THE HINDU IN SCHOOL
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878
30-MINUTE ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN - 52
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Hello there...

Photo: AFP

- **I am a common vampire bat**. While most microbats feed on insects, I feed on cattle's blood.
- I am found in the tropics of Mexico, Central America, and South America.
- I hunt at night and sleep during the day, suspended upside down from the roofs of caves.
- I have a heat sensor on my nose which helps me detect my victim's warm blood.
- My bites can cause infections and disease in the cattle.

- I am an electric eel, found in the South American waters.
- I have three pairs of abdominal organs that produce electricity, using which I stun prey and keep predators at bay. I use low voltages to sense the surrounding environment.
- I live on muddy bottoms in calm or stagnant waters.
- I have an elongated, cylindrical body. I have no scales
- During breeding season, a male makes a nest from his saliva into which the female lays her eggs.

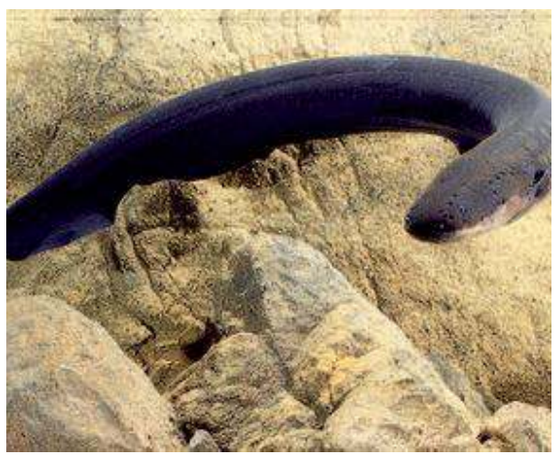


Photo: Reuters

Find out **Which is the only big cat that doesn't roar?**

Answer: Cheetah

War of words

Strike up a debate on the given topic

While homework helps students stay in touch with their studies and sharpen their skills, some argue that it can be a burden after a long school day. So put on your thinking cap and get ready to argue whether:

Should schools continue with the practice of assigning homework?

Yes

No

Fun facts

1. Glow-in-the-dark coin

In 2017, the Royal Canadian Mint released a glow-in-the-dark coin for circulation to commemorate Canada's 150th birthday. Called a "toonie", the $2 coin features boaters looking up at the aurora borealis. In the dark when lights are turned off, the northern lights scene depicted on the coin will glow turquoise. This was the first circulation coin to glow in the dark in the world.

Q: What are auroras or northern lights?

2. Freaky fruits?

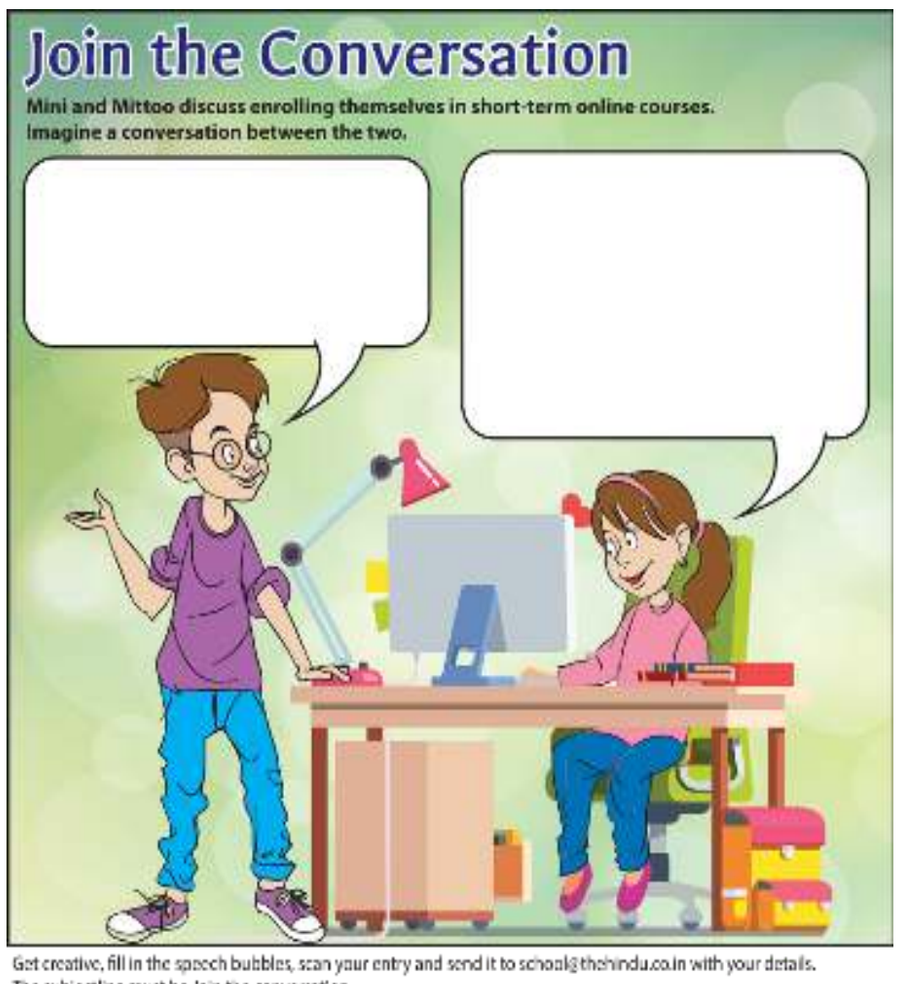
Japanese square watermelons are more ornamental than they are tasty. As they are harvested much before they ripen, they are often inedible. But how are they grown? When the fruit starts growing on the vine, it is covered by a large, strong, cube-shaped box and the fruit assumes the shape of the box on maturity. It is said that these watermelons occupy limited refrigerator space and can be stacked up and stored easily unlike the natural variety.

Q: Can you find out what other shapes have been introduced in growing watermelon?

Answers
1. They are natural light displays in the sky, resulting from disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field caused by solar wind.
2. Heart and pyramid shapes

Join the Conversation

Mini and Mittoo discuss enrolling themselves in short-term online courses. Imagine a conversation between the two.



Get creative, fill in the speech bubbles, scan your entry and send it to school@thehindu.co.in with your details. The subject line must be Join the conversation.

Heritage trail...

Read the clues and guess the UNESCO World Heritage Site

1. It is a red sandstone minaret and "victory tower" in the Mehrauli area of New Delhi.
2. It was 73 ft high till the final section was added in 1369 and is the highest tower in the country.
3. The tower tapers – the diameter at the base is 14.3 metres, reducing to 2.7 metres at the top.
4. It was built in 1193 by Qutb-ud-din Aibak to mark the victory of the Delhi Sultanate.
5. The rest of the complex contains some funerary buildings, two mosques, the majestic Alai Darwaza (gate) and an iron pillar.
6. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993.

FILE PHOTO

Answer: Qutb Minar and its monuments

The W Corner

WHEN was this picture taken? Take a look closely. The players in the picture, the trophies in their hands and their reactions will all point you to the answer as to when this match took place...

Answer: _____

PHOTO: MICHAEL DODGE/GETTY IMAGES

Answer: 2018 Australian Open men's singles final

The 2018 Australian Open is the last Grand Slam title that Roger Federer has won so far. You can see him wipe off tears of joy, even as he holds the Australian Open trophy in his other hand.

Switzerland's Roger Federer defended the title he had won in 2017 by defeating Croatia's Marin Cilic 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the final. This was the 20th Grand Slam singles title that Federer won.

Unscramble...

...to discover South American countries

1. HILEC _____
2. RUPE _____
3. ZILRAB _____
4. YAGUUUR _____
5. NITAGERAN _____

REUTERS

Answers: 1. Chile, 2. Peru, 3. Brazil, 4. Uruguay, 5. Argentina.

Word of the day

Petrified

As a verb, petrified has two meanings: 1. to convert into stone or a stony substance; harden or become rigid. 2. to become numb or paralysed with fear.

Origin

The word petrified has been derived from the Middle French word petrifier, dating back to 1585 and 1595. In J.K. Rowling's, "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" students who look at the basilisk in the eye go into a magical state of petrification. They become immobile and unresponsive, as if they had been turned into stone.

Use in a sentence

1. I stood petrified as the menacing looking dog came up to me.
2. She's petrified of being alone in the house at night.

Activity

Use the word of the day in a sentence

Journal Writing

Dear Diary

Was just wondering how it will be if two of my favourite fictional characters ..... and ..... met.

Use your imagination and write a note in 150 words. Mail it to **school@thehindu.co.in** with the subject line: Journal Writing. The best pieces will be published on Page 3 in the Inbox column from Monday to Friday.