In Thailand, an orphaned baby dugong receives milk and attention. (AP Photo)
Something in the forests of Kathmandu, Nepal, is hungry. Actually, 300 somethings are! Hundreds of monkeys sit near the Hindu temple of Pashupatinath. They have waited this way each day for the past four years for Saraswati Dangol to bring them flat bread called roti.

Ms. Dangol buys 22 pounds of flour. She spends hours cooking the roti, traveling to the forest temple, and feeding the monkeys. As soon as the monkeys see her white sack, they gather around her. Some have good manners (for monkeys, that is!) and wait their turn. Others snatch the bread from her hands.

“It used to be that the monkeys were able to feed on the fruits from the trees,” says Ms. Dangol. “But now the forests are thin and hardly any fruit.”

The monkeys are going hungry. Some even sneak into nearby houses to steal fruit. Homeowners don’t like that! They sometimes injure the intruding monkeys. Many of Ms. Dangol’s regulars are elderly, mother, or baby monkeys that are unable to fight for their share of food in the wild. But they can count on Ms. Dangol. She rarely misses a day.
Farmer Bumbly spilled his harvest. Vegetable names scattered all over. Can you find them? They are in the sentences. Circle the words when you find them. An example is shown.

yam—I wonder why a monkey smiles.

turnip  bean  beet
spinach  artichoke  corn
cabbage  potato  peas
pumpkin  radish
onion  carrot
endive  parsnip

The cherry was so very tart I choked on the first bite.

Have a picnic or nap.

I hope a snail can crawl.

My car rots in the rain.

In one pot a toad jumped.

When I turn I put on my blinker.

In the car a dish will spill.

In the cab, bagels are not allowed.

Try to be an early bird.

A big bee tried to sting me.

Our pump kind of leaks.

Can you spin a china cup?

At the end I very nearly tripped too.

When I turn it on I only hear a buzz.

I saw Caspar snip his sheet.
Selah Schneiter jams her hands and feet into tiny cracks. She inches her way up—all the way to the top of El Capitan. And she is only 10 years old!

Selah completed the 3,000-foot climb up the vertical rock in California’s Yosemite National Park this June. El Capitan is one of the world’s most challenging peaks to climb. It is very dangerous. Selah’s dad and a family friend climbed with her.

Selah might be the youngest kid to climb the Nose of El Capitan. But she isn’t the first. Scott Cory climbed the Nose twice in 2001, when he was 11. That same year, 13-year-old Tori Allen also climbed it, according to Outside Magazine.

“Our big motto was ‘How do you eat an elephant?’ Small bites,” says Selah. “One pitch at a time . . . one move at a time . . . one day at a time.”

How did Selah celebrate her accomplishment? She got pizza and ice cream!

The smells of cow manure and grass hang in the air. But these 35 cows don’t live in a normal stable. They live on a barge!

The cows’ three-story home floats in a harbor in Rotterdam, Netherlands. One robot milks the cows. Another automatically scoops up manure. The roof collects rainwater. A raft of solar panels floats alongside the structure, sucking up sunlight to provide almost half the electricity the farm needs.

The cows gaze out over ships transporting gas. They eat a mixture of grass cut from a local golf course and the field used by Rotterdam’s top soccer team. They munch on potato peelings and leftover grain from a local brewer.

All this food is automatically cut, mixed, and transported to food troughs by conveyer belts. The floating farm shows off some of Dutch people’s best skills—recycling, automated farming, and building on water. Will more cows come to cities around the world on floating farms?

The cows bob up and down a little as their boat-home rocks. Are they seasick? Not at all. Standing on four legs helps!
In Japan, people often like things very neat and clean. Almost everything there seems to be wrapped in plastic! A single banana is sold plastic-wrapped. So are individual pieces of vegetables, pastries, and pens. Japan’s authorities want their country to become a leader in reducing plastic pollution. They have made big claims. They say, “We want to ban plastics used only once then thrown away. We want to clean up beaches. We want to do research about what could be used instead of plastic.” They even craft next year’s Tokyo Olympic medals and champion podiums from reused metals and plastics.

But they have a long way to go. Japan is the world’s number two consumer of single-use plastic packaging per person. Only people in the United States use more.

Experts say focusing on recycling won’t really help. They say, “Instead, make sure plastic isn’t used in the first place!”

Norway’s arctic foxes can travel across ice to reach Greenland and then North America. Arctic foxes have thick fur to survive in cold climates. Like other arctic foxes, this one lives on fish, sea birds, and lemmings. During the journey, she moved nearly 29 miles each day.

In Japan, people often like things very neat and clean. Almost everything there seems to be wrapped in plastic! A single banana is sold plastic-wrapped. So are individual pieces of vegetables, pastries, and pens. Japan’s authorities want their country to become a leader in reducing plastic pollution. They have made big claims. They say, “We want to ban plastics used only once then thrown away. We want to clean up beaches. We want to do research about what could be used instead of plastic.” They even craft next year’s Tokyo Olympic medals and champion podiums from reused metals and plastics.

But they have a long way to go. Japan is the world’s number two consumer of single-use plastic packaging per person. Only people in the United States use more.

Experts say focusing on recycling won’t really help. They say, “Instead, make sure plastic isn’t used in the first place!”

Norway’s arctic foxes can travel across ice to reach Greenland and then North America. Arctic foxes have thick fur to survive in cold climates. Like other arctic foxes, this one lives on fish, sea birds, and lemmings. During the journey, she moved nearly 29 miles each day.
There’s something fishy going on. Fast-growing salmon fill tanks at a fish farm in Indiana. Wait! Salmon don’t grow quickly. It takes three years for them to mature to full size. These fish are growing twice that fast!

What speeds their growth? Their DNA has been changed. DNA is like a computer code for living cells. It tells cells exactly what to do. Scientists have injected salmon eggs with DNA from faster-growing fish. The changed code tells the salmon cells to grow faster than normal. It works. The eggs hatch into tiny fish. As soon as next year, restaurants could serve the new super salmon.

AquaBounty is the first company to produce genetically engineered salmon—salmon with tweaked DNA. It takes less food to grow super salmon to the same size as regular salmon. That saves money as well as time. Is there anything else different about the modified fish? According to Sylvia Wulf, AquaBounty’s CEO, “It’s identical to Atlantic salmon, with the exception of one gene.” How much difference does one gene make? “A lot!” say some people.

AquaBounty officials want to market their fish in the United States. U.S. authorities just approved genetically modified fish sales. But not everyone is happy about that. Officials at Whole Foods and Kroger vow not to sell the modified fish.

It’s getting easier to produce and sell genetically modified plants and animals. Most corn and soy sold in the United States is modified in some way. But modifying an animal is a whole new can of worms (or can of salmon). On one side, people argue that messing around with the genes of salmon interferes with God’s design. And they ask if eating it might be harmful. On the other side, people say genetically modified salmon might be a blessing. It could be a way God has provided for us to produce more food faster and at less cost. Do you think super salmon is a super idea?
Is Norman Borlaug one of the greatest people who ever lived? Some say “yes!” Why do people so admire this man?

In the 1940s, hard times were brought to the United States by poverty and war. Even then, Americans were looking for ways to help feed other people around the world. Norman Borlaug had grown up as a farm boy in Iowa. As a man, Mr. Borlaug wanted to help poor farmers. Their crops caught diseases. They produced little. So Mr. Borlaug experimented with new kinds of wheat. He bred varieties that could resist disease. They could stand up to harsh weather too. More wheat could grow from Mr. Borlaug’s “miracle seeds” than from regular wheat seeds.

Mr. Borlaug had started something big. More scientists began doing work like his. They sent more new seeds—especially wheat and rice seeds—to other countries where farmers were poor and people did not have enough food. When Mr. Borlaug started, farmers in India produced only 12 million tons of wheat each year. From 2017 to 2018, Indian farmers produced almost 100 million tons! Crop yields have also gone up across Asia and Africa. The United States produces more food than it once did too. American farmers send extra food to countries that need it.

Not everyone agrees that Mr. Borlaug is a hero. Some say that because his new wheat needed more water and expensive fertilizers, he actually created more poverty. Today there are many hungry people in the world. But there are far fewer hungry than there used to be. Mr. Borlaug died in 2009. He was 95 years old. When he died, many believed he had done more than any man in history to feed the hungry.

_For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me._ —Matthew 25:35-36

---

**Miracle Seeds**

Is Norman Borlaug one of the greatest people who ever lived? Some say “yes!” Why do people so admire this man?

In the 1940s, hard times were brought to the United States by poverty and war. Even then, Americans were looking for ways to help feed other people around the world. Norman Borlaug had grown up as a farm boy in Iowa. As a man, Mr. Borlaug wanted to help poor farmers. Their crops caught diseases. They produced little. So Mr. Borlaug experimented with new kinds of wheat. He bred varieties that could resist disease. They could stand up to harsh weather too. More wheat could grow from Mr. Borlaug’s “miracle seeds” than from regular wheat seeds.

Mr. Borlaug had started something big. More scientists began doing work like his. They sent more new seeds—especially wheat and rice seeds—to other countries where farmers were poor and people did not have enough food. When Mr. Borlaug started, farmers in India produced only 12 million tons of wheat each year. From 2017 to 2018, Indian farmers produced almost 100 million tons! Crop yields have also gone up across Asia and Africa. The United States produces more food than it once did too. American farmers send extra food to countries that need it.

Not everyone agrees that Mr. Borlaug is a hero. Some say that because his new wheat needed more water and expensive fertilizers, he actually created more poverty. Today there are many hungry people in the world. But there are far fewer hungry than there used to be. Mr. Borlaug died in 2009. He was 95 years old. When he died, many believed he had done more than any man in history to feed the hungry.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. —Matthew 25:35-36

---

**Wheat harvested (tons) vs. Land planted (hectares)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Wheat Harvested</th>
<th>Land Planted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950-1955</td>
<td>700,000,000</td>
<td>100,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955-1960</td>
<td>600,000,000</td>
<td>150,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-1965</td>
<td>500,000,000</td>
<td>200,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965-1970</td>
<td>400,000,000</td>
<td>250,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-1975</td>
<td>300,000,000</td>
<td>300,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-1980</td>
<td>200,000,000</td>
<td>350,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-1985</td>
<td>100,000,000</td>
<td>400,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-1990</td>
<td>70,000,000</td>
<td>450,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-1995</td>
<td>30,000,000</td>
<td>500,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-2000</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>550,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2005</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>600,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2010</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>650,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1 hectare = about 2 ½ acres, 1 ton = 2,000 pounds)
Cranes hoist cargo onto the deck. Power tools scream out. Workers bustle through a maze of passageways. Welcome to the German icebreaker ship RV Polarstern. The huge ship will soon set out for the Arctic.

Polarstern is packed with scientific equipment. Researchers will use it to explore Earth’s frigid far north. “So far we have always been locked out of that region,” says Markus Rex. He will lead the expedition.

Scientists plan to sail the ship into the Arctic Ocean. They will anchor it to a large piece of sea ice. Water will freeze around it. Each year, a huge sheet of white ice covers the North Pole at winter. These scientists are trapping themselves in it . . . on purpose!

Temperatures will drop. Days will get shorter. The scientists will race against time. They will build winter research camps on the ice. They will perform tests impossible at other times of the year.

For what? They hope their sea ice measurements will help predict Arctic weather—and weather farther south. Scientists believe Arctic ice determines temperatures across the Northern Hemisphere.

Dozens of scientists from the United States, China, Russia, and other countries will be on board the Polarstern at any one time. They’ll swap out. Every two months, other icebreakers will bring fresh supplies and a new batch of researchers.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. In winter, the scientists on board will be even harder to get to than people on the International Space Station. (The Space Station orbits only around 254 miles high. Other spacecraft can reach it regularly.) Once the water freezes, these scientists will be truly stuck. They’ll be truly alone. Emergency rescue will be almost impossible.

But what if an emergency does happen? They try to prepare now. They even make a fence to put around the ship that will sound an alarm if a polar bear comes near!
You might not get trapped in ice. But you could get bumped by a very large iceberg! “A68” is one of the largest icebergs floating in the world’s oceans. It broke away from Antarctica’s Larsen C ice shelf two years ago. Glacier experts have followed satellite records that show the movement of A68. It didn’t move for more than a year. Now it has rotated away from the ice shelf and is drifting north. Being trapped in ice or dodging drifting icebergs makes for cool cold news.

The North and South Poles are cold and sometimes dark because neither one ever gets any direct sunlight. But they are at the opposite ends of the Earth. How can you know which is which? Never fear, WORLDKids Explorer! With this handy guide, you’ll never be confused about where you are.

Sea or Land?
- The Arctic Sea is covered with ice about three feet thick. Six countries border it: Canada, the United States (Alaska), Denmark (Greenland), Russia, Norway, and Iceland.
- Antarctica is an ice-covered continent. Snow that never melts and builds up over time has made the ice about 9,000 feet thick.

Light or Dark?
- Both Poles have five months of daylight, a month of twilight, five months of darkness, then a month of twilight before the cycle begins again.
- The Arctic Sun is always above the horizon from mid-March until mid-September. The brightest day is June 21st. The Sun is always below the Arctic horizon from September to March. Winter is dark.
- Times of light and dark are just the opposite at the South Pole. The middle of winter is June 21st and the middle of summer is December 21st in Antarctica.

Cold or Colder?
- Arctic Sea ice is surrounded by land. Land holds heat. So the Arctic’s winter temperatures usually dip no lower than -45° F.
- Antarctica is the highest of all continents. Temperatures drop the higher you go. So the South Pole’s winter temperatures can hit -80° F. The coldest temperature ever recorded on Earth was in Antarctica on July 21, 1983. It dropped to -128.6° F.

Animals?
- Reindeer, musk ox, and polar bears wander the Arctic. Walruses, seals, and some whales live in the water.
- The largest land animal at the South Pole is an insect—the wingless midge! However, penguins, seals, and albatrosses feed at sea and come to land at times.

Humans?
- Many native people live in the Arctic. Most are nomads, like reindeer herders. Over four million people live permanently in the Arctic.
- Antarctica has never had any native people living there. The first person to set foot on Antarctica did so in 1898. About 1,000 people work at scientific stations through the winter. No one lives there all the time. It is way too cold!

Quiz
1. Why do super salmon grow so fast?
   a) their unusual diet
   b) their added gene
   c) their large habitat
   d) a computer code

2. Mr. Borlaug’s world-changing seed was __?  
   a) sunflower
   b) rice
   c) wheat
   d) pumpkin

3. What will scientists measure in the Arctic?
   a) polar bears
   b) fences
   c) sea ice
   d) power tools

4. The South Pole’s largest land animal is __?
   a) the musk ox
   b) the polar bear
   c) the wingless midge
   d) the albatross

5. Some people think genetically modified food might be a blessing. Why do they think this?

Does the Bible mention polar regions?
Who has given birth to the frost of heaven? The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.  
—Job 38:29-30

September/October 2019 • WORLDkids
Thick sheets of ice cover much of the world. Many plants can't survive the harsh weather. Neither can many animals, and only the strong live. A wolf’s spine-tingling howl sounds over the glacier. He wanders an icy Northern Hemisphere. Nearly famished, he searches for prey. Due to years and years of cold, there are fewer animals to hunt. And this wolf is competing for food against other large animals: mastodons, saber-toothed cats, and giant sloths.

That’s how some people imagine the world of an Ice Age wolf. But, imagine no more! Russian scientists have chipped an ancient wolf head out of Siberia’s frozen ground. And the discovery makes them shiver! Usually, skeletons this old are just that—bare bones. But this head is in great shape.

What a huge discovery! The frozen temperatures in far northern parts of the world keep things from rotting. But this find is exceptional. It is the first Ice Age wolf to be found with fur. The fuzzy discovery has ears, a tongue, and a perfectly preserved brain. Scientists can tell the animal lived thousands of years ago—about the same time mammoths were stomping through their snow-and-ice-bound world.

Exactly when did Ice Age animals roam the Earth? Scientists have different ideas. Even Christians disagree about it. Some say millions of years ago. Some say thousands of years ago. But one thing all Christians say is this: “The universe was created by the word of God.” (Hebrews 11:3)

Experts think the large wolf is an adult. They believe wolves from this time were considerably larger than today’s wolves—at least 25 percent bigger. The discovered head measures almost 16 inches long. Today’s Siberian gray wolves have skulls measuring only about nine inches. It’s not clear whether the ancient wolf was male or female. But its impressive fangs are permanently frozen in a snarl.

As this frozen head thaws out, many questions could be answered, including this one: What cut off the wolf’s head?
Behind those Puppy Dog Eyes

What’s the science behind that irresistibly cute face your dog makes? Researchers have some new ideas.

People have kept dogs for thousands of years. Little by little, dogs have gone from wild to domesticated. Now researchers think people preferred pups that made cute, sad faces. People bred those dogs. As they did, generations of dogs developed the muscle that makes the famous “puppy dog” face. Pooches use the muscle to raise their eyebrows and make the babylike expression. Guess what creature doesn’t have that muscle. The wolf!

“You don’t typically see such muscle differences in species that are that closely related,” says Anne Burrows of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. She is an author of the puppy dog eye study.

Ms. Burrows and her team examined the eye muscles in the bodies of six dogs and two wolves. They found the dogs had a meaty eye muscle to lift their eyebrows and make puppy dog eyes. But in wolves, the same muscle was stringy—or missing!

Dogs differ from wolves in many ways. They have shorter snouts. They come in smaller sizes. And, of course, they have more expressive faces. Unlike wolves, dogs pay close attention to human eye contact. They look at a person’s eyes to find out whether that person is talking to them. If a dog can’t hop a fence or get out a door, it will likely look at a human’s eyes to ask for help.

The scientists also recorded 27 dogs and nine wolves as each stared at a person. Pet pooches often pulled back their eyebrows to make sad expressions. The wolves rarely made these faces. The scientists think the muscles developed in dogs because they gave dogs an advantage when interacting with people. The faces mean: “Feed me! Play with me! Take me outside!”
The Apostle Paul used the idea of wolves to give a warning to the Ephesian church: “I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock” (Acts 20:29). Paul was not talking about canine wolves. He meant humans working for the evil one. And people understood. Wolves were part of everyone’s experience! And that’s also why we find them everywhere in writing. You don’t have to visit Yellowstone National Park to find a wolf. Check your bookshelves and your video list!

**Mythical Wolves**—In myths, wolves sometimes symbolize danger and deception. In one Greek myth, the made-up god Zeus turns a King named Lycaon into a wolf for acting sneaky and bloodthirsty. In another myth, twin brothers Romulus and Remus are left in the wilderness to die. The twins are saved by a mother wolf. That myth shows another side of wolves. They take good care of their young and are loyal to their pack.

**Fairy-Tale Wolves**—When you run into a wolf in a bedtime story, you know you’re in trouble! These wolves are usually tricksters. Think “Little Red Riding Hood.” The same is true in the less well-known fairy tale “The Wolf and the Seven Young Kids.” In that story, a wolf whitens his paws with flour. He’s disguising himself as the young goats’ mother so they will let him into their home.
Novel Wolves—In novels, often a wolf is more than just a wolf. In C.S. Lewis’s *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the wolves side with the villain, the White Witch. In Jack London’s *White Fang*, the main character is three-quarters wolf and one-quarter dog. White Fang puts flesh—and fur—on a big question people are always trying to answer: Which determines how we’ll behave—*nature* (how we are from birth) or *nurture* (what we are taught)?

Hollywood Wolves—In *Old Yeller*, a poor family in Texas adopts a yellow, thieving dog. Old Yeller becomes a hero when he saves the family from a rabid wolf. In *The Journey of Natty Gann*, the wolf acts more like a dog than a wolf. When Natty’s dad goes out West to find work during the depression, she runs away to find him. Along the way, a wolf befriends her. Here, the wolf serves as a protector and a companion—something unheard of in real life. Don’t try *that* at home!

Wolves in the Word—in Matthew 7:15, Christ speaks of false prophets as “wolves in sheep’s clothing.” That’s a pretty vivid picture! We know wolves eat sheep. So if they dress up as sheep, wolves are hiding their true nature. They are deceptive. But here’s a positive picture too. After Christ’s final return, the world will be sinless. The wolf will no longer hunt the lamb. The two will graze side by side. They’ll even lie down together! (Isaiah 11:6, Isaiah 65:25)

**Where Do Wolves Belong Now?**

Wolves once inhabited almost all of the Northern Hemisphere. Do we really want to turn the clock back to that?! Yikes!

People have had *conflicts* over wolves since Europeans first arrived in America. Farmers didn’t want too many wolves around. It’s not hard to imagine why! Wolves are dangerous to people and their livestock. Government officials worked to control wolf populations.

But in the late 1960s, authorities decided to go in reverse. They saw that wolves were in trouble. They said, “Protect them!” They spent lots of money and time to bring wolves back. For some wolves, this worked. Western gray wolves now number around 6,000 in the Northern Rockies, Pacific Northwest, and Western Great Lakes. These wolves were reintroduced in spots with lots of open space and plenty of prey. U.S. officials made an announcement in March: “These wolves don’t need protection anymore.”

But other wolves haven’t done so well. Mexican wolves live in desert mountain ranges where livestock graze. Red wolves roam in places where people farm. Both species are often illegally killed. People fear those wolf species will disappear. Should the government keep defending them? Ranchers say, “No!”—for all the same reasons they wanted wolves out in the first place.

**Time Machine Quiz**

1. famished
   - a) hungry
   - b) stuffed
   - c) furry

2. expressive
   - a) blank
   - b) animated
   - c) sad

3. villain
   - a) hero
   - b) bad guy (or girl!)
   - c) rescuer

4. conflicts
   - a) agreements
   - b) disagreements
   - c) views

**Answers page 5**
Prime Minister Theresa May takes a historic trip. It’s not a long one—just a five-minute car ride. She’s headed to Buckingham Palace to tell Queen Elizabeth she is done being the Prime Minister of Great Britain. She will ask the queen to form a new government with the new Prime Minister the people of Great Britain elected: Boris Johnson. Why is Mrs. May leaving office? It’s because she did not keep a promise she made. She did not deliver Brexit.

Brexit is two words smooshed together: Britain and exit. People voted for Mrs. May because they wanted her to help Britain get out of the European Union. The European Union (EU) is a group of 28 countries in Europe that work together. Belonging to the EU is kind of like belonging to a club. In order to belong, governments have to pay the EU tax money. They have to follow certain rules about how business is done and about how people cross borders. Being part of the club makes it easier for European countries to trade and do business with each other. But people in the United Kingdom didn’t like following all the rules of the EU. They voted to leave. Things got complicated. Mrs. May tried to make a new deal with the EU. She wanted to leave and still get some easier trade rules and some business benefits. But she and other lawmakers could not make a deal EU members agreed with.

So what about Mr. Johnson? Before now, he was a mayor of London and a British foreign secretary. But he does not think about Brexit the same way Mrs. May does. He wants to leave the EU even if no one can reach an agreement about it. He says the country will leave the EU by October 31, no matter what. That’s a scary idea to people who think about Brexit like Mrs. May does. Countries need peaceful trade to survive. “Stop!” they say. “We have had good trade with our neighbor countries for decades. Don’t step on their toes!”

Will leaving the EU with no agreement break old friendships Great Britain needs for business? Some say yes. Others think Mr. Johnson will lead them in the right direction.
Europe is the second smallest continent. Australia is the smallest. But it has only three countries. Europe has 50!

Leaders in Europe wanted to join forces. Why? They thought it would make them stronger and help them make better deals with the rest of the world. People could use one kind of money instead of 50 kinds. They would have some laws in common and could cross borders from country to country freely. If you live in a large country like the United States or China, it likely takes lots of planning to travel to another country. You usually need to apply for a passport. But in Europe, crossing national borders is often as easy as hopping on a train.

Many wars have divided Europe in the past. EU organizers hoped the EU would help people from different nations live peacefully. They hoped countries would keep the qualities that made them unique. But they also hoped people would forget hard feelings and old arguments between nations. The more peace, the more Europeans might work together. All that combined creativity might lead to new technological and scientific discoveries.
It had been a long time since Liao Qiang had gotten to worship in church. Several months ago, his church in China was closed. Over 100 church members were arrested. Some are still in jail. When the government cracked down on their church, Mr. Liao and his family fled China. They arrived in Taiwan a few months ago. One Sunday in July, they went to church there for the first time. These Christians were free to worship again!

Mr. Liao and his 23-year-old daughter, Ren Ruiting, know what it’s like to be watched. In China, government eyes were on them all the time. That’s because they were members of an illegal church. Before she fled the country, police followed Ms. Ren everywhere. She was forced to use social media to inform the police of her whereabouts. If she didn’t obey, she was in danger. “That’s when I knew it was no longer safe for us here,” Mr. Liao said. Police told him to sign a statement giving up his church. He refused. Mr. Liao and his daughter say their pastor is still in jail.

A Communist Party rules China. Its leaders are atheists. (Atheists do not believe in God.) Under this government, Christians are punished—and they aren’t the only ones. People practicing other religions in China get hurt too.

Mr. Liao and his family fled from China to nearby Taiwan. They want asylum in the United States. Asylum is protection for people who are persecuted in their country. “One day when China opens up, we’ll go back,” says Ms. Ren. “Whether it’s five years, or even 10 years, we’ll eventually make our way back to where God wants us to serve.”

_Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven._ — Matthew 5:10
Was your Bible printed and bound in China? Bibles of all sorts roll off the presses there all the time—and not just a few. Some estimate Chinese printers make as many as 150 million or more each year!

But now U.S. Bible publishers have a problem. People may have to pay new taxes on goods coming from China—including Bibles. That could mean people in the United States will have fewer Bibles available. And the tax will likely make Bibles more expensive. Will that mean some Christian organizations can’t afford to give away as many Bibles?

Many millions of Bibles are printed in China, but few stay there. Doesn’t that seem strange? Purchasing Bibles in China is strictly controlled.

Controlling Churches

In the 1960s and 70s, the Chinese government tried to get rid of religion. Life was hard for Christians then. Things got better for Christians for a while after that. But Christians in China say the government is treating them worse and worse—more like it used to.

This time, officials don’t want to get rid of Christianity. But they do want to control it. They want to make sure churches will do what the government wants. Local leaders have shut down hundreds of house churches. They have taken crosses out of church buildings. They have hung Chinese flags instead. Churchgoers have to sing patriotic songs in government-approved churches. And in some places, children are not allowed to go to church at all. Officials even plan to edit or add notes to the Bible so it better matches their socialist beliefs. Bibles used to be available to Chinese Christians online. Now they are not.

Huang Xiaoning pastors Guangzhou Bible Reformed Church in China. Officials have closed his church twice. “The Chinese Communist party (CCP) wants to be the God of China and the Chinese people,” he tells The Guardian. “But according to the Bible, only God is God.”

1. Brits voted to __.
   ■ a) lead the EU
   ■ b) join the EU
   ■ c) leave the EU
   ■ d) no longer trade with the EU

2. Which is not a member of the European Union?
   ■ a) Switzerland
   ■ b) Germany
   ■ c) Spain
   ■ d) Ireland

3. Mr. Liao and his daughter fled to __.
   ■ a) Singapore
   ■ b) the United States
   ■ c) Taiwan
   ■ d) China

4. Chinese officials want to __.
   ■ a) get rid of religion
   ■ b) get rid of Christianity
   ■ c) control Christianity
   ■ d) stop printing Bibles

5. When it comes to persecution, what should Christians expect? Read 2 Timothy 3:12 and John 15:18.

Quiz Answers page 5
Scamper across the green grass at Wimbledon. Scoop up balls. Hand out towels. This is a very exciting day in the life of a young ballperson—and it’s hard work!

Have you heard of Wimbledon? It is the king of tennis tournaments. It happens in England every year. About 700 people apply to be ball boys and ball girls each time. They take a written rules test, a skills test, and a standing-still test. Only 250 make the cut. After that, they train to make sure they can handle a whole hour of ball snagging, rolling, and bouncing.

Each tennis match requires six ball kids. One stands in each corner of the court. One stands on either side of the net. “You’re constantly running for the whole hour,” says Michal Saladziak, a 15-year-old ball boy from London, England. During this year’s Wimbledon tournament, two ball kids fainted due to heat.

Becoming a ball boy or girl at the U.S. Open tennis tournament involves training too. Last year, about 400 boys and girls tried out in New York City. They want to make zero mistakes. Sarah Goldson, director of the BBGs (Ball Boys and Girls) at Wimbledon, says, “We hope that people don’t notice us.” Of course, people do notice the ball boys and ball girls. They scurry around the court, rolling balls. At almost every break, one reaches for a towel to hand to a sweaty player.

What’s the biggest perk of being a ball kid? It’s getting to watch the world’s most important tennis matches right up close!

Ball boys and girls work hard—but they aren’t the main focus of a tennis match. The players are.

Christians are called to work hard too. Even if no one else notices their work, God does.

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.

— Colossians 3:23
Court. Each computer reads the video. It tracks the path of the tennis ball on each camera. The views are combined to produce an accurate 3D picture of the path of the ball.

Line umpires. Up to nine of them stand on the court for each big match.

Line umpires have one job—deciding whether the ball is in or out. They have to stick to their decisions even while the crowd roars disagreement. Spectators might say they have the best seats in the house. But the line judges have no time to notice.

“When you’re down on the court, you can feel the tension and all the crowd reaction,” veteran judge Andy Davies tells The Times of London. “You’ve got to stay focused.”

A chair umpire monitors the full set of line judges for every match. (As many as nine are needed in a pro match!) Are their calls clear? Are they accurate? Do they do well under pressure?

Chief Wimbledon umpire Adrian Wilson says, “It’s about showing confidence that you’ve got the call right.”

Every call a line judge makes might be challenged. Viewers and TV commentators have their own ideas about where the ball landed. And many players feel that they know by instinct whether a ball is in or out.

Now some major tennis matches also are tracked by “Hawk-Eye.” This uses six or more computer-linked television cameras around the court. Each computer reads the video. It tracks the path of the tennis ball on each camera. The views are combined to produce an accurate 3D picture of the path of the ball.

This puts more pressure on line umpires to be accurate. According to The Times, Hawk-Eye confirms that line judges’ challenged calls are correct nearly three-fourths of the time.

How well would you do? Ask permission to play a game to make your own calls at www.thetimes.co.uk/tennislinejudge.

Andy Davies says, “I hate making mistakes. But it feels good when you get it right.”

Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind. — Psalm 26:2

At Wimbledon, a line judge signals “in,” so Thomas Fabbiano stretches to return a volley.
Later this year, DoubleTree hotel officials will launch their famous cookies into space . . . along with an oven to cook them in.

Imagine living far above Earth on the International Space Station. What would make those space-tacular views even better? Ah, yes—a warm, gooey chocolate chip cookie would do it, especially if you were feeling homesick for solid ground! Astronaut food is often freeze-dried. It does give space travelers the nutrition they need. But God made food for more than feeding our bodies. It’s meant to nourish our souls and minds too.

The hotel with the space cookies isn’t alone in working on better food for astronauts. Workers at the German company Bake in Space want to make fresh bread onboard the International Space Station. But they are working backwards. First, they want to prove they can bake crumb-free food in their space ovens. (Why can’t space food have crumbs? Crumbs float around in zero-gravity. Talk about tough to clean up! They could get stuck in million dollar space equipment and ruin it. Or astronauts could accidentally breathe them in. Right now, astronauts use tortillas instead of bread. Tortillas last for a long time, and they don’t make crumbs.) Next, they want to prove they have the tech to knead bread dough in space. After that, they want to show that they can grind grain into flour. Then they’ll get back to the very beginning of bread making. They’ll grow and harvest grain without gravity!

Here’s how the scientists got their idea for space bread. Sebastian Marcu is founder and CEO of Bake in Space. He started thinking about Alexander Gerst, a German astronaut. Germans love bread. “Bread is a big topic in Germany,” Mr. Marcu tells Space.com. “We have 3,200 variations of bread, with a bakery pretty much on every street corner.” Should Mr. Gerst have to survive six months in space with only NASA-approved tortillas? Mr. Marcu didn’t think so!

Ian and Jordana Fichtenbaum, both chefs, are the brains behind the cookie space oven.
Making an Oven for Space

Remember how cool it was to find out that baking was so simple you could do it in a little toy oven that used a lightbulb for heat? Well, space ovens aren’t quite Easy Bake Ovens. Heat behaves differently in space, so space ovens and dough makers have an unusual set of problems to solve.

“We have to comply with a whole set of safety regulations,” says Mr. Marcu. None of the oven’s outer surfaces can become hotter than 113 degrees Fahrenheit. If you’ve ever baked bread, you know that’s just not hot enough. On Earth we bake bread at around 400 degrees. A space oven also cannot be preheated. And by no means may astronauts open a hot oven and take bread out. Why? Thermal convection on Earth mixes air up. That doesn’t work in space. So if you opened a hot oven, a bubble of burning hot air would be floating through the space station! Astronauts would have to duck! Besides this, a space oven will be safe only if it uses no more than a tenth of the power used by an oven on Earth.

Mr. Marcu and his team have thought of some solutions. “We basically put the baking product, the dough, inside the cold oven and start heating it up,” he says. “Once it’s almost done, we start cooling it down.” Their process isn’t perfect yet. The bread in the oven dries out while it cools. They are working to design an oven that adds water while baking.

The researchers are working another puzzle too. They test dough recipes. Which will last as long as a space mission? At what temperature must the dough remain so nothing grows in it? The last thing the researchers want is to contaminate the space station with bacteria.

---

Take Apart Smart! 

1) nourish  
- a) feed  
- b) clothe  
- c) cultivate

2. regulations  
- a) systems  
- b) ideas  
- c) rules

3. scamper  
- a) mosey  
- b) scurry  
- c) toss

4. essential  
- a) convenient  
- b) necessary  
- c) unnecessary

Answers page 5
Hello Marium! Oh—you want a hug?

Marium the baby dugong lives in Thailand. Photos of marine biologists hugging her spread across social media. Now she’s famous!

Dugongs are sea animals. They’re a lot like American manatees. Both animals have a common relative: elephants! Dugongs can grow to about 11 feet in length. They live as long as 70 years.

People spotted Marium alone near a beach in Thailand in April. She was just a few months old and had been separated from her mother. Officials tried to release her to live with other dugongs. Apparently Marium didn’t want to stay with them. She swam away.

Now veterinarians and volunteers set out each day in canoes to find Marium. She swims near a dugong habitat off another island. But she does not stay with the herd. She usually comes straight to the people. Then she follows them into shallower water. They check her health. Up to 15 times a day, they feed her milk and sea grass. That’s similar to what she would eat in the wild. (Dugongs are gigantic vegetarians.)

The scientists believe Marium has formed a bond with humans. But she also really likes canoes. She tries to cling to the boats as if they were her mother. When the scientists swim near her, she tucks under their arms in the same way.

For now, crowds of people watch Marium’s feedings from the seashore. Veterinarians say they need to continue looking after Marium for at least another year. By then, she can be weaned off bottled milk.

Dugongs normally spend around eight years under their mothers’ care. Marium will have to be trained later to detach herself from humans. But at this point, the scientists have another priority: help her survive!

Baby animals and baby humans know they need to be cared for. They want to be! Did you know it also pleases God when we want the loving care He offers instead of going our own way and acting like we don’t need Him?

Under His wings you will find refuge.
—Psalm 91:4

Above: Marium likes to cuddle with humans.
Below: A young dugong chases yellow pilot fish.
Mammals are one of the five animal classes (mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds). Mammals are all warm-blooded, have fur, breathe air through lungs, give birth to live young, and nurse them with mother’s milk. Some of these animals belong to a group called marine mammals because they spend all or most of their time in the sea, and depend on the sea for food. If you call marine mammals fat they won’t be offended. After all, their streamlined bodies need blubber for insulation against the cold. If they go underwater, they will come up again. But don’t hold your breath, because marine mammals can hold theirs for a long time. They store oxygen in their blood and muscle, and actually have more blood than land mammals so they can store more oxygen. Also, a marine mammal can direct more blood to its heart and lungs. It can even slow its heartbeat to conserve oxygen.

Meet the four types of marine mammals:

I’m a fissiped. That’s a fancy way of saying paw-footed. “Wait!” you exclaim. “A polar bear is a marine mammal?” Yessirree! It sounds strange, but since I depend mostly on the ocean for food, and spend my life on the sea ice, I am grouped with whales and such. Now I’ll admit that like my fellow fissiped, the sea otter, I don’t go out into the open ocean. Otter and I spend most of our time near shore. He likes to forage for sea urchins in the kelp beds. I like to wait for tasty seals on the sea ice.

Our little group is sirenia. If you ever saw dugongs and manatees like me moving slowly and grazing on sea grasses, you would understand why we’re often referred to as sea cows. Sadly, we lost a member of our group. Steller’s sea cow was first discovered in 1741. But this close relative of dugong was hunted to extinction just 27 years later. We like warm tropical waters. Our bodies, flippers, and tails are rounded. And we have large, flat molar teeth for grinding our food.

Welcome to the cetacean club. Cetus is Latin for whale. But our group of marine mammals also includes dolphins and porpoises. To get a membership card you need to have a streamlined, hairless body, no hind limbs, a horizontal tail fin, and a blowhole on top of your head for breathing.

These mammals love the ocean!
At Ocean Beach in San Francisco, California, a man stands atop a whale carcass.

What is that smell?!?! It’s... drumroll... rotting whale!

Scientists and volunteers on the U.S. West Coast have a huge, stinky problem. At least 81 gray whale corpses have washed ashore in California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska since January 1. What can they do with the decaying carcasses? Almost every out-of-the-way public beach is already being used for a whale to decay on. The officials cry for help to people who live on the coast: “Can we borrow your private beaches?” they ask. “These ocean giants need places to rot in peace.”

Believe it or not, some beach owners say, “Sure!” They’re agreeing to host dead creatures bigger than school buses!

A Washington state couple received their whale carcass in June. They thought watching the whale decompose would be a good way to learn about science. But they asked their neighbors first. That was probably a good idea since decomposing whales smell so bad! Volunteers attached a rope to the dead whale’s tail. They used a motorboat to tow it three miles along the coast to the couple’s beach. They anchored it to tree stumps. For whale corpse “hosts,” the whale stench hung around for about a month. Meanwhile, the couple used huge amounts of the mineral lime to help the corpse decompose.

Do NOT Try This!

In 1970, people in Oregon learned how not to dispose of a whale carcass. Have you seen the famous video that captures the disaster?

Back then, a whale had not washed up in Oregon for a long time. At first, people enjoyed gawking at the unusual sight. But after three days, the odor took over. People wanted to get rid of the whale. But how? Should they bury it? No. Sea waves would likely uncover it again. Besides, they’d have to cut it up first, and nobody wanted that job. So they got another idea: Blow up the sperm whale with dynamite.

The Oregonians hoped the dynamite would make the 45-foot whale disintegrate into tiny pieces. They hoped seagulls would eat whatever remained.

But they hoped wrong. The blast sent chunks of burning, rotting blubber raining down on spectators. Cars in a nearby parking lot were crushed by blobs of stinking flesh. And the seagulls? The blast scared them away. Or maybe it was the smell!
When a Whale Falls

Decades ago, whale oil from blubber fueled lamps. It lubricated machines. It was a key ingredient in paint. People call whale bone (baleen) the “plastic of the 1800s.” It was used to make dresses, buggy whips, toys, and typewriter springs. Whale teeth were carved into chess pieces and cut into piano keys. People found great uses for whale parts. But before people had a use for some whale parts, God designed a use for every part of those enormous creatures—as underwater neighborhoods.

Often, when a whale dies, it does not end up on shore. Its massive whale carcass sinks to the bottom of the sea. This is called “whale fall.” Sinking to the depths is just the beginning. When a whale’s life ends, its body has a new purpose. It becomes a nourishing ocean ecosystem—a community of living things. Whale fall “falls” into God’s perfect plan for order in creation.

It happens in three stages:

**Mobile Scavenger.** Scavengers smell the whale. They find it and feed on its flesh for up to two years. Clams, squat lobsters, shrimp, and sea cucumbers squirm all over the whale. There is plenty of food for everyone! One whale fall feeds around 400 sea animals and tens of thousands of organisms.

**Enrichment Opportunist.** Next, invertebrates move onto the scene. Critters like worms, crabs, and mollusks eat leftover blubber. These guys burrow into the sediment around the whale. It is chock-full of nutrients! This stage lasts two more years.

**Sulfophilic.** Bacteria cover the whale bones, breaking them down. This attracts even more organisms like mussels, worms, and snails. This stage has the most diverse group of hungry visitors.

By now, the whale’s body has created one of the biggest communities you will find on the sea floor!

*Praise the Lord from the Earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps.* — Psalm 148:7
Goats bleat and roosters crow high in the hills of rural Haiti. Women carry buckets of water on their heads. Men tug the long, stringy roots of vetiver plants from bare brown hills.

Vetiver is a grass that grows in tall, wide clumps. Most grasses spread across the ground with roots like a mat. But vetiver’s roots grow straight down into the ground—seven to 13 feet deep! This makes the grass good for preventing erosion (soil washing away) and holding moisture in the soil.

But that’s not the only reason Haitian farmers are growing vetiver. Its roots also contain oil used for making fine perfume. Sale of that oil brings money into the impoverished country. “It’s our biggest income right now,” says soil and crop expert Hilaire James.

Vetiver isn’t a perfect fix for the problem of poverty in Haiti. It takes at least a whole year for vetiver roots to produce the best quality oil. But many vetiver farmers make less than two dollars a day. Meanwhile, prices for food and other goods rise. The farmers just can’t wait a whole year to get paid. So many harvest their plants too early. They hack them down with machetes before vetiver oil is at its best. If farmers keep doing this, maybe no one will want to buy Haiti vetiver anymore.

Early harvesting also affects the land. The nations of Haiti and the Dominican Republic share the island of Hispaniola. Much of Haiti lacks good soil. Droughts, hurricanes, and cutting down trees have caused the drying of that nation’s landscape. You can see the difference at the border with the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic’s side is green, while Haiti’s side is barren.

What more could be done to help Haiti’s farmers and their land? One idea might be contour farming. Studies show that hedges of vetiver planted along the curves and slopes of the land hold water in the soil and keep it from washing away.

Will vetiver keep boosting income in Haiti? It won’t if it isn’t farmed properly. Heeding good farming practices will aid Haiti’s farmers. God Himself has shown us what to do.

You water [Earth’s] furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing it with growth.

— Psalm 65:10.
Haiti: French; D.R.—Spanish

Natural Resources: The things God put in the Earth for people to use to make what they need—everything from medicine to electricity to steel. Haiti has bauxite, copper, calcium carbonate, gold, marble, hydropower, and land for farming. D.R. has nickel, bauxite, gold, silver, and land for farming.

Currency: Trade among nations is good. But both nations have their own money. Their value changes. Haitians might pay twice as much for goods as people pay in the Dominican Republic.

Literacy: What part of each nation’s population age 15 and older is able to read and write?

Climate and Terrain: Trade winds and the position of mountains give more rain to Dominican Republic.

Sanitation: A graph shows the percentage of people who have the use of flush toilets and sewer lines.

Language: People of the Caribbean islands once spoke Taino. In Taino, canoe is knowa, hurricane is hurrah, and hammock is hamaka. The language of nations that colonized the islands eventually took over.

Unemployment: It can be hard to measure unemployment. The official number shows how many people are actually looking for jobs. It doesn’t try to guess how many people have given up hope.

Religion: Spain ruled Hispaniola for 205 years. Spain brought Roman Catholicism. Many converted. But pagan practices of voodoo have mixed into the Catholic religion of both nations.
People throw a celebration in Iraq. Why? Its city of Babylon is now a World Heritage Site.

That’s a big deal. Members of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) work to remind people of important places in history. They name remarkable places as World Heritage Sites. The UNESCO team just agreed: Babylon has a rich history. Its story must be told.

People from Iraq have been asking to have Babylon added to the World Heritage Site list for years. Babylon sits on the Euphrates River. It used to be a tourist attraction. In history it was known for its wealth and power. Sadly, now the 4,300-year-old city is crumbled. Its ruins—and two museums—tell the story of ancient history.

What’s the big deal about Babylon? People have lived there almost as long as civilization has existed. You might recognize this city as the place King Hammurabi wrote his code of laws. Or maybe you remember it as the city Nebuchadnezzar ruled. He held the Jews captive there for 70 years. Daniel survived the king’s lions’ den in Babylon. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were hurled into the fiery furnace there. Jeremiah 51:41 says Babylon was at one point “the praise of the whole Earth.” Some people think Alexander the Great died there too.

War threatened Babylon in Bible times. The city fell hard. And in the past four decades, war after war has scarred Babylon. The city has fallen again. The Islamic State group has also damaged other treasures of history in Iraq. The extremists hacked statues of giant winged bulls to pieces in the city of Nimrud. The bulls once stood at a nearly 3,000-year-old palace.

Iraqis are ready to lift fallen Babylon. They wave their national flag, celebrating their city.

Babylon had an affect on the entire ancient world. Now it is having an affect on the people of Iraq. It has given them something to celebrate!

Could Babylon’s history help bring it back to life?
The Bible tells us only that wise men came “from the east.” (Matthew 2:1) They may have come from the area that now makes up Iraq. If they came from somewhere farther east, such as Persia, they might have traveled through what is now Iraq on their way.

The Garden of Eden was perfect for the world’s first people, Adam and Eve. (Read Genesis 2:8-14.) Some scholars think the Garden of Eden was located in what is now the southeastern tip of Iraq. They guess this based on the rivers named in the Bible which flowed from Eden.

The Tower of Babel glorified man, not God. Genesis 11:1-8 says the tower was made of bricks and tar on a plain in Shinar. That was between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, below the modern city of Baghdad. The site of the tower has never been found. But digs have uncovered other towers built of brick and tar. Some of these were temples dedicated to false gods.

The northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrian Empire. This was a punishment for breaking a covenant with the Lord. (2 Kings 18:11-12) Those conquests started in 740 B.C. They lasted 20 years. At that time, the Assyrian Empire was centered in what is now Iraq. Assyrians **dominated** what we now know as the Middle East. Israel’s northern tribes were taken into captivity. They never returned to Israel.

The prophet Ezekiel was taken captive in Babylon in 597 B.C. While in Babylon, he told of God’s judgment on Israel. He also offered hope. He said the exiles would someday return to Judah. This prophecy came true in 539 B.C. when Babylon was conquered by Persia. Exiles began returning to Judah the following year.

The Bible tells us only that wise men came “from the east.” (Matthew 2:1) They may have come from the area that now makes up Iraq. If they came from somewhere farther east, such as Persia, they might have traveled through what is now Iraq on their way.

God sent Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh in about 785 B.C. Nineveh was in today’s northern Iraq. Since the mid-1800s, archaeologists have been digging in its ruins. Nineveh was on the east side of the Tigris River near modern-day Mosul. In Jonah’s time, Nineveh was the most important city in Assyria.

The Tower of Babel glorified man, not God. Genesis 11:1-8 says the tower was made of bricks and tar on a plain in Shinar. That was between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, below the modern city of Baghdad. The site of the tower has never been found. But digs have uncovered other towers built of brick and tar. Some of these were temples dedicated to false gods.

In 605 B.C., the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, captured Jehoiakim, king of Judah. Judah was the southern kingdom of Israel. Jehoiakim was taken to Babylon. So were others, including Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The stories found in the book of Daniel—the lions’ den, the fiery furnace, and the handwriting on the wall—all took place in Babylon. The remains of Babylon are in Al Hillah, Iraq, about 55 miles south of Baghdad.

Rebekah, wife of Isaac, was from Nahor. In Genesis 24, Abraham sends his chief servant to go to his home country, Ur, to find a wife for his son. While there’s no way of knowing for certain, it is likely that Rebekah came from what is now Iraq.

Genesis 11:27-32 tells us that Abraham was born in Ur around 2166 B.C. The ancient city of Ur was located on the Euphrates River in what is now southern Iraq. Its ruins can be found near the modern-day city of Nasiriyah. Ur was an important city in Sumerian civilization.

The Garden of Eden was perfect for the world’s first people, Adam and Eve. (Read Genesis 2:8-14.) Some scholars think the Garden of Eden was located in what is now the southeastern tip of Iraq. They guess this based on the rivers named in the Bible which flowed from Eden.

The Bible tells us only that wise men came “from the east.” (Matthew 2:1) They may have come from the area that now makes up Iraq. If they came from somewhere farther east, such as Persia, they might have traveled through what is now Iraq on their way.

The northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrian Empire. This was a punishment for breaking a covenant with the Lord. (2 Kings 18:11-12) Those conquests started in 740 B.C. They lasted 20 years. At that time, the Assyrian Empire was centered in what is now Iraq. Assyrians **dominated** what we now know as the Middle East. Israel’s northern tribes were taken into captivity. They never returned to Israel.

The prophet Ezekiel was taken captive in Babylon in 597 B.C. While in Babylon, he told of God’s judgment on Israel. He also offered hope. He said the exiles would someday return to Judah. This prophecy came true in 539 B.C. when Babylon was conquered by Persia. Exiles began returning to Judah the following year.

The Tower of Babel glorified man, not God. Genesis 11:1-8 says the tower was made of bricks and tar on a plain in Shinar. That was between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, below the modern city of Baghdad. The site of the tower has never been found. But digs have uncovered other towers built of brick and tar. Some of these were temples dedicated to false gods.

In 605 B.C., the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, captured Jehoiakim, king of Judah. Judah was the southern kingdom of Israel. Jehoiakim was taken to Babylon. So were others, including Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The stories found in the book of Daniel—the lions’ den, the fiery furnace, and the handwriting on the wall—all took place in Babylon. The remains of Babylon are in Al Hillah, Iraq, about 55 miles south of Baghdad.

Rebekah, wife of Isaac, was from Nahor. In Genesis 24, Abraham sends his chief servant to go to his home country, Ur, to find a wife for his son. While there’s no way of knowing for certain, it is likely that Rebekah came from what is now Iraq.

Genesis 11:27-32 tells us that Abraham was born in Ur around 2166 B.C. The ancient city of Ur was located on the Euphrates River in what is now southern Iraq. Its ruins can be found near the modern-day city of Nasiriyah. Ur was an important city in Sumerian civilization.

The Garden of Eden was perfect for the world’s first people, Adam and Eve. (Read Genesis 2:8-14.) Some scholars think the Garden of Eden was located in what is now the southeastern tip of Iraq. They guess this based on the rivers named in the Bible which flowed from Eden.

The Bible tells us only that wise men came “from the east.” (Matthew 2:1) They may have come from the area that now makes up Iraq. If they came from somewhere farther east, such as Persia, they might have traveled through what is now Iraq on their way.

The northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrian Empire. This was a punishment for breaking a covenant with the Lord. (2 Kings 18:11-12) Those conquests started in 740 B.C. They lasted 20 years. At that time, the Assyrian Empire was centered in what is now Iraq. Assyrians **dominated** what we now know as the Middle East. Israel’s northern tribes were taken into captivity. They never returned to Israel.

The prophet Ezekiel was taken captive in Babylon in 597 B.C. While in Babylon, he told of God’s judgment on Israel. He also offered hope. He said the exiles would someday return to Judah. This prophecy came true in 539 B.C. when Babylon was conquered by Persia. Exiles began returning to Judah the following year.

The Tower of Babel glorified man, not God. Genesis 11:1-8 says the tower was made of bricks and tar on a plain in Shinar. That was between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, below the modern city of Baghdad. The site of the tower has never been found. But digs have uncovered other towers built of brick and tar. Some of these were temples dedicated to false gods.

In 605 B.C., the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, captured Jehoiakim, king of Judah. Judah was the southern kingdom of Israel. Jehoiakim was taken to Babylon. So were others, including Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The stories found in the book of Daniel—the lions’ den, the fiery furnace, and the handwriting on the wall—all took place in Babylon. The remains of Babylon are in Al Hillah, Iraq, about 55 miles south of Baghdad.

Rebekah, wife of Isaac, was from Nahor. In Genesis 24, Abraham sends his chief servant to go to his home country, Ur, to find a wife for his son. While there’s no way of knowing for certain, it is likely that Rebekah came from what is now Iraq.

Genesis 11:27-32 tells us that Abraham was born in Ur around 2166 B.C. The ancient city of Ur was located on the Euphrates River in what is now southern Iraq. Its ruins can be found near the modern-day city of Nasiriyah. Ur was an important city in Sumerian civilization.

The Garden of Eden was perfect for the world’s first people, Adam and Eve. (Read Genesis 2:8-14.) Some scholars think the Garden of Eden was located in what is now the southeastern tip of Iraq. They guess this based on the rivers named in the Bible which flowed from Eden.

The Bible tells us only that wise men came “from the east.” (Matthew 2:1) They may have come from the area that now makes up Iraq. If they came from somewhere farther east, such as Persia, they might have traveled through what is now Iraq on their way.

The Tower of Babel glorified man, not God. Genesis 11:1-8 says the tower was made of bricks and tar on a plain in Shinar. That was between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, below the modern city of Baghdad. The site of the tower has never been found. But digs have uncovered other towers built of brick and tar. Some of these were temples dedicated to false gods.

In 605 B.C., the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, captured Jehoiakim, king of Judah. Judah was the southern kingdom of Israel. Jehoiakim was taken to Babylon. So were others, including Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The stories found in the book of Daniel—the lions’ den, the fiery furnace, and the handwriting on the wall—all took place in Babylon. The remains of Babylon are in Al Hillah, Iraq, about 55 miles south of Baghdad.

Rebekah, wife of Isaac, was from Nahor. In Genesis 24, Abraham sends his chief servant to go to his home country, Ur, to find a wife for his son. While there’s no way of knowing for certain, it is likely that Rebekah came from what is now Iraq.

Genesis 11:27-32 tells us that Abraham was born in Ur around 2166 B.C. The ancient city of Ur was located on the Euphrates River in what is now southern Iraq. Its ruins can be found near the modern-day city of Nasiriyah. Ur was an important city in Sumerian civilization.
Mortimer the three-year-old Bulldog had a bellyache. Medicine didn’t help. Mortimer stopped eating. Emily Shanahan, his owner, worried. She took him to the Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston. Doctors there took an x-ray. The dog’s belly was stuffed—with pacifiers!

Did Mortimer suck on the pacifiers before he swallowed them? One thing is for sure. He got busted with a bellyfull.

Vets think Mortimer was taking the pacifiers away from his owner’s children. They used a medical scope to pull the pacifiers out.

A French inventor glides partway over the English Channel on a homemade “flyboard.” Then, crash!

Franky Zapata took off from Sangatte, France, one day in July. Mr. Zapata had already wowed crowds in Paris with his flyboard. But crossing the windy, ship-filled Channel was a much tougher challenge. He was fastened to the small flying platform he designed. It looked like he was skateboarding on the sky!

About halfway across, he descended to get more fuel. But the platform he was meant to land on was moving too much. He fell into the water.

“He will do it again,” said Mr. Zapata’s wife. “He never sits back after a failure.”

She was right. Mr. Zapata crossed the Channel successfully days later.

How does a research monkey retire? Izzle, Timon, Batman, River, and Mars can show you. They spent years inside a lab. Scientists did tests on them to study human health.

About 110,000 primates lived in labs in 2017. In earlier years, many primates had to be put down when their work was finished. Now workers from more research labs let their monkeys retire to sanctuaries. One sanctuary, Primates Inc., is a 17-acre spot in the middle of Wisconsin. For some monkeys, heading to the sanctuary will be their first time hanging out in the fresh air.

These retired primates live in larger enclosures. They can venture outside, eat lettuce and carrots, dip their fingers in colorful plastic pools, paint, and hang from pipes and tires. Now that’s the life!
Barbary Cubs

Welcome, Barbary lions!
Two lion cubs, born this spring, take their first steps in the Dvur Králové park in the Czech Republic. Very few lions like them remain in the world. One cub is a girl. The other is a boy. Their mom, Khalila, teaches them to walk.

Barbary lions are the largest lion subspecies. They weigh more than African lions, have shorter legs, and look more muscular. Their manes grow down their chests to the belly. Barbary lions once roamed northern Africa. But many were killed by gladiators in Roman times. Later, people hunted them. There are probably fewer than 100 left in captivity—and none in the wild!

Steepest Street

A street in Wales wins: Steepest in the World.
You can find the street of Ffordd Pen Llech in the seafront town of Harlech, Wales. That’s 245 miles northwest of London, England. The street has a slope of 37.45 percent. Before now, a street in New Zealand was known as the steepest. The street in Wales is two percentage points steeper.

Businessman and architectural historian Gwyn Headley worked for the street to become recognized. He says he feels “jubilation” now that the street has won the title. He also feels sorry for New Zealand. But, he says, “steeper is steeper.”

Olympic Bots

One cart-like robot scuttles across the field to bring back javelins and discuses. Another robot is a screen on wheels. Some bots are cute. They look like the Olympic and Paralympic mascots—their arms and legs moving and their eyes blinking stars and hearts. They can’t speak, and they stumble. What can the cuties do? Not much—but they might get the job of holding the Olympic torch using magnets.

Engineers at Toyota Motor Corp. have created a variety of robots for next year’s Tokyo Olympics. The bots will help out at the games by picking up objects. They’re smart enough to avoid obstacles. But they’re not smart enough to find things on their own. As cool as they are, bots still need a lot of help from humans!
Baseball playoff time is coming. But right now is logic time. Bill, Henry, Lucy, and Garrett get together every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to play baseball.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Clues</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Monday  | • Bill is not wearing a striped or long-sleeved jersey.  
          • Garrett is not wearing the Bluebirds jersey or the button-up jersey.  
          • Henry is not wearing the long-sleeved jersey or the Bluebirds jersey.  
          • Lucy is in long sleeves.                                              |        |
| Wednesday | • Lucy is not wearing the Bluebirds jersey.  
             • Garrett is not wearing a striped jersey and neither is Bill.  
             • Henry’s jersey is on one end and Bill’s jersey is on the other end. |        |
| Friday   | • It was chilly. Garrett didn’t wear short sleeves.  
             • Henry and Lucy’s jerseys have numbers on them and are striped.  
             • Bill doesn’t like buttons. His jersey has none.  
             • Lucy’s shirt is to the right of Henry’s.                  |        |