

10Xpress

Volume #1, Issue #2
October, 2023



10Xpress

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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

We are thrilled to announce the Halloween-themed second issue of 10Xpress, the official student-led school newspaper of 10X International School! This month's issue is filled with updates and improvements based on your feedback on Issue #1!

This issue covers some fascinating, dynamic topics and gives insight into current events around the world. Since Issue #1, we've introduced a bonus section, including an interactive sudoku puzzle, amusing cartoons, a word search, and a few riddles (of varying difficulties).

We try our best to cover a broad array of relevant topics in our articles to appeal to the interests and preferences of every reader. In line with this commitment, some headlines of this issue include "Breakthrough: Human Kidneys Grown in Pig Foetuses," "Indo-Nepal Rice Wars: Smuggling Surges After Ban," "Shanghai Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2024," and "India Hammers Pakistan 8-0 in CWC 2023."

Finally, we'd like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated members of the Writing and Design staff. Their efforts were crucial in making this issue a success.

If you have any feedback regarding this issue, kindly fill out this [form](#). If you have any queries or concerns, please reach out to us at pranav.morisetty@indusschool.com or bharat.ambati@indusschool.com, and we'll address them.

Thank you, and have a delightful read ahead!

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Note: This issue's best staff members have a star (☆) beside their name.

Schizophrenic Steering (Short Story)

By Pranav Morisetty (11)

It was late. The nearest CVS was twenty-five minutes away from home. Every week, I would drive there after lunch to bring my mother her insulin medication, but today, I got caught up with work. Mom was asleep now, but she needed her pills by the morning. I lazily snatched the keys to my quaint 1999 Camry and twisted the antiquated doorknob, revealing the silhouetted path to my driveway. The night's silence was broken only by the soft murmur of nocturnal creatures. I settled inside the car and fiddled with the keys for a while before the engine finally sputtered to life. The dim luminescence of my time-worn headlights gently kissed the expanse of the garage door in front.

Firmly grasping the steering wheel with one hand and clutching the gear shift with the other, I deftly maneuvered the car off the driveway and pressed down on the accelerator.

Five minutes had passed. While garbled tunes played on the stereo, I sat back and loosened my grip on the steering wheel.

Ten minutes had passed. I rolled the window down a little and thought about quitting my job. "I'll borrow some money from Frank and start a business. That way, I'd be able to spend more time with Mom. God, I hardly see her anymore. I need to be with her."

Fifteen minutes had passed. Then it happened—the sounds from the radio became increasingly distorted. Somehow, I felt another presence in the car. I slightly canted the rear-view mirror to get a clearer picture of the back row. For a sliver of a second, I caught a figure. I slammed the brakes, and the tires screeched while the Camry groaned. My heart thumping, I turned the interior light on and faced the three seats in the back. Thankfully, nothing. Winded and reassured it was only my imagination, I stepped out of the vehicle to catch my breath. I was able to see lights in the distance. Almost there.

I slid into the car, an ominous yet unsuspecting chill permeating the air. The music seemed to return to normal, but the ambiance was unnaturally warped. Without warning, the indicator flickered to life as if possessed by some unseen force. Just as my fingers grazed the switch to subdue it, a grotesque apparition manifested beside me. Frozen in terror, its infernal eyes held me captive, rendering me powerless. My foot jerked involuntarily, slamming down on the gas pedal with a force I could not restrain. The lights began to strobe frenetically. Suddenly, the seat belt coiled like a serpent, tightening relentlessly around my throat, strangling the very life from me. The figure's mouth unfurled to reveal several rows of jagged teeth. I could almost feel my organs liquefy. "Is this the end?" Absolute terror overcame me as my vision clouded. "Help," I managed to utter before the darkness finally engulfed me.

Riverside Reverie (Poem)

By Siddarth Mitra (10)

In the serenity of flowing water;
In the ripples of a gentle stream;
I ponder upon where I belong.

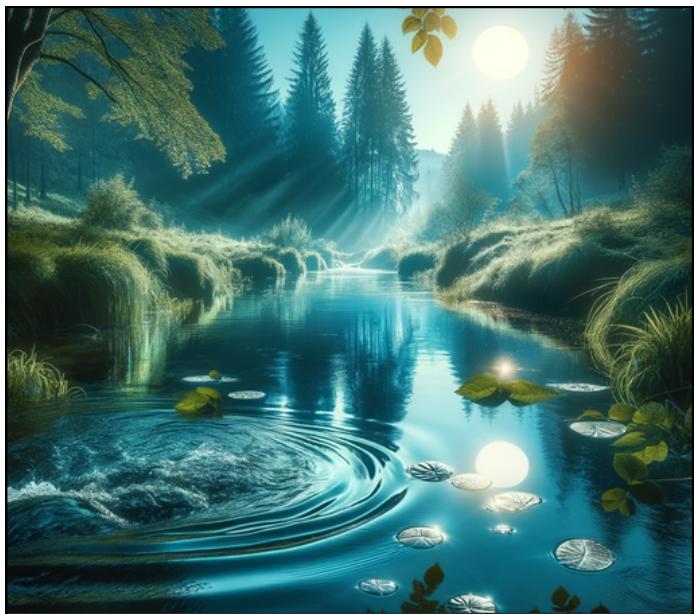
In the vast expanses,
Of a world I call home.

I look upon dancing reflections
Of cerulean skies
And the oozing bright yolk of the sun.
I ever so slightly graze evergreen leaves
Floating across the torrents of a tranquil river.

Under the quaint shade of age-old trees,
Their wisdom imparts unto me.
In these clear waters,
I let my visage settle into stillness.
For my mind yearns for a state of reverie in the solace
And the solitude of a river.

It seeks a place to pacify the deluge
Of the thoughts flooding my mind.
It seeks a safe haven from the cloudbursts of voices
That resides in every inch of my body,
And every inch of this tainted society.

In another life, could I, perchance, be a wandering leaf
Floating across the meanders of a never-ending river?



New Fireproof Fuel from Ionic Liquids Reduces Fire Risk

By Chirag Gowda (12)

In a world where fire has been both friend and foe to humanity since the beginning of time, the search for fireproof solutions has always been one held in paramount interest. Finding this fireproof fuel would enable us to create a world where the safety of our homes, vehicles, and industries is secured. The thought of a gas leak that could potentially destroy our homes and vehicles will no longer persist with the introduction of nonflammable fuel.



Flammable gases cause a considerable amount of fires, and those fires are classified as Class-B fires by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Class-B fires are accountable for nearly one-fifth of all fire-related fatalities. According to the World Health Organization, around 300,000 fire-caused fatalities occur each year, of which, around 60,000 of them are deaths which are caused by flammable gas. Fireproof fuel will reduce these numbers significantly.

The concept of nonflammable fuels comes from ionic liquids; as the name suggests, it is essentially a molten salt. Ionic liquids were discovered over a century ago, but we have only recently explored their ability to act as a nonflammable gas. Chemical engineers at UC Riverside have created a nonflammable fuel using ionic liquids that only combust when an electric current passes through it. The idea is that the volatile vapour molecules combust when reacting to oxygen when the voltage passes through, but when the voltage is off, the flame extinguishes. This new fuel can only combust when an electric current passes through, making its ability to catch fire much more controllable. This cycle of removing and adding voltage to the system can be done multiple times without affecting the fuel itself. Hopefully, in the future, fuels like this will be the ones that our cars and homes run on.

Breakthrough: Human Kidneys Grown in Pig Foetuses

By Siddarth Mitra (10)

In the United States, there is a staggering backlog of more than 100,000 individuals awaiting life-saving kidney transplants. This dire situation stems from a severe shortage of kidney donors, leading to extended waiting periods for transplant recipients and placing an overwhelming burden on the healthcare system.

To address such a problem, a research team from the Guangzhou Institute of Biomedicine and Health, have made a breakthrough in producing kidneys made up of—mostly—human cells by using pig foetuses as host organisms. Rarely has such an achievement been realised, as most organisms typically utilise the transplantation of foreign cells contained within host organisms with a significant non-human component to gain acceptance within the human body. Though these kidneys are not yet made up fully of human cells, they are the closest the scientific community has gotten to readily producing human organs from other host organisms.

This was achieved by extracting fertilised pig embryos, a single cell that would eventually grow into a pig foetus, and using CRISPR gene editing. CRISPR is a form of gene editing that can be used to edit out genes in a cell. In this case, it was used to edit out 2 genes responsible for the formation of the kidney in a pig foetus. This gene editing also facilitated the embryo to rely on human stem cells to form a kidney, to ensure that a human kidney is produced in the pig foetus. These embryos were then transplanted into surrogate female pigs to develop the foetus. After the foetus showed considerable signs of growth, they were extracted to examine the growth of kidneys, and whether they were fit to be transplanted into a human.

The results showed that the kidneys were composed of human cells, with only a few instances of pig cells. Although pig cells aren't accepted for organ transplants, this research has paved the way for a potential revolution in the field of organ transplantation.



Tech in the Israel-Hamas War: Usage & Implications

By Yi Zou (9)

The Israel-Hamas War, a reiteration of the century-old Israel-Palestine conflict, is becoming increasingly destructive as technological progress comes to affect the weapons industry.

Technology is playing a significant role in the Israel-Hamas conflict in terms of weaponization. Bombs and highly destructive weapons are being used on both sides of the conflict. For instance, on October 7, Hamas fired more than 5,000 rockets into Israel, devastating homes and lives. More recent incidents, such as the bombing of the Gaza Al Ahli Arab hospital, allegedly by the Israeli government, claimed the lives of 471 people and injured hundreds more, further reflecting technology's impact on warfare. Drones are also being used by both sides to gather intel or even as a source of destruction.

However, it is worth noting that Hamas does not have access to very advanced weapons from top manufacturers. Hamas was known to utilize homemade rockets created from water pipes as part of its arsenal. Conducting mainly asymmetrical warfare, Hamas was able to utilize its weapons to their full extent. This reflects the increasing accessibility of technology in weaponization along with its role in guerilla warfare and terrorism, with the capability of causing mass destruction with a low budget and labour cost.

There are several implications of using technology in the Israel-Hamas war. Environmentally, destruction increased in scale and frequency. Socially, citizens along the Israel-Palestine region, especially those in Gaza, were displaced from their homes and forced to seek shelter elsewhere, some losing their lives in the process. Ethically, the usage of rockets and drones for the destruction of civilian regions violated Article 3 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, displacing people of their security.

As technology rises in warfare and terrorism, the world is entering a new age of military conflict. Whether it is going to be for the better or worse depends on us. The Israel-Hamas conflict deeply reflects this.

Neuralink Trials: Musk's Brain-Computer Breakthrough Begins

By Ruhi Beri (10)

The Neuralink brain-computer interface created by well-renowned Elon Musk's neurotechnology company Neuralink has been FDA-approved for human clinical trials and is recruiting test subjects as of September 2023. The study named PRIME (Precise Robotically Implanted Brain-Computer Interface) will investigate the safety and functionality of the chip and of robots that will surgically implant the chip.

Neuralink aims to "restore autonomy to those with unmet medical needs today and unlock human potential tomorrow." The brain-computer interface (BCI) will be implanted into the brain region responsible for the intent to move. It can then record and transmit brain signals wirelessly to an app that decodes the signals and allows people with paralysis to control devices with their thoughts: both exciting and bizarre concepts! The study is recruiting adults with quadriplegia, paraplegia, vision loss, hearing loss, mutism, or major limb amputation.

Furthermore, Neuralink has ambitious plans. One of their primary pursuits is helping paralyzed people regain mobility by wirelessly sending brain signals to limbs where neural pathways are damaged. They also aim to normalize BCI usage in the human population to reduce the risk of artificial intelligence overtaking human civilizations. Several people have raised their concerns about BCIs, resonating with many popular dystopian science fiction movies such as The Matrix (1999) and Inception (2010), which portray the misuse of such technology by humans and artificial intelligence alike.

With Neuralink, third parties and AI technology may access your thoughts, an unparalleled danger as thoughts are innately private. Neuralink technology also raises the question of whether it's possible to hack or control human thoughts, bringing the dystopian novel 1984 to life.

However, the Neuralink human trials are estimated to take six years to complete, and even after that, BCIs may not be commercially available for longer than a decade, if at all, experts say.

Russian Sanctions Lead to Unintended Fertilizer Crisis

By Suchita Agarwalla (10)

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February of 2022, many nations, such as the US and the nations of the European Union, have imposed sanctions on the country to reduce its ability to finance the war. However, there are certain drawbacks to the trade sanctions on Russia.

As of 2021, Russia and its neighbouring country, Belarus, are one of the world's top fertiliser exporters. They account for the supply of 20% of the major fertilisers used: nitrogen, phosphate, and potash. Russia and Belarus together provide 40% of global potash exports. The role of these fertilisers is more significant in the functioning of our society than we often realise. According to The World Food Programme (WFP), half the world's population relies on mineral fertiliser for food growth.

In recent years, the outbreak of COVID-19 and trade restrictions imposed on major fertiliser producers such as Russia have reduced the number of fertilisers available on the market. Because of the shortages, prices have skyrocketed. For example, the prices of fertilisers have more than quadrupled in Nigeria and 13 other countries since February 2022. The sudden inflation in this sector of the market is a huge shock for most of the farmers; a change they were not ready for. As the affordability rate is decreasing, so is the demand for fertilisers reducing the overall production of grains.

"It's important that this fertiliser crunch is solved", said Stefan Meyer, an economist at the World Food Programme. "We have to produce enough (food) on the available land - land is limited - and fertiliser is an important component of that."



Indo-Nepal Rice Wars: Smuggling Surges After Ban

By Avani Radheshyam (10)

On July 20, 2023, India banned exports of non-basmati white rice to boost domestic supply, control domestic prices, and keep retail prices in check during the festive season. Despite the ban, there has been a lot of rice smuggling along the Indo-Nepal border. At dawn, villagers who reside close to the border set out to smuggle rice to the neighbouring country. Villagers are used by the Nepali traders to supply the rice, and, in return, they receive 300 rupees. To make as much money as possible, these villagers each make multiple trips. The main villages in India where the smuggling takes place are Bargadwa, Bhavanipur, Dhakia, and Baghwanpur.



The Nepali traders have set up small warehouses close to the border where the villagers can deliver their rice every day. At the end of each day, the rice is moved to another storehouse in Nepal. Most of the smuggling is done early in the morning or early afternoon since the nighttime is extremely dangerous, and there is a high risk of getting caught by the police. Officials managed to seize 111.2 tonnes of rice from being smuggled to Nepal. Nonetheless, this is still a metonym for the large amounts of rice being smuggled daily.

The price of rice has gone up exponentially from 12 rs per kg to 30 rs per kg because of smuggling, making rice unaffordable for many people.

The Indian authorities have started to act faster than ever before to stop the smuggling; they have sent two teams, each containing six people, to seize the rice and stop the smuggling altogether.

China-Philippines Dispute Over Scarborough Shoal

By Bharat Ambati (10)

For many years, China and the Philippines have disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea. In 2013, the Philippines filed a case against China's claims in the South China Sea; this was later ruled in their favour by an international tribunal in 2016. Although this is the case, China refuses to acknowledge the ruling and continues to make assertions there.



The problems started when Chinese ships refused Philippine Navy ships from arresting Chinese fishermen who were fishing illegally. Since then, tensions have occasionally increased as both nations have established their sovereignty over the shoal.

A principal issue is that if both countries increase their naval presence in the area, the tensions between both states will also continue to rise. In addition to this, the international community will be severely interested in the potential abundance of resources in the South China Sea.

The effect of the South China Sea being a major worldwide trade route is that it also raises issues about access to crucial maritime resources, freedom of passage, and regional stability regarding other countries internationally.

China's historical claims have been declared guilty by several international authorities, including the Permanent Court of Arbitration, in favour of the Philippines. Contrasting this, China has mostly rejected these claims, supporting its territorial claims on the "nine-dash line" map.

Achieving a peaceful resolution to the issue will require a willingness to engage in negotiations and discussions from both parties.

Gaza Under Siege, Escalating Humanitarian Crisis

By Nisvi Sood (10)

On October 7th, the Palestinian militant group Hamas launched a severe assault on Israel, the deadliest in its history. In retaliation, Israel's Defense Minister, Yoav Gallant, declared "We are putting a complete siege on Gaza... No electricity, no food, no water, no gas—it's all closed." He initiated a complete blockade on Gaza, cutting off all essential services. This swift action led to an immediate halt of Gaza's lone power plant by October 11th due to fuel shortages, causing a severe water crisis. The WHO urgently raised concerns about Gaza's health system as hospitals faced shutdowns. Moreover, the siege would continue until Hamas released all 199 hostages.



Gaza, already under a 16-year blockade, has seen 95% of its residents without potable water and 78% consuming unsafe water. Goods transportation plunged from 961 truckloads monthly to just two post-blockade. Tensions escalated further when Israel ordered over a million northern Gaza residents to relocate south by October 13th, hinting at a potential ground assault. This move displaced over half of Gaza's population.

The Rafah border crossing with Egypt remained the only escape route, but airstrikes had made it unviable. Fortunately, a glimmer of hope emerged as Israel consented to the transportation of aid into Gaza via the Rafah crossing. In a collaborative effort, the U.S. teamed up with global organizations like the U.N. to set up safe zones within Israel. The U.N. unveiled a \$294 million emergency appeal. Groups like UNICEF, UNRWA, the International Red Cross, and Doctors Without Borders, banded together to offer aid, essential goods, and emergency services. However, an Israeli strike impacted a U.N. school sheltering 4,000 Palestinians, killing six.

The recent conflict has exacerbated Gaza's humanitarian crisis, threatening the lives of over 2.2 million individuals, equivalent to the population of Detroit.

Social Media Detox: Significance and Strategies

By Samridhi Jangid (9)

Social media detoxification (detox) refers to voluntary attempts to reduce or eliminate social media use to improve one's well-being. But why is this necessary? The time we spend online affects the dopamine system in our brains. This is the incentive system that is activated when you check your phone for new messages or hear a ping that indicates an update. These unpredictable sensations provide you with short-term pleasure, keeping you hooked and eager to check back throughout the day to see what's new.

Technostress is a concept that describes the mental strain caused by our constant contact with technology. It is caused by the continual urge to keep connected, which leads to feelings of isolation and heightened anxiety.

Here are some of the strategies for your social media detox:

- Start Small: Begin with a mini detox – challenge yourself to a few hours or a day without social media, resisting the urge to scroll, like, or comment.
- Disable Notifications: Disable notifications to break the dopamine-driven cycle of social media interaction, similar to addictive behaviours.
- Dedicate Device-Free Times: Create periods without devices, like one day a week or specific hours, to foster relaxation and real-world conversations.
- Unfollow and Unsubscribe: Clean up your social media by unfollowing or unsubscribing from accounts that don't add value or provoke negative feelings.
- Set Reminders: Use checklists and phone settings to establish time restrictions and receive notifications when your social media time is up.

The multifarious benefits of social media detox include enhanced focus and productivity, improved self-esteem, increased mindfulness, reduced anxiety, and greater control over time.

"We're plugged in 24 hours a day now...if we can't unplug from that machine, eventually, we're going to become mindless."

- Alan Lightman



Exploring the Health Benefits of Fasting

By Venkat Muralidhar (10)

In a world brimming with health and wellness trends, fasting is regaining prominence for its potential benefits. This age-old practice, involving the voluntary restriction of food or drink, has deep roots in religious and cultural traditions and is now making its mark in modern health practices.

India, a tapestry of diverse traditions and cultures, embraces fasting during festivals and significant events. From Ramadan to Ekadashi, Navratri to Lent, fasting takes on varied forms driven by ritual, religion, or ethics. These practices, passed down through generations, often adapt to seasons, climate, and overall well-being, preparing the body for forthcoming changes.

Beyond traditional fasting, intermittent fasting (IF) is gaining popularity for health and weight management. IF involves alternating periods of eating and fasting, often in time-restricted patterns. Research suggests that IF can replicate the benefits of regular exercise, improving heart health, and regulating blood pressure and insulin levels. It also positively affects brain health, enhancing cognitive function and delaying age-related decline.

Additionally, numerous animal studies imply a connection between reduced food intake and extended lifespan. For example, Okinawans, who are known for their extraordinarily long lifespans, follow a diet low in calories, which leads to better gut health, cognitive function, and protection against neurodegenerative diseases in addition to a longer lifespan. Always remember, before embarking on any fasting regimen, especially experimental or extreme ones, it's essential to seek guidance from a healthcare professional.

As fasting continues to weave its way into modern health practices, the fusion of tradition and science promises a nuanced understanding of its impact on our bodies and longevity. Whether rooted in cultural traditions or pursued for potential health benefits, fasting remains a subject of exploration at the confluence of culture and modern science.

Disney Celebrates 100th Anniversary

By Nivedita Saboo (10)



This October is a special one for The Walt Disney Company as it commemorates its 100th anniversary on Monday, October 16. In 1923, the Walt Disney Company, then known as Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio, was founded. In the 100 years since the company's founding, it's expanded to be a global empire with parks and resorts around the world, five cruise ships—with three more on the way—and a handful of movie studios under its umbrella.

The celebration included a first-of-its-kind experience on TikTok, a restored 4K version of the 1937 film Snow White, and a short film called Once Upon a Studio, which gathered some of Disney's most iconic characters to take a group photo in honour of the company's 100th.

In addition, the Disney100 celebration showcases fans' favourite stories and beloved characters with monthly themes. Since it all started with a mouse, Disney officially started with their monthly "Wonder of ..." celebrations by spotlighting the Wonder of Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse! For almost a century, fans worldwide have been inspired by this iconic pair's optimism, positivity and loyalty. These traits honour not just Disney's heritage but the legacy of Walt Disney himself.

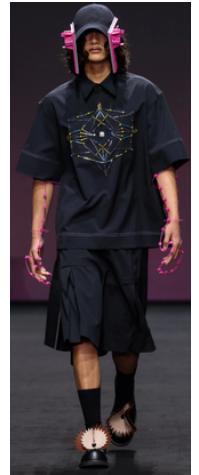
Disney100 commemorates the storytellers who have brought generations the wonder and magic of Disney and how these beloved characters and stories connect us.



Shanghai Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2024

By Rishan Reddy (11)

The Spring/Summer 2024 edition of Shanghai Fashion Week marked a comeback for fashion events at their pre-COVID-19 hype. More than one hundred internationally recognised brands convened in Shanghai, presenting cutting-edge designs. It was a gathering of designers, industry professionals, and fashionistas. SHFW restructured its runway presentations, offering two showings: a first one for the general public to "democratise fashion," along with a second directed at experts.



Each season, SHFW opens its heart to a thrilling troupe of fresh, lively talents. These designers are the future face of fashion, revolutionising creativity and innovation. This spirit was echoed in CLOT's "CHANGE THE GENERATION" collection. Each piece celebrated Chinese culture that thoughtfully mixed Eastern and Western influences. This was a significant achievement in the history of CLOT, which represented the launch of its first womenswear line, in-house footwear, and handbag collection. The designers were inspired by martial arts, art house films, sportswear, and Bruce Lee!

Yet another stand-out was STAFFONLY, who decided to go on an artsy trip with an added element of humour. The collection focused on celebrating their communal identity while exploring the creative process and the role of procrastination. This use of big oversized pencils has characterised the style of these designers. On the other hand, it presented a dystopian vision of an intergalactic future, combining fashion and artificial intelligence. The "PRO A.I.VOLUTION Intergalactic Expo" was a unique experience that explored human evolution in ultra-modern galaxies. The display boasted translucent body cases, mechanical attire, and an arresting futuristic look.

In the fashion world, SHFW stands as a dynamic and adaptable platform that not only engages with consumers directly but also spotlights emerging talent and offers innovative designs. This season, SHFW has once again proven that it is a significant event on the global fashion calendar, providing a captivating glimpse into the future of fashion.

India Hammers Pakistan 8-0 in CWC 2023

By Vivaan Sharma (9)



On the 14th of October, India brought its tally of wins against Pakistan in the ICC Cricket World Cup to 8-0. The sensational performance by the Indian team enabled them to defeat the Pakistani Cricket Team by seven wickets with more than 110 balls to spare. The Pakistani batting lineup crumbled under the effective bowling attack from India; the Pakistani team managed to muster a less-than-respectable total of 191 all out.

India has upheld its national pride in this exciting match during the ongoing political tensions between India and Pakistan. The Indian bowling attack has proven itself through the exceptional performances of Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Hardik Pandya and Kuldeep Yadav. Each of them having picked two wickets, the innings ended just after 42.5 overs.

Furthermore, Bumrah, Yadav and Jadeja achieved spectacular economies of 2.71, 3.5 and 3.86 respectively. This performance by Bumrah won him the Man of the Match award.

The Indian batting lineup reaped the fruits of the bowling attack's success, powering India to win the game in just 30.3 overs and losing a mere three wickets along the chase. Thanks to the two half-centuries from Rohit Sharma and Shreyas Iyer, with scores of 86 and 53 respectively, India managed to make short work of the poor bowling from the Pakistani team.

India held national pride high during the ongoing political tensions between India and Pakistan by continuing its legacy of defeating Pakistan at the Cricket World Cup. India secured its 8th victory against Pakistan by completely thrashing the Pakistani Cricket Team.

PM Modi Bids to Host the 2036 Olympics in India

By Nakshath Venkatesh (11)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled India's vision for the 2036 Olympics bid in New Delhi, highlighting its significance as a potential turning point for India. Furthermore, the Prime Minister expressed his belief that India's love for sports is unwavering and that hosting the Olympics would elevate the country's global standing.



The bid not only promises the development of sports infrastructure and opportunities but also the fostering of innovation across various sectors. In addition, it is expected to create more employment opportunities and stimulate growth in the tourism industry; increased investment in sports infrastructure, training facilities, and coaching programs will create a competitive market for nurturing athletic talent.

Moreover, India's bid for the 2036 Olympics fosters international collaboration, strengthening diplomatic ties and fostering global cooperation. Additionally, it has the potential to motivate countless youngsters to pursue their dreams in sports, becoming a source of pride and inspiration for the nation.

While India's bid for the Games holds a substantial advantage, addressing the associated challenges through careful planning, dedication, and cooperation among stakeholders is crucial. The path ahead is undoubtedly challenging, but the rewards it promises are immense.

PM Modi's announcement of the bid not only reshapes the sporting landscape but also sends a strong message to the world that India is ready to host a grand celebration of sports, culture, and unity. If successful, it would mark a historic moment defining a new era of Indian sports excellence.

Book Review: Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

By Saachee Moholkar (11)

What if one day you woke up as a grimy, feculent beetle?

This sentence resonates with the feeling of reading a novel by Franz Kafka. His ability to engage and faze readers with disturbing yet intricate symbolism throughout his writing is shown as a single characteristic known as "Kafkaesque." Franz Kafka's 'Metamorphosis' transports readers to a terrifying world where a single change upends the basic structure of the human psyche, a dreamlike state where the lines between the ordinary and the ridiculous blur.

The protagonist, a salesman named Gregor Samsa, is introduced with no complex adjectives, descriptions or forethought. Gregor wakes to find himself transformed into an insect. Kafka recounts this peculiar transformation straightforwardly, at once indicating the story's absurdist effect and alluding to a universe that lacks dictation. Gregor's detaining transformation, representative of the conditions of his existence, separates him physically and emotionally from humanity in general. This theme concerns the effects of alienation, which is prevalent not only in the book but in society today. Gregor's metamorphosis into an insect reflects the estrangement he'd felt. He disliked his job as office manager, had few friends, and spent evenings alone reading train schedules. Not only was he a true desolate of society, but this character was written by Kafka for himself. His father remains an enigma throughout the story, a biographical sketch of Kafka's relationship with his father.

As the novel unfolds, we see an unfazed man. He isn't surprised by his body, but only concerned about how it might render him of his daily tasks. This symbolises how no matter how much the world goes through a metamorphosis, society's views on lucre always prevail. As the end of the novel approaches, Kafka lingers on an unanswered question, leaving readers entangled in the cryptic mesh of human existence.



Book Review: The Midnight Library

By Tia Padival (9)

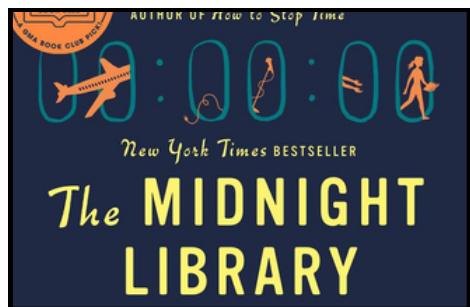
Human beings are prone to making mistakes. Sometimes, these errors can be irreversible. But what would happen if we were given a second chance? A chance to

make different decisions and start our lives anew? 'The Midnight Library' by Matt Haig is a gripping novel that follows a depressed woman in her 30s who decides to take her own life. She comes across a library of books crammed with opportunities to experience the lives she could have had if different choices were made—hopefully, a new life would leave her satisfied enough to return to earth.

The story delves deeper into the concepts of mental health, the pursuit of happiness and decision-making. It emphasises the weight of our actions and the effect they may have on our emotional well-being, so much so that I strongly feel that younger age groups should wait before giving it a go, especially since it involves the ideas of self-abasement and ruefulness. This type of content wouldn't be relatable or inspiring for younger audiences who are still yet to face these experiences.

The book can metamorphose based on the person who reads it. Most may see it as depressing and disheartening. I enjoyed the philosophical aspects and moral dilemmas of the plot. Although the protagonist is indeed a bit of a buzzkill, the way she perseveres through the journey of finding contentment is quite motivating. It took me on an emotional rollercoaster since she experienced several low points before achieving her goal.

I do recommend reading this book at the right time and age. The lessons taught at the end of every chapter are definitely worth implementing in one's life. The book is a symbol of hope for all those who have previously been through harrowing experiences.



Emerging Fields of Study in 2023: Choosing Your Major (Must Read)

Ms. Aparna Chandrasekharan

Rapid technological developments are reshaping what is studied at the collegiate level and beyond. As these changes occur, colleges are tasked with meeting the dynamic demands of the global industry. A field that was at the forefront of relevance five years ago might soon become obsolete with the emergence of new technological trends. In this light, this article aims to shed insight into some of the pioneering fields of study in 2023 and offer guidance for those looking to select a college major.

Artificial intelligence and machine learning stand out as they boast applications across a multifarious array of industries, ranging from healthcare and finance to education and agriculture. The realm of healthcare and health sciences, in particular, has gained immense importance, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, fields such as medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and geriatric care are expected to remain in demand for a considerable duration. The recent adverse climatic changes worldwide have also underscored the importance of subjects like clean energy, climate science, and ecological conservation, collectively known as Sustainability and Environmental Science.

A major that has gained significant traction this year is Genomics. By diving deep into genetic engineering and genomics, researchers are paving the way for innovative treatments and protocols. On the other hand, with cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum making headlines and blockchain technology showing potential in numerous sectors, studies in Blockchain and Cryptocurrency have also attracted considerable attention.

Space Exploration and Astrobiology are not far behind. While currently, only a handful of countries lead the space race, the learnings available for humanity are boundless. Both national entities and private companies are fervently working on missions to destinations like Mars and even projects to study the sun. As technology permeates further into our lives, the importance of Cybersecurity has become more evident than ever. The growing need to safeguard digital privacy propels this field into the limelight. Furthermore, in our data-driven age, Data Science and Big Data Analytics are paramount. With data being hailed as the new oil, the power to amass and scrutinize large datasets has found applications in diverse sectors such as business and healthcare.

After considering all these subjects, which one should you choose to major in? Selecting a college major is undoubtedly a pivotal decision in shaping your academic and professional trajectory. It's the alignment of your interests and passions that will dictate the coursework and, subsequently, the job opportunities that come your way. Therefore, when making this crucial choice, there are several factors to keep in mind:

- Passion for the subject is paramount. Opt for a field that genuinely interests you, ensuring that you remain engaged throughout the duration of your college years.
- Ascertain your career aspirations and work backward. This approach aids in identifying the courses and subjects that will help you achieve your objectives. A major that capitalizes on your innate talents and strengths is always a wise choice.
- Keeping track of the trends in the industry and sectors you wish to be a part of may help you choose the major that supports your career aspirations. Following up on subject area research and following industry association publications can help track trends.
- It is essential to have an understanding of personal values and beliefs.
- Getting hands-on practical experience in an area of interest through internships and experiential learning opportunities can help you understand if you want to pursue a career in this field in the future.

Lastly, it's essential to remember that while passion and interests are vital, academic performance is pivotal. As universities tend to have competitive admission criteria, aspiring students must be adequately prepared to secure a spot in their dream institution.

Binary Brawl: Our First Hackathon!

By Syhasri Raghavan (9)

Our first Hackathon at 10X was a huge success! With more than ten teams participating from a wide range of schools, including Stonehill International School, Candor International School, and more, we hosted and participated in a delightful Hackathon. The primary agenda of the event was to use coding for a better world; all the teams worked on incredible designs and coded to design a solution to different problem statements while keeping the agenda in mind.

Hackathons are short coding events that aim to solve any challenge or societal issue by coding and programming. For the Binary Brawl, the main topic was to code for a better, safer future. The participants create a wide range of problem statements and solutions to work on, including websites to help doctors access medical files faster, robots programmed to assist others, and more. After hours of coding, the teams presented their solutions, resulting in three winners. The winners were Stonehill International, Indus International School Pune, and Candor International School for the first, second, and third places, respectively!

Although our first Hackathon event may have been small, it was an incredible experience. The students and organisers gained valuable insights about hosting such events; we developed teamwork and leadership potential as students by taking full responsibility, with the help of our teachers, to organise the event.

Throughout the process of organising, we gained experience in hosting such an event while also improving our time-management skills and responsibility. While 10X may not have taken home an award or a medal, we learned more than anticipated, increasing our capacity to collaborate and create spectacular competitions such as the Binary Brawl. These were some of the key takeaways from our Hackathon, and there will be more stunning events like these to come in the future!



BINARY BRAWL 1.0

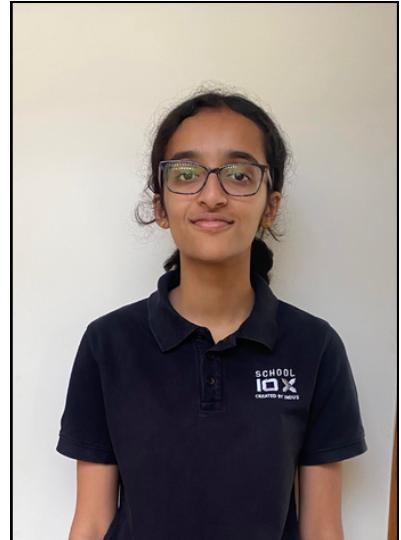
Student Achievements: October

By Sanvi Kurade (9)

Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2023

Avani Radheshyam (10) acquired the Bronze Award at the Queen's Commonwealth Essay competition hosted by the Royal Commonwealth Society.

"I am grateful that I was allowed to participate in the Queen's Commonwealth essay. It was exceedingly difficult to create an argument about an issue that divided generations for more than 1500 words, but once I discovered a subject that genuinely interested me, the words just flowed. I put a lot of effort into this essay, and I'm thrilled that it was worthwhile."



Echelon STEM Competition

Earlier this month, the students of 10X International School had the honour of representing their school at the Echelon Inter-School STEM competition that took place at Bangalore International School.



The goal of the competition was to reuse e-water components in making creative and impactful products. Madhav Gupta (10), Rishabh Natarajan (10), Aarush Kommunari (10) and Nivedita Saboo (10) secured 2nd prize under 'Innovative product out of E-waste'.

Aarush Kommunari (10), Amishi Singhal (10) and Venkat Muralidhar (10) bagged 3rd prize for the coding 'treasure hunt' event.



ICode Global Hackathon

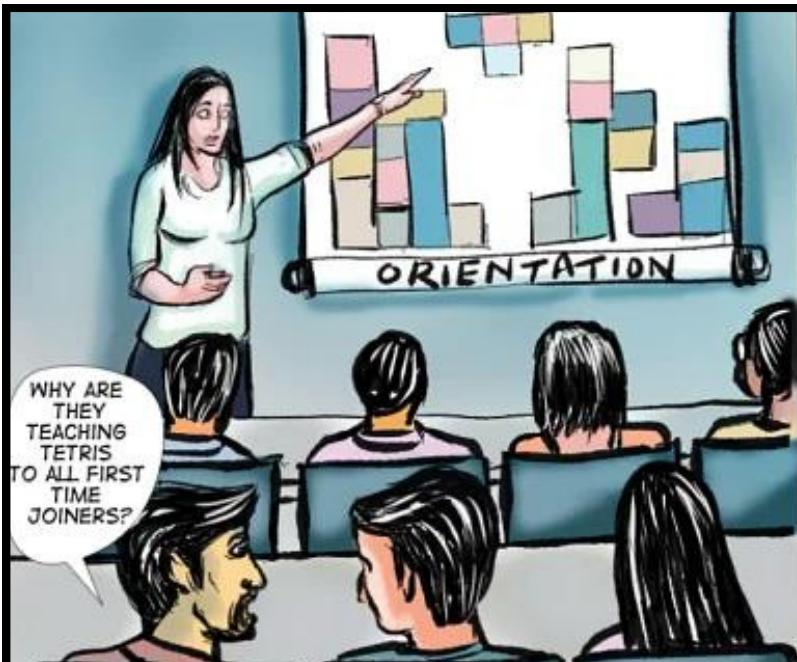
Sayan Dahiya (12) secured 5th place in the Global Final at the ICode Global Hackathon held on 30th September 2023.

National Astronomy Olympiad

Tisha Sehrawat (9) achieved a Gold Medal in the National Astronomy Olympiad Challenge 2022, Organized by STEM Research & Innovation.



Cartoons • Bangalore Traffic



Puzzles • Riddles (Answers on Page 18)

EASY

What is seen in the middle of March and April that can't be seen at the beginning or end of either month?

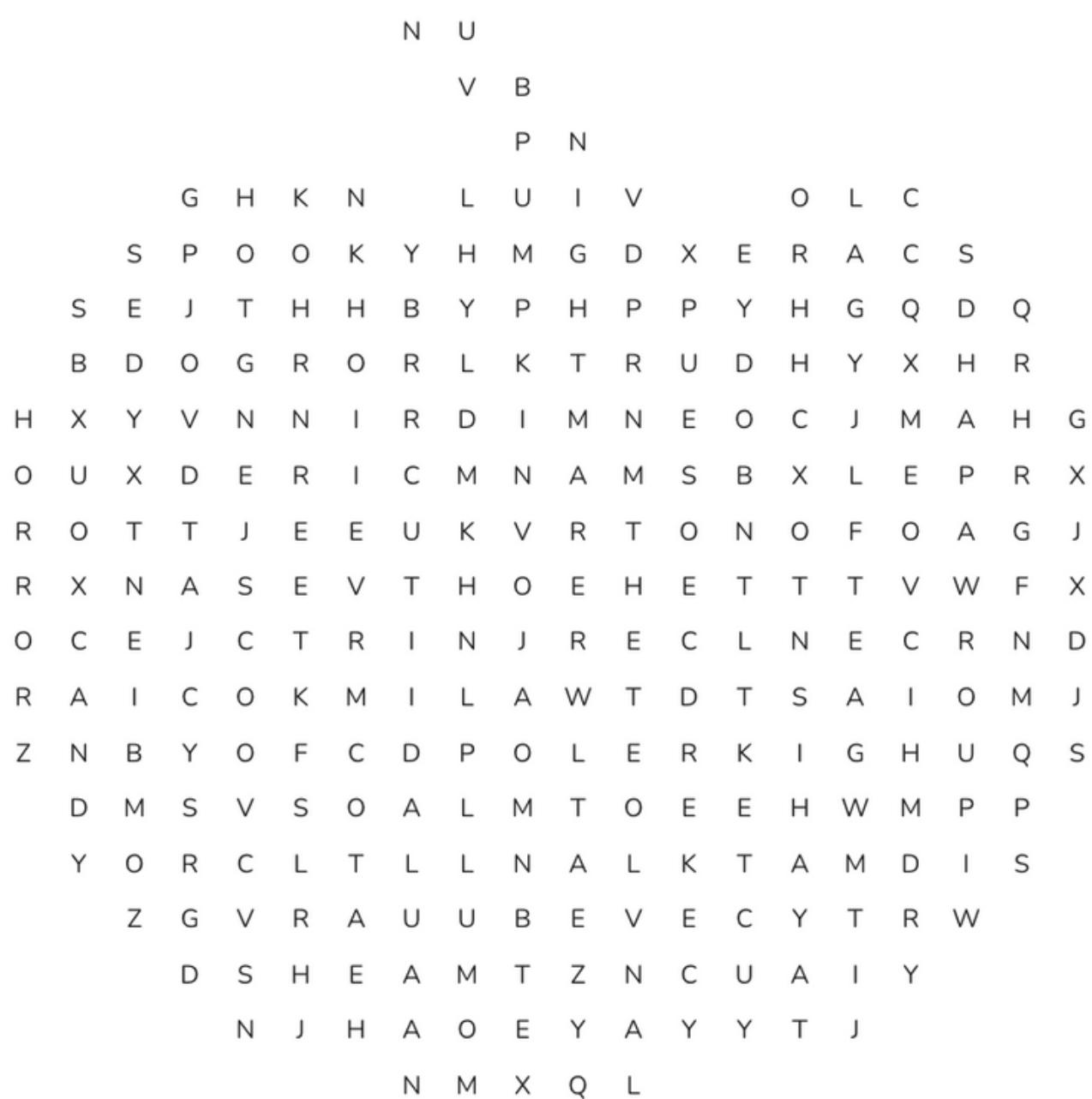
MEDIUM

I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. What am I?

HARD

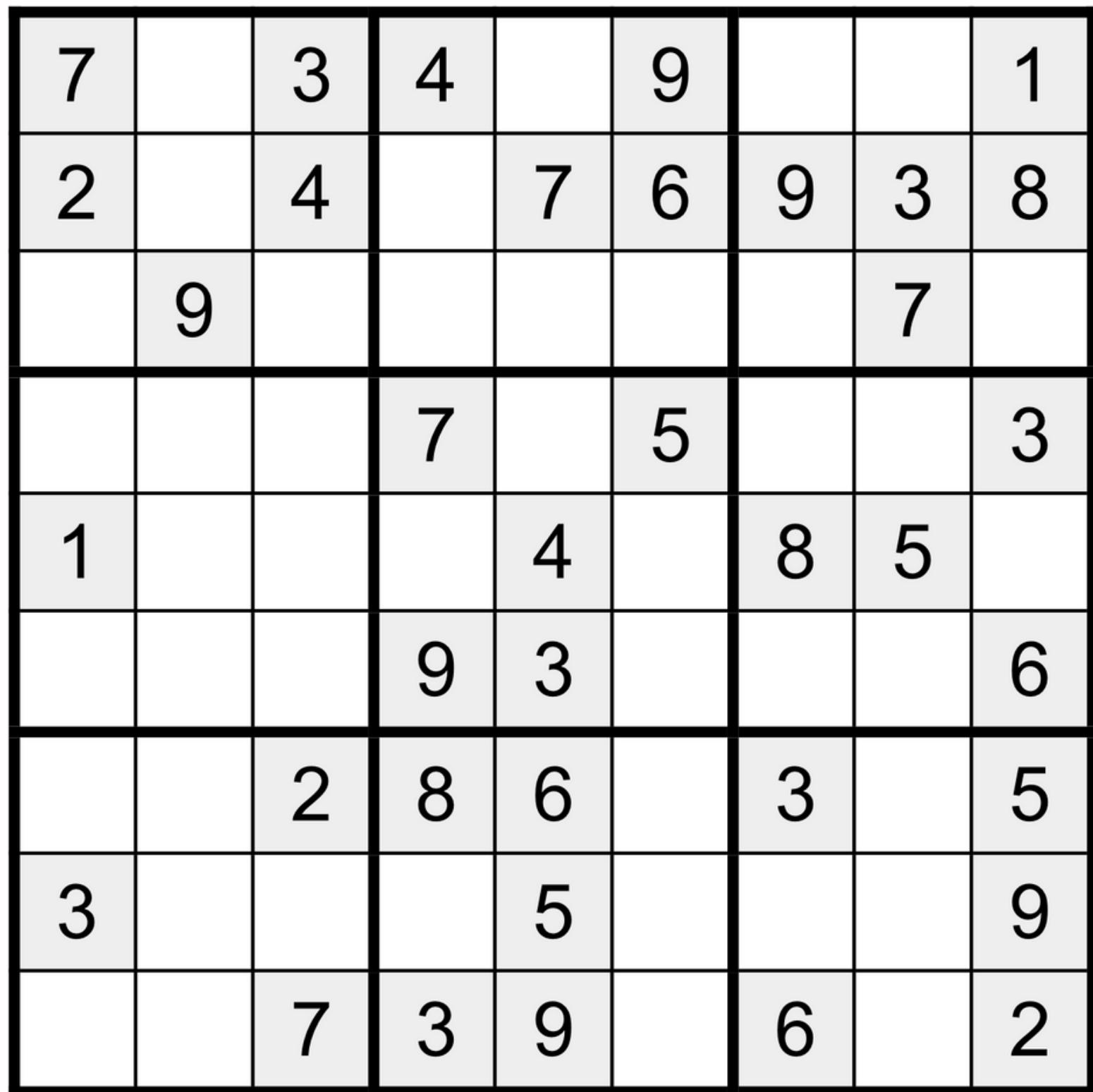
I come from a mine and am eternally enclosed in a wooden case from which I am never released. Everyone uses me. What am I?

Puzzles • Word Search (Answers on Page 18)



WORD LIST

MUMMY CLOWN GHOST JACKOLANTERN SCARE TRICKORTREAT
BLACKCAT COSTUME GRAVE NIGHTMARE SCREAM VAMPIRE BONE
CANDY EVIL FEAR FRIGHTEN HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HORROR OCTOBER
PHANTOM PUMPKIN SKELETON SPIRIT SPOOKY WITCH ZOMBIE

Puzzles • Sudoku (Answers on Page 18)

Puzzles • Answers

Riddles Answers

What is seen in the middle of March and April that can't be seen at the beginning or end of either month?

Answer: The letter "R"

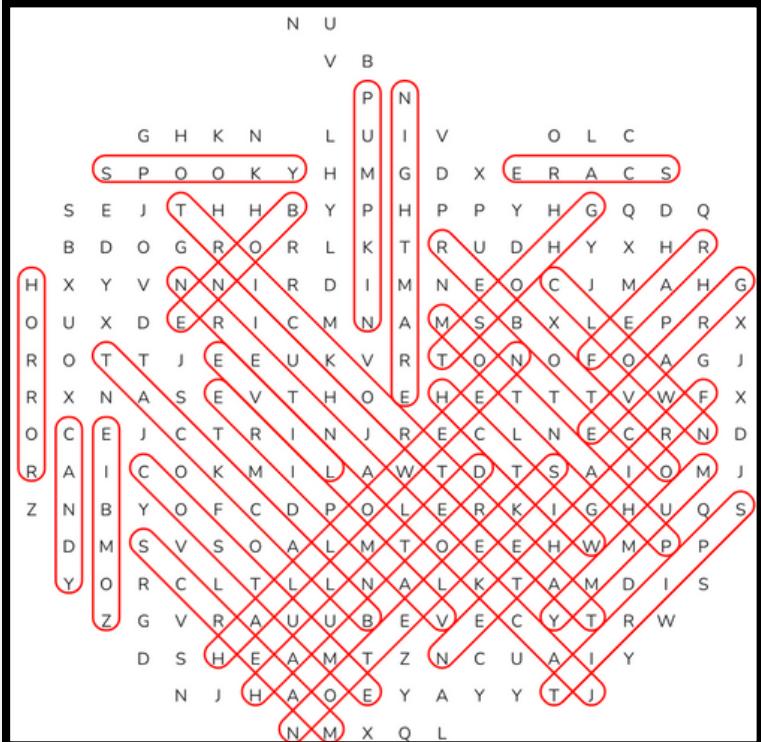
I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish.
What am I?

Answer: A map

I come from a mine and am eternally enclosed in a wooden case from which I am never released. Everyone uses me. What am I?

Answer: Pencil lead

Word Search Answers

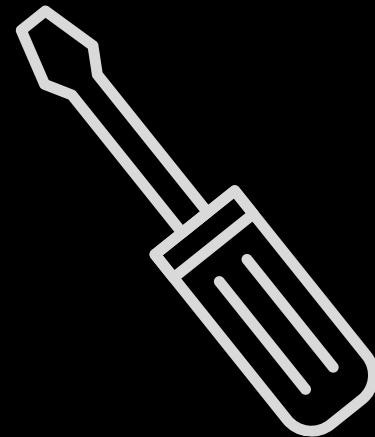
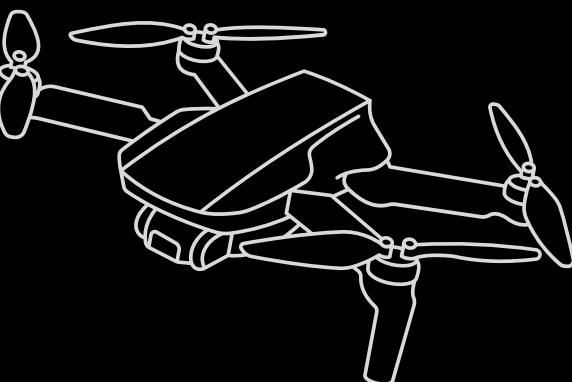


Sudoku Answers

7	5	3	4	8	9	2	6	1
2	1	4	5	7	6	9	3	8
8	9	6	1	2	3	5	7	4
6	2	8	7	1	5	4	9	3
1	3	9	6	4	2	8	5	7
4	7	5	9	3	8	1	2	6
9	4	2	8	6	7	3	1	5
3	6	1	2	5	4	7	8	9
5	8	7	3	9	1	6	4	2

Anonymous Feedback/Suggestions:

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