

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MARCH 15, 2026



FUNDA DAY

TIMES

WINNERS 

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ONLINE
KIDS NEWS
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Art by Manuli Odara (11 years)

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Avurudu Cover 2026

As the Sinhala and Tamil New Year approaches, it is time once again to think of the Funday Times Avurudu Cover. Would you like to send in a picture for our Avurudu Cover? If so, here's what you have to do.

Paint a picture to depict the traditions of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year and send it in to us. The painting should be on A4 size paper. You could use any type of paint, crayons or chalk. Please make your picture bright and colourful.

All entries should be certified by a teacher or parent as your own work. Uncertified entries will not be entertained.



Closing Date:
April 5, 2026

The best entry will be used for the cover of the Funday Times Avurudu issue. The winner will also receive a book voucher. Wish you all happy painting!



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

FUNDAY KIDS IN COLOUR with



4 – 6 years



Manudi Ganewatta
Christ Church Girls' College, Baddegama



Ranaya Abeywickrama
Southlands College, Galle



Nemiah Thambimuttu
Ladies' College, Colombo

7 – 10 years



Rasandi Ranasinghe
Musaeus College, Colombo



Adheesha Jayasekara
Wesley College Primary, Havelock Town



Suganthan Labisashan
Harvard Int. School, Matale

Please send competition entries to:



Funday Times
C/O the Sunday Times
P.O. Box 1136, Colombo.
Or 8, Hunupitiya Cross Road, Colombo 2.

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, will be disqualified.

Closing Date for this week's competitions:

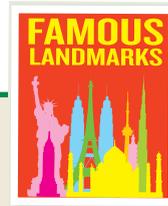
April 1, 2026

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Suhanya Gamaarachchi
14 years on March 9



Capilano Suspension Bridge

The Capilano Suspension Bridge is a famous bridge in North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. It hangs high above the Capilano River. This bridge is 140 metres (about 460 feet) long. It is also 70 metres (230 feet) above the river below. The bridge is part of a park that people pay to visit. More than 1.2 million people come to see it every year.

History of the Bridge

The Capilano Suspension Bridge was first built in 1889. A Scottish engineer named George Grant Mackay built it. He was also a park commissioner for Vancouver.

The first bridge was made of strong hemp ropes. It had a walkway of cedar planks. In 1903, the bridge was rebuilt using stronger wire cables.

In 1910, Edward Mahon bought the bridge. Later, in 1935, "Mac" MacEachran bought it from Mahon. MacEachran invited local Indigenous people to place their totem poles in the park. This added a special cultural theme to the area.

In 1945, Henri Aubeneau bought the bridge. The bridge was completely rebuilt one more time in 1956. This made it even safer and stronger.

North Vancouver



Modern Park and Attractions

Nancy Stibbard bought the park in 1983. She is the current owner. Since then, many more people visit the park each year.

In May 2004, a new area called Treetops Adventures opened. This part of the park has seven footbridges. They are suspended between tall Douglas Fir trees. These bridges form a walkway up to 30 metres (about 100 feet) above the forest floor. It's like walking through the treetops!

Cliffwalk

In June 2011, another exciting attraction was added. It is called Cliffwalk. This path is built into the side of the canyon. It gives visitors amazing views of the river and forest.

Source: Kids Encyclopedia Facts



Famous Landmarks Quiz 69

Q: Where is Capilano Bridge located and when was it first built?

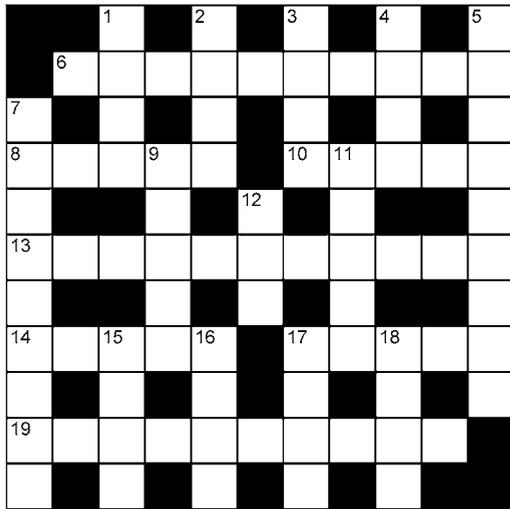
 

Famous Landmarks Quiz 68

WINNER 

Raaidhah Mohamed,
Colombo 3

LUMALA Crossword – No. 19



Across

- 6 A building where legal trials are held
- 8 Rub out
- 10 Undecorated
- 13 Scary
- 14 Opposite south
- 17 A group of singers
- 19 Bad dreams

Down

- 1 A garment worn by early Romans
- 2 Costing nothing
- 3 Buy something here
- 4 Where Cubans live
- 5 People aged 13 to 19
- 7 Very, very loud
- 9 One of your senses
- 11 A meal
- 12 A pig's pen
- 15 Scraps of material
- 16 Strikes
- 17 A potter uses this
- 18 Follow an order

Age Group:
8 – 15 years

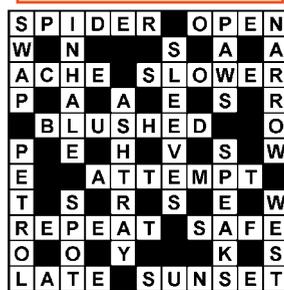
LUMALA BICYCLE COMPETITION

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. 19, 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. 19' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

Closing Date: March 31, 2026

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

Solution No. 18



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

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7 – 9 years



- ▶ Aaron Ariaratnam, Dehiwala
- ▶ Umar Ilham, We-uda
- ▶ I. Pavishnashri, Colombo 13
- ▶ Ashiwin Nair, Nuwara Eliya
- ▶ Ahmed Yusuf Ali, Colombo 4

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

7 – 9 AGE GROUP

Match the rhyming words.

fox	•	can
mug	•	pen
bun	•	box
pan	•	sun
hen	•	bug

Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

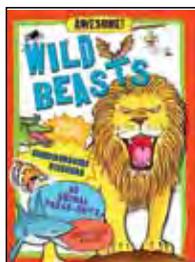
Word Count: 150

Topic: Wild Beasts Activity Book

Win: The uses of water

There are beasts on every page of this wild activity book.

So discover warring wild cats, wicked wolves, sinister snakes and scary sharks!



Age: 10 – 12 years

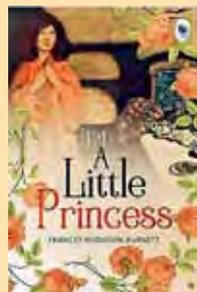
Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: A visit to a Safari park

Win: A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett

One of the all-time children's novels, Frances Hodgson Burnett's 'A Little Princess' is a remarkable story.

It has been adapted for films, theatre and television and remains popular over a century after its publication.



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

Age: 13 – 15 years

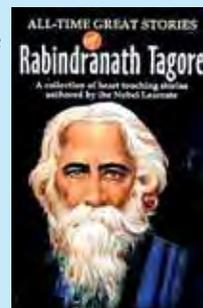
Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: A famous woman who impressed you

Win: All-time Great Stories of Rabindranath Tagore authored by him

The stories of Rabindranath Tagore have a special niche in world literature besides having a special place in Bangla literature.

His stories created a new genre in vernacular section and enriched it.



FUNDAY KIDS IN COLOUR with **Richard**



Funday Times together with Richard is happy to launch a new Art Competition for our readers. A topic will be given each month. The paintings should be on **A4 size paper** and you could use any medium of your choice.

Three winners from two age groups will be selected each month. Winners will receive an attractive gift pack from Richard.

Please write your Full Name, Date of Birth, Home Address, Telephone Number and School and paste it on the back of your entry.

Age Groups: 4 – 6 and 7 – 10 years

Topic for March: **Wildlife**

Closing Date: March 31, 2026



Or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com

FUNDAY 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.

fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Young Reporters Coupon

Name:
 Date of Birth:
 Address:
 Telephone:
 School:
 Parent's approval: Date:

Otters

The charismatic otter, a member of the weasel family, is found on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. Most are small, with short ears and noses, elongated bodies, long tails and soft, dense fur.

There are 13 species in total, ranging from the small-clawed otter to the giant otter. Though most live in freshwater rivers, lakes and wetlands, the sea otter and the smaller marine otter are found in the Pacific Ocean.

Habitat and young

Webbed feet and powerful tails, which act like rudders, make otters strong swimmers. Their nostrils and ears close to keep water out, and waterproof fur keeps them warm. They must carefully groom their fur and furry undercoat to keep them clean and sealed off to water, because they're not covered in a fatty layer like other seagoing creatures. Otters have the densest fur of any animal — as many as a million hairs per square inch in places.

Otters also have particularly stinky poop, which even has its own name: 'spraints'. It's thought to get its special odour, which some scientists describe as smelling like violets, from the seafood diet otters eat.

Most otter species come ashore to give birth in dens, which sometimes have been used by other animals such as beavers. Sea otters are the exception, giving birth in the water.

Baby otters, called pups or kittens, stay with their mothers until they're up to a year old, or until she has another litter. River otters don't breed until they're at least five years old.

Amazing behaviour

All otters are expert hunters that eat fish, crustaceans and other critters. Sea otters have an ingenious method to open shellfish. A sea otter will float on its back, place a rock on its chest, then smash the mollusk down on it until it breaks open.



When it's time to nap, sea otters entangle themselves in kelp so they don't float away. They also sometimes intertwine their feet with another sea otter, so that they stay together.

River otters are especially playful, gambolling on land and splashing into rivers and streams.



They learn to swim when they are about two months old, when their mother pushes them into the water.

Threats

Otters and their mustelid relatives were once hunted extensively for their fur, many to the point of near extinction. Despite regulations designed to protect them, many species remain at risk from pollution and habitat loss.

The sea otter is listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List, pressured by pollution, pesticides and conflicts with fishermen who kill them for eating their fish. Asian otter species also face threats from the illegal pet trade.

Source: National Geographic

Scientific Classification:

COMMON NAME: Otter

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Mustelidae*

TYPE: Mammal

SIZE: 2 to 6 feet long

WEIGHT: 10 to 75 pounds

Crufts 2026: the famous dog show

March 9, 2026

One of the world's biggest and most famous dog shows - Crufts - has taken place over the weekend. More than 18,600 canine competitors and their owners attended the competition at the NEC in Birmingham, UK.

There were big dogs, small dogs, fast dogs and fluffy dogs, all hoping to take home an award. The show has been running since 1891, making it older than the modern Olympic Games!



The top award for Best in Show this year went to a Clumber spaniel named Bruin. "I can't believe it," said his owner Lee Cox. "It's just wonderful for this breed. He's the dog of a lifetime. He's really, really special."

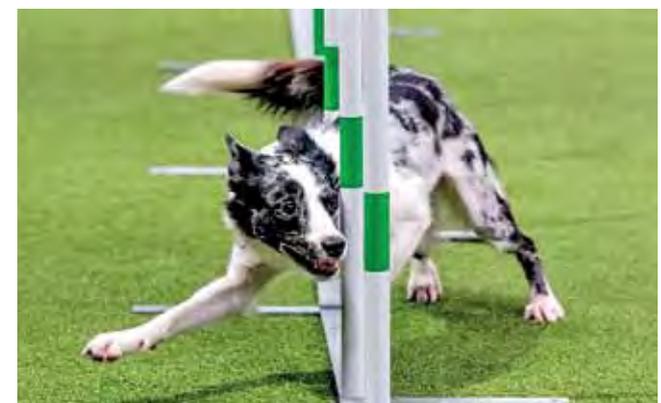


▲ **Styled to perfection!**
Check out the pawsome pups competing in Crufts.



▲ **It's called fur-shion darling!** These stylish Italian Greyhounds were showing off their looks at the show.

The youngest competitor in the show this year was four-year old Caitlyn from Wales. She entered the show with her Miniature Schnauzer, Zeeva, and finished in fifth place in her category.



The competition isn't just about looks, dogs compete in lots of categories, like agility, flyball and heelwork – which is when owners perform a dance with their dogs. This collie dog is enjoying zooming through one of the obstacles on the agility course.



Canine competitors like this poodle are often styled to perfection so they can look their best for the competition.



This curly competitor is a Hungarian Puli, and was one of the 200 different dog breeds on display at the show this year.



▲ **These dashing Dalmatians** competed in the Utility category. Dogs are judged on how healthy they are, their looks, how they move and their personality.

Source: *CBBC Newsround*

March 10

News in Pictures



Rawalpindi, Pakistan ▲
Children return home after a government fuel-saving order led schools to close and shift to online classes amid soaring oil costs.



Dhaka, Bangladesh
Motorists wait in a long queue at a fuel station, as concerns grow over fuel supplies amid the US-Israel conflict with Iran.



Lviv, Ukraine
Cadets outside city hall hold a rolled-up Ukrainian flag to mark the country's National Anthem Day.

Tehran, Iran
Emergency crews conduct rescue operations at residential buildings in the Resalat area of Tehran that were destroyed by joint US-Israeli airstrikes.



Barcelona, Spain ▲
A worker hangs from scaffolding near the star of the tower of the Virgin Mary as work continues on Antoni Gaudí's Sagrada Familia Basilica. Designed more than 140 years ago, the still-unfinished Sagrada Familia has grown to become the world's tallest church.

March 9

Paphos, Cyprus
French President Emmanuel Macron is greeted by Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides, as he arrives at the Paphos Military Airport, during a visit showing France's solidarity after recent drone attacks amid the U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran, and aimed at reinforcing European security in the Eastern Mediterranean.



Chicago, USA ▲
Jacqueline Jackson embraces Jesse Jackson Jr. as he speaks to people sitting in attendance during the home going services of Jesse Jackson at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition building in Chicago, Illinois.



Tokyo, Japan ▲
A young Buddhist monk runs across burning wood sticks during annual Hiwatari Matsuri (Fire-walking Festival) at Takaosan Yakuoin Temple.



Rome, Italy
A girl holds a sign reading: "Consent education against the massacre, preventing violence from childhood" during a demonstration to mark International Women's Day, in Rome.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters