wrapped Christmas Tree ornaments and you are ready to go.

Source: Easy peasy and fun.com

## Southern Asian countries hit by deadly floods

December 2, 2025

**S**trong storms and heavy rains have caused terrible flooding in several countries in southern Asia, including Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. In all, over 1,100 people have died, and millions have been forced to leave their homes.

Indonesia and Sri Lanka have been hit especially hard. Over 600 people have been killed in Indonesia, and more than 460 have died in Sri Lanka. Hundreds more are missing in each country. Severe flooding has also hit Thailand, where at least 175 people have died.

The flooding has been caused by unusually heavy rains. At this time of year, many countries in southern Asia expect to have heavy rains. But recent rains have been much stronger than normal.

In the last week, two different cyclones hit the region, bringing complicated weather patterns. Cyclone Senyar hit Indonesia and Thailand, before weakening and moving on to Malaysia. Sri Lanka was hit by Cyclone Ditwah, which has now weakened and moved on to southern India.

### Cyclone Senyar

Indonesia and Thailand were both heavily affected by Cyclone Senyar. The intense rainfall in Indonesia triggered massive flooding and landslides. Indonesia's government says around 570,000 people have been forced from their homes.

The island of Sumatra was hit the hardest. The flooding knocked out roads and bridges, making it hard for rescue workers to get to people who need help. Instead, helicopters are being used to rescue people and to bring supplies to those who need them.

In Thailand, over two million people have been forced from their homes by the flooding. In some areas, people were forced to climb onto their roofs to stay safe. Boats and helicopters were used to deliver supplies and to rescue people who were trapped.

### Cyclone Ditwah

Cyclone Ditwah pounded Sri Lanka, causing floods and mudslides, and destroying over 25,000 homes.

Around a third of the country has no power and no running water.

In many places, communication is difficult because there is no phone service. The government is working to bring things back to normal.

### Intense rains, fast flooding

In many of the affected areas across southern Asia, people were surprised by the massive amount of rain that fell. The city of Hat Yai in Thailand got 13.2 inches (33.5 centimetres) of rain in a single day. That hasn't happened in 300 years.

In many places, people were also shocked by how quickly the flood waters rose. A driver in Sri Lanka told CNN that he expected a few feet of

water. But less than an hour later, his two-storey house was underwater.

Scientists say the heavy rains are being driven, in part, by a weather pattern called "La Niña".

In La Niña years, heavy winds blow warm water on the surface of the Pacific Ocean toward Asia.

These conditions can lead to heavier rains and more powerful cyclones. Scientists say climate change could also be making the storms stronger.

Source: NewsForKids



Armoured vehicles in rescue operations near Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Around 147,000 people are now living in temporary shelters set up by the government. The country's president described it as the "most challenging natural disaster in our history."



Flooding in Padangsidempuan, North Sumatra on November 26.



A view of Hat Yai in Thailand taken from the air last Wednesday.



December 2

## News in Pictures

**Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Security forces personnel and volunteers rescue flood victims in Wellampitiya, a suburb of Colombo, in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah.

**Jal el-Dib, Lebanon**

A child dressed as the pope, and others as his protectors the Swiss Guards, gather on the day Pope Leo XIV visits De La Croix psychiatric hospital during his first apostolic journey.



December 1

**Hong Kong, China**

People pay their respects at a makeshift memorial near the Wang Fuk Court housing complex after last week's deadly fire that claimed over 150 lives.

**Tanami, Australia**

A dust storm rolls through the Tanami Desert in the Northern Territory.

**London, UK**

Dogs wear festive outfits in St. James's Park in London, as part of the second Rescue Dogs of London & Friends Christmas Jumper Parade Walk, raising funds for rescue dogs in Greece and China.

**Padang, Indonesia**

A truck is stranded in the river at an area hit by deadly flash floods following heavy rains in Padang, West Sumatra province, Indonesia.

**Cape Town, South Africa**

A man walks past members of Extinction Rebellion during a wreath-laying ceremony marking Remembrance Day for Lost Species, an annual global initiative that commemorates extinct species and ecosystems, reflects on the stories behind these losses, and promotes action to prevent future extinctions, on the False Bay coastline, in Cape Town, South Africa.

**Derbyshire, UK**  
Locals gather at the Bolsover Castle with their lanterns, before the Bolsover Lantern Parade, an annual event which began in 1994, in Bolsover, Derbyshire, Britain.

**Bad Tatzmannsdorf, Austria**

A performer wearing a Grinch costume waits in the garden of the so-called Christmas House of family Gollnhuber in Bad Tatzmannsdorf, Austria.

Sources: The Guardian &amp; Reuters