More than just a pretty face: Otters are a keystone species.

Significant Otters
Gardener Gemma Hearn poses for photographs on July 30, 2021. She is making a final trim of the Hampton Court Palace Maze before it reopens to the public. The palace stands in southwest London, England. The maze was first planted in 1689. It is the oldest hedge maze in Great Britain. It reopened in August after being closed since the beginning of the UK’s coronavirus outbreak in March 2020. Three gardeners spent two weeks trimming it ahead of the reopening.

IT’S OUR 40th BIRTHDAY! (Read about it on page 20.) Search this issue for printing press type-styled letters to fill in the blanks and reveal an interesting fact from our past . . .
These four friends have lost their dogs. Which dog goes with each owner? Read the clues to figure it out. Fill in the spaces for each of the quizzes.

**JIM**
- Quiz 1 __________
- Quiz 2 __________
- Quiz 3 __________
- Quiz 4 __________
- Quiz 5 __________

**ANITA**
- Quiz 1 __________
- Quiz 2 __________
- Quiz 3 __________
- Quiz 4 __________
- Quiz 5 __________

**MAX**
- Quiz 1 __________
- Quiz 2 __________
- Quiz 3 __________
- Quiz 4 __________
- Quiz 5 __________

**JESSIE**
- Quiz 1 __________
- Quiz 2 __________
- Quiz 3 __________
- Quiz 4 __________
- Quiz 5 __________

**Quiz 1**
- Jim’s dog has a red collar.
- Max’s dog is to the left of Jim’s.
- Jessie’s dog is on one end.
Which dog is Anita’s?

**Quiz 2**
- Jessie’s dog has long hair.
- Jim’s dog has black and white fur.
- Max’s dog has floppy ears.
- Anita’s dog has a red collar.

**Quiz 3**
- Jessie’s dog has a long tail.
- Max’s dog has a blue collar.
- Jim’s dog is to the left of Jessie’s dog.

**Quiz 4**
- Max’s dog is on the right end.
- Anita’s dog has pointy ears.
- Jim’s dog is to the left of Anita’s.
- Jessie’s dog is next to Jim’s.

**Quiz 5**
- Jim’s and Anita’s dogs both have floppy ears.
- Jessie’s dog is on one end.
- Anita’s dog has short hair.

**HINT:** Friends do not always get the same dogs in each quiz.

`Answers on page 5`
America’s history. On September 11, 2001, men who hated the United States hijacked four passenger planes. They flew one into each of New York City’s World Trade Center towers. Those skyscrapers crashed down. Another plane hit the Pentagon building outside Washington, D.C. The fourth didn’t reach its target. Passengers on board chose to fight the hijackers. That plane went down in a field in Pennsylvania.

In all, 2,977 individuals lost their lives on that terrible day. Many still grieve their lost family members. Some search for answers about who was responsible and why. This broken world is full of grief. That’s because sin still has effects. But it won’t always be that way. Revelation 21:4 says that Jesus will come back. And then, “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Titanic was a magnificent ocean liner. It was called “unsinkable.” But it struck an iceberg 109 years ago. The great ship did sink. Now it’s decomposing under water. Strong currents slam into the ship. Bacteria eat huge holes in it. “The ocean is taking this thing. And we need to document it before it all disappears,” says Stockton Rush. He is the president of OceanGate Expeditions.

OceanGate explorers are in a hurry to investigate the ship. They are going undersea to explore the wreckage. The expedition includes archaeologists and marine biologists. There are also about 40 people who bought tickets to tag along and watch. Those people will help operate equipment on board a support ship. The scientists will go below in a small submersible. That’s like a tiny submarine. The deep-sea explorers plan to photograph Titanic and the sea life living in and around it. They want to document what remains before it is gone forever.

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Rare Stone Discovered

Archaeologists discovered a rare stone marker. They were digging for a new sewage system in Rome. The stone has writing on it. The inscription helped archaeologists figure out exactly how old it is. When the ancient stone was placed, Emperor Claudius was ruling as Caesar. That was in A.D. 49.

A look at history tells us that the stone was carved during New Testament times. That was around the time Paul was beginning his second missionary journey. It’s when he probably wrote his letter to the Galatians.

The stone marked a sacred, military, and political boundary. It designated the edge of the city. In Rome at that time, no one could farm, live, or build anything in this area. No weapons could be brought through the space either.

Over the years, archaeologists have found 10 other stones like this one in Rome. The last marker discovery before this one was about 100 years ago.

A homeless cat in Greece is walking again. He has three new high-tech legs.

“Within the first 10, 15 seconds he acted as if he had always had them. He walked immediately without a problem,” says veterinarian Sofia Zoi.

A tragic accident left Perseus with just one limb. The little feline is just a year and a half old. He arrived at Dr. Zoi’s clinic last year unable to walk.

Since coming to the clinic in March 2020, Perseus has been through three surgeries to heal his wounds. He’s had another four surgeries to replace his legs with artificial limbs. A team of engineers and veterinarians designed Perseus’ new legs from titanium. That is a strong, lightweight metal. Each leg has a plastic paw made with a 3-D printer.

Everyone wondered if Perseus would accept his new legs. Would he try to bite them? So far, Perseus’ new legs are working out great!
“The buffet on a slow day will shuck 500 oysters, and on a busy day, 1,200,” says Grace Chow. She’s the vice president of food and beverages at Hard Rock Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey. That produces hundreds of thousands of shells every year! What happens to discarded oyster shells is part of a seafood circle of life. Diners’ empty shells can help establish new oyster colonies.

First, people collect and clean the shells. In Atlantic City, the state picks up oyster shells with a trailer. Workers haul them to a research station. They set the shells out to dry for at least six months. That dry time makes sure any meat or foreign substances bake off or decay from the shells. Dry, clean shells get loaded onto a barge that sets off into the river. Workers use high-pressure hoses to blast the 10-foot-tall piles of shells into the water. WHOOSH! SPLASH! The hoses make the job easy. It takes less than an hour to wash thousands of shells into the river.

In the water, the shells will become new oyster colonies. Free-floating baby oysters called spat hop on board the recycled shells. Spat attach themselves to the calcium-rich remains and begin to grow.

Oyster-saving programs are going on around the world. With fun names like “Shuck it for Nantucket” and “Shuck, Don’t Chuck,” more and more restaurants are casting oyster shells overboard. In Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation turns 2,000 bushels of recycled shells per year into oyster habitat in the bay. The state of Texas collected 1.75 million pounds of shells and returned them to water. Texans also restored 25 acres of oyster reefs. New York, Florida, and Alabama and Australia have their own oyster collection projects.

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When you harvest an oyster, essentially you harvest its habitat right alongside it,” says Dr. Jennifer Pollack at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi. That habitat is a beautiful and purpose-filled shell. What’s the best way to recycle an oyster shell? It’s hard to choose just one. The list goes on and on.

Of course, plopping discarded oyster shells right back into a river or ocean is ideal. Old shells are kind of like soil for seeds. They make the perfect place for new oysters to start growing. At creation, God asked Adam to take good care of the Earth and everything in it. One way we can protect oysters is to provide places for new oyster colonies to grow.

Speaking of growth, the high levels of calcium and other minerals in an oyster shell are great for gardens. Shells that aren’t returned to water can be crushed and mixed into soil. They make dirt nutrient rich which helps plants grow stronger. Crushed shells can be spread on farming fields to control acid in soil. Mixed into dirt, those shells easily become microbial habitats. That means they provide nutrients for other tiny living things.

Did you know that oyster shells make great chicken feed? That’s right. Hens need calcium. That’s something oyster shells pack plenty of! Calcium helps chickens grow strong, healthy bones. It also helps them lay eggs with tough, protective shells.

Believe it or not, oyster shells are as hard as concrete. Literally. (Actually, when crumbled, they can make concrete.) Tabby is concrete that is a mixture of crushed oyster shells, sand, lime, and water. It’s a building material that’s been around for hundreds of years. In the 1600s, Spanish and English settlers used tabby concrete to build homes and pave roads. Those projects can still be seen today in the coastal Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. Tabby is easy to use, inexpensive, and very, very strong.

There are fun ways to recycle oyster shells too. The shells can be turned into simple soap dishes, eye-catching jewelry, and decorative wreaths. Some people even make clothes from crushed oyster shells. SeaWool is yarn and fabric made from—yes, you guessed it—recycled oyster shells.
G-u-l-p. It took a split second. For the first time, astronomers noted that a black hole had swallowed a neutron star. Ten days later, they detected the same thing as it happened again—far away from the first. Two neutron stars gobbled up by the gravity of black holes—talk about a heavy space snack!

A neutron star is what is left over when a big star dies in space. Neutron stars are dense. That means they have a great mass that is concentrated into a small space. If one could exist on Earth where there is gravity, and if it could be weighed, it would be super heavy—much heavier than the Sun. One teaspoon of a neutron star would weigh a billion tons! These stars are about six miles wide. God knows every single star in the sky. He placed them there. Psalm 147:4 says, “He determines the number of the stars; He gives to all of them their names.”

A black hole is an area within space and time where gravity is so strong that nothing can escape it. Not even light! In space, a black hole is the final point of no return. The moment the neutron star crashed together with the black hole, the neutron star was gone. It took far less than a minute.

“It was just a big quick (gulp), gone,” says study co-author Patrick Brady, an astrophysicist at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. The black hole “gets a nice dinner of a neutron star and makes itself just a little bit more massive.”

How did astronomers know when the collision was coming? They couldn’t actually see it happen, like looking at a planet with a telescope. Instead, they watched gravitational waves. Bursts of energy rippled through space. The movement was a sign of the event.

In the past, astronomers have seen waves made from two black holes colliding. They’ve also watched waves made from two neutron stars colliding. But this is the first time they’ve ever seen a neutron star crash into a black hole. It was unexpected. The event changes how scientists think about the way different bodies in space interact.
A STAR IS BORN

Discover the life cycle of a star:

Average Star: An average star is a medium-sized star. It is mostly made of helium and hydrogen gas. Our Sun is an average star.

Massive Star: Massive stars are also made of hydrogen and helium, but are much larger and have more mass than average stars.

Red Giant: When an average star uses up its hydrogen, its core collapses into itself and becomes hotter. That causes the star to expand.

Red Supergiant: A massive star burns through its hydrogen faster than an average star; turning into a red supergiant. These are the largest stars in the universe.

Planetary Nebula: As the star burns through its outer layers of gas. The leftover part of the star is usually still visible in the center.

Supernova: When the star runs out of fuel, it collapses and then explodes! The explosion is extremely bright and can shine across an entire galaxy.

Nebula:
A nebula is a giant cloud of gas and dust. Some nebulae are regions where new stars form. Gas, dust, and other matter clump together to make new stars.

Big Bang:
A supernova is a star so massive that when it collapses, it forms a black hole.

BIZARRE, BEAUTIFUL SPACE

Can you spot a supernova? How many stars are in the sky?
How much would a neutron star weigh? How far can a black hole stretch?
What causes sunspots? Are asteroids loud?
How long is a light year? Does space dust disappear?
How much is in a comet?
Do constellations ever stop shining? Are wormholes real?
Does solar wind blow forever? How hot does the Sun get?

Colossians 1:17 says, “And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” That includes the entire universe! God spoke and space came into being. The marvelous universe He created is filled with things we can hardly begin to understand. Some we can see, like our warm, bright Sun and the glimmering stars. Others we can’t, like black holes and Oort clouds. (That’s a band of billions of icy objects that exist at the edge of our solar system.)

The Bible tells us about creation, and science—the study of that creation—helps us understand it and learn more about the God who made it. Genesis 1:16 says, “And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.” A nebula is a large dust cloud in space. God takes that dust and forms stars and planets. The Horsehead Nebula is a small dark nebula. Can you guess what astronomers thought it looked like?

A black hole is created when humongous stars collapse. The result is a swirling vortex of gravity—so much gravity that even light cannot escape. Neutron stars are small and very dense. They are heavier than the Sun! Neutron stars are created when giant stars die.

Can you imagine that the God who created black holes and neutron stars is the same God who created YOU?

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the Moon and stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? — Psalm 8:3-4

QUIZ

1. spat
   a) an adult oyster
   b) baby oysters
   c) a coral reef

2. tabby
   a) yarn made from crushed oyster shells
   b) chicken feed made from crushed oyster shells
   c) concrete made from crushed oyster shells

3. dense
   a) flat
   b) massive and heavy
   c) light and airy

4. nebula
   a) a telescope
   b) another name for a planet
   c) a large dust cloud in space

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In a 1970 *Beetle Bailey* comic strip, the character Sarge scolds his dog, Otto.

“Think, Otto, think!!” Sarge says. Otto replies, “We can’t all be Snoopy.”

This comic strip is an oldie. But dog lovers can go see it right now at the world’s largest cartoon museum at Ohio State University. It’s a dog show! Well, it’s a cartoon dog show. The exhibit shows off two centuries of dogs in cartoons.

Here’s how it started. Brad Anderson created the dog comic *Marmaduke*. He donated his collection of cartoons in 2018. He included 16,000 originals drawn from 1954 to 2010. Museum employees started to wonder: Just how many other dog cartoons could they dig up?

Most people seem to relate to comics about dogs. Dogs are eager. They aim to please. Their personalities make them perfect to joke about.

Otto the dog first appeared in *Beetle Bailey* in 1956. At first, he was a regular four-legged dog. In 1970, that changed. His artist, Mort Walker, gave him human-like qualities. Mr. Walker provided Otto with his own uniform and desk.

Exhibit viewers also see well-known dogs like Sandy from *Little Orphan Annie*. There’s Daisy from *Blondie*. There’s Dogbert from the *Dilbert* strip. George Booth’s scraggly *New Yorker* magazine cartoon dogs show up. So do Trots and Bonnie, a toon girl and her talking dog.

The exhibit also includes a video about animated dogs. Do you remember Scooby-Doo? Huckleberry Hound? Underdog, Disney’s Pluto and Goofy, or Slinky Dog from the “Toy Story” movies? Lady and the Tramp sharing spaghetti?

And no dog story is complete without some cats. A few felines—Garfield, for example—sneak into the dog show too.
Dogs: a little like wolves, a little like foxes, loved by people a lot. Now more than 400 dog breeds exist in the world. Why? Because people took this once-wild animal, brought it inside, and trained it. Then they bred dogs to do certain jobs.

Shepherds, corgis, collies, and shelties herded livestock. Doberman pinschers, Akitas, and mastiffs guarded people from wild animals or homes from intruders. Bloodhounds, retrievers, and foxhounds helped hunters catch game. People also bred tiny dogs like the Chihuahuas and Pekingese just for companionship. (You might notice those names begin with capital letters. Chihuahuas were named for a place in Mexico. Pekingese were named for a place in China. Dogs have been man’s best friend in countries all over the world for centuries.)

People and dogs make great partners. Dogs can smell way better than we can—so much better that it’s hard to put into words. Dogs are loyal. They can be trained. So people harness the dog’s God-given abilities. In return, dogs get food, shelter, and human friends for life.

Now people generally value dogs for their friendship, not for the work they do. And what people love, they make art about. Did you know people made dog art as far back as the days of pre-volcanic-eruption Pompeii? That ancient city was destroyed in A.D. 79. When people uncovered it centuries later, they found a familiar idea in an ancient mosaic: a picture of a canine labeled “CAVE CANEM.” That’s Latin for “Beware of dog.” Fine artists have also depicted dogs through the centuries in these famous works:

1. Marble statue of a pair of dogs, artist unknown, 1st century A.D.
2. Portrait of a Noblewoman by Lavinia Fontana, 1580
3. Still Life with Three Puppies by Paul Gauguin, 1888
4. Dogs Playing Poker series by Cassius Marcellus Coolidge, 1903
5. Pride of Parenthood by Norman Rockwell, 1971

Many, many more artworks capturing dog life exist. What’s your favorite?

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them. — Romans 12:6
“General Lafayette is coming!”

Who? You might not remember him. But the people living in Natchez, Mississippi, in 1825 certainly did. Marquis de Lafayette was the last living general who had fought in the Continental Army. And look! There he was, walking down the street!

Do you remember learning about the Continental Army? Think blue coats, George Washington, and musket balls. The Continental Army fought for the 13 American colonies during the Revolutionary War. General Lafayette helped. But he wasn’t American. He wasn’t British either. He was French. He was part of the French Revolution too. (Busy guy!)

Back during the Revolutionary War, General Lafayette was barely 20. But as he walked through Natchez in 1825, he was almost 70. Americans in Natchez greeted him as a hero. General Lafayette kept going. He journeyed through the United States for two years. He visited 320 cities and towns. His stoped in every state in the union. (Back then, there were just 24!) General Lafayette’s tour helped bring unity in a hard time. The country was about 50 years old. It was facing an election. In 1824, votes were split. No candidate won an electoral majority. Because of the tie, the U.S. House of Representatives chose the new president: John Quincy Adams. Not everyone was happy about that choice. But the election sent a message. America was still independent. It would stick together no matter what.

Nearly 200 years have passed since General Lafayette’s tour. But people haven’t forgotten it. Now they work to mark where he made stops. About 25 signs have been installed in 13 states so far. About 175 signs will be added in all. The marker in Natchez describes what General Lafayette did during his visit. It stands on land overlooking the Mississippi River.
General Lafayette was born in France with a big name: Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier, marquis de Lafayette. (Marquis—pronounced mar-KEE—means “nobleman.”) We’ll call him Gilbert for short. His father died in battle when Gilbert was almost two. When his mother died 10 years later, Gilbert became an orphan—but not a poor one. He came from one of the oldest families in France. His parents left him a huge fortune.

Though he lived across the ocean, Gilbert liked the ideas coming from America. He believed people should live freely and be treated with fairness. He also wanted to become a soldier and win fame. He crossed the ocean to fight in the American Revolution. He was still a teenager then. He barely spoke any English. He didn’t even have any fighting experience. But he was rich and he knew a lot of powerful people. He quickly became a general.

In America, Gilbert made a very good friend: George Washington. He showed humility, which is the beginning of all good leadership. He told General Washington, “I am here to learn, not to teach.” General Washington became much more than a teacher to Gilbert. Gilbert stayed with General Washington during the horrible winter at Valley Forge in 1777 when hundreds of soldiers died of disease. General Washington didn’t have children. Gilbert didn’t have a dad. The two became like father and son.

After helping lead the Continental Army to victory, Gilbert returned to France. When he came back to the United States for his tour many years later, he made a tearful visit to George Washington’s grave.

Gilbert—the marquis de Lafayette—died in 1834. He was buried in Paris, France... with dirt from the location of the U.S. Battle of Bunker Hill.

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” — 1 Peter 5:5

**QUIZ**

1. Where is the world’s largest cartoon museum?
   a) Michigan  
   b) Ohio  
   c) New York  
   d) Illinois

2. Shepherd dogs are bred mainly for ______.
   a) hunting  
   b) guarding  
   c) herding  
   d) retrieving

3. The Marquis de Lafayette ______.
   a) ran for president of the United States  
   b) was a general in the American Revolution  
   c) was in the U.S. House of Representatives  
   d) was born in Natchez, Mississippi

4. The marquis de Lafayette ______.
   a) is a descendant of George Washington  
   b) never returned to France  
   c) never became a general  
   d) was buried in Paris

5. Why do you think dogs make such popular characters in cartoons, film, and books?
   a)  
   b)  
   c)  
   d)  

**Answers on page 5**

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Some children have biological (birth) parents who can’t take care of them. Sometimes they need safe homes—for a short time, or for longer. Government agencies place those kids with foster parents who can help. One church in Mississippi has helped over 300 families foster children.

Tony Karnes is a pastor at Michael Memorial Baptist Church. In 2015, Pastor Karnes visited an emergency shelter for kids. It was full. There weren’t enough families for the children to stay with. That broke Pastor Karnes’ heart.

Pastor Karnes and his church worked with the state to make the process for becoming a foster family faster. They called the program Rescue 100. Fifty families from the church started fostering. And they recruited 250 other families!

Kevin and Kelli Lundy have fostered eight children. They know their church is there to help. Mrs. Lundy can ask when they have needs like size 3 summer clothes or a babysitter.

Mr. Lundy says it’s important to get to know foster children as individuals. The kids start off as strangers. Over time, they become part of the Lundy home. After one two-year-old left, another one came. It was easy to treat the new child like the previous child, but “they’re...”
God loves all His people. But He particularly puts an emphasis on caring for orphans and other needy people. In many places in the Bible, God says that we are to be kind to widows, orphans, and foreigners. They were some of the most vulnerable people around.

Pastor Karnes says he thought of James 1:27 when he got involved in foster care. That verse says, “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”

2 Samuel 9 tells the story of King David and Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth was the son of David’s close friend Jonathan. He was also the grandson of David’s enemy, Saul. Some years after David became king, he remembered his friend Jonathan. When he found out that Jonathan’s son was still alive, he wanted to show kindness to him. Mephibosheth had a disability. His feet were crippled. Mephibosheth was grown up by that time. But David made Mephibosheth part of his household.

These examples from the Bible show us how important it is to care for the weak and vulnerable. God has blessed us, so that we can bless others. As Christians, our response to God’s grace is to let Him make our hearts like His. He wants us to love the people He loves.

Another family, the Bardwells, cares for kids for short periods of time. They help biological parents get ready to take care of their children again. Jennifer Bardwell had Bible studies with one mom. Mrs. Bardwell also taught the mom how to drive and helped her get a job.

The Griffins began as foster parents too. Later, they adopted their daughter, Skylar Rose.

The church doesn’t just help foster families. The foster children get to play with other kids in the same situation. And they invite biological parents to come to worship so that kids and parents can spend time together.
By the Millions: People and Trees

“He who plants a tree, plants hope.”
— Lucy Larcom, teacher and poet

How many trees can a million people plant? Organizers of a tree project in India expect to organize that many folks. Their goal: Get 250 million life-giving trees into the ground.

All manner of India’s citizens are getting involved. Lawmakers, government officials, and volunteers swarmed riverbanks, farms, forests, and school and government building sites to plant. They dug holes for young trees called saplings in 68,000 villages and 83,000 forest sites in India’s northern Uttar Pradesh state.

India promises to keep planting trees. That’s important for the country—and for the world. More than a billion people live in India. And the population is growing quickly. More people means more building projects. Building puts stress on land, water, and air. More trees are needed to keep the environment in balance.

God covered the face of the Earth in trees. He had really good reasons for giving His world so much plant life. We read about the very first trees God made in Genesis 2:9. It says, “And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.”

India started the tree-planting drive four years ago. “We are committed to increasing the forest cover of Uttar Pradesh state to over 15% of the total land area in the next five years. In today’s campaign, over 100 million trees will be planted,” says Manoj Singh, a senior state forest official.

Not all the new trees will make it. Usually, only about 60% of the saplings thrive and grow. The rest often die due to disease or lack of water.

So caring for the trees is getting more modern. Many saplings now are tagged with QR codes. These can be scanned to show important information. That lets scientists see how a tree is doing. Is it growing? Does it have enough water? State Forest Minister Dara Singh Chauhan says that the sapling survival rate in the past four years has gone up to 80%.

Indian workers plant saplings in the Uttar Pradesh state, India, on July 4, 2021.
Deforestation is the removal of forests. **Reforestation** is just the opposite. It is the rebuilding of forests. God had a clear purpose in His design of tree-filled forests. We can be good stewards of His creation by becoming “forest keepers.”

Ezekiel 17:24 says, “And all of the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it.”

A forest of trees is full of habitats for living things. Trees provide shelter and nourishment for millions of organisms. Tree roots stabilize the ground. They prevent erosion, or the loss of soil. Most importantly, trees nourish living things with oxygen.

Healthy trees work like filters. They remove dust and pollution from the air. They absorb carbon dioxide and other harmful gases. When land is stripped of trees, the air loses its necessary filters. It quickly becomes dirty. That’s part of the reason why big cities have smog problems.

Trees are made to keep the atmosphere in balance. They suck up carbon dioxide and use it to grow. Then they release oxygen back into the air. That helps make a lovely world for people and animals to breathe in. We need oxygen, and we breathe out some of that carbon dioxide. It’s a huge reason why planting new trees to replace missing ones is important. If people take care of trees, then trees help take care of people!

Trees also help maintain the water cycle. They pull water from the ground and then send it back into the atmosphere. How? Tree leaves have tiny pores. Water vapor leaves the tree by way of those pores. We can’t see that water in the sky, but it is there.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, a healthy 100-foot-tall tree can take 11,000 gallons of water from the soil and release it back into the air in a single growing season.

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**Forest Keepers**

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**QUIZ**

1. foster
   a) neglect
   b) nurture like a parent
   c) teach and instruct

2. vulnerable
   a) strong and fearless
   b) loved and cared for
   c) exposed to possible harm

3. sapling
   a) a mature tree
   b) a young tree
   c) a tree’s branch

4. reforestation
   a) rebuilding of forests
   b) removal of trees
   c) air cleaning with trees
TAKE APART SMART

Joseph, son of the Bible’s patriarch Jacob, was a smart, hard-working leader in Egypt. He was appointed to be the Egyptian pharaoh’s right-hand man. Joseph managed well all the cities in Egypt. And he understood the concept behind banking. He knew it was wise to save for the future. He also knew that grain was worth more than just its weight in nutrition. People would trade it for goods and services.

An illustration shows ancient Egyptian granaries.
Genesis chapters 41 and 42 tell the story of Joseph's business savvy. When there was plenty of food, he gathered it in. "And Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured." (Genesis 41:49)

How did Joseph know to store all that grain? God allowed Joseph to interpret a troubling dream Pharaoh had. That dream is recorded in Genesis 41:17-31. Joseph knew it meant that God was sending famine. Joseph worked to prepare Egypt before famine hit.

Each Berber tribe had its own granary. Families in the tribe had boxes of their own in the granary, like your family probably has its own account at a bank. Granaries also offered individual smaller compartments. One of those was like an extra-large safety deposit box. That is a secure container banks today use to protect people's most important documents and belongings.

In addition to crops like wheat, dates, beans, and spices, the granaries also stored silver, jewels, and carpets. Palm wood doors were sealed with metal locks, the way today's banks have vaults. They were heavily guarded against looters.

Tribes elected aminis to guard the granaries. An amin was a man who lived at the site of the granary. He served as a security guard.

These ancient Berber banks have existed at least since the 1400s. They display the creativity of people who need to preserve the fruits of their labors. The Berbers saw in God's rugged mountains a way to keep their belongings safe. Today's modern banks owe their existence to these types of safe-keeping ventures, according to research professor Khalid Alaroud. "These collective granaries may be the first indication of the emergence of banks," he says.

Today, the granaries are hard to get to. Their remote locations make them difficult to find. Even if you can locate one, the walkways leading to and through it are often crumbling and unsafe. So Morocco's Ministry of Culture has launched a project to save what remains of the granaries and to teach people about them.
Mr. r n - s n u f f - s n u f f - S W I S H.
Hear the printer sounds? Smell
the ink? See the pages rolling off the
presses? Behold! WORLDkids
magazine is born!

But it isn’t called WORLDkids yet.
Not by a long shot. It’s called It’s
God’s World (IGW). It’s printed in two
colors and has only eight pages. Read
through and you’ll see . . .
• stories about workers’ strikes
• decisions made by then-
President Ronald Reagan
• news of the newest Supreme
Court Justice, Sandra Day O’Connor.

Wow! That’s old news! And it
should be. It’s God’s World premiered
40 years ago in 1981. That was six
U.S. presidents ago!

So . . . how did it all get started?

Two men named Joel Belz and
Norm Bomer had some very big
ideas. Christian journalists love God
and love people, they thought. They
want to help people understand and
appreciate truth. Christian journalists
want readers to see God at work in His
world.

Mr. Belz had publishing experi-
ence. Mr. Bomer was a teacher. They
decided to publish a weekly news-
paper for young people. The paper
would report on news. But “the
important purpose,” says Mr. Bomer,
“was to teach Christian worldview”
to the glory of God.

Mr. Bomer was IGW’s first writer
and editor. He was known for his
quick wit, ready laugh, and eagle
eye. (This means he was good at
catching mistakes in writing.) He
would continue as editor for 30
years. Mr. Bomer wrote
evvery article in the
first issue of IGW—and
he used a typewriter!
The internet wouldn’t
come along for another
year and a half. Someone
re-entered Mr. Bomer’s
words into a computer, and
then put the information on a floppy
disk. (What’s that? Ask you parents
if they remember.) The disk traveled
by snail mail to a printing company.
Meanwhile, Mr. Belz encouraged
people to pray and give money to the
brand-new newspaper.

Each story reported the facts.
Each also included biblical world-
view. Some stories had editorials
alongside. Those are opinion pieces.
They helped readers grasp how to
think about the news—not just to
know what the news was about. The
first issue also included a recipe for
egg-in-a-hole, a word search, and a
Bible reading schedule.

Readers liked the paper. Why?
It explained complex topics in a way
kids could understand. It also
revealed to readers the God behind
the facts of the news.

Soon adults began asking, “Why
don’t you publish a magazine for us?”

Mr. Belz and Mr. Bomer listened.
Five years later, WORLD Magazine
was born. But that’s a story for
another day.

The Earth is the Lord’s and the
fullness thereof, the world and those
who dwell therein. — Psalm 24:1
“I believed then as I do now, in the goodness of the published word: It seemed to contain an essential goodness, like the smell of leaf mold.” — E.B. White

You might remember the fellow who wrote those words. He also authored the books Stuart Little, Charlotte’s Web, and The Trumpet of the Swan. Like Mr. Bomer, E.B. White did his joyful work on a typewriter. We think of typewriters as old tech. But that’s because we’ve never had to write in a scriptorium.

How many books do you have in your house? How many do you see just in the room where you’re sitting? Once upon a time, almost nobody owned books. Why? Because for a copy of a book to exist, someone had to write it out by hand!

Those someones were usually monks. Before the invention of the printing press, monks toiled away in cold rooms called scriptoriums copying out books. One book could take months. They wrote on expensive animal skins. Mistakes cost money. These monks could only dream of having something like a backspace key!

The printing press changed everything. Printers lined up little letters in trays. The letters pressed ink onto pages. Then the letters came out. They could be rearranged and re-used for the next page or project. Books became available to everyone. Suddenly, it made sense for most people to learn to read.

God cares deeply about the written (and printed!) word. Reading leads to pleasure, knowledge, and freedom. Readers with access to truth can make good decisions. Best of all, readers of God’s word can learn to love, enjoy, and obey their Creator.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

— John 1:1

1. What are igoudar?
   a) types of wheat
   b) Berber tradesmen
   c) security guards
   d) granaries

2. What is one thing ancient Egyptians used as money?
   a) sand
   b) silos
   c) fabric
   d) grain

3. It’s God’s World _______.
   a) was a magazine for adults
   b) was the old name for WORLD Magazine
   c) was the first name for the magazine that led to WORLDkids
   d) was mainly a magazine of recipes and games

4. A scriptorium _______.
   a) was a room where monks copied books
   b) was where the printing press was invented
   c) was a farm where animals were raised for their skins
   d) was a library

5. Why do you think it is important to have news publications and other news media?
Scientists in Queensland, Australia, found a “pothole to the past,” says Robyn Mackenzie. They’re digging up dry, old bones. Those bones belong to a very old Australian animal—an enormous dinosaur.

*Australotitan cooperensis* is the official name of the new dinosaur. Its name means “the southern titan.” (A titan is something that is strong and powerful.)

Mrs. Mackenzie describes finding the dinosaur’s skeleton. “There’s nothing quite like walking up to a dinosaur site and seeing all this bone on the surface and not having a clue what type of animal, initially, because you’ve just spotted it, it is,” she says. The Mackenzies (Robyn, her husband Stuart, and son Sandy) discovered the bones on their own property. According to *Smithsonian*, the Mackenzies were riding motorbikes on their sheep and cattle farm when they noticed what looked like big black rocks in the ground. Those rocks were actually dinosaur bones! It took over 10 years to identify the bones. They were very fragile and heavy. A forklift had to move them.

Mrs. Mackenzie is now a field paleontologist. She says that with a closer look at the dirt, “you can actually pick up bits of bone and start figuring out what animal it is and what part of the body the bones are coming from.” It looks like the Australotitan was as long as a basketball court. It stood as tall as a two-story building. That makes it one of the biggest dinosaurs in the world’s history!

Genesis 1:24 says, “And God said, “Let the Earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the Earth according to their kinds.” And it was so.” What did the mighty Australotitan look like when God made it? What sounds did it make? Did the ground tremble when it walked? Was it gentle or scary and fierce?

Paleontologists believe that Australotitan was a sauropod. That’s a four-legged animal with a long neck and tail. It had a small head but huge limbs. That long neck helped the herbivore snag high-up veggie snacks. (A herbivore does not eat meat.) Imagine how many plants the largest dinosaur in Australia would eat!

“Our study looked at dinosaurs from not just Australia but across the world. We compared Australotitan’s bones to all of these gigantic sauropods and it’s in the top 10 to 15 largest in the world,” explains paleontologist Scott Hocknull.

There's more to discover about the ancient Australotitan. That makes paleontologists very excited.
Pterosaurs were flying reptiles. They had huge wingspans! (Wingspan is the distance from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other.) The largest Pterosaurs’ wingspans could be as much as 40 feet! That’s about the height of five average Christmas trees standing on top of one another.

Paleontologists are scientists. They study history by examining things left behind in dirt and rocks. They look at fossils for clues about the animals that lived long ago. Fossils are preserved remains like bones and footprints. Paleontologists imagine what it was like to live in the age of dinosaurs. You do the same as you consider these size comparisons:

Big Yellow Bus: Tyrannosaurus Rex was likely a ferocious predator dinosaur. At 40 feet long and 12 feet tall, it was about the size of a school bus.

Long and Tall: Sauropods were the biggest dinosaurs that scientists have discovered. They stood six building stories high. Some of these big beasts may have been more than half the length of a football field from nose to tail!

Bowling Alley: The dino formerly known as Brontosaurus got a name change: Apatosaurus. This dinosaur was the length of two telephone poles, one and a half tractor trailer trucks, or one bowling alley lane. That’s a very long dinosaur!

Gobble, Gobble: A Compsognathus dinosaur was a meat-eating powerhouse. These small dinosaurs with big appetites were about the size of a turkey.

17 Elephants: A Brachiosaurus weighed as much as 17 elephants. It was four-fifths as heavy as a space shuttle. And it stood two and a half times taller than a giraffe.

Jumbo Dino: Big dinosaur bodies meant big dino-sized parts. A Tyrannosaurus Rex had extra-large teeth. They measured as long as half a bowling pin. A Torosaurus skull was eight feet long! That’s the length of an average female elephant. In 1998, scientists at the University of Kansas found a giant dinosaur foot in Wyoming. It was the largest dino foot fossil ever found. The Brachiosaur foot measured 3.3 feet. That’s almost as wide as a mailbox is tall.

Jumbo Golf: Scientists believe Velociraptor was fast! But speedy was good if you were so small. Velociraptor stood just about 39 inches tall—barely over three feet.

That’s nuts! Stegosaurus might have been as big as a bus, but its brain was only the size of a nut.

Christmas Tree Tower: Pterosaurs were flying reptiles. They had huge wingspans! (Wingspan is the distance from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other.) The largest Pterosaurs’ wingspans could be as much as 40 feet! That’s about the height of five average Christmas trees standing on top of one another.
Imagine: A sea otter munches sea urchins. Now imagine that otter in a superhero cape.

It’s true—sea otters along the California coast are heroes right now. (It’s not true that they wear capes. But wouldn’t that be adorable?)

Just how are these cuddly mammals saving the day?

Let’s begin at the beginning. Nutrient-rich algae grow in the waters off California. Sound like dinner? Maybe not to you. But the spiny globs called sea urchins love algae. So do other marine animals. Kelp is a large, brown algae seaweed. Kelp forests are ecosystems composed of kelp. Sea creatures eat from the forests. They live in them too.

But in California, the kelp forest ecosystem has fallen out of balance. A disease almost wiped out the sunflower sea star. That sea star used to eat sea urchins. With no major predator, the urchins multiplied fast—and ate the other sea creatures out of house and home. When urchins go unchecked, they can also create what’s called an urchin barren: sea floor covered in rocks and urchins. Kelp cannot grow in an urchin barren.

In come . . . the otters! In kelp forests, otters are a keystone species. A keystone species is one upon which other species depend. If a keystone species is removed, other creatures in an ecosystem suffer.

Researchers from the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California have been introducing rescued sea otters into a body of water called the Elkhorn Slough (pronounced slue—rhymes with blue). Over time, the otters multiplied. As they did—gobbling up urchins along the way—other species thrived too. Now more than 100 endangered otters swim through this tidal bay every day. They share their home waters with harbor seals, brown pelicans, egrets, and many other animals.

Perhaps these cute critters will come to the rescue along more of the California coast.
KEEPING THE BALANCE

Male sea otters nap in the sunshine, clasping each other’s paws for stability. Female otters float with their young perched on their chests. Newborn otters, even more buoyant than adults, bob alongside like corks. Can you believe these critters are closely related to skunks, weasels, and badgers?

Sea otters are meat eaters and mammals, but they spend the vast majority of their lives in the water. God designed them to keep a marine ecosystem in balance.

Have you heard the expression “When the cat’s away, the mice will play”? You could also say “When the sea otter’s away, the sea urchin will play.” Without otters to eat them, pesky urchin populations skyrocket. They begin to destroy Northern California’s bull-kelp forest. And coastal life without a kelp forest is treacherous. No kelp forest means no underwater hiding places, no food stores, and no nurseries to protect young coastal life.

Kelp forests protect otters too. They hide them from great white sharks. (Great whites don’t enjoy the big hairy test bite they take of otters. They move on. But one bite is enough to kill an otter.)

FUR . . . FOR WATER!

Sea otters have the thickest fur of any creature in the world. So why would God assign this fuzzball to life in water?

Even while we’re thinking about sea otters we can join Isaiah in singing to God, “You have done wonderful things.” (Isaiah 25:1) Waters on the Northern California coast are cooooold. A human would need a wetsuit to stay warm in them. Sea otters need to keep their body temperatures around 100 degrees. But they don’t have blubber like other marine animals. They have fur instead.

Baby otters, in fact, have so much fur that they float! A baby otter’s floatie-coatie keeps the creature on top until it sheds and learns to dive.

Otter fur traps warm air close to the skin’s surface. During the dive, the outside of the fur gets wet and sleek. But the inside stays toasty and dry for a time. Eventually, each otter grooms its fur, restoring the air that gets pocketed inside.

QUIZ

1. titan
   a) tiny but strong
   b) gigantic in size or power
   c) unusual

2. fossils
   a) written records
   b) photographs
   c) preserved remains like bones and footprints

3. unchecked
   a) unevaluated
   b) unstopped
   c) unnoticed

4. buoyant
   a) able to float
   b) heavy
   c) saturated

Answers on page 5

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021 • world kids
Bolivia’s Uru—"People of the Water"—are at a loss. For many generations, their homeland wasn’t land at all. It was the waters of Lake Poopó. Five years ago, the lake dried up. Today, the Uru scramble to make a living. They’re also trying to save their culture.

The Uru built family islands made of reeds on Lake Poopó. They lived on the lake for decades. The Uru first settled on the water when surrounding lands were already occupied. They survived on what they could harvest from the large, shallow lake. “They collected eggs, fished, hunted flamingos and birds,” says nearby town leader Abdón Choque. Even newlyweds stayed on the water for generations: “When they fell in love, the couple built their own raft,” he says.

Now that the lake is gone, the 635 remaining Uru feel displaced. “We are ancient (as a people), but we have no territory. Now we have no source of work, nothing,” says Mayor Rufino Choque.

“Our grandfathers thought the lake would last all their lives, and now my people are near extinction because our source of life has been lost,” explains Uru community leader Luis Valero.

The Bible reminds us that Jesus is life-giving. John 6:35 says, “Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.’”

Bolivia’s “People of the Water” are doing what it takes to survive. The young men hire themselves out as laborers, herders, or miners in nearby towns. Some of the women make straw crafts. Meanwhile, families try to learn the spoken language of the Uru again. It faded out of use as the last native speakers gradually died.

Younger generations learn Spanish at school. Many speak more common native languages like Aymara and Quechua. So now Uru communities are trying to revive the Uru language. They’ve invited teachers of a similar language called Uru-Chipaya to come and teach it. “We are making efforts to maintain our culture,” says Mr. Valero. It gives them something of the past to cling to. They cannot restore the lake.

The Uru people once lived in a large part of the lake region. Today, some still live along Bolivia’s borders with Peru, Chili, and Argentina.
The Plurinational State of Bolivia is the official name of Bolivia. That’s a mouthful to say! Most people stick with the shorter version—Bolivia. The country is landlocked. That means it’s surrounded by land. It has no coastline. Argentina, Chile, Peru, Brazil, and Paraguay all border Bolivia. Most countries have one capital city. Not Bolivia! It has two, Sucre and La Paz.

The Altiplano in Bolivia is rocking! It’s the second largest high plateau in the world, and it is known for odd-looking rock formations. High winds carved the stone shapes. Cal Orko is a massive limestone slab in Bolivia. It has 5,055 dinosaur footprints in it. The prints were made from at least eight different species of dinosaurs.

The world’s largest salt flat takes up 4,086 square miles in Bolivia. It is 100 times larger than the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah. Bolivia’s salt flat looks like a huge desert. Its size makes it easy to spot from space. Because it is so large and flat, scientists use the salt flat to calibrate, or set, the Earth’s observation satellites.

Speaking of salt, Bolivia’s Hotel Luna Salada is made entirely from salt blocks. Even its furniture! The Bible calls believers in Jesus the salt of the Earth. “You are the salt of the Earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet,” says Matthew 5:13.

Bolivia has one of the world’s largest butterfly sanctuaries. It’s also home to llamas, Andean condors, jaguars, pumas, guinea pigs, and pink dolphins. PINK DOLPHINS? Yes! They live in the Amazon River in Bolivia.

Spanish is the official spoken language in Bolivia. But only around half of Bolivians speak it. There are 36 native languages in use there. If you listen closely, you’ll hear the popular native languages Quechua and Aymara spoken.

Salt, butterflies, dinosaurs, and pink dolphins. What in the world do these four things have in common? The country of Bolivia! Take a trip to the middle of the continent of South America. Head west towards the Andes Mountains to find beautiful Bolivia. This country is packed with things to see and do. More importantly, it’s filled with people who love their country and their native culture.

The land God created for Bolivia is rich. Bolivians are proud of their beautiful country. They love to share it with visitors!
Dozens of lakes glitter on a mountain range. They look like gray-green eyes scanning the skies. Welcome to Shar Mountain in North Macedonia. Wouldn’t this make a beautiful park?

It’s about to become one at last.

The Shar Mountain range is part of the Balkans—a mountainous region in Europe. What lives on Mount Shar? Two hundred plant species, 167 species of butterflies, 12 of amphibians, 18 of reptiles, 130 of birds, and 45 of mammals. For decades, people have used this fruitful land for logging, even though it was against the law. Others used it for free farming, hunting, and fuel. Erosion scars the landscape. Almost 100,000 acres have been lost to illegal logging alone.

North Macedonian authorities want to protect Mount Shar and its treasures. They will pass a law making over 150,000 acres of land into a park. The park will border other protected parks in Albania and Kosovo. That will create one huge protected area.

Protecting land benefits plants and animals . . . and people too. Naser Xhemaili owns a company that offers mountain tourism programs and horseback rides on Mount Shar. He hopes the new park will bring better roads to the area. “We await a lot from the national park,” he says. “Tourist arrivals into our cabins, sales of dairy products, which I believe will be much better and at a higher price.”

Naser Nuredini is North Macedonia’s environment minister. He says the park will help locals and visitors, now and in the future. “We are creating one of the largest protected areas in Europe,” he says. “We are talking about skiing in the winter, hiking and biking in the summer, tourism from across the world.”

It takes a lot of work to make a brand-new national park. The plan: Decide how much money to spend and how to spend it. Hire staff to run the park. Build hiking trails. Ready, set, go!
Macedonia Then and Now

Macedonia is an old, old place. Macedonians are still very proud of its history. Today, that region includes portions of six countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Kosovo.

A lot of different people groups have lived in the region of Macedonia through the years. In early times, ancient Macedonians, Paeonians, Illyrians, and Thracians made Macedonia their home. King Philip II of Macedon turned Macedonia into a powerful kingdom in the mid-300s B.C. His son, Alexander the Great, followed in his footsteps. In 145 B.C., Macedonia became part of the Roman Empire.

It would take a long time to talk about everything that has happened to Macedonia since then. Here’s a short version: The region of Macedonia has been part of the Bulgarian Empire, the Byzantine Empire, the Ottoman Empire, and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The country called the Republic of North Macedonia has existed for only 30 years. Two major groups of people live there: Macedonians and Albanians. Ethnic Macedonians are usually Eastern Orthodox Christians. Ethnic Albanians are usually Muslims. Sometimes these two groups fight.

What is life like in North Macedonia? People take it slow. Macedonians are relaxed. They’re hospitable. They’re also self-reliant. (If something breaks, they tend to fix it themselves!) Many have lived in the same neighborhoods for generations. Neighborliness matters to them a lot.

There is also an area in Greece called Macedonia. Greeks and Macedonians disagree on who gets to claim that name and history.

You may have read about Macedonia in the Bible. In New Testament times, a Roman official called a proconsul ruled this land. Back then, most people in Macedonia didn’t know God . . . yet.

Enter, Paul. God sent this apostle to preach the gospel in Macedonia. He passed through Macedonia more than once. He met a woman named Lydia. She lived in Philippi, a Macedonian city. She was the first person in Europe to believe in Jesus because of Paul’s message.

One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. — Acts 16:14

A painting of Lydia of Thyatira
That's not a rest stop! Homing pigeons hang out on Interstate 95.

Swan Upping

Last year, Great Britain skipped its annual swan count. But this year, the swan census is back. Boatloads of “Swan Uppers” arrived on the banks of the River Thames near Queen Elizabeth II’s Windsor Castle to count her swans.

Swan Upping is the name of the yearly count. It’s when all the swans claimed by the British monarch are tallied. The tradition began in the 12th century. It was a way for the monarchy to make sure there was plenty of swan meat to serve at feasts and banquets. Today, the annual swan count helps keepers look after the beautiful birds. Young swans called cygnets get plucked from the water, wrestled to shore, measured, checked for disease, and marked with a number. Then they are safely returned for all to enjoy.

Homing Pigeons Can’t Find Home

Drivers found some fowl road conditions on Interstate 95 one night this summer. A crate of 100 homing pigeons fell off a truck near Daytona Beach, Florida. But it was dark, and pigeons roost at night. So they sat on the road until vehicle lights startled them. Then they flew into the air. Drivers couldn't see. “It’s the worst case scenario—homing pigeons that can't find their home,” county officials say. Police officers and animal service workers flocked to catch the pigeons. They nabbed 73 of the birds. According to Newsweek, the young birds will soon have a new job. They will train for flight shows at Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida.

Record Manatee Deaths

Welcome to the wild, baby manatee. One-year-old Manilow and mother Mandy are swimming in Florida’s St. Johns River. They spent four months at Sea World Orlando because Mandy was sick. But they’ve been released now. That’s great news for a species that is struggling to survive.

More Florida manatees have died this year than ever before. Biologists believe water pollution is killing seagrass. That seagrass is a favorite food for manatees. Many may not be getting enough to eat. The lack of food is leading to starvation, says Florida’s Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. Boat strikes are another major cause of manatee deaths. The slow-moving, friendly mammals often get too close to boat propellers. The whirling blades injure the gentle beasts. There are about only 6,300 manatees still living in Florida waters.

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Ark Park Has Lofty Plans

The Ark Encounter in northern Kentucky plans to expand. Representatives from the Bible-themed park say they intend to build a “Tower of Babel” attraction. A press release from the park explains the new expansion. It says the Tower of Babel exhibit will show how the Bible proves the origin of all people groups around the world. No one knows what the Babel attraction will look like yet. (Genesis 11 tells about the original tower.) Answers in Genesis is the ministry behind the Ark Park. The group constructed the massive wooden ark attraction in 2016. The group will fundraise for the new Tower of Babel feature. The Ark Encounter’s plans also include an indoor model of Jerusalem.

Bleak Outlook for Boats

Wooden boats have been sailing the waters around Greece for millennia. The Apostle Paul sailed these waters in such a boat. Skilled craftsmen design and build these boats by hand. The trade has been passed down through generations. Boat builders teach their children who teach their children. But today, traditional wooden boat builders are hard to find. Fewer people want wooden boats. Young people aren’t interested in putting in the time to learn the craft.

“You don’t learn this job in a year or two. It takes many years,” says retired boat builder Giorgos Tsinidelos. He and fellow boat builders hope people will return to the wooden boat. He says no other boat has the same durability. “You take wood, and you create a masterpiece, a boat.”

Huge Land Gift

The United States Department of the Interior got a big land gift. That agency manages lands that belong to the U.S. government. The 15-square-mile tract was the largest land donation in agency history! The land is in the northeastern part of New Mexico. It connects to the Sabinoso Wilderness Area. United States Senator Martin Heinrich describes the Sabinoso Wilderness Area as “one of New Mexico’s most spectacular landscapes.”

The new land makes the Sabinoso almost 50 percent larger. The property includes rugged canyons, mesas covered by woodlands, pockets of ponderosa pine trees, and savanna-like grasslands.

Officials gathered to celebrate the land gift. United States Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said, “We’re here today because we recognize the importance of preserving this special place.”
Read your WORLDkids from cover to cover, and then you’ll be ready to complete this crossword based on story details found in this issue. Solve the colored clues first if a word has you stumped!

**ACROSS**

5. Where monks copied books
6. And Joseph stored up ____ in great abundance. –Genesis 41:49
8. David’s close friend
11. The star that gives us light during the day
12. And all of the ___ of the field shall know that I am the Lord. –Ezekiel 17:24
14. People who study stars and space
16. In the beginning was the ____. –John 1:1
18. A small dog bred for companionship
20. A ___ dinosaur was about the size of a ____.
21. You are the ____ of the Earth. –Matthew 5:13
22. Opposite of warm
23. The Berber word for granaries

**DOWN**

1. A dog character from the comic strip Beetle Bailey
2. A woman who sold purple cloth; met the Apostle Paul
3. Landlocked country in South America
4. Scientists that study fossils
5. Country where the Mackenzies found a giant dino
6. Uru people lived on islands made of this plant
7. This state collected 1.75 million pounds of oyster shells
8. A young tree
9. What Mr. Bomer used to write stories in the first issues of It’s God’s World.
10. Tabby concrete is made using this shell
11. A king of ancient Egypt

**COLORS:**
- What a house is divided into
- Opposite of dark; light-colored
- A weather event, usually with rain and thunder
- A male ruler; royalty
- A hole in the ground