

CURIOS TIMES WEEKLY

Age-Appropriate Content

School Curriculum-Aligned News

Non-Sensational News

Brighter-coloured flamingos show more aggressive behaviour

Date : Jun 19, 2020 | Image Credit : Wikimedia Commons



Have you ever seen a flamingo? Flamingos are beautiful birds with pink feathers, long legs and slender, graceful necks. They are usually about 3 to 5 feet tall.

Recently, researchers have discovered that flamingos whose feathers are more brightly coloured, tend to be more aggressive and dominant. It means they fight more and push others in the group around.

The scientists also discovered that the more 'pink' a flamingo is, the more healthy it is. It also means that such flamingos attract more partners too.

The scientists studied lesser flamingos, the smallest of the six flamingo types for this study. They are commonly found in Africa and live in large groups with more than thousands of members.

This new information can help scientists and zoos take care of flamingos better.

How do flamingos have such a pink colour?

Flamingos get their pink colour from eating tiny plants and animals that live in water. These tiny organisms contain carotenoids – colouring matters that produce red and orange colours.

Musicians perform a concert for plants in Barcelona

Date : Jun 24, 2020 | Image Credit : Twitter@SinfoniaVirtual



Do you know what an **opera house** is? It is a special kind of hall where concerts and musical plays are performed for the public.

As COVID-19 lockdowns are being lifted, many public places worldwide, including opera houses, are slowly opening.

Recently, the **Liceu opera house in Barcelona**, Spain was able to have its first concert since mid-March. But the concert was played to an **unusual audience – 2,292 plants!**

During the lockdown, we saw many examples of how **nature flourished while humans stayed indoors**. The concert, called the "**Concert for the Biocene**", wanted to focus on the **importance of the relationship between art and nature**.

Of course, human listeners could watch the concert too, online.

The **2,292 plants will now be donated to 2,292 healthcare people** who have been fighting against COVID-19.

Spain is one of the countries hardest-hit by COVID-19. This concert signals the re-opening of art and culture activities in the country.

Quote of the week



"You choose your friends by their character and your socks by their colour."

Gary Oldman

Word to know



Gist
Noun | jist

the most important pieces of information about something, or general information without details

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Dinosaur fossil from Antarctica is largest soft-shell egg ever found

Date: Jun 19, 2020 | Image Credit: Wikimedia Commons



Many birds and reptiles lay eggs. These eggs have either hard shells (like chicken eggs) or soft, flexible shells (like turtle eggs).

Scientists recently discovered the **first-ever dinosaur or reptile egg to be found in Antarctica** (from about 66 million years ago).

This egg is the **largest soft-shell egg ever discovered** and the second-largest egg of any known animal. The egg is about 11 by 7 inches in size.

It is believed to have been laid by 20-foot-long marine reptiles called mosasaurs who lived in the area at that time.

This fossil **had actually been first discovered in 2011** but scientists did not know what it was until recently.

This **discovery is linked to another recent study** which revealed that the first dinosaur eggs were **soft-shelled eggs**. Scientists had earlier believed that dinosaurs always laid hard-shelled eggs from the beginning.

This study indicates that the eggs (found in places like Mongolia and Argentina) were likely buried in sand or soil while waiting to be hatched.

The parent dinosaurs did not sit on them (like birds do). This is similar to how many reptiles lay eggs today.

These prehistoric eggs collected from around the world show how much we are yet to learn about reptile evolution, particularly among dinosaurs.

Japanese scientist's innovative tiny forests helps fight climate change

Date: Jun 23, 2020 | Image Credit: Pixabay



Environment groups in European countries are helping communities **grow tiny forests in and around their cities**, especially near roads or schools.

These forests, which are **sometimes only as big as a tennis court**, aim to restore biodiversity, improve air quality, restore soil and fight climate change.

Biodiversity, also called biological diversity, is the variety of life found in a place on Earth. It helps maintain the balance of life in nature.

These tiny forests are based on the work of a famous Japanese botanist (a person who studies plants) **Akira Miyawaki**. He has planted more than 1,000 such forests in Japan, Malaysia and more.

In these forests, saplings (young plants) are planted close together (three per square metre). They are also native plants, suitable for local conditions and the forests contain at least 30 types of plants or more.

With so much variety, the forests attract many insects and other organisms which in turn attract birds and animals.

The **forests grow 10 times faster than other methods**. They also become 30 times denser and 100 times more biodiverse. The more variety of trees a forest has, the better it can fight climate change as it can store much more carbon. So, the tiny, tense Miyawaki forests are very suitable for this.

Did You Know



The first dinosaur to be named was Megalosaurus. It was named in 1824 by Reverend William Buckland. Megalosaurus means 'great lizard' and it was about 9 metres long, and 3 metres tall.



Joke Pokes



Q. Why wouldn't the crab share his sweets?
A. Because he was a little shellfish!

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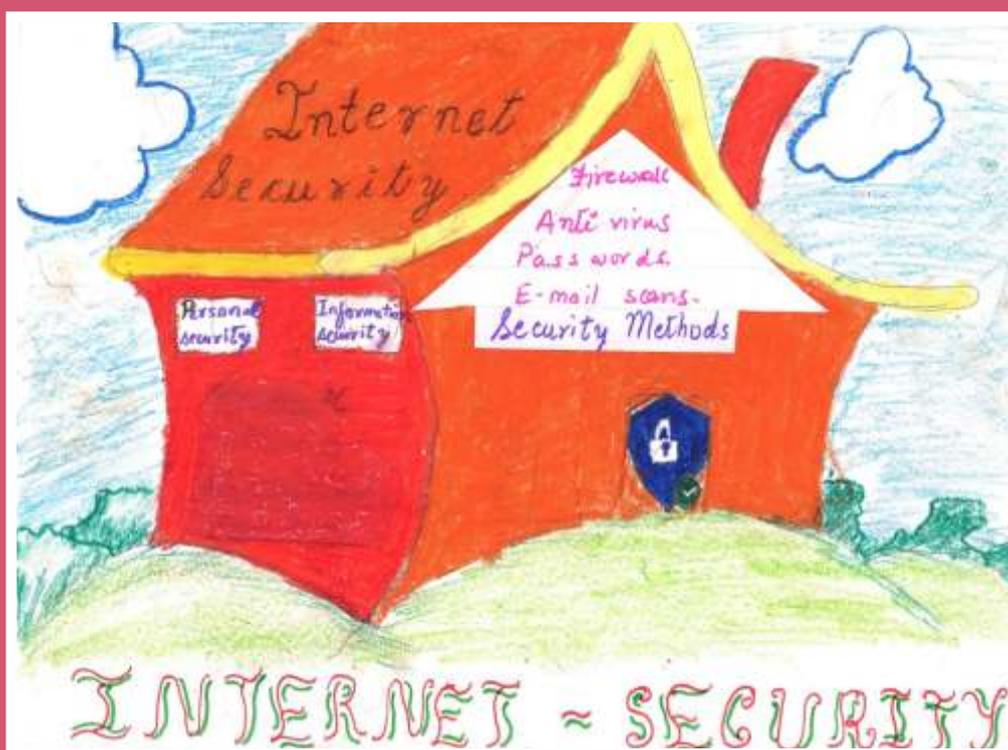
School Curriculum-Aligned News

Non-Sensational News

My Expressions

Be Aware, Be Safe

Date : 23 June 2020 | Lohit Manocha, 10, DLDVA Model School, Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi



Ananya Sharma, 3, Calorx Public School, Ghatlodia, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

We explore CyberVerse
without thinking it could be a curse
Be alert while clicking
as you don't know what the page is hiding

Keep your personal data private
Because phishing is like an unknown pirate
Sometimes we share our sensitive data
without thinking its importance strata

Identity theft is a common practice
Be aware of the hackers' tactics
Never make your identity public
Never share your profile pic

Never keep your password weak
so that stealer cannot tweak
Never share this key with others
for it could ruin you like a curse

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Architects in the UAE use salt to make cement

Date: Jun 24, 2020 | Image Credit: [Twitter@DXBMediaOffice](#)

Wael Al Awar and Kenichi Teramoto are the main architects at the Waiwai architecture and design firm based in the UAE (United Arab Emirates).

They have worked with different scientists to create cement from brine (saltwater). This is the waste product of the UAE's desalination plants (which remove salt from seawater to make it drinkable).

The architects were also inspired by the UAE's sabkha area. These are salt flats that are part of the country's wetlands.

However, they did not want to disturb the ecosystem of the sabkha area. So, they decided to use the brine waste instead. The brine contains many of the same materials as the sabkha area.

The UAE is a country with a hot climate and large desert-like areas. It has a shortage of freshwater and so, it has many desalination plants. However, they also produce a lot of brine waste which is harmful to marine life.

How is the cement made from brine waste?

Brine waste contains magnesium minerals and compounds.

This product was tested in both UAE and Japan to ensure that it is safe for use.

The architects say that they want to construct more sustainable and environmentally-friendly architecture.

Al Awar and Teramoto will use the magnesium-based cement to build the UAE National Pavilion at the Venice Biennale of Architecture in May 2021. For now, they are researching more on this new material.

Great white sharks with fearsome teeth are bottom-feeders

Date: Jun 15, 2020 | Image Credit: [Twitter@JimBridenstine](#)

We have read about great white sharks before. They are large sharks and great hunters with fearsome teeth.

A recent study of great white sharks in Australia reveals this fearsome predator spends more time feeding close to the seabed than expected. So, the idea that they spend a lot of time near the surface, hunting, seems to be wrong.

The study examined the stomach contents of 40 juvenile (young) white sharks.

The stomachs contained salmon as well as a variety of fish species that typically live on the seafloor or buried in the sand.

Most of the fish they eat are small in size. They seem to go after larger prey like dolphins only after they get larger than 2.2 metres in length.

The scientists also found that larger sharks tended to have a diet that was higher in fat. This is likely due to their high energy needs for migration (the process of animals travelling to a different place, usually when the season changes).

Tracking of white sharks shows that they migrate seasonally along Australia's east coast from southern Queensland to northern Tasmania. The range of movement also increases with age.

The study is an important contribution towards understanding the sharks' feeding and migratory habits.

The great white shark is an endangered species and understanding their diet and hunt for food will give us ideas on how to protect them or increase their numbers.

Tongue Twister!



Eddie edited it.

Joke Pokes



Q. Who is the world's greatest underwater secret agent?

A. James Pond.

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You can help NASA drive the Curiosity rover on Mars

Date : Jun 22 , 2020 | Image Credit : Wikimedia Commons



NASA's Curiosity rover is currently on Mars, exploring the planet. Now, you can also help guide the Curiosity rover around sand traps, sharp rocks and other obstacles on Mars!

NASA has introduced a **new online tool** called **AI4Mars**, hosted on Zooniverse.

It is asking the public to help map Curiosity's routes on Mars, using AI4Mars, **by drawing borders around the surroundings in the images and assigning labels** (names) to them.

The tool has images of Mars taken by Curiosity as well as previous rovers like **Opportunity**. It will also soon feature other languages such as Spanish, Hindi and Japanese.

AI4Mars is a form of "machine learning" that allows Curiosity's drivers (on Earth) to train the rover's intelligence for safe route planning. Machine learning is an application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) that provides systems with the ability to automatically learn and improve from experience.

Finding a good route to explore on Mars is not very easy. A typical rover drive takes about four to five hours to plan. It has to be checked by computer engineers, geologists, and many more people. So, **if the area is already labeled, it will save them time.**

This tool will also be **very useful for the Perseverance rover, which NASA is launching** in July 2020.

Huge carnivorous dinosaurs lived in Australia 160 million years ago

Date : Jun 16 , 2020 | Image Credit : Wikimedia Commons



Scientists have found dinosaur footprints that show that **large carnivorous (meat-eating) dinosaurs lived in Australia.**

Earlier, scientists knew about large carnivorous dinosaurs that lived in other parts of the world. For example, the Tyrannosaurus rex (T.rex) in North America, the **Spinosaurus** in Africa and more. But this is **the first time that shows Australia also had** large carnivorous dinosaurs.

The footprints, found in Queensland, are about **50 and 60 centimetres in length**. They indicate that the dinosaur was up to three metres high at the hips and about 10 metres long.

That is **larger in size to the T.rex dinosaur**, which appeared 90 million years after these Australian dinosaurs.

The footprints are believed to have been made by **giant carnosaurs**. They were some of the largest predatory dinosaurs on the planet during that time and **looked similar to the T.rex.**

During that time, the area was occupied by swamp-forests (forests with water-logged and muddy areas), which helped preserve the footprints.

The footprints were **actually found in caves in the 1950s and 1960s** but were not studied until now.

Tongue Twister!



A big black bear sat on a big black rug

Joke Pokes



Person 1: Knock-knock.

Person 2: Who's there?

Person 1: Justin.

Person 2: Justin who?

Person 1: Justin time for dinner!

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My Expressions

The years of laughter, friendship and jealousy!

Date : 17 June 2020 | Dhruvi Jain, Grade 9, DL DAV Model School, Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi



Celia Benny | Grade 12, Excelsior English School, Kottayam, Kerala

I miss my school days, where I spent 10 yrs
The years of laughter, friendship, jealousy

Where the teacher taught us,
The respect, the knowledge of life
I miss my school days,

where we all friends played together,
We played games of true friendship,
And promised to be friends for forever,

We played games of love, which we never
gonna forget,

I miss my school days, where we made every
Fun memorable.
Where we laughed at each other jokes,
We cried at each other's sorrow
Where we laughed at each other jokes,
We cried at each other's sorrow

I miss my school days, where we took
participation
In every sport, on every occasion,
Where we cheered up each other
Where there was no place for hate, in losing.

I miss my school days, where I saw many relations
Build up, and many relation breaks,
But in the end, we all were together, erasing all
the jealousy.

I miss my school days. Where we carried our
heavy bags on our back,
Around the streets, and shared jokes, pain,
sorrow,
Ran at the roads, with our heavy bags,
Cherishing our memories with every step.
Which never gonna forget, in our lifetime.
I never gonna forget those days.

And I really miss those days

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4,500-year-old circle monument found near Stonehenge

Date: Jun 24, 2020 | Image Credit: Pixabay



We have read about Stonehenge before. It is an ancient monument, believed to be about 4500 years old, located in Wiltshire, England. It consists of a ring of heavy standing stones, each around 13 feet high, 7 feet wide.

Recently, a ring of large shafts (holes) has been discovered near Stonehenge.

Tests show that they were made by Neolithic people during the Stone age, more than 4,500 years ago. Stonehenge is also believed to have been created by Neolithic people.

The shafts cover an area of about 2km in a circle. The shafts themselves measure more than 10m (30ft) in diameter and 5m (15ft) in depth.

These shafts, about 3 km from Stonehenge, were discovered using latest technology like ground-penetrating radar and more.

Initially, scientists thought that they were natural pits but further study showed the pattern.

These shafts are quite an incredible discovery as the Neolithic people at that time only had tools made of stone and bones and the shafts would have required a lot of work. The new discovery also indicates that these people knew how to count as well.

Experts believe the shafts may have served as a boundary to a sacred area connected to Stonehenge.

Undersea continent 'Zealandia' can be explored online

Date: Jun 25, 2020 | Image Credit: Wikimedia Commons



We have read about Zealandia earlier. It is a huge continent located at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, under New Zealand.

It used to be part of Gondwana, an ancient supercontinent made up of South America, Africa, Madagascar, India, Antarctica and Australia. But it broke off 85 million years ago and eventually sank below the ocean.

Now, the only visible parts of it are New Zealand and other small islands.

Scientists at GNS Science, a New Zealand research institute, have recently revealed two new maps showing more details of this undersea continent.

They have also published an interactive website where the public can 'explore' it online from all over the world. For example, a user can go to the website and locate all the ancient and modern volcanoes on the continent.

The scientists say that the maps can help the public understand more about their work.

They also provide the latest information on the geology of the New Zealand and southwest Pacific ocean area.

Did You Know



Each of the stones in Stonehenge weighs about 25 tons - that is 4.10 times more than the weight of an elephant.



Word to know



Brisk
Adjective | brisk

quick, energetic, and active

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My Expressions - Father's Day Special



Pappa !!! My world !!!!

Ishaan Shamon
Grade 1, The Choice School, Thripunitra, Kerala



Dedicated to the World's Greatest Farter!

Sanaa Celly
Grade 5, Scottish High International School, Gurgaon, Haryana



I love my dad

Amishi Jain
Grade 3, Delhi Public School, Sonapat, Haryana



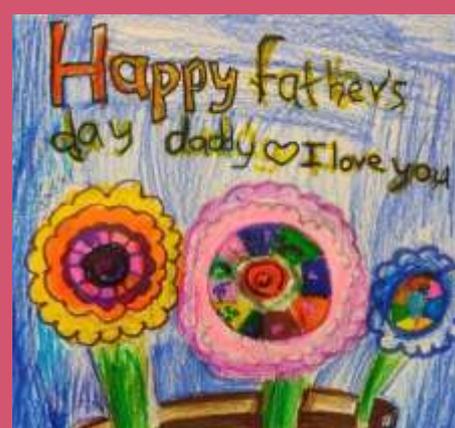
My loving daddy

Ashni Palande
Grade 5, SNBP School and Junior College Morwadi, Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra



Father's Day

Ritik Abhinav
7, Delhi Public School, Sonapat, Haryana



My Daddy My Hero

Zamrin Sunila Ajumal
Grade 1, The Choice School, Thripunitra, Kerala



For you my dad

Jerald Nithin
1, The Choice School, Thripunitra, Kerala



My best friend is my papa.

Medha Bhalla
8, Delhi Public School, Sonapat, Haryana



Superman Daddy

Ekaa Sarath
2, The Choice School, Thripunitra, Kerala

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Father's day gift

Riddhi Sharma
3, Delhi Public School, Sonapat, Haryana



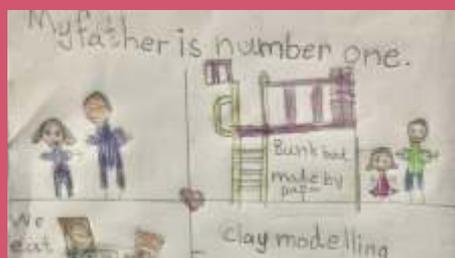
Dad's Suit

Aditya and Abhimanyu Gupta
Grade 9 and Grade 4, Spring Dales Public School,
Dhaura Kuan, New Delhi



I'm Daddy's lil princess

Palak Jain
6, Delhi Public School, Sonapat, Haryana



My father is Number one

Vedhika Renjith
2, The Choice School, Thripunitra, Kerala



My Hero

Netra Shah
6, Delhi Public School, Sonapat, Haryana



Happy Daddy's Day :)

Aishwarya Pillai
2, The Choice School, Kochi, Kerala



Father's love

Manvi Khajuria
Grade 10, DLDVA MODEL SCHOOL, Shalimar
Bagh, New Delhi



My Rad Dad

Ridhima Garg
Grade 10, DLDVA MODEL SCHOOL, Shalimar
Bagh, New Delhi



My beloved father

Shalaka Sanju
3, The Choice School, Thripunitra, Kerala

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Never had a shoulder to cry on!

Date : 19 June 2020 | Chetna, Grade 12, Navy Children School, Kochi , Kerala

I never had a shoulder to cry on,
When I needed someone
It was you who came as light and miracles
started taking place
When you went darkness evoked
Yet not found a shoulder to cry on.

I learned to stand on my feet all by myself
But yes I waited for that spotlight like "a
thirsty man waiting for water"
Yet I never had a shoulder to cry on.

Yet taking all the courage I stood up
and thought of fighting the world on my own.

Yet I never had a shoulder to cry on.
Today me and myself fighting the whole world
alone
realising that spotlight is gone
forever from my life
Yet I never had a shoulder to cry on

But again I could see a ray of light
But this time I feared whether I would be left
out again

But yes this time I actually had a shoulder to
cry on
and this was
"SUCCESS"



Irene,
12, Excelsior English School, Kottayam, Kerala

Did you miss these news? Find them on [Curioustimes.in](https://www.curious-times.in)

Newly-discovered 'baby' neutron star is only 240 years old



Newly developed artificial red blood cells are similar to natural ones



COVID-19 update: CBSE, ICSE cancel pending grade 10 & 12 board exams



Indian private companies can join the space club



The study to find the 12 billion-year-old signal from the universe's 'dark age'



'Extinct' toad rediscovered in Ecuador after 30 years

