

THE HINDU

Youngworld

TREASURE IN YOUR HANDS



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FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024

Pg

03



Powering progress

Celebrating James Watt's innovation

Pg

15



Steamed up

Unravel the secret of the pressure cooker



SUPERPOWER UNLEASHED

Did you know that you can connect the Avengers to scientific careers? Curious? Turn to page 6.

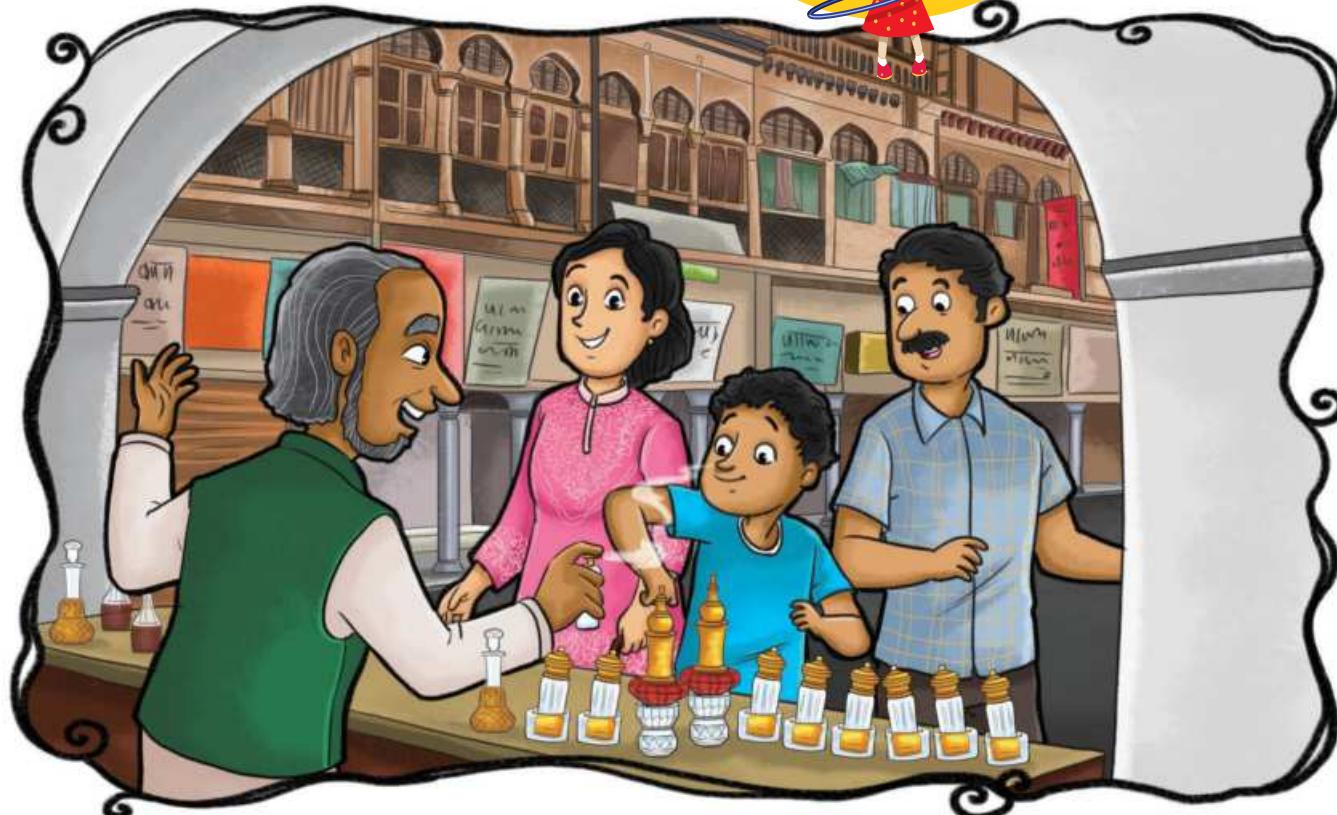


Illustration Sonal Goyal

Where old is everywhere

Chikankari embroidery, epicurean delights, ancient buildings... Taran and his family are amazed by Lucknow's ancient past continuing into the present

“Whee! A heritage and food walk... How fancy!" said Taran. They were waiting outside their hotel in Lucknow, which looked like a *haveli*. The brochure said the place was over 100 years old.

Amma smiled. She looked quite fancy herself in her new pink *chikankari kurta*. Chikankari was the famous embroidery of Lucknow; white thread in delicate designs of flowers and paisley over muslin and chiffon cloth.

"Is everything in Lucknow old?" Taran asked.

"Well, Lucknow has a long history. It was a part of the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal dynasty and the capital of the Awadh dynasty. It played a huge role in the First War of Independence. It was known for its opulent *nawabs* and *kebabs*, art and culture. So, yes, old is everywhere," said Appa.

Heritage walk

Their guide arrived. They started at the Gol Darwaza. True to its name, it was door shaped like a

semi-circle. Enroute, the guide made them taste *Nimish*, a sweet from the time of the nawabs. They walked through many by-lanes with grand architecture tucked away. They looked at the buildings: a Unani hospital, similar to an Ayurvedic centre; a traditional housing society called *tolas* with maze-like interiors; and *kothas*, once the hub of Kathak and Urdu poetry. Several stores that looked ancient sold *ittar*, the

Time Travel

traditional perfume. One man beckoned Taran and sprayed a perfume on him. "Guess the scent," he smiled. Taran felt he knew it but couldn't put his nose on it. The man laughed. "It's a biriyani smell!"

"That's brilliant," laughed Taran. "What else have you got?" The shopkeeper had a treasure trove of scents but said his favourite was the one that mimicked the smell of the Earth after the first rains. Taran sniffed

at the glass bottle he held out. "It's my favourite too," he said, "Amma, may I buy a small bottle?"

Amma nodded. As he packed the *ittar*, the shopkeeper said, "Cheap and best chikankari, shop ahead. My brother's."

"Already bought too many," said Amma.

"Buy for friends," he insisted.

They made a beeline for food: *tunday kebab*, *yakhni pulao*, *basket chaat*, *sheermal* and *kulcha nihari*. And the sweets: black carrot halwa, *phirni* and *malai makhan*.

"I am stuffed," said Amma. "I think I will go look for some *chikankari kurtas*." Amma ambled up to the store the *ittar* shopkeeper had recommended and was shocked at the prices. "Oh! It is much cheaper here," she said, crestfallen.

"It's all right," said Appa. "Buy for friends."

Amma laughed. Finally, they headed back to the hotel with bags full of *chikankari* and bellies equally full.



Vidya Nesarikar



'Watt' an engine

This inventor, whose birthday falls on January 19, energised the Industrial revolution with his contributions to Science and his improvements on the Newcomen steam engine.



James Watt was born on January 19, 1736, at Greenock, Renfrewshire, Scotland. His father was the treasurer and magistrate of Greenock and ran a successful ship and house-building business. Watt's best years of learning were at his father's workshops where he had his own tools, bench and forge.

Nimi Kurian

When he turned 17, he trained in London to be a mathematical instrument maker and opened a shop at the university in Glasgow. In 1764, while repairing a model Newcomen steam engine, he noticed that a lot of steam was wasted. He wrestled with this problem for a year before he came up with a solution: a separate condenser. This was his first and greatest invention.

Past forward

Progress

Soon after, he met John Roebuck, a British physician, chemist and inventor, and the founder of Carron Works. Roebuck encouraged Watt to make an engine. Watt created a small test engine. In 1768, the two became partners. The next year, Watt patented "A New Invented Method of Lessening the Consumption of Steam and Fuel in Fire Engines."

In 1766, Watt became a land surveyor and had little time to work on the steam engine for the next eight years, as he was occupied marking out canal routes in Scotland. In 1772, Roebuck went bankrupt and English manufacturer and

engineer Mathew Boulton took over a share in Watt's patent. In 1774, Watt gave up surveying and immigrated to Birmingham. The Boulton-Watt partnership lasted 25 years. In 1776, two engines were installed: one to pump water in a Staffordshire colliery and the other for blowing air into British industrialist John Wilkinson's furnaces.

In the next five years, Watt installed and supervised numerous pumping engines for copper and tin mines. In 1782, he patented the double-acting engine in which the piston pushed and also pulled. In 1784, he improved on this and described it as "one of the most ingenious, simple pieces of mechanism I have contrived". In 1790, the invention of a pressure gauge completed the Watt engine.

Watt was also a member of the Lunar Society in Birmingham, a group of writers who wanted to advance the sciences and the arts. In 1785, Boulton and he were elected fellows of the Royal Society of London. In 1794, he established Boulton & Watt, which built the Soho Foundry to manufacture steam engines more competitively. He retired from active service in 1800, the year in which his patents and partnership expired. But, he

continued to work in his workshop at home. He was also a consultant to the Glasgow Water Company. The unit of power was named Watt in the International System of Units (SI), for his contributions to science.

In 1782, Watt patented the double-acting engine in which the piston pushed and also pulled.



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Furry foes

It's the bark brigade versus the purr patrol. Who will have the last laugh?



Illustrations: Sathesh Vellinezhi

RACHNA CHHABRIA

Awake and Alert were Dobermanns that belonged to Prince Daniel Day. Their full names were Algore Aberin Awake and Aldus Aspen Alert. They were powerful creatures who guarded the Day Palace fiercely, not letting any intruder enter or steal a leaf or flower from its grounds.

The strong dogs constantly exercised to keep their muscles in good shape. They also played games to keep themselves mentally agile. They were currently absorbed in an intriguing game of cress, a game similar to chess, outside the golden-yellow palace.

Beside the yellow palace was the dark Night Palace of

Talespin

Princess Noelle Night, guarded by her two pet cats, Yonna Yawn and Ninky Nap. The two lazy felines were constantly snoozing; no wonder, all kinds of intruders entered the dark palace, stealing precious objects from its rooms.

Though both dogs had razor-sharp brains and fabulous memories, Alert won the game of checkers too. He won three more games in quick succession. Luck was indeed favouring him that day!

"Today isn't my day," Awake moaned.

A plan brews

Not too far away, the cats were in a bad mood. They had just got a scolding from their mistress for not guarding the Night Palace well. They were itching to cause mischief.

"Cressmate," barked Alert, wagging his tail happily.

"Oh shucks," growled Awake. "The bird distracted me, so I

couldn't block your move. Let's play checkers. I always whip you in checkers."

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The cats crossed over the low boundary wall. The moment they entered the grounds of the yellow palace, the two dogs (who were now playing Scrabble) raised their heads. Their ears perked up, their nostrils quivered in rage and their tails twitched angrily. Warning growls emanated from them.

Deserting their game, the dogs bounded towards the visitors, barking furiously.

"Go away," snarled Alert. "Trespassers will be bitten," Awake growled.

The cats nonchalantly crossed the garden, unafraid of the snarling dogs. The dogs advanced menacingly, issuing threats.

Suddenly, the two cats stopped in their tracks and stared at the dogs. Their gaze had a strange vibe to it, as though laser beams had shot out of their eyes. The dogs stopped walking instantly, as if someone had immobilised them, and were rendered silent too, as though someone had muted them.

The cats now sunned themselves in the garden, stretching their bodies over the supple grass that lay like a thick carpet. As the cats staked their claim over the lawn, a few animals and birds — emboldened by the dogs' helpless state — also entered and stole all the fruit from the trees. The dogs watched helplessly, unable to

move or bark. They knew that they would get into trouble later with their master.

After a few hours, the cats purred contently, stood up and sidled away, swishing their tails as though they just couldn't be bothered. The moment the cats stepped over to their own grounds, the dogs started moving, as the spell was broken.

"We need to do something about Yawn and Nap," Alert growled.

"I agree," Awake nodded. "Let's teach them a lesson tonight."

Payback time

That night, the dogs strode into the grounds of the black palace where the lazy cats were snoozing peacefully. The dogs stared at the cats, who were jolted out of their deep sleep. Under the dogs' intense gaze, the cats started walking all over the grounds, as though they were bursting with energy.

"Oh no," Nap cried. "The dogs have cast a spell over us; we won't be able to sleep tonight."

"Looks like we have to guard the dark palace, after all," Yawn scowled.

It was tit for tat. The dogs had managed to teach the lazy cats a lesson by making them work hard for a change. In the fight between the cats and the dogs, no intruder entered the dark palace that night.



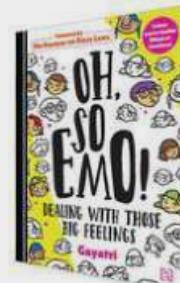
read

Bookworm



Title: The Incredible Life of Bhagat Singh: The Indomitable Freedom Fighter
Author: Swati Sengupta
Publisher: Talking Cub
Price: ₹250

Born in 1907 to a family of farmers in Punjab, Bhagat Singh, at the age of three, had declared that he was sowing guns so he could fight the British colonisers. As he grew up, he became a widely read and fiercely intelligent man. He would dedicate his life to not only making India free but also towards creating a more equitable society. Along with many young men and women, he planned seemingly impossible acts of daring, rebelling against the oppression and exploitation of the British. When he was 24 years old, Bhagat Singh was put to death. Till the very end, he refused to bow down. His astonishing life and death are brought to life in this biography for young readers.



Title: Oh, So Emo!: Dealing with Those Big Feelings
Author: Gayatri Chaves
Publisher: Hachette India
Price: ₹450

Some days you're soaring high, on others you're down, and sometimes you're blank as a canvas, not even bothered to tie your shoelaces. Feeling nothing at all. You are not alone. This book follows the emotional journeys of Amit, Susie, Moin, Frenny and Neela, supported by Sku, a trusted companion and 'mind-finder' from Tibet. Each chapter explores a different emotion and offers young readers techniques and words to help identify, understand, and foster emotional intelligence. The book features illustrations by Shamika Chaves and a foreword by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.



Title: The Summer of Heroes
Author: Maya Spark
Publisher: Reado Junior
Price: ₹399

While in Bengaluru, the young detectives Zoe, Rita and Alex trace missing trophies and nicked jewellery. But nothing could have prepared them for the chilling, sinister plot of heartless poachers that they stumble upon in the Western Ghats. Charged with lending a paw to animals of the subcontinent by their mentor, the magical weasel Yokai Hitso, Super Scruffy and Outstanding Oliver battle savage villains in the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary. The second book in *The Adventures of Zoe and Scruffy* series shines a light on endangered flora and fauna in India's most biodiverse region and the joys of being outdoors, empathy for fellow beings, and the importance of logic and reasoning skills.

'MARVEL'-LOUS CAREERS IN SCIENCE

Did you know that the Avengers from the Marvel Universe have scientific sides? Which of the Earth's Mightiest Heroes would you like to be?

JENICE JEAN GOVEAS

Scientists are truly superheroes trying to save our world. Doesn't that make them like the Avengers of the Marvel Cinematic Universe? Here are some careers that can make you an Avenger in the world of Science.



CAPTAIN AMERICA

With the shield of scientific policy and economics knowledge you can transition to a career in Science and Technology policy and work with research funders, governments and NGOs to draw on scientific understanding, assist policy formulation, and contribute to international agreements on climate change, technology transfer and more.

DR. STRANGE

His ability to see the future by analysing millions of possibilities would involve Big Data Analytics and Management. There are plenty of career options as consultants in health and safety, product and process development, and quality control for food, medicine, cosmetics, paints and more.



THOR

With the charm and the gift of the gab you could share information from the throne of Asgard (the laboratory) to the public, as a science communicator. With the pen as your hammer, you could get into science journalism, science writing, publishing, citizen science, science museums and content creation.



IRON MAN

The extremely tech savvy engineer with a mind for critical thinking and problem-solving is the smartest and coolest Avenger. That level of technological prowess would require an understanding of Materials Science and a mind for innovation. Engineering skills are transferable to every other manufacturing or service sector.



WOLVERINE

A foundation in Genetics, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry could make you a hero in the X-Men's world of gene editing. Saving the world from a Thanos-like COVID-19 needs advances in Life and Medical Sciences including Immunology, Virology, drug design and discovery. This sector also has opportunities in marketing and as medical sales representatives.



SHE HULK

The attorney gains power from knowledge of environment law, intellectual property, patent law, technology transfer and commercialisation processes. A basic Science, Engineering, Maths or Computer-based degree combined with legal knowledge could help you take her place.



Bhavya Venkatesh



Evolving earth

Dive into diversity

In the stunning setting of the 'Rainbow Nation', nature's grandeur meets human diversity.

In the southernmost part of Africa lies a country that is one of the biggest and most well-developed economies in the continent: South Africa. Its neighbours are Namibia in the northwest, Botswana and Zimbabwe in the north, and Mozambique and Swaziland in northeast and east. Lesotho, an independent country, is surrounded entirely by South African territory.

Three cities serve as capitals of South Africa: Pretoria (executive), Cape Town (legislative), and Bloemfontein (judicial). Other major cities include Johannesburg, Durban, East London and Port Elizabeth. The currency is the Rand.



Wildlife

With habitats ranging from lush forests to arid deserts and everything in between, South Africa has a wondrous wild side. The biggest draw is the Big Five — the African elephant, Cape buffalo, lion, black rhino, and leopard — for which the Kruger National Park is renowned. With the largest rhino population in the world, South Africa is key for rhino conservation efforts.



Photos: Wikimedia Commons, AFP, Freeworldmaps

People

The population of South Africa is around 62 million. Roughly 80% is Black African, including the Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho, and Tswana. The remaining are of European or mixed or South Asian descent. There are 11 official languages — English, Afrikaans and nine ethnic languages including Zulu and Xhosa. Archbishop Desmond Tutu coined the term 'Rainbow Nation' because of the country's diverse multicultural society.



Cuisine

With Dutch, French, Indian, Malaysian and other influences, plenty of lip-smacking dishes are famous here. Braai, or South African barbecue, is almost a national pastime and an essential part of the culture here. Bunny chow is a popular fast-food dish that consists of hollow bread filled with curry. Another classic is Bobotie, which is a spiced, baked minced meat dish. For those with a sweet tooth, there's always Melktert, a creamy milky tart.

Did you know?

From 1948 to 1994, South Africa implemented apartheid, a harsh system of racial segregation that ended only after decades of brutal repression and protest.



Anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela became the country's first President in 1994 after spending 27 years in prison.

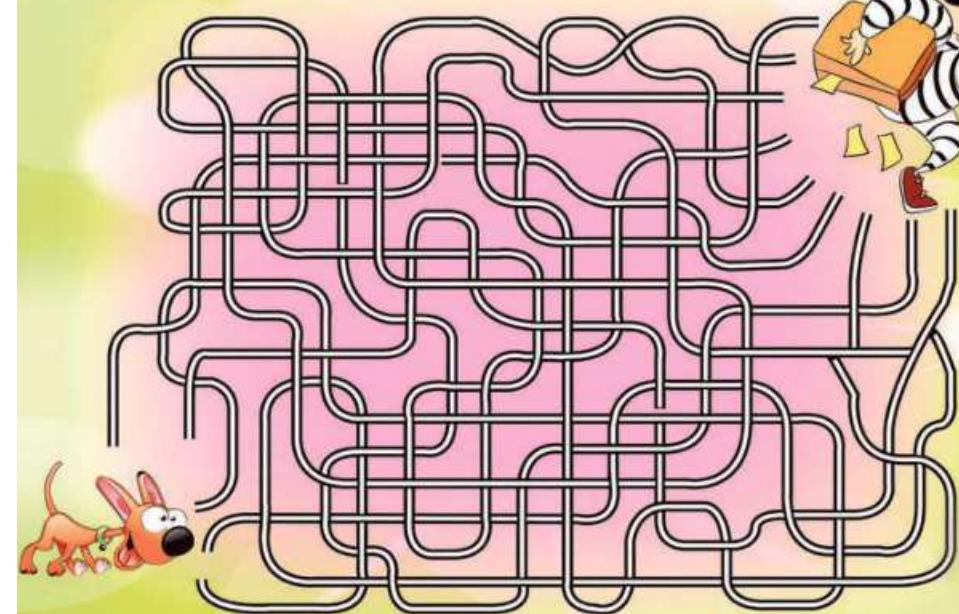


DOTS & DASHES

K.G. Rangarajan

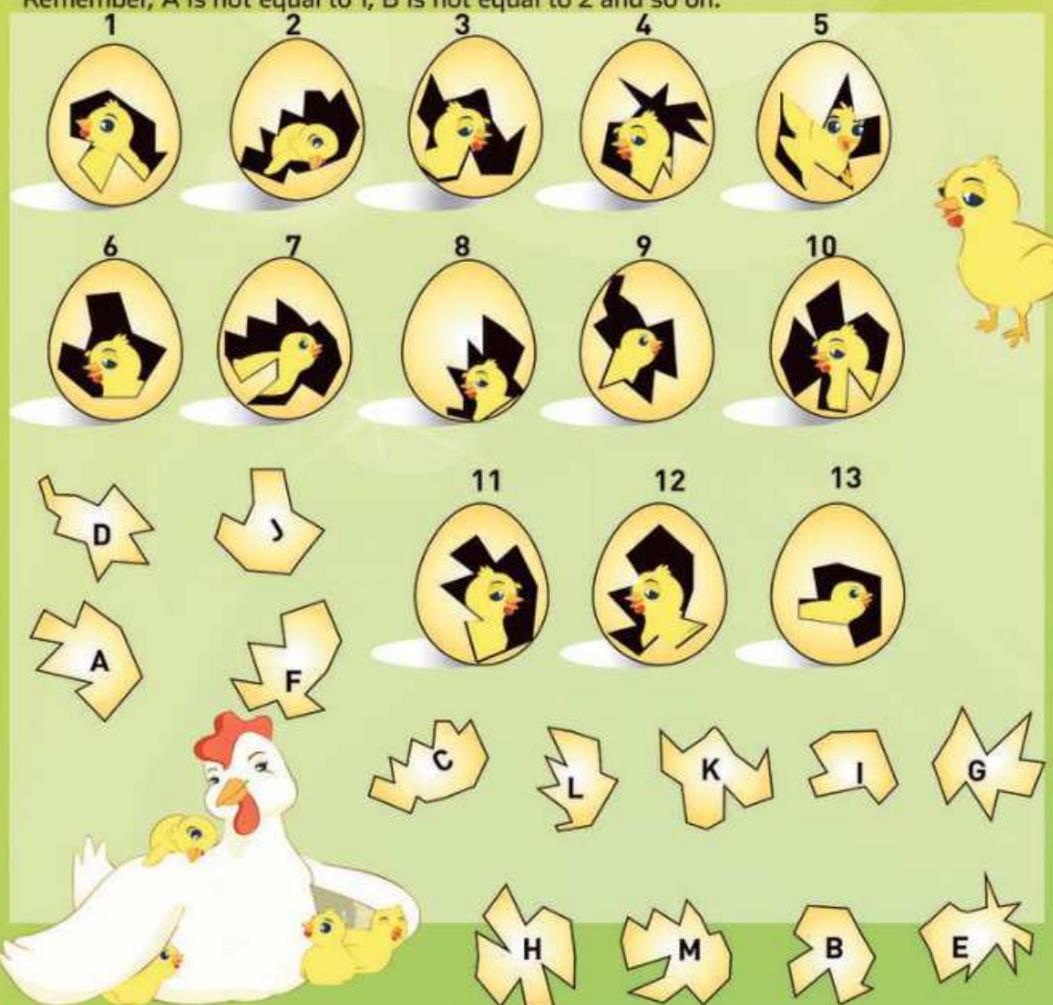
It's not that Ruff

Max has spotted the robber. Now, guide him to the robber so he can prevent crime.



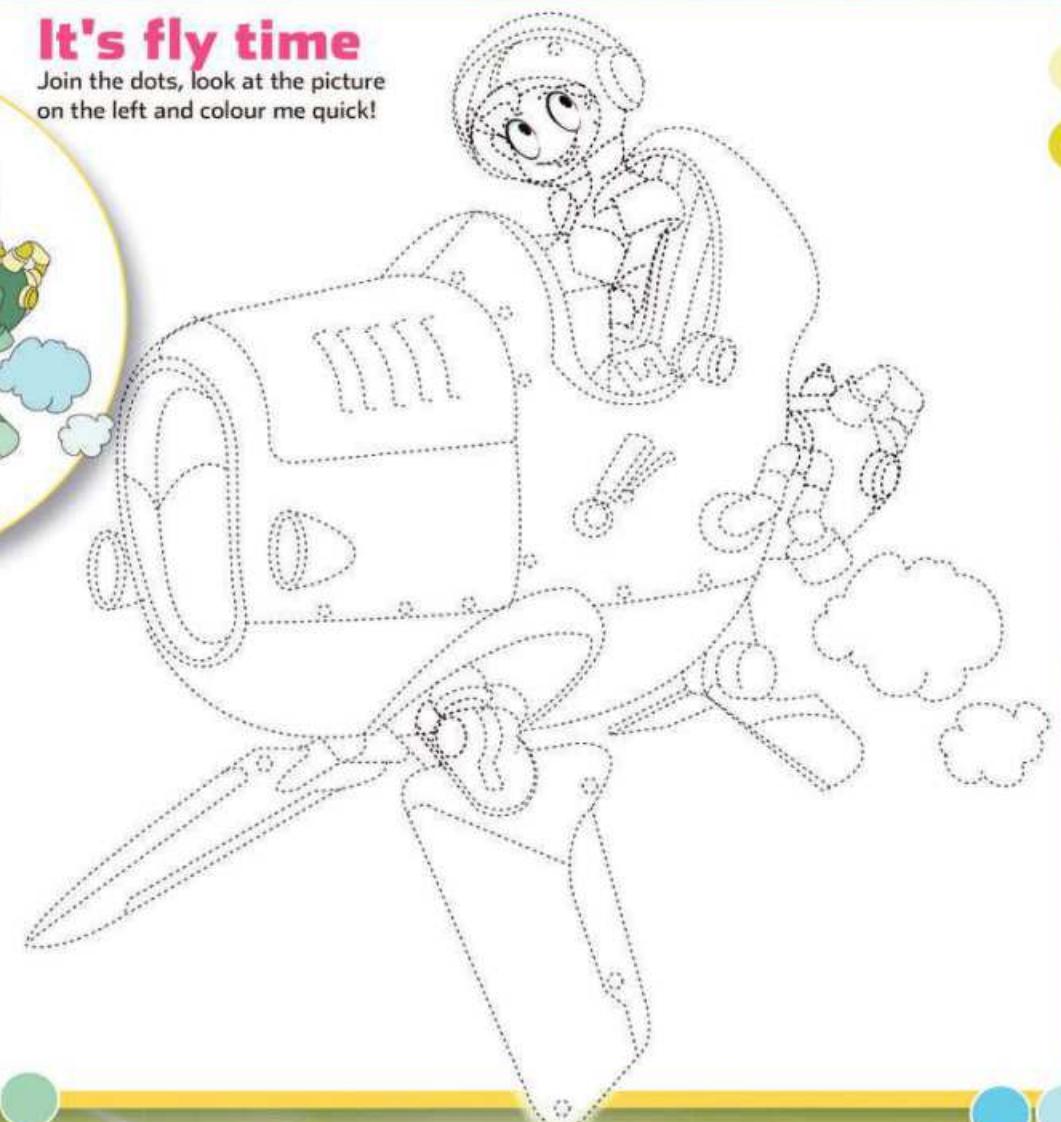
Eggcellent match

Match the eggshells with the right egg so that the chicks can come out happy and healthy. Remember, A is not equal to 1, B is not equal to 2 and so on.



It's fly time

Join the dots, look at the picture on the left and colour me quick!



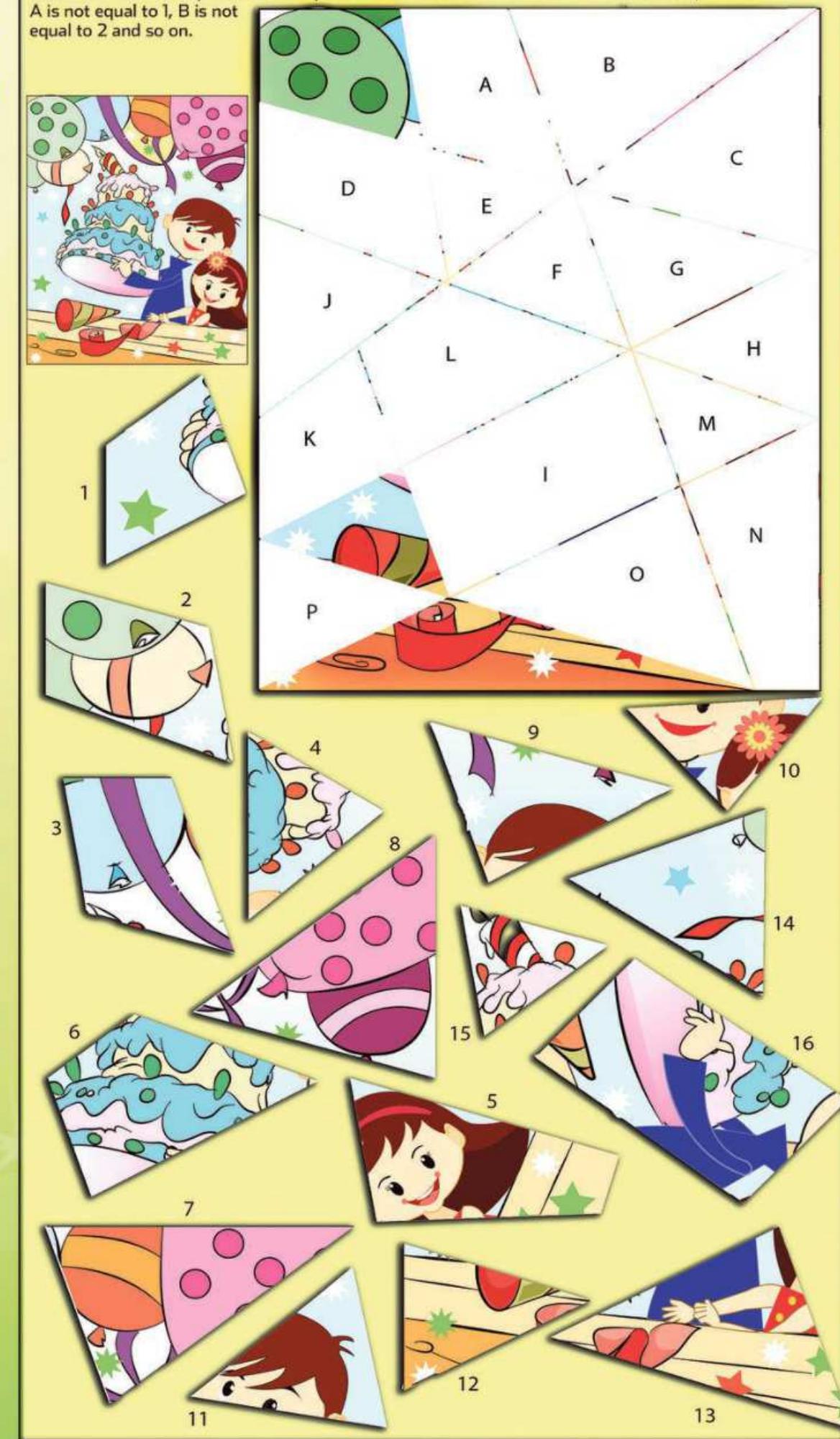
A ride in the countryside

Two kids, two bicycles, yet nothing's the same. Spot six differences.



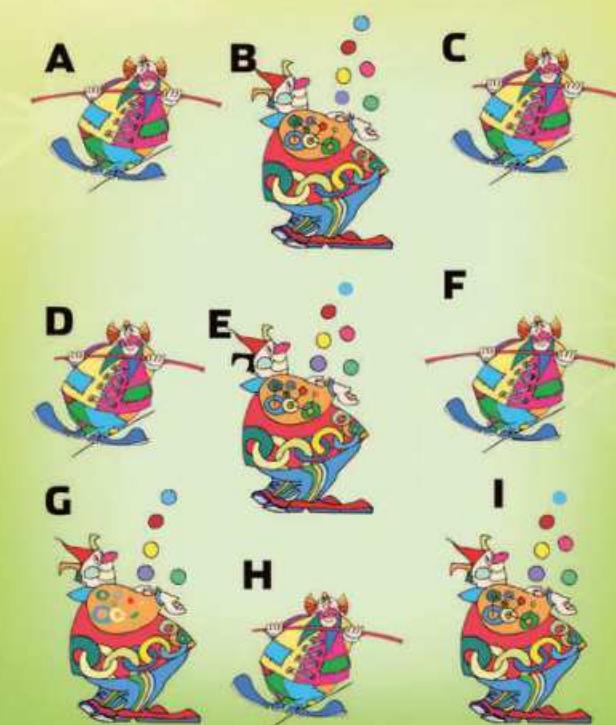
Celebrations galore

Match the numbered pieces to the alphabets to have fun and eat some cake. However, A is not equal to 1, B is not equal to 2 and so on.



Find my twin

Spot the pair.





quiz Whizz



GINA NEUTRON



1 If algology is the study of algae, what is the study of mushrooms called?

2 If a blue whale has 356 bones, how many does a shark have?

3 What does a Geiger Counter measure?

4 Militants in Yemen have been attacking ships on which major sea route in the past month?

5 What does L1 stand for in ISRO's first mission to the Sun?

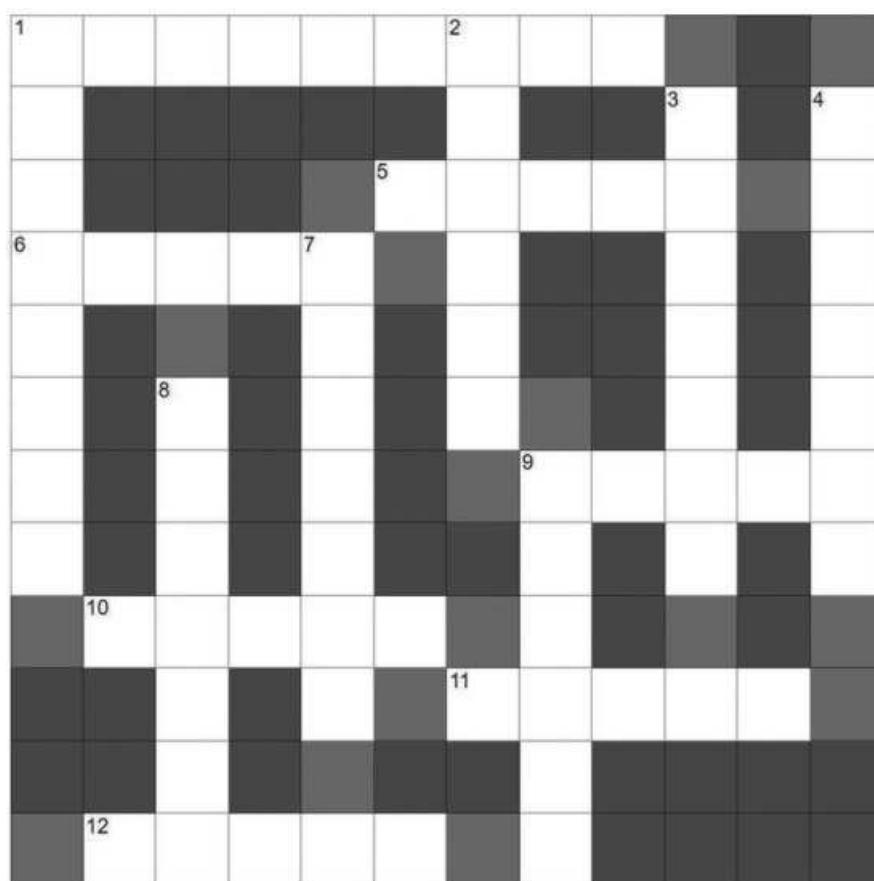
6 2024 is the 150th birth anniversary of L.M. Montgomery, author of _____ series.

CROSSWORD FOR YOU

Instrumental masters



R. Krithika



Identify the instrument associated with these musicians
ACROSS

- 1 Umayalapuram K. Sivaraman (9)
- 5 Pt. Ravi Shankar (5)
- 6 Ringo Starr (5)
- 9 Chitti Babu (5)

10 Ustad Amjad Ali Khan (5)

11 Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia (5)

12 Duke Ellington (5)

DOWN

1 Vidwan U. Sriniwas (8)

2 Eric Clapton (6)

3 Dizzy Gillespie (7)

4 Ustad Bismillah Khan (7)

7 Pt. Shivkumar

Sharma (7)

8 Pt. Ram Narayan (7)

9 Vidwan Lalgudi

Jayaraman (6)

KidSpot

By Dan Thompson

1-28



Letter Pattern
Can you fill in the two missing letters in this letter pattern?

Z, X, __, T, __, P

ANS: V, R.
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SUDOKU

			5	2	3			
5		3		1				
	1		3		5			
6	2	4						

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Solutions on page 16



Scrapbook



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Ananya Garg, III, The Step By Step School, Noida, Uttar Pradesh



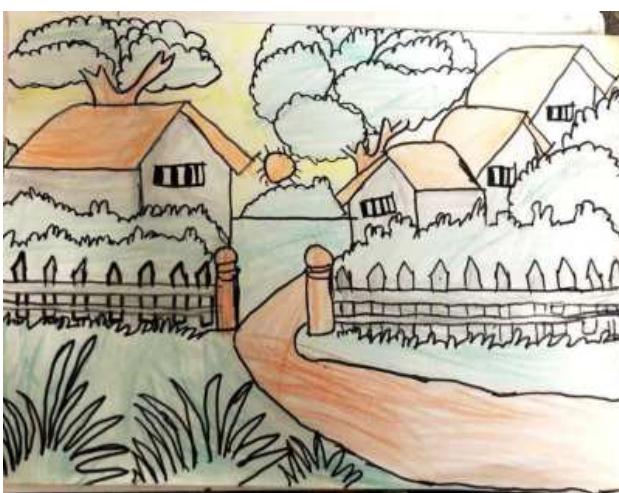
Anya Joshi, V, St. Joseph Convent Sr. Sec. Girls School, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh



Arundhathi Rahul, IV, Christ Nagar Central School, Kowdiar, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



Neel Riyan Kommineni, III, P. Obul Reddy Public School, Hyderabad, Telangana



Pranav P., III, DAV Public School-Velachery, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Finding the Unknown

I was once thinking about the mysterious thing;
It could be something that science cannot explain;
It could be something that has no reason or any solution;
It could be something from ages of the universe;
It could be something: the unexplained;
It could be something: why are you alive?
It could be the thing that lets you out of your sorrows;
I was wondering and pondering about the mysterious thing;
Hoping I could find a solution to life
When I finally found out the unknown thing is EVERYTHING.

Sai Kamal Varshith, VI, Little Angles School, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh



Sristi B., III, Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Sr. Sec. School-Siruseri, Chennai, Tamil Nadu



Scrapbook



B. Ishaan,
I, School
Abhyasa
Vidyalayam,
Vijayawada,
Andhra
Pradesh



Amelia
Seema
Rethish, I,
SSB
International
School,
Bengaluru,
Karnataka

Dear Martin

O dear Martin,
You are so fury,
But still you are merry.
You have a little sack,
That I call a pack,
I like your red coat,
Your skin coloured like oats.
Your bright shiny nose,
Matches the mistletoes.
You are a Santa and give
everyone presents,
And their hearts always
become pleasant,
I know you are not real,
But you are soft to feel,
Now, my Martin, go to sleep,
Tomorrow, I will give you
another treat.



Hannah Mathews,
Global Public School,
Thiruvaniyoor,
Kochi, Kerala



A. Srinidhi, IV,
PSBB, Siruseri,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu



Dhanyata Chamuah, V, Maharishi Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School, Silpukhuri, Guwahati, Assam



Surya Singh, VI, St. Michael's High School,
Patna, Bihar



Abhinav V S, VII A, Fatima Public School,
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Books

I love reading books. My favourite books are Enid Blyton's *The Faraway Tree*, *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox* and *The Horse* by Charlie Mackesy, and *The Sun and The Star* by Rick Riordan and Mark Oshiro. Books can be about space, history, fictional, or non-fictional, or adventure. They are an important source of knowledge. Books such as *The Ramayana* and *The Mahabharata* are part of our heritage. But, as we become increasingly attached to screens, we are losing out on reading. So, let us open a book and discover a new world full of surprises. Happy reading.

Stotropama Bhattacharya, III, St. Agnes Branch School, IIT Kharagpur Campus, Kharagpur, West Bengal



Scrapbook

Little things

It was as a chilly morning in the hills of Dispur. Only Abhinav was out on the streets., as it was the last day of school. However, when he reached his classroom and was shocked to see all the students were present early. Abhinav asked his teacher, "Ma'am, why is everyone present today?".

"Today, the toppers will be awarded," she said.

Abhinav was upset at being left out. He sat quietly in his seat. Suddenly, the watchman stepped into the class. He whispered something to the teacher and was about to leave, when Abhinav greeted him, "Hello uncle."

"Oh! hello child," he smiled.

The student beside him mocked, "Who greets a watchman?"

The teacher silenced him with a glare. Abhinav ignored him. Soon, the bell rang, and it was time for the awards ceremony. Everyone gathered in the auditorium. Many students showed off their talents and Abhinav felt bad that he wasn't participating in anything. Then, the principal walked up to the stage and started announcing the awards. Almost every student had won something, except Abhinav. Just as he decided to leave, the principal called his name. "Best Student Award ... you care for all including animals. I see you greet the watchman and help others who aren't good with their studies," he said. Abhinav received a trophy. "It is the little things in life that matter the most."



Vishnu Devansh Veerula,
VIII, Bhartiya Vidy
Bhavans Vidyashram,
Telengana, Hyderabad



B.Saanvi, V,
Tadepalli,
Guntur,
Andhra
Pradesh



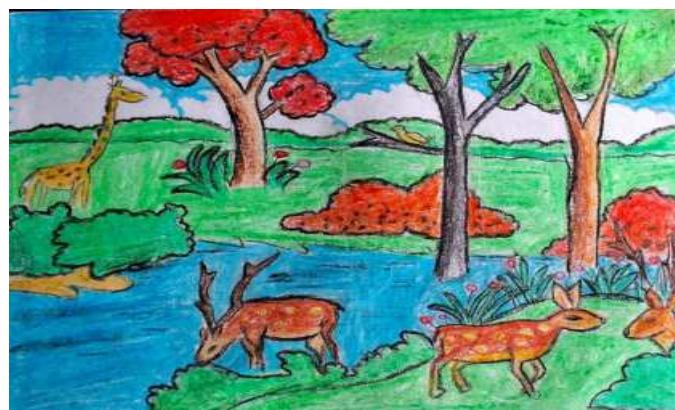
Arush Dey,
IV E, DAV Boys
Sr Sec. School,
Chennai, Tamil
Nadu



T. Balajiavika,
VII F,
St.Ignatius
Convent
Higher
Secondary
School,
Palayam-
kottai,
Tirunelveli,
Tamil Nadu



K.Arjun Reddy, IV, Aravinda
High School, Kunchanapalli,
Guntur, Andhra Pradesh



Akshay K, V, Government
Higher Primary School, Odia,
Dakshinakannada, Karnataka



Manasvi M Karabasannavar, I,
Brooklyn National Public School,
Bengaluru, Karnataka



Learn about the strange creatures that lived on the Earth before the Age of the Dinosaurs.

Walking with monsters

Have you ever wondered what our world was like before the time of dinosaurs? Well, take a look at these amazing animals and plants that once ruled our planet, way before the dinosaurs evolved.

Crucial ancestor

Once the Cambrian seas were filled with creatures of all shapes and sizes, each one equipped with its own set of special skills. On the one hand was the massive Anomalocaris, a remarkable predator that could reach lengths of up to one metre and take on any challenge with its powerful jaws. In comparison, the Pikaia was a small worm-like creature that holds an incredibly important place in the family tree of life on Earth, as it was a crucial ancestor of vertebrates. So, sharks, crocodiles, and even humans, owe their evolution to the little Pikaia.



First explorers

Around 410 million years ago, some adventurous creatures decided to embark on an extraordinary journey. Among these pioneers were the scorpions, equipped with their giant claws and impressive hunting skills. Did you know that some of these ancient scorpions that ruled watery realms were among the first creatures to climb onto land? Another daring migrator was the Alaspis, which moved from the sea to a lake driven by the instinct to lay eggs in a safer environment. This was a crucial step in the transition from aquatic to terrestrial life. Along the way, Alaspis evolved into Acanthostega, one of the first amphibians to walk on land.

Challenging terrain

Fast forward to 360 million years ago when the underwater world was ruled by colossal fish, some of

them even surpassing sharks in size. A formidable predator known as the 'sliding fish' lurked under the water waiting for the perfect moment to strike near land. The ancient land lizard, Petrolacosaurus, faced the monumental task of protecting its eggs from the numerous challenges in dense, impenetrable forests. This reptile lived during the Late Carboniferous period, around 300 million years ago, and displayed adaptations for life on land, such as sturdy limbs and well-developed lungs for breathing.

Time of giants

Around 300 million years ago, Earth was filled with dragonflies with wingspans rivalling those of eagles and spiders that were as large as dinner plates! The Arthropleura was a colossal millipede-like predator in the Carboniferous landscape. The Petrolacosaurus evolved into a creature known as Dimetrodon, transforming from a reptile fighting to protect its eggs to a fearsome carnivore. An apex predator in the early Permian period, around 280 million years ago, Dimetrodon is known for a distinctive sail on its back. It was not a true dinosaur but an early synapsid, a group of animals that eventually gave rise to mammals.

During the Ice Age, the cold and arid land proved hospitable to creatures like the Dimetrodon, which evolved over time. Gorgonopsid, resembling a wolf with powerful jaws and sharp teeth. Around 240 million years ago, as the Earth turned into a desert wasteland due to a cataclysmic event, there was a massive extinction. Only 5% of life on Earth managed to survive. In a twist of fate, once-mighty apex predators like the Gorgonopsids evolved into small furry creatures similar to today's ferrets.



Eureka

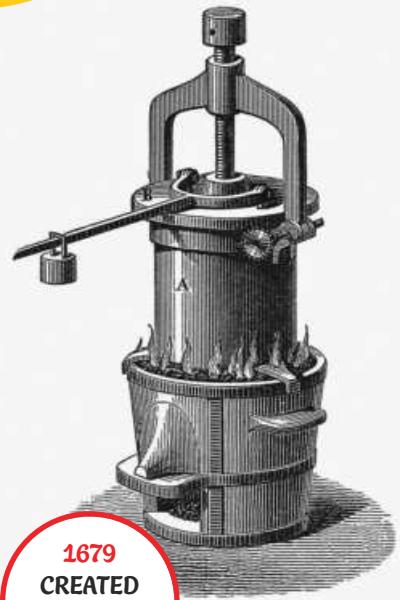
Let the pressure build!

How did this modern hero of the kitchen evolve to its current state over the past three centuries?

Did you know that the pressure cooker, whose whistle is a familiar sound from kitchens, has been around for 350 years? It first appeared in 1679 and was called Papin's Digester, after Denis Papin, its inventor. It was also called steam digester as it could literally digest bones. However, Papin's model was cumbersome and expensive. Though the inventor died in obscurity, his idea inspired other innovators. After many hits and misses, the pressure cooker arrived in 1919, when José Alix Martínez was granted the first express cooking



Peeyush
Sekhsaria



1679
CREATED
BY DENIS
PAPIN

pot patent in
Spain.

In simple terms, a pressure cooker is a sealed chamber that traps the steam generated when its contents are heated. As the steam builds up, pressure increases and drives the boiling point of water beyond 100°C. Pressure cooking reduces cooking time up to 70%, preserves more nutrients and vitamins, uses less energy and water and can cook a wide range of foods. By the 1930s, the pressure cooker was making its presence felt across the world, even as high up as Mount Everest. Higher altitudes with lower atmospheric pressure meant longer cooking time and a pressure cooker helped ease the problem, making it a treasured



item in mountaineering expeditions.

Household device

The creation of the Flexi-seal speed cooker by Alfred Vischer in 1938 in New York made the pressure cooker a household device, mass manufactured in aluminium and stainless steel across the U.S. and Europe. However, World War II's need for aluminium led to a dip in production and companies made cheaper varieties with substandard materials. This led to accidents and explosions. This, coupled with the arrival of modern stoves and ready-to-eat meals, led to a decline in popularity in the West.

In India, pressure cookers

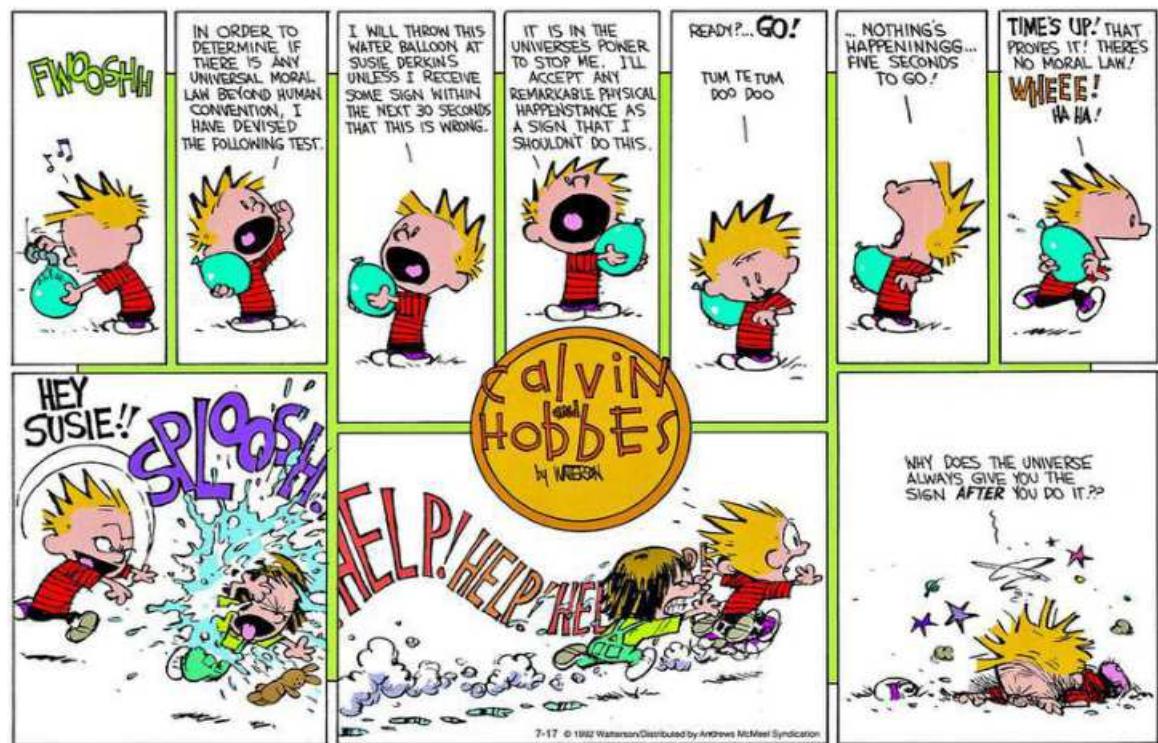
Quick tips

- Read the instructions carefully and understand the safety features.
- Add enough water to prevent burning but do not overfill the cooker.
- Once cooking is done, wait for 10-15 minutes for the pressure to release naturally. Then open the pot.
- Ensure an experienced adult is around when you cook.
- Ensure you clean the cooker after each use.

were launched in the late 1950s but explosion due to spurious spare parts, lack of adequate safety measures and improper handling were common. By the 1970s, multiple safety measures and detailed user manuals were common and pressure cookers became a kitchen essential by the 1980s, even on wood-fired stoves in rural India where they are typically dressed in a mud plaster to avoid blackening and regulate temperature. Newer avatars such as electric cookers and even silent cookers have been introduced. But will the kitchens be the same without that piercing whistle?



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SOLUTIONS

Quiz Whizz: 1. Mycology; 2. None; its skeleton is made of cartilage; 3. Radiation; 4. The Red Sea route; 5. Lagrange 1 point, from where the spacecraft will observe the Sun for the next five years; 6. Anne of Green Gables

Sudoku

2	3	1	5	4	6
6	4	5	2	3	1
5	2	3	6	1	4
4	1	6	3	2	5
1	6	2	4	5	3
3	5	4	1	6	2

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