

Remote Learning Options

LP 4th Grade

Reading	Math	Science & Social Studies	Writing
*Read any book, magazine, or novel for 20 minutes each day. *Create a book report video on class dojo to share with your teacher what you have been reading *Respond to your reading by choosing an activity from the included sheet, "11 Independent Reading Responses" *Keep a vocabulary journal of new words learned during your reading with definitions, synonyms, and original sentences	*Choose a square on your Math Choice Board *Solve a problem or problems on your released EOG Practice Questions *Work on Imagine Math (Login information is provided in the folder.)	*Choose a square on your Science Choice Board *Social Studies: <i>Timeline:</i> Ask a family member or someone important questions about their life and create a timeline about the specific events that occurred.	*Respond to a writing prompt in your journal- take a picture of your writing and send it to your teacher on Dojo! *Make a card for a friend or family member

Technology Resources

Your child has a password card included in this packet. You will find their Google username and password and their username and password for Randolph County Public Library online books and resources. On the Lindley Park website, under the student section, there is a links page with educational websites that students may use to practice a number of academic skills. Those specific to 4th grade are:

<https://www.splashlearn.com/> - Logins provided in folder

<https://www.learningfarm.com/> -Log in with your google credentials

<https://www.prodigygame.com/> - Log in with your google credentials

https://math.imaginelearning.com/users/sign_in - Log in with your QR code or Imagine Math Password included in this packet

<https://www.zearn.org/> - Log in cards in folder

Additional notes from your 4th grade teachers: We will remain active on Class DOJO, so please check posts for additional resources. There will be an answer sheet provided within the next couple days. Feel free to reach out for absolutely anything. We would love to stay in touch with the students over this break.

Remote Learning Options

LP 4th Grade

Writing Prompts For Journal:

1. Who is your favorite person on the planet? What do you like most about that person?
2. If you could have any secret super power, what would you want it to be and why?
3. Write about a time you felt really happy. What happened? What made you feel happy?
4. If you were in charge of the whole world, what would you do to make the world a happier place?
5. With an adult's permission- GO OUTSIDE. Write about what you did and what you saw.
6. Imagine that dogs take over the world. What do they make the humans do?
7. Write about your favorite sport and why you like it so much.
8. Write about what you did today. How do you feel? Why do you feel that way?
9. Write 5 things that you are thankful for.
10. Write about 5 things you want to accomplish today.
11. What would you most like to learn over the next year? Think about things that interest you or questions you might have about the world and make a list!
12. Do a chore to help your family out around the house! Write about what you did. (Examples: sweep the floor, wash the dishes, clean your room)
13. Do something kind for one of your family members! Write about what you did. (Examples: Let another family member choose what to watch on tv, get someone a glass of water, give a family member a compliment)
14. What is something you are afraid of? What helps you to feel less afraid of something? What would you say to a friend who feels scared to help them feel less afraid?
15. If you could invent a robot of any type who could do anything you imagine, what types of things would you would have the robot to do? Create a sketch of your robot in your journal.

MATH CHOICE BOARD

Vocabulary Book Create a vocabulary reference book with definitions and examples or illustrations. It should be neat and colorful.	Word Problems Create 5 word problems that show division, multiplication, addition, and subtraction. After creating the problems, show your work and solve them.	Script Pretend you were asked to write a movie for multiplying fractions. Write a script that explains how you would solve it and create a problem and solution.
Teach It Pretend you needed to teach the class about the different strategies you can use for multiplying a fraction and a whole number. How would you go about teaching this topic? Write your own mini-lesson with facts and examples.	Receipt Create a receipt for shopping at a store. Include your items (10) and their cost. After, create 4 word problems that can be solved using the information in your receipt.	I Have, You Have Create an addition/subtraction game of "I Have, Who Has". You need to have 16 cards. Remember, the problem on the last card, has to link to the answer on the first card.
Mystery Fraction Think of a mystery fraction. Create 3 to 5 clues for a sibling or parent to use to guess your fraction.	Create Your Own Create your own activity to do that relates to add/subtract/multiply/divide.	Time yourself See how fast you can complete all your multiplication facts 1-12.

Make a boat that can really float. How can you modify your design so that it would be a fun bath toy?	<u>Fold and fly</u> different styles of paper airplanes. How can the <u>science of flight</u> help you design a better plane?	Look closely at various kitchen tools. How do you think they work? How could <u>they be improved</u> ?	Transform a room of your house into a castle! What features do you think are most important in <u>real castle designs</u> ?	Create the <u>ultimate creative rolling car</u> that can go down a ramp. How many different ideas can you try?
Create a gap that is about 12 inches across. Use different materials to create a simple bridge. How can you determine which bridge is the strongest?	Do batteries really power the world? Go on a scavenger hunt to find things powered by batteries. What kind of batteries can you find?	Transform a sheet of paper into a fan. How many different designs can you come up with? How else can you <u>transform paper</u> ?	Louis Braille wanted to <u>make reading easier for other blind people</u> so he created a code of raised dots. Can you write a message <u>in Braille</u> ?	Watch a movie about sports. How would you describe the different forms of motion? What needs to happen to move <i>fast</i> ?
<u>Discover how LEGO bricks are made</u> . Can you use <i>your</i> LEGO to make one really big LEGO brick?	Plan and make <u>a model playground</u> . Who will you make a model playground for?	FREE SPACE	Build a car or house entirely out of edible materials. Consider having <u>an edible car race</u>	Design and build a pair of scissors that can cut through dough. What can you use for the blades?
Experiment with freezing different mixtures of water and salt. What do you notice about the amount of salt and the time it takes to freeze?	Build a pendulum by tying a weight on a string. What do you notice about the swing when you change the length? How can you use this as a timer?	Did you know that windshield wipers were invented by <u>Mary Anderson</u> ? Experiment with making a model windshield wiper. What would you invent for cars?	Design a town square for <u>the heart of a healthy community</u> . What makes a community healthy and strong?	Make a building with multiple floors. What do you need to do to ensure that the building is stable? Can you install <u>an elevator</u> ?
Take apart a click-to-write pen to see if you can <u>get a closer look at the mechanisms</u> that make it work.	Grab three balls, go outside, and <u>simulate a supernova</u> . What do you notice about the maximum height?	Find six things that are held together with screws. Pick one and use a screwdriver to <u>look inside</u> .	Create a tool that helps you measure 6 feet accurately. What makes measuring this distance challenging?	Using <i>only</i> paper or index cards, design a tall tower that can support an object. What object will you try to support?



Dear Parent,

Here's an update about Miles's math class. This year, the students would be using this exciting educational program SplashLearn to supplement their math learning.

While we do use SplashLearn during school hours, I'll be giving additional assignments on SplashLearn that students can work on at home. It'd be great if you can encourage Miles to work on these assignments regularly. Your involvement will boost Miles's confidence and accelerate the pace of learning.

Besides doing home assignments, Miles can develop math fluency through regular practice at home. Also, you can see Miles's progress through SplashLearn's comprehensive reports and keep a track of your child's learning.

To get started, sign-in as a parent, in two simple and easy steps:

Step 1: Visit www.splashlearn.com/home-access

Step 2: Enter code - **ID2S4N**

OR

Scan this QR code



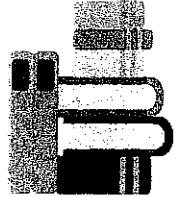
You can reach out to the SplashLearn team at help@splashmath.com for any queries.

Thanks,
Heather Pervier
Miles's Math teacher

P.S. Please note that you will be signing up for a limited version of SplashLearn that is completely free of cost. This version will give you access to my assigned practices, math facts and progress reports.



11 Independent Reading Responses That Can be Done with Any Book No Technology Required



Character Analysis – Choose a character from the story and draw a picture of the character in the center of the paper. Around the character write/draw about the character's personality traits, actions, special words, thoughts and feelings, problems & challenges, and accomplishments.

Create a Comic Strip – Choose a scene in the book and create a four-panel comic strip about that scene. Include colorful pictures with dialogue balloons for what each character is saying.

Make a Connections Map – Choose parts of the book that can be compared to the real world, another book, or yourself. Write down or draw these connections.

Make a New Book Cover – Create a new cover for the book with your own artwork and a blurb (short summary).

Make a Diorama – Using a shoebox or another box recreate a scene from the book using things from around the house such as scrap paper and small toys.

Create a Story Map – Draw 6 boxes on a sheet of paper. Put one of the following in each box: Title and author, characters, action, setting, problem, and solution. Write about the parts of the books in each box.

Write a Letter – Write a letter to your teacher or best friend telling him/her if you liked/disliked this book and why.

Create a Play – Either write or act out what this story would look like as a live action play.

Compare and Contrast – Create two circles that intertwine and make of list of how two books are different in the outer circle and how they are the same in the overlapping circle. Your child may know this as a Venn Diagram.

What's Next – Write about what you think would happen next if the story continued.

Story Chart – Divide a sheet of paper into 3 parts. Choose an important event from the beginning, middle, and end. Write/draw about that part.



Name _____

Date _____



FRACTION STRIPS UP TO TWELFTHS

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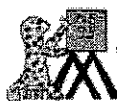
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Free Math Sheets, Math Games and Math Help

MATH-SALAMANDERS.COM



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SCHOLASTIC News

edition
4

The Game That Changed My Life

Tani and his family fled to the U.S. to escape danger. Tani's determination helped make their new life better.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

How can this little goldfish cause big problems?



VANISHED!
Visit scholastic.com/sn4
to uncover clues about famous
pilot Amelia Earhart.



A Place to Call

Tani and his family fled to America to escape danger. A year later, he became a chess champ and changed their lives.

AS YOU
READ

Think about how Tani handled challenges.
How have you overcome challenges in your life?

He couldn't believe it. Last March, Tani Adewumi won a New York State chess championship. He'd just learned how to play the game about a year earlier. And he was competing against

players who had a lot more experience, so no one expected him to win.

Tani didn't realize it at the time, but that victory would change his life.

Escaping Danger

Less than two years earlier, Tani and his family had been living in Nigeria, a country in Africa. Tani was born in the war-torn nation, where **terrorists** have been launching deadly attacks for more than 10 years.

The family was constantly afraid for their lives and knew they had to escape the danger. They fled Nigeria in 2017.

"We didn't carry that much with us," Tani recalls. "We just left for a new life."

The family arrived in New York City six months later with little more than the clothes on their backs. Though Tani's parents got jobs, they couldn't afford to rent an apartment. They had no choice but to move into a homeless shelter.

Tani and his older brother, Austin, shared a room on a different floor than their parents. They didn't have a TV to watch or a fridge to grab a snack from when they got hungry.

"It was rough," Tani says.

Game Changer

As Tani adjusted to a new country and learned a new

What Tani Wants You to Know

 People were generous to my family. We're giving back by helping others. Everyone needs help sometimes.

 Don't give up on your goals. The first tournament I played in didn't go well. But I never stopped trying.

 Talent alone won't get you far. You might get lucky once in a while, but it takes hard work to succeed.

Home

language, he also started a new school. He didn't know anyone, but he found a group to connect with: the chess club.

The chess club every Thursday for two hours. Every night after he finished his homework, Tani would lie on the floor of the shelter and practice for three more hours.

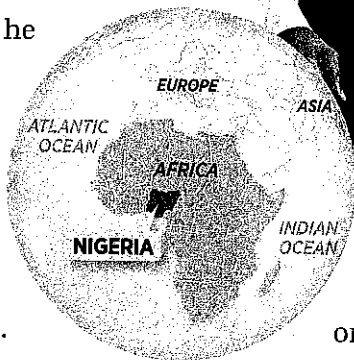
All that hard work paid off when he took home the trophy at the tournament last year.

"It was so big, I couldn't carry it!" Tani remembers.

A New Home

Tani wound up with more than just a trophy. His quick rise from **novice** to champ caught the attention of a reporter from *The New York Times*, one of the biggest newspapers in the country. When his story appeared in the news, people around the world donated more than \$200,000 to help the Adewumis.

But the family didn't keep any of it. Instead, Tani's parents



GO
ONLINE!
Hang out with
Tani in his
new home!

used the money to set up an organization to help other refugees like them.

Someone who was inspired by Tani's story even offered to pay the rent on an apartment for a year. Tani finally had a place to call his own!

Now the fourth-grader has a kitchen where his mom cooks his favorite meals and a laptop for practicing chess. He has his sights set on this year's state championship. Though last year's tournament will be pretty hard to top.

"It completely changed my life," Tani says.

—by Tricia Culligan

WORDS TO KNOW

terrorists *noun, plural.* people who violently attack innocent people to accomplish a goal

novice *noun.* a person who has just started learning or doing something

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ...

Refugees and Immigrants

More than 1 million people from around the world resettle in the U.S. each year. But they don't all come here for the same reason.

Refugees, like Tani, are forced to leave their country to escape danger, such as war or gang violence. They leave behind their homes, family, and most of their belongings. Most will never return home because it is too unsafe.

Immigrants choose to leave their homes to settle in a different country with more opportunities, like better jobs or schools. Unlike refugees, they usually have time to plan their travel, pack, and say goodbye to friends and family.

How This Little Goldfish Can Cause

BIG TROUBLE

In 2017, Marcus Rosten pulled a goldfish the size of a small dog from the Niagara River in New York. But it wasn't the first time a monster goldfish had been caught in the U.S.

Goldfish living in a bowl in your family room are harmless. But goldfish in U.S. waterways are an invasive species. That's

an animal or a plant that moves into an area and harms native species. Tens of millions of goldfish have invaded bodies of water across the country.

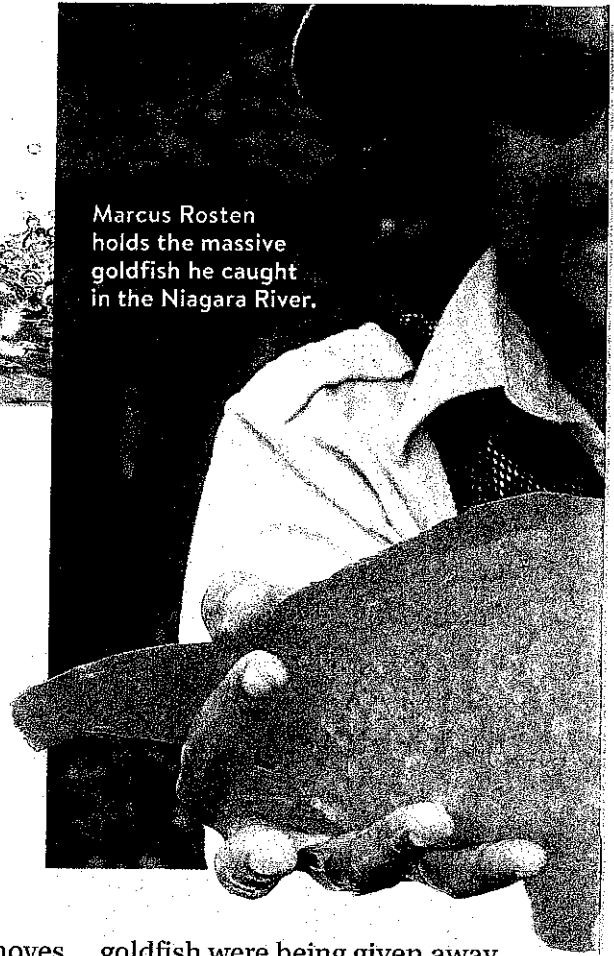
From Pets to Pests

Goldfish are a type of carp that is native to Asia. They were first brought to the U.S. more than 200 years ago. By 1900,

goldfish were being given away as carnival prizes. Today, they are as common in U.S. homes as cats or dogs.

But what happens when people decide they no longer want their goldfish? Often, they think the most **humane** way to part with a pet fish is to release it into a pond or stream. But they might actually be creating

Marcus Rosten holds the massive goldfish he caught in the Niagara River.



Courtesy of Marcus Rosten (Marcus Rosten); StockPhoto/Getty Images (tree)

More Unwanted Guests

An estimated 4,300 invasive species live throughout the U.S. Here are three of the biggest pests.

EMERALD ASH BORER

THE INVASION These half-inch-long beetles first arrived from Asia in 2002. They've since killed tens of millions of ash trees in 35 states by boring, or digging, under the bark.

DAMAGE CONTROL Experts have cut down tens of thousands of infected trees to try to stop these pests from spreading to other trees.

The beetles dig zigzag tunnels in tree trunks.





a gigantic problem.

"Besides being illegal to release goldfish into the wild, it's irresponsible," explains Sarah Muskopf. She's an **aquatic** biologist with the U.S. Forest Service.

A Struggle to Survive

Goldfish swimming in a fishbowl eat only a few flakes or pellets of food each day. But fish released into rivers and lakes have access to an almost unlimited supply of plants, insects, and smaller fish to eat.

With no natural predators to keep them in check, these eating machines can grow to be more than a foot long. And they multiply quickly. Female goldfish lay up to 40,000 eggs per year. All those unwelcome goldfish end up competing with native fish for food.

"Because invasive goldfish are larger and more plentiful, they usually win," says Muskopf.

The way goldfish search for food can also be harmful. They are bottom-feeders, meaning they find food along the floor of a body of water. That stirs up

sand and mud, making the water murky. Native fish struggle to survive in those conditions, and the entire ecosystem is affected.

What You Can Do

Goldfish have been spotted in bodies of water from Alaska to Florida. Often, there are so many in a lake or river that it's impossible to get rid of them all.

The best thing people can do, Muskopf says, is to stop dumping their pet fish. People should bring unwanted goldfish to a pet store or an aquarium.

After all, a photo of a giant goldfish might make a great viral tweet, but is it worth it?

—by Jennifer Li Shotz

WORDS TO KNOW

humane *adjective*. not cruel to people or animals

aquatic *adjective*. relating to animals and plants that live in or near water

BURMESE PYTHON

THE INVASION: In the 1970s, these huge snakes were imported from Asia to be sold as pets. Now up to 100,000 may be living in the Florida Everglades. They feast on native animals, like rabbits and deer.

DAMAGE CONTROL: Wildlife officials capture and kill hundreds of pythons each year. In January, officials held the Python Bowl, giving prizes to the teams that caught the most snakes.

NUTRIA

THE INVASION: Starting in the late 1800s, traders brought these 20-pound rodents from South America to sell for their fur. But escaped nutria started eating enough vegetation to disrupt entire ecosystems.

DAMAGE CONTROL: Some states, like Delaware, seem to have completely gotten rid of nutria. Others are still trying.



Back to a Booster?

When Evangeline Fuller stopped using a booster seat in her family's SUV last year, she was so excited.

"I felt like I was growing up," says the fifth-grader from Washington State.

But now Evangeline—and many other kids in her state—is back to sitting in a booster. A new state law requires kids to use the seats until they turn 13 or reach a height of 4 feet 9 inches, whichever comes first.

Why are kids in Washington getting a boost? Sitting on a

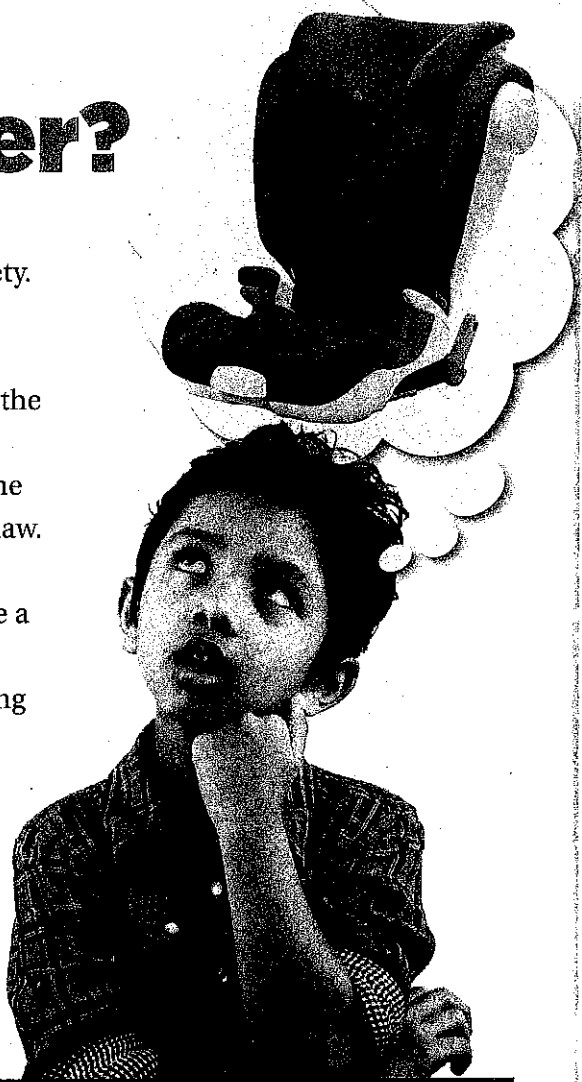
higher seat puts them in a better position for their safety. Seat belts are designed for adults, so the strap doesn't always cross kids' bodies in the right place.

Like many kids, Evangeline isn't thrilled about the new law. At 10 years old and 4 feet 7 inches tall, she knows it'll be a while before she's out of a booster again. But she's trying to look on the bright side.

"It does feel more secure when I'm in a booster seat," she says. "And I guess I can see out the window better."

**YOUR
TURN**

Is Washington's new booster seat law a good idea? Why or why not?



**PICTURE
THIS**

A Unicorn Puppy

Meet Narwhal, a dog with an extra tail growing from his forehead. He was rescued by a pet shelter in Missouri last fall. The puppy is named after a type of horned whale known as the "unicorn of the sea." The staff at the shelter say Narwhal's spare tail is harmless and doesn't cause the pup any pain. (And in case you're wondering, no, he can't wag it!)

Photos of Narwhal have made him an internet celebrity. More than 300 people have asked to adopt him. But the shelter plans to keep its unicorn puppy, to help remind people that it's OK to be unusual.



DEBATE
IT!

What Happened to Amelia Earhart?

In 1937, pilot Amelia Earhart was on a mission to become the first woman to fly around the world. About two-thirds of the way through her trip, she vanished and was never heard from again. The U.S. Navy and Coast Guard searched the Pacific Ocean for weeks, but they never found Earhart or her plane. We asked two experts what they think happened.



LANDED ON AN ISLAND

Ric Gillespie
Founder of The
International Group for
Historic Aircraft Recovery

I've been investigating the Earhart case for more than 30 years. I think she landed on a tiny island called Nikumaroro (nik-uh-muhr-OHR-oh), where she likely died a few weeks later. The island is near where Earhart reported flying just before she disappeared.

 Operators reported hearing radio distress calls they believed were from Earhart. These calls were traced to an area within a few miles of Nikumaroro.

 We've searched the island and found many artifacts. They include a jar of face cream and scraps of metal most likely from a plane.

 It's not surprising that the Navy pilots didn't see Earhart. I've flown over the island, and it's extremely difficult to see people on the ground, even if you know someone is down there.

CRASHED IN THE OCEAN

Dorothy Cochrane
Aviation expert at
the National Air and
Space Museum

I believe that Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan were very close to Howland Island in the Pacific Ocean. Her last radio calls were to the Coast Guard waiting there. But they couldn't find the island, ran out of fuel, and crashed into the ocean.

 Nikumaroro is 350 miles past Howland Island, where the pair intended to stop. They did not have enough fuel to fly that far off course.

 People have been searching Nikumaroro since 1937 but have found no evidence that can directly be tied to Earhart. And those radio calls were never confirmed to be from Earhart.

 The Navy saw no signs of Earhart, Noonan, or their plane. If they had landed on Nikumaroro, someone would have seen her—it's a very tiny island.

What Do YOU Think? Highlight two pieces of evidence to support your opinion. Use that evidence to write an argument essay. Then cast your vote at scholastic.com/sn4!

Name: _____

INFOGRAPHIC

Take the Shamrock Challenge!

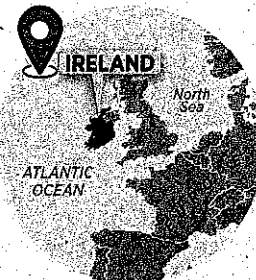
March 17 is St. Patrick's Day! To celebrate, check out this infographic about the holiday and then answer the questions.

U.S. Cities With the Biggest St. Patrick's Day Parades

Boston, MA	                                               
Chicago, IL	                                                        
Kansas City, MO	 
New York, NY	                                                        
Savannah, GA	                                                        

KEY:  = 100,000 SPECTATORS

St. Patrick's Day began in Ireland more than **1,000** years ago. Immigrants from Ireland brought the holiday to the U.S.



Nearly **33 million** Americans are of Irish heritage. That's more than 6 times the entire population of Ireland, which is 5.1 million.

The shamrock is a St. Paddy's Day symbol. But it is NOT the official symbol of Ireland. That's a harp.



Chicago officials dye the Chicago River green for the day. Forty pounds of dye is used.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, International Business Times

1 About how many people watch the St. Patrick's Day parade in Savannah each year?

- A 1,000 C 750,000
B 100,000 D 34 million

2 True or False? Fewer people live in Ireland than attend the St. Patrick's Day parade in Boston.

WRITE ABOUT IT!

Research your favorite holiday. How did it get started? What are the most popular traditions?

A Place to Call Home pages 2-3

1 What is the article mainly about?

- A how Tani Adewumi learned to play chess
B why Tani's family moved to New York
C how Tani's determination helped his family
D Tani's journey from Nigeria to the U.S.

2 Why is Tani considered a refugee?

- A He moved to the United States.
B He fled his home to escape danger.
C He was homeless.
D He became a chess champ very quickly.

3 Which statement would Tani likely agree with?

- A To win a game, all you need is luck.
B Hard work pays off.
C Moving to a new country is easy.
D You should never ask others for help.

How This Little Goldfish Can Cause Big Trouble pages 4-5

4 Another title for this article could be ____.

- A "Goldfish in Danger"
B "How to Care for Your Pet Goldfish"
C "Giant Goldfish Take Over"
D "How to Save Giant Goldfish"

5 You can infer that Sarah Muskopf ____.

- A thinks invasive goldfish aren't a big problem
B has released pet goldfish into U.S. waterways
C doesn't want people to have goldfish as pets
D wants to teach people about invasive species

6 Which of the following is an example of an aquatic creature?

- A butterfly C lion
B rabbit D shark





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October 21, 2019

SCHOLASTIC News

4

The pygmy marmoset is one of millions of species that live in the Amazon.

My Home Is on Fire

An alarming number of wildfires have destroyed much of the Amazon rainforest this year.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meet two amazing kids who helped make their town safer.



Should Halloween costumes be banned in schools?



The AMAZON R

The Amazon rainforest has been in the news a lot lately. Why is it important to know about this place?

“The Amazon is home to more species of plants and animals than any other land ecosystem on the planet,” says scientist Robin Chazdon.



*French Guiana isn't a country. It's a territory of the country of France

2 Fires are raging—
thousands of them.
According to experts, there
have been more than
90,000 fires so
far this year.
The fires are
creating so
much thick
smoke that it
can be seen
from space.



This affects more than just the animals that live in the rainforest. More than 30 million people call the rainforest region home too.

AINFOREST

4 That sounds bad, but the Amazon is really far away from where I live. Why should I care about it?

Rainforests help keep the entire planet healthy. So an enormous one like the Amazon is especially important. The rainforest's billions of trees and other plants release oxygen. That's a key ingredient in the air we breathe.

The Amazon rainforest's trees and other plants also pull a gas called carbon dioxide out of the air. Burning the trees releases carbon dioxide. Too much of the gas is bad for Earth. Carbon dioxide and other harmful gases can act like a blanket, trapping some of the sun's heat in Earth's atmosphere. This warms up the planet.

WORDS TO KNOW

biodiversity *noun*. the variety of plants and animals that live in a region

deforestation *noun*. the act of cutting down or burning down all the trees in an area

5 Will the Amazon recover?

No one knows for sure. The World Wildlife Fund estimates that humans have destroyed nearly 20 percent of the Amazon over the past 50 years. If the loss continues at that rate, millions of species would be in danger.

Many people are calling on Brazil's government to crack down on illegal tree clearing and create stricter rules about deforestation. And people, organizations, and governments worldwide are stepping in to help stop the fires.

"The fires have helped people realize that we are all part of the same planet," says Chazdon.

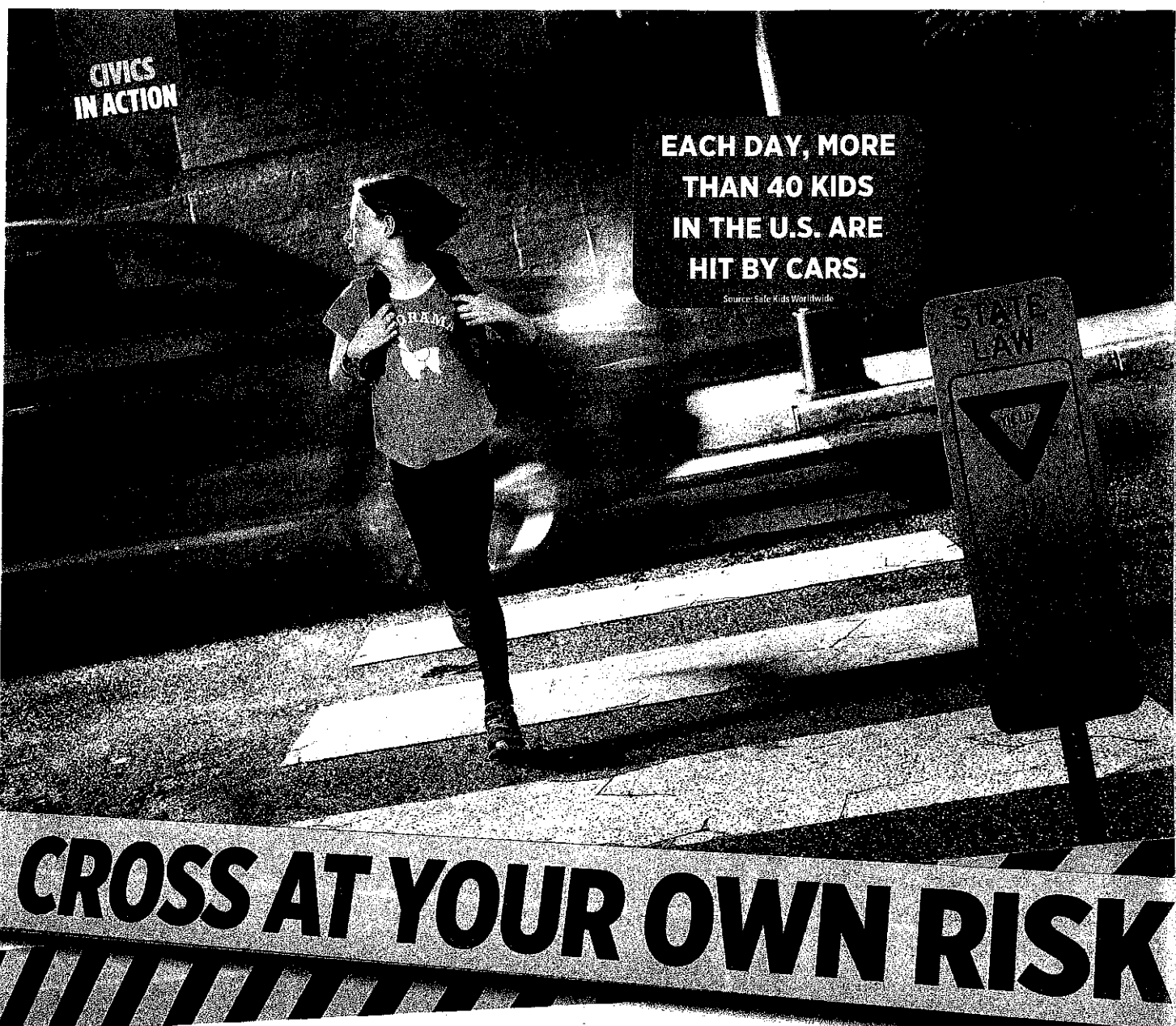
—by Tricia Culligan

The two-toed sloth, one of the slowest animals on Earth, lives in the treetops of the Amazon.



GO
ONLINE

Take a virtual trip
to the Amazon
rainforest.



CIVICS
IN ACTION

EACH DAY, MORE
THAN 40 KIDS
IN THE U.S. ARE
HIT BY CARS.

Source: Safe Kids Worldwide

CROSS AT YOUR OWN RISK

Every year, a shocking number of people are hit by cars. Two classmates found an unusual way to make drivers slow down.

The car sped toward Eric and his brother. It was September 2016. The boys were crossing the street outside Brooks Elementary in Medford, Massachusetts. Eric's dad yanked them out of the way just in time. They'd nearly joined the alarming number of **pedestrians** who are hit, and sometimes killed, by cars each year.

That terrifying moment inspired Eric, now 11. He decided to make the streets outside his school safer.

A National Crisis

The number of people killed by cars is rising. According to a recent study, more than 6,200 pedestrians were killed by cars last year. That's the largest

number in nearly 30 years.

Often, the difference between life and death depends on the speed of the car. Eric knew getting cars to slow down could save lives. He just needed the right plan.

Safety by Design

About a year after his close call, Eric joined a school

program that helps students design projects to improve their community. He partnered with another student, named Isa. They researched ways to make drivers slow down.

"We wanted something that would really stand out," he says.

Eric and Isa considered flashing lights and speed bumps, but those options were expensive. After a few weeks, they found a simple and cheap solution: a 3-D crosswalk. This **optical illusion** is meant to grab drivers' attention so they reduce their speed.

Speaking Up

In February 2018, Eric and Isa shared their idea with Medford's mayor. They gave a presentation with facts about how 3-D crosswalks have made drivers slow down in other countries. The mayor loved the idea.

So did the town's traffic board, a group in charge of the town's roads. But they said the crosswalk had to wait until other projects were done. Finally, after 14 months, the 3-D crosswalk was painted outside Brooks Elementary this past April.

"I had almost given up," says Isa, now 11. "But you can't give up or things won't happen."

The city has since painted a 3-D crosswalk at another school and plans to add more.

"I'm so excited that it's finally done," adds Eric, "and that we made the roads safer."

—by Jennifer Li Shotz

WORDS TO KNOW

pedestrians *noun, plural.*
people walking, especially near traffic

optical illusion *noun.*
something that looks different from what it actually is

ERIC AND ISA'S TIPS FOR TAKING ACTION



THINK LIKE A DETECTIVE.

Our first ideas didn't work. But we kept digging until we found a good solution.



SPREAD THE WORD.

We shared our idea with a lot of different people—and convinced our city's leaders to support it.



DON'T GIVE UP.

Change doesn't happen overnight. We waited more than a year. But it was worth it. We made our town safer.

ERIC AND ISA'S BIG IDEA

Most crosswalks have white stripes painted on the ground. A 3-D crosswalk has stripes painted to look like blocks rising from the road. The illusion causes drivers to slow down to avoid crashing into them.

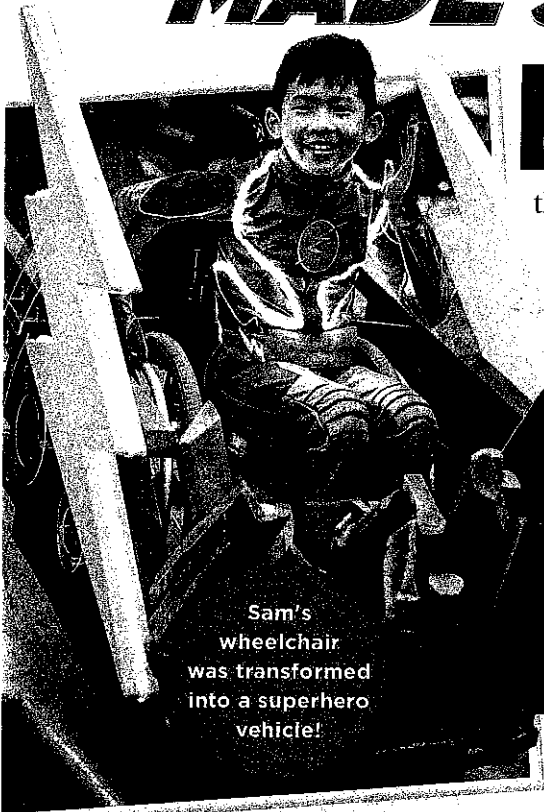
GO ONLINE!

See how the illusion works.



SOCIAL-
EMOTIONAL

A COSTUME MADE JUST FOR ME!



Sam's
wheelchair
was transformed
into a superhero
vehicle!

Like many kids, Sam David Phelps loves Halloween. But finding the right costume used to be a struggle. That's because the 11-year-old from Portland, Oregon, uses a wheelchair. Sam was born with medical conditions that weaken his nerves and muscles. When Sam was 4, he started using a wheelchair. That made dressing up to go trick-or-treating difficult.

"It was hard to find a costume that I could wear and sit comfortably in my chair," Sam explains.

Enter Magic Wheelchair. The group creates costumes for kids who use wheelchairs. Last year, they transformed Sam's wheelchair into a vehicle for his favorite superhero, the Flash.

"I was the hit of the neighborhood!" recalls Sam. "My costume made me feel really awesome."

Sam loved the costume so much that he's dressing up as the Flash again this year!

Courtesy: Magic Wheelchair (Sam David Phelps); PONGTORN SUNGASEN/Shutterstock.com (cat); Courtesy of Frogs & Friends (Frog)

PICTURE
THIS

This Frog Is As Big As a Cat!

Meet the goliath frog—the biggest frog on Earth. It can weigh more than 7 pounds and measure up to a foot long.

Scientists recently discovered that these amphibians are also superstrong builders. Most frogs find shallow pools of water in which to lay their eggs. But goliath frogs use their powerful legs to dig their own holes. They also clear out leaves and gravel and move heavy rocks to build nests for their young.

You won't find goliath frogs in your local pond, though. They live only in rainforests in two countries in Africa.

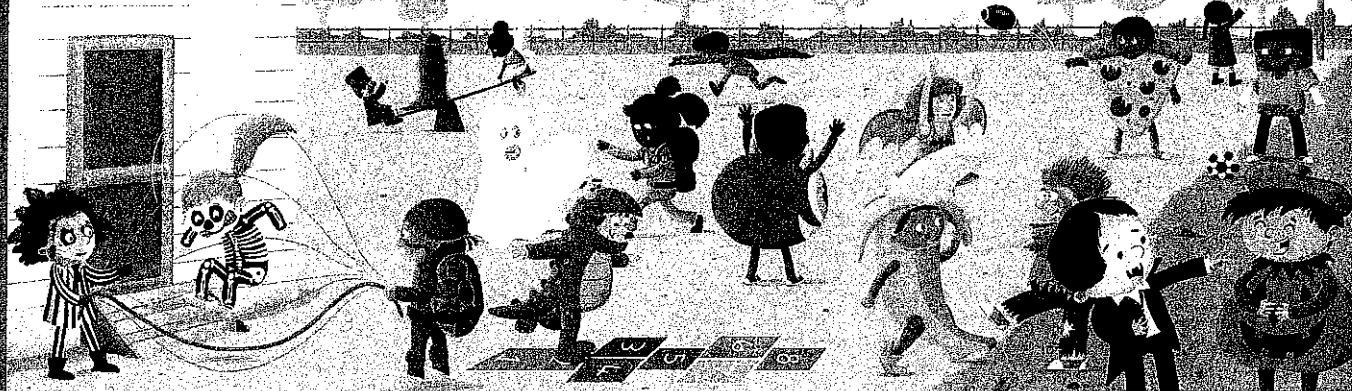


Goliath frogs
have lived on
Earth for about
250 million years.
That's before the
dinosaurs!



DEBATE
IT!

Should Schools Celebrate Halloween?



On October 31, students at Ironton Elementary School will likely bump into Steve from *Minecraft* or Mal from *Descendants 3*. That's because the Ohio school is one of many that allow students to wear costumes to class on Halloween.

"We have a parade," says Ironton assistant principal David Ashworth. "Even the teachers typically dress up."

Ashworth and other school officials say these celebrations give kids a needed break.

Some parents also point out that a school dress-up day allows their kids to get more than just one use out of their costumes.

But others say zombies and goblins don't belong in class—costumes are distracting and take time away from learning. Besides, they argue, about one-third of people in the U.S. don't celebrate Halloween. So a number of kids just stay home from school to avoid these celebrations.

Here's what two of our readers think.



Aarti Maira
Illinois

and show off their creativity.

Halloween only comes once a year. It's a good chance to take a break and have some fun. As long as you're not wearing anything too scary, what's the harm?



Gavin Papa
Arizona

Kids who can't participate in the costume party can feel left out or uncomfortable.

Speaking of uncomfortable, try eating lunch or playing at recess in a costume! Why not just save it for trick-or-treating after school?

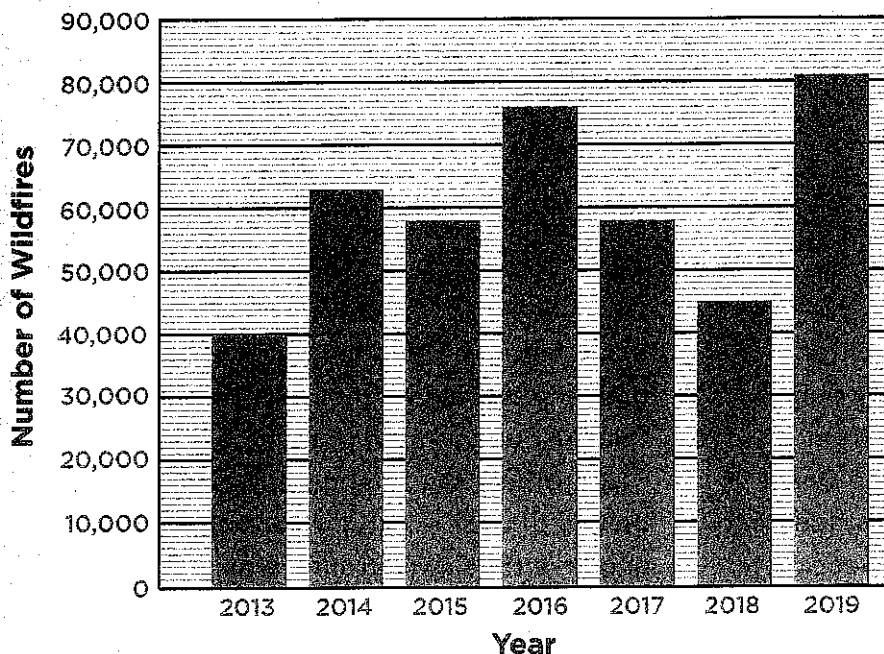
What Do YOU Think? Highlight two pieces of evidence to support your opinion. Use that evidence to prepare for a class debate. Then cast your vote at scholastic.com/sn4!

Name: _____

GRAPH

Wildfires in Brazil

Brazil has experienced an alarming number of wildfires this year. About half of the areas damaged by the fires are in the Amazon. This graph shows the number of wildfires in Brazil in recent years.



Notes: The graph shows fires from January through August of each year; numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand. Source: Brazil's National Institute for Space Research

1 In which two years did Brazil experience about the same number of wildfires?

- A 2013 and 2014
- B 2018 and 2019
- C 2014 and 2019
- D 2015 and 2017

2 There were about ____ as many fires in 2019 as in 2013.

- A half
- B twice
- C three times
- D four times

WRITE ABOUT IT!

Imagine you are going to interview someone who lives in the Amazon. What three questions would you ask?

The Amazon Rainforest pages 2-3

1 The main purpose of the article is to ____.

- A compare rainforests around the world
- B explain the causes and effects of wildfires in the Amazon rainforest
- C explain the history of the Amazon
- D show how countries are helping to stop the fires in the Amazon

2 How does the Amazon affect the planet?

- A It keeps the whole world warm.
- B It provides a home for many animals.
- C It produces a lot of oxygen.
- D It is located in South America.

3 Which is an example of *biodiversity*?

- A 75,000 fires
- B deforestation
- C thousands of species
- D carbon dioxide



Cross at Your Own Risk pages 4-5

4 What is the article's main idea?

- A Eric and Isa live in Massachusetts.
- B Walking across crosswalks is dangerous.
- C Eric and Isa helped make crosswalks safer.
- D 3-D crosswalks are safer than traffic lights.

5 Why did Eric want to make cars slow down?

- A He and his brother were almost hit by a car.
- B He joined a new program at school.
- C He and Isa learned about 3-D crosswalks.
- D A 3-D crosswalk was painted near his school.

6 How is a 3-D crosswalk an *optical illusion*?

- A It is cheaper to install than flashing lights.
- B Its white stripes are painted on the ground.
- C Its stripes look like blocks rising up.
- D Cars are supposed to slow down near it.