The SpaceX Dragon capsule, with NASA astronauts Doug Hurley and Robert Behnken aboard, docks with the International Space Station on May 31, 2020. (AP Photo)

MAKING SPACE

The United States sends astronauts into space for the first time in nine years.
Puerto Marqués beach is CLOSED. But guess who didn’t read the sign? These itty-bitty bioluminescent plankton didn’t. Waves lap up on the shore. It glows blue. Why?

*Bioluminescence* is light coming from something alive. These microscopic sea drifters create a biochemical reaction. This produces energy you can see as light.

These teeny fellas may not show up again for 60 years. Wouldn’t it feel amazing to dive into their neon water? Maybe. But that’s not allowed. To slow the spread of coronavirus, Mexico has banned visitors from swimming at the beach. Can people really resist the spectacular glow? Nope. One person broke the law and jumped in.

Many types of bioluminescent animals live in the ocean. They make their own light in the deep darkness. But you may spy a living light-maker in your yard this summer: the firefly.
Dog News and Dog Clues

The American Kennel Club results are in and the Labrador retriever is still top dog in the United States. But guess what? The Pembroke Welsh corgi made the top 10 for the first time. These dogs are not exactly purebreds. Can you figure out which dog is which? Read the clues. Write the names of the dogs in the blanks.

Names in Puzzle A:

- Beggar
- Dougie
- Spike
- Lilly

1) Lilly rhymes with chilly. She always wears a sweater. 2) Spike’s name does not describe his ears. Spike’s ears are floppy, not pointed. 3) Beggar doesn’t have pointy ears either. 4) Dougie is standing next to Spike.

>>> HINT! HINT! HINT! >>>

Make a grid for each set of clues. Mark X where each dog can’t be. Mark O where each dog must be.

Names in Puzzle B:

- Lady
- Pogo
- Chum
- Duke

1) Chum does not wear a sweater. 2) Pogo does not have spots. 3) Chum is not howling. 4) Chum does not have spots. 5) Pogo is standing next to Chum. 6) Lady does not have spots. 7) Duke is not on an end.

Names in Puzzle C:

- Max
- Duchess
- Barney
- Kirby

1) Max does not have a short tail. 2) Max does not have spots. 3) Barney is on one end. 4) Kirby has spots. 5) Duchess does not have spots.
Want to feel weightless and see the curve of Earth from space? You might get to soon . . . if you have $250,000 and you’re willing to wait in a long line.

The spaceship VSS Unity has landed in the New Mexico desert after its first glide flight. A carrier plane ferried the smaller spaceship nearly 50 miles into the sky. It reached speeds of more than 500 miles per hour! Pilots tested how the craft handled in the air. In the future, Unity will rev up its engines and rocket into space. But this time the spacecraft just detached and glided back down.

The space glider can hold six passengers at a time. More than 8,000 people from around the world wait to climb aboard. Each has put down a $1,000 deposit to save a spot in line. Will they all get to ride? Maybe . . . but it might take a few years to fit everyone in.
Pentathlon Couple

They're soldiers. They're athletes. They're married. Can they find ways to train for the Olympics during the coronavirus pandemic? At the Tokyo games, Amro Elgeziry and Isabella Isaksen will compete in the pentathlon. That's a mega-sport with five sports packed inside it: fencing, freestyle swimming, equestrian show jumping, pistol shooting, and cross-country running. They couldn't practice two of those this spring. Horse jumping was out because their stable was closed. Pools were shut too. But they do the best they can. They hit the trails for morning runs. They work on fencing footwork in their backyard in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In a nearby park, they fire laser pistols at a target. And yes, people stare at them.

The two met through pentathlon competitions. But their first date wasn't to go shooting, horse jumping, or racing. They went for ice cream.

Snail-Mail Election

Tuesday, November 3, is Election Day. But election day could become election week for America this time around. It could take that long to find out who the winners are. That's because, in many places, votes will be cast by mail. People who are worried about catching the coronavirus won't want to go to polling places. But they do want to use their right to vote. Computers and the internet have made it possible to count and announce election results lickety-split. We often know who won an election within a few hours of the polls closing. But voters will have to be patient this year. Mailed-in votes must be opened and counted by hand. And you know how slow the mail can be to arrive. People jokingly call it “snail mail.” This year we may have a “snail-mail election.”
No need to bring your card to this library in St. Vith, Belgium. To use its contents, you don’t have to read. But you do have to bake . . . and know how to keep a pet alive.

Sourdough is fermented dough made with wild yeast and bacteria. It’s how leavened (rising) bread got started. The first bakers couldn’t just pick up a yeast packet at the store. They had to capture wild yeast from the air with sourdough starters. Mixtures of water and flour wake up yeast—a teeny, God-created living thing—and make it useful to people. Many bakers still “make” their own yeast this way. Countless kinds of bacteria also live in different places in the world, so every sourdough starter is unique to its area. Each has its own smell and imparts its own tangy flavor to bread.

Baker-turned-librarian Karl De Smedt traveled the world. He watched bakers in China steam sourdough buns. In Mexico, he followed bakers crafting birote bread using sourdough made with eggs and lime. In Japan, he learned how bakers add sourdough to Sakura Anpan—cherry blossom buns filled with sweet bean paste. From each baker, he borrowed a bit of starter.

Now Mr. De Smedt has at least 125 starters in his collection. His finds wait in jars in cabinets at the bakery supply company Puratos. Each cabinet stays at 39 degrees—just right for keeping the sleeping yeast alive. Mr. De Smedt adds fresh flour to each starter every two months. He uses the same flours that the bakers first made the starters with. Now if bakers ever lose their original starters, they have backups in the Puratos library.
Sourdough starters can live for generations. Are some in the Puratos library 500 years old? There's no way to prove it ... but maybe. Say your great-grandmother passed a bit of her sourdough starter on to her kids. Her kids fed it and passed a portion on to their kids. Eventually, a bit of it became yours. And guess what? Some of your great-grandma’s “bugs”—the bacteria that lived on her hands—might still hide inside it.

Cells make up the human body. But parts of you aren’t ... you. You have just as many bacteria in your body as you have cells. Some bacteria types look like rods. Some look like spirals or spheres. Because of bacteria’s work, your body can absorb nutrients. Yeast and bacteria move through dough and make it rise. And while that happens, people’s bacteria and bacteria from the air move through too.

You might say we’re a bacteria zoo! And so was your great-grandma. Wouldn’t it be fun to pass down a you-nique sourdough starter to your own kids?

Let’s get started ...

START! Make your starter. Get help to sterilize a large glass bowl or jar by pouring boiling water over it. You’re becoming a bacteria farmer—but you don’t want to grow the baddies! If you let them in at the beginning, those bacteria will make your dough stink and grow mold. Follow these steps. In about a week, you’ll have enough starter to share.

**DAY 1:** All flour holds wild yeast. You just have to get it going. Mix ¾ cup plus two tablespoons of flour with ½ cup of water. Do this in that large, sterilized glass (not metal) container. Right now your starter looks like a glob of paste. Let it sit somewhere with a temperature between 70 and 75 degrees—maybe the top of the fridge. Wait 24 hours.

**DAY 2:** Check. See bubbles? If yes, that’s good. Wild yeast is at work eating the sugars in the flour. (No, you didn’t add any sugar. But all flour breaks down into sugar molecules.) The yeast lets out carbon dioxide and alcohol. The starter becomes more acidic, warning away harmful bacteria. No bubbles? No worries. Your starter just needs more time.

Feed your starter. Again, use ¾ cup plus 2 tablespoons of flour and ½ cup of water. And while you’re feeding your pet, go ahead and give it a name. I call mine Charlotte Brontë.

**DAY 3:** Feed your starter again. It’s getting bigger. Stir with a spoon. Bubbles should pop, pop, pop!

**DAY 4:** Feed again. Does your starter smell vinegary? Good! That’s why they call it sourdough.

**DAY 5:** It’s go time! Well, probably. If your starter looks loose and bubble-covered and has doubled in size, you’re ready to use it in a recipe for sourdough waffles, buns, or bread. If not, keep feeding it for a few more days.

**FOR THE NEXT 500 YEARS ...** After using, get rid of half your starter. Feed the remainder again, cover tightly, and stick it in the fridge. Now you have to feed it less often than you feed your dog—just once a week.

*He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.” — Matthew 13:33*
Test pilots Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken wait quietly as the clock ticks down at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Their rocket and capsule point into the Florida sky. Three . . . Two . . . One . . . and America has launched!

The white rocket Falcon 9 soars up at 1,500 miles per hour. The Dragon capsule separates from the Falcon 9 rocket. Dragon reaches orbit and flies toward the International Space Station (ISS).

How’s the ride? Mr. Behnken says it’s surprisingly rough compared to a space shuttle.

People around the world watch the historic launch. It marks the first time a privately owned rocket ship with people inside makes it to outer space. It’s also the first time in nine years that American astronauts have departed from American soil in an American rocket.

These pilots are both old pros at flying to space. They’re both dads and fathers of young sons. And they’re even old buddies from astronaut school. When the pair make it into orbit, they give each other a space-gloved fist bump. And a shiny stuffed dinosaur named Tremor floats up beside them. This is a reason to celebrate. It means they’ve reached zero gravity!

The astronauts have 19 hours to go in their flight. They sleep eight of those hours so they’ll be in good shape to dock at the ISS. (Can you imagine falling asleep in that exciting situation?!) 

Mr. Hurley, a retired Marine colonel, is in charge of launch and landing. Air Force colonel Mr. Behnken is a mechanical engineer. He has already taken six spacewalks. He oversees docking at the ISS about 220 miles above Earth.

Before launch, Mr. Behnken said he was thankful to be flying with Mr. Hurley. “He’s going to be prepared for whatever comes our way.”

Mr. Hurley, meanwhile, had this to say about Mr. Behnken: “He’s already got it all figured out, everything that we could possibly, potentially deal with.”

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.
— Romans 12:10

A rocket launch can go wrong in a million ways. All the people building and crunching numbers in a mission like this one have a gigantic responsibility. Their job? Get astronauts safely to and from space. And SpaceX workers have another task too: Make space travel look incredibly cool.

Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken pull up to the launch in a sleek, futuristic Tesla car. They wear totally hip spacesuits. And what they’re climbing into is just as fancy. Look inside SpaceX’s Dragon crew capsule. The Dragon—which the two astronauts helped design—has clean, beautiful lines. Before, space shuttles had a mess of switches and knobs. This one shows off shiny touchscreens. The Dragon capsule makes other shuttles look like old news.

“We want it not only be as safe and reliable as you’d expect from the most advanced spacecraft in the world . . . we also want it to look amazing,” says Benji Reed, a SpaceX mission director.

What’s this beauty’s name? The astronauts revealed it on launch day: Endeavour. The named spacecraft reminds people of NASA’s early days. Project Mercury’s John Glenn became the first American to circle the Earth aboard Friendship 7. Gus Grissom and John Young sailed into orbit aboard Molly Brown. Apollo 11’s Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins flew to the Moon aboard Columbia.

Another bit of the past: Three decades later, NASA’s “worm” logo is making a comeback. The wavy red letters spell NASA. The A’s look like rocket nose cones. The worm adorns SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket that propelled Endeavour into space. The astronauts sport it on their suits too. The new gear also features NASA’s original blue meatball-shaped logo.

Elon Musk owns SpaceX. He has his eyes on a big prize: building a human city on Mars. In order to do that, his team has many obstacles to overcome. They begin by finding ways to travel to space affordably. One idea: Make rockets reusable. Normally, rocket parts float around space forever after they’re used. That’s like taking a plane ride . . . then throwing away the plane!

After launch, people haul the Falcon 9 rocket booster in from the sea. SpaceX workers hope to fix it up and use it again.

Science Soup reading quiz

1. What makes bread rise?
   a) eggs
   b) lime
   c) yeast
   d) bean paste

2. Cells and ___ make up the human body.
   a) flour
   b) bacteria
   c) yeast
   d) mold

3. SpaceX’s Dragon crew capsule launched from ___.
   a) Russia
   b) China
   c) the United States
   d) India

4. SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket ___.
   a) carried astronauts to the Moon
   b) is partly reusable
   c) was destroyed in the launch
   d) carried astronauts to Mars

5. What is one way SpaceX is trying to make space travel affordable?

Answers:
1. c, 2. b, 3. c, 4. b

Bob and Doug train in SpaceX’s Dragon crew capsule simulator.

Bob and Doug get ready to drive in the NASA Tesla.

Not Your Grandpa’s Space Capsule
The library is closed. The internet cuts in and out. How do kids in Alaska stay connected and entertained during the coronavirus pandemic? They listen to the radio!

Public library workers in the small town of Homer, Alaska, team up with local radio station KBBI. They bring story hour to preschoolers at home. Librarian Claudia Haines reads children’s books on the air on Thursday mornings. She chooses books older kids and adults will like too. The show has dance breaks to help kids burn off extra energy. Kids can call in and talk to Ms. Haines on the air. She wants them to know: We’re apart while the library is closed. But we’re still here together in our community.

Do you remember reading about when God created the first man, Adam? He said, “It is not good that the man should be alone.” (Genesis 2:18) Next, He created Eve to help Adam. God made people for togetherness. We need it—even in pandemic time. So we get creative! In the large, frigid state of Alaska, people tend to live far apart. Roads are limited. Radio stations help. They have made Alaskans feel connected for decades.

Almost all library buildings in the United States are closed right now. But library workers adapt. They expand online services like streaming media and e-books. And some libraries find other ways to help out. A library in California uses its 3-D printers to make face shields for hospitals. A Missouri library partners with a diaper bank.

Claudia Haines is ready to read on air at KBBI.

Parents in need use the library’s makeshift emergency diaper drive-through.

Cassy Quinlan is an Alaska mom who listens to KBBI with her kids. She says the pandemic is bringing people back to simplicity: “You know, the basics—radio, reading, doing a puzzle.”

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. — Proverbs 27:17
Rewind to Radio

Rewind to the 1930s. A family gathers around the radio. Radios could be found in 12 million American households at the beginning of that decade. By 1939, more than 28 million homes had radios.

Why the radio boom? Technology was getting better. Radios were getting cheaper. They became the spot in the living room where people came together. Families tuned in to comedians like Jack Benny. They listened to dramas with characters they loved and heroes they could admire. Shows ended on cliffhangers, so families would rush back to the radio each week to find out what happened next.

Radios also meant people could hear the news faster from reporters on the scene. During the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt delivered comforting speeches over the radio in the evenings. Those talks were called “fireside chats.” It seemed like all in America listened along. They felt connected to their leader—and to each other.

When your grandpa—or maybe your great grandpa—was a kid, he and his family may have sat around the radio to hear a show. Or maybe they read together. No fancy screens to entertain them! And maybe your grandpa talks about those good old days so much you’re tired of it! But guess what? Your grandparents are right. Before iPads, smartphones, and TVs, people probably did use their imaginations a lot more.

God gave you a mind that can picture and invent all sorts of things. While you listen to a story, your mind can create scenes much more amazing than the most advanced video effects. And what’s more—when you play a video game or watch a movie, everyone sees the same thing. But if you’re sitting with other kids hearing a story, your minds each create a different scene.

Try it. Listen to a story with a friend. Afterward, write or draw the scenes in your mind. What did your imagination “see”? Does it match what your friend imagined?
“Food will win the war!”
During World War I, posters encouraged Americans to grow “victory gardens.” A hundred years have passed since then. But the victory garden is back. Instead of painted posters, we see gardening posts on Instagram. Home gardeners whip out their gloves and start to plant again. This time they say, “Growing food will give us victory in the pandemic!”

The coronavirus disrupted food supply chains. When that happens, food becomes more expensive in some places. This makes people want to grow their own. At Burpee Seeds, business doubled during the pandemic. Across the United States, stores are selling out of flowers, vegetable plants, seeds, garden soil, and compost.

Gardeners new and old post pictures of freshly tilled backyards, raised garden beds, seeds under grow lights, or flocks of chickens. Facebook groups like Victory Garden 2020 or Victory Garden Over COVID-19 are filling up.

Who are these gardeners? Some are parents at home with bored kids. Some are growers in cities working hard to feed needy families.

Some new victory gardeners are planting because they lost their jobs. Emanuel Sferios lives in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He was a contract worker before the virus. Now his work has dried up. He borrowed a tiller from a neighbor and dug a 30-by-30-foot garden in his backyard. He filled it with compost and planted lettuce, beets, kale, and broccoli. He plans to grow squash, melons, tomatoes, and peppers too.

“It’s not like we needed this in order to get groceries,” says Mr. Sferios. “It’s more like, wow, what do I do now? I don’t have work, and I have all this time on my hands.”

Faith helps a lot in times like these. Farmers and gardeners can’t control the weather, just like people can’t control a virus. But they can sow seeds in faith that God will provide.
During World Wars I and II, Americans sent food away to feed European allies and American troops. This created a need for food at home. So instead of just consuming (using stuff), Americans started producing (making stuff). They got busy planting gardens.

Government workers passed out pamphlets. These showed how to plant, repel bad bugs, and fight plant disease. Gardeners saw their efforts as part of the fight for victory in the war. They tended “victory gardens” on private and public lands. They planted wherever they could—in backyards, on rooftops, in flower boxes, and in empty lots.

Everyone was in on the project, including kids. (Grownups encouraged them to be “soldiers of the soil.”) Many new immigrants in America planted too, so gardening posters were printed in dozens of languages. Gardeners made notes about what went wrong and right in their plots so they could make them more fruitful each season. By 1944, victory gardens supplied nearly half the nation’s produce!

During World War I, people were also dealing with an influenza pandemic. Isn’t it comforting to know people in the past have come through hard times victoriously?

Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you. — Deuteronomy 32:7

**GARDENERS TO THE RESCUE**

Once, parents and grandparents passed gardening skills on to kids. Families grew lots of veggie types at home. People canned the extra for winter. But time passed. Many moved away from the countryside, and people changed the ways they grew food.

Now most people buy veggies from grocery stores. Stores get goods from huge farms. Each one grows only a few types of food in enormous amounts. Food in your house may have been trucked to you from hundreds of miles away.

Right now, people want to feel close to their land and food again. But our “victory gardens” today aren’t quite the same as the old ones. Ours give us exercise, fresh air, joy, and something constructive to do. Sometimes they also give us a little extra to share. But back then, they did all that . . . and helped fight real hunger and war.
Strong and healthy young men and women fight wildfires. Thousands of firefighters must work together for weeks at a time. They don’t mind crowding onto fire trucks and touching the same things. COVID-19 has changed all that. It’s hard to fight wildfires and stay six feet apart.

Fire agencies made new plans. Some will hold training classes online. Each fire engine might carry only a driver and one passenger. Other crew members will follow in more vehicles. Campsite chow tents could be a thing of the past. Firefighters will receive “Meals, Ready-to-Eat” (MREs). All workers will avoid touching the same serving utensils.

Illness, nicknamed “camp crud,” often spreads because wildland fire camps are a tough place for tough people. Firefighters are under stress. They breathe in smoke and dust. They don’t sleep well. They can’t take regular showers. They might not share that they don’t feel well. But now, “It’s not
okay to just tough it out if something’s wrong,” says one fire agency official.

An influenza pandemic killed millions of people all over the world back in 1918. That year, sparks from a passing train near Cloquet, Minnesota, set fields on fire. Many people were killed or hurt. About 52,000 others lost their homes. They were crowded together in evacuee housing. Disease spread easily from person to person. Many more people died from flu.

The U.S. Forest Service has worked hard to follow orders from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fire crews may have to wear masks as they travel from one place to another. Larger campsites near wildfires could help. Wildland firefighters are first responders, like hospital workers and police, says a community health expert. They should be protected.

A BIG AGENCY FOR A BIG JOB

How do wildland firefighters get the supplies they need? Where are those supplies kept? How do smoke jumpers know where they are needed? How do firefighters communicate with one another during a fire? The NIFC is ready to help.

NIFC stands for National Interagency Fire Center. Its main office is in Boise, Idaho. NIFC does not fight fires. But firefighters need it. The job of the Fire Center is to help equip wildland firefighters anywhere in the United States.

There are 16 NIFC caches, or storage places, around the country. One is the Great Basin Cache. It holds about $32 million in supplies. It has medical kits, chainsaws, hoses, vans, and much more. It sends needed items to firefighters in Utah, Nevada, southern Idaho, and western Wyoming. Those supplies are then returned, repaired, and made ready for the next time they are needed.

The agency in charge of sending out all that equipment is the NIFC. It also dispatches planes, tankers, helicopters, and crews—including smoke jumpers. These men and women parachute out of planes to land as close to a fire as they can get. And they do it while wearing 85 pounds of equipment! Jumpers are firefighters. But they must undergo five weeks of tough training for this job. It is so hard that one third to one half of them do not complete training. The United States has 450 smoke jumpers.

Wildland firefighters also need to talk to one another while they fight fires. The Radio Cache has 11,000 handheld radios. These can support 32,000 firefighters at one time. The radios use about 172,000 AA batteries during the busy fire season! Cache workers clean and repair the returned radios once the season is over.

There have been more than 67,000 wildfires per year in the United States in the past 10 years. NIFC and its partners stand ready to help communities across the country fight those fires this year too.

Be ready and keep ready. — Ezekiel 38:7

A plane drops fire retardant over a wildfire in Twisp, Washington.
“Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!”

That’s the familiar cry of the Supreme Court’s marshal. It means, “Be quiet and pay attention!”

The Supreme Court of the United States is in session. But lawyers and judges don’t meet in the Washington, D.C., courtroom. They attend court in their own houses . . . on the phone.

Like many others in the world, workers at the Supreme Court stay home to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Six of the nine justices are older than 65. That means the virus poses extra risk for them. But they still have to decide important cases in time for the court’s summer break. They hear 10 cases over six days in May. The Supreme Court has heard cases for 230 years. But it has never heard them over the phone before. The public can listen along too. That’s important for court watchers—volunteers and journalists who normally come into the courtroom to take notes.

Supreme Court justices make decisions that affect the nation for decades or centuries. Lawyers present arguments. As they question, they look for clues in the body language and facial expressions of justices. But lawyers and court watchers won’t be able to see judges’ nods, frowns, or hand gestures over the phone.

Have you ever heard someone say “Justice is blind”? That means good judges don’t make decisions based on how things look. They don’t judge friends differently than strangers. They treat the poor the same way they treat the rich. But over-the-phone “blind justice” presents new challenges. Arguments in the soaring, columned courtroom can crackle with drama. Lawyers know what to say next by the way a judge reacts. Can that be replicated over the telephone?

At home or alone in their offices, lawyers spread towels on their desks to muffle sound from rustling papers. They listen closely to tell between the voices of newest justices Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch. Lawyers on the West Coast start work early in the morning because of the three-hour time difference. Who knows . . . maybe they’re still wearing their pajamas!

You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.

— Leviticus 19:15
Did the Supreme Court justices wear black robes while they held court over the phone? That might have helped them to remember how serious their work is.

The United States Supreme Court is the highest court in the nation. It is the only court established by the Constitution. All other U.S. courts are to follow its decisions.

The Supreme Court has one Chief Justice (John Roberts). It has eight Associate Justices. All serve for life, unless they want to retire earlier. The President nominates new justices. The Senate approves the appointments.

Today’s court has changed little from the first Supreme Court that met in 1790. Some call today’s court “the first Court sitting” because so many traditions continue.

The Marshal still announces the Justices at 10:00 a.m. A gavel sounds. Everyone rises and remains standing until the Justices sit.

Chief Justice Roberts sits in the center chair. The senior (longest serving) Associate Justice sits to his right. The second senior is at his left. The others alternate right and left by seniority (length of time each has served).

John Jay was the first Chief Justice. He and the other judges often wore black robes with brightly colored facings. But Justices since 1800 have worn all-black robes while in Court. Lawyers once wore black “morning coats.” Today black suits are out. Lawyers may wear white dress shirts and neutral ties beneath gray or navy suits.

Every Justice shakes hands with the other eight before entering the court each day. This is to remind all that they will have differences of opinion. But these will not disrupt the ultimate purpose of their work. After all, the words “Equal Justice Under Law,” are etched in stone above the main entrance to the Supreme Court Building. Serious decisions are made there.

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? — Micah 6:8

Citizen Ship QUIZ

1. Rules for fighting wildland fires could be changing because ____.
   a) the number of willing workers is down
   b) it’s hard to stay apart when fighting fires
   c) not enough firefighting equipment is available
   d) the food isn’t very good

2. The NIFC is based in ____.
   a) Cheyenne, Wyoming
   b) New York, New York
   c) Salt Lake City, Utah
   d) Boise, Idaho

3. “Blind justice” is ____.
   a) unwise
   b) impartial
   c) uninformed
   d) strict

4. The first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court was ____.
   a) John F. Kennedy
   b) John Roberts
   c) John Silver
   d) John Jay

5. Name two ways that fighting fires is changing because of the coronavirus.

Answers page 5
Abbie Vandivere gingerly holds *Girl with a Pearl Earring* in her hands. She has to wear gloves to touch this priceless old treasure, Johannes Vermeer’s most beloved painting. What secrets will she learn from it?

For two weeks, Ms. Vandivere and her team of researchers work day and night in the Golden Room at Mauritshuis Museum in the Netherlands. They study tiny bits taken from an already damaged part of the painting. These pieces have been covered in resin and then sanded down. Each is about the size of a period. The tiny bits are called cross sections. They look like lasagna or slices of layer cake . . . for a flea! Under a microscope, layers show: canvas, paint, and varnish.

More than 15,000 visitors watch from behind plexiglass as the researchers analyze the painting. Cameras with super-high resolution show the work’s crack patterns. X-rays reveal lead white paint in the girl’s eyes, face, shirt, and pearl. Infrared scans focus on black beneath the surface. Three-dimensional digital microscopes magnify 700 times. That’s close enough to see individual pigment particles.

How many layers did Vermeer paint and in what order? The scans can show that. Macro X-ray fluorescence scans map lead, iron, and mercury elements in paint. They show which parts Mr. Vermeer changed as he worked. He moved the girl’s ear. He repainted the top of her headscarf and the back of her neck.

The researchers took two whole years to study what they found in the Golden Room. Now they report: Though Vermeer painted in Holland, his painting’s red colors came from insects that lived on Mexican and South American cactuses. The white in the girl’s eyes and earring came from lead mined in England. The dark blue came from Asian or North American indigo. Today, the girl gazes out of what looks like a dark gray background. But when Vermeer was painting, a dark green curtain hung behind her. People have said for years that the girl in the painting has no eyelashes. But you can see them clearly in the iron map. They’re invisible to the naked eye . . . but Mr. Vermeer knew they were there.

Who is the girl? Researchers shrug. Not all mysteries can be solved—and that’s part of what makes the pearl girl so alluring.
Johannes Vermeer was born in Delft, the Netherlands, in 1632. Scholars aren’t certain, but it’s possible he never left there. His father owned a tavern and sold art. Some guess that Johannes’s mother could not read, because she signed her marriage certificate with an “X.”

We know very little about what happened to Johannes before he turned 20. He’s as mysterious as his *Girl with a Pearl Earring*! Mr. Vermeer became famous only after his death, so no one who lived during his time ever wrote a book about him. Who trained Mr. Vermeer? How exactly did he paint? People can only guess.

We do know this. In Mr. Vermeer’s time, painters usually worked in three big steps. First, they made a drawing on blank canvas. Second, they did the “dead coloring” or under-painting. To underpaint, they made a first layer with just one color. This showed which parts of the painting would be dark and which would be light. (This mattered for every painter, but it mattered especially for Mr. Vermeer. His paintings are loved for their *luminosity*. Things and people in them almost seem to glow.) Third, artists did the “working up.” They applied the perfect colors and fixed each object into its final shape.

When she was studying *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, Abbie Vandivere was puzzled by the girl’s bright blue scarf. Mr. Vermeer used lots of ultramarine paint on it. This paint is made from ground up lapis lazuli mixed with oil. Lapis lazuli is a precious stone found only high in the mountains of Afghanistan. (Check out Ezekiel 1:26 in the New International Version of the Bible. You’ll see this precious stone named as the material of God’s throne in Ezekiel’s vision.) During Mr. Vermeer’s time, this pigment was more valuable than gold! But Mr. Vermeer died deeply in debt. How did he afford his paint?

Another mystery about Mr. Vermeer: Why did he paint so few works in his lifetime? Maybe it was because he took so much time on each one. And maybe it was because he had 11 kids!
Last winter was extra rainy for Israel. The skies opened and filled up the Sea of Galilee. It hasn’t been this full in over 20 years. That’s a big deal for a big lake that has been running out of water!

In Northeastern Israel, the Sea of Galilee lies between Galilee and the Gowan Heights. Locals call it Lake Kinneret. The lake provides 25% of the country’s water. Unfortunately, more demand for water and many dry winters caused the lake to shrink over the decades. Local newspapers post regular water level updates.

The lake’s water comes from the Jordan River and underground springs. Winter rains replenished those springs.

The Gospels brim with stories from the Sea of Galilee. Jesus called four disciples there. He calmed choppy waves, fed thousands of people, walked on its waters, and taught the Sermon on the Mount by the lake. Jesus compared water and thirst to spiritual needs. His words and His love bring life to thirsty hearts.

“It’s full of water and we are very excited,” Idan Greenbaum says of the Sea. He’s head of the Jordan Valley Regional Council.

In April of 2017, the Sea of Galilee’s water level dropped to 698 feet below sea level. That was an all-time record low. Three years later, it is at 685 feet below sea level. The 13-foot difference may not seem like much. But it has transformed the landscape. Islands are under water. Dry docks are floating again.

The Sea of Galilee is the lowest freshwater lake in the world. That doesn’t mean its water level is the lowest—especially not this year. The lake is low in terms of its position on Earth. The lake sits below sea level. Only one other lake in the world sits lower. That’s the Dead Sea—a salt-water lake.

It is a blessing that Lake Kinneret is full again. Might this be how it looked when Jesus walked there?
A disputed border didn’t stop Michael Mirilashvili from being a good neighbor. He used his knowledge to bring much-needed water to a hospital in Gaza City.

Mr. Mirilashvili owns a company called Watergen. It produces large machines that look like blue cubes. They make cold, clean water. Watergen gave a machine to a children’s hospital. It sits on the roof of the Al-Rantisi Medical Center in Gaza City. The machine makes clean water for the hospital’s pediatric cancer ward.

Watergen is based in Israel. Gaza City is in the Gaza Strip. That area lies between Israel and the Mediterranean Sea. Many Palestinian Arabs live there. For years and years, Palestinians and Israelis have fought. War creates poverty. Most people in Gaza are poor.

The Gaza Strip has a water crisis. There just isn’t enough clean water. The clean water that is available is expensive. But Mr. Mirilashvili knows it’s important. The billionaire is a good neighbor. He is sending water generators to Gaza “because they are our neighbors, and it’s a great pity to look at them suffering from such severe water shortages.”

The Watergen machine takes moisture vapor from the air. It collects the vapor. The vapor condenses and turns into clean drinking water. The hospital will use the clean water.

Jerusalem-based Palestinian businessman Fayez Husseini thinks the Watergen machine is perfect. “It doesn’t need pipes. It doesn’t need concrete,” he says.

The hospital in Gaza now gets 200 gallons of clean water each day from its machine!

The Bible is full of stories about water. Jesus gathered crowds around the Sea of Galilee. He offered something even more valuable than the water that Watergen provides. Jesus says in John 4:13-14, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

**TAKE APART SMART QUIZ**

1. alluring
   a) tricky
   b) repulsive
   c) attractive

2. luminosity
   a) heat
   b) radiance
   c) drabness

3. replenished
   a) refilled
   b) depleted
   c) polluted

4. disputed
   a) abandoned
   b) fought over
   c) agreed upon

Answers p5
These two-inch killer bugs have earned themselves a terrifying nickname: murder hornets. The giant insects come from the forests and mountains of Japan. Now some have landed on the U.S. West Coast. How did they get there? No one knows for sure. Only a few have been spotted. But entomologists are working to get rid of them while they still have a chance.

Murder hornets pack a powerful sting. And each can sting more than once. It is possible (but really rare) that a person stung repeatedly by a murder hornet can die from the stings, even if the person isn’t allergic to bees. Murder hornets can sting through most beekeeper suits.

The insects could mean big trouble for another reason too. They eat honeybees. People in the American Northwest rely on honeybees to pollinate food crops like apples, blueberries, and cherries.

The hornet was first sighted in the United States last December. People found it in Washington state. In spring, the hornets wake up from winter hibernation. Queens feed on plant sap and fruit. Next comes house hunting. When the queen finds the right spot, she’ll build an underground den for her nest. The hornets do the most damage in late summer and fall. They attack honeybee hives, killing adult bees and gobbling up baby bees and eggs. See a pile of headless bees outside a hive? That means, Murder hornets were here!

Workers from the state Department of Agriculture will begin looking for queens to trap this spring. But hunting hornets is no job for ordinary people. If you see one, GET AWAY! How will you know it’s a murder hornet? Susan Cobey is a bee breeder at Washington State University. She says, “They’re like something out of a monster cartoon with this huge yellow-orange face.”

See a hornet and want to scrimp? That’s wise! One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless. —Proverbs 14:16
Many bugs have stripes, wings, and stings. Bees and wasps are related, but they’re not the same. Can you tell these common stingers apart? I’m a western honeybee. I’m golden brown. Check out my legs. The yellow powder shows I’ve been busy doing what I do best: pollinating flowers. Don’t be afraid of me. I’ll sting only if you get too close to my colony.

The carpenter bee is my cousin. People don’t like her much even though she hardly ever stings. She drills holes in houses and lays eggs in the wood. Other bees don’t care for her either. She’s a nectar thief who chews into small flowers before other bee species can get a sip.

My family is huge. Many, many more bee species live in the world . . . around 16,000! Most have black and yellowish coloring. But some sweat bees are green or blue!

I’m a yellow jacket wasp. My legs hang down when I fly. I have just a little bit of hair, and you won’t find me in a garden unless I’ve built a nest nearby. Most wasps won’t pollinate much for you. But most of us will sting you! And our stingers don’t stay behind in our victims, so we can sting again and again. Got a stinging buzzer circling the hotdogs at your picnic? It’s probably a yellow jacket like me. We love meat.

More than 100,000 species of wasps are flying around all over the world. Paper wasps build paper-like, umbrella-shaped nests out of plants and their own spit. Their narrow brown bodies have yellow marks and black wings. Hornets are wasps too, but they have thicker waists. See a bee with white stripes instead of yellow? You’ve probably got a hornet on your hands. Not literally on your hands, we hope. Hornets are dangerous, and it’s best to stay away from them. If you kill just one, pheromones (chemicals that attract others in the same species) are released into the air. Soon the whole hive may come after you!
“Send home the pandas. We’re out of bamboo!”

Canada’s Calgary Zoo keeps two giant pandas on loan from China. Well, it used to. Now the zoo is returning the beloved bears. Why? COVID-19 infections have caused fewer flights to come to Canada. Not enough planes means a shortage of fresh bamboo deliveries. And that leads to hungry pandas.

Bamboo is rare in Canada. The zoo shipped in bamboo from the United States when it could get none from China. Pandas Er Shun and Da Mao turned up their noses. Not tasty enough for them!

“They are picky,” says zoo president Dr. Clément Lanthier. “There’s a reason why they are endangered. They need their bamboo. That’s all they do. They eat bamboo and they sleep.”

Indeed, each adult panda eats about 50 pounds of bamboo daily. And the food has to arrive fast. Bamboo lasts only four or five days at the most, and some shipments came too late to be useful.

Er Shun and Da Mao have lived in Canada for a long time. They were supposed to stay there until 2023. But when the bears couldn’t get enough bamboo, Dr. Lanthier decided it was best for the animals to return to China. Their main food source is abundant there.

Sending them back to China? Mr. Lanthier says the news came as a bit of a shock to the Chinese government. In other countries where pandas are exhibited—such as France, Spain, and parts of Asia—bamboo can be grown locally.

But that’s impossible in chilly Canada.

Pandas make popular zoo attractions. Waving goodbye to these will cost the zoo money. But the decision wasn’t about business. It was about keeping the pandas healthy and happy.
Munching on bamboo, tumbling over logs, and staring out from adorable black-and-white faces—pandas surely are cute. But did you know that giant pandas—every last one of them—belong to China? Other countries have pandas in their zoos. But they don’t stay forever. China never gives the bears away for good. And the Chinese government takes big bucks for letting other countries “borrow” its bears.

The Chinese word for panda means “big bear cat.” The largest can grow to be up to six feet long and 350 pounds. Like most bears, pandas can eat both plants and meat. But they really want bamboo most. Giant pandas are native only to China. They live in a few mountain ranges in the central part of the country. Their black-and-white fur helps them hide among rocks and snow.

In the 1950s, Chinese officials realized they could use pandas to strengthen relationships with other countries. Zoos around the world wanted the rare bears. There was only one way to get them. Leaders from other countries learned: Make a bargain with China, and your country just might get a panda.

China started out giving its pandas away. The United States received its first pandas in 1972. Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing were gifts to President Richard Nixon for his work on bettering relations between America and China.

But in 1984, China changed the panda plan. It decided to lend the animals—for a price. Zoos could “rent” the creatures. Then they had to be returned. Any babies born while the pandas visited also had to go back to China.

Zoos around the world still borrow pandas today. How much do they pay? Experts guess $1 million per year for each. Seek peace and pursue it. — Psalm 34:14
Here comes the rain . . . and there goes the neighborhood.

Ethiopia has almost finished its Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Nile River. Its people are proud. The GERD is the biggest hydroelectric dam in Africa.

Hydroelectric dams capture energy from moving water to generate electricity. Finally, more Ethiopians will be able to switch on lights. More than half of them are living with no electricity. The dam will provide electrical power for manufacturing goods. Ethiopia will even be able to sell extra electricity to nations nearby. This will help the poor country prosper.

But there’s a problem. Ethiopia doesn’t own the Nile River. Several countries share it. Ethiopia started building the dam in 2011. Leaders did not ask permission from Egypt, a country downstream.

The Nile can create energy. But it also provides . . . of course . . . water! Egypt will get pretty thirsty if too much Nile water is held behind a dam. Most of Egypt is bone dry. Ninety percent of the water it uses comes from the Nile. What if a drought happens? Ethiopia will control how much water is released to Egypt. Egyptians don’t feel so good about that.

Leaders are responsible for making sure their people get what they need to prosper. And when it comes to prosperity, water matters a lot. Egyptians object. “This water isn’t just yours, Ethiopia. It’s ours too.” Meanwhile, Ethiopians say, “But we need power!”

The rainy season starts in June. Ethiopia plans to take advantage of daily downpours. It will close the dam’s gates. Rain will fill the reservoir behind the GERD. Later, water will be released over the dam. It will roar through turbines to generate electricity. Then it will flow downstream.

If Ethiopia closes its dam all the way, it can fill the reservoir quickly. It will be able to make a lot of electricity quickly. And Egypt will get thirsty quickly too. Its farmland may dry out—not to mention its faucets. Ethiopia wants to fill its reservoir in six years. Egypt says, “That’s taking too much water too fast!” It wants the dam filled much more slowly, over 10 to 21 years.

The countries around the Nile already struggle to get along. What will happen if Ethiopia won’t share water evenly? People living along the Nile watch the sky for rainclouds . . . and watch their leaders to see if war will come.
Pharaohs, pyramids, tombs, oh my!
Those things might come to mind first when you think of the Nile River. But the Nile touches many places. Egypt is only one of them. And the Nile isn’t just about ancient history. It affects millions of people right now.

Take a Nile ride. Start at the bottom in the Nile Delta—a large area where the Nile empties into the Mediterranean Sea. Raise the sail as you head upstream for Cairo, Egypt. Here the Nile becomes wide and tranquil. The river creates a swath of green through the dry, tan Sahara Desert. Now STOP. You’ve reached Aswan Dam. This barrier was built to control the mighty river. Next, bump through the Nile’s Great Bend and rocky spots called the Cataracts. After the bend in central Sudan, choose a path. The river splits. The Blue Nile rages through Ethiopia. In flat South Sudan, the White Nile spreads out into a flood plain. It goes slowly here, becoming the world’s largest freshwater swamp.

What would it be like to take this cruise? You’ll have to imagine it. The Nile is not navigable. Explorers and even armies have tried, but you can’t take a boat all the way up it like you could on, say, the Mississippi River. The Nile’s problems are definitely not imaginary. People living near it rely on the snaking river in ways you may not think of.

For example, in Sudan, hundreds of brick makers need the Nile’s silt. They use small kilns (ovens) along the river to bake bricks from wet river clay. The new dam will mean less clay and fewer bricks. Silt and soil—needed by brick makers and farmers—will build up behind the dam instead of washing downstream. Big trouble!

People in crowded Cairo, Egypt, use speedboats and water taxis on the Nile so they don’t have to travel busy streets. Will Ethiopia’s dam leave enough water for river traffic? Or will more people have to drive cars and trucks in already stuffed cities?

God built rivers to flood. Healthy water is moving water. (Maybe that’s why Jesus talks about “rivers of living water” flowing from believers’ hearts. (John 7:38)) Floodwaters rush rich soil to farmers downstream every year. They also clean out waste that builds up. Will a new dam mean a dirtier Nile surrounded by hungrier, thirstier people?
Order a taco in East Los Angeles, California. It will come in a corn tortilla with carne asada (steak). In Dallas, Texas, chow down on a taco made with pit-grilled pork. Grab a taco with collard greens and albondigas (Mexican meatballs) in Memphis, Tennessee. In each place, you’re tasting a chapter of a story . . . the story of the Amazing Transforming Taco.

“No one owns the taco,” says José R. Ralat. He just wrote a book called *American Tacos: A History and Guide*. “It’s a living food, and I wanted to see how it is changing as we change.”

What makes a taco a taco? You know the basic idea. Yummy ingredients get stuffed into a hard tortilla shell or rolled up inside a soft one. But people around the United States are giving this old food a new life. Some tacos show Asian or Jewish ways of cooking. Others keep that classic Mexican taco style.

The taco has been changing for a long time. The United States and Mexico went to war in 1846. After winning the war, the United States took nearly a third of Mexico’s northern territory. Suddenly, some Mexicans became Mexican Americans. The taco north of the line was now on its own. People filled it with whatever was available. Mexicans in Texas had to use yellow cheese. People in New Mexico used red and green chile peppers. And taco flavors continually changed in California, where new people groups moved in and out all the time. Today you can even find Indian-style tacos made with curry and Korean tacos made with bigeye tuna sashimi.

Many say their taco recipe is “the real thing.” Who makes the most authentic Mexican taco? We may never know. But we can watch the taco to see how people are moving. People—and the taco—never stand still!
The huge variety of taco flavors in America remind us: America is a “melting pot” where many cultures come together to form one. But maybe it’s better to call America a tossed salad . . . or even a taco! Different cultures don’t melt into each other and disappear. They mix together and make things taste better . . . literally.

America isn’t the only spot in the world where cultures mix. Mexico was its own melting pot—er, taco—to begin with. Think about the tortilla. Some people snub tortillas made from wheat flour. They say historical Mexican tacos are made with Mexico’s original staple food, corn. But all kinds of people move in and out of Mexico. Some did so even before the United States existed. Example: Jewish people migrated to the Texas-Mexico border region in the 1500s. Jewish people don’t eat pork, and Mexicans made corn tortillas with pig lard. Corn was hard to grow in northern parts of Mexico. The migrants, who were used to eating flat pita bread, invented their own recipe—wheat tortillas with no lard.

Food on the Move

Ever heard of beans? Corn? How about tomatoes, pineapples, vanilla, and chocolate? Of course you have. But Christopher Columbus hadn’t. Before he came to America, no one in Europe had heard of them either. Meanwhile, Native Americans had never seen the sight—much less eaten a bite—of beef, rice, sugar, or wheat.

Check your kitchen for world foods. Throughout history, travelers from Africa spread yams, peanuts, chili peppers, and molasses. From Asia came cumin, ginger, soy sauce, and sesame seeds. Do you have dill, garlic, olives, or rosemary in stock? These likely originated in Europe or the Mediterranean. Cinnamon, pine nuts, mangos, and yogurt got their start in India.

When people move, they bring their food cultures with them and pick up new ones as they go. Is this a good thing? We think so. The more delicious food, the better!

Go, eat your bread with joy. — Ecclesiastes 9:7

Jet Balloon Quiz

1. prosper
   a) thrive
   b) wither
   c) plan

2. tranquil
   a) chaotic
   b) peaceful
   c) deep

3. authentic
   a) fake
   b) accurate
   c) mixed up

4. snub
   a) welcome
   b) accept
   c) ignore
Astronomer v. Doll

Astronomer Lucianne Walkowicz worked for NASA for a long time. She gave many talks about exploring Mars. What does she have to do with American Girl dolls? The company made an aspiring astronaut doll . . . who, says Ms. Walkowicz, looks a little too much like her. She says the American Girl Company stole her likeness.

The doll’s name is Luciana Vega. Luciana sounds a lot like Lucianne, of course. And Vega is a star Ms. Walkowicz studied. The doll has a purple streak in her hair, and she wears holographic shoes—just like Ms. Walkowicz. Does this count as theft? A judge will decide.

Bringing Back Bison

A pair of Bison in Commerce City, Colorado

Bison were once a common sight in North America. More than 30 million roamed there. But by the late 1800s, the animals were nearly extinct. Today there are roughly 11,000 wild bison on public lands in 12 states.

People work on moving wild bison from government land to an American Indian reservation in South Dakota. The animals will roam and reproduce there.

Lakota Indians live on the reservation. The Lakota relied on bison before white settlers killed the animals off. “At one point they took care of us,” says Wizipan Little Elk. “Now it’s our turn to take care of them.”

America’s dogs are having their day. As many people wait out the coronavirus at home, they start to want company. They adopt dogs. They foster dogs. Some shelter kennels have even emptied!

Which dogs do people like best? Labrador retrievers remain the nation’s most popular purebred dogs, according to the American Kennel Club (AKC). This marks the Lab’s 29th year as favorite breed. The rest of the top 10 includes: German shepherds, golden retrievers, French bulldogs, bulldogs, poodles, beagles, Rottweilers, German shorthaired pointers—and, for the first time, Pembroke Welsh corgis.

Welsh corgis herd sheep and cattle. Queen Elizabeth II famously loves these short-legged, long-bodied shepherds. Now more and more pet owners agree with her about the spunky and sociable corgi.

Which dogs make your top 10 list? Or maybe you like mixed breeds. The AKC doesn’t track the type of dog most Americans own—the mutt.
Sky Helper

An artist’s rendering of the wingmen at work

Say hello to Australia’s Loyal Wingman combat drone. Have to fly into battle? You want this guy by your side.

Or make that, these guys. These drones will fly together—as many as 16 at a time. They’ll swarm around an aircraft to protect the pilot inside.

Each Loyal Wingman measures 38 feet long and can travel 2,000 miles. And its nose comes off. The detachable point of the plane can be filled with different types of equipment depending on its mission—weapons, lasers, tracking systems, or devices for communication.

Best of all, the Loyal Wingman is cheaper than other aircraft—and it’s unmanned. That means it doesn’t put a pilot in harm’s way.

May I Serve You?

Take your order? Right away. Have a question? Just ask. Bring a tray of food? Sure. Clear dirty dishes? No problem. Sing a birthday song? Absolutely! This server doesn’t have to worry about staying six feet apart from others. It never takes a sick day and doesn’t complain.

The Hu family owns the Royal Palace restaurant in Renesse, the Netherlands. They said, “We’ll take two!” What a deal! Well, not quite. These robot server units may work hard. But they are also a little pricey.

Tasty Bear Trap

“We’re going on a bear hunt!” Florida Fish and Wildlife Officer Adam Brown didn’t want to use bullets or sleepy darts. He used something that works a lot better for catching bears—doughnuts! There are about 4,000 black bears in Florida. And one decided to spend a morning exploring the city of Fort Myers. But the 250-pound youngster was no match for a few tempting Krispy Kreme doughnuts, topped with a spritz of blueberry scent. Into the trap he walked—and out of the city he was taken—and safely released.

The young black bear sits in a trap in Fort Myers, Florida.
Put the rhymes together to figure out what’s on the menu.

1. not cold
2. canine
3. In John 21:10, Jesus asks for this to eat.
4. “__ and stones may break my bones...”
5. oink
6. what a lumberjack does
7. people who live in the country between Germany and Spain
8. burnt bread
9. 16th letter, plural
10. Bugs Bunny treats
11. crop should be “knee-high by the fourth of July”
12. vegetable “core” that can be made into a pipe
13. “On my head were three baskets of __.” (Genesis 40:16 NIV)
14. language of France
15. potato strips
16. liquid from fruit
17. not coffee

Menu:

- hot dog
- fish sticks
- pork chop
- french toast
- peas and carrots
- corn on the cob
- bread
- or french fries
- juice or tea