

FUNDAY TIMES



Welcoming Grade 1 students

Pic. by Indika Handuwala

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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:

March 4, 2026

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.

Welcoming Grade 1 students



Grade One students of Royal College, Colombo were warmly welcomed to school in a ceremony held on January 29, 2026.

Pix. by Indika Handuwala

Around 70 new students were admitted to Grade One of D. S. Senanayake Primary School, Kandalama in the Dambulla district, with a hearty welcome ceremony held on January 29, 2026.

Pix. by Kanchana Kumara Ariyadasa

Congratulations to over 180 students of Polymath College on successfully completing the 2025 Reading Challenge Programme. The Awards Ceremony was recently held at the school to celebrate their achievement.

Students who completed six books received a special British Council certificate, while those who read more than six books were awarded a Special Achievement Certificate.

The Reading Challenge is a programme designed to motivate children to become confident and engaged readers and communicators. It introduces students to a wide range of authors and literature, while encouraging participation in activities that enhance their reading, writing and speaking skills.

British Council looks forward to welcoming more schools to take part in the Reading Challenge Programme.



Gladys West

Gladys West was an American mathematician. As an African American her work went unrecognized for many years but she is now known for her work developing the technology that led to the Global Positioning System (GPS).

Early Life and Education

Gladys Brown West was born on October 27, 1930 in Dinwiddie county, Virginia.

(She was Gladys Brown until she married a co-worker, Ira West, early in her career.)

She grew up on her family's small farm and dreamed of getting a good education. She worked hard and received a scholarship to Virginia State College (now Virginia State University), a historically Black university. West graduated with a degree in mathematics in 1952 and then got a teaching job.

As she worked, she saved money for graduate school.

She returned to Virginia State and earned a master's degree in mathematics in 1955.

Career

In 1956, West was hired as a mathematician at the naval base in Dahlgren, Virginia (now known as the Dahlgren Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center). She was the second Black woman to be hired at the base and was one of only four Black employees.

West was admired for her ability to solve complex mathematical equations. She eventually transitioned from solving the equations herself to programming computers.

West worked on many different projects. One of the most important had to do with calculating satellite orbits.

Even though it looks like a ball floating in space, Earth is not a perfect sphere. This is because a number of forces, such as gravity and tides, affect the shape of Earth.

Taking these forces into account, West was able to program a computer to make more and more precise calculations for the orbits of satellites. These calculations made it possible to determine a model for the exact shape of Earth.

This model, and later updates, allows the GPS system to make accurate calculations of any place on Earth.



Gladys West's mathematics shaped GPS, making satellite networks possible and enabling precise location anywhere on Earth.



Ira West and Gladys West.

During her career on the naval base, West earned another master's

degree, in public administration.

She retired from the base in 1998 at the age of 68.

However, she continued her education. After recovering from a stroke, she received a Ph.D. (in public administration and policy affairs) in 2000, at the age of 70.

In 2018, West was recognized for her contribution to the development of GPS by the Virginia General Assembly. She was also inducted into the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Hall of Fame.

That same year she was one of the 100 inspiring and influential women chosen by the British Broadcasting Corporation for its list of 100 Women of 2018.

West died on January 17, 2026, in Alexandria, Virginia.

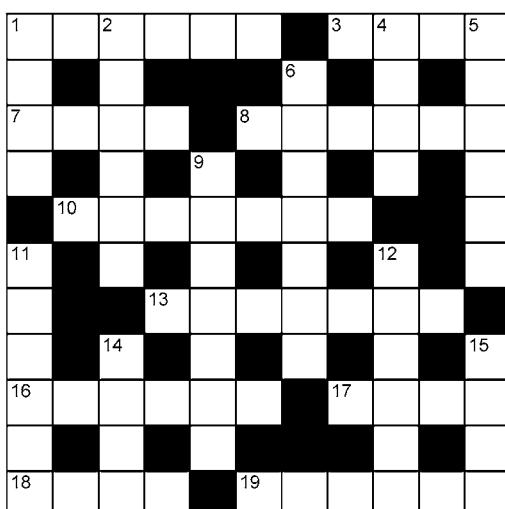


Gladys B. West

Source: Britannica Kids



Crossword – No. 18



Across

- 1 An eight-legged creature
- 2 Exchange
- 3 Unlock
- 4 A cat's feet
- 5 The opposite of wide
- 6 The part of clothes for your arms
- 9 A holder for cigarette ash
- 11 Fuel for a car
- 12 Says something
- 13 Try
- 14 Pimple
- 15 A compass direction

Down

- 1 An eight-legged creature
- 2 Exchange
- 3 Unlock
- 4 A cat's feet
- 5 The opposite of wide
- 6 The part of clothes for your arms
- 9 A holder for cigarette ash
- 11 Fuel for a car
- 12 Says something
- 13 Try
- 14 Pimple
- 15 A compass direction

Age Group: 8 – 15 years

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

Solution No. 17



Closing Date: February 25, 2026



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. 18, 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. 18**' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.



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7 – 9 years



- Jerusha Ponrajah, Boralesgamuwa
- Aabidh Farsan, Dehiwala
- Suganthan Labisashan, Matale
- Ahdha Abdul Malik, Colombo 2

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

d	b	u	h	b	y	c	y	c	l
c	v	t	i	o	u	f	g	t	p
a	j	e	q	o	t	p	l	a	y
k	h	a	w	k	i	d	b	l	p
r	b	c	r	c	o	m	a	p	a
l	u	h	e	b	m	c	h	g	i
y	e	e	a	n	d	v	d	z	n
i	l	r	d	u	p	n	e	c	t
w	a	v	s	u	m	s	s	z	h
d	f	u	n	i	g	n	k	u	f

book

desk

fun

map

paint

play

read

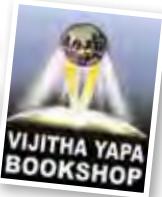
sums

teacher



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super Win books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: An Independence Day Parade

Win: Mrs Hippo's Pizza Parlour by Vivian French

Business is bad at Mrs. Hippo's Pizza Parlour. So she closes for the day and takes William and Ellie to the beach.

While playing on the beach, William has a brilliant idea!



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.



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FROM THE EDITOR

Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: How Sri Lanka gained Independence

Win: Five Have Plenty of Fun by Enid Blyton

This summer the Five become Six – and George isn't happy about it. American girl Berta has been threatened with kidnap and Kirrin Cottage is the only place she can hide.

Will the Five put their own safety on the line to protect Berta from dangerous kidnappers?



Age: 13 – 15 years

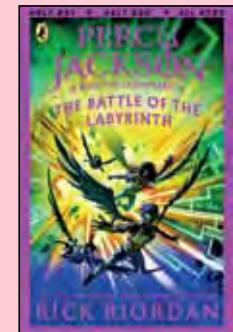
Word Count: 200 – 250

National heroes who worked towards Sri Lanka's Independence

Win: The Battle of the Labyrinth by Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson and his friends must stop his arch-enemy Luke, from leading the Titan army directly into Camp Half-Blood.

They quest to find the inventor Daedalus through his ancient underground Labyrinth, with deadly surprises at every turn. This maze was built to keep heroes out and secrets safe within!



Cartoon Time!

Hey Kids!

We plan to put in more cartoons in the Funday Times and what's more they will be your own cartoons.

So, here's a chance for you to try your hand at producing your very own original cartoons.

Draw a little cartoon with a caption.

It could even be a small cartoon story in a strip (not more than three boxes).

The best cartoons you send will be published in the Funday Times. So good luck to all you cartoon fans!

Please remember that the cartoons you send in should be your original work and not copied or traced from anything. They should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher.



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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:

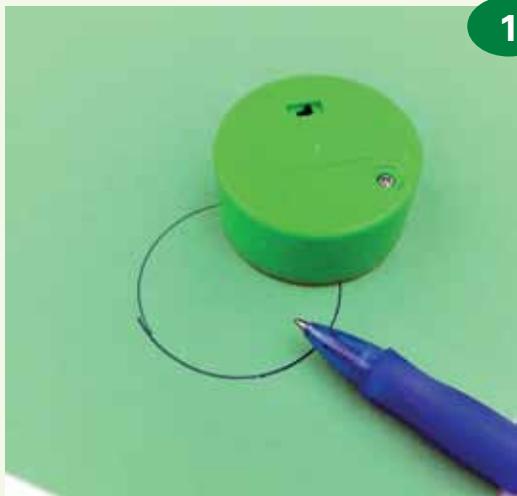
Parent's approval:

Date:

Rainbow Paper Flowers

What You Need

- Construction Paper
- Glue Stick
- Something to trace (cup, bowl, stencil or circle punch)
- Template (optional)
- Scissors
- Pen or marker

Instructions


Trace and cut out 6 circles from your construction paper.

Cut one circle for the colours of the rainbow, (red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple).

1



Take and fold each circle in half and crease well. They will look like little tacos.

2



Place some glue on one side of your folded circle. Then place the half circle onto a piece of paper.

Next, take the opposite colour, from the colour wheel, and place it across from your first petal. Be sure that the open sides of your half circles are pointing away from each other.

3



So red across from green, blue across from orange, and yellow across from purple.

This will help you space out your petals.



Fill in with the rest of the colours in 'rainbow order'. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, and you're done!

You can add a stem with a green marker to add a fun touch.

Try making these paper flowers in all different sizes!

4

5

Source: Twitchetts.com

Two-year-old sets Snooker World Records

February 5, 2026

When Jude Owens was 2, he fell in love with playing snooker, a game similar to pool. He got so good at it that now, at age 3, he holds two world records for being the youngest person to complete certain snooker trick shots. And he's only getting started.

Snooker is a game similar to pool, played on a large table with six pockets. Players use a stick called a 'cue' to hit the white cue ball, aiming to knock other balls into the pockets. While snooker has its own set of rules, the skills needed are similar to those used in pool.

Jude, who's now 3, is very young to be playing snooker. But he has been surprising people with his skills since he was two and a half years old.

Jude's father is a big fan of snooker, and when Jude turned two, the family gave him a small snooker table for Christmas. Because of his small size, Jude began playing with just half a cue stick. But his father says he showed a natural talent for the game.

Jude was so good that his parents began to share videos of him playing on social media. As a result, Jude now has thousands of fans.

Jude is still too short to play while standing on the floor, so he uses a stool. But that doesn't bother him. When he plays, he stretches out across the table, steadyng himself with one hand as he strikes the ball with the other.



Jude poses with certificates from Guinness World Records.



Jude's parents are not pushing him to play.



Jude lines up a shot.



When he plays, he stretches out across the table.

In September of last year, at the age of 2 years and 261 days, Jude set his first Guinness World Record. He became the youngest person ever to complete a snooker "double pot". That means he hit the white ball once and sent two other balls into two different pockets.

In October of last year, Jude set another Guinness World Record. This time, he became the youngest person ever to make a "bank shot" in snooker. That involves hitting the white ball into another ball, which must bounce off the side of the table before going into a pocket. Jude was 2 years and 302 days old when he set that record.

Jude is clearly a natural. He has already met several famous snooker players, who were impressed by his skills. Jude's father says he thinks Jude will probably beat him at snooker someday. "He doesn't beat me at snooker at the moment," he said. "But I like to think he would in the next few years easily."

Jude's mother says that Jude doesn't really know the rules of the game. When Jude was asked what his favourite shot was, he replied, "A trick shot." But that hasn't stopped him from learning some advanced snooker skills.

Despite his talent, Jude's parents are not pushing him to play. He usually plays just once a week. "We don't like to push it on him," says his mom. "It's more of just a hobby."

Source: NewsForKids

February 10

News in Pictures

**Dublin, Ireland**

Yuheng Chen (9) and Lingqian Zheng (7), from Hill Street Family Resource Centre have a race with their hobby-horses in their school playground to welcome the Lunar New Year, bringing in the Year of the Horse.



Gaza City, Gaza
Palestinians play soccer on a pitch, near buildings destroyed during the two-year Israeli offensive, in Gaza City.

Lopii, Kenya
Herders collect water from a well amid shortages caused by a prolonged drought.

Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria
Worshippers gather around candles stuck to jars of honey during a mass to mark the day of Saint Haralampi, the Orthodox patron saint of beekeepers.



Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales, poses for a photograph with Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, on day one of his first official visit to Saudi Arabia at UNESCO World Heritage site At-Turaif in Riyadh.



Seoul, South Korea
Divers wearing traditional Korean costume hanbok perform with a stingray during an event in celebration of the upcoming Lunar New Year at an aquarium in Seoul.



California, USA
Sean Penn, Benicio del Toro and Leonardo DiCaprio pose with the Hammond Cinema Vanguard Award at the 41st annual Santa Barbara International Film Festival in Santa Barbara, California.



Shanghai, China
A light show staged in the run-up to the city's Spring Festival in Shanghai.



Amdjarass, Chad
A rider takes part in a camel race at the International Festival of Saharan Cultures.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters