

Monthly

# V SHINE

International

APRIL 2014

The  
Children  
Magazine

## A Dodgy Race

**How To Become  
An Astronaut?**

**Toucan**

**11 MAGIC  
TRICKS**



**Stories, Poems, Puzzles And Lots More Inside...**

**The Complete Educational Magazine For Children**

# V SHINE International

**Every Issue Brings**

- Country Profile
- Animals Article
- Quiz Competition
- V SHINE Lab
- Sports Roundup
- Vocabulary page
- Stories & Poems
- Educational Article
- And Much More...

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Assalam-o-Alaikum

Hope you are doing well. Haste makes waste is an old saying. It means that if someone tries to do something fast without thinking and weighing its consequences, pros and cons rationally, he/she is most likely to end up spending more time doing it. Of course, when something goes wrong due to haste, you will have to do that task again which means more time will be spent on the same thing.

Do you know why our brains make more mistakes when we act quickly?

Well! There are many scientific studies showing how the brain follows Ben Franklin's famous dictum, "Take time for all things: great haste makes great waste."

Studies have found that the brain actually switches into a special mode when forced to make rapid decisions. This certainly affects the decision-making process in general. Studies further reveal that in order to shorten the decision-making time, the brain simply reduces the cumulative amount of neuronal activity it requires before making a decision.

Also in Qur'an Allah says: "Man is made of haste", which means that people desire things to happen before their time. This is haste as explained in the Holy Book and this trait is bad by its very nature. Haste also projects lack maturity and planning. It causes wastage of time, money and above all efforts.

Everyone knows that it will take time to become successful; it will take time to achieve your goals in life. The only magic wand that will make it all happen is sincere effort.

So don't lose patience and continue making your efforts earnestly.

With Love

Editor

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# The Pious Caliph

## Umar bin Abdul Aziz

By Humaira Khatoon

Marwan and Mamoon were chatting as a sweet inspiring fragrance spread all around. "It seems Umar is somewhere near. I can say this because the whole passageway has become aromatic with an exotic perfume Umar wears," Marwan said. Umar bin Abdul Aziz just appeared from the other end of the alley as the boys looked at him keenly. His fine classy attire swept the ground. Umar was famous for his expensive dresses and costly exotic perfumes. One could easily tell that Umar has walked through the street as the surroundings would scent with his perfume.

Umar bin Abd ul Aziz was born in Halwan in 682 AD (63 AH) and belonged to Umayyad family. He was a great-grandson of the Second Caliph Umar ibn Al-Khattab.

Caliph Suleiman bin Abd-al-Malik nominated him as his successor because he was the most competent, pious and God-fearing person in his later life. Before assuming the responsibility of a caliph, he led a life full of luxuries and comforts. His annual income was not less than fifty thousand dirhams but after becoming caliph, he completely changed his way of living and renounced all worldly pleasures.

Umar refused to ride on royal carriage as he used to say that his mule was enough for him. He ordered to sell royal horses and deposited the amount in Bait-ul-mal (the ministry of finance). He also disbanded a contingent of 600 soldiers deployed to guard the caliph.

His life was changed altogether after become a caliph.

He had great love for perfumes but as a caliph, once he put a handkerchief on his nose so that he might not smell the fragrance of perfumes in Bait-ul-mal.

He was too careful while using assets that belonged

to the state. Once in a very cold weather his servant heated water for Umar's bath.

"From where did you heat it?" he asked.  
"I took some woods from there," the servant replied.

"First go home, bring some wood and keep them in Bait-ul-mal," he asked him. "Kindly do not to take anything from Bait-ul-mal next time for my personal use," the pious caliph said.

He was a God-fearing man. Once the ruler of a neighbouring country gifted Mushk (a type of perfume) which was deposited in Bait-ul-mal.

His wife offered her services. "If you don't mind, I may weigh this Mushk to keep in record," she said.

"No, I don't like that after weighing Mushk, your hands smell with its fragrance because this Musk belongs to Bait-ul-mal," he replied.

Once his servant cooked a piece of meat taken from Bait-ul-mal and served him. When the pious caliph came to know this, he refused to eat the food.

Umar was a true Muslim and strongly believed that a ruler was, in fact, a servant of the people. Though he ruled for a short period of only-two-and-half year, but his services are great. He provided his people with better infrastructure and made many laws for public welfare. He constructed inns, roads, mosques and seminaries. His reign reminded the people of Second Caliph Umar Farooq (may Allah be pleased with him).

*"There was a time when he never put on the same dress for the second time but now, after becoming a caliph, he had only one dress to wear. This dress was worn out and had many patches on it."*

V SHINE contains great stories, articles, and poems. It gives us lots of information and knowledge. (Shay Mureed, Turbat, Pakistan)

Please publish stuff on mysteries and friendship. I want to read something like insults and putdowns. It sounds weird but please publish it in the magazine. (Zohaib Irfan, Lahore, Pakistan)

I read V SHINE magazine and I love it. It's very interesting. I'm hafiz-e-Qur'an. (Fukaiha Kamran, Saudi Arabia)

## Dear Editer

I see V SHINE as the most popular magazine in the world, if you people keep up the hard work. I think some new segments should be introduced. It's time to bring kids back to books. V SHINE can do it. (Rabia Siddiqui, Dubai, UAE)

The boy on title looks worried just as I get tense while doing maths. The article about maths has helped me a lot. Thanks. (Fahad Sami, New York, USA)

I want to be a doctor. Please include about brain and science stuff and more Hidden in Sight. Your title was very good. This is the fantastic magazine in the world. (Zunaira Khurram, Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia)

I am really glad to see such a nice magazine. I love all the segments. We should encourage others to buy it. I liked "Boring Naz Appa" and other stories. Rattlesnake made me scared at first sight. (Humna Bukhari, Sydney, Australia)

V SHINE is a great magazine for youngsters and you are doing a great job. Keep it up. (Ayesha Adnan, Islamabad, Pakistan)

V SHINE has helped me in improving my vocabulary. The most interesting segment is Mind Game. Add more mental maths games. (Amna Ghalib, Karachi, Pakistan)

I am reading this magazine for the last one year. Good effort. Keep it up! (Momina Khalid, Taxila, Pakistan)

Let's Scrap was wonderful. Nine Crazy Questions were interesting. Stories are better than before. (Hafsa Noor, Doha, Qatar)

"I Need A Camel, Not A Calf..." was a very interesting story. Please publish more stories from the life of our prophet (peace be upon him). "Haughtiness Is A Curse" was a good story. Please guide me how to write stories. (Yusra Jawed, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia)

## Devil's Threat

It is the way we each begin,  
Free from worldly sin  
So, don't let yourself forget,  
Keep out of the devil's threat!

Selected by  
Ammar Ahmed

## My Toy Aero Plane

I am a little boy  
And I have an amazing toy  
To me it is very dear  
A lot of friends it has brought near  
With chums my toys I always share  
So they call me jolly and fair  
About my toy you want to know?  
Surely this'll make your faces glow  
Hurrah! It is an aero plane  
Among all toys it has become the main  
The remote control enables it to take a flight  
Our play becomes clearly bright  
I wish over the clouds it could fly  
And help me meet the rainbow in the sky.

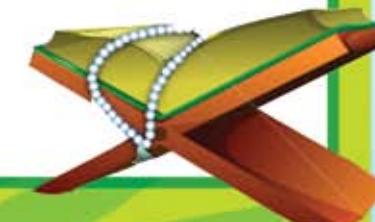
By Manaswin Kakran



## The Real Peace

Peace, Peace  
Where can I find peace  
Down on the ground  
Or up in the trees  
In the music or in any song  
How can I be relaxed all day long?  
Its the TASBEEH, Its the QUR'AN  
Praying NAMAZ five times a day  
This is the key to THE REAL PEACE  
It will keep you fresh all day.

By Huda Mohsin



## Spring

Birds are flying  
here and there  
Smell of exotic flowers  
Joyful water showers  
Arrival of splendid butterflies  
Kids afraid of dragonflies  
The buzzing of bees  
Makes everyone unease  
Sitting on a swing  
Waiting for the spring.

By Areeqa Hayee



# ASK UNCLE SHINE



## LOAD OF HOMEWORK

I get a lot of homework then I go to tuition after coming back from school. I get too tired. I finish homework late night and find hard to get up early. Help! (Rameez Sheikh, Islamabad, Pakistan)

Dear Rameez,  
It is not good for children to get tired. Try to finish your homework at tuition centre. Which are the subjects you study there? Do you really need tuition anymore or you can study on your own and do your homework yourself? If you can work hard then there is no need for tuition. Talk to your parents if you can leave tuition centre and save your energy and time. You can use this energy and time somewhere else like reading books and other healthy activities.

## EXPENSIVE TOYS

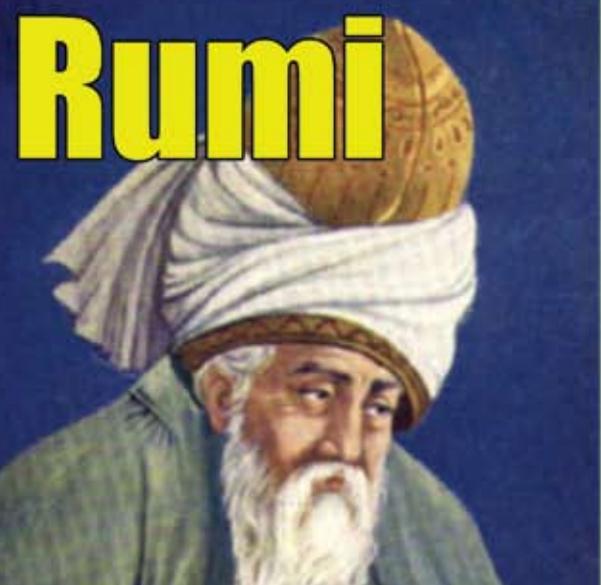
Whenever my younger brother watches a gadget or a toy on TV, he gets mad about them. He annoys parents for those toys. My parents can't buy expensive toys for him. Please help! (Haris Ali, Karachi, Pakistan)

Dear Haris,  
Your brother is too young to understand the condition of the family. You can engage him in playing games with you. You can also do activities published in V SHINE and he will enjoy them. You will find science experiments and other fun activities like magic tricks in the magazine. I hope your little brother will be happy doing these activities with you and stop asking for costly toys.

## JEALOUS FRIENDS

I am fond of writing poetry. Few friends, relatives and my parents have appreciated my poems. They say God has gifted me with this talent. But some of my friends make fun of it and say silly things about my poetry. I have stopped publishing my poetry on Facebook too. (Yusra Ahmed, Dubai, UAE)

Dear Yusra,  
It is a great blessing that you have been gifted by Almighty Allah with such a talent. But don't worry about the comments of other people who are not interested in your poetry. Maybe they are jealous of you. When you write anything, do not tell them. Share your thoughts and feelings with those who really know the worth of polite and soft words. You can also change settings on social media sites so that only selected people could see and comment on your poems.



## AN ICON OF PERSIAN POETRY

By Ashar Nasir

*Jalal al-Din Rumi was born on September 30, 1207 in Balkh Province, (parts of now modern Afghanistan and Tajikistan). When Rumi was still a young man, his father led his family more than 2,000 miles west to avoid the invasion of Genghis Khan's armies. They settled in present-day Turkey, where Rumi lived and wrote most of his life. When his father died in 1231, Rumi became head of the madrasah. The school reportedly had over ten thousand students. He fell ill and died on December 17, 1273, in Konya, Turkey.*

## Rumi and his friend

In 1244, Rumi met Shams Tabriz, a dervish. Rumi believed both his real life and his real poetry began when he met Shams. In December of 1248, Shams disappeared. Rumi left in search of his friend, travelling to Damascus and elsewhere. Rumi's mourning for the loss of his friend led to the outpouring of more than 40,000 lyric verses, including odes, eulogies, quatrains, and other styles of Eastern-Islamic poetry.

## Masnavi-ye Ma'navi

Rumi's major work is the *Masnavi-ye Ma'navi*, a six-volume poem. It is considered to be one of the greatest works of spiritual poetry. It contains approximately 27,000 lines of Persian poetry. *Masnavi* contains anecdotes and stories derived largely from the Qur'an and the Hadith, as well as everyday tales.

## Rumi and Iran

The cultural, historical and linguistic ties between Rumi and Iran have made Rumi an iconic Iranian poet. Rumi's poetry is displayed on the walls of many cities across Iran and read in school books.

## Beyond boundaries

Rumi's importance is considered to transcend national and ethnic borders. His poetry has influenced Persian literature as well as Urdu, Turkish, Chagatai and other languages of the world.

## His Quotes

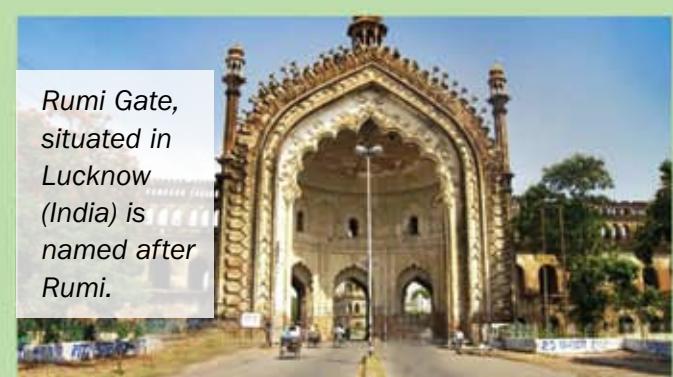
- Everyone has been made for some particular work, and the desire for that work has been put in every heart.
- If you wish mercy, show mercy to the weak.
- Don't grieve. Anything you lose comes round in another form.
- Anyone who genuinely and consistently with both hands looks for something, will find it.
- Stop acting so small. You are the universe in ecstatic motion.

## Rubaiyat

Rubai is a poetry style. It is used to describe a Persian quatrain (a stanza or poem of four lines), or its derivative form in English and other languages. The plural form of the word rubaiyat is used to describe a collection of such quatrains.

*I sought a soul in the sea  
And found a coral there;  
Beneath the foam for me  
An ocean was all laid bare.*

*Into my heart's night  
Along a narrow way  
I groped; and lo! the light,  
An infinite land of day.*



Rumi Gate, situated in Lucknow (India) is named after Rumi.



**Q**asim pedalled his bike effortlessly on a green path along the pond and smiled.

Quack, Quack! Splash! Geese dived into the blue water crowned with jewels abound, as the pleasant summer sun smiled after yesterday's rain. The fresh grass blades glistened and crunched under the wheels. And how the wind raced against him, whipping back his T-shirt, brushing his face and frolicking with his hair, curled out of his helmet.

However, Qasim's malicious smile bore another reason. He had only a few minutes ride to the finishing line of the race. Early in the morning when the whistle shrieked, Qasim knew what he had to do: ride slow, keep a safe distance from the others, pretending how hard he was trying. Then as his friends had rounded the corner and disappeared behind a

clump of trees near old deserted hawaaili (a manor house), he sloped down the other way leading to a short cut. Though he was new in the town he knew all the short cuts. A little clever dodge would lead him to the finishing line in minutes, well before his friends to notice. So why wouldn't he smile and enjoy his ride on such a fresh summer morning. He wondered how his friends would be toiling and sweating, and smirked.

The narrow path wriggled through the grass like a ribbon with wheels sinking in the mud. The pond widened, now licking the path. Croak, croak! Frogs chorused at this corner quite loudly, as it was their kingdom. Swish! A goose fluttered and flicked close past his eyes with tips of its feathers scraping his cheeks. He shut his eyes. Suddenly his wheels hit a rock. "Ooo!" His bicycle skidded out of control. Splosh! He landed into the pond, half drenched in mud and half jammed in frogs. He spat water out of his mouth. A big fat frog leapt over his head. Another

jumped on his helmet. He jerked his head.

"Silly!" he grumbled.

Dragging his muddy and wet bike he waddled out of the water. Then jumped on the bike and dashed ahead. Even on the short cut, he had to hurry. Soon the mango orchard came in sight. The finishing line was a short ride on the other side of the orchard. Gales of wind flitting through the laughing leaves and cackling branches gave him a shudder, now all wet. He hurtled down the path among the trees. Halfway across the orchard he heard some quick and heavy footsteps. He looked over his shoulder.

Chacha Karamdin with his guards came after him. "Mango thief, mango thief!" they shouted. "O' no!" he flinched. He did steal some mangoes last week. How smart of Chacha. He still remembered his face even after it had been covered with mud.

Qasim speedy feet put a good distance between him and the callers.

He looked over his shoulder with a laugh. BUMP! He knocked into a tree truck. His head muddled. All the trees whirled around him. Soon the chasers came running. Grappled in thick arms and sturdy hands he struggled to his feet.

"You're here again," Chacha yelled.

"No you're mistaken, I have never set foot in this orchard before," Qasim said. "Please let me go. Or I'll lose the race."

"No way!" I'll take you to your father."

Hands pulled him from the scruff of his neck and around the waist, and dragged him.

"Help, please help!" Qasim sniveled.

"Chacha, where are you taking him?" a child called. Chacha wheeled around. Guards stopped. Qasim



looked over his shoulder.

Ali flanked by Zain and Omer, Qasim's friend, walked over from the other side of the orchard.

"Why have you caught him?" Zain asked.

"He's stealing mangoes," Chacha replied.

"No, he must have lost his track. He's new here in this town," Ali said.

"We have been looking for him for a long time," said Omer.

Qasim opened his mouth to shout that his friends were right. But how could he?

All the innocent faces stared at him. His friends wheezing and worried for him, Chacha's tan and wrinkled face had something peculiar not letting him lie. How long had he been dodging them? He felt low and hung his head. He should say the truth.

He took a deep breath. "I'm sorry. I have been dodging you all for a long time. I was taking a shortcut through the orchard to win the race." It was hard to look at his goggled-eyed friends. He turned to Chacha.

"And I'm really sorry for the mangoes."

A short pause drifted in the air but stung Qasim sharp. "It's okay, we forgive you, if you mean it." said Omer. Zain and Ali nodded. Qasim looked up at Chacha.

"Then I can arrange a new race for all of you with sweet mangoes for the winner," Chacha announced.

"Mangoes! Wow!" everyone shouted.

"You're great Chacha," Qasim said.

## Basic Chicken Salad



This is a family favourite recipe. You can use baked thighs or breasts that have been sprinkled with basil or green onions.

### Ingredients

- Mayonnaise: 1/2 cup
- Lemon juice: 1 tablespoon
- Grounded black pepper: 1/4 teaspoon
- Chicken meat: 2 cups, chopped, cooked
- Green onion: 1 stalk

By Saleha Pervez

### Method

- Place almonds in a frying pan. Toast over medium-high heat shaking frequently. Watch carefully, as they burn easily.
- In a medium bowl mix together mayonnaise, lemon juice and black pepper. Toss with chicken, almond and green onion.

*Delicious salad is ready. Enjoy it with bread or burger bun.*

## Fresh Fig and Date Shake



### Ingredients

- Fresh ripe figs: 4
- Moist dates: 2
- Fresh orange juice: 1/2 cup
- Ice cubes: 4
- A few figs for glass

### Method

- Place all the ingredients except the sliced figs in the blender.
- Blend until frothy, about one minute.
- Pour into a glass and garnish with fig slices.

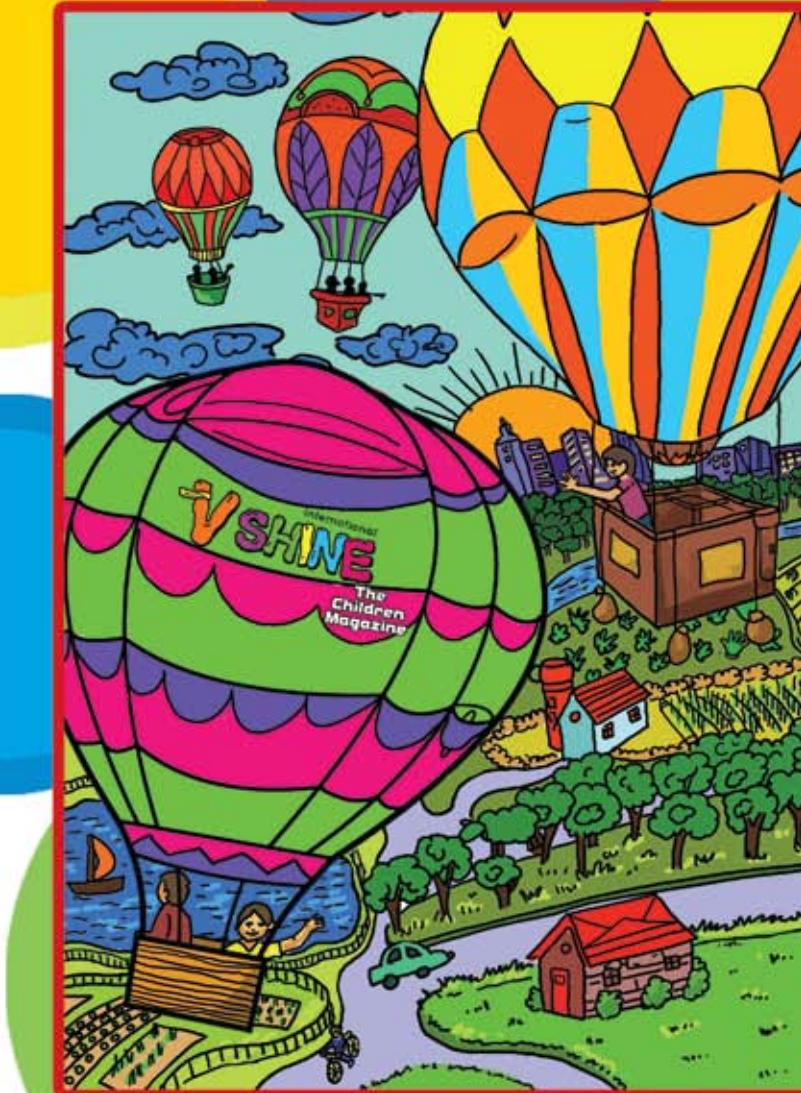
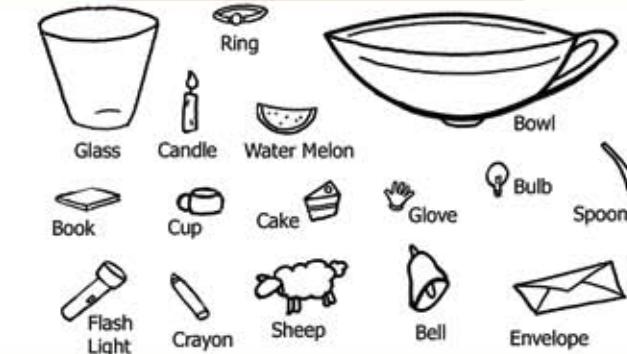
*Delicious and full of nutritious shake is ready.*

This thick and date-sweetened smoothie is a great source of energy.

# HIDDEN IN SIGHT

By Tabassum Khalid

Find these items in the big picture



# Jokes

Asad: I keep dreaming there are monsters playing Uno under my bed. What shall I do?

Haris: Hide the game cards.

What city cheats at exams?

Peking!

Doctor: I'm sorry, but I have to tell you that you are a werewolf.

Patient: Give me a piece of paper.

Doctor: Do you want to write your will?

Patient: No, a list of people I want to bite.

Why was the student's report card wet?

It was below C level!

Doctor, doctor, how long can one live without a brain?

That depends. How old are you?

What do you mean by telling everyone that I'm an idiot?

I'm sorry. I didn't know it was supposed to be a secret!

Why was the big, hairy, two-headed monster top of the class at school? Because two heads are better than one.

Did you hear about the fool who keeps going around saying "no"?

No.

Oh, so it's you!

What do you call a huge monster with cotton wool in his ears?

Anything you like – he can't hear you.

# Kyrgyzstan



By Umair Safdar

## A MOUNTAINOUS COUNTRY IN CENTRAL ASIA

Kyrgyzstan, sometimes dubbed “the Switzerland of Central Asia,” is famous for its dramatic landscape of snow-capped mountains, glaciers and high-altitude lakes.

### NEIGHBOURS AND NATURAL FEATURES

Kyrgyzstan is bordered by Kazakhstan to the north, Uzbekistan to the west, Tajikistan to the southwest and China to the east. It is further from the sea than any other individual country, and all its rivers flow into closed drainage systems which do not reach the sea. The mountainous region of the Tian Shan covers over 80% of the country, with the remainder made up of valleys and basins.



### FAST FACTS

Official name: Kyrgyz Republic  
Capital and largest city: Bishkek  
Official languages: Kyrgyz (state), Russian (official)  
Population (2013 estimate): 5,663,100

### THE NAME AND KYRGYZ

The name Kyrgyz is believed to have been derived from the Turkic word for 40, which has a reference to the 40 clans of Manas, the legendary hero who united 40 regional clans against the Uyghers. The Kyrgyz language is closely related to the other Turkic languages.



The south-western Fergana Valley is subtropical and extremely hot in summer, with temperatures reaching 40°C.

### ADVENT OF ISLAM

As early as the 7th century, Turkic traders introduced Islam to Central Asia, including what is now Kyrgyzstan, through doing business with Arabic people. With the rise of the Mongol Empire in the 13th century, the Kyrgyz migrated south. The Kyrgyz peacefully became a part of Mongol Empire in 1207.

### SILK ROAD

Modern Kyrgyzstan is located on the Silk Road, the ancient and medieval trade route linking East and West. The southern city of Osh, the second-largest city, was a major trading centre on the famed caravan route.

### INDEPENDENCE

On December 5, 1936, the Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic was established as a full republic of the Soviet Union. Kyrgyzstan declared independence from the Soviet Union on August 31, 1991.

### NATURAL RESOURCES

Kyrgyzstan is rich in mineral resources such as coal, gold, uranium, antimony, and other valuable metals. The country's plentiful water resources and mountainous terrain enable it to produce and export large quantities of hydroelectric energy.

- In the coldest areas temperatures are sub-zero for around 40 days in winter.
- The country but has negligible petroleum and natural gas reserves; it imports petroleum and gas.
- Manas is a popular folk hero in the country.
- Tipping is not common to tip in Kyrgyzstan. However, a lot of restaurants add an automatic 10% service charge to the bill.

### FASCINATING FACTS

- Football is the most popular sport. Wrestling is also very popular among the local people.
- Kyrgyzstan has the lengthiest epic in the world.
- Kyrgyzstan is home to the world's largest natural-growth walnut forest.



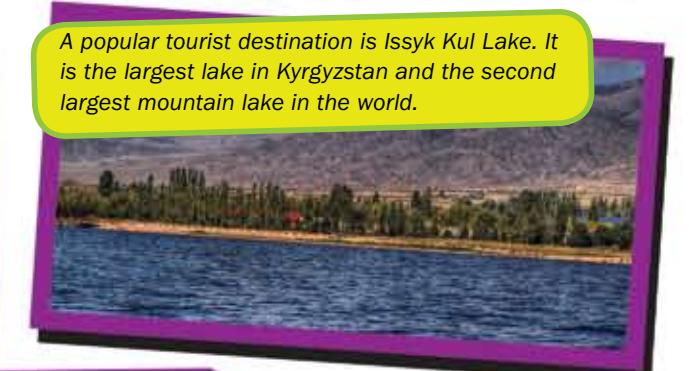
A view of a beautiful mosque in Kyrgyzstan. 80% of the population is Muslim. There has been an attempt to arrange for officials to travel on “Hajj” under a tax-free arrangement.



A distinctive part of the Kyrgyz national costume is the kalpak, a tall, embroidered felt hat.



Paloo consists of pieces of meat fried in a large qazan (a cast-iron cauldron) and mixed with fried shredded carrots and cooked rice. Paloo is the Kyrgyzified form of the Persian word polow.



A popular tourist destination is Issyk Kul Lake. It is the largest lake in Kyrgyzstan and the second largest mountain lake in the world.

## THE HOLDUP

Inspector Kamran has just past Crystal Super Store when he heard on his cell phone that manager of the store, Mr Arif had been held up at knifepoint and robbed of the week's receipts.

The inspector went inside and interviewed Mr Arif.

"It happened while my new assistant Saleem was out delivering a package. A man came into the shop and asked for a ballpoint pen. He handed me a five dollar bill and when I opened the cash drawer, he pulled a knife and ordered me to put all the cash into a plastic bag he took from his pocket.

"He got all the bills and most of the change when my assistant Saleem came in the front door. The man pushed past me and ran through the stockroom and out the back door. I'd say he was left-handed. He dropped the knife on his way out, and I left it where it fell in case it has fingerprints on it. I saw the man before he came into the shop. He was across the street talking to Saleem."

"When I went out to deliver the package, a man stopped me and asked the way to Bridge Road. I told him where to get the bus and he went in that direction. When I got back, I heard shouting as I opened the door and saw Mr Arif run into the stockroom. I didn't see anybody else, only Mr Arif.

Then he phoned the police and our home office," Saleem said.

Inspector Kamran considered the two statements, took a look at the weapon, and made an arrest.

Whom did he arrest and why?



See Answers on Page 33

## JACKED UP

Detective Tariq was awakened by the sound of the sound of dog barking in the street. He jumped out of bed and looked out his window to see his car jacked up on one side, and two young men trying to remove his wheel. Tariq opened the window and shouted at two men outside. They ran to their car, backed out, and sped away as Tariq dashed to the phone and called the police. He had just finished examining his car when the police car turned into the drive.

There were two officers in the front seat and two other men in the backseat.

"We caught these two speeding away from the area as soon as we got the call. We searched the car, but we didn't find any evidence we can use," said the officer.

"Did you search the trunk of the car?" asked Tariq.

"Yes, we did. Except for their own spare tire, it was absolutely empty. I don't think we really have anything to hold them on right now."

"Well I think you do. It's not what you found, but what you didn't find. Arrest them and check for prints later," Tariq replied.

What evidence was he talking about?



# HISTORY AT A GLANCE

### Egyptian Pillows

Egyptian headrests were made of wood, ivory or stone. But one pillow was found that was made out of plant fibers then coated with wax.



### Invention of Sunglasses

Sunglasses were invented by Chinese. They were not used to block out the sun, however, but instead they were used by judges in courtrooms to hide their emotions.



### Anti-Tank Dogs

In WWII the Russians trained dogs to run under German tanks with bombs but many of the dogs refused to dive under the tanks so sometimes they would retreat back and detonate amongst the Russians.



### A Wealthy City

Timbuktu once lay at the crossroads of four major trade routes that supplied the Arab world. Its geographic position made the city one of the wealthiest in the world during the 12th century.



### Japanese Troops in Alaska

Alaska was the only area of the USA to be occupied by Axis troops during WWII. The Japanese occupied Kiska and nearby Attu Island.



### First Monumental Work

The Umayyad Mosque, also known as the Grand Mosque of Damascus is one of the oldest mosques in the world. It is the first monumental work of architecture in Islamic history.



### History in Record

Humans appeared 200,000 years ago. Written records by men begin 6,000 years. That means most of the history is lost.



### Sore Throat Cure

Arabs are credited with the discovery and early production of Sal ammoniac, historically used to alleviate the pain of a sore throat.



By Javeria Ashraf

# Rainbow-Billed Toucan

With its colourful beak, short black body and strong small legs, a toucan makes its presence prominent in the world of birds. In woodland forest toucans hop from one tree to another. How beautiful they look with their colourful and long beak.

## Flock

They live in groups called "flock" and it contains six birds. Toucan lives in a pair in flock.

## Habitat

These birds are found in southern Mexico, central South American and Caribbean region. The family is closely related to the American barbet. Toucan mostly lives in woodland forest. They spend most of their time on high tree tops, and build their nests in tree holes.

## Keratin

The bill is made up of keratin which is a spongy substance. Human nails and tusk of rhino are also made up of keratin.

## Rainbow bill

Allah has blessed this bird with beautiful large colourful bill measuring about 19 cm in size. Its bill differentiates toucan from other birds in forest.

## Toco

Toco is the largest among all toucan species. It measures 63.5cm in length, with thick white neck, short black body with short wings, and strong legs and claws.

## Not good fliers

Toucans are not good fliers. It is interesting that a toucan is strong but due to its short length and long beak they do not balance their weight during flying. Toucan hops from branch to branch on their short strong legs. They are not good fliers at all.

## Sleeping posture

The sleeping posture of toucan is totally different from other birds. Allah has blessed them with a brilliant and sharp brain to maintain his body fit in mini holes in tree. They move their bill and lay it along the back, bring the tail forward until it cover the bill this causing them to resemble a ball of feathers.

## Quenk quenk quok quok

Toucans produce sound like quenk quenk quok quok. These harsh sounds seem similar to that of frogs. Toucans are bad vocalists.

## Jumble Words Challenge

See how quickly you can rearrange these letters to form proper words.

Natouc

Illib

Clokf

Poh

Lawcs

Rehftea

Iturf

Eret

Tesn

Luckp

Eakb

Hteigw

Tainker

Tep

See Answers on Page 33

## MAKING A WATER FOUNTAIN

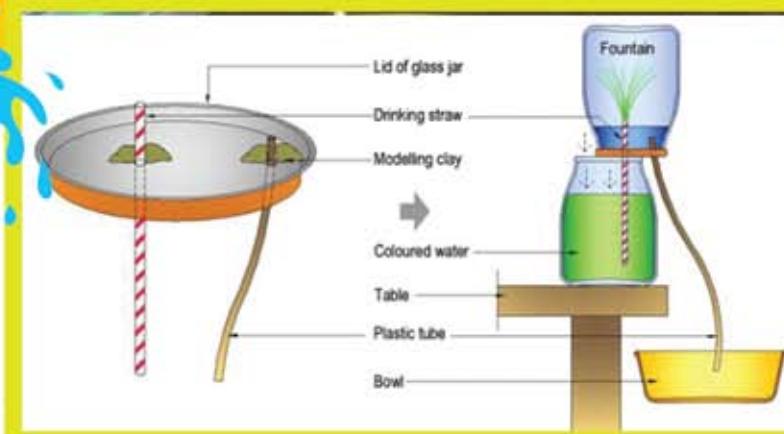
Make a water fountain in a jar and have fountain fun!

### YOU WILL NEED

- Two glass jars (one with a lid)
- Modeling clay
- Plastic straws
- Water

### STEPS TO BE TAKEN

1. Make two holes on the lid, wide enough for a straw to fit through. Push one straw in a hole.
2. Join three straws together with adhesive tape (or use rubber tubing as seen) and push through another hole.
3. Seal the gaps between the straws (or tubing) and the lid with modeling clay. Put some of water in the jar and screw on the lid.
4. Fill the second jar three fourths full of water



and place it on the edge of a table. Position the bowl underneath.

5. Turn the jar with the straws in the lid upside down and dip the short straw into the jar of water on the table. As you do this a fountain of water should rise up the straw.

### HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?

As water from the closed jar pours down into the bowl through the longer straw (or tube), the air pressure inside the jar becomes less as the air spread out to take up the space left by the water. The air outside is at a greater Pressure than the air inside and pushes down on the water in the open jar. This forces the water up the short straw and makes a fountain.

## MAKE CANDLE SEESAW

With the knife carve away the wax at the bottom ends of the candle to expose the wick on both sides. Slowly push the needle through the centre of the candle. Set the glasses on the paper, and rest the needle across the rims of each glass so the candle is balanced between the glasses. Light both ends. As soon as a drop of wax falls at one end, the centre of gravity shifts to the other side. Since the candles drip alternatively, the centre of gravity moves from one side to the other.



## Cricket Fun Facts



By Arsalan Tariq

Cricket is a bat-and-ball game played between two teams of 11 players on an oval-shaped field, at the centre of which is a rectangular 22-yard long pitch. Here are some interesting facts about this game.

- Timed out means a batsman can be declared out if he fails to come to the crease in five minute after a batsman is out.
- Despite being a team game, individuals are stressed upon and put under pressure.
- Sachin Tendulkar is the first batsman to be dismissed (run out) by using the television replays by the third umpire, Jonty Rhodes was the fielder. Next day, in the same test match, Jonty Rhodes was given run out by the umpire. This time the fielder was none other than Sachin Tendulkar.

### Commentators may tell you about

- Spectators' activities
- The weather
- The background of players
- The colour of the local buses

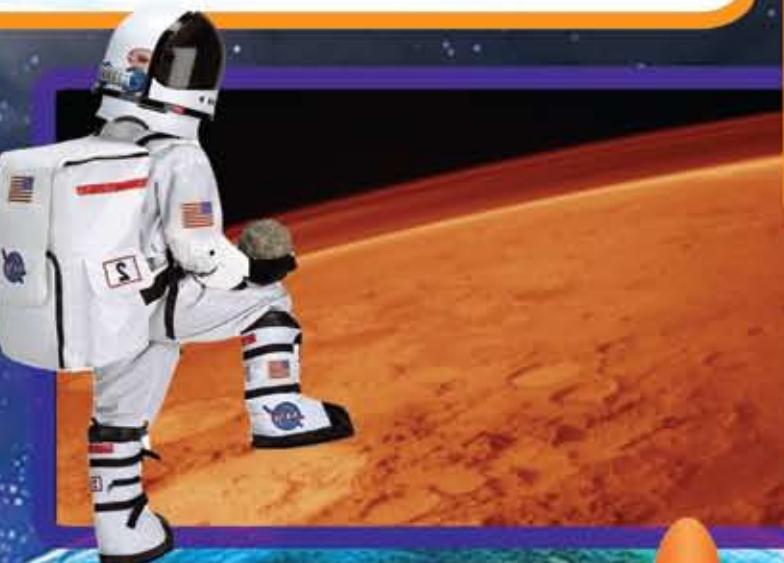
### Differences between Cricket and Baseball

- Cricketers run in straight lines, not in circles
- No baseball fielder would be stupid enough to stand at silly mid off
- Baseball games will never stop for afternoon tea

# PACE INTO SPACE!

By Anum Khan

*Do Martians exist? Are there other galaxies thriving with life? Do stories of flying saucers and UFOs have some substance? Funny how outer space keeps us intrigued and in total awe. What's more? The field of space sciences is as vast as the space itself.*



## THE SCOPE OF PROFESSION

The astronomy career begins with job as post-doctoral scholar in universities and government-funded organizations. Many go into research while others fit into teaching and administration. It is with time that astronomers get to work in famous observatories like Hubble Space Telescope. As for space-travel — qualified, experienced and competent astronomers are aggressively trained and tested for rare missions.



## DUR'AN EXTOLS THE EXPLORING MIND!

The Holy book clearly talks about the Earth, space, Heaven and Hell and their magnificence.

"Do they not look at the sky above them, how we have built and adorned it, and there are no rifts in it." – (50:6)

Allah has provided us the capability to think deeply and create logical conclusions. He, thus, has emphasised the need to keep an open eye and follow his signs everywhere.

"For you, (God) subjected all that is in heavens and on the earth, all from Him. Behold, in that are signs for people who reflect." (45:13)

## DIGGING THE CAREER PATH

The first step in choosing space sciences is deciding if you are really crazy about it. The field of astronomy can be challenging, but hard work pays off. A good physics background will help you choose astronomy and astrophysics in your higher studies. Learn about national/international astronomy associations and colleges/universities that cater to this field. Astronomers specialize in areas of planetary science, solar astronomy, etc. followed by PhD.

## LOOKING OUT TO THE SKY!

The curiosity of discovering what is out there can push you to consider astronomy as a career or hobby. You can be amateur astronomers while still at school, only to grow up and opt for it as a career! Here's how:

**Be a champ at physics and maths** along with geography and computer sciences. If you love maths and grasp scientific concepts easily, you have what it takes.

**Read about space** in interesting books and subscribe to an astronomy mag.

**Explore museums** and planetariums/observatories in your locality with your family. Keep yourself updated about the advancements in the field through various resources.

**Join/Make a local astronomy club** with people having mutual interest. Meet up occasionally and arrange fun activities. Join an evening/holiday course in astronomy. Many astronomy institutes/organizations keep holding events/workshops and short courses.

**Buy binoculars** for stargazing in the night sky. Learn some basics using tutorials and get a Star Atlas.



## FAMOUS ORGANISATIONS

Space research is held responsibly under national/international organizations and is a benchmark of every nation's prosperity.

**NASA:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration has achieved many scientific feats since 1958 including its

famous ISS (International Space Station).

**SUPARCO:** Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission researches in space technology and promotes space applications for socio-economic uplift of Pakistan.

## WORDS OF THE SKY!

The terms used in astronomy are as numerous as the stars in the sky. Match the following with their meanings by consulting a dictionary.

<b>Quasar</b>	A pattern of stars recognized from Earth
<b>Albedo</b>	An exceptionally bright meteor
<b>Light Year</b>	A chain of craters
<b>Nebula</b>	The point directly overhead from an observer
<b>Bolide</b>	A massive and extremely remote celestial object
<b>Umbra</b>	The reflecting power of a non-luminous body
<b>Zenith</b>	A unit for measuring distance in space
<b>Catena</b>	A cloud of dust or gas in space
<b>Asterism</b>	The dark inner part of an eclipse shadow

## IT'S ALL ONLINE

- [www.nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/](http://www.nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/) brings the universe to us in amazing online events.
- [www.kidsastronomy.com](http://www.kidsastronomy.com)



In the name of Allah,  
the Most Kind, the Most  
Merciful



All praise be to Allah to Whom belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth, and all praise be to Him in the World to Come. He is the Most Wise, All-Aware. He knows what penetrates into the earth and what goes forth from it, what descends from the heaven and what ascends to it. He is the Most Merciful, the Most Forgiving. (Ayah 1-2, Surah Saba)

# MIXED BAG



## Quotes

- I have accompanied people (Sahaba) who feared the rejection of their righteous deeds more than you fear the consequences of your sins" (Hasan Al-Basri)
- Humility is a part of noble character, and arrogance is the habit of villains. Humility inherits love, and contentment inherits comfort. (Shafi'ee)
- The believer is not a slave to fashion. (Unknown)
- Seriousness is the only refuge of the shallow. (Oscar Wilde)
- Do not fear mistakes. You will know failure. Continue to reach out. (Benjamin Franklin)
- We could never learn to be brave and patient, if there were only joy in the world. (Helen Keller)

## Ocean Facts

- The volume of the Earth's moon is the same as the volume of the Pacific Ocean.
- About half the communications between nations are via underwater cables.
- Over 90% of trade among countries is carried by ships.
- Undersea earthquakes and other disturbances cause tsunamis, or great waves.
- If you were an alien landing on Earth, you would have about a 60% chance of landing out of sight of land.



## Sayings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

The dearest and the nearest to me among you on the Resurrection Day shall be the best of you in morals. (Baihaqi)



## Riddles

- What has four wheels and flies?
- When do you stop at green and go at red?
- What has one horn and gives milk?
- What's taken before you get it?
- What happened when the wheel was invented?

## Answers upside down

A garbage truck! When you're eating a watermelon! A milk truck, your picture, it caused a revolution!



## My Crazy Dictionary

**Advertising:** Makes you think you've always wanted something that you've never heard of before

**Cactus:** An overgrown pin cushion

**Depth:** Height turned upside down

**Holiday:** The time when you find out where not to go next year

**Joke:** Something not everybody gets

**Magic Eye:** What teachers have in the back of their heads

**Self-Control:** Someone who can open a bag of peanuts and eat just one

**Tomorrow:** Today's greatest labour-saving device

**Test Pilot:** Someone who makes paper aeroplanes out of his test paper

**Water:** Thirst aid

**Zebra:** A horse that's escaped from prison



## Dangerous Bugs

**Bullet Ants:** The sting of this ant gives equal pain just like someone being shot by a gun.



**Africanised Honey Bee:** Their bite can kill a human being. They always remain ready to kill the attackers of their hives.



## Brazilian Wandering Spiders:

These are poisonous and cynical spiders found in the tropical South America and Central America.



**Human Bot Flies:** Mosquitoes and ticks transfer human botflies, the larva carried by the Mosquito is developed under the layer of the human skin, and it is important to treat it instantly.



**Assassin Bugs:** They are parasitic bugs and spread Chagas disease. These bugs often infect people living in poor conditions, specifically the rural parts of the Americas.



By Furqan Ahmed,  
Jeddah, KSA



# 11 Magic Tricks

Enthrall your friends with amazing feats of magic!

By Khizar Muneer



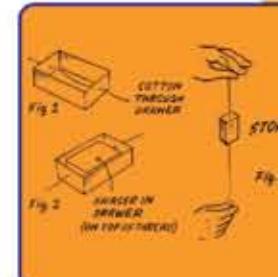
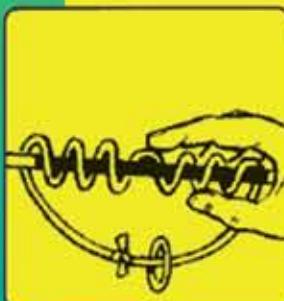
## Jumping Elastic

Place an elastic band over the first two fingers of your left hand. Close the left hand, at the same time secretly allowing the tips of all your left fingers to go into the band as shown. Open your hand and the elastic band will jump from the first two fingers to the third and fourth fingers.

## Reverse Loops

Take the cord and wind it around the pencil in one direction. Leave the tip of the finger on the pencil on the fourth loop. Then add three more loops but in the reverse direction. Cover all of the loops with your free hand. Now have someone tie a ring to the two loose ends of the cord. Have him pull straight down and the cord will come free from the pencil.

Secret: As you wind on the cord, you secretly reverse the direction.



## Stop!

Run a thread through the end of a matchbox drawer. Put a small eraser in the drawer on top of the thread then close the box. Now show the trick. Hold each end of the thread, with one hand above the other. The matchbox should be near the top of the thread. If you hold the thread loosely the box will slide down the thread but if you secretly tighten the thread the box will stop.



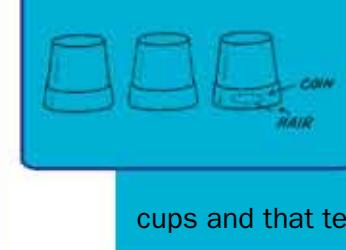
## Dice Deception

Whilst your back is turned, your friend throws dice two times. Ask him to remember the numbers thrown. Tell him to double the first number he threw and to add five to the answer. He has now to multiply his answer by five and then add on the second number thrown. Ask him what total he has reached. Now you tell him the numbers thrown and he surprises.

Secret: Subtract 25 from the answer he gives. You will end up with a two digit number. The first digit is the first number and the second is the second number thrown.

## Find the Coin

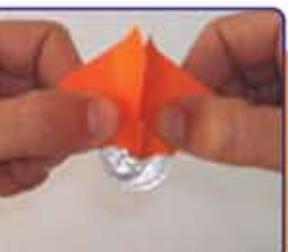
A coin is covered with any one of three cups. Cups can be moved around as much as anyone wants without showing you. You can say immediately which cup is covering the coin. Secret: Attached to the coin is a long hair. Look for the hair sticking out from beneath one of the cups and that tells you all you need to know!



## Where Are The Matches?

Two empty matchboxes and one containing some matches are moved around on a table. The spectators are unable to identify which box contains the matches. You can easily tell which one has matches.

Secret: All three matchboxes are empty. Attached to your right arm and hidden by your sleeve is a matchbox containing some matches. Shake a box with your left hand it sounds empty. When you mix up the three visible boxes you can make any one appear to be the full one, simply by shaking it with your right hand. The spectators think it contains matches because they hear the sound from the hidden box.

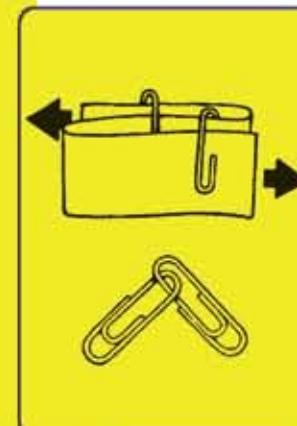


## Coin through hole

Make a circle a little smaller than the coin and carefully cut out. Fold the paper and place coin inside. Bend the paper as shown and the coin will fall through the hole without tearing the paper.

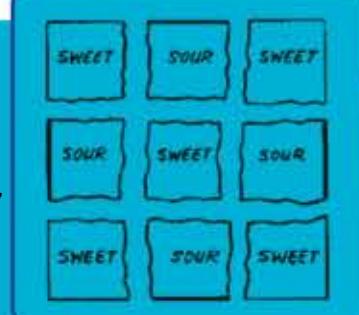
## Link Up

You need two paper clips and a sheet of paper. Clip the layers as shown. Pull the ends of the paper apart. The paper clips will join and pop off the paper.



## Sweet and Sour

On a sheet of card write the words "SWEET" and "SOUR" and tear the card into nine pieces as shown.



Your friend will place all pieces upside down without showing you. He puts a finger on any piece and you can tell him which word it is.

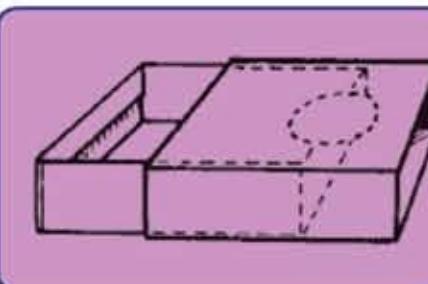
Secret: The "SOUR" pieces have only one straight edge and the "SWEET" pieces have two straight edges, with one exception which has no straight edges whatsoever.



## Crayon trick

Give different crayons to a friend. Ask him to select one and put it in your hand after you turn your back. You will correctly tell the colour of the chosen crayon!

Secret: Scrape a small piece of crayon under a fingernail.



## Money making matchbox

Prepare the box by pushing a coin as shown. Show an empty matchbox to your friends and ask them to drop two coins in it. Close the box and rattle it. Drop the contents on the table and there are THREE coins!

# Young writers

## A Tiny Rat

By Janzeb Akram, Turbat, Pakistan

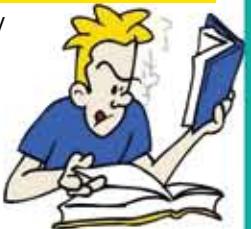
Once there was a tiny rat who wanted to be famous. It loved jogging. The ruler grew very old and all the rats decided to select a new ruler. He said there would be a race and the winner would become the new ruler. When they saw that tiny rat was there in the race all the rats laughed. The tiny rat was jogging very fast and won the race. It suggested to all the cats and rats: "Don't judge a book by its cover."



## Study

By Eesha Tariq, 6th, Al-Noor International School, Bahrain

You know who are the enemy of man?  
Tell me if you can  
The hints are physics and chemistry  
Include mathematics and biology  
Pass in exam and nothing else  
Praying to God "Please Bless".



## Chemistry Makes Me Cry

By Khadija Ghalib, 8th, Shaheen Public School, Karachi, Pakistan

Alas! This chemistry makes me cry  
This chemistry makes me die  
For some people it is curious  
But for me it is furious  
Whenever I sit to learn chemistry  
I always feel asleep.



## Dolphin Show

By Mohib Zia, 5B, DM School System, Karachi, Pakistan

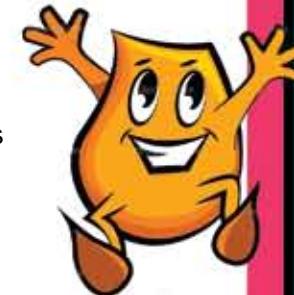
It was time to go to the dolphin show from our school. At first we saw a sea lion named Memo it was the best performance of all. Memo rang the bell which meant the fun begins. Memo did many tricks such as playing with ball and touching a high beach ball which was hanging with a string. It was playing 'catch and throw' and did many amazing feats. In the middle of the performance Memo was tired. The dolphin was named Boris. Boris copied all the tricks and it jumped very high in the air. It was the best trip ever!



## Happiness

By Syed Muhammad Shayan Ansab, 5A, Beaconhouse School System, Karachi, Pakistan

Share happiness with all  
Erase their serious issues  
Root out their problems  
Human will be happy  
Unite with them  
Try to stand by them.



## Magic Of Nature

By Taha Khan, 8th, Beacon Light Academy, Karachi, Pakistan

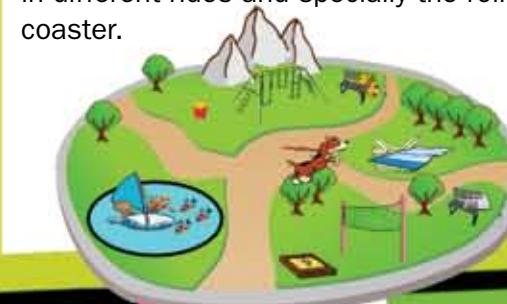
I wonder about the blue sky  
And the big burning ball up high  
The wind that blow  
And the fields plough  
He created white pillows  
And made them float above willows  
We should thank Him  
We should praise Him.



## Always Remember Allah

By Faizan Asif, Meritorious School Network

My nephew and I went to an amusement park. He disappeared somewhere when I was buying tickets of a ride. I first thought that he was kidding with me. His favourite ride was rollercoaster so I first went there to look for him but I couldn't find him. I had almost searched the whole park but still couldn't find him. I was too worried. So I prayed to Allah to help and recited the dua. Suddenly I saw him sitting on a bench. He started crying like a baby. But then I thought that I was unfair with him. I apologised and took him to the food court. After that we had a lot of fun in different rides and specially the roller coaster.



# MIND GAME

**1.** Complete the series

5      12      26      47      ?

**2.** Odd one out

(a)                                  (b)                                  (c)



**3.** Unscramble the anagram to discover a word relating school.

T F L A M E H I

### Answers February 2014

- 1.** 6
- 2.** c
- 3.** Geography
- 4.** Ladder step, mat and window of house
- 5.** Thunder

**K**ids! Here is your chance to win lots of prizes. Just answer the following questions and mail us at our postal address or email at mindgame@vshineworld.com with your complete name and address by April 30, 2014. All entries with correct answers will be picked for draw to select five winners. Answers mailed twice with the same name and address will not be accepted.

**4.** Write three differences. (Differences are required only in written form so don't tear out the page)



**5.** Hidden among the words of this sentence below is a word relating weapon. Find it.

*He does this to avoid walking under it*

### Winners February 2014

Prizes would be delivered by April 30, 2014

- 1.** Ahmed Akhter (Jeddah, Saudi Arabia)
- 2.** Tariq Zia (Karachi, Pakistan)
- 3.** Kiran Ansari (Dubai, UAE)
- 4.** Omar Abdurrahman (Boston, USA)
- 5.** Nadia Imtiaz (Lahore, Pakistan)

# Scorching Deserts

Let's quickly find out words related to hot deserts in the world.

- Arid
- Cactus
- Camel
- Date
- Hawk
- Mirage
- Oasis
- Sandstorm
- Sunray
- Trackless

D	A	S	B	O	A	S	T	V	C	R	R	G	S	P	I
L	X	N	W	E	D	I	O	W	R	N	A	J	E	P	
B	E	Z	B	G	T	E	I	D	O	E	A	G	S	O	T
X	E	S	E	F	M	O	Y	A	E	J	I	N	E	E	T
C	W	L	R	S	O	A	L	E	M	A	C	T	I	I	C
L	J	C	A	S	R	F	R	S	X	E	C	M	C	O	F
O	U	Q	T	N	R	S	I	I	S	G	P	C	G	M	J
E	S	A	U	E	F	T	B	T	D	E	G	A	R	I	M
G	U	S	U	T	C	A	C	L	I	I	N	O	S	E	E
P	N	I	E	I	T	T	Y	O	U	W	T	A	E	E	E
A	W	S	R	L	V	E	D	F	O	S	N	O	F	H	E
S	V	R	D	N	K	W	A	H	D	E	S	I	O	R	E
E	X	S	S	S	Y	C	T	N	R	W	E	N	B	M	I
S	P	I	L	R	R	T	A	E	T	A	D	H	G	B	G
O	N	S	O	A	E	S	R	R	N	P	K	N	I	O	G
S	E	A	A	M	T	Q	W	H	T	Q	I	T	I	T	N

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Once a cat asked a lion to share the secret of his bravery and courage as she wanted to become as big as lion and rule the jungle. "My dear cat, though size does matter but attitude is more important. You see neither I am a big animal like an elephant nor as fast as a cheetah but I have something which makes me the king of the jungle."

As the cat expressed eagerness, as the lion continued to speak. "You see when I am hungry I look up and roar at the top of my voice asking God to give me all the courage to rule the biggest, tallest, fastest and furious animals in jungle. Besides that I know when to attack. You will find me fighting only when I am threatened or hungry. I capture prey bigger than me such as bulls and then the catch is left for others too. However, in your case, you hunt prey smaller than you while looking down on the ground and do not share it with others unless enough is present."

The cat found herself speechless.

"My tone tells clearly whether I am inviting companions or scaring off rivals -- the message is always unambiguous whereas, you mew doubtfully."

The lion continued as the cat listened quietly. "Lions are always determined and do not step back once they take a decision. They have a super attitude mentality. You see I

always walk tall and demonstrate confidence. I explore waterholes and know how to secure my territory. I keep a sharp eye to the sky and ears close to the ground - always looking for opportunities or assessing threats around. I know when to blend in and when to stand out."

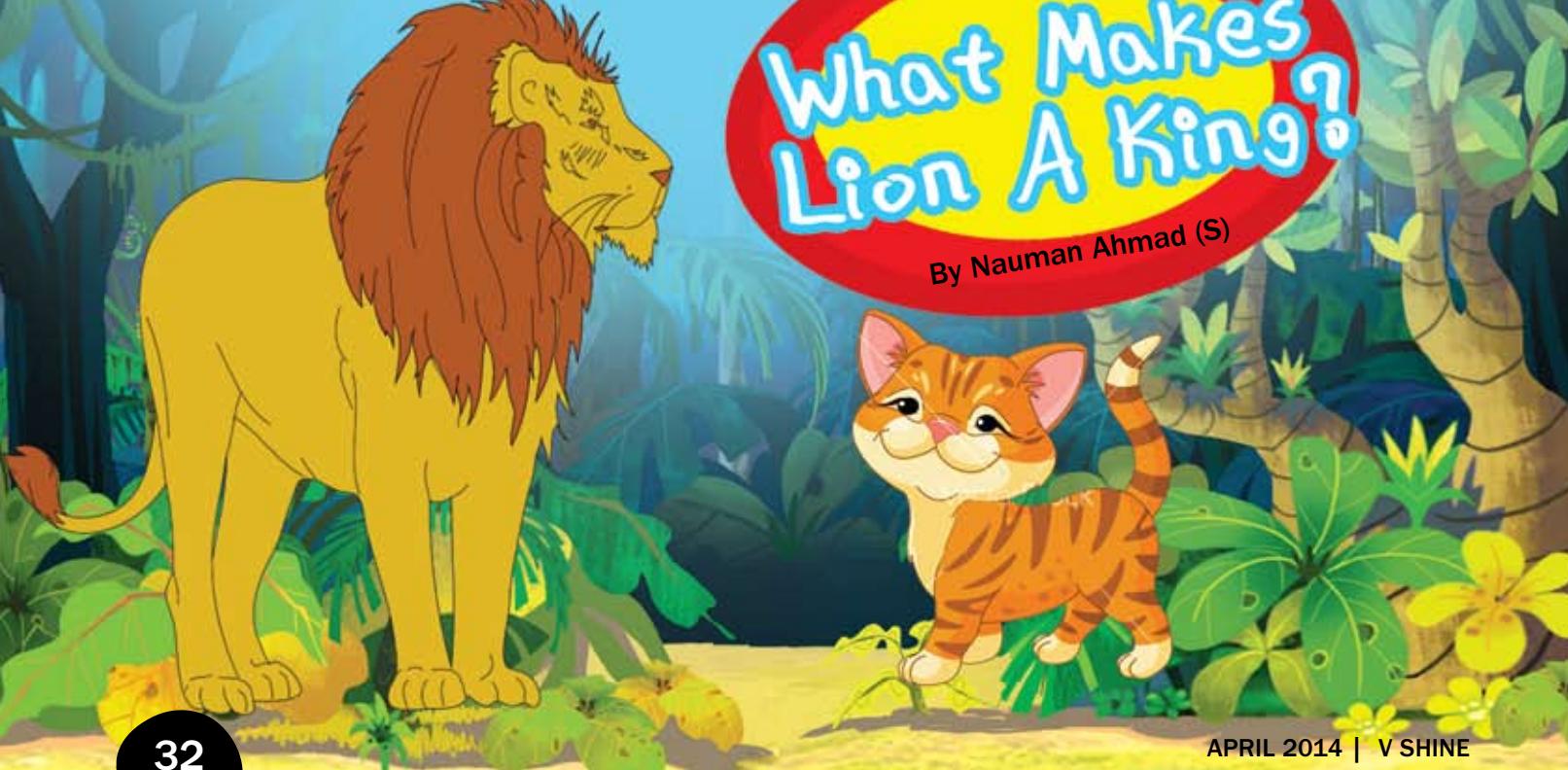
Suddenly the cat interrupted the lion and jumped up the tree and said with high ego: "I have enough courage now. Whatever you are -- you will never be able to catch me."

The cat gathered all the animals and declared herself the newly-discovered ruler of the jungle for a couple of reasons like lions were not capable of climbing trees and capturing smaller animals and another fact was that she was not a threat to bigger animals. The lion said: "Let the animals decide about the ruler here."

Soon the cat cried for help as all the animals were trying to catch her. The lion left, leaving a great message for the cat. "How strange things are, I still wonder who is the king - whether my power to capture rules or not to capture rules over here. I wish the poor cat could have noticed at least one of my strengths and traits."

## What Makes Lion A King?

By Nauman Ahmad (S)

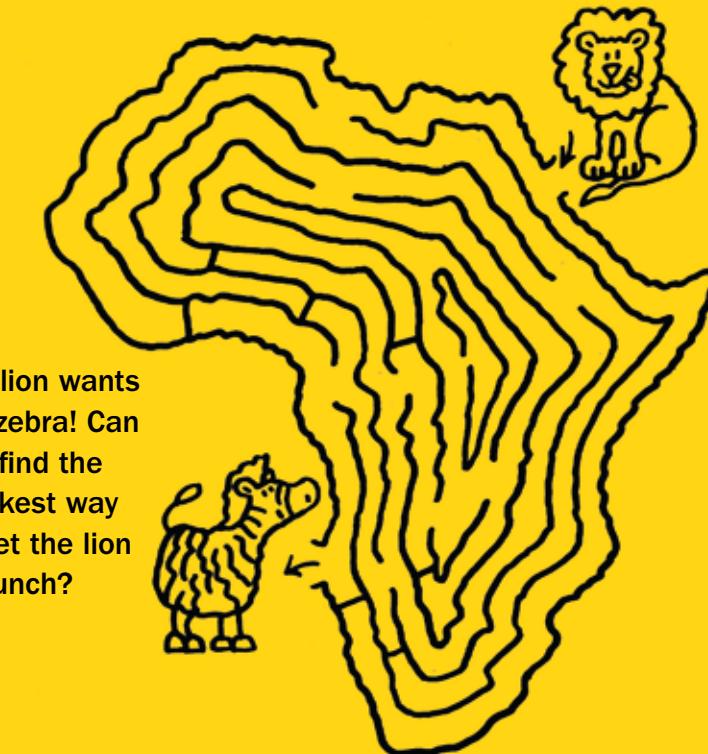


### Answers - page

**19**

toucan  
bill  
flock  
hop  
claws  
feather  
fruit  
tree  
nest  
pluck  
beak  
weight  
kertain  
pet

The lion wants the zebra! Can you find the quickest way to get the lion its lunch?



### Answers - page 16

#### The Holdup

The visible hinges on the stockroom door showed the Inspector that the door opened inward. The knife could not have fallen so close behind the door without being pushed away when the door was opened. So Mr Arif was lying. He had robbed the cash drawer himself, and to divert suspicion, made up the story of the holdup. His careless placement of the knife was his downfall and led to his arrest.

#### Jacked Up

They didn't get the wheels, but they left the car jacked up with the jack from their trunk.

Help the kangaroo across Australia.



# WORO BOX

Words	Page No.	Type	Meanings
Attire	5	Noun	Clothes, especially of a particular or formal type
Threat	7	Noun	An indication of impending danger or harm
Eulogy	9	Noun	A speech, piece of writing, poem, etc. containing great praise, especially for someone who recently died
Ode	9	Noun	A poem expressing the writer's thoughts and feelings about a particular person or subject, usually written to that person or subject
Transcend	9	Verb	To go further, rise above, or be more important or better than something
Grope	9	Verb	To feel with your hands, especially in order to find or move towards something when you cannot see easily
Holdup	16	Noun	An armed robbery (as used in the puzzle story), An interruption or a delay
Crossroads	17	Noun	A place where two roads meet and cross each other
Alleviate	17	Verb	To make pain or problems less severe
Benchmark	23	Noun	A standard for measuring or judging other things of the same type
Planetarium	23	Noun	A building specially equipped to show images of the stars in the sky and other objects in space on a curved ceiling
Stargazer	23	Noun	A person who is involved in astronomy or astrology
Deception	26	Noun	The act of hiding the truth, especially to get an advantage
Enthrall	26	Verb	To keep someone completely interested
Mirage	31	Noun	An image, produced by very hot air, of something that seems to be far away but does not really exist
Scorching	31	Adjective	Very hot
Trackless	31	Adjective	Having no paths or roads
Eager	32	Adjective	Wanting very much to do or have something
unambiguous	32	Adjective	Expressed in a way that makes it completely clear what is meant
Hinge	33	Noun	A piece of metal that fastens the edge of a door, window, lid, etc. to something else and allows it to open or close

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Tringo...



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