

THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Zoo animals get Covid-19 vaccine

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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK
Junior



THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

SUPER SPELLER

Zaila Avant-garde takes the top prize in the Scripps National Spelling Bee p2

DID YOU KNOW?

- She's from Louisiana.
- Her winning word was "murraya."
- She holds three world records in basketball.





FIRST WINNER
Frank Neuhauser was the winner of the first Scripps National Spelling Bee in 1925.



Zaila Avant-garde with the president of Scripps

Winning words



Winning the bee comes down to spelling one last word. Zaila Avant-garde won with "murraya" (a citrus plant). In 2019, eight spellers tied for first place with words like "palama" (webbing on the feet of aquatic birds) and "pendeloque" (a gem cut in a pear shape). In 2018, the winning word was "koinonia" (spiritual fellowship).

Louisiana teen wins National Spelling Bee

Zaila Avant-garde, age 14, won the Scripps National Spelling Bee on July 8, becoming the first Black American and first person from Louisiana to finish first. Avant-garde was declared the bee's winner after successfully spelling the word "murraya." This year's event took place at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, and was broadcast live on ESPN2.

word's language of origin or how it is used in a sentence. If they spell it correctly, they remain in the competition. If not, they are eliminated.

How do spellers reach the bee?

More than 26,000 schools enroll in the Scripps program each year, and about 11 million students at those schools participate. Kids first compete within their classrooms, then in school-wide contests, then at a district- or county-wide level. Winners in those competitions move up to a regional or statewide competition. Finally, the top finishers at those levels head to the National Spelling Bee, which consists of preliminary, quarterfinal, semifinal, and finals segments.



Chaitra Thummala

What is the National Spelling Bee?

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is the most prestigious spelling competition in the US. It began in 1925 when nine newspapers co-hosted a spelling contest. This year, spellers who had not turned 15 years old or finished eighth grade by August 2020 were eligible to compete. At the event, spellers sat onstage and took turns at the microphone as the pronouncer, Jacques A. Bailly, gave each of them a word that no one else had spelled. Bailly is a college professor who won the bee in 1980, at age 14, and has been the pronouncer since 2003. When it is their turn, spellers must first pronounce the word correctly. Once they do that, they have two minutes to spell it out loud. During that time, they can ask Bailly for more information, such as the

Eleven finalists competed in Orlando out of a group of 209 National Spelling Bee contestants. In all, Avant-garde won 18 rounds of competition before taking home the top prize.

How was the bee different this year?

Last year's bee was canceled because of Covid-19. This year, the early rounds were held remotely, but the finals were in person. Organizers made changes to the finals to avoid a repeat of 2019, when eight students were named co-champions. The tie was declared after four

hours of competition, when officials ran out of challenging words. This year, contestants answered a multiple-choice vocabulary question in a "word meaning" stage, and a lightning-round spell-off was added in case of a tie, though it wasn't needed.

Who is Zaila Avant-garde?

Avant-garde, who recently finished eighth grade, is from Harvey, Louisiana. She has been competing in spelling bees for two years, which is not very long for a top spelling bee contestant. Avant-garde also holds three Guinness World Records for basketball skills: most balls dribbled at the same time (six for 30 seconds), most bounces (307 in 30 seconds), and most bounce juggles in one minute (255 using four balls).

What did she win?

Avant-garde won a \$50,000 prize, a commemorative medal, and the Scripps Cup trophy. She also received \$2,500 and a collection of reference books from Merriam-Webster, the dictionary publisher that co-sponsors the bee. Second-place finisher Chaitra Thummala, a 12-year-old from California, took home \$25,000. The third-place finisher, Bhavana Madini, a 13-year-old from New York, was awarded \$15,000.

Record sale for da Vinci drawing

A sketch by famous Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci sold for \$12.2 million at Christie's auction house in London, England. The sale on July 8 beat a 20-year-old record for the sale of a da Vinci drawing.

The sketch, *Head of a Bear*, measures 2.75 by 2.75 inches—about the size of a square sticky note—and dates back to the late 1400s. It was made using a method called silverpoint, which involved a drawing tool made from silver. Da Vinci was known for creating lifelike animals in his work. Experts believe this drawing is connected to the artist's *Portrait of Cecilia Gallerini*, which features a similar-looking animal.

One of the most famous artists in history, da Vinci created masterpieces like the *Mona Lisa*. He emerged during the Italian Renaissance, a time of great learning in Europe from the 1300s to 1600s. *Head of a Bear* was expected to be sold for between \$11 million and \$16.5 million. "Leonardo is the magic name," said Anthony Crichton-Stuart, an art dealer.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A HIGH-TECH CAT

A giant digital cat wows crowds as it stretches, meows, and naps on a 62-foot-long electronic billboard in Tokyo, Japan. The calico appears to be 3D and was created to bring cheer after Covid-19. See it at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-3DCat.



The Ever Given departs from the Suez Canal.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Suez Canal opened in 1869 after 10 years of construction.

Freed cargo ship leaves Suez Canal

On July 7, authorities in Egypt released the cargo ship that jammed up one of the world's most important trading channels. In March, the vessel, named the Ever Given, was wedged in Egypt's Suez Canal, blocking traffic. The canal is a waterway that connects Europe with Asia, giving ships a shortcut for moving goods around the world.

At 200 feet wide and 1,300 feet long, the Ever Given is one of the world's largest container ships. On March 23, it was chugging north from Asia to Europe, carrying about 20,000 containers of cargo (goods to be bought and sold). As it navigated a single-lane section of the Suez Canal, 70 mph winds created a sandstorm, reducing visibility. The ship ran aground (got stuck on land) at an angle across a 984-foot-wide section of the canal. More than 300 ships were backed up behind it.

A combination of human effort and nature freed the ship after six days. Workers removed rock and sand around the Ever Given (which was being operated by a company called Evergreen), then were able to free it during high tide, when it was more buoyant (able to float). The vessel was moved to another area of the canal, where it has been impounded (held by authorities) since March.

Officials inspected the Ever Given to make sure it could safely sail again. Meanwhile, Suez Canal authorities and the Japanese company that owns the ship negotiated over the costs of the incident. Ships pay a fee to pass through the channel, and the delay caused losses of about \$550 million. Once an agreement was reached, the ship set sail—and its crew, most of whom were from India, were finally able to return home.

PICNICS IN A FAMOUS PLACE

For the first time in her nearly 70-year reign, the UK's Queen Elizabeth the Second is letting the public picnic on the lawn of her official residence, Buckingham Palace, in London. People can pack a lunch and pay about \$23 to enter, tour the grounds, and sit on the grass—which has previously not been allowed.



At Buckingham Palace



The rowers

STRONG ARMS

Four men broke a world speed record by rowing from California to Hawaii in 30 days, seven hours, and 30 minutes. The team traveled 2,400 miles by working in two-man shifts, two hours at a time, for 24 hours a day. They are waiting for Guinness World Records to officially certify their trip.

ON THE COVER: SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE; COURTESY WARNER BROS. PICTURES; ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES (2); GREAT PACIFIC RACE; COURTESY YUNIKA; SHUTTERSTOCK (ON LEFT PAGE: SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE (2); SHUTTERSTOCK



A tiger at the Denver Zoo

WOW! California has the most zoos and aquariums of any state in the US, with 62.

The first zoo in America



In 1874, the first US zoo opened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. William Camac, a resident who had been impressed by Europe's first zoos, campaigned for it. In 1928, the zoo welcomed the first baby orangutan to be born in the US. Today, its network of trails lets animals better explore the zoo while visitors observe them.

Zoos give Covid-19 vaccine to animals

Zoos across the country are giving animals a Covid-19 vaccine developed for them. Oakland Zoo in California was the first to give the vaccine (medicine to prevent an illness) to big cats and bears. San Diego Zoo was the first to give it to great apes. Zoos in Cincinnati, Denver, and Wisconsin are also vaccinating animals.

What is happening?

The veterinary drug maker Zoetis has donated 11,000 doses of a vaccine it made to protect animals from the coronavirus. About 70 zoos, along with animal sanctuaries, conservation sites, and universities in 27 states, have received doses from Zoetis. The vaccine was created for animals, and it is different from the one humans get. "It's not taking away vaccines that would otherwise

be distributed to people," Scott Larsen, head veterinarian at the Denver Zoo, told CNN.

Why are animals being vaccinated?

At zoos around the world, animals such as gorillas and big cats have become sick with Covid-19. Some tigers at a reserve in India died from the virus. This vaccination program is meant to protect the most endangered and vulnerable species against the virus. The vaccine was first tested in mink (small mammals similar to ferrets), which have shown a tendency to get the virus and have also transmitted the disease to humans.

How are the vaccines being given?

The animals are trained to accept the vaccine in the same way they've been taught to take other

medicine, like a flu shot. Zookeepers give the animals rewards for actions, such as leaning up against a fence so a shot can be administered. This allows animals "to voluntarily participate in their own health care," said David Orban, the Cincinnati Zoo's director of animal sciences. The vaccine is given in two doses, administered three weeks apart. Afterward, zookeepers monitor the animals for any symptoms. So far, animals that have received the vaccine are doing well.

Should pets be vaccinated?

The US Department of Agriculture, the US agency that approves medicine for animals, has not evaluated vaccines for dogs or cats. Neither the US or Canada supports giving Covid-19 vaccines to pets.

WORD OF THE WEEK

SPELL

In Old English, the word *spel* meant a "story" or a "speech." By the 16th century, it came to mean summoning magic powers, which is why we talk today of "casting a spell." Meanwhile, it also changed from "telling" to reading out the letters in a word by "spelling" them out.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

July 22, 1893

"America the Beautiful" is written On July 22, 1893, Katharine Lee Bates, a professor and poet, wrote the lyrics to the song "America the Beautiful." She wrote the words after visiting Pikes Peak, one of the highest mountain summits in Colorado. The lyrics, including the opening lines, "O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain," were published as a poem before being set to music. It remains a top patriotic song today.

Katharine Lee Bates



ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4); SHUTTERSTOCK (2); US NAVY; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); ALAMY (2)



Standing Bear's tomahawk

Historical artifact to be returned

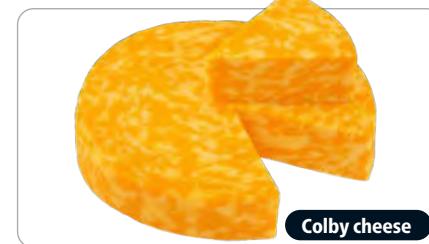
Harvard University announced it will return a tomahawk to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. The tomahawk (a type of ax used by Native Americans) once belonged to Standing Bear, a Ponca Chief who was a Native American civil rights leader (1829–1908). "That's a piece of our history that represents who we are and why we're here in Nebraska," said Larry Wright, Jr., chairman of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, about the artifact's return.



Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter

Carters celebrate anniversary

Former President Jimmy Carter, age 96, and his wife, Rosalynn Carter, age 93, celebrated 75 years of marriage on July 7. They are the longest married Presidential couple in US history. Jimmy Carter, who was the 39th President and served from 1977 to 1981, is also the US President to have lived the longest. A reception to celebrate the milestone was held in Plains, Georgia, where they live.



Colby cheese

Wisconsin state cheese proposed

A bill to name Colby cheese the official cheese of Wisconsin has been introduced by state lawmakers. This variety of cheese was created in 1885 in Colby, Wisconsin. The bill has been introduced before and hasn't passed, due to concerns that it would harm the sales of other cheeses the state produces. At 3.4 billion pounds a year, Wisconsin produces the most cheese of any state.



An illustration of an alien spacecraft

DID YOU KNOW? Americans report more UFO sightings than people from any other country.

Mysteries remain in UFO report

The US government has released a report about sightings of UFOs (unidentified flying objects). It found no evidence that the UFOs were extraterrestrial (objects not from planet Earth). However, the report did not rule out this possibility. It said that more information was needed.

The Department of Defense, the US agency that oversees the military, studied 144 UFO sightings that have occurred since 2004. A group of lawmakers, led by Senator Marco Rubio, a Republican from Florida, had asked the agency to conduct the study. Most of the sightings of UAPs (unidentified aerial phenomena, another term for UFOs) were made by military pilots or detected by radar or cameras.

Out of the 144 sightings, only one UAP could be identified—it was found to be a balloon. In 18 of the incidents, the UAPs moved in unusual ways, such as staying still in high winds or moving very fast without a source

of power. In a video taken by Navy pilots, objects similar to drones appear to fly against the wind. One appears to spin.

The Department of Defense report gave five possible reasons for the UAPs. The sightings could be due to another country's new technology or top-secret US technology. Natural phenomena, such as ice crystals, could register on radar systems as unidentified objects. The sightings could turn out to be

airborne objects like birds. A fifth reason was categorized as "other," which could include extraterrestrial life. Americans have reported thousands of UFO sightings through the years. Many of these were later identified as man-made objects or revealed to be fake.

Still, this report renewed some people's belief that alien spacecrafts might have been seen from Earth. Although there was no sign of this, one US government official said, "We will go wherever the data takes us."



A UAP sighting captured by the US Navy

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Octopus paints work of art at aquarium in Florida" *UPI.com*





Around the world



The new exhibit

Mexico City, Mexico Frida Kahlo's art brought to life

A new exhibition celebrating the life and work of artist Frida Kahlo (1907–1954) has opened in Mexico's capital, Mexico City. Kahlo was known for her striking self-portraits. The show features 26 of Kahlo's works that are displayed in new ways, such as projected on walls to make them look as if they are moving. The exhibition was timed to coincide with the 114th anniversary of Kahlo's birth.



Cuba Thousands protest against government

On July 11, thousands of protesters demonstrated against Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel. They said the government is not doing enough to stop coronavirus infections or to help the economy (the way a country organizes its businesses and resources). Dozens of anti-government demonstrators were arrested, while the president called for his supporters to take to the streets and "fight" the protesters.



Chile's president speaks to assembly members.

Chile New constitution is a historic first

Chile has begun working on the world's first constitution (a set of rules that guides how a country works) drafted by an equal number of men and women. An assembly of 155 members, elected in May, will rewrite the nation's constitution by early 2022. The current one dates back 40 years, to when the country was ruled by dictator Augusto Pinochet.

Limousin, France True tale of a loud rooster

The true story of Maurice, a rooster whose owner was taken to court because the bird was being too noisy, has been turned into an opera. Called *Le Coq Maurice*, the opera is a fun tale about life in the French countryside and tells how Maurice went to court to defend his right to crow. The first performance occurred on July 11 at a farm in Limousin, the region where Maurice lived.



Maurice with owner Corinne Fesseau



The sandcastle

Blokhus, Denmark Giant sandcastle breaks record

Denmark officially has the world's tallest sandcastle. At over 69 feet high, it beat the previous record holder by more than 10 feet, according to Guinness World Records. Wilfred Stijger built the castle from over 5,300 tons of sand with the help of 30 sand sculptors. On top is a model of the coronavirus in the form of a crown, to symbolize the virus's effect on everyday life.



Farmers pick cornflowers.

Albania Demand rises for medicinal plants

Albania has seen huge demand from overseas for its medicinal (healing) plants—particularly cornflower—during the pandemic. Cornflower, a plant believed by some to help people resist infection, is dried and used to make medicines, although it is not proven to prevent Covid-19. Albania is one of Europe's top producers of medicinal herbs. In 2020, the country exported more than 15,000 tons of plants worth \$59 million.



The Muttsee Dam wall

Glarus, Switzerland Mountain sunshine to generate power

Nearly 5,000 solar panels are being fitted to the Muttsee Dam in Switzerland. Solar panels use sunlight to generate electricity. The dam already generates hydroelectric power—electricity created by the movement of water. The dam is about 1.5 miles above sea level and is the highest hydroelectric dam in Europe. The project, called AlpinSolar, is expected to cost more than \$8 million and will be the largest solar installation in the Swiss Alps.



The new moss and one of its discoverers

Adelaide, Australia Aboriginal flag turns 50

The Aboriginal flag has been flying for 50 years, since 1971. The flag is a sign of celebration and activism for the rights of Indigenous people (people who were the first to inhabit a place) in Australia. Aboriginal people have lived in Australia for more than 50,000 years. The flag's top half represents their people, and the bottom half references red earth, which they believe connects them to the land. The yellow circle is the Sun.



The Aboriginal flag

Peru Protesters want a president

On July 6, thousands of people in Peru protested the uncertain results of the country's presidential election over a month ago. The election took place on June 6, but the results were very close and a president has not been confirmed. Pedro Castillo won 50.1% of the votes, and Keiko Fujimori had 49.9%. The National Elections Jury, which is in charge of declaring a winner, said it is currently checking all the votes again to make sure they were accurate and fair.



Supporters of the leading candidate





Are there too many streaming services?

Some Americans are frustrated by having hundreds of choices for watching TV.

What you need to know

- Streaming services began as a way for people to watch their favorite shows without paying the higher price of cable. There are currently more than 300 TV streaming services available in the US.
- The average US household now has three to four streaming services, according to a 2020 survey.
- Nearly half of streaming customers in the US report they're frustrated with juggling several subscriptions to get the shows they want.



DID YOU KNOW?
Netflix began offering the option to stream movies and TV shows through the internet in 2007.

Deciding what to watch on TV used to be simple. For many years, there were three major TV networks, and people watched what was on them. Then cable television and, later, satellite became popular, with many more channels and choices of what to watch. In the 2000s, streaming arrived. In the beginning there were only a few streaming services, like Netflix and Hulu. But new ones came along, from Disney+ to Apple TV+ to Prime, and more keep coming. Now some people feel there are too many services to keep track of and pay for. Others like having all the choices. What do you think? Are there too many streaming services?

Yes—so many choices are annoying

You see a commercial for an amazing new show. You can't wait to watch it. Then you find out it's on a streaming service your family doesn't subscribe to. This is common—with hundreds of streaming services, there's no way to have them all. Even having a few can be too expensive. Your friends will watch shows you can't access, just like you'll see shows they won't, so you can't discuss them. Plus, the services keep changing what they offer. Series you like move to other streaming services—possibly ones you don't have. It's hard to keep track of where the programs are. With so many options now, watching TV is annoying and complicated.

No—more options are good

Who wouldn't want more choices to watch TV? Streaming services offer so many options that you're bound to find something you like. Because the different companies are fiercely competing for customers, streaming services keep creating more original shows and striving for higher quality. That benefits the viewers, who are getting better entertainment. Individual streaming services are less expensive and easier to cancel compared to cable, which requires a long-term commitment, usually about a year. That makes streaming services easy to try, cancel, or switch. More choices are more fun.

YES Three reasons why there are too many streaming services

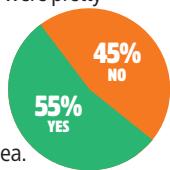
- 1 It's frustrating to be excited to watch something and find out it's on a streaming service you don't have.
- 2 There are so many streaming services, it's hard to even keep track of where to find your favorite shows.
- 3 The cost of several different streaming services is expensive.

NO Three reasons why there are not too many streaming services

- 1 Choice is a good thing! Streaming offers so many options that there is bound to be a show for everyone to enjoy.
- 2 TV shows keep getting better because streaming services have to compete with one another to attract customers.
- 3 Streaming services are easy to try and cancel, without a long-term commitment.

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

In our last debate, we asked if kids should have jobs in the summer. You were pretty evenly split. Slightly more of you said summer jobs are a good idea.



The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, have a parent or guardian visit theweekjunior.com/polls with you so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think there are too many streaming services or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.



Hosting the Olympics

Mike Tirico is taking on one of the biggest jobs in sports broadcasting.

Longtime sports anchor Mike Tirico grew up watching sports on TV. "My mom will tell you, as a little kid I'd run around with a spoon and pretend to be an announcer instead of...a ball player or an athlete," he once said. Now Tirico will be living a sportscaster's dream: hosting the Summer Olympics, which kicks off in Tokyo, Japan, on July 23. He is set to host 17 nights of competition—soccer, gymnastics, swimming, track, and more—on NBC.

Tirico, 54, is no rookie when it comes to sports broadcasting. He hosted the 2018 Winter Olympics and was a part of NBC's daytime coverage for the 2016 Summer Games. He has covered everything from major golf championships to the World Cup to Monday Night Football.

As a child in Queens, New York, Tirico played Little League baseball and went to the occasional Mets game at Shea Stadium with his grandfather, who worked there. Tirico enjoyed reading about sports and watching them on TV. He idolized sportscaster Bob Costas, the previous Olympics host.

Like Costas, Tirico studied broadcasting at Syracuse University in New York. He spent a few years working in sports broadcasting in his college town before he began working as a SportsCenter anchor at ESPN in 1991. In 2016, he joined NBC Sports.

Tirico has said he is excited to host the Summer Olympics and to share athletes' stories. "I'm still living my childhood dream of being a TV sportscaster and still love the job every second of the day," he said.



Mike Tirico

PASSING THE TORCH
For 24 years, Bob Costas was the prime-time host of 11 Olympic Games for NBC.

Actor receives a star

Patti LuPone will soon receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, an honor given to entertainment icons. LuPone, 72, is a Broadway legend known for her powerful singing voice and strong presence onstage. The actress played Eva Peron in the 1979 musical *Evita*, as well as lead roles in hit shows like *Anything Goes* and *Gypsy*. She has also starred in movies and TV, though this honor will mainly celebrate her work as a theater performer. Later this year, LuPone will star in the Broadway musical *Company*.



Patti LuPone



Jeff Reaves

Principal pens letters

This June, as the 459 graduating seniors of Matanzas High School in Palm Coast, Florida, walked across the stage to receive their diplomas, they each received something special—a personal, handwritten note from their principal, Jeff Reaves. Each note congratulated them individually on their achievements, whether in academics, community service, sports, or the arts, and acknowledged the challenges they overcame during the pandemic. Reaves told NPR he advised graduates to "be positive and stay the course and stay focused on your goals and dreams."

OVERHEARD



"Remember to say 'I love you' to yourself every day."

Ashley Graham, 33-year-old American model and TV personality, on embracing self-confidence. Graham is a leader in promoting positive feelings about your body and has been featured on the cover of *Vogue* and other magazines.



DID YOU KNOW?
Gray whales can weigh as much as 90,000 pounds.



A gray whale

Orca friendships

A new study found that orcas, also called killer whales, have complicated social relationships including "friendships." Using drones to observe a pod (group) in the Pacific Ocean, scientists found that orcas may socialize with one another based on age and sex, and that younger whales and females were the most sociable.



A pair of orcas

Whale's record-breaking swim

A gray whale has swum halfway around the world, setting a new record for the longest known distance traveled by a marine vertebrate (animal with a backbone). The 40-foot whale swam from the North Pacific to the South Atlantic before being spotted off the coast of Namibia in southwest Africa. This was about 16,700 miles from the nearest known population of gray whales.

The whale was spotted in Walvis Bay, near Namibia's second largest city, over the course of two months in 2013, but its species has only just been confirmed in a new report. Scientists got close

enough to the whale during its Namibian visit to take harmless samples of skin and blood.

Researchers from Durham University in England and Stellenbosch University in South Africa compared the DNA (chemical that carries all the information about a living thing's body and characteristics) in these samples with the DNA of whales from other parts of the world. While DNA is a complex chemical, it is most similar between organisms and species that are closely related.

Tests have confirmed that the Namibian stray was a western gray whale, a species that usually

lives in the North Pacific and is endangered because of overfishing. There are thought to be fewer than 200 gray whales in the wild, and rare straying events like this can help scientists to understand their behavior, which in turn could help protect the species.

This is believed to be the first gray whale recorded in Earth's southern hemisphere. Scientists aren't sure if the whale simply got lost or whether melting sea ice in the Arctic is opening routes for them to swim and explore new areas. Talking to *National Geographic*, Simon Elwen, from Stellenbosch University, recalled his surprise at first hearing about the sighting. "It's like someone saying they saw a polar bear in Paris—technically it could get there, but it just doesn't seem very realistic," he said.



Walvis Bay in Namibia

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Michigan

Colorful sandstone cliffs, sand dunes, and beaches line the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore along Lake Superior in Michigan. The name "Pictured Rocks" comes from the mineral stain on the face of the cliffs, which rise as high as 200 feet above the water. Different colors, like red, orange, blue, and green, appear when groundwater seeps through cracks in the rock, mixes with minerals, and trickles down the cliffs. Beyond the 15-mile shoreline are hiking trails leading to forests, lakes, and waterfalls. Visitors may see white admiral butterflies flying through the area.



A white admiral butterfly



WOW!
There are about 10,000 species of spiders living in Australia.



The enormous webs covered trees and roads.

Spiders spin giant webs in Australia

Spider webs big enough to cover trees recently appeared in Australia. One web was large enough to cover more than a half mile, and countless spiders were seen crawling across them. Spiders in the nation's region of Gippsland spun the webs when they were forced to find higher, drier ground after severe flooding in the area. They were expected to break apart in about a week.

The webs were made by numerous spiders that made silk to attach to the tops of vegetation and then climbed up, according to Dr. Ken Walker, an Australian insect

researcher with the Melbourne Museum. He believes that each individual thread was created by a different spider and that millions of spiders most likely did the work. This same silk is used in a process called "ballooning," when spiders make threads that catch the wind. The wind then picks up the spiders and carries them away.

"What it shows you is the enormous amount, literally millions, of spiders that are there on the ground all the time," he said. People just don't see them because they're under plants or bark or on top of leaves.

Animal of the week

Eastern spadefoot toad



The rare Eastern spadefoot toad may not be so rare after all. For 70 years, there were only 50 reported sightings of the animal, which is actually a frog. Last summer, researchers in Virginia found 42 using a spotlight to find reflections of its eyes.

- **LIFE SPAN** 5 to 12 years
- **SIZE** 1.75 to 3 inches
- **HABITAT** Dry environments in the eastern US
- **DIET** Includes ants, beetles, flies, and spiders
- **FUN FACT** It's named for the spade-like projections on its hind legs, which it uses to dig burrows.



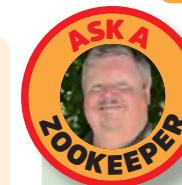
Good week / Bad week



A rare bird sighting
An Egyptian vulture was seen in the UK for what is believed to be the first time in 150 years. The "once in a century" sighting happened in the Isles of Scilly, in Cornwall, England. It is thought that the bird could have flown over from France.



A giant salamander
The Neuse River waterdog, a salamander native to North Carolina streams, has been declared a threatened species. It is estimated that the giant salamander, which spends its entire life underwater, has lost more than a third of its habitat.



What makes sloths move so slowly? Ananya, 9, Texas

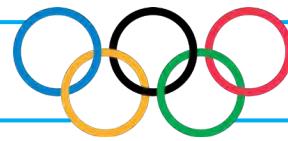
Andy Snider
Curator of reptiles, Chicago Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo

Sloths have low-calorie diets and an extremely slow metabolism (how the body changes food into energy), which requires them to use less energy. Also, moving slowly doesn't attract attention from predators. The three-toed sloth is the slowest mammal in the world.



Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the Chicago Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo at czs.org.

ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); ALAMY; CAROLYN CROSSLEY; ON LEFT PAGE: ALAMY (2); GETTY IMAGES (2); SHUTTERSTOCK



What's new at the Tokyo Games

Get the details on five exciting sports—and the US Olympians who are going for the gold.

After a one-year delay due to the coronavirus, the 2020 Summer Olympics are set to start in Tokyo, Japan, on July 23. For the first time, the International Olympic Committee (IOC, the group that oversees the Games) is allowing the country that hosts the Olympics to add new sports to the competition. This year's Olympics will include five sports that were not a part of the last Summer Games (in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2016). Discover what's new and which Team USA athletes to watch in 2021.



Skateboarding

Skateboard competitions began in the 1960s, and today skaters compete at huge events like the X Games. Now, for the first time, they can ride their boards in the Olympics. In Tokyo, skaters can choose from two different types of events (called disciplines). Park skateboarding takes place on a smooth course shaped like a bowl, where competitors ride up the steep sides and perform aerial tricks like flips and grabs. Street skateboarding takes place on a course that looks similar to a real street, with curbs, slopes, stairs, and rails.

METRIC MEASURES
Olympic events are measured in meters. One meter equals about 3.28 feet.

Each skater will do tricks, which will be scored by difficulty and originality (how creative they are). For each discipline, 20 skaters will compete in the preliminary rounds, and the top eight will move on to the finals.

ATHLETE TO WATCH

- Nyjah Huston**
Age 26
From Davis, California
- At age 11, became the youngest skater to compete in the X Games
 - Has won three World Championship gold medals
 - Holds the most Street gold medals (10) and most total Street medals (16) in X Games history
 - Runs a charity called Let It Flow that provides clean water to communities that need it



Karate

This martial art makes its Olympic debut in the country where it first became a sport. Eighty athletes will be split between two disciplines: kata (forms) and kumite (combat). In kata, competitors perform a flowing set of movements—as if they were facing an imaginary opponent—and are judged on their speed, strength, balance, and more. Kata athletes get to choose which of 102 movements they will perform. Kumite pits two fighters against each other for three minutes. Each must attack a precise target area on the other's body, delivering kicks and punches with good form, power, and control. Whoever scores the most points for the number and quality of their attacks wins.



DID YOU KNOW?
Almost 100 events have been added to the Olympics since 1980.

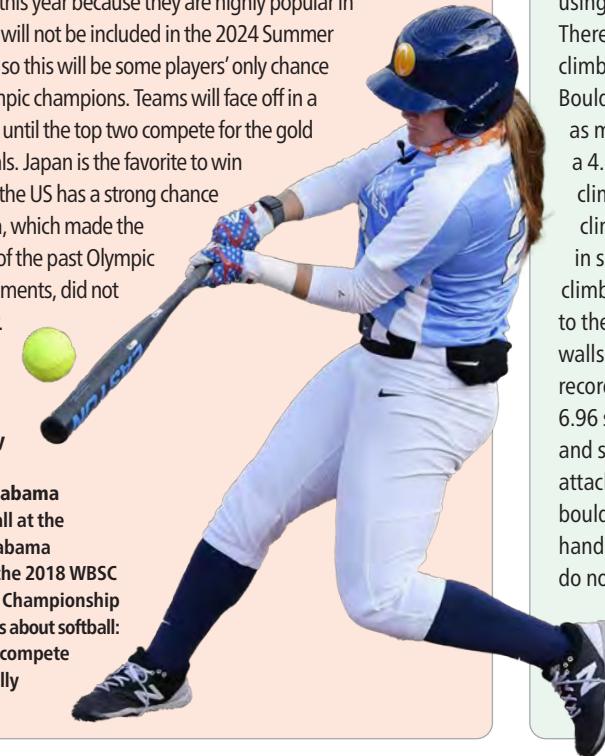
ATHLETE TO WATCH

- Sakura Kokumai**
Age 28
From Los Angeles, California
- Competes in the kata discipline
 - Started learning karate at age 7
 - Seven-time USA National Champion
 - Advice to younger athletes: "Never, never, NEVER give up...hard work always pays off."



Baseball and Softball

Baseball began in the 19th century in the US, and softball soon followed. Today, these sports are played around the world. Baseball (for men) and softball (for women) have appeared in some Olympic Games in the past, but they were cut after 2008. The sports are back this year because they are highly popular in Japan. But they will not be included in the 2024 Summer Games in Paris, so this will be some players' only chance to become Olympic champions. Teams will face off in a series of games until the top two compete for the gold and silver medals. Japan is the favorite to win baseball, while the US has a strong chance in softball. Cuba, which made the finals in all five of the past Olympic baseball tournaments, did not qualify this year.



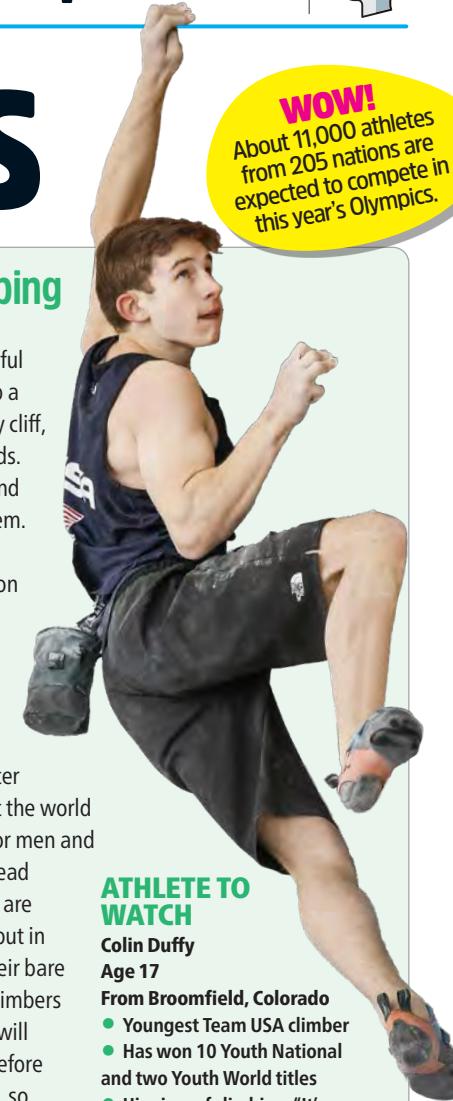
ATHLETE TO WATCH

- Haylie McCleney**
Age 27
From Morris, Alabama
- Played softball at the University of Alabama
 - Won gold at the 2018 WBSC Women's World Championship
 - What she loves about softball: "It forces you to compete not only physically but mentally."



Sport climbing

It takes strength, flexibility, and careful planning for athletes to climb a steep wall resembling a rocky cliff, using only foot and hand holds. There are three disciplines, and climbers compete in all of them. Bouldering involves climbing as many routes as possible on a 4.5-meter wall. In lead climbing, competitors climb as high as possible in six minutes. In speed climbing, two climbers race to the top of identical 15-meter walls. Some might try to beat the world record time—5.63 seconds for men and 6.96 seconds for women. In lead and speed climbing, athletes are attached to ropes for safety, but in bouldering they have only their bare hands and climbing shoes. Climbers do not know what each wall will look like until just before they start climbing, so they have to think fast to plan their routes.



WOW!
About 11,000 athletes from 205 nations are expected to compete in this year's Olympics.

ATHLETE TO WATCH

- Colin Duffy**
Age 17
From Broomfield, Colorado
- Youngest Team USA climber
 - Has won 10 Youth National and two Youth World titles
 - His view of climbing: "It's part solving a puzzle in your mind and part physical."



Surfing

A pastime in Hawaii for centuries, this ocean sport has finally made it to the big Games. Surfers will ride waves at Tsurigasaki Beach, on Japan's coast. They will use "short" surfboards, which are actually about as tall as the athletes and designed for quick moves and powerful waves. In each round, surfers will compete to ride as many waves as they can in 30 minutes. They will need to figure out the speed of the wind and water and the shape of a wave in order to "catch" it. For each wave they catch, they will be scored on difficulty, speed, power, and the variety and flow of their moves. Athletes might take some big risks, since only the two best waves in a round will count toward their final score.



ATHLETE TO WATCH

- Carissa Moore**
Age 28
From Honolulu, Hawaii
- Began surfing at age 5 when her dad taught her at Waikiki Beach in Hawaii
 - Four-time surfing World Champion
 - At age 18, became the youngest person to win a surfing world title
 - Co-founded a charity called Moore Aloha that brings girls together through surfing

How a sport becomes an Olympic competition

Many new sports have been added to the Olympics over the years. Here's a look at how that happens.

IOC recognition

The first step is recognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). To qualify, a sport must be overseen by an international organization. Once the sport is recognized, that organization becomes an official International Sports Federation and has to follow certain Olympic rules.

Getting admitted

After a sport is recognized, it must apply to the IOC for inclusion in the Games. (Some sports, like bowling, are recognized by the IOC but are not played at the Olympics.) To be added to the Olympics, a sport must be practiced by men in at least 75 countries and by women in at least 40 countries. Sports that use only the mind, like chess, or depend on a machine, like car racing, are not allowed in the Olympic Games.

Host country selection

In 2014, the IOC added a new way for sports to join the Games. Each Olympic host country can introduce a few sports that are popular in their nation. In addition to the five sports in this story, Japan considered adding 20 others, including sumo and tug of war. France, the Summer Games host in 2024, will also include surfing, skateboarding, sport climbing, and—for the first time—breakdancing.



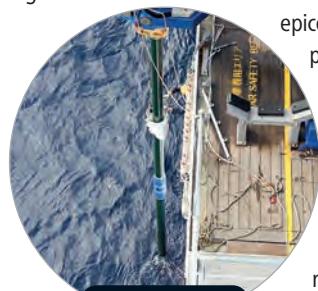
WOW!
The deepest point ever reached by a human is 35,858 feet below the surface of the ocean.

The Kaimei research vessel at sea

Japan sets deep-sea drilling record

A team of researchers working off the coast of Japan has set a new record for drilling the deepest hole in the sea bed. The team is made up of 35 scientists from Austria, Australia, China, Finland, France, Germany, India, Japan, Korea, Sweden, UK, and the US. Their goal was to gather information about the area's long history of earthquakes.

A research vessel named Kaimei set out into the Pacific Ocean in mid-April from the city of Yokosuka. The Kaimei stopped at a spot where the water is more than 26,000 feet deep, in an area called the Japan Trench. The team aboard the Kaimei lowered a 131-foot drill, called a giant piston corer, into the ocean on a long cable. The corer is a hollow tube. It descended for two hours and 40 minutes before being driven into the soft sediment of the sea bed by a heavy weight. (Sediment is material like stone or sand that settles at the bottom of a liquid.) The corer collected a 121-foot "core" of material for the scientists to analyze. The mission broke a record set in 1978, when the



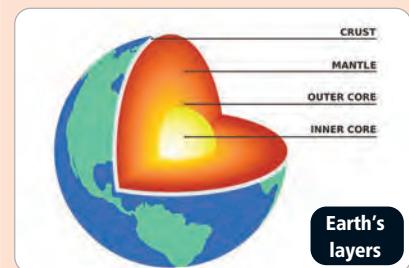
The piston corer in the water

drilling vessel Glomar Challenger dug into the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench at a depth just under 23,000 feet (4.3 miles).

Japan is located in a region called the Pacific Ring of Fire, where the majority of the world's earthquakes and volcanoes are. The new drilling site was chosen because it has been the epicenter (starting point) of several powerful earthquakes. In the Japan Trench, one of the rocky plates that make up Earth's surface is being forced under another, which is what causes an earthquake. A quake that began near there in 2011 was the strongest in Japan's recorded history. It triggered a tsunami (huge wave) that caused major destruction along the Japanese coast.

When earthquakes happen, they change the sediment on the ocean floor. Researchers hope those changes will be visible in the new samples, which could reveal traces of earthquakes going back thousands of years. A more detailed long-term record can give the scientists a better understanding of the giant earthquakes, including how often they've happened and how they affect the nearby area.

The world's deepest hole



Earth's layers

The world's deepest human-made hole lies in the Arctic Circle in northern Russia, near the border with Norway. The abandoned Kola Superdeep Borehole is only about nine inches wide but runs seven and a half miles down into the outermost layer of Earth, called the crust. The former Soviet Union (now Russia) began drilling in 1970 to dig out rock samples that revealed information about Earth's interior. The project was stopped in 1992, however, when the drill reached a spot where the temperature was 356°F, and the hole was welded shut. The Kola Superdeep Borehole reached about a third of the way through the crust. Experts hope to one day drill to the next layer, which is called the mantle.

JAMSTEC; ECORD/ODP/JAMSTEC; GETTY IMAGES



Squid travel into space

The US space agency NASA sent more than 100 baby squid and 5,000 tiny animals called tardigrades (also known as water bears) on a trip to the International Space Station (ISS). They were launched into space aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket and arrived at the ISS two days later. The animals are part of a range of studies exploring how the extreme conditions of space flight affect living things.

In one experiment, scientists will examine the relationship between humans and a variety of tiny organisms (living things) called microbes. Humans and all other animals have vast numbers of microbes living inside and on their bodies in symbiotic relationships (good for both the animal and the microbes). "Animals, including humans, rely on our microbes to

maintain a healthy digestive and immune system," said Jamie Foster, one of the researchers.

Knowing how microbes react to the weightless conditions of space could help scientists understand how the relationship between microbes and humans will work in zero gravity. The researchers chose baby bobtail squid for the experiment because the squid's immune system is similar to that of humans.

Tardigrades are known for their ability to survive in extreme conditions on Earth, like freezing cold or long periods without water. In another experiment on the ISS, researchers will study the creatures' survival skills in space, then adapt them to improve astronauts' safety on future missions.



DID YOU KNOW?
Tardigrades are the first known creatures to survive after direct exposure to outer space.

Tardigrades (left) have arrived on the ISS (above).



A bunion made this left big toe curve inward.



SHUTTERSTOCK; JAMIE S. FOSTER/UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA; ENMA DITTMAR; ALAMY; STACKOCCOMMERCE

The painful price of medieval fashion

In England in the 1300s, long, pointy shoes were the height of fashion. New research shows that those trendy shoes were unhealthy for people's feet.

Scientists at the University of Cambridge in the UK linked the medieval footwear to an increase in bunions—painful bony lumps that form on the side of the foot or at the bottom of the big toe. Tight, narrow shoes can make bunions worse,

doctors say. To test that theory, a team led by Piers Mitchell studied the remains of 177 adults who lived in the 14th century.

The team found that 31 of these skeletons had signs of bunions on their feet and that bunions were common when the tapered shoes were most popular. "People really did wear ridiculously long, pointy shoes," said Mitchell. Some were nearly 18 inches long.



A powerful electric skateboard



The Black Rover

With its off-road tires and two powerful motors, the Black Rover is an electric skateboard that lets riders zoom along winding roads, city sidewalks, and other terrain. The board can reach speeds up to nearly 25 miles per hour and climb hills. It can

travel up to 17 miles on a single charge, and the battery recharges in three hours.

Though it's lightweight, the Black Rover supports up to 330 pounds. For safety, a flashing light makes riders more visible and helps them see the road in the dark.



Photos of the week



Eye spy
A kestrel, a bird of prey in the falcon family, perches in the UK.



Ring of roses
A woman wears one of her hat creations at a horse racing event in the UK.



All together
Dancers perform at a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of China.



Buzzing about
In Denmark, a bee hovers near a lupine flower.



Get closer
This photo of an emperor shrimp was taken 30 feet underwater in Indonesia.



Fresh fruit
A farmer in Bangladesh holds a basket of mangoes.

SHUTTERSTOCK (2); REUTERS; GETTY IMAGES (3)



DID YOU KNOW?

Wimbledon has a dress code that requires players to wear clothing that is nearly all-white.



Ashleigh Barty

The grass courts



Wimbledon is unique because it's played on grass courts. More than 19,000 pounds of perennial ryegrass seeds are used each year to cover 38 courts. During the tournament, the grass is kept 8 millimeters long. It's watered minimally so the soil remains hard and dry.

Barty and Djokovic win Wimbledon

Ashleigh Barty won the women's final and Novak Djokovic won the men's final at Wimbledon in London, England. Wimbledon, which is held at the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, is one of four of the most important tennis tournaments of the year, known as Grand Slams. The first Wimbledon took place in 1877, making it the oldest tennis tournament in the world.

In the women's singles final on July 10, Barty, the number one seed (rank), played Karolina Pliskova, the number eight seed. Barty, who is from Australia, had dominated her competition at Wimbledon and did not lose a single set coming into the finals. She won the first

14 points of her match against Pliskova, who is from the Czech Republic, as well as the first four games. Barty took the first set 6-3, but Pliskova fought back in the second set, winning it



Novak Djokovic

7-6 in a tiebreaker. Barty took the third and final set with a 6-3 win. This was her first Wimbledon victory. She is the first Australian female champion since 1980.

On July 11, the men's final was played between top-seeded Novak Djokovic, who is from Serbia, and seventh-seeded Matteo Berrettini from Italy. In the first set, Djokovic held a 5-2 lead before Berrettini stormed back to force a tie-breaking game. Berrettini was victorious in the tiebreaker, winning the set 7-6. In the

second set, Djokovic again jumped out to a commanding lead, this time 5-1. Berrettini cut Djokovic's lead to 5-4. But Djokovic kept his composure and took the set, 6-4.

From there, Djokovic coasted through the remainder of the match, winning the next two sets, 6-4 and 6-3, to become a Wimbledon champion for the sixth time. With the victory, he is now tied with Swiss player Roger Federer and Spanish player Rafael Nadal for the most major titles in tennis history. They each have 20.

Djokovic, who won both the Australian Open and French Open this year, is one tournament closer to winning the Calendar Grand Slam (winning all four Grand Slam tournaments in a year). Only two men, Don Budge and Rod Laver, have accomplished that feat before.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Portland Thorns midfielder Olivia Moultrie, 15, has become the youngest person to play in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL). She played for eight minutes against Racing Louisville FC on July 3. On July 11, Moultrie appeared in her first home game and was met with cheers as she took the field. She signed with the Thorns after winning a lawsuit challenging the NWSL's minimum age of 18.



Olivia Moultrie (left) with NY Gotham's Estelle Johnson on July 11

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

On July 7, the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Montreal Canadiens, 1-0, to win their second straight Stanley Cup. Goalkeeper Andrei Vasilevskiy made 22 saves. He was named the postseason Most Valuable Player.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Pete Alonso of the New York Mets hit 74 home runs to win Major League Baseball's Home Run Derby on July 12. This is his second straight win. His hits flew over 460 feet on average.



TOP TEAMS

Germany and Spain have each won three Euro titles, the most of any country.

The Italian National Team

Italy takes Euro Championship

On July 11, the final match of the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) European Football Championship, known as the Euros, was played at Wembley Stadium in London, England. The month-long soccer tournament featured 24 of Europe's best teams.

National teams from Italy and England met in the final. Italy won, 3-2, in a penalty kick shootout. The loss was a blow for England, which had hoped to win their first major in 55 years.

The English team had a dream start, with defender Luke Shaw scoring in the first two minutes of play. Italy created a few scoring chances during the rest of the first half, but England held their 1-0 lead going into halftime.

In the second half, the Italian team took charge. With just under 25 minutes left in

regulation, Italy won a corner kick and played a ball into the penalty box. The ball got knocked around until Italian defender Leonardo Bonucci tapped it into the back of the net to tie the score. The game remained tied through regulation play and two overtimes, setting up a penalty shootout to determine the winner.

Both teams scored on their first kicks. After England's goalkeeper Jordan Pickford made a big save on Italy's second kick, and England defender Harry Maguire scored to take a 2-1 lead in the shootout, it seemed England had a chance to win. But Italy tied it, then went up 3-2. They had an opportunity to win, but Pickford made another outstanding save. England had a chance to tie it up, but a save by Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma finally brought Italy the victory.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Goldie Goldberg**

League: **Goldie's Youth Sports (Basketball)**

"Goldie started a basketball league just for girls in Los Angeles. She always tells her players that girls belong on the court and on the playground. We can play any sport we want to play. She's very helpful and fair. She teaches me everything I need to know about basketball. Every practice and game is so much fun. Sometimes we get lollipops, too." Lucy, 11, California



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Disc golf

What is it?

Disc golf is a non-contact sport played on a course using a flexible plastic disc. Ed Headrick, who designed a modern version of the Frisbee in the 1960s, is credited with creating disc sports. There are now more than 7,500 courses in the US, and the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) hosts competitive events throughout the year.

How is it played?

A disc golf course has nine or 18 "holes," which are chain-link baskets on metal poles. A regulation hole is a minimum of 100 feet long. A player begins at a tee (starting point), and the goal is to get a disc into the hole in as few throws as possible. After a disc lands, the next shot is attempted from that spot. Each throw is counted in the score for the course. If a disc lands out of bounds, in water, or in a tree or bush six or more feet high, a player gets a penalty stroke added to their score.



What equipment do I need?

Disc golf can be played with one disc, but serious players use discs of different sizes and weights depending on how far and fast they need to throw. They carry them in bags designed for the sport. It's important to wear comfortable shoes when playing disc golf because it involves a lot of walking.

How to get involved?

You can create a course with selected targets in your backyard or at a park. With a parent or guardian's permission, you can search online for official courses at pdga.com/course-directory.



WOW!
The original *Space Jam* has made more money than any other basketball film in history.



Looney Tunes characters in *Space Jam: A New Legacy*

A new *Space Jam* movie

Basketball star LeBron James teams up with Looney Tunes characters in this reimagining of a classic film.

Space Jam: A New Legacy, a new film starring National Basketball Association (NBA) player LeBron James (of the Los Angeles Lakers) and Looney Tunes cartoon characters, is now in theaters and on HBO Max. It's a reimagining of *Space Jam*, a hit from 1996 that starred Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls.

Like the original, the film centers around a basketball game the pro has to play with a team that includes Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck. But the new story is



Cedric Joe

also about family. James plays a fictional version of himself. He has a son named Dom who loves video game design, but James pushes him to focus on basketball. After an evil character pulls Dom

into a digital realm, James and the Looney Tunes team have to win him back in a game against digitized pro players. Dom is played by Cedric Joe, 16. He told *The Week Junior* that James was "humble" and "down to earth."

The film is a mix of live action and animation. Director Malcolm D. Lee told *The Week Junior* that hundreds of animators

and visual effects technicians worked on it. The actors often shot their scenes while talking into the air, and characters were filled in later with computer-generated animation. "We had to use our imagination for a lot of it," Joe said. "Seeing the finished product was mind-blowing."

Even though the film is funny, it has a serious message for parents about respecting and supporting their children's dreams. There is an important lesson for kids, too. "Be yourself, find your own path, and blaze your own trail," Lee told *The Week Junior*. Or as Joe put it, "Do everything you can to achieve your goal."

3 facts about LeBron James

Young star

As a 17-year-old high school player, James was on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. He made his NBA debut when he was 19 and was voted Rookie of the Year.



Champion

He has won four championships in his career, playing for the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Miami Heat, and the Los Angeles Lakers. He has been named the NBA's Most Valuable Player four times.



Educational leader

In 2011, James started a program to help students in his hometown of Akron, Ohio. His charitable foundation opened the I Promise school in 2018. He is the vice principal.



SunForceOceanLife

DID YOU KNOW?
The temperature inside the core of the Sun is about 27 million degrees.

Crocheted walkway on display

This summer, a unique work of art is on display at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. *SunForceOceanLife* is a 79-foot-long, crocheted spiral walkway by Brazilian artist Ernesto Neto. The piece is suspended 12 feet in the air and filled with soft plastic balls.

Crocheting is a craft similar to knitting. To create *SunForceOceanLife*, Neto had help from crocheters in Brazil. It took about six years to complete. Neto has made other pieces like this, and they require extensive planning to figure out how to make turns and ramps. The piece weighs 6,000 pounds and is made of plastic string, which had to be tested to ensure it was strong.

The center of the spiral is red, and as it expands out, the color of the string changes to orange, yellow, and green. The idea, Neto said, is that "fire becomes life." *SunForceOceanLife* is similar to a hammock, and visitors who walk through it will feel like they're floating. Neto learned how to crochet from his grandmother and said the piece "uplifts us and connects us to the wisdom and traditions of our ancestors."

Neto said the spiral is meant to be a tribute to the Sun. He wants people who visit the installation to think of it as a way of giving thanks "for the energy, truth, and power that it shares with us as it touches our land, our oceans, and our life."

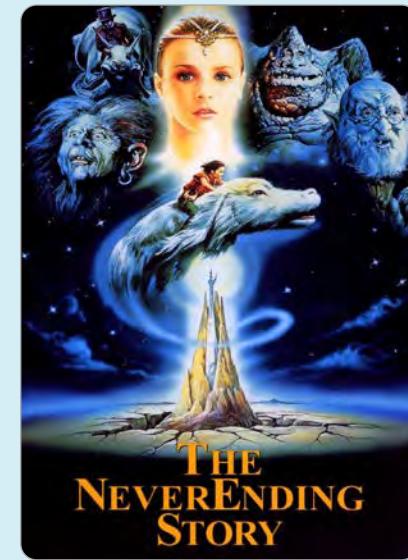


MOVIE NIGHT

Gather to watch this fantasy adventure about becoming a hero and the power of imagination.

The NeverEnding Story (1984) **PG** Available to rent or buy on all major platforms

Bastian Bux is a boy who is having a hard time at school. One day, while escaping from bullies, he wanders into a bookstore, where the owner shows him a mysterious book called *The Neverending Story*. Bastian takes it back to school, where he safely hides out in the attic and starts reading. The action shifts to the mythical world of Fantasia, which is in danger of being destroyed by an evil spirit named The Nothing. Atreyu, a young warrior, sets out on an adventure to rescue Fantasia. He meets flying dragons, swamp monsters, and more magical creatures. As Bastian reads more, it becomes clear that his imagination affects the events in the story. Is he actually the hero who can save Fantasia from The Nothing?



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Jungle Cruise

Behind the Attraction (Disney+)

In this new series, production designers and Disney insiders share details about some of the most beloved sites at Walt Disney World and other Disney parks. You'll learn about famous attractions like Jungle Cruise, Space Mountain, and Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.



Johnny Test (Netflix)

Johnny Test is an 11-year-old boy with genius twin sisters. The pair send Johnny and his best friend, Dukey, a talking dog, on wild adventures to test out their inventions. Between a lab full of advanced technology and enemies to overcome, the group is always dodging trouble.



Turner & Hooch (Disney+)

The hit 1989 film *Turner & Hooch* is the basis for this new comedy series. It follows law enforcement agent Scott Turner, whose dad gives him a rescue dog named Hooch. The slobbery French Mastiff needs training, but his crazy energy proves helpful to Scott's job.

ON THIS PAGE: ALBERT SANCHEZ/DISNEY (2); NETFLIX; ON LEFT PAGE: COURTESY WARNER BROS. PICTURES; GETTY IMAGES (4)



On screen



FAMOUS RACE

The 24 Hours of Le Mans is a car race that takes place each summer in France. The car that travels the greatest distance in 24 hours wins.

Crash Drive 3

Drive vehicles in wild races

Crash Drive 3 is a wacky new racing game that was recently released for Nintendo Switch, Xbox One and Xbox Series X, and PlayStation 4 and PlayStation 5. It's also available on iPhone and Android phones.

In the game, there are more than 50 different vehicles you can drive, such as monster trucks, limousines, garbage trucks, and army tanks. You race them through five different environments called biomes. They include the arctic, a medieval kingdom, and the moon.

Even though the game is about fast action, it's fun to take time to explore each biome. You'll discover unique buildings and wild obstacles. The arctic has a giant submarine, the medieval kingdom has a castle, and the tropical island biome has a bubbling volcano that could erupt at any time. In every

biome there are also a variety of ramps, roller coaster loops, secret nooks, and challenges that make each race course unpredictable and action-packed.

In addition to races, Crash Drive 3 has 10 contests and mini-games. You can try to destroy giant beach balls or try to steal a king's crown. You can also pull off driving stunts. With every success, you'll earn prize money, which you can use to unlock and customize vehicles.

There are upgrades to make them faster, or you could even turn them into solid gold.

The multiplayer mode allows you to play Crash Drive 3 with anyone on any platform. For example, someone with an Xbox can race against someone playing on a phone. It gives you more chances to show off the coolest, fastest vehicle you can create.



Vehicles in the game

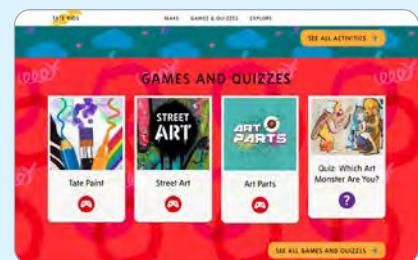


WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

TATE KIDS

tate.org.uk/kids

The Tate Museums in England house some of the most famous artwork in the world. On their site for kids, you can learn more about art styles and artists, find out how to make fun projects, or play games. There is also a digital canvas where you can paint and share your own masterpiece.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK



R.L. STINE'S STORY CLUB

gokidgo.com/story-club

Goosebumps author R.L. Stine created this podcast, which features new spooky stories by best-selling children's author Patrick Carman. They'll take you to haunted houses, creepy swamps, and even the year 2070. The stories aren't too scary, but you still might prefer to listen with the lights on.



APP OF THE WEEK

MARVEL PUZZLE QUEST

Apple App Store, Google Play

More than 230 characters from the Marvel Universe are featured in this role-playing game. What makes it unique is that it's combined with a classic Match 3 game. By matching color gems in different ways, you'll help your heroes level up and defeat supervillains in battles.



IMAGE (2): TATE KIDS, COURTESY OF GOKIDGO; MARVEL BOOKS, COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR PHOTOS: ANTHONY JACKSON; ERIC IRELAND; GETTY IMAGES



BOOK OF THE WEEK

Ophie's Ghosts

By Justina Ireland

(Balzer + Bray)

Twelve-year-old Ophie is a Black girl living in Georgia. One cold night, in November 1922, her father wakes her up and urges her to go with her mom to a secret hiding place in the woods. Their house burns down. The next day, Ophie realizes that it wasn't her father who woke her up—it was his ghost. The people who burned their house down also killed her father because he was Black. Ophie and her mom move to Pennsylvania. Ophie leaves school and takes a job at the house of a wealthy white family. That's where Ophie sees Clara, a woman she thinks is real at first but who turns out to be a ghost. Ophie begins to piece clues together to figure out who killed Clara, and the murderer may be living in the house where she works. This story will keep you guessing until the final pages.



AUTHOR AMBASSADOR

Justina Ireland

We talk to the author of *Ophie's Ghosts*.

Do you believe in ghosts?

Yes, I do. I have visited a lot of places that have strange energy.

What is your favorite type of book to read in summer?

I like spooky books. It's cool to be reading a dark story and then look up and see that it's bright, sunny, and hot.

What inspired you to start writing?

I started writing because there were characters I wanted to

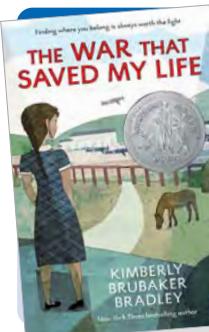
read about that I couldn't find in literature.

What is the best writing advice you've received?

Slow down. Take your time and understand the story you want to tell. We like to do things fast, but planning is the way to go.

If you could live in any fictional world, where would you live?

I'd choose the Star Wars galaxy. I'd like to haul things across the galaxy and live with all kinds of species.



JUNIOR COUNCIL PICK

The War That Saved My Life

By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

The War That Saved My Life is one of the 50 books on *The Week Junior's* Summer of Reading list, available at theweekjunior.com/summerofreading. Here's what Junior Council member Nissa, age 10 of Tennessee, said about it: "This is a sweet story! And it's good to read with your family. The sequel, *The War I Finally Won*, is just as good."

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



Book club

Padma Lakshmi shares her top childhood books



Lakshmi is the host of Bravo's *Top Chef* and Hulu's *Taste the Nation*. She also wrote a children's picture book, *Tomatoes for Neela*, available in August.

Where the Sidewalk Ends

By Shel Silverstein

(HarperCollins)

"When I was growing up, I loved this book," said Lakshmi. "I felt like finally someone had captured all the silliness of childhood. Shel Silverstein created a magical, nonsensical, and delicious world."

Let's Marry Said the Cherry, and Other Nonsense Poems

By N.M. Bodecker

(Atheneum)

"My mom gave me this book when I was 8, and I couldn't put it down for weeks. I memorized all the poems. In fact, I can still recite them to this day. It was the earliest indication of my love of food."

The Giving Tree

By Shel Silverstein

(Harper & Row)

"I love this story because it's not a typical happy-ending children's book."

Grimm's Fairy Tales: 64 Dark Original Tales

By Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

"These classic fairy tales can't be beat. I prefer the original version of the tales because they are darker. The stories served a purpose of warning children not to talk to strangers or be pennywise and pound foolish."



How to...

DID YOU KNOW?
About 63% of Americans say they've taken a staycation.



Plan a staycation

You can take a great summer vacation without leaving home.

What do you call a vacation where you don't actually go anywhere? It's a staycation, which means having the kind of fun you'd have on a trip but from home. Staycations have been especially popular in the past year, when people weren't able to travel as much due to the pandemic. But even if your family is lucky enough to be taking a trip soon, planning a staycation for a day or a weekend is an awesome summer activity. Here's how to get started.

Schedule it out

Just like if you were going on a trip, you'll want to plan your staycation for a time when you and your family don't have a lot going on. (It's not much of a vacation if you're still going to soccer practice or taking care of a neighbor's pet.) Talk to your family about when would be a good day or weekend to have your staycation. Also, try to get any chores you have to do around the house done in advance so you don't have to worry about them during your staycation.

Turn your interests into activities

Think about what your family likes to do on vacation, and see how you can bring the magic of it to your own home. For example, if you love to go to the beach, break out all your beach gear in your yard or on a patio. Set up a sprinkler or fill a small pool with water so you can cool

off. Give each family member a bin of sand and hold a sandcastle-building competition. Pack up a cooler with snacks and frozen treats. If you love theme parks, have each family member come up with a game idea for a carnival booth and take turns trying everyone's suggestions. Another idea: Set up a relaxation day at home or in a park. You could have shoulder massages, a reading or drawing area, and music you love to listen to.

Consider day trips



Relax on your staycation.

Although your home is a great place for your staycation, you could also go somewhere within a close drive. (You don't have to stay overnight.) If your family likes to see cool animals on vacation, a trip to a local zoo or aquarium might be interesting. If you and your family like being adventurous, a memorable staycation activity could be signing up to do a zipline course or a climbing wall in your area.

Pretend you're a tourist

If you've lived in your town for a long time, think about it like a tourist might. Is there a place you and your family have overlooked because you thought you could visit it anytime? Or ask yourself: If I had a friend coming to town, where would I suggest we go? Maybe there's a historic building you can tour, a trail you could hike, or a new ice cream store you could try.

Travel to faraway spots from home

Hop on a computer with your family to visit all kinds of amazing places in the world.



Great Barrier Reef, Australia
Head to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-GreatBarrier to dive into the world's largest coral reef system.



Kyoto, Japan
Explore this city's beautiful temples, shrines, and scenery by taking a virtual tour at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Kyoto.



The Louvre in Paris, France
Go to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Louvre to view the paintings that line the galleries of this famous art museum.



US national parks
From coast to coast, enjoy the beauty of America's national parks at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-NationalParks.



How to...

FUN FACT
Playing music for your plants may help them grow, research studies suggest.



Make planters from plastic bottles

What you need

- Recycled plastic container (such as a laundry detergent, shampoo, or toilet cleaner bottle)
- Masking tape
- Marker
- Heavy-duty shears
- Vegetable oil (optional)
- Hot glue, craft cement, and/or plastic model glue
- Sandpaper (optional)
- For eyes: buttons, a permanent marker, or thumb tacks
- For mouths, ears, snouts: plastic bottle caps and lids, such as from milk jugs or coffee cans

Instructions

1. Decide on an animal you would like to make. We made an elephant, a bear, and a swan, but you can create any animal you like. If you need to cut off part of the bottle, tape a line where you might cut and draw a line on the tape with the marker. Have an adult help cut through the plastic, using heavy-duty cutting shears.
2. For the elephant: A laundry detergent bottle works well. Cut off part of the handle and top to form a snout. Cut a wide plastic top in half to form the ears. For

the bear: A shampoo or body powder bottle works well. For the swan: We used a toilet-cleaner bottle that had a yellow cap, then cut a hole for the plants.

3. Clean the container. To remove a label, soak it in hot water to soften the adhesive. Peel off the label, rubbing on vegetable oil to remove stickiness. If the label won't budge, paint over it or make that side the planter's back.
4. Prepare the glue. Hot glue works well for joining pieces together quickly, but it does not make a permanent bond on smooth

plastic surfaces. You can use a mix of hot glue with craft cement or plastic model glue. It also helps to rough up the smooth surface of the bottle with some sandpaper before gluing. Ask an adult to help you mix the glue together and stick on your face parts.

5. Add eyes. Glue on buttons, draw on eyes with a permanent marker, or press in thumb tacks.
6. Glue on small caps or pieces cut from large caps to create ears, mouths, and snouts.
7. Add soil and a plant or use the container as a vase.



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK LEAVE NO TRACE WHEN YOU HIKE

When you spend time in the great outdoors, it's important to "leave no trace." This means you don't leave behind litter or harm nature while you're there. Keep to the trail and don't step on plants or flowers as you walk. Avoid picking up rocks, bird's nests, and any other natural objects you might come across. Observe animals from a distance and never feed them. If you bring snacks or lunch, be sure to clean up all your trash and leftover food and pack it back up with you. You can throw it in a garbage can when you return to the parking lot or bring it home. Finally, take care not to leave behind items like water bottles and trail maps.



Respect nature during outdoor adventures.

ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (6); ON RIGHT PAGE: JODI LEVINE FOR SUPERMAMMET, GETTY IMAGES



Puzzles



Word search

Can you find all these things associated with a road trip in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

BACK ROAD	LICENSE PLATES	TOLLBOOTH
CAR GAMES	MOTEL	TOWNS
COWS	MUSIC	TRAFFIC
DINER	REST AREA	TREES
DRIVER	SIGN	TRUCK
EXIT		
FAST FOOD	A T R A F F I C N	
GAS PUMP	C I M D A O R K C A B	
GPS	R X I M O E N C T S R R O	
LAKE	E N U M O T U E P N H A G L	
	D V S G D F R E G T W A E R A T S E R	
	H I E F I T O L L B O O T H K M E W I R	
	C R N G A S P U M P T S T R E O E A O D	
	D S E T A L P E S N E C I L S R S I C	
	G R F	N S T



FOUR IN A ROW

Place four of the letters below to complete the first pair of words, in the same order in both words. Use the remaining four letters to complete the second pair of words, in the same order in both words.

A B C D H L O R

□ □ I □ □ UT

P □ □ □ MA □ Y

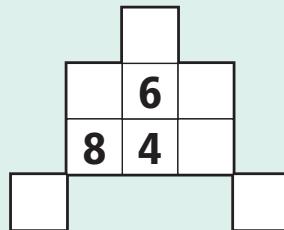
□ O □ R □ EL □

A □ □ RA □ □ E

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

Out of order

The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go.



FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with two words so the second word is the same as the first word with the first and last letters removed, like PLENTY and LENT. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

1. First the sky began to get _____ and dark, and then suddenly there was a very _____ clap of thunder.
2. During the years that my grandfather worked at a _____ that made camera equipment, he dreamed of going to Hollywood to become an _____.
3. If my parents ask what I want for my birthday, a _____ game console is what I _____ to ask for.

Spot the difference

These two pictures of a boy playing disc golf appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?



That's unbelievable!



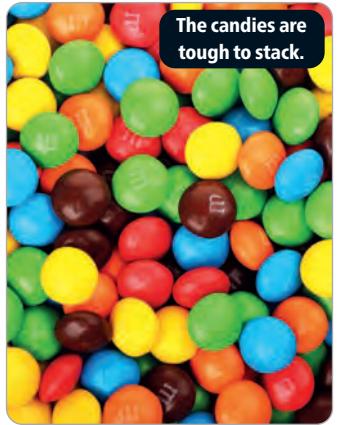
The elephant in the room

Elephant searches for snacks

An elephant in Thailand crashed through the wall of a house and used his trunk to begin rummaging through kitchen cabinets to find food. The noise woke the house's owner, Ratchadawan Puengprasoppon, in the middle of the night. She walked into the kitchen to find the elephant opening drawers and began filming the scene. It is not the first time the elephant, named Boonchuy, has visited her village. Officials said they will fix the wall and give Boonchuy food in the forest, where he lives, so he won't have to look elsewhere.

M&M's stacking record

A man in England has broken a Guinness World Record by stacking five M&M's on top of one another. Will Cutbill came up with the idea during lockdown. "I was in the living room eating a bag of M&M's and I was incredibly bored and I just decided to see how many of them I could stack on top of each other," he said. After trying for two to three hours, Cutbill set a new record of five. "I thought about attempting six," he said, "but there's no chance. Five was hard enough."



The candies are tough to stack.



A boar went for a ride.

Wild boar boards a train

Passengers on a train in Hong Kong had an unexpected travel companion join them when a wild boar hopped on board at Quarry Bay station. The animal darted down the aisle while being chased by railway workers. The boar then jumped off after a few stops and boarded another train. It was eventually captured and has been safely released back into the wild.

Real or fake?



Can the bread be used as a mask?

A face mask you can eat

A Japanese company has created the world's first edible face mask. The masks are made out of melon pan bread, a type of Japanese sweet bread, and can be nibbled from the inside. As well as being tasty, the masks were found in product tests to offer the same level of protection against Covid-19 as other face masks. What do you think? Does this story sound true to you? Or is it masking a lie?*



Matt Gibbs (center) in his cow costume

Costume helps cure cow fears

A man in England dressed up as a cow to help his friends face their fear of cattle. Matt Gibbs formed a walking group seven years ago to encourage people to stay active and enjoy nature. However, he noticed that some of the walkers were afraid whenever they had to go through a cow field. After seeing a costume online, Gibbs decided to dress up as a cow and jump out at his friends during a walk. "It was just a light-hearted moment to humor the group," he said.

*Real! The masks are made by a company called Gokku No Kimochi! The Labo. They are made from melon pan bread from Tokyo's famous bakery franchise Melon de Melon. They are being sold online but can only be shipped in Japan.



Your turn

Editor's note



My love of spelling bees goes back to when I was in middle school. I was a contestant in the early rounds of the Scripps National Spelling Bee several times, along with my brother Jon. I have vivid memories of studying words together and quizzing each other—and feeling nervous during the competitions! Those memories came back to me while watching the final round of this year's bee on TV. I was amazed by the difficulty of the words the contestants were able to spell. (I couldn't pronounce most of them!) Eventually there was one contestant left: Zaila Avant-garde, who appears on our cover this week. You can read all about her on p2. No matter how many words someone spells correctly, it takes curiosity about language and tremendous courage to compete in a bee. Every student who does is a winner!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

Biking to raise money for a hospital

“My friend Elsa and I rode in a bike event called the Iron Horse,” writes Marguerite. “I was raising money for local kids who have to go to Children’s Hospital in Denver for care, and I thought it was good that I could do something to help other kids. The bike ride was really fun, and I’m glad I got to do it with a friend. Together we rode over 21 miles and did 3,144 vertical



Marguerite, 11 (left), with Elsa, 11, Colorado

feet of climbing. We had to do some hard bike rides to get ourselves ready to do the ride, and we rode our mountain bikes every week with a girls’ biking group. The experience was challenging, but at the end, it was really

rewarding. I loved riding my bike for a cause!” Her friend Elsa adds, “It was really fun hanging out together and being proud of our accomplishments.”

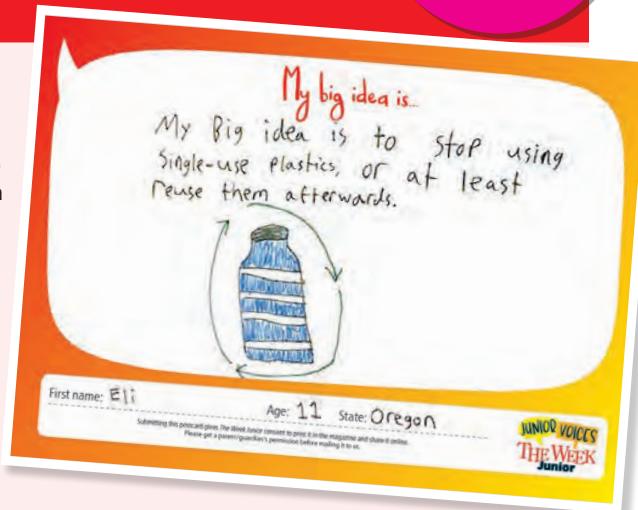
Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

JOKE OF THE WEEK
What do you call bears without ears?
“B”

JUNIOR VOICES

Share your idea!

We know you have amazing ideas, and we want to hear them. To take part in Junior Voices, ask a parent or guardian to download a postcard at theweekjunior.com/juniorvoices. Write or draw your idea for making the world a better place and send it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. Every idea counts! We'll feature more kids' ideas on this page in future issues.



CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Locks of Love

Locks of Love was founded in 1997 with the mission to help children across the country who have experienced hair loss due to an illness or a health condition. It collects hair from people who have grown, cut, and donated their hair to the organization. The group then uses these hair donations to create custom-made hair prosthetics (artificial replacements) for children to wear. Find out more at locksoflove.org.



Your turn



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Send them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's in the photo.



“All our friends loved these ice cream sandwiches at our BBQ.”
Conor, 9, California

“It was so cool to see something in person that I read about in my magazine.”
Addison, 8, Maine



“I love reading through the latest issue of *The Week Junior* with my dog. I enjoy articles about animals, especially the ones about dogs!”
Emily, 11, Texas

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mr. Berman (aka Don Josué)**
School: **Shining Mountain Waldorf School**
“Don Josué is my Spanish teacher and cyber civics teacher for grade 1–8. He is really funny. He incorporates social issues into our studies and makes learning Spanish and technology fun! I look forward to class time and even the homework!”
Ryanna, 13, Colorado

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Word search
Unused letters: Ancient Rome had the first road signs.

Four in a row
haircut, pharmacy doorbell, adorable

Fill in the blanks
1. cloudy, loud
2. factory, actor
3. Nintendo, intend

Quiz answers (from page 30)
1 b) 5 2 a) India 3 True 4 a) Skateboarding 5 b) Crocheting 6 LeBron James 7 c) Baby squid 8 c) 459 9 False. Germany and Spain have won the most. 10 c) A type of plant 11 Pennsylvania 12 b) Southern 13 False. There are more than 300. 14 a) Volcanoes and earthquakes 15 Staycation

POPJAM

Sign up and follow @theweekjunior on PopJam, a social media platform for kids 7–12. Ask an adult to download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

We asked: What is your favorite thing about summer?

“I love everything! Warm weather, no school, and my birthday!”

“The beach! You can go swimming and build sandcastles.”

“Awesome vacations with my family.”

“Eating ice cream! It's best to have a cold treat on a hot day.”

“Hanging out with friends.”

In the big debate, we asked: Should kids have jobs in the summer?

“Yes, it's a great way to get some money in the summer, but not every day of the week, because kids need time off.”

“Only if they want to.”

“No, kids work so hard 180 days out of the year. They deserve a break to have fun and relax.”

Now tell us: If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?



Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 How many M&M's were stacked on top of one another to break a world record?

a) 4 b) 5 c) 6

a b c

2 Most of the crew of the ship named Ever Given were from which country?

a) India b) China c) Israel

a b c

3 True or false? The Eastern spadefoot toad is actually a frog.

True False

4 Nyjah Huston competes for Team USA in which new Olympic sport?

a) Skateboarding b) Surfing c) Karate

a b c

5 Which of these methods was used to create the SunForceOceanLife walkway, now on display at a museum in Texas?

a) Wood carving b) Crocheting

c) Papier mâché

a b c

6 Space Jam: A New Legacy stars which famous basketball player?

7 Which of these animals did NASA send to the International Space Station?

a) Stingrays b) Tadpoles c) Baby squid

a b c

8 How many graduates of a Florida high school did principal Jeff Reaves write personal letters to?

a) 99 b) 229 c) 459

a b c



9 True or false? Italy has won the most European Football Championships of any country.

True False

10 What is the meaning of "murraya," Zaila Avant-garde's winning word at the Scripps National Spelling Bee?

a) A type of stone

b) A type of animal

c) A type of plant

a b c

11 In the book Ophie's Ghosts, Ophie and her mom move from Georgia to which other state?

12 A gray whale that swam a record distance was the first of its kind to be seen in which hemisphere?

a) Northern b) Southern

a b

13 True or false? There are about 100 TV streaming services available in the US.

True False

14 A majority of which of the following are located in the region known as the Pacific Ring of Fire?

a) Volcanoes and earthquakes

b) Wildfires and tornadoes

c) Hurricanes and blizzards

a b c

15 What is the name for a vacation that involves staying at home instead of traveling?

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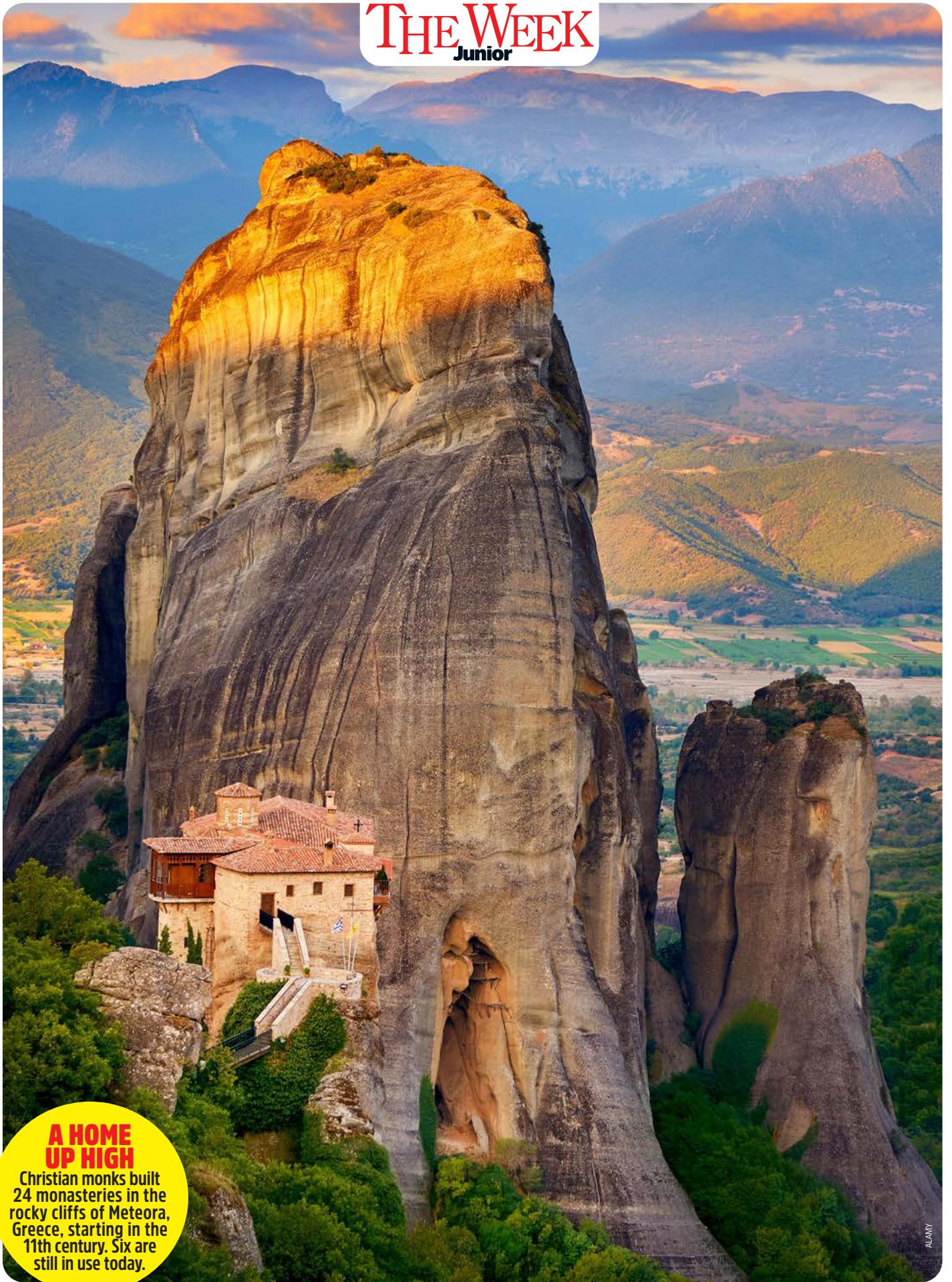
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A HOME UP HIGH

Christian monks built 24 monasteries in the rocky cliffs of Meteora, Greece, starting in the 11th century. Six are still in use today.