

Child Friendly News



Find out more about the elections

V is for VOTE



PG 4-5

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INDIA HEADS OUT TO VOTE

On Monday, April 7, Indians in some parts of Assam and Tripura went out to vote for a new government that will take charge at Delhi this summer. This marked the first stage of the Indian elections, the largest democratic exercise of its kind in the world.

More than 75% (3/4) of the people in these two places who could vote actually cast their vote – this high turnout shows how interested people are in this election. The rest of India will vote over another 8 phases (stages) between now and May 12.

Why is the election held in stages?

The election is held in stages due to the size of the country and number of people. More than

800 million people will vote this year and it is not possible to have them all vote at the same time on the same day. Once the final phase is completed on May 12, the votes will be counted on May 16. That's when we will know which political party has won the right to run the country for the next five years.

What happens during an election?

Voters will visit polling stations which are usually in schools (that's why many of you have a holiday on the voting date!) and cast their votes on an Electronic Voting Machine (EVM). To cast a vote, one simply needs to press the button next to the symbol of the political party chosen by the voter. The whole process has been made simple so that even

people who cannot read or write can use the EVM.

Why use EVMs?

EVMs make it easy to count the votes cast. Instead of physically counting bits of paper, the machine can be used to tally the votes won by each political party. Therefore, results can be quickly announced. This means that on May 16th itself, it is likely that each of 800 million+ votes will be counted!

Who are we voting for?

India is divided into a number of constituencies. The winning candidate from a constituency becomes its Member of Parliament (MP). The political party that gets 272 seats out of the total 545 seats in Indian Parliament will form the central government at Delhi.



People line up to vote in Tripura



Once a person has voted, an ink mark is stamped on the index finger of the right hand. This is to ensure that a person votes only once. The mark fades after a few days/weeks

hindustan times

&

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Present



Kids!

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YouTube Videos, Websites

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OUR LIONS LEFT AFRICA 21,000 YEARS AGO

The history of the world's lions is brief as little is known of this magnificent king of beasts. As lions live in hot tropical areas, their fossil remains are not well preserved. However, recently a group of scientists based in the United Kingdom has managed to piece together the lion's history by studying DNA samples from lion skeletons owned by museums and collectors all over the world.

The ancestor of all lions originally evolved in Africa 124,000 years ago. Over time groups of these African lions were separated by the expanding Sahara desert as well as by the great rivers Nile and Niger. The groups therefore

began to develop differently – which is why today, lions living in East and South Africa are different from those in Central and West Africa.

Around 21,000 years ago, some of the lions left Africa and found their way into India. The last 400 of these are now living in Gujarat, with the biggest group found in and around the Gir National Park. This species is called the Asiatic Lion and Gujarat is the only place in the world where they can be seen.

The study has also revealed a very interesting fact – that the lions of North and West Africa are closely related to the Indian Asiatic Lion rather than the species found in East and South Africa.



Bringing back the Barbary Lion

The Barbary Lion, a species of lion now extinct in the wild, once roamed North Africa. It looked different from other lion species due to its larger mane and face structure. The DNA study on lions has also revealed that the Barbary Lions are very similar to the Asiatic Lions of Gir.

Since descendants of Barbary Lions can be found in zoos, it is possible that the species could be revived using Asiatic Lions. In fact the Asiatic Lion itself could be re-introduced into North Africa. Expanding the range of the Asiatic Lion could also prevent its extinction should natural disasters or disease wipe out the lions of Gujarat.



What is DNA?

DNA is the building block from which all living creatures are constructed. Using DNA one can trace relationships between groups of people and animals.

World's oldest weather report

The world's oldest weather report may be a 3500 year old block of stone that speaks of a terrible storm seen in Egypt during the time of the Pharaohs (kings of ancient Egypt).

Two scholars in the United States have de-coded (made sense of) inscriptions carved on a six foot high block of stone called the Tempest Stela. The inscriptions speak of rain, darkness, and "the sky being in storm without cessation, louder than the cries of the masses."

It is believed that the unusual weather was caused by the eruption on a volcano on the Greek island of Santorini which is close enough to Egypt to disrupt weather. The new discovery may also help us understand the correct order of events in ancient Egyptian history.



Who do zebras have stripes?



The black and white stripes on the zebra's skin are the animal's most distinctive feature. Yet, for a long time, scientists have puzzled over the stripes? Do they help confuse predators? Do they help in camouflage? Do they keep flies away? A biologist named Time Caro from the United States recently led a study that may help prove that the stripes indeed keep away flies.

Caro and his team collected a lot of data on the zebra, especially the areas where they are found. The team also looked at distribution of other members of the equid family (animals like donkeys and horses) and studied the kinds of striping that occurred in them. They then mapped the areas where biting flies are found, the ranges of predators like lions and hyenas and the distribution of forests. After studying all of these, the team came to the conclusion that striping is most likely to occur in animals that live in areas with biting flies. Therefore, say Caro and his team, zebras also likely developed stripes to keep away biting flies.

It (technology) interrupts our own story, interrupts our ability to have a thought or a daydream, to imagine something wonderful, because we're too busy .. on the cell phone.

— Steven Spielberg

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Owlle Talks Technology

SOLVING THE 'G' MYSTERY

2G, 3G, 4G...and now 5G! Don't you keep coming across these terms in newspapers and magazines? Wonder what they mean? Well, here is a quick primer.

The 'G' in these terms refers to 'generation' and each higher number indicates a new, improved version of mobile phone technology. As with many things these days, it's a race for speed and with each version, the amount of data being carried on mobile phone networks is growing by leaps and bounds.

Imagine a thin pipe – it can carry only a certain amount of water right? If the pipe

is replaced with something thicker, it would be able to carry loads more water. That is exactly what is happening to mobile phones. So, 3G mobile networks can carry more data than 2G, 4G even more and 5G networks (when they come) will transport huge amounts of data in a very short time.

The measure used is Kilobytes per Second or KBPS or Megabytes per second (MBPS) – and the bytes here refer to bits of information travelling on mobile networks. From 50 KBPS in the 2G age, data speeds improved to 384 KBPS in the 3G world for phones in use on the move. For stationary devices,



3G speeds are even higher at 2 MPBS.

Now in the 4G world, speeds could go upto 100 MBPS when on the move. In the 5G world (not expected for another 10 years), speeds could be 10 GBPS or Gigabytes per second. At that speed, entire movies can be downloaded in less than a second.

How does speed help?

When data travels faster, you can browse the Internet at greed speeds, download movies and music almost instantly. With so much connectivity available, a lot of things such as refrigerators, air conditioners and watches would be constantly connected to the Internet.

CFN CHRISTMAS STORY CONTEST WINNER

RUDOLPH GOES MISSING!!!

(Story so far: Santa's favourite reindeer Rudolph has gone missing. The red-nosed reindeer has actually wandered off and found another group of wild reindeer with whom he becomes friendly. He then finds out that his new friends are magical creatures who can turn into men. These magical beasts tell Rudolph that, in return for the love and friendship he has given them, they would like to give him a gift. Now read on to find out what Rudolph asks for.)

Rudolph was so delighted to hear this. He said, "Thank you, for all that you have done for me, for all your love and care. Do you know why I left Santa's palace and came away? I always think that every time Santa gives gifts to children but none bother to gift Santa. He is taking so much effort to make those gifts and give them to the children and make them happy. So this time I wanted to give a gift to him. Can you please

help me find a gift for Santa?" When Rudolph expressed his wish, there was a loud applause all around him, because Rudolph was a very good deer and had a very good heart. All agreed to grant his wish and discussed what gift they could give for Santa.

Rudolph said, "You guys know magic, right? So, let's do a photo frame for Santa and in that frame, draw a photo of me and fix it in the frame and with your magic, make my photo speak the words, 'Hi Santa! How are you?' and whatever question Santa asks, the photo should answer it. It should mimic my voice. When Santa is sad or lonely he can use this and become happy by chatting with it and never miss me! Can you do it?" All the deer agreed joyfully. The next morning, the gift was ready and they showed it to Rudolph. Rudolph was so happy to see it. He thanked everyone for making it and hugged everyone and started his journey

Shweta Thiagu is the runner-up in the 10-14 years group. She is 11 years old and studies in Class VI D of the Bharathi Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore.

Hope you enjoy reading her story!



back to Santa's palace.

Finally, after a long journey, he reached Santa's palace. He went inside Santa's room and saw Santa sitting sadly on his armchair. Rudolph exclaimed, "Santa! Santa! I am here!!" Santa was extremely happy to see Rudolph! He hugged him and said, "How are you, my dear? Where did you go all these days?" Rudolph answered, "I am fine, Santa, Thank you. How have you been? I am very sorry to have not been here to help you this Christmas but I desperately wanted to give you a Christmas present and went on a mission to find something for you." Santa was overwhelmed by joy that he said, "Oh dear! What a good heart you have. I missed you a lot!" Rudolph said, "I missed you too, Santa!" and he gave Santa his gift. Santa accepted

the gift happily and loved it so much that he hung it up in his room. Rudolph said, "Whenever you feel lonely or sad, use this and it will make you happy!" Santa smiled warmly and said, "My darling Rudolph, above all the materialistic gifts that you could give me, your love is the biggest and the best gift, dearie. Love all and God shall keep you happy forever!" Santa thanked Rudolph and all lived very happily ever after!!!

Correction

Last issue the CFN interview carried an incorrect title – Building a haven for Herpes'. It should have read 'Building a haven for reptiles' as herpes is actually a kind of disease.



“The ballot is stronger than the bullet.”

— Abraham Lincoln



Why do we vote?

We vote because in India we have the right to choose our leaders through an election. India is a democratic country – every Indian who is 18 years has a right to vote and this right is guaranteed by the Constitution of India.

People in countries such as China are not as lucky as they don't get to choose their leaders. In countries such as the United Arab Emirates (you may have heard of its capital Abu Dhabi), some people get to rule as they are members of the royal family – such nations are called monarchies.

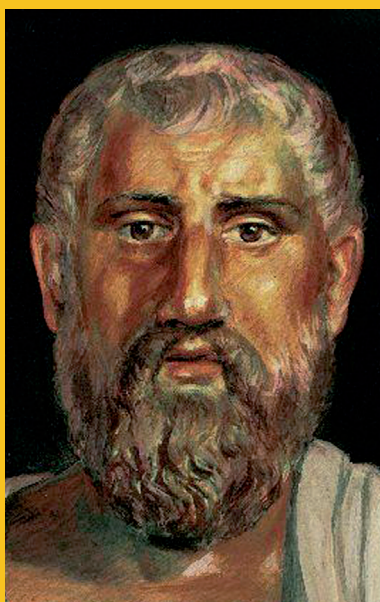


India's neighbor Bhutan is an example of a monarchy headed by King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. Bhutan is a constitutional monarchy which means that the king's powers are controlled by an elected government.

Where did it all start?

The idea of giving everyone a say in choosing their leaders can be traced back to ancient Greece. Around 9000 years ago a very learned person in Athens called Solon came up with the idea of giving equal representation in government to people at all levels of society. Even the Romans copied the Greek model.

It is possible that in Ancient India as well, there existed countries that followed a democratic model. However, more recent history shows India as a country ruled by kings belonging to dynasties (families of kings) such as the Guptas, Mauryas, Pandyas and Mughals.



An ancient Greek named Solon set out the first rules for democracy.

The Oldest One

The oldest democracy in the world – a nation that has been a democratic state continuously for the longest time – can be found on the Isle of Man, an island near the United Kingdom (UK). The government there is called the Tynwald and it has been elected by its people for the last 2000 years since the year 979!



the Flag of the Tynwald

V is for

The Government

The work that the Central Government does in De

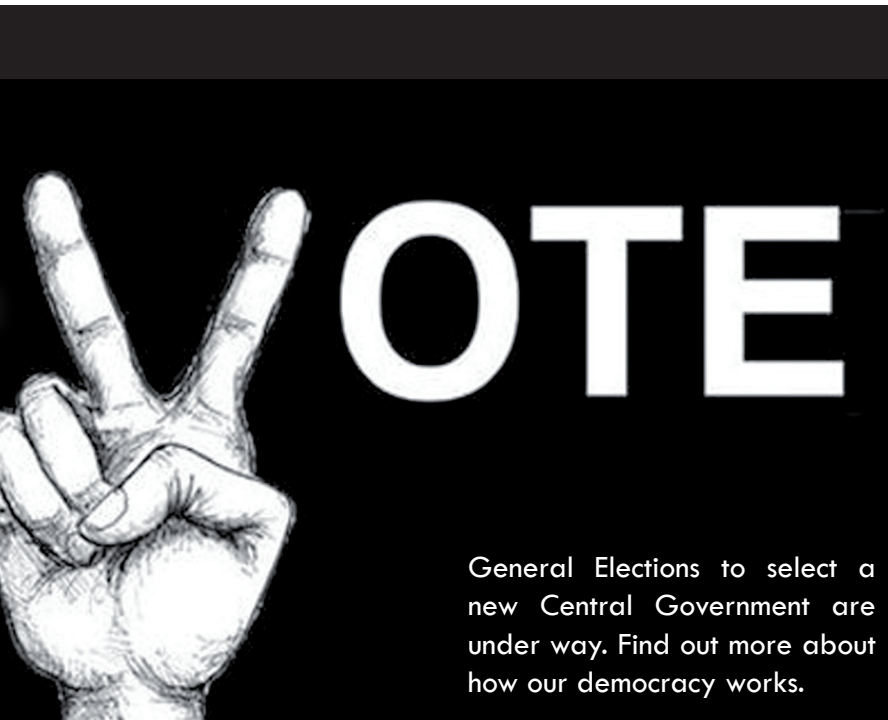
The Government is in charge of giving permission to cell phone companies to operate in India



A TYPICAL MUMBAI STREET

Cars use parts that may be imported from foreign countries – such imports are under the control of the Central Government

People are buying things in these shops using money. This money is printed by the Central Government.



ent in your life

lhi does touches your life in many different ways.



It looks like it might rain doesn't it? Weather forecasting is the job of the Central Government

Trucks like this carry goods all across India. They travel on national highways that are built and managed by the Central Government

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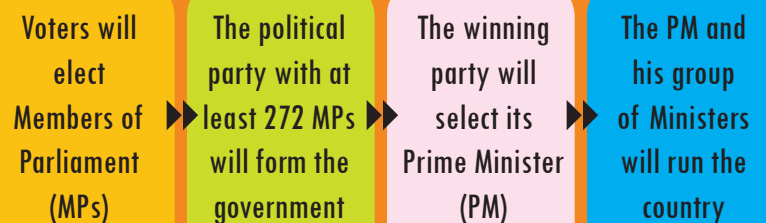
India's Pride

India is the world's largest democracy. This year 820 million voters will get a chance to vote in the General Elections which will be held in April and May. Through these elections we will select a central government that will run the entire country from New Delhi.

The seat of our government is Parliament House or Sansad Bhawan. It was built by the British and was completed in 1927



What happens during and after a General Election?



Crazy, crazy symbols

India is divided into many constituencies. Each elects its own Member of Parliament (MP). Many people may compete to become MP of a constituency. So, how does the voter remember which one he wants to vote for? This is why we have election symbols. While the really big political parties have election symbols that have belonged to them for years (the 'hand' for the Congress and 'lotus' for the BJP), small parties and those candidates not belonging to any party have sometimes chosen unusual symbols.



In the past, politicians have chosen symbols such as a purse, a kettle or even a bowl of ice-cream!

What does an MP do after he or she gets elected?

- MPs attend meetings in Parliament House to discuss new laws or changes to old laws
- They work on projects in their constituency such as building of hospital and schools
- They listen to the problems of people who live in their constituency and try to help them out
- If an MP is chosen as a Minister, then, he or she may have more responsibilities

MALAYSIAN AIRLINES FLIGHT STILL MISSING

For a month investigators have been searching for the Malaysian Airlines plane MH370 that mysteriously disappeared halfway on a regular flight between Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Beijing (in China). There have been many false leads, including what looked like pieces of the aircraft floating in the Indian Ocean, but the airplane is yet to be located.

The only clear information at present is that the aircraft changed direction and headed over the Indian Ocean. Did it crash? Did it land somewhere? No one knows. Ships, planes and helicopters from many countries including Malaysia, China and Australia are searching an area in the Southern Indian Ocean where the plane was headed.

The focus is now on finding the 'black box' – an instrument found in the cockpit of every airplane that records what happens on board, especially communication in the cockpit. The black box is designed to give out signals so that it can be located after a plane crashes. The recordings could be used to understand what happened to the aircraft. In the past few days, signals from an underwater object that could be the black box have been picked up by an Australian ship but the box is still to be located.

The search for the missing Malaysian Airlines has taken weeks, which is unheard of at a time when modern technology makes it easy to track moving vehicles such as cars and planes. But it is now a race against

time for the search team as the battery in the black box would be close to dying out. Once the battery goes dead, the black box will stop giving out signal making it impossible to find. This may therefore be our last chance to find out what happened to Flight MH370.



Crimea joins Russia

The people of Crimea have voted to become part of the Russian federation. In a vote that was held on March 18, the majority of the people in the region that was once part of the country of Ukraine, said that they would rather be part of Russia. Following this, Russia has officially made the newly formed Republic of Crimea part of the Russian federation – this means that Russia now controls the Crimea.

If you have been following this story, you would remember that a few weeks earlier, soon after the Ukrainians expelled their unpopular President Viktor Yanukovich, the Russians (who were supporters of Yanukovich) moved in and took control of Crimea. This region is in eastern Ukraine and shares a boundary with Russia.

Russia's move to take over Crimea has met with protests from many countries including powerful ones such as the United States. But it is not clear how these countries are going to undo what has happened.



Assam wants to trim rhino horns

The Government of Assam is looking into whether trimming of rhino horns would persuade poachers to stay away from the one horned Indian rhinoceros. Assam is the state with the largest population of these massive beasts with armour-like plates on their bodies.



The idea has met with a lot of opposition from wildlife experts. They point out that just trimming the horn would not solve the problem as greedy poachers (people who kill wild animals and sell their body parts for huge amounts of money) would still target the remaining horn on the rhino's back. Even in Africa, where trimming was tried, this was found to be the case. Rhinos are targeted for their horns which are used in traditional medicine in countries like China.

The Assam government wants to do this just for the rhinos that stray out of protected areas such as Kaziranga National Park. But that might lead poachers to target animals inside the sanctuaries, say experts.

Above all, removing its horn may rob the rhino of its identity. After all, we all recognize the rhino by its horn, don't we?

“Yuvi had a tough day and he can be criticised. But he should not be crucified nor should he be written off.”

— Sachin Tendulkar on Yuvraj Singh's performance in the T20 World Cup final

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News 7

INDIA LOSE WORLD T20 FINAL

Upto the day of the final on April 6, it was a dream run for Team India. They won each of their five matches and looked like one of the strongest teams in the World T20 tournament. However, the team ended up with an 'off' or bad day on finals night and lost the crown to Sri Lanka. The loss was clearly due to a low total posted by the Indian batsmen – just 130, of which 77 runs came off the bat of the in-form Virat-Kohli. It was Yuvraj Singh who faltered, scoring just 11 runs. Worse, he denied the strike to Kohli, thus slowing the Indian run-rate (runs scored per over).

The Sri Lankans were quick to grab the opportunity and in sweet revenge for the Cricket World Cup 2011 final, defeated India in style. Kumar Sangakkara, playing his last T20 match for Sri Lanka top-scored with 52.



Virat Kohli was named Player of the Tournament

It's Anand versus Carlsen again

India's Vishwanathan Anand has won the Candidates Tournament – this qualifies him to challenge Magnus Carlsen for the title of World Chess Champion this year. You may remember that Anand, who was the champion until 2013, lost the title to Magnus Carlsen at the World Chess Championships that were held in Chennai in November 2013.

Just a few months after losing the title, Anand was back competing in the Candidates Tournament which was held in Russia last month. The winner of the Candidates Tournament gets to challenge the title holder Magnus Carlsen in November 2014. With Anand winning easily, it looks like it's going to be a replay of 2013 except that Anand will now be the challenger and Carlsen the champ.



An ATM for water



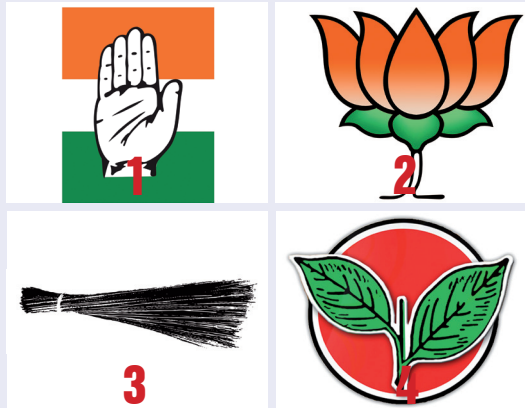
This photo shows a water ATM operated by a company called Sarvajal

You've seen your parents take cash out of a bank ATM (stands for Automatic Vending Machine) but water? Yes, that's right. The people of Mankhurd, a locality in Mumbai can now buy a litre of water for Rs.1 at the water ATM that has been set up by the Vandana Foundation.

Called the AQUATM, the ATM will make around 1000 litres of water available each day. It can even be operated with a prepaid card. The water ATM has been set up in Mankhurd as the area's water is known to be contaminated (mixed with pollutants).

SYMBOL SENSE

Its election time and election symbols of political parties are everywhere – in newspapers, TV advertisements and posters. Can you identify the political parties that these symbols belong to?



Answers
1. Indian National Congress 2. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) 3. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) 4. AIADMK

UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

Re-arrange the alphabets to find the word

Clue: All clues are linked to elections

1. LOTLAB

2. EOVT

3. NIACMAPG

4. YOAEDMCRC

Answers
1. Ballot
2. Vote
3. Campaign
4. Democracy

SUDOKU TIME

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

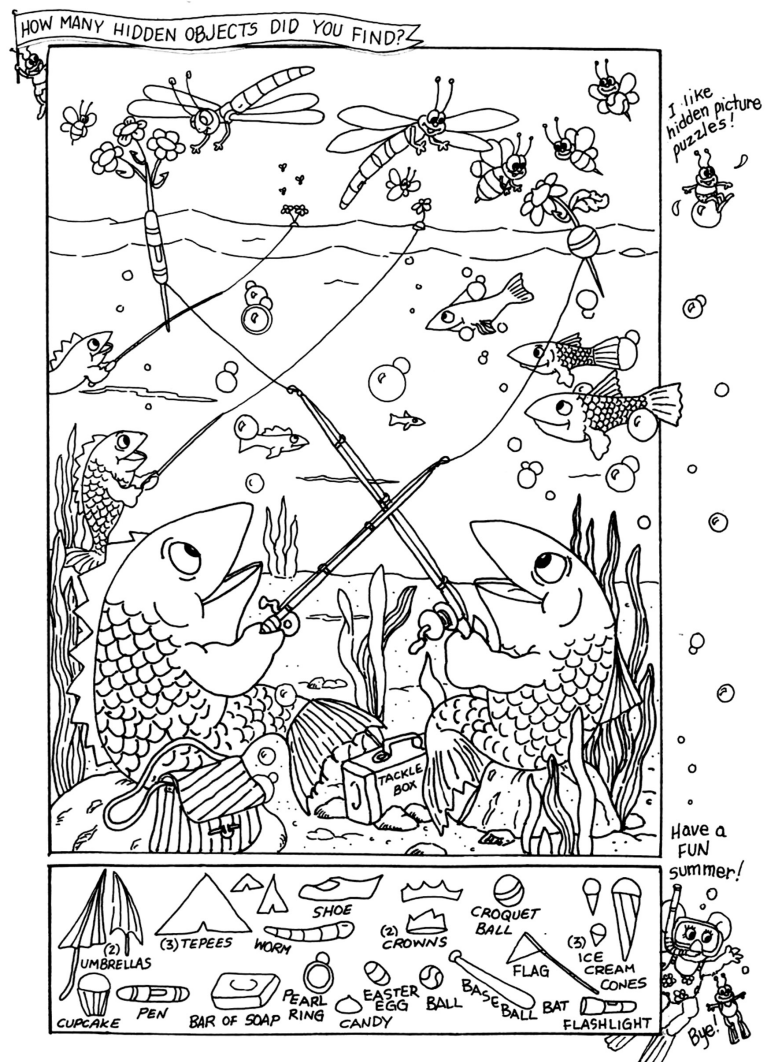
Try your hand at this Sudoku. Remember that numbers 1 to 6 can appear only once in each of the six rectangles. They can also appear only once in each row and column of the overall square.

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

Answer

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. Dragon Keeper by Carole Wilkinson
2. Other Worlds: 10 Amazing Fantasy Stories by Jon Scieszka
3. Demon Dentist by David Walliams
4. India: An Alphabet Ride by Shalu Jindal
5. Half Bad by Sally Green
6. Wonder by RJ Palacio
7. Greek Myths: A Wonder Book for Girls and Boys by Nathaniel Hawthorne
8. Gobble You Up by Sunita & Gita Wolf
9. The Abominables by Eva Ibbotson
10. Big Nate: Genius Mode by Lincoln Peirce



To know more about these books and to buy them, check out

www.toptenbooksoftheweek.com

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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.650 for the year.

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