

OWL December 2023

Teacher/Parent Resources



Insider

Weird Zone: Strange and True Stories in the News

Weird Zone Quiz

This month's Weird Zone looks at everything from snow bikes to snow globes. Read the stories and then take this quiz about all things weird.

1. Instead of a front wheel, the MoonBike has a:
 - a. skate
 - b. ski
 - c. snowshoe
2. The snow globes in this article contain secret objects inside them, including:
 - a. a car
 - b. a tiger
 - c. a smiley face
3. A new fruit created by a Japanese gardening company is a cross between a lemon and a/an:
 - a. melon
 - b. orange
 - c. kiwi
4. Mountains in Utah were recently covered in snow that was this colour:
 - a. purple
 - b. turquoise
 - c. pink





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5. A building that will soon be built in Nunavut is inspired by this winter object:
- a. a snowdrift
 - b. a snowman
 - c. a snowflake

Follow-up Activity

The MoonBike shown in Weird Zone has a ski instead of a front tire and a revolving tread on the back that's similar to what's found on a snowmobile. If you were going to design a bike that could be used in the snow, what would it look like? Would it have skis, skates, a toboggan, or something else entirely? Draw a picture of your snowy invention!

Classroom Connections

Language Arts: reading comprehension; understanding informational text; making inferences and interpreting texts; critical analysis; Social Studies: technology; transportation; Science: weather; seasons; Health and Phys Ed: sports

Answers: 1. B; 2. C; 3. A; 4. C; 5. A





Incredible Wild, Wonderful Wolverines!

Read this month's Incredible! and meet up with a wild forest mammal. Then answer the following questions:

1. Where do wolverines live? How big are they?
2. What animals do wolverines follow in order to steal their food?
3. Can you name two of the wolverine's relatives?
4. How does a wolverine use its excellent sense of smell?
5. What does the name "wolverine" mean in English?
6. How do the wolverine's paws help out the creature?
7. Which top predators does the wolverine dare to attack?

Follow-up Activity

The Marvel character known as Wolverine was named after the small but ferocious wolverine that roams the tundra. But how does the superhero compare to the wild animal? Research online to find out if they have any similarities. And how are they different? How many other superheroes can you think of that are named after creatures from the animal kingdom?

Classroom Connections

Language Arts: reading comprehension; understanding informational text; critical thinking; Science: animals; needs and characteristics of living things; habitats





Snapshot Top Stories of 2023

For this month's Snapshot, we look back at some of the most memorable news stories from the past year. Read the article and give this true-or-false quiz a go!

1. Jamal Murray was only the third Canadian to win an NBA title.
True/False
2. Researchers in Japan discovered that octopuses never sleep.
True/False
3. Scientists confirmed that an icy moon on Saturn has a huge underground liquid ocean. **True/False**
4. A Ukrainian biologist worked to save the lives of thousands of bats during the Russian invasion of Ukraine. **True/False**
5. A new camera invented this year produces a photo without using a lens. **True/False**

Follow-up Activity

Can you remember a favourite news story you heard about during the past year? Or do you have a favourite memory from 2023? Maybe it was a fun time you had with your friends, a trip you took, or a special day for you and your family? Perhaps you'd like to share about it with your classmates. What's one thing you are most looking forward to in 2024?

Classroom Connections:

Language Arts: reading; reading comprehension; understanding informational text; Science: observation of living things; needs and characteristics of living things; animals; solar system; planets; Health and Phys Ed: sports; Social Studies: technology

Answers: 1. F, 2. F, 3. T, 4. T, 5. T

