

THE KIDS' CHRONICLE

21 February 2025

Edition 19



Welcome to the latest edition of The Kids' Chronicle.

In this issue:

- **Discover the Vaquita - the world's most endangered mammal**
- **Find out about the little red house that's on its way to the moon.**
- **Learn all about Ramadan**
- Try your hand at our latest games and puzzles

Each issue is designed to be print-friendly, so you can take your copy with you wherever you go - just don't forget to recycle the pages once you're done.

I hope you love reading this as much as I have loved creating it.

If you have any feedback, or just want to say 'Hi!', write to us at:
Thekidschronicledubai@gmail.com.



MONKEY BUSINESS: A CHEEKY PRANK CAUSES BLACKOUT IN SRI LANKA!

Sri Lanka recently had a nationwide blackout, and guess what caused it? A monkey! 🐒⚡

This mischievous monkey managed to get inside a power station south of Colombo and came in contact with a grid transformer. The result? A total system imbalance that knocked out electricity across the entire country of 22 million people!

Power went out at 11:00 AM local time on Sunday, leaving hospitals, homes, and businesses in the dark. Officials rushed to restore electricity, giving priority to hospitals and water purification plants.



INDIA'S TIGER POPULATION HAS DOUBLED!

India has achieved an incredible feat by doubling its tiger population in just over a decade! In 2010, there were about 1,706 tigers, and by 2022, that number had risen to approximately 3,682. This means India is now home to nearly 75% of the world's wild tigers.

This is important because tigers play a crucial role in maintaining the health of forests. India's success story shows that with dedication and smart strategies, it's possible to protect endangered species and the environments they inhabit.



How Did India Do It?

- 1. Protecting Tigers from Poachers:** India strengthened laws and increased patrols to stop illegal hunting, ensuring tigers could roam safely.
- 2. Preserving Tiger Homes:** Efforts were made to protect and expand forests, giving tigers spacious habitats to live and hunt.
- 3. Ensuring Plenty of Prey:** By safeguarding other animals like deer and wild boar, tigers had ample food sources.

CROSSWORD: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE



ACROSS

- 2. A bird that can talk
- 4. The number of legs a spider has
- 6. This animal says 'oink'
- 8. A popular food with cheese and tomato
- 9. The planet we live on
- 12. The tallest animal in the world
- 14. A place where you borrow books
- 16. The fastest land animal
- 17. A baby cat is called a ___
- 18. A toy filled with air that floats

DOWN

- 1. What do bees make?
- 3. An instrument with six strings
- 5. An animal that people ride
- 7. The opposite of 'day'
- 10. What takes astronauts to space?
- 11. A shape with three sides
- 13. What keeps us warm and can be made by rubbing sticks together?
- 15. What appears in the sky after rain?

MEET SAUDI ARABIA'S MYSTERIOUS ROCK



In the heart of Saudi Arabia's desert lies a fascinating natural wonder called the Al Naslaa Rock Formation. This unique structure features a massive sandstone boulder split perfectly down the middle, as if sliced by a giant's knife. Each half balances delicately on its own small pedestal, creating a sight that has puzzled scientists and visitors alike.

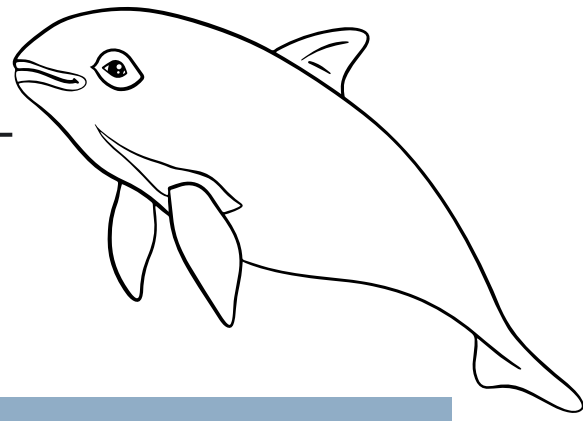
The Mystery of the Perfect Split

The most intriguing aspect of Al Naslaa is its incredibly straight and smooth split. How did this happen? Geologists have proposed several theories:

- **Natural Cracks:** Some believe that over time, natural cracks, known as joints, formed in the rock. These joints may have expanded due to environmental factors, eventually causing the rock to split so evenly.
- **Erosion:** Wind and water erosion could have played a role. Sand-laden winds might have gradually worn away the rock along a pre-existing crack, resulting in the precise division we see today.
- **Tectonic Activity:** Movements in the Earth's crust might have caused stress on the rock, leading to a clean fracture along a natural fault line

What Do You Think?

The Al Naslaa Rock Formation continues to captivate the imagination of all who see it. Looking at its perfect split, what do you think caused this natural marvel? Could it be one of the scientific explanations, or do you have your own theory?



MEET THE VAQUITA - THE MOST ENDANGERED MARINE MAMMAL

The vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*) is the world's rarest marine mammal. It's a type of porpoise, which is like a smaller, shyer cousin of dolphins. Vaquitas are small, about 1.5 metres (5 feet) long, and weigh around 54 kilograms (120 pounds)—about the size of a golden retriever. They have dark circles around their eyes and lips, which make them look like they're always smiling!

WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

Vaquitas only live in one place in the whole world: the northern part of the Gulf of California in Mexico. This area is warm and full of fish, which is perfect for these little swimmers.

WHAT DO THEY EAT?

Vaquitas love to eat fish, squid, and shrimp. They're not picky eaters and use their small mouths to catch food near the ocean floor.

WHY ARE THEY IN DANGER?

Sadly, there are fewer than 10 vaquitas left in the wild. They're critically endangered because they often get caught in fishing nets meant for another fish called the totoaba.



WHAT'S BEING DONE TO HELP?

Scientists, governments, and environmental groups are working hard to save the vaquita. Here's how they're helping:

- Fishing Net Bans: Special nets that don't trap vaquitas are being introduced, and harmful nets are being banned.
- Protected Areas: The vaquitas' habitat has been declared a protected zone where fishing is restricted.
- Raising Awareness: Groups are teaching people about vaquitas to stop illegal fishing and protect the ocean.

You can help too! By learning about the vaquita and telling your friends and family, you're helping spread the word. Every little effort counts in saving these adorable ocean animals!

WORD SEARCH: ENDANGERED ANIMALS

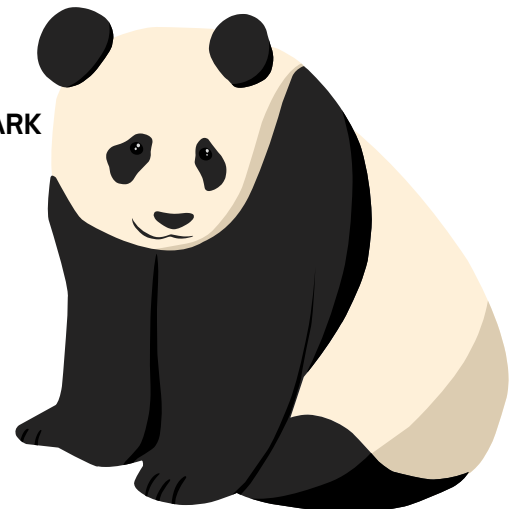


Find the words below in the puzzle. Just remember, words can go in any direction and can share letters as they cross over each other.

A L O A S R T N K O E M C G E
 S T T K X W Q U P N L J B Z L
 I S I H L T K A W I A S A L G
 N H P U H B K M B H H B S T A
 B O Q G Q A H U E R W J I B E
 E E F B K A V N S K E O A T E
 R B H H J K V Y P C U Q N R N
 G I A N T P A N D A L A E I I
 Z L Y Q J M F T O L B D L Y P
 R L C D Y O L P K B W O E Q P
 S S V P J W O G L O G U P O I
 Y T D E I G E R L N Q J H J L
 Y O L K V Z Z F A O O H A G I
 U R H Q B T U P D T D F N L H
 Q K C K O J K J C Z J D T F P

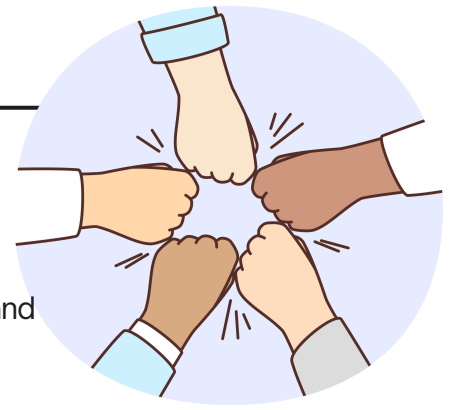
BLACK RHINO
 PANGOLIN
 GIANT PANDA
 ASIAN ELEPHANT
 RED WOLF
 SAOLA

VAQUITA
 BLUE WHALE
 HAMMERHEAD SHARK
 KAKAPO
 SHOEBILL STORK
 PHILIPPINE EAGLE



CULTURE CLASH

This week we continue our exploration of different cultures and holidays from around the world.



RAMADAN: A MONTH OF KINDNESS, REFLECTION, AND CELEBRATION

Ramadan is a special and holy month for Muslims around the world. It is a time of fasting, prayer, reflection, and helping others. During this month, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset, which means they don't eat or drink during daylight hours. This helps them practice self-discipline, patience, and gratitude while thinking about those who have less.

HOW IS RAMADAN OBSERVED?

- Fasting (Sawm): Muslims wake up before dawn to eat a meal called Suhoor. Then, they don't eat or drink anything until sunset.
- Prayer & Reflection: Many Muslims spend extra time praying, reading the Qur'an (their holy book), and doing good deeds.
- Helping Others: Ramadan is a time for kindness and generosity, so many people donate to charity or help those in need.

BREAKING THE FAST: IFTAR

At sunset, families and friends come together to break their fast with a meal called Iftar. Traditionally, they eat dates and drink water first, just like the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) did. Then, they enjoy a delicious meal with foods like rice, soup, and fruit.

THE CELEBRATION OF EID

At the end of Ramadan, a big celebration called Eid al-Fitr (the "Festival of Breaking the Fast") takes place. On this day:

- Families gather to enjoy special meals.
- People wear new clothes and visit loved ones.
- Gifts and sweets are shared, especially with children.
- Charity is given to help those in need.

Ramadan is about more than just fasting—it's a time for kindness, patience, and bringing people together.



GRATITUDE TREE

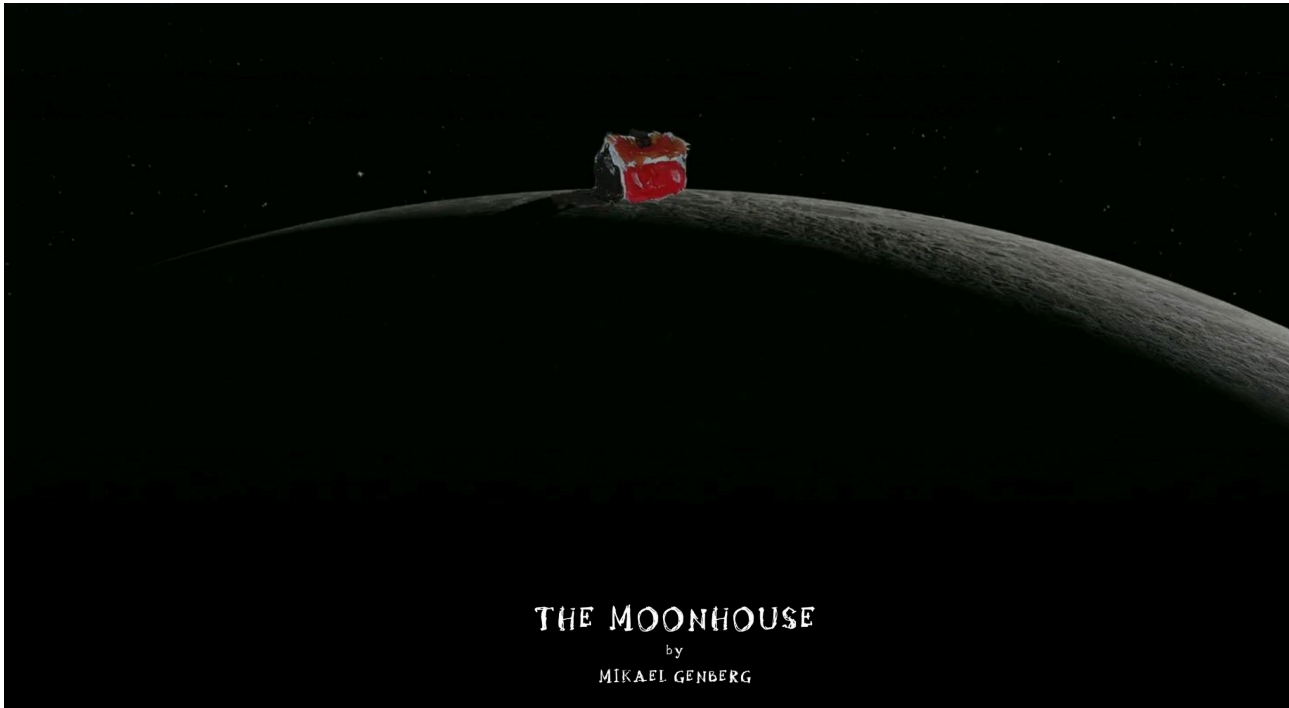
Create your own Gratitude Tree using the leaves below. Everyday, cut one out, colour it in and write down something or someone that you are thankful for. Then, stick it onto the branches of the tree on the next page. Feel free to add in stickers, photos or anything else you love.





A LITTLE RED HOUSE IS ON ITS WAY TO THE MOON

Imagine seeing your artwork on the Moon! That's exactly what Swedish artist Mikael Genberg is doing with his project called the Moonhouse. For 25 years, he's dreamed of placing a little red house with white corners on the moon's surface.



WHY IS HE DOING THIS?

Mikael believes that putting something as simple as a red house on the moon is a beautiful and poetic idea. He says, "It's art." By placing a familiar object in such an unfamiliar place, he wants to inspire people to think about what's possible and to dream big.

HOW WILL IT GET THERE?

The Moonhouse will hitch a ride on a Japanese lunar lander operated by the company ispace. The lander is set to launch aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral. Once in space, it will take about four months to reach the moon.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE HOUSE ON THE MOON?

After landing, the lunar rover named Tenacious will place the tiny house on the moon's surface. The house is made of aluminum and painted with special space-proof paint. It's about the size of a big hand—12 centimeters (4.7 inches) long, 8 centimeters (3.1 inches) wide, and 10 centimeters (3.9 inches) tall. Once set up, the house will stay on the moon for thousands, maybe even millions, of years!

Isn't it amazing to think about a little red house standing all alone on the moon? What other creative ideas can you imagine for space art?

BOGGLE BOARD

T	A	R	S
E	I	L	T
S	W	N	O
R	E	C	O

GAME 1

Find as many words as you can using the boggle letters in any order. Just remember, you can only use each letter once.

GAME 2

Find as many words as possible where the letters are touching each other.

CHALLENGE

Play with a friend and use a timer to see who can find the most number of words!

HOW TO SCORE:

- 3-letter words = 1 point
- 4-letter words = 2 points
- 5-letter words = 3 points
- 6-letter words = 4 points

My Words:

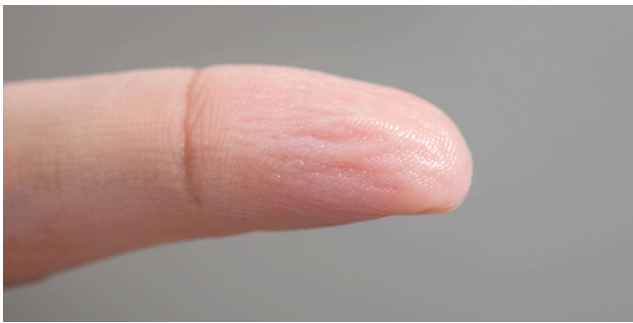
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

My Total Score: _____

What have you always wanted to know about? Send us your questions and we'll find the answers. Email us at TheKidsChronicleDubai@gmail.com with your questions.

CAN ANIMALS GET SUNBURNT?

Yes! Just like humans, some animals can get sunburnt if they spend too much time in the sun. Animals with thin fur or bare skin, like elephants, pigs, and hippos, are more at risk. That's why elephants cover themselves in mud—it works like natural sunscreen to protect their skin from the hot sun. Some animals, like rhinos, even roll in dust for protection. And guess what? Hippos make their own sunscreen! Their skin releases a special oily liquid that helps block the sun's rays.



WHY DO YOUR FINGERS WRINKLE IN WATER?

When you stay in water for a long time, your skin wrinkles because tiny blood vessels under your skin shrink. Scientists believe this helps us grip things better—like wet rocks or slippery objects!

WHY DO BIRDS FLY IN A V SHAPE?

If you've ever looked up at the sky and seen a group of birds flying in a V formation, it's because they're working together to save energy! The bird at the front flaps its wings the hardest, while the ones behind get a little lift from the air currents it creates. This means each bird behind has to use less effort to fly. When the leader gets tired, another bird takes its place so they all share the hard work! Geese, pelicans, and other migrating birds use this trick to fly long distances without getting too exhausted.

