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Hundreds of Questions and Answers



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QUIZ FUN

HUNDREDS OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By HORACE ELMO and NANCY FIELDING HULICK

Pictures by TIBOR GERGELY



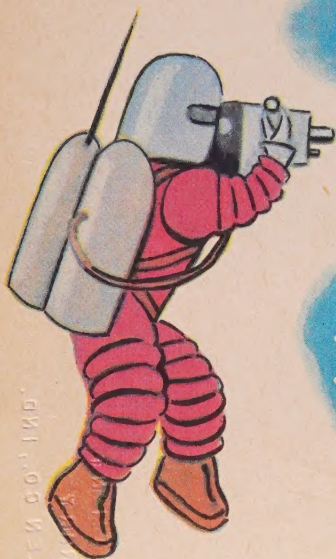
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THE GIANT LITTLE GOLDEN BOOKS ARE PREPARED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF

MARY REED, PH.D.

FORMERLY OF TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Can a star be photographed?

Answer: Yes. However, the image of a star caught by a camera is really the light emitted by the star many years before.

DOGS



What dog cannot bark?

Answer: The basenji. It makes sharp little cries that sound like yodeling.

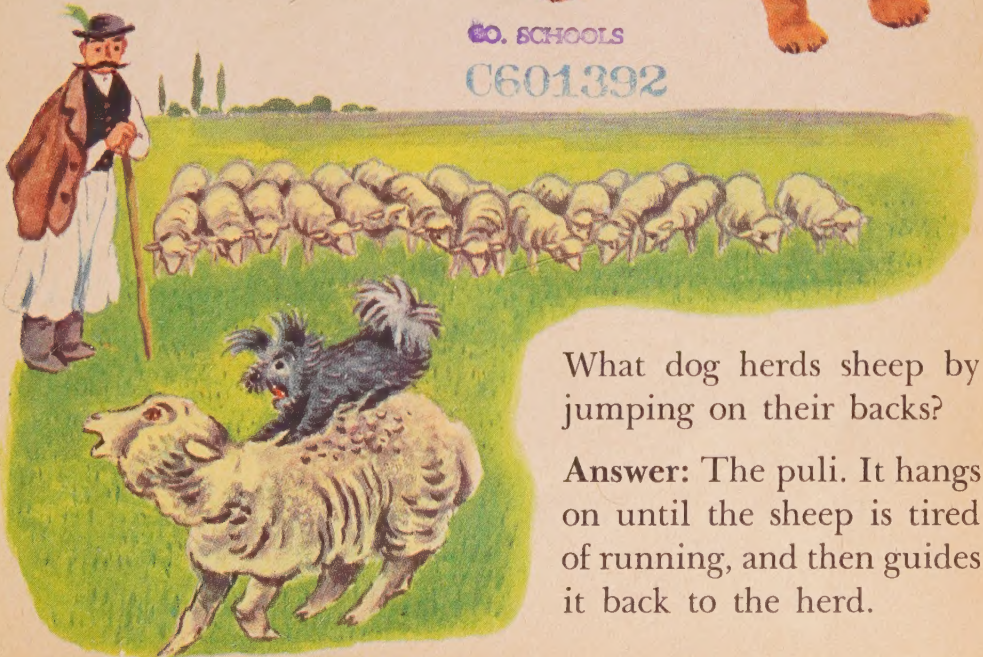


What dog has a black tongue?

Answer: The chow, which came originally from China.

GO. SCHOOLS

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What dog herds sheep by jumping on their backs?

Answer: The puli. It hangs on until the sheep is tired of running, and then guides it back to the herd.

BIRDS



Is the English sparrow found in America?

Answer: Yes. It was brought to America in 1850 to help get rid of insect pests.

What bird can whistle with its wings?

Answer: The hornbill. Its wings make a sharp whistling sound when it flies.



What bird mews like a cat?

Answer: The catbird. It can also mimic the sounds of other animals.

Does the woodcock live in the woods?

Answer: Sometimes. But it is more often found near swamps and lakes.



Why are parrots popular as cage birds?

Answer: Because they are superb mimics and can copy human speech and laughter.



What bird has no wings or tail?

Answer: The kiwi. This New Zealand bird cannot fly.



What bird can fly both backwards and forwards?

Answer: The hummingbird, the smallest bird in the world.



Do birds eat a lot?

Answer: Yes. Some baby birds eat more than one-and-a-half times their own weight in one day.



ROCKETS

Is the rocket a modern invention?

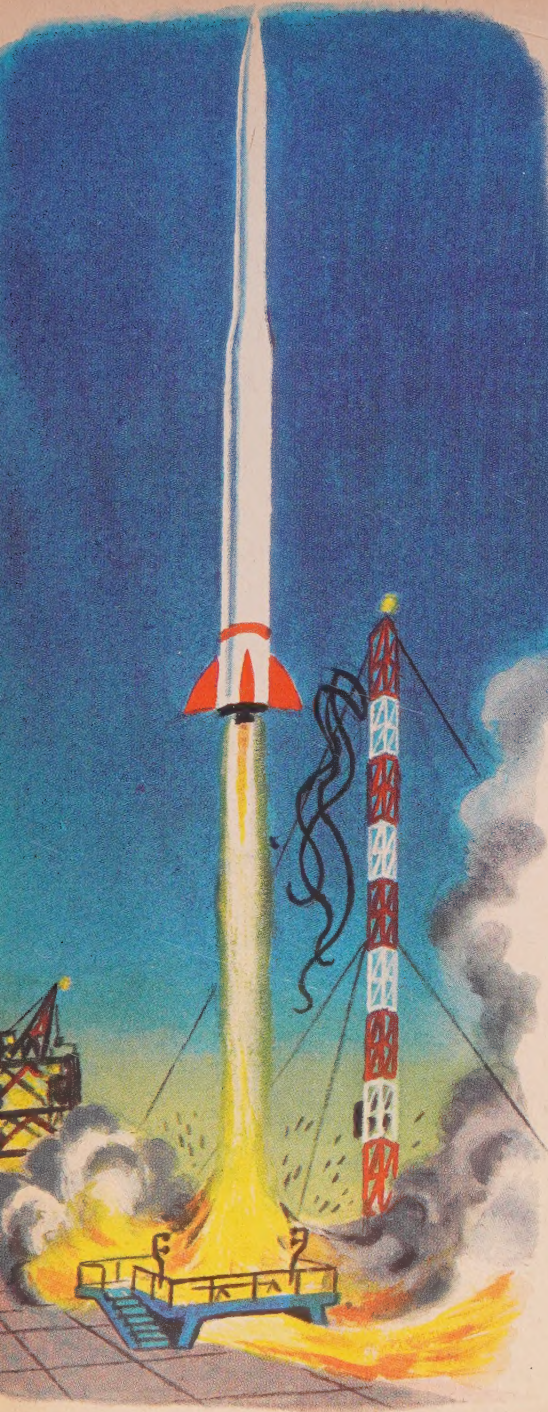
Answer: No. It was used in ancient China, Persia and Greece to send signals and as a weapon of war. Today, it is being used to launch satellites into outer space.

Would a man be able to live on the moon?

Answer: Only if he wore a special oxygen or air tank. The moon has no air or water, and the temperature ranges from 250° below zero to about 215° above zero Fahrenheit.

How much would a 150-pound man weigh on the moon?

Answer: About 25 pounds, because of the moon's weak gravity.



NIGHTTIME

Do the stars aid ship and airplane pilots?

Answer: Yes. Pilots can chart their course by observing the positions of the sun, moon and stars.

How fast does light travel?

Answer: 186,000 miles per second. Yet it takes many years for light to reach the earth from even the nearest star, Proxima Centauri.

How do cats find their way in the dark?

Answer: They judge distances with their whiskers, which are very sensitive to surrounding objects.



THE JUNGLE



Where are the largest coins in the world used?

Answer: On the Pacific island of Yap. The coins are made of stone, and measure from two to twelve feet across.

Where does coffee grow?

Answer: *Mocha* coffee comes from Arabia, *Java* coffee from Java, and *Brazil* coffee and several other kinds from the jungles of Brazil.



Are lions fierce?

Answer: No. On the whole they are peaceable animals. They attack only for food or when their cubs are in danger.

THE WEST



What is a “ghost town?”

Answer: A western town, now deserted, that was once the site of a mining camp.

Can cactus be eaten?

Answer: Yes. Many Indian tribes eat the fruit of cactus.



Is it possible to step across the Mississippi River?

Answer: Yes. Near Lake Itasca, in Minnesota, the Mississippi is narrow enough for a man to step over it.

GAMES

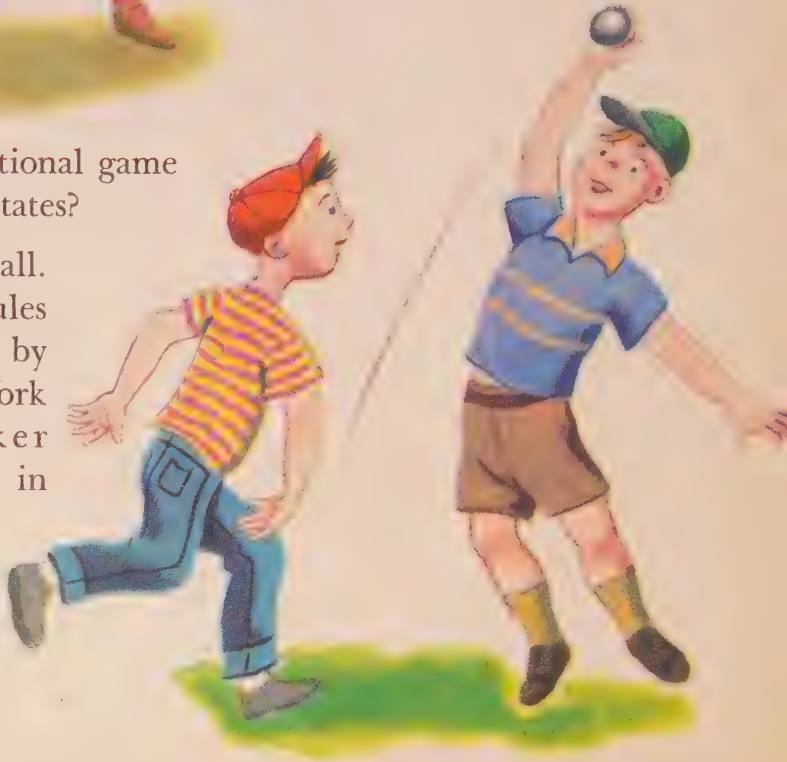


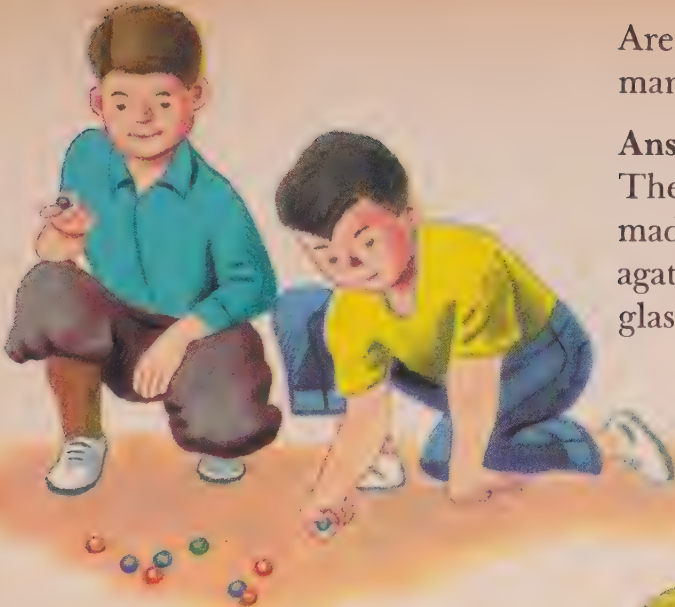
Did Greek and Roman children play with toys that we still have today?

Answer: Yes. They played with jump ropes, hobby horses, kites and knucklebones.

What is the national game of the United States?


Answer: Baseball.
The official rules were first made by the New York Knickerbocker Baseball Club in 1843.



An illustration of two young boys playing marbles on a light-colored floor. The boy on the left is wearing a teal shirt and dark pants, sitting on his haunchs and holding a marble. The boy on the right is wearing a yellow shirt and blue pants, kneeling and reaching for a marble. Several colorful marbles are scattered on the floor between them.


Are marbles made of marble?

Answer: Sometimes. They may also be made of porcelain, agate, baked clay or glass.

An illustration of two young girls playing jacks. The girl on the left is wearing a red shirt and green pants, kneeling and looking down at the jacks. The girl on the right is wearing a blue shirt and an orange skirt, kneeling and looking down at the jacks. Several colorful jacks are scattered on the floor between them.

Where does the name “jacks” come from?

Answer: From jackstones, which means pebbles.

An illustration of two children playing checkers. A girl on the left, wearing a red shirt and green pants, is kneeling and moving a piece on a checkered board. A boy on the right, wearing a green shirt and dark pants, is lying on his stomach, also looking at the board. The board is a red and black checkered mat with several colorful checkers on it.

Is checkers a modern game?

Answer: No. It was played by many early Europeans.

CROPS



What plants did the Pilgrims find in the New World which did not grow in Europe?

Answer: Maize, potatoes, pumpkins, squash and tobacco.

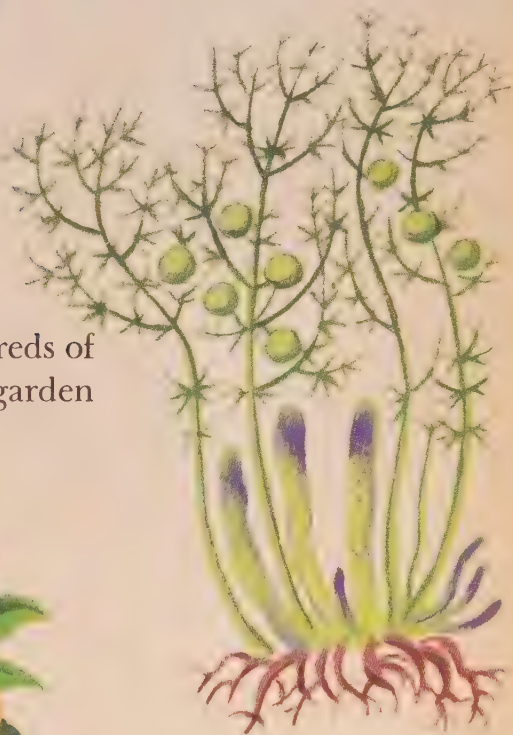


How large does a pumpkin grow?

Answer: Pumpkins can grow to weigh as much as 80 pounds.

Is all asparagus edible?

Answer: No. There are hundreds of kinds, but only the common garden asparagus is edible.



What country produces the most oranges?

Answer: The United States. Next biggest producers are Spain, Brazil and Italy.

SNAKES



Does a rattlesnake grow new rattles?

Answer: Yes. Each time the snake sheds its skin a new rattle is added. The rattles can be heard from 30 to 60 feet away.

Is the boa constrictor poisonous?

Answer: No. This snake kills its prey by crushing it in its coils.



What snake related to the cobra is highly poisonous?

Answer: The coral snake.

Where does the anaconda live?

Answer: On the river banks of Brazil and other South American countries. It is 25 to 30 feet long.

Which American snakes are poisonous?

Answer: The rattlesnake, copperhead, coral snake and moccasin.



STRANGE ANIMALS

What animal can carry over a dozen babies in its pouch?

Answer: The opossum. When first born, the babies are only about half an inch long.



What animal lays eggs like a bird, suckles its young, burrows like a rodent, and has a duck-like bill and feet?

Answer: The duckbill platypus, found only in Australia and on the island of Tasmania.





What tiny animal can leap like a kangaroo?

Answer: The jerboa. Its hind legs are much longer than its forelegs.

What animal picks fruit from trees with its tail?

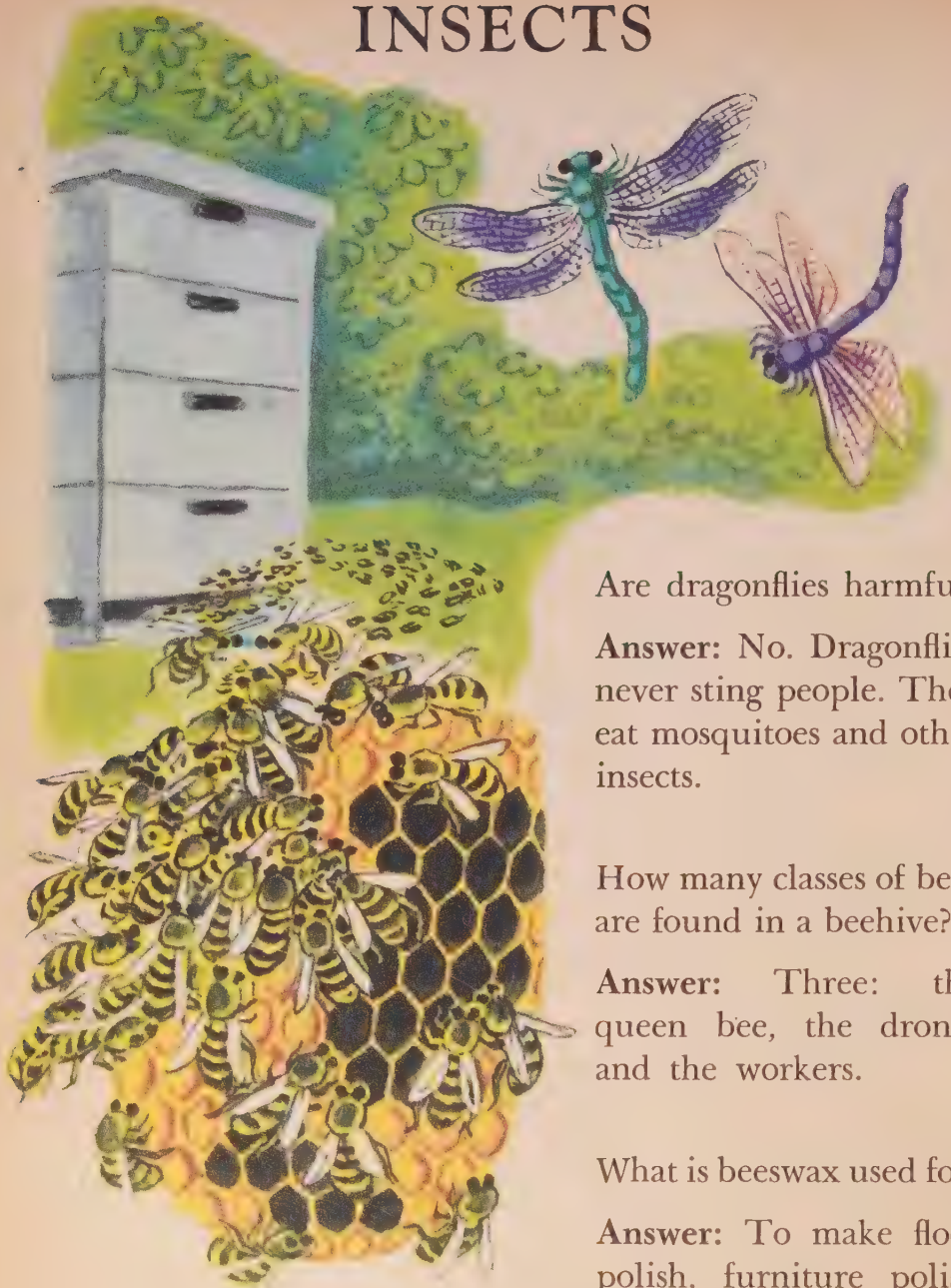
Answer: The kinkajou, a close relative of the raccoon. It can use its long tail like a hand.



What animal spends most of its life hanging upside down?

Answer: The sloth, found in Central and South America. It hangs onto branches with its long hook-like claws.

INSECTS



Are dragonflies harmful?

Answer: No. Dragonflies never sting people. They eat mosquitoes and other insects.

How many classes of bees are found in a beehive?

Answer: Three: the queen bee, the drones and the workers.

What is beeswax used for?

Answer: To make floor polish, furniture polish and candles.

How is the ladybug useful to farmers?

Answer: The ladybug eats insects and plant lice, which damage fruit trees and crops.



How does a grasshopper chirp?

Answer: By rubbing its wings together or by rubbing its hind legs against its wings.



Are ants hard workers?

Answer: Yes. Each ant in an ant colony has a special job. Some look for food, some keep the tunnels clean, some act as guards, others care for the young.

SEA BIRDS

What bird spends most of its life at sea?

Answer: The wandering albatross. It stays on land only during the breeding season.



What bird travels 22,000 miles every year?

Answer: The Arctic tern. It leaves its winter home in the Antarctic and flies 11,000 miles to nest in the Arctic.

What bird has a monument built in its honor?

Answer: The seagull. There is a statue in Salt Lake City in memory of the gulls that helped to destroy a cricket plague.



SEA LIFE

How many legs does a crab have?

Answer: All crabs have ten legs. The front ones are biggest, and end in nippers. The others are used for walking or swimming.



What fish can travel on both land and water?

Answer: The climbing perch of Asia and Africa.



What fish shoots insects before eating them?

Answer: The archerfish, found in the East Indies. It squirts drops of water at insects, causing them to fall into the water.



ALL KINDS OF ANIMALS

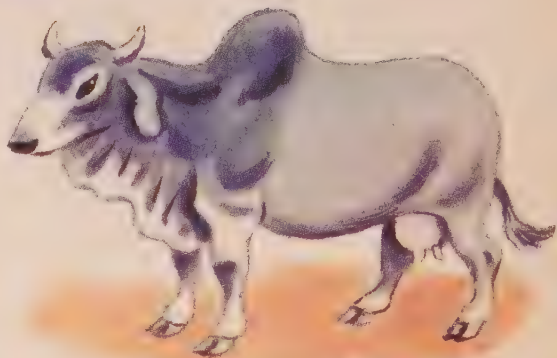


What animal found in Tibet is most like the cow?

Answer: The yak. It is kept for its milk and flesh, and is also a beast of burden.

In what country is a cow-like animal worshipped?

Answer: In India. The zebu, or white bull, is sacred to people of the Hindu religion.

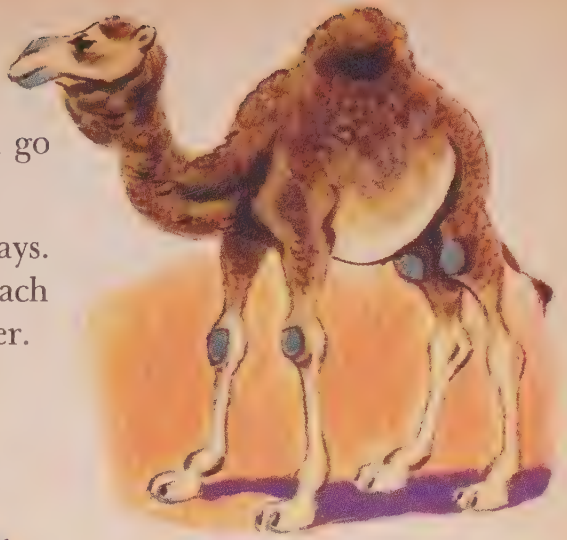


Were the Indians the first people to hunt buffalo?

Answer: No. The cavemen of the Ice Age hunted buffalo, or European bison.

For how long can a camel go without water?

Answer: For about three days. Water cells in its stomach store up a supply of water.



Do both male and female deer have antlers?

Answer: Male and female reindeer do. Among other deer, only males have antlers.



What is a guanaco?

Answer: It is a wild llama living in the mountains of South America.



CHINA

What is the largest country in the world?

Answer: China, which covers 3,760,399 square miles, with its dependencies.

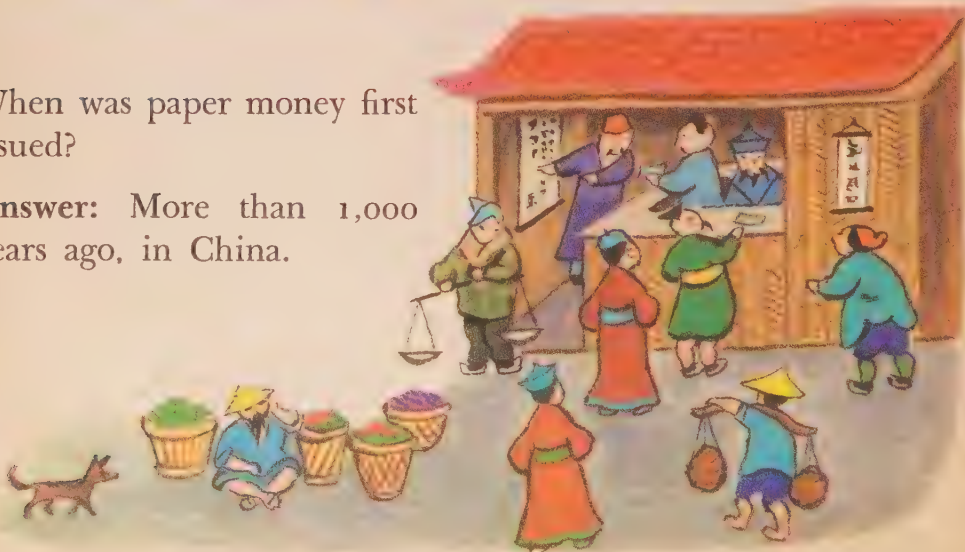
How do the Chinese write?

Answer: They write in columns, up and down, beginning at the top right and going toward the left.



When was paper money first issued?

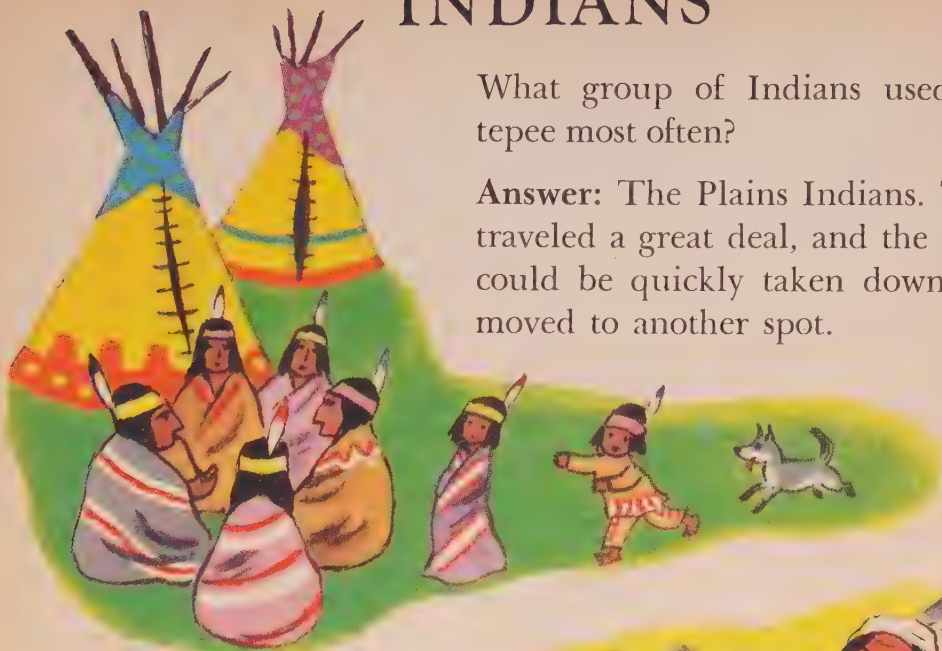
Answer: More than 1,000 years ago, in China.



INDIANS

What group of Indians used the tepee most often?

Answer: The Plains Indians. They traveled a great deal, and the tepee could be quickly taken down and moved to another spot.



Who was the last Apache chief to surrender to the U.S. Army?

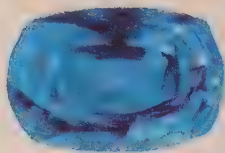
Answer: Geronimo. It took no less than 5,000 troops and 500 Indian auxiliaries to capture his band of 35 men!



PRECIOUS STONES

Is a sapphire always the same color?

Answer: No. The colors vary from the palest blue to deep indigo. Many sapphires are so dark that they look black.

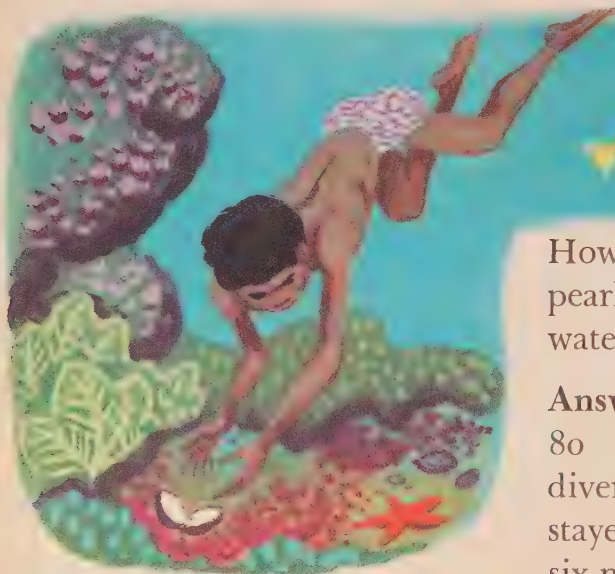
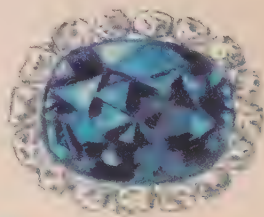


What gem is most valuable?

Answer: The ruby. The largest ruby deposits are found in Upper Burma, 90 miles northeast of Mandalay.

What is the hardest mineral known to man?

Answer: The diamond. Nothing will scratch it except another diamond.



How long can an average pearl diver remain under water?

Answer: From about 50 to 80 seconds. One Indian diver was recorded to have stayed below the surface for six minutes!

MINERALS

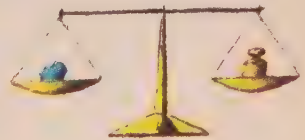


What states produce the most coal?

Answer: West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

When was iron first discovered in the United States?

Answer: In 1585. Sir Walter Raleigh found iron ore while searching for gold in what is now North Carolina.



How much raw material would be needed to obtain one pound of radium?

Answer: No less than 2,680 tons!



CITIES



What city is built on numerous small islands?

Answer: Venice, Italy. People get from one part of the city to another by gondola.



What is one of the oldest cities in the western hemisphere?

Answer: Mexico City. It was founded around the year 1325 A.D.

What city is built on two continents?

Answer: Istanbul, Turkey. One half is in Europe; the other half is across the Bosphorus Strait, in Asia.



What is the tallest skyscraper in New York City?

Answer: The Empire State Building. It is 1,248 feet tall and has 102 stories. Second is the Chrysler Building, 1,046 feet with 77 stories.



FAMOUS PEOPLE



Which American president consulted a group nicknamed the “kitchen cabinet”?

Answer: Andrew Jackson. He sometimes sought advice from personal friends rather than official cabinet members.

Who was the greatest glutton in history?

Answer: The Roman Emperor, Maximus, who is said to have eaten as much as 50 pounds of meat in one day.



Which king of England could not speak English?

Answer: George I, who reigned from 1714 to 1727. He was born a German prince, and never tried to learn English.



FARAWAY PLACES

What is the highest island peak in the world?

Answer: Mount Kea, Hawaii, which is 13,825 feet high. The largest active volcano crater in the world is also found on the island of Hawaii, at the top of Mauna Loa.



What is the swiftest breed of horse?

Answer: The Arabian, the oldest known species of horse.

What women wear the largest hats in the world?

Answer: Korean women. Their tent hats are so large that they can be used as "wardrobe trunks."



TREES

What tree gives the most valuable timber?

Answer: The mahogany tree. Its wood first became popular for fine furniture in the early eighteenth century.



On what continent are the greatest number of eucalyptus trees found?

Answer: Australia. Various species include the stringy-bark, bloodwood, and blue gum.





What is the oldest tree in the world?

Answer: A cypress in Tule, Mexico, which is believed to be from 4,000 to 6,000 years old. It is 125 feet in circumference.

Is there a bamboo tree?

Answer: No, bamboo is a grass. The stem sometimes grows as high as 100 feet.



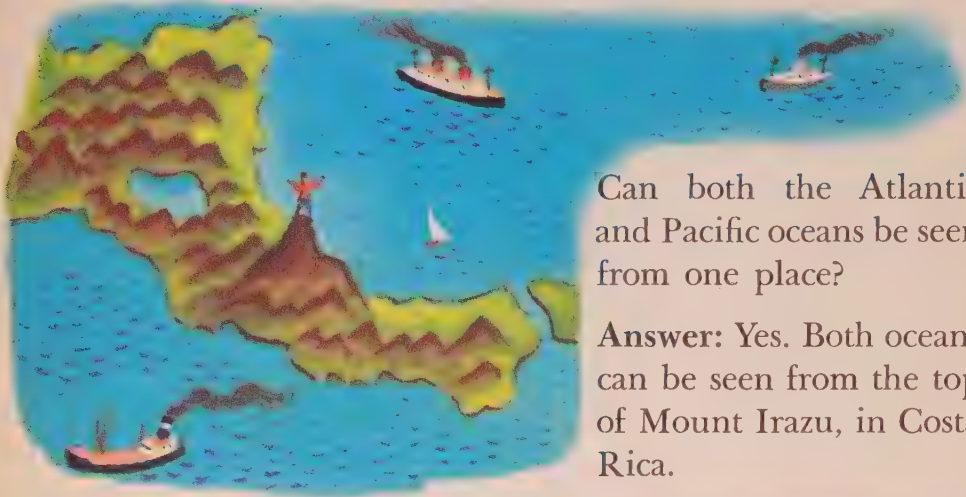
What is the palm tree used for?

Answer: Palms of different kinds give us dates, coconuts, timber, vinegar, copra, resin, wax, rope, oil, and wood for wicker furniture and baskets.

GEOGRAPHY

What is the distance around the earth?

Answer: 25,000 miles.

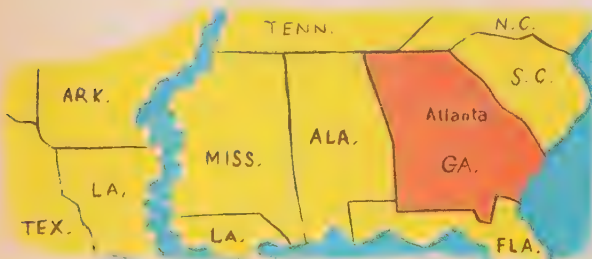
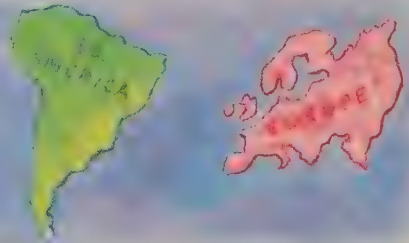


Can both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans be seen from one place?

Answer: Yes. Both oceans can be seen from the top of Mount Irazu, in Costa Rica.

Which is larger: Europe or South America?

Answer: South America is almost twice the size of Europe, although on the map it looks about the same size.



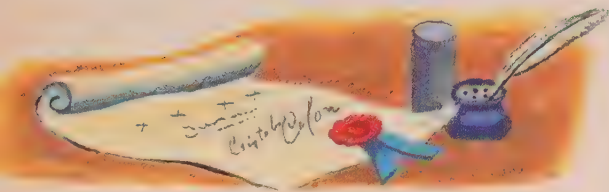
Which is the largest state east of the Mississippi?

Answer: Georgia, which has an area of 58,876 square miles.

AMERICA

How high is the Washington monument?

Answer: It is 555 feet high.



What was the real name of Christopher Columbus?

Answer: Cristóbal Colón. The Portuguese explorer never signed his name any other way.

Did the *Mayflower* start alone on her voyage to the New World?

Answer: No. The *Speedwell* sailed with her from Southampton to Plymouth, England. When the *Speedwell* proved unseaworthy, the *Mayflower* continued westward alone.



Who wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence?

Answer: Thomas Jefferson, who was chairman of the committee appointed to draw up the Declaration.



ANIMALS IN THE WOODS

What owl is sometimes called the tiger of the bird world?

Answer: The great horned owl, because he is the largest and strongest owl.



What does the skunk eat?

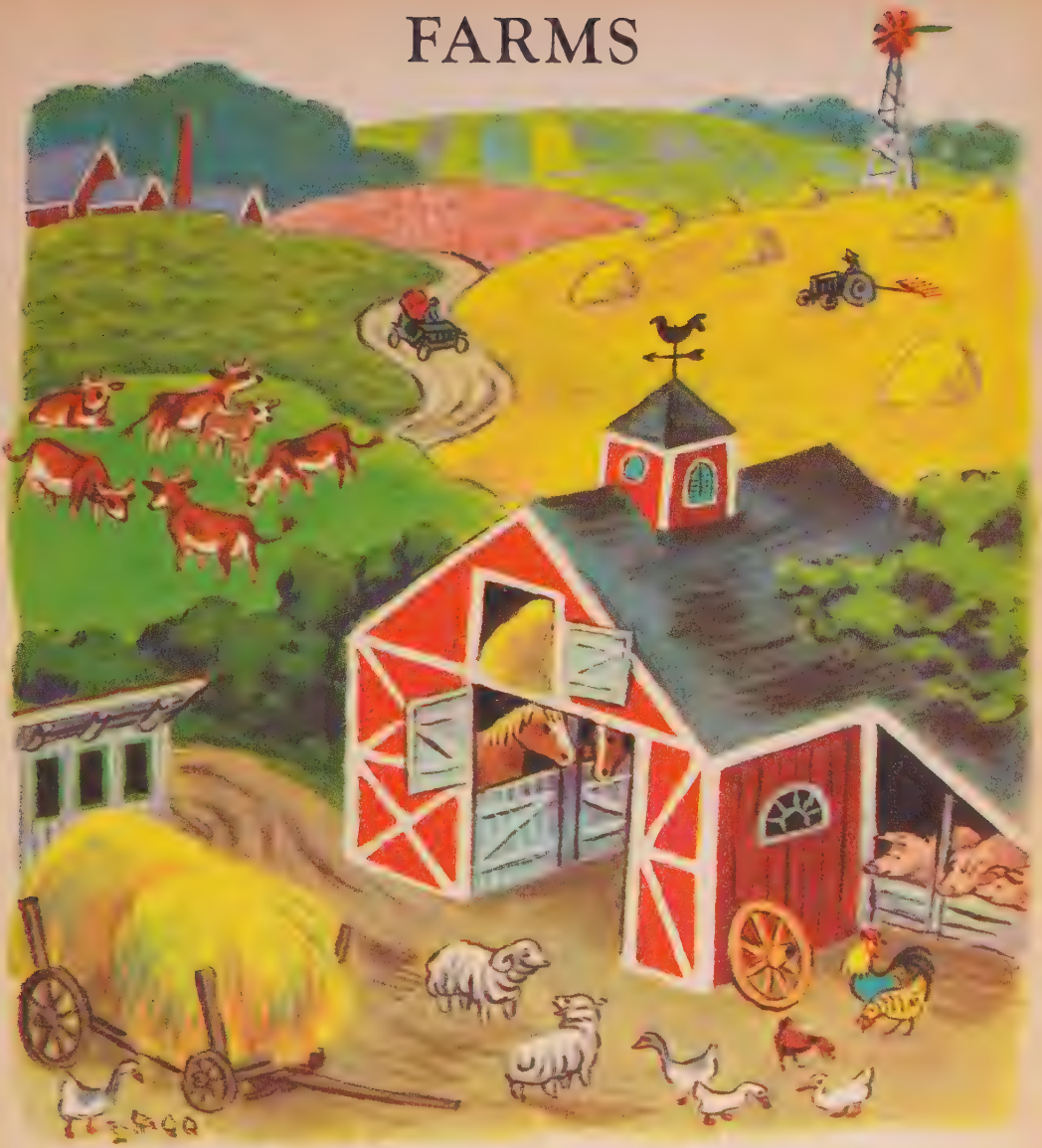
Answer: The skunk eats snakes and frogs and insects. He even eats bees.

What animal washes its food in water before eating it?

Answer: The raccoon. It holds the food in its paws and rinses it in a stream.



FARMS



How many farms are there in the United States?

Answer: There are more than 4,900,000 farms, taking up over 60 per cent of the land area.

FISH

What are the fiercest fish in the sea?

Answer: Tiger sharks and barracudas are among the biggest, hungriest fish.



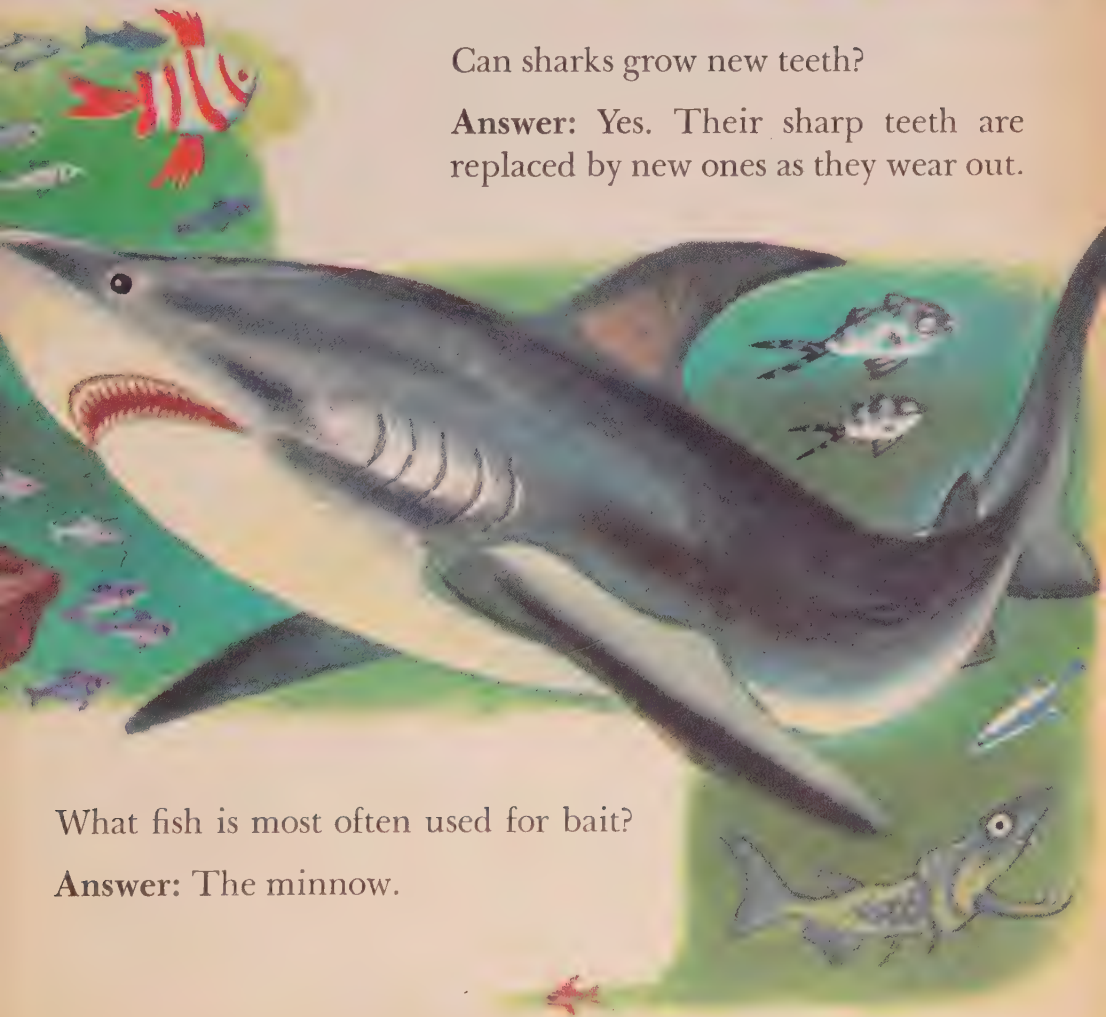
What is the most dangerous fish?

Answer: The piranha, a South American freshwater fish. It has probably taken more human lives than the deadliest shark.



Can sharks grow new teeth?

Answer: Yes. Their sharp teeth are replaced by new ones as they wear out.



What fish is most often used for bait?

Answer: The minnow.



STORMS

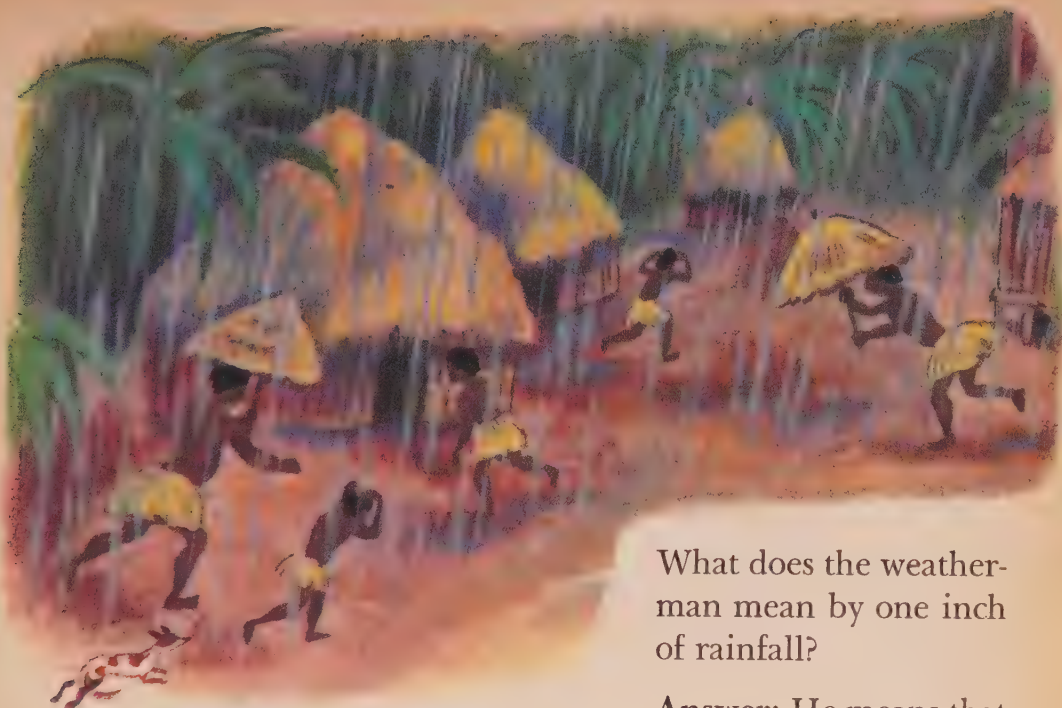
How does the U.S. weather bureau help ships at sea?

Answer: It gives hurricane, gale and storm warnings, and displays flags forecasting weather at over 600 places.

How fast do tornadoes travel?

Answer: At an average rate of between 20 and 40 miles per hour.



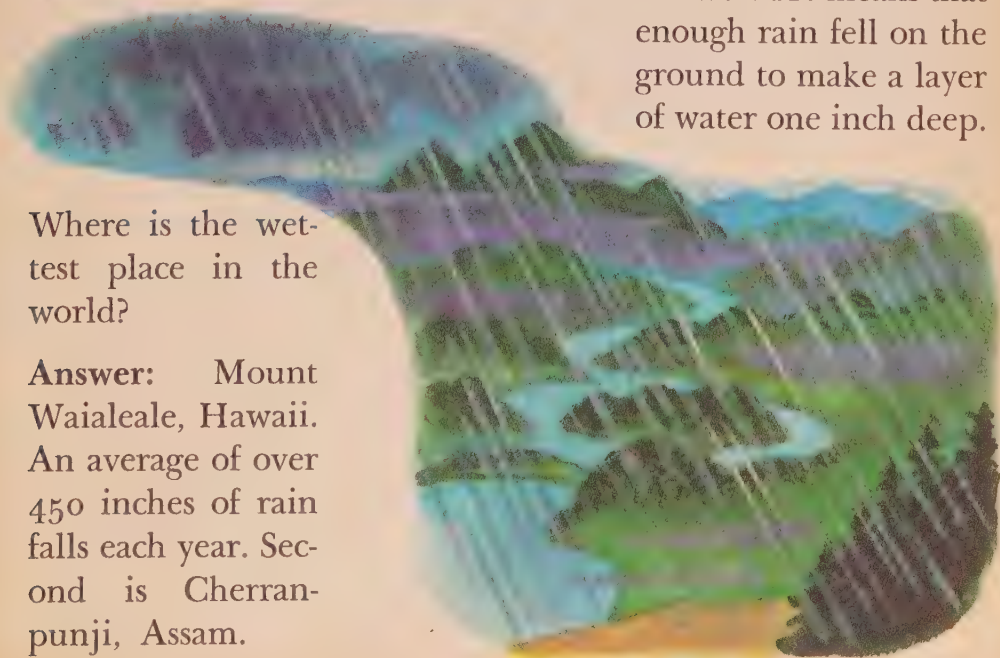


What does the weatherman mean by one inch of rainfall?

Answer: He means that enough rain fell on the ground to make a layer of water one inch deep.

Where is the wettest place in the world?

Answer: Mount Waialeale, Hawaii. An average of over 450 inches of rain falls each year. Second is Cherrapunji, Assam.



FIRST DISCOVERIES



Where was rubber first discovered?

Answer: In South America. On his second visit to the New World, Columbus was amazed to see native Indians playing with a heavy black ball made from a kind of rubber.

Who first started the custom of shaving?

Answer: Alexander the Great. He ordered his soldiers to shave off their beards so they would not be seized by an enemy in battle.



TIME

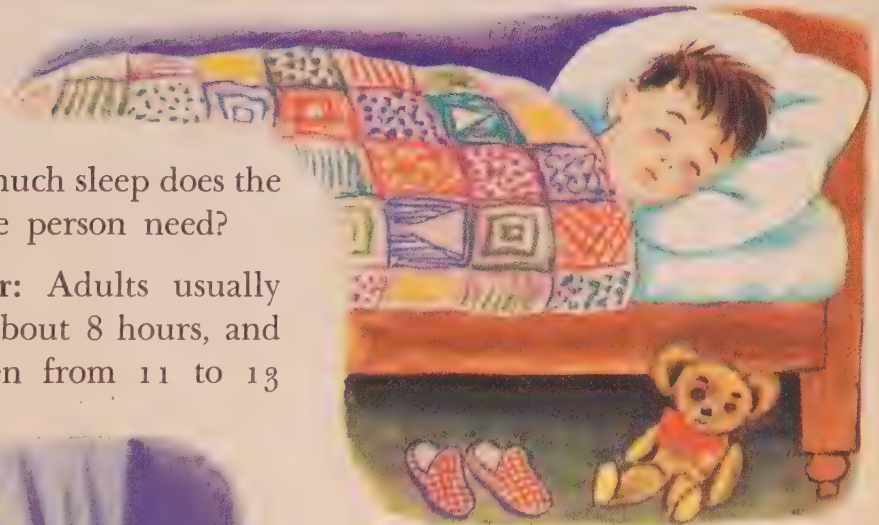


When were mechanical clocks invented?

Answer: In Europe, during the thirteenth century.

How much sleep does the average person need?

Answer: Adults usually need about 8 hours, and children from 11 to 13 hours.



Have wrist watches been worn for a long time?

Answer: No. Until the beginning of the twentieth century, watches were almost always carried in the pocket.

FROGS



Is there a frog that can fly?

Answer: Yes. The flying frog of Asia has webbed feet that it uses like a parachute as it leaps from tree to tree.

How does the frog catch its food?

Answer: Its tongue is attached to the front of its mouth. The frog flicks it out and catches insects and worms on the sticky tip.

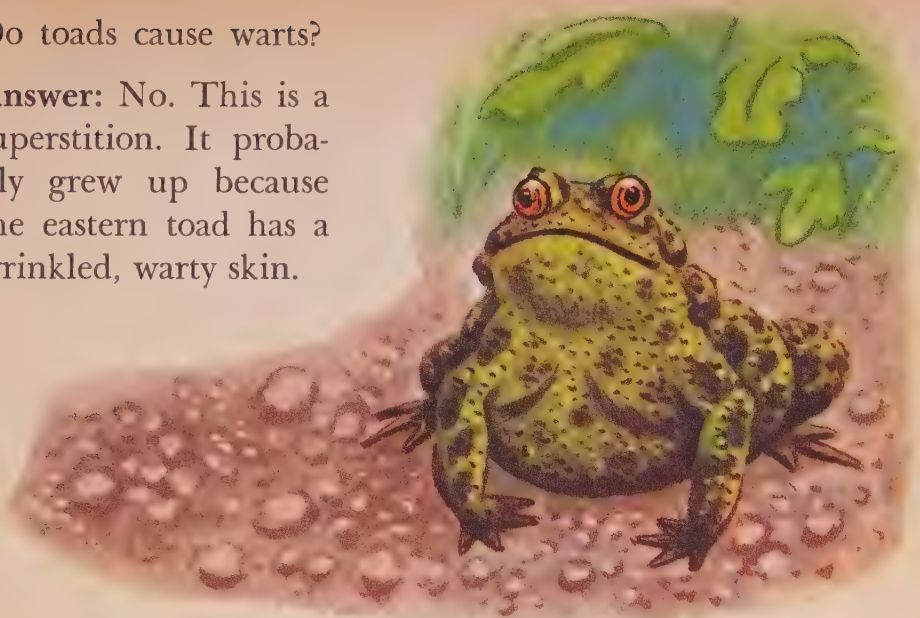


Do frogs live in trees?

Answer: Yes. Tree frogs live in trees. They cling to the branches with the help of the sticky pads on their toes.

Do toads cause warts?

Answer: No. This is a superstition. It probably grew up because the eastern toad has a wrinkled, warty skin.



When frogs hibernate, do they stop breathing?

Answer: They stop breathing as they usually do, and instead take in air through their skin.

How small is the world's smallest frog?

Answer: The Cuban frog is no bigger than a housefly—it measures no more than half an inch.



SHIPS

Why do sailors wear trousers that are wide at the bottom?

Answer: So they can roll up their trousers easily when washing decks or wading in shallow water.

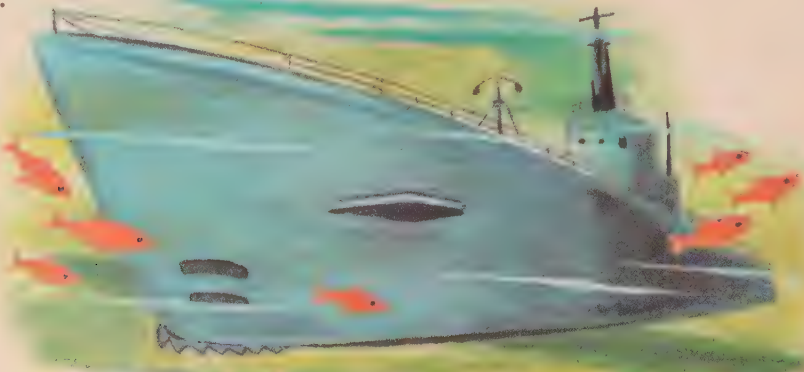


How long did the historic voyage of the atomic submarine, *Nautilus*, last?

Answer: Twenty-one days. The journey through the Bering Strait and under the North Pole to Portland, England, covered 8,146 miles.

How are submarines propelled?

Answer: They are propelled underwater by electricity from storage batteries, and on the surface by steam or internal combustion engines. The latest submarines are atomic powered.



Was Christopher Columbus searching for a new world when he discovered America?

Answer: No. He was looking for a short route to the Orient, so that European merchants could trade for spices and other foodstuffs.

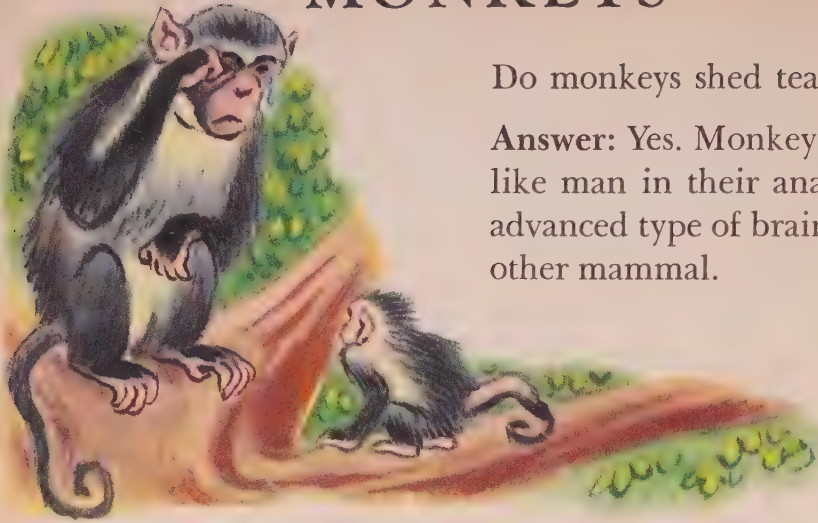


What famous U.S. Navy frigate was nicknamed *Old Ironsides*?

Answer: The *Constitution*. She carried 44 guns, and played an important part in the war with the Barbary pirates in 1798, and in the War of 1812.



MONKEYS



Do monkeys shed tears?

Answer: Yes. Monkeys are more like man in their anatomy and advanced type of brain than any other mammal.

Can monkeys speak?

Answer: No. However, some of the sounds they make are always made under the same conditions, as when they are angry, happy or afraid. Monkeys seem to understand these sounds among themselves.



HIPPOPOTAMUS

Do the teeth of a hippopotamus ever stop growing?

Answer: No. The front teeth grow continuously throughout its life.

What is the origin of the word “hippopotamus”?

Answer: It comes from two Greek words — *hippos*, a horse, and *potamus*, river.



What is the native home of the hippopotamus?

Answer: Tropical Africa is their only home.



LITTLE ANIMALS

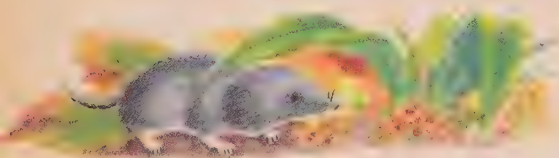
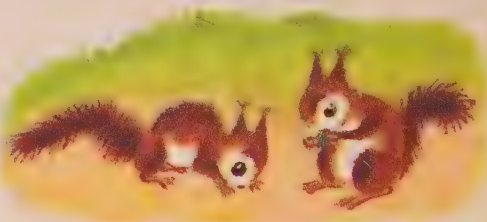


Which is the smallest of the monkeys?

Answer: The pigmy marmoset of Brazil, which weighs about half a pound. The babies are less than half-an-inch long when they are born.

What country has no squirrels?

Answer: Australia. Squirrels are found almost everywhere else in the world.



What is the smallest shrew?

Answer: The pigmy shrew, which is a little over two inches long.

Is a prairie dog a dog?

Answer: No. It is a member of the squirrel family, and lives on the Great Plains of the American West.



BIG ANIMALS

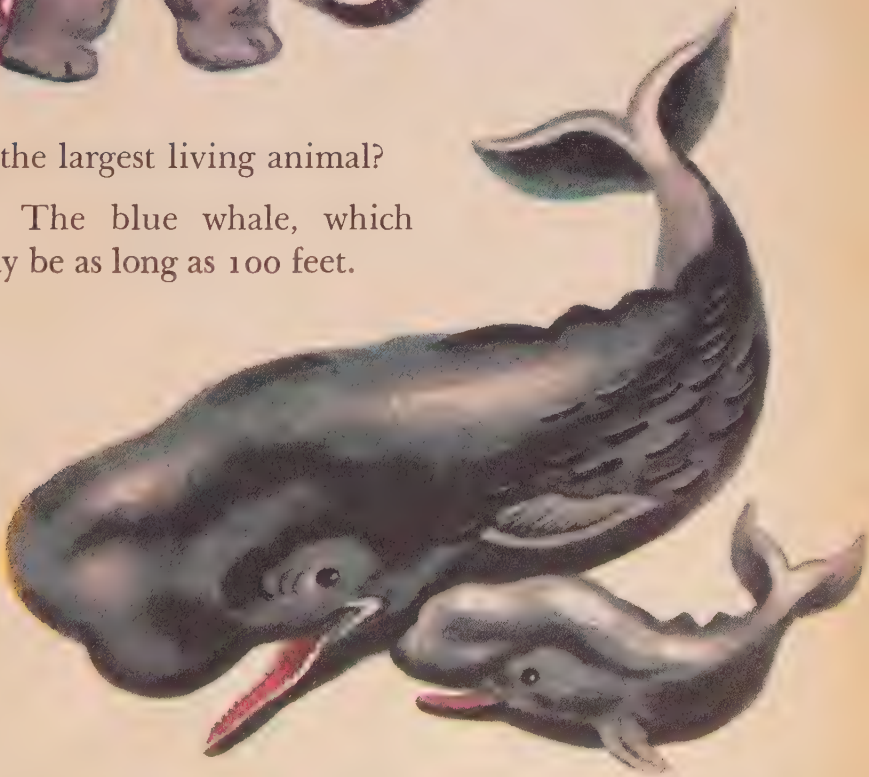


What is the difference between an Asian and an African elephant?

Answer: The Asian, or Indian elephant, has small ears and the African species has large, flapping ears.

What is the largest living animal?

Answer: The blue whale, which often may be as long as 100 feet.



CALIFORNIA

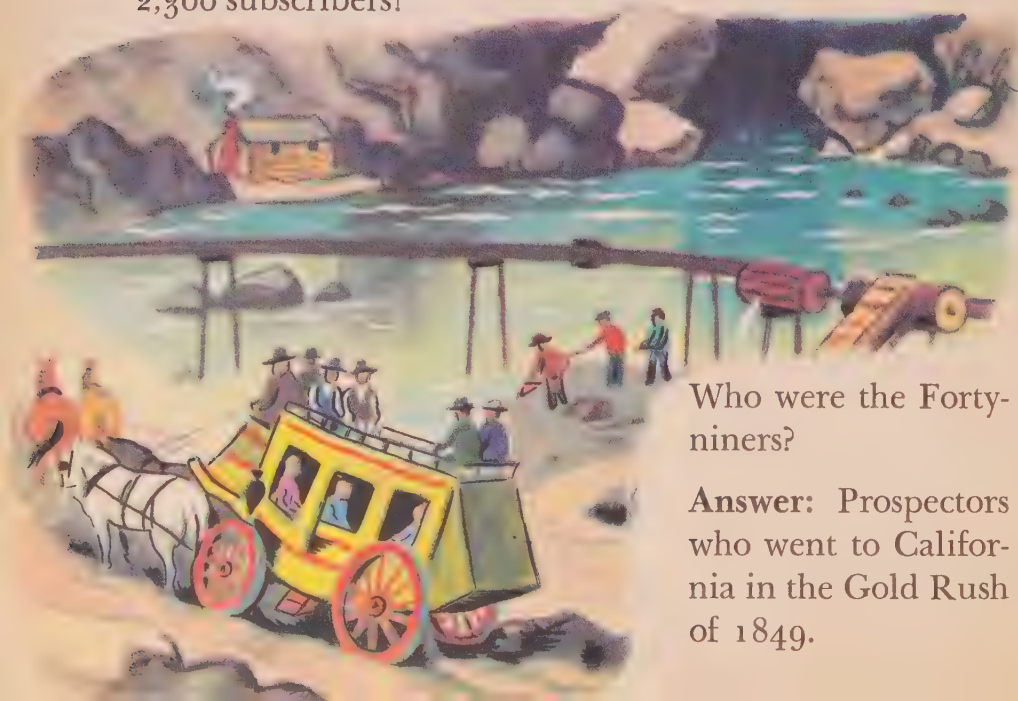


What is the Golden Gate?

Answer: The channel leading from the Pacific Ocean into San Francisco Bay. It is about five miles long.

Where is the only Chinese telephone exchange outside of China?

Answer: In San Francisco's Chinatown. The operators are required to know five Chinese dialects and to memorize the telephone numbers of more than 2,300 subscribers!



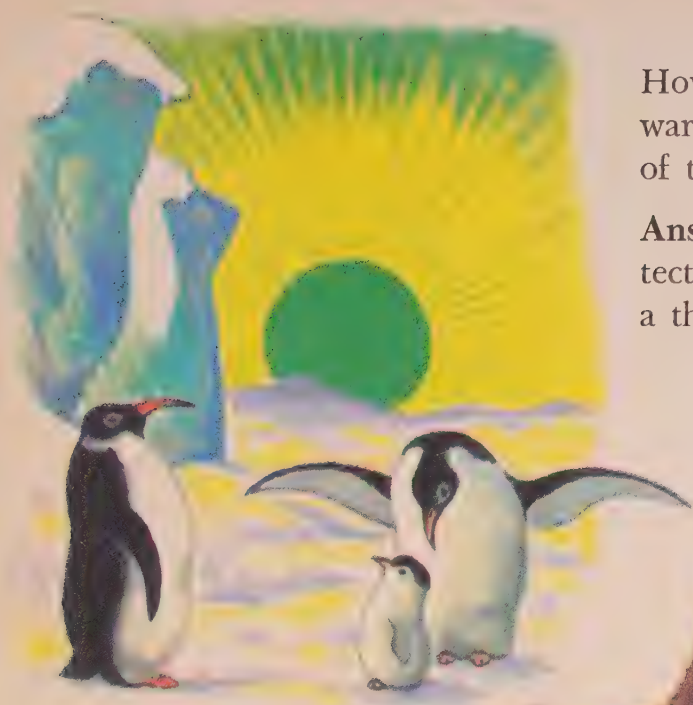
Who were the Forty-niners?

Answer: Prospectors who went to California in the Gold Rush of 1849.

THE ARCTIC

How do penguins keep warm in the icy water of the Antarctic?

Answer: They are protected from the cold by a thick coat of fat.



How many Eskimos live in Greenland?

Answer: About 23,000. They live by fishing and hunting musk ox, reindeer and seal.



THE WEATHER

Does a weather-vane tell what the weather will be?

Answer: No. It simply tells from which direction the wind is blowing.



Do thin people suffer more from the cold than fat people do?

Answer: Yes. Fat people feel the cold less as they are protected by layers of fat.

How can a person tell directions with a pocket compass?

Answer: The needle is a magnet that points to the magnetic north pole. Once one knows where north is, the other directions are easy to find.



THE FOOD WE EAT

What foods are richest in minerals and vitamins?

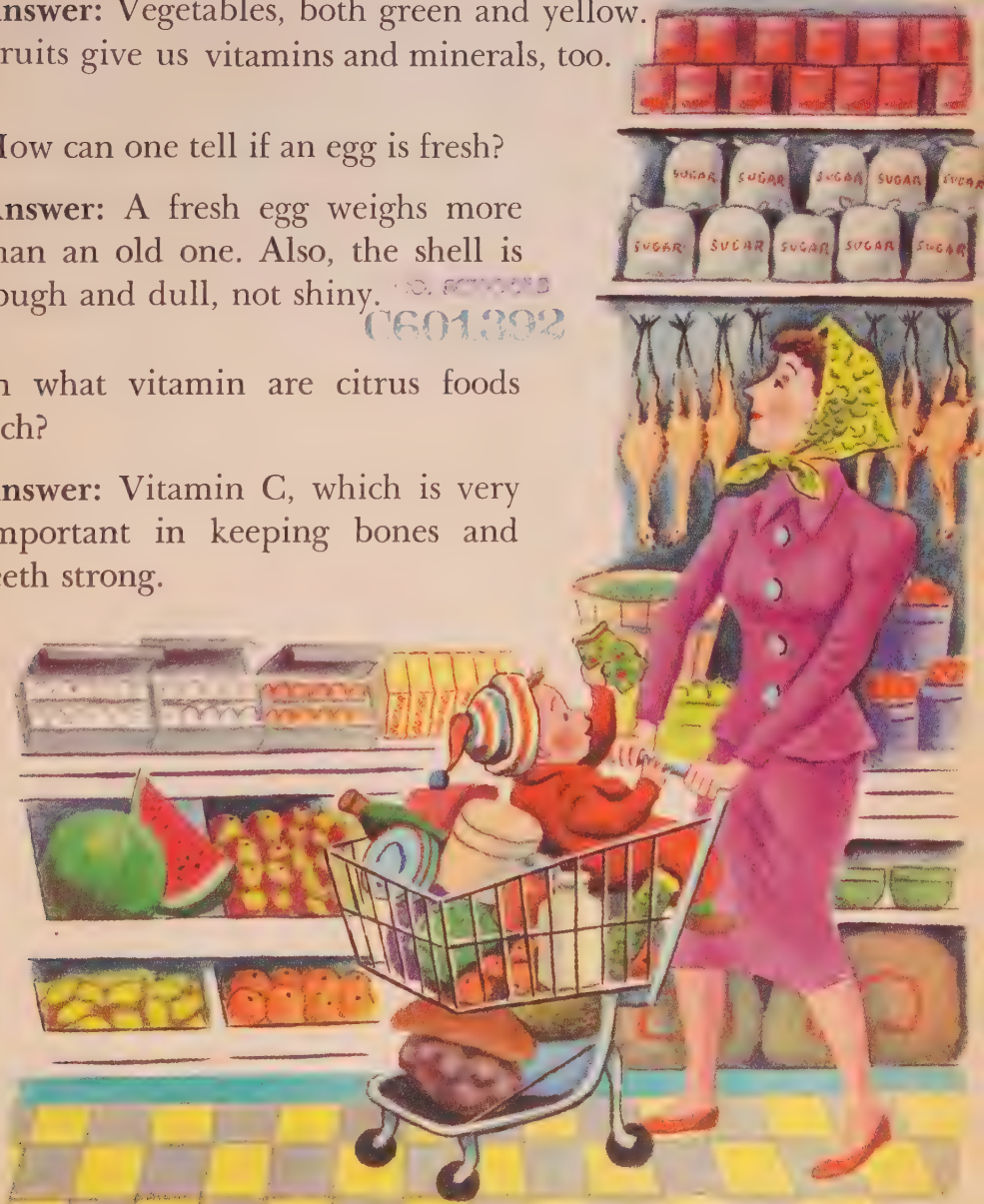
Answer: Vegetables, both green and yellow.
Fruits give us vitamins and minerals, too.

How can one tell if an egg is fresh?

Answer: A fresh egg weighs more than an old one. Also, the shell is rough and dull, not shiny.

In what vitamin are citrus foods rich?

Answer: Vitamin C, which is very important in keeping bones and teeth strong.



BEARS

What is the first lesson that a black bear teaches its cub?

Answer: How to climb a tree when danger is approaching. The cub will not come down until its mother gives the signal.



Where does the koala bear live?

Answer: Only in Australia. It is a stout, tail-less animal that feeds on the leaves of eucalyptus trees.

How large is the polar bear?

Answer: A large male polar bear may be 9 feet long and weigh as much as 1,600 pounds. The average weight is about 1,000 pounds.



