

# Child Friendly News



THE NOBEL PRIZES

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Volume I, Issue 10 >> October 24, 2013 >> [Subscribe www.childfriendlynews.com](http://www.childfriendlynews.com) >> [Email childfriendlynews@gmail.com](mailto:childfriendlynews@gmail.com)

## THE MASTER SAYS GOOD-BYE

It was bound to happen one day and the signs have been there for many months. Still, when Sachin Tendulkar announced that he would be playing his last test match in a few weeks, a ripple of shock went through the cricket world. After all, when a player has been in the team for 24 years (that's older than all of you!) it's a little hard to say good bye.

But the news is final. On the 14th of November, Tendulkar will walk into Wankhede stadium in Mumbai to face the West Indies team wearing the India blue for the final time. It will be his 200th appearance in a test match, which sets a new world record in cricket. As Tendulkar has already retired from the T20 and One Day International (ODI) formats of the game, this is his last competitive cricket match. The match which is scheduled for November 14-18, is the second of the two test matches that will be played against the Caribbean visitors.

### Big Plans

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) have big plans to mark the milestone. All tickets to the match will have Tendulkar's picture. The MCA is

### Little Master Fact File

- Made his test debut for India at the age of 16 in 1989.
- It took him 79 matches to score his first ODI century but he now holds the record for most ODI centuries
- Some of Tendulkar's best performances came against Australia, considered the best team of his era
- First cricketer to receive the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, India's highest sporting award



Tendulkar with his most prized win – the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup

also planning to name a stadium after Tendulkar.

### The Record Breaker

When it comes to hoarding records, Tendulkar can be accused of being a miser. That's because he owns almost every record worth having in international cricket.

- Most centuries in test cricket – 51
- Most centuries in ODIs – 49
- First player to score a double century in an ODI - 200 off 147 balls against South Africa in 2010
- Highest run getter in test matches – 15,837
- Highest run getter in ODIs – 18,426
- Highest run scorer in the World Cup

### SACHIN TRIVIA

- As an aspiring fast bowler, a young Sachin Tendulkar was rejected by Dennis Lillee's MRF Pace Foundation in 1987. He was told to focus on his batting instead.
- Sachin Tendulkar used to sleep with his cricket gear during his junior days.
- Sachin Tendulkar batted in his debut Test against Pakistan wearing the pads gifted to him by Sunil Gavaskar.
- Sachin Tendulkar was named after the great musician Sachin Dev Burman.
- As a joke, Sachin once put a hose pipe into Sourav Ganguly's room and turned the tap on.



A young Sachin hit a brilliant century against Australia in 1992

## FROM WASTE TO WEALTH

**W**ater hyacinth is a weed that is the bane of animal lovers, conservationists and fishermen alike. That's because this fast growing weed has the habit of choking lakes and ponds, leaving hardly any room for water birds and animals. Plus, it is very fast growing, so removing it is a great problem as the plant grows back within 12 days.

In north east India, a group of artists and the government seem to have found a way to solve this problem. They are using water hyacinth stems to create woven products like bags, sandals, jewelry and even things for the home. The fast growing nature of the water hyacinth is actually a blessing (a big help) as the artists never run out of raw material.



Water hyacinth may look pretty but it is a killer

(Photo courtesy: Wikipedia)

There is a 'green' benefit to using water hyacinth as it replaces cane and bamboo. Extensive (too much) use of cane and bamboo is depleting (reducing) these plants which is not good. Cane and bamboo is used mainly for making baskets and furniture and these are uses that water hyacinth can

be put to. Plus, by using the plant, the artists are removing the weed from wetlands that are being choked by the hyacinth.

As an added benefit, the popularity of the water hyacinth products is making these artists quite wealthy too!

## The brain cleans up while you sleep

**N**ew research shows that sleep has a very important role to play in the health of the brain. That's because the brain seems to be cleaning itself up as we sleep.

This is what the researchers observed while studying lab mice – when the mice slept, their brain cells shrank (became smaller), increasing the gaps between cells. The brain's plumbing system (a network of 'pipes') started work and began pumping a fluid (liquid) into the brain, which was then used to pump out waste matter created by the brain cells when they were active (when the mice were awake).

In other words, sleep time seems to be clean up and maintenance time for the brain. Just like dirty places are unhealthy, a dirty brain jammed with waste matter is equally unhealthy. One more reason to get your beauty sleep each night!



## Monkeys take turns to talk



(Photo courtesy: Wikipedia)

**A** scientist working in the United States has discovered that marmoset monkeys take turns to talk to each other, which is strikingly similar to human conversation. This discovery was made during an experiment when marmosets were placed on either side of a curtain, which meant that they could hear each other, but could not see one another.

Turn taking in conversation is one of the things that set human beings apart. Even chimps, our closest animal relatives, do not make conversation with each other, instead communicating by moving their limbs. But the marmosets followed a certain conversation code. One of them would call out, and five seconds later, the other would reply. Marmosets are similar to humans in one other way – they help each other take care of their children. Scientists are studying the conversational ability of marmosets in order to understand the way in which humans began communicating.



## The 'Yeti' may be real!

**Y**ou may have heard of the Yeti, a fearsome beast that is said to roam the snowy Himalayas scaring mountain climbers and local people. The Yeti or 'Abominable Snowman' is long believed to have been an

imaginary creature but new research has shown that it may actually be real.

Study of two 'Yeti' hair samples has shown that there may indeed be a creature roaming the Himalayas that is a cross between the

Himalayan brown bear and the polar bear. Such a creature has long been a part of local stories in Nepal and Tibet. Now it looks like the Yeti may be no myth but a flesh and blood, previously unknown species of bear!



## Creative Science

### TAHNG ON THE PIRANHA

Living alongside the fearsome piranha is no joke. After all, this flesh eating fish has been terrorizing other creatures in the Amazon (humans included) for centuries. But there is one fish that seems to have mastered the art of living alongside the piranha and the secret to this lies in the tough body armour that this fish has developed.

The fish in question is the Arapaima Gigas, one of the largest fresh water fish in the world. To keep the piranha at bay, the arapaima has developed a fantastic covering of scales that protect it from the piranha's bite. Scientists have been studying these scales and here is what they found.

The arapaima's scales overlap, which means that they lie one over another, which provides some kind of protection.

But the real genius is in the design of the scales. When the scientists placed the scales under a microscope they saw a very clever design. The scale was found to have two layers. The outer layer was a hard one with ridges (small hills) on its surface that could turn away most bite attempts.

The second layer was much thicker than the first and it was made of flexible material that was arranged as strings of material in a spiral design. If a piranha's bite manages to break through the hard outer layer, the strands or strings inside the inner layer are able to roll inward with the tooth as it penetrates, acting as a cushion and slowing down the movement of the tooth so that it can't break all the way through. The overlapping design is a great help too - if the piranha manages to break through one scale, it finds



(Photo courtesy: Wikipedia)

another one right below.

The cleverness of this design is inspiring companies to copy it to create body armour for soldiers and others who need protection. Such an armour

could provide protection against knife wounds and bullet attacks. A 'fishy' solution indeed for a modern day problem!

## The Book Nook

### THE 'HISTORY BOOK'

Are you one of those who think history is boring? Perhaps the problem lies in the kind of history books you have been reading. Take a look at the look at the National Geographic History Book that offers an interactive journey through the story of life on earth.

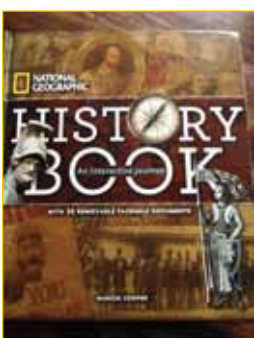
The book is comprehensive – it starts with the life of early humans and goes all the way upto modern space stations. What makes the book different is that it contains folders stuffed with life-like copies of documents connected to the stories inside.

So, if you are reading about the Gutenberg printing press, you can take a look at pages from the Gutenberg Bible, the first book to be mass printed. Or, if you are interested in Mughal history, browse a few pages of the Akbarnama, a story of Akbar's life that was written by one of the Mughal emperor's courtiers.

What makes history come alive through the pages of this book is the variety of material. It even covers the 'rock n roll' era, and the reference document for this is a party invitation from the Beatles for an event that was held in London in 1967. How cool is that?

At almost Rs.2500, the book is an expensive buy but a lovely addition to school and personal libraries!

Available at: [www.flipkart.com](http://www.flipkart.com)





The Nobel Prize is given as a personal award but it also honors the field of research in which I have worked and it also honors my students and colleagues.

— Robert Hofstadter

## How many Nobel Prizes are there?

The Nobel prizes are one of the most famous awards in the world. They are given out in the following fields (areas):

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Medicine
- Literature
- Economics
- Peace Prize

The Nobel Peace Prize winner is chosen by a group of people from Norway. The other winners are chosen by various organizations from Sweden. The prizes are usually given away on the 10th of December each year.

## Nobel Trivia

Alfred Nobel was also the inventor of dynamite, which is a kind of explosive.



## Famous Winners

Nobel prize winners include many people who changed the world with their ideas, thoughts and inventions. Here are some of the early winners:

**Henry Dunant**, who founded the International Red Cross was one of the first people to get the Nobel Peace Prize. The Red Cross is an international organization that helps people in areas affected by disasters and war and is easily identified by the famous red cross that is its symbol.



**Madame Curie** is one of just four people who have won the Nobel Prize twice. She won it in 1903 for Physics and later in 1911 for Chemistry. In fact many members of the Curie family, including her husband Pierre Curie and daughter Irene Curie have won Nobel Prizes.



**Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen** received the first Physics Prize for his discovery of X-rays.

## Big Miss



One of the biggest mistakes made by the Nobel Peace Prize committee is that it never chose Mahatma Gandhi for the Peace Prize. This mistake was later accepted by the organization but it was too late as Gandhi had already died in 1948.

## Nobel Trivia

- The Nobel prizes are never awarded posthumously – that is, they are never awarded to people after their death. However, in case the awardee dies after the prize is announced, the Nobel is still given.
- A Nobel prize cannot be shared by more than three people.



# THE NOBEL PRIZES

Over the past few weeks, the newspapers have been full of news about people who have won the Nobel Prize. In this Special Report let's look at the history of the famous prizes as well learn about the men and women who won them in 2013.

## The History of the Nobel Prizes

The Nobel prizes were the idea of a Swedish inventor named Alfred Nobel. A newspaper wrongly published that he had died. On reading the article, he remembered him when he actually died. That's when he decided to set up an organization to give out prizes each year for the best inventions in various scientific fields as well as in Literature (writing).

## 2013 Winners

### Nobel Prize in Physics

The Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded to two scientists - Peter Higgs and Francois Englert - who first discovered the 'Higgs boson' or 'god particle' that forms the building block for everything in the universe, including us humans. Nearly 50 years ago, these scientists, working separately, spoke of a massive field of energy in the universe that causes tiny particles of matter to come together to create every object in the universe. Within this field, tiny particles invisible to the eye, called the Higgs Boson, zip around, picking up mass or weight. These tiny particles are what everything in the world is made up of. As Higgs once said, "If it (the Higgs boson) wasn't there, we wouldn't be here."

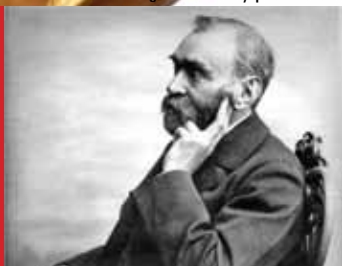






The medal that is given to every prize winner

Nobel. A few years before he passed away, a  
started thinking about how people would  
organization that would use his wealth to  
such as Physics, Chemistry and Medicine



## Nobel Prize in Medicine

This was also  
shared by  
two US citi-  
zens - James

E. Rothman and Ran-  
dy W. Schekman and  
German-American  
Dr. Thomas C. Südhof



Randy W. Schekman, Thomas C. Südhof and James E. Rothman

for their work in describing how transport systems within human cells work. As you know, cells are what the human body is built of. These scientists were the first to study how vesicles, tiny bubbles inside cells, delivered food and other important substances to various part of a cell at the right time. This tiny transportation system is very important and if it breaks down, it could cause disease such as diabetes.

## Nobel Prize in Literature

The coveted prize for Lit-  
erature has been awarded  
to Canadian author Alice  
Munro. Munro, who is 82  
years old, is famous for her short stories. She is the first Canadian and the  
13th woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. Many of  
Munro's stories are set in a region near Ontario in Canada and  
this focus on one region is one of the features of her fiction.



## Nobel Prize in Chemistry

The Chemistry Nobel has been awarded to three Unit-  
ed States (US) scientists - Martin Karplus, Michael  
Levitt and Arieh Warshel - who first worked out  
how computer programmes could be used to predict  
chemical reactions. As chemical reactions happen at lightning  
speed, powerful computer programmes are needed to track  
exactly what is going on. Thanks to the work of these people,  
today chemistry research requires computers as much as test  
tubes and labs. Their ideas are being used by drug companies  
all over the world to study the effects of new medicines on the  
human body before actually testing them on people.



Martin Karplus, Michael Levitt and Arieh Warshel

## Nobel Peace Prize

The most famous of the  
prizes, the Nobel Peace  
Prize has been won by  
the Organisation for the  
Prohibition of Chemical Weapons  
(OPCW) which works to make sure  
that chemical weapons are not used anywhere in the world.  
Among the most deadly of modern weapons, chemical weap-  
ons have caused massive suffering to people in modern  
wars, most recently in Syria, a country in West Asia. OPCW of-  
ficers are in fact in the process of discovering and destroying  
chemical weapon in Syria. This work is one of the reasons the  
OPCW has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.



OPCW inspectors at work in Syria

## Nobel Prize in Economics

The prize has gone to three  
US Economists - Eugene  
Fama, Lars Peter Hansen  
and Robert Shiller. All three  
of them independently did research  
on how the value of financial assets  
(things we invest in like homes, gold etc.) change over time  
and on the means by which this change can be measured.



Eugene Fama and Lars Peter Hansen





# HUNT FOR GOLD AT ANCIENT TEMPLE

It is straight out of a story book. Some time back, a *swami* (a Hindu religious man) from Uttar Pradesh (UP), named Shobhan Sarkar had a dream that were 1000 tonnes of gold hidden below the remains of an ancient fort at Daundia Khera (UP). Now the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which takes care of ancient monuments, has sent out a team to hunt for the gold at the fort.

The gold was apparently hidden by a local ruler Raja Rao Ram Bux Singh, who was killed by the British during the first war of Indian Independence in 1857. According to the Swami, the king appeared in his dream and told him about the hidden treasure. Worried that the gold would fall



into wrong hands, the Swami informed the government which sent the ASI to the site.

The ASI digging has caused a lot of excitement. People of Daundia

Khera, who had shifted to cities like Delhi for work, have returned to the town, as they feel the treasure will make them rich. For a few days, the whole area looked like a

*mela* site, with crowds of people curious about the ASI's work. But the treasure, if it is actually there, will belong to the government. The ASI will dig at the site for a month.

## Off to Mars together

India's Mars orbiter and US space agency NASA's 'Maven' rocket, may cruise to Mars together as they are being launched at almost the same time.

Indian space agency ISRO is steadily moving ahead with its Mars vehicle launch. The orbiter, which as its name indicates will orbit the red planet, will be

launched on a day between October 28 and November 19. It will reach Mars in September 2014.

To track the progress of the rocket, ISRO has stationed ships in the Pacific Ocean. They have been fitted with special equipment to trace the orbiter's launch path. The orbiter will be launched from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.



## Massive oarfish found

A marine science instructor (a specialist in ocean studies) who was snorkeling in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California recently chanced upon the carcass (dead body) of an 18 foot (5.5 metres) long oarfish. It is a rare discovery as the oarfish, which can dive to a depth of 3000 feet (914 metres), is rarely ever seen and hence has not been studied in detail by humans.

The oarfish, which can grow to more than 15 metres in length, is a deep-water pelagic (ocean) fish - the longest bony fish in the world. With its long body, it looks like a sea serpent, and was probably mistaken for them in ancient stories.

The carcass will now be buried in sand and allowed to decompose (break down) naturally. The skeleton will then be removed for research (study).





An onion can make people cry but there's never been a vegetable that can make people laugh.

— Will Rogers

CHILD FRIENDLY NEWS  
October 24, 2013  
www.childfriendlynews.com



News 7

## CYCLE PHAILIN DEVASTATES ORISSA

**O**n the evening of October 11, cyclone Phailin (cyclone have names now) that had been building up over the Bay of Bengal for several days crossed the shores of India over the state of Orissa. It

brought with it a trail of devastation that is still visible in the state many days later.

Phailin is one of the strongest cyclones to hit India in recent years – it was almost half the size of India and when it crossed the coast it brought

high waves and strong winds. Thanks to the excellent work of the government, lakhs of people were removed from coastal areas and brought inland.

Now, with the cyclone threat behind them, many people are

still unable to go back home as their houses have been destroyed. Also, many farmers have lost all their crops and animals. This is the hardest loss as these people will have no way of earning money in the near future.



## Onions make people cry

**I**f you've ever helped chop onions, you'd know they make people cry. But now it's their absence rather than presence that is causing distress. That's because onion prices have gone through the roof in the past few weeks. In some places, the cost per kilo has touched Rs.100.

The humble vegetable is a big part of every Indian's diet. Until last year, the onion sold for Rs.20-30/kilo and was bought by rich and poor alike. The long monsoon this year has delayed the arrival of fresh onions in the market and it is also thought that some sellers are keeping their stocks locked up in order to increase prices. The government says that once the new harvest comes into the market, within a month, prices will climb down. Meanwhile, the onion is giving the government sleepless nights. That's because 10 years ago, the elections in Delhi were won by the Congress as the people blamed the then government for high onion prices. The wheel has come full circle, except it is now the Congress that is in the firing line.



## India need to buck up



Ishant Sharma : Not in a good place

**I**t was all over in one over. In the 48th over of the third One Day International (ODI) in the on-going India vs Australia series, Ishant Sharma allowed Australian James Faulkner to score a whopping 30 runs. The runs cost India the match, leaving the visitors with a 2-1 advantage in the series.

Earlier in the day, an unbeaten 139 off 169 balls by Indian captain M S Dhoni placed the Indians in a good position. The Australian batsmen were also kept in check, that is until Ishant Sharma bowled his over. The Indian bowling attack isn't looking good in the series. While Ishant is far from his best, even regular performers like R Ashwin have failed to shine.

There are four more matches to be played, and India must hope that its bowlers pull up their socks – and fast!



## SPOT THE SCIENTIST

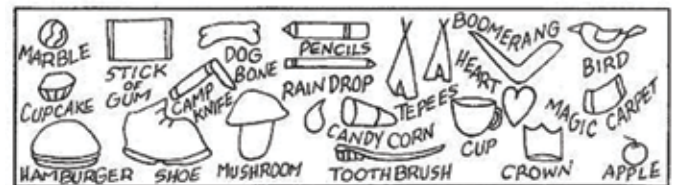
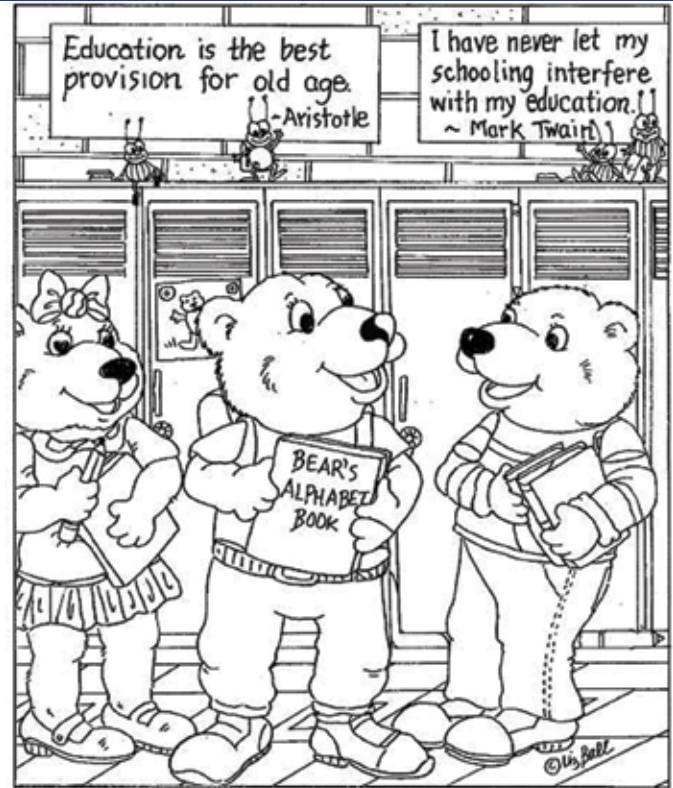
Some Indians too have won Nobel prizes. Look closely at the photos and name them and the disciplines they won the prize for.



Answers  
1. C V Raman (Physics) 2. V S Naipaul (Literature) 3. Rabindranath Tagore (Literature)  
4. Har Gobind Khorana (Medicine)

## FIND THE HIDDEN OBJECTS

Can you spot the hidden objects listed at the bottom of the picture?



## Top Reads for Kids and Young Adults

1. Heroes of the Olympus: The House of Hades by Rick Riordan
2. Ripley's Believe It or Not: Dare to Look
3. Cavemice: The Stone of Fire by Geronimo Stilton
4. The Mahabharata by Samhita Arni
5. Rumble in the Jungle by Geronimo Stilton
6. Let It Snow by John Green / Maureen Johnson / Lauren Myracle
7. Lockwood & Co. : The Screaming Staircase by Jonathan Stroud
8. Time Riders — The Mayan Prophecy by Alex Scarrow
9. My Sister the Vampire: Flipping Out by Sienna Mercer
10. Bonkers! By Natasha Sharma



To know more about these books and to buy them, check out  
[www.toptenbooksoftheweek.com](http://www.toptenbooksoftheweek.com)

## UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

Re-arrange the alphabets to find the word

Clue: All clues are linked to winning

1. **TTCENSO**

2. **ZPREI**

3. **NIW**

4. **LAEDM**

Answers  
1. Contest  
2. Prize  
3. Winner  
4. Medal

## SUDOKU TIME

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

Try your hand at this Sudoku. Remember that numbers 1 to 6 can appear only once in each of the six rectangles. They can also appear only once in each row and column of the overall square.

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

Answer

## Subscribe to Child Friendly News

Child Friendly News or CFN is an age appropriate newspaper for children in the age group 7-13. The newspaper comes out every fortnight. Every issue is written using language that young readers can understand on their own interspersed with pictures and imagery. Quick explanations of difficult words and terms and boxed elements that explain concepts accompany every article — this is to help build

vocabulary as well as context understanding. Special reports take up one topic in depth while regular columns on everyday technology concepts keep children up-to-date with the world around them. A subscription costs Rs.500 for the year.

Child Friendly News is published from C5/7 FF Vasant Vihar, New Delhi 110057. Published, printed, edited and owned by Anita Mani. Printed by Printworks, F-25, Okhla Industrial Area, Ph I, New Delhi 110020 [RNI registration number: DELENG/2013/50870]