

# CURIOUS TIMES WEEKLY

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## Top Schools 2024: The World's Best Private Schools Ranked



Ever wondered what it was like to attend school on the other side of the world? The Spear's 500 school index offered a glimpse into this diverse landscape, revealing a world where educational experiences varied as much as the cultures they represented. It became a journey of discovery, highlighting the unique charm and strengths of each institution.

In the bustling metropolis of London, prestigious institutions like Harrow and Westminster stood tall, their legacy etched in history. These weren't just schools; they were crucibles where future leaders were forged and lifelong bonds were formed. Beyond rigorous academics, they offered a plethora of extracurricular activities, nurturing talents and fostering a global outlook.

Venturing beyond London, the rest of Europe revealed its own educational treasures. Schule Schloss Salem in Germany fostered community engagement, encouraging students to make a difference in their surroundings. St. Julian's in Lisbon charmed with its warm atmosphere, complete with a resident headmaster's puppy. Swiss schools, renowned for their excellence, boasted breathtaking views of Lake Geneva, creating an environment that inspired both learning and adventure.

The journey continued across continents, showcasing the diverse educational landscape in the Asia Pacific region and the Middle East. Raffles Institution in Singapore, a blend of Eastern and Western philosophies, demonstrated how tradition and innovation could coexist harmoniously. Doha College and Repton School Dubai offered world-class education in a unique cultural setting, preparing students for a globalized future. The Spear's 500 school index reminded us that education knows no boundaries. It sparked curiosity and invited further exploration of the world's best schools. It was a testament to the fact that learning is a lifelong journey, filled with surprises and endless possibilities.

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

The Sun Prepares for Magnetic Field Flip



Baby Products: The Science of Diaper Absorption



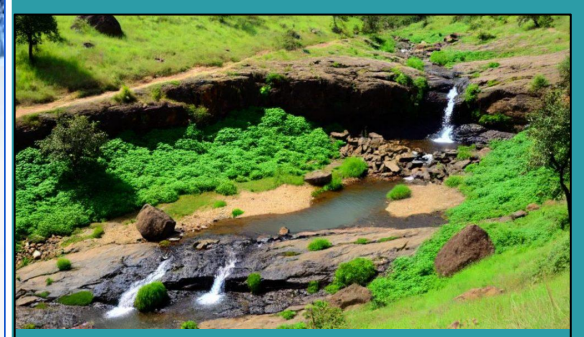
Veterinarian Uses Apple Watch for Lion Care



Cultural and Traditional Ghost Marriage



Ulta Pani Mainpat: Tourist Attraction with an Optical Illusion



## & much more..

DO NOT MISS THE AMAZING STORIES, VIDEOS AND ART FROM BUDDING WRITERS, SCIENTISTS AND ARTISTS ON MY EXPRESSIONS, JOKESPOKE, WORD OF THE DAY, TONGUE TWISTER, QUOTES AND FUN FACTS. CHECK OUT OUR EVENTS

## WORLD VIEW FOR CHILDREN

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## SCIENCE & CELESTIAL EVENTS

### Baby Products: The Science of Diaper Absorption

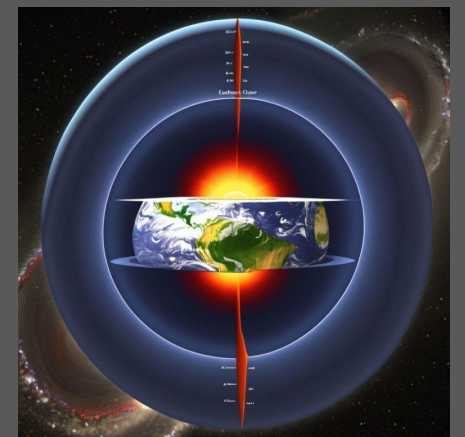


Late nights and diaper changes are a rite of passage for new parents. But have you ever wondered how these seemingly simple products work their magic? It's not sorcery, but a fascinating blend of science and technology.

Cotton, like a thirsty sponge, readily absorbs liquid, while rubber acts as a water-repelling shield. This difference lies in their unique molecular structures, with cotton's fibers attracting water molecules like magnets. However, cotton alone can't handle a baby's deluge. Enter superabsorbent polymers (SAP), the unsung heroes of diaper design. These tiny particles act like molecular sponges, locking away moisture with the help of sodium ions.

The sodium-water bond, a delicate ballet orchestrated by quantum physics, is the secret behind SAP's super-absorbent capabilities. It's a testament to human ingenuity, using science to create comfort and convenience for babies and parents alike.

### Earth's Inner Core: Changes in Rotation & Day Length



Deep within our planet, a molten core churns, its solid iron heart beating a rhythm that influences our days. Scientists, using seismograms like planetary EKGs, have detected a change in this subterranean pulse. The inner core, usually spinning faster than the rest of Earth, is slowing down.

This slowdown raises questions about the length of our days and the delicate dance between Earth's layers. Could it impact leap seconds, those extra ticks added to keep our clocks in sync with the planet's rotation?

Scientists rely on seismic waves from earthquakes and even nuclear tests to paint a picture of this hidden world. This discovery has sparked a flurry of theories, some suggesting a natural cycle, others pointing to complex interactions within Earth's layers. The mystery of the slowing core reminds us that our planet holds secrets yet to be unveiled.

### The Sun Prepares for Magnetic Field Flip

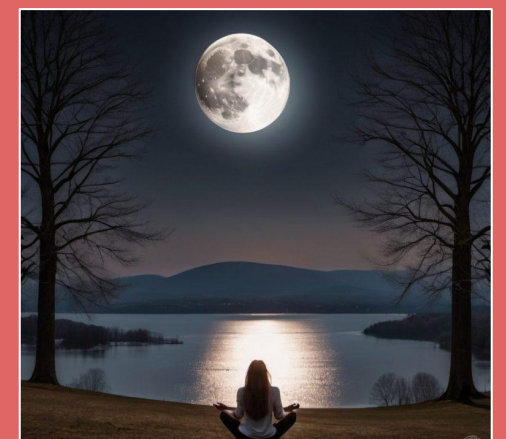


In Udaipur, a young girl named Isha dreamt of becoming a doctor. With eyes sparkling like morning dew, she poured over textbooks, not just memorizing facts but truly understanding them. AIIMS Delhi, the pinnacle of medical institutions in India, seemed an impossible dream, but Isha wouldn't be deterred.

Unlike others who crammed, Isha explored the intricacies of biology, chemistry, and physics like a curious adventurer. She dedicated seven hours a day to her studies, her unwavering focus a testament to her determination. Sacrifices were made - social media went silent, her circle of friends narrowed. It was like shedding weight before a long hike, Isha explained.

The day of the NEET results arrived. As the sun rose over Udaipur, Isha slept peacefully. Her parents, hearts pounding, checked the results online. Isha had not only passed the NEET exam but achieved the unthinkable - a perfect score! The once-distant peak of AIIMS Delhi was now within reach, and Isha was ready to embark on the next chapter of her extraordinary journey.

### Moon Phase Magic: The Rise After the Solstice



As the Northern Hemisphere basked in the extended daylight of the summer solstice, the Strawberry Moon prepared to grace the night sky. This June full moon, named for the sweet berries ripening under the sun, promised a unique spectacle as it rose lower in the sky than usual.

A full moon, like this one, occurs when the sun, Earth, and moon align perfectly, casting a silvery glow upon the night. This year's Strawberry Moon held an additional distinction – it was also the farthest from the sun, a celestial alignment due to Earth's elliptical orbit. As the sun dipped below the horizon, the Strawberry Moon rose in the east, casting its warm light across the landscape.

For those who witnessed this celestial performance on June 21st, it was a moment of connection to the universe. The Strawberry Moon served as an invitation to look up, to wonder, and to explore the mysteries of the cosmos.

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## WILDLIFE & ANIMAL WELFARE

### Snake Charmer Act of The Sphinx Caterpillar



In the vibrant theater of nature, a drama unfolds on a Missouri branch. A plump caterpillar, unsuspecting of a hungry bird's approach, transforms into a mini-serpent. Its body contorts, eyespots appear, and a forked tongue emerges. The startled bird retreats, fooled by the caterpillar's masterful disguise.

This isn't magic; it's Batesian mimicry, a survival strategy where a harmless creature impersonates a dangerous one. The sphinx moth caterpillar, a master of this art, has over 50 species in Missouri alone, each with its unique costume.

This caterpillar's life is a journey of metamorphosis. Starting as an egg, it evolves into a voracious larva, shedding its skin multiple times. This feeding frenzy fuels its transformation into a chrysalis, a secret chamber where it undergoes a complete makeover. Emerging as a majestic moth with wings ready for flight, it takes to the skies, sipping nectar and aiding pollination.

### Veterinarian Uses Apple Watch for Lion Care



In the heart of the African savanna, a lion rests, unaware that a tiny device on its tongue is revolutionizing animal care. Dr. Chloe Buiting, known online as "@Jungle\_doctor," has ingeniously adapted the Apple Watch to monitor the heart rates of these majestic creatures.

Inspired by a colleague's innovative use of the Apple Watch on an elephant, Dr. Buiting recognized the potential to extend this life-saving technology to other animals. Using the watch's photoplethysmography feature, which measures blood flow through light absorption, she has been able to monitor lions' health with remarkable accuracy.

This groundbreaking application of the Apple Watch extends beyond routine check-ups. During surgical procedures, it provides veterinarians with crucial real-time data on the lion's vital signs, ensuring a safer and more successful recovery. The Apple Watch has proven to be a symbol of hope for wildlife conservation.

### Suckermouth Fish: The Mud-Surviving Marvel



Ditch the delicate aquarium fish, and meet the pleco, a catfish that scoffs at drought. This South American native isn't your average aquatic dweller; it's a survivalist, burrowing into mud like a determined prospector when rivers dry up.

You might've seen the viral video: a seemingly mummified fish, brought back to life with a splash of water. That's the pleco, defying death with its incredible ability to enter a state of suspended animation until the rains return. A true testament to nature's ingenuity.

The pleco's secret weapon? A special breathing organ that allows it to gulp oxygen from the air, acting like a personal air tank when water levels dwindle. This adaptability has helped it conquer waterways worldwide, a testament to its resilience.

But, as climate change threatens its habitat, will this remarkable fish continue to thrive? The pleco's story is a testament to nature's ingenuity and a reminder that even the toughest creatures face challenges in a changing world.

### Indian Elephant Family Gets Z++ Security



Deep in Odisha's Bonai Forest, a heartwarming scene unfolds. A family of Indian elephants, led by a protective matriarch, finds solace in their forest home. Susanta Nanda, an IFS officer, shares this precious footage, a glimpse into the tender love of elephant families.

The video zooms in on Chotu, a tiny elephant calf nestled amidst a protective ring of adults. As Chotu sleeps peacefully, the adults stand vigilant, their ears twitching, their eyes scanning the surroundings, forming a living fortress around their vulnerable charge. This heartwarming scene is a testament to the powerful maternal instincts and familial bonds of these majestic creatures.

The forest air fills with the soothing sounds of elephant communication: low rumbles, soft snorts, and contented sighs. It's a lullaby that speaks of trust and belonging. This viral video bridges the gap between humans and elephants, reminding us of the intricate beauty and resilience of the natural world.

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## CULTURE & WORLD RECORDS

### Cultural and Traditional Ghost Marriage



Jingshan and Xueying, two souls deeply in love, dreamt of a future together amidst the vibrant streets of Malaysia. Their love story blossomed, a tender sapling reaching for the sun. But fate had other plans. A tragic car accident shattered their dreams, leaving behind a void filled with sorrow.

In the wake of this devastating loss, their families found solace in a centuries-old tradition: a ghost marriage. It was a way to honor the couple's love, a final act of devotion to ensure their spirits wouldn't wander alone in the afterlife. The ceremony, filled with red lanterns, incense, and prayers, was a poignant testament to a love that transcended the boundaries of life and death.

The ghost marriage wasn't just a ritual; it was a symbol of the unbreakable bond between Jingshan and Xueying. As the ceremony concluded, a sense of peace settled over the gathering, a reminder that love, in its many forms, endures even in the face of tragedy.

### World Records: Shortest Couple, Big Love



In a world focused on appearances, two souls connected through a virtual world, proving that love transcends physical boundaries. Paulo and Katyucia, both living with dwarfism, found solace and companionship in each other's online presence. Their hearts synced despite the miles between them.

For fifteen years, their love grew stronger, nourished by shared dreams and intimate conversations. Their decision to marry in 2016 was a defiant stand against societal norms. Recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's shortest married couple, their union became a global symbol of love's triumph over adversity.

Paulo and Katyucia's story continues to inspire, reminding us that love knows no size or shape. They have become advocates for people with dwarfism, using their platform to promote acceptance and inclusion. Their unwavering love serves as a path towards a world where everyone feels celebrated for who they are.

### Kerala's Chamayavilakku Festival: Men in Women's Attire



In the heart of Kerala, the Chamayavilakku festival unfolds, a spectacle where men embrace their feminine side. As dusk descends, they transform into goddesses, adorned in vibrant saris and intricate jewelry, their faces lit by the soft glow of lamps. This unique tradition dates back centuries, rooted in a tale of cowered boys and a divine encounter.

It's a celebration of devotion, where men shed their everyday selves to connect with the divine feminine. Each lamp they carry holds a silent prayer, a testament to the power of faith. Beyond the spectacle, Chamayavilakku is a place of acceptance, where the transgender community finds solace and celebration.

It's a reminder that spirituality transcends gender boundaries, embracing all who seek the divine's blessings. This festival is a paradox, a celebration of the feminine within the masculine, a defiance of societal norms in a deeply traditional society.

### World Records: French Inventors Shatter Tallest Bike Record



In a French pub, a playful bet ignited a dream. Two friends, Nicolas and David, dared to construct the tallest rideable bicycle ever seen. Their vision soared beyond ordinary, driven by their passion for cycling and environmental activism.

For five years, they poured their hearts and ingenuity into building the Starbike, a 25-foot giant crafted mainly from recycled materials. It became a symbol of their unwavering commitment to sustainability and a testament to their resilience in overcoming obstacles.

The Starbike's unveiling at a bicycle festival was a spectacle to behold. David, strapped in for safety, pedaled his towering creation into the Guinness World Records. This triumph wasn't just about breaking records; it was a testament to the power of dreams, perseverance, and the boundless potential of the human spirit. This extraordinary tale of friendship, innovation, and the pursuit of a sky-high ambition continues to motivate dreamers around the world.

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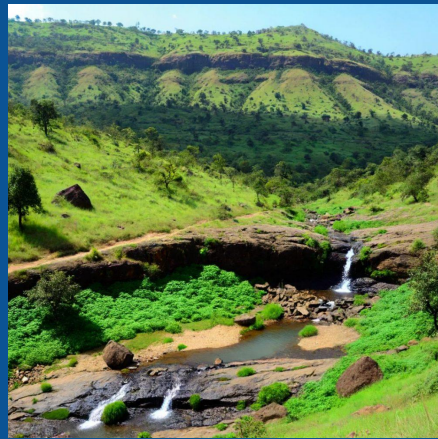
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## FEATURE CONTENT

### Ulta Pani Mainpat: Tourist Attraction with an Optical Illusion



In Chhattisgarh's embrace, Mainpat weaves magic with rolling hills, vibrant cultures, and a river that defies gravity. Ulta Pani, the "upside-down water," enchants visitors with its uphill flow, an optical illusion born of the landscape. Beyond Ulta Pani, Mainpat's beauty unfolds with the majestic Tiger Point waterfall, a 60-meter cascade amidst lush forests.

The Mahadev Muda River adds to the symphony, while whispers of tigers that once roamed these woods add a touch of mystique. Since the 1960s, a Tibetan community has thrived here, infusing Mainpat with their rich traditions and warm hospitality. Their presence adds a unique cultural layer to this natural wonderland.

Mainpat is an experience that awakens the senses and leaves a lasting imprint on the heart. Whether you're drawn by the allure of the uphill flowing stream or the heartwarming embrace of Tibetan culture, Mainpat promises a journey you won't soon forget.

### At-Home: Testing Milk For Adulteration



Imagine a glass of milk, a symbol of purity. But what if it's tainted, a mirage masking a sinister truth? In the shadowy corners of the food industry, milk is adulterated, its innocence diluted with water and harmful substances.

We can expose this culinary crime with simple tests. A drop of milk on a slanted surface reveals its true nature: pure milk lingers, leaving a trail, while adulterated milk races down. The red litmus test uncovers urea, turning blue in its presence. Armed with knowledge, we reclaim our power as consumers.

In a world where trust is fragile, knowing your food's origin is vital. Seek out local farmers, ask questions, and trust your senses. Pure milk has a distinct aroma, texture, and taste. Let's not succumb to fear, but empower ourselves with knowledge. Demand transparency from producers and celebrate the simple joy of unadulterated milk, a symbol of nourishment and connection to nature.

### Is Tofu A Healthy Food? Unpacking the Benefits

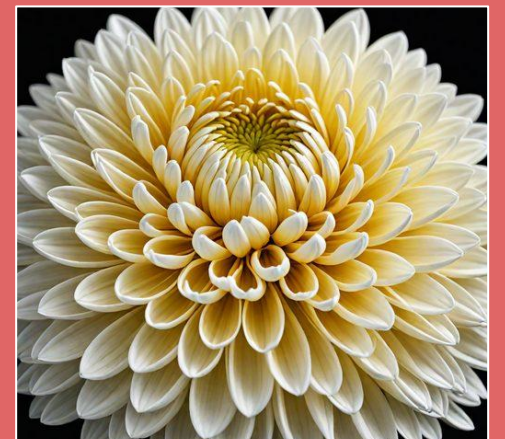


In the vibrant kaleidoscope of culinary wonders, tofu emerges as a shape-shifter in the kitchen, adaptable to any flavor profile you throw its way. Born from humble soybeans, this ancient food has journeyed through centuries, gracing tables across Asia with its nourishing embrace.

A nutritional powerhouse in disguise, tofu boasts a symphony of proteins, essential amino acids, and a medley of vitamins and minerals. But wait, there's more! Delve deeper, and you'll uncover a treasure trove of health benefits, from a happy heart to balanced blood sugar levels.

We'll address the GMO conundrum, the yin and yang of antinutrients, and the hormonal effects of soy, ensuring you're armed with knowledge to make informed choices. So, whether you're a tofu aficionado or a curious newbie, let's embark on this gastronomic journey together. Get ready to be amazed by the humble tofu, a blank canvas for your culinary creativity and a testament to the power of plant-based goodness. Your taste buds and your body will thank you!

### Chrysanthemum Flower: A Blooming History



In the heart of autumn, the chrysanthemum unfurls its petals, whispering tales of resilience and beauty. With a rich history spanning continents and cultures, this golden bloom has been known by many names, each a testament to its enduring allure. This flower's journey began over 3,000 years ago in ancient China, where it was nurtured and cherished. It eventually made its way to Europe, captivating hearts and inspiring botanical intrigue.

Even the renowned Carl Linnaeus, the father of taxonomy, found himself entranced by its charm. With over 40 known species and countless cultivars, chrysanthemums offer a breathtaking array of colors and forms. From whimsical spider mums to cheerful pompons. Beyond its aesthetic appeal, the chrysanthemum holds secrets of healing, offering relief from migraines and soothing tired eyes.

In different cultures, it symbolizes joy, longevity, and prosperity, while also holding a poignant connection to love and loss. Growing chrysanthemums is a rewarding endeavor, a testament to the power of nature and human nurturing.

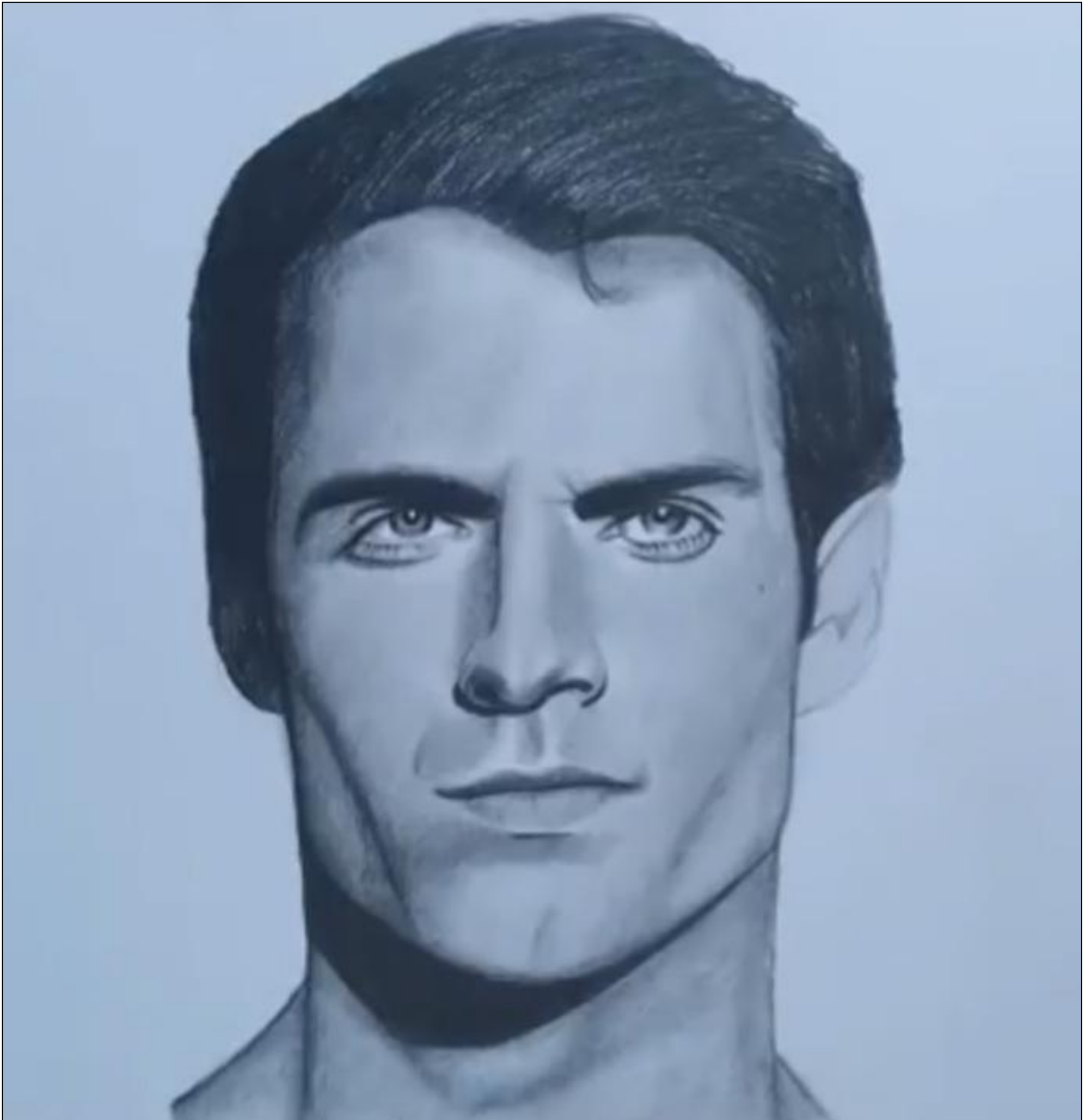
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### Superman Sketch Drawing

Naitik Morya  
Delhi Public School, TDI City  
Haryana, Sonapat

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**Sketch Drawing of  
Major Somnath Sharma**

Rachana Bhawsar,  
National Public School Agra

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**Art Drawing:  
The Magic of Day and Night!**

Sanaya Khatri,  
Delhi Public School, Sonapat, Haryana



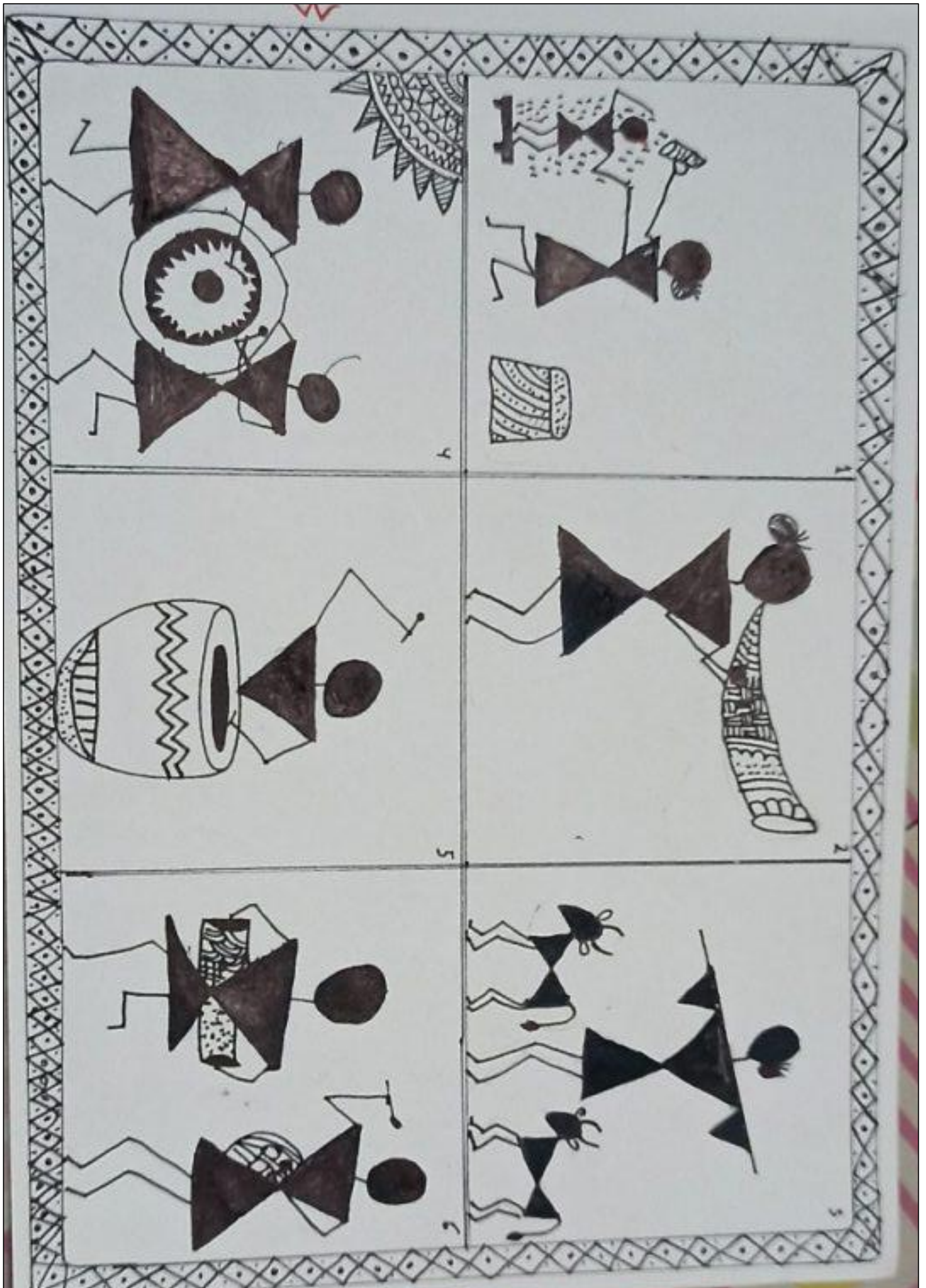
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### Easy Traditional Warli Art for Kids

Avika Harsh  
Shalom Hills International School  
Gurgaon, Haryana

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**Cute Deer Drawing:  
Child's Emotional Artwork**

Gourinanda.S  
The Choice School

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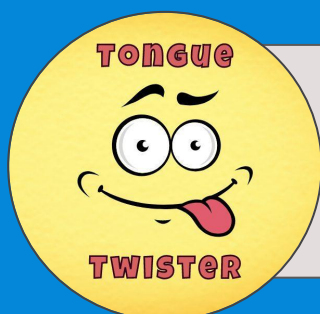
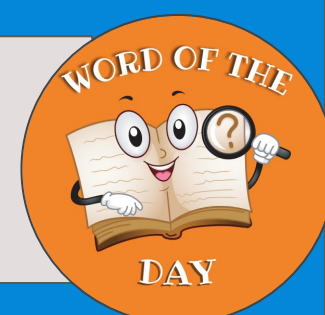
## FUNTASTIC



**Q: Are turkey leftovers good for your health?**

**A: Not if you're the turkey!**

**Onset**  
Noun | on-set  
the beginning or early stages



**No need to light a night-light on a light night like tonight.  
Top chopstick shops stock top chopsticks.  
If a dog chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose?**

**Education is the key that unlocks the golden door to freedom.  
—George Washington Carver**



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