

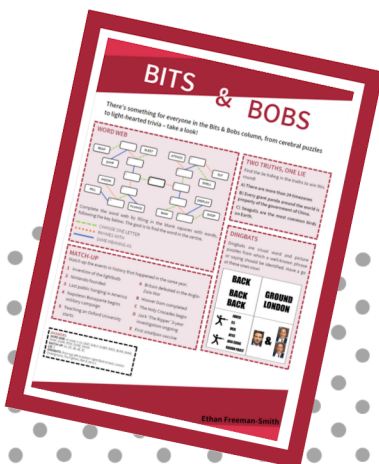


WHAT IS A SAOLA?

HOW MANY NATIONAL ANIMALS DO YOU KNOW?



Q THE QUINTON CHRONICLE.



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

- Syria-Turkey Earthquakes (pg 3)
- Canada Ski Trip 2023 (pg 12)
- The Ukraine War (pg 5)

AND MUCH MORE!

ISSUE 3: SPRING 2
Left-right-down : page 5, 12, 8, 11



HAVE YOU HEARD OF...?

THE SAOLA

Andreas Constantinou

QUICK FACTS

- STATUS: **Critically Endangered**
- POPULATION: **70 - 750**
- HEIGHT: **85cm**
- WEIGHT: **80 -100kg**
- SCIENTIFIC NAME: ***Pseudoryx nghetinhensis***

The saola, commonly referred to as the “Asian unicorn,” is one of the rarest large mammals and the rarest antelope in the world. Due to the incredibly density of the Vietnamese and Lao rainforests, these magnificent creatures are extremely elusive, making their status even more uncertain. Saolas were first discovered as skeletal remains in 1922, by a joint effort from the ministry of forestry of Vietnam and the WWF, who found a skull

with spindle horns. This was the first large mammal found in fifty years, making it one of the most astounding discoveries of the 21st century. Since then, the last confirmed record of a Saola



was in 1999 from a camera trap and in 2010, when villagers in Bolikhamxay captured one causing its death. The population of saola is so small that they suffer from inbreeding quite commonly as the subpopulations are too limited causing their gene pool to be related to all of the saola.

Saolas are active both day and night preferring to rest during the hot midday hour. They are herbivores, with a diet made up of the leaves from fig trees and shrubs along the riverbank as well as grasses and herbs. Being territorial, saolas



use large maxillary (attached to jaw/jawbone), which they may use to mark their territory though this is not definite due to the limited amount of research composed from these creatures. Predators of the saola consist of tigers and crocodiles which they may fend off with the use of their horns. However, those two animals are the least of the saola’s worries as humans are the real cause of their near extinction. Due to commercial poaching and the meat trade, snares are scattered around their home almost like a mine field and although they are there to catch wild boar, sambar deer or barking, deer they don’t pick and choose, catching and killing animals indiscriminately, including the saola.

Saolas are considered to be tame and welcoming to humans and do not deserve their extinction. With limited time left, they need help. The saola foundation and the WWF are the only charities devoted to the saola and its safety and although the foundation is small, it is kept alive by a devoted group of experienced field conservationists. However, they cannot do it alone and without help they could fail so if you have any money to give, donate to them or visit the “save the saola” campaign page and create a future for the saola.

EARTHQUAKES IN TURKEY AND SYRIA

On Monday the **6th of February**, a 7.8 magnitude quake hit Southern Turkey and Northern Syria. The quake happened in the early hours of the day and at 13:30 local time or 10:30 GMT, a tremor of 7.5 magnitudes took place.

Approximately, **2000 people have died** and over **9000 injured**. On top of the deaths, immense damage to towns with rubble spread all over cities. Rescuers were racing to save people trapped under the rubble and Turkey issued an international appeal for help. World leaders have pledged to send aid to Turkey. Millions across Cyprus, Turkey, Syria and Israel felt the earthquake. A rescue operation is underway to help those suffering and anyone who is trapped.

At 19:30 GMT, the death toll had risen to **over 2600** as more buildings collapsed and bodies were found under the mess. The main city that has seen the worst aftermath is Aleppo, which is home to **millions of refugees displaced** by civil war. In the evening of 6th, the UN held a silence to think about those struggling in Syria and Turkey.

THE NEXT FEW DAYS...

In the early morning of 7th, the death toll rose to over 5000 with more than **15,000 injured**. China had allocated **£49 million worth of aid** to support rescue operations. The Red Cross society said they will send 2 million of Yuan (Chinese currency) each year to the Turkish Red Crescent and the Syrian Red Crescent as emergency humanitarian assistance. Later in the day, Mexico sent their famous search dogs to help get through the rubble and sniff out any survivors. For the next few hours, a UK search and rescue team arrived in Turkey to assist with specialised equipment.

There was a huge fire at one of Turkey's ports stopping any sort of trade and **more than 6000 people were confirmed dead**. Just 3 hours later, the deaths had risen to over 7000 and officials have said they "expect the death toll to continue surging as they find bodies under collapsed infrastructure."

On **8th February**, the president of Turkey, Erdogan, visited the city of Kahramanmaras which was the epicentre of the first earthquake. The death count was updated to over 11,000 across both countries. In my opinion, this is truly sad and we must be grateful that we are not affected by such things.



By Friday, 4 days since the earthquakes, **21,000 people were confirmed dead** and the fire at Turkey's main port was extinguished. Lots of civilians have criticised the building standards in Turkey and the slow reaction linking to rescue missions. Many people living in Turkey said it took too long for the country to respond and many more will die due to the low standards set by the government.

Focusing on Syria, many years of civil wars have not helped this situation and there are many restrictions to what aid they can receive. On Thursday, the first UN aid convoy arrived being the first international help that had come since the earthquakes. A doctor working in Syria said they don't even have the medical supplies for 20% of those hurt. On top of this, they are in the middle of winter.

MY THOUGHTS

All of this is very upsetting as you can see how many people have been affected and knowing there are many misplaced civilians. With deaths slowing down at around 40,000, it became **Turkey's most disastrous event** in their history. To add to the damage, another quake hit a deserted town killing around 20 people looking for shelter.

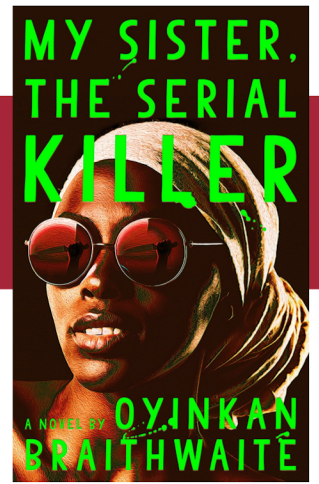
2 weeks later, and **200-400 people are still dying every day**. The death toll hit **50,000 on 25th February** and both countries are going to need years to re-build infrastructure and recover economically.

By Abdul-Rashid Daud

MY SISTER, THE

Book Review by Rachael Fajebe

SERIAL KILLER



Avg. Goodreads score: 3.69



When you think of the word “killer”, the image that often comes to mind is that of a sinister figure lurking in the shadows. But the story of this serial killer and her devoted sister paints a much more complex picture. This is a tale of horror, as two sisters from Lagos embark on a gruesome journey filled with unsettling acts of violence. One is a cold-blooded killer, while the other is a loving sibling whose actions may be even more frightening than her sister's.

Written by Oyinkan Braithwaite in 2018, the thriller novel revolves around two sisters: Korede, the older sister, and Ayoola. Korede's story begins with Ayoola's third murder: Femi, the perceptive poet. When Ayoola calls her older sister, she immediately knows what has happened. Out of necessity, Korede takes control of the situation (as she had time and time again). She scrubs up the stains, bleaches, and scraps any evidence that could potentially lead to her dear sister's arrest. Her compulsion to keep her sibling safe is undeniable – blood is thicker than water after all – and Korede's loyalty is unflinching.

But, as time passes, it becomes increasingly more difficult for Korede to keep hiding these truths, knowing fully well that death, destruction, and violence have become a way of life for the pair. As much as Korede loves her sister, it's hard not to wonder how many more deaths will happen before they can come clean.

It's easy for us to judge from afar, but until we've been in the shoes of Korede, it's hard to truly understand why the eldest sister lets the youngest get away with her murders.

Is it love or something more sinister?

EXCITING NEW RELEASES IN GAMING!

Minecraft Legends

If you love the Minecraft franchise, then this exciting, new, action filled game is for you. Releasing 18th April 2023, you will be able to launch the new Minecraft Legends on PC and console. If you have Xbox Game Pass, you can already download the game early so you can play right away. When you start, you will be fighting piglings and other nether mobs. With heroic battles, leading your allies to defend the Overworld from the destructive piglings, you will experience your best gaming moments ever!



Hogwarts Legacy

Do you enjoy Harry Potter books or movies? If so, Hogwarts Legacy is the game for you. It released 10th February 2023 for PS5, Xbox Series X|S and PC. Don't panic if you are on another console, because it will release 4th April 2023 for PS4 and Xbox One and 25th July 2023 for Nintendo Switch. Hogwarts Legacy is set in the 1800s where you play as a late arrival starting in the 5th year. You progress through the school fighting monsters and villains with a rich combat system. In this game there are so many little features that it is hard to focus on the main objective. by Daniel He

THE UKRAINE WAR: THE FRONT LINE WITH ENGINEERS

WHY ENGINEERS?

Engineers are some of the many people trying to keep their country motivated by ensuring the electricity and internet is working. Lots of people are working hard to keep their country running. However, it's interesting to see the war from the point of view of an engineer having to battle the cold weather of the new year and trying to keep ambitious even in the toughest of times.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN GAMING?

Warzone

This May, we will see the release of the mobile version of the popular console and PC game

Call of Duty Warzone. If you played warzone when it first came out, then you will start to feel some nostalgia because the new release of this game is bringing back the OG map Verdansk. Along with this OG map, it will also bring back the original rebirth island, Alcatraz.



Zelda

If you play on a Nintendo switch rather than mobile, then this game is for you. Following the release of 'Zelda Breath of the Wild' 4 years ago the sequel 'Zelda Tears of the Kingdom' is finally releasing after being delayed twice. If you haven't played the first game, then I would recommend playing it. The story revolves around saving Princess Zelda from the castle defended by the Calamity Ganon.



by Callum Irlam

WHAT HAVE THEY BEEN DOING?

They have been repairing power lines that have been either knocked down or frozen up by the weather. In the last week, around 40 engineers have left their job as they flee the country for safety. In October 2022, 40 power grids were attacked and, looking closer to the present day, 10 power grids were attacked in late December.

This shows how much work the engineers have had to do, going to different areas in their war-torn country fixing problems which have been described as "impossible," and on top of all this, they don't even have all the specialised equipment needed.

FACTS LINKING TO THE WAR

- 1 3.4 million Ukrainians have fled the country
- 2 Half a million people had no electricity in Southern Ukraine at one point
- 3 30,000 Russian troops have been utilised during this war

AROUND THE WORLD: NATURE'S BIOMES



Martina Pastor Prado

Nature is breath-taking. Caves, forests, lagoons, meadows... all stunning with their roaming creatures, colourful vegetation, and beautiful views. In this article, you will find information about five locations found in different regions across the globe.



THE SAHARA

The Sahara is the largest and most famous hot desert of all. It covers many northern countries in the African continent: Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia, and Western Sahara. The Sahara's dunes can reach up to 180 metres in height, but the tallest point of the whole desert is the Emi Koussi Volcano, situated in north-western Chad. In the Sahara, we can find animals such as gerbils, hedgehogs, hyenas, jackals, and foxes.

ANTARCTICA

Antarctica is a desert – the largest on Earth – as well as a continent. Its type is polar ice and tundra, covering about fourteen quadrillion kilometres squared. It holds the biggest amount of fresh water stored on Earth naturally, and is home to animals like penguins, seals, whales, albatrosses, other seabirds, and many infamous invertebrates. Even though Antarctica is the only continent without any permanent human habitation, there are human settlements dedicated to science.

THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

The Amazon Rainforest is a tropical rainforest, mainly covering most of the north-eastern part of Brazil. It also extends past the Brazilian borders to Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Venezuela, Guyana, French Guyana, and Suriname. Most of the oxygen on Earth is produced here, and it is home to more than four hundred mammal species, one thousand three hundred bird species, three hundred reptile species, and four hundred amphibian species. Each year, new species are discovered, especially new types of beetles!

MOUNT EVEREST

The tallest mountain on Earth's land is the well-known Mount Everest, part of the Himalayas. It is found on the border of Nepal and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. Its exact height is debated, but commonly we know it as 8,849 metres (29,032 feet) tall. To discover its height, geographers had to put a receiver tower near the top of Mt Everest. Even though they were able to get a more precise measurement, it is still an approximation. Plus, it has been confirmed dead bodies can be found along the mountain's surface—some without limbs.

THE CORAL REEF

The largest coral reef system is found in the north-eastern coast of Australia. With its shallow areas to its deep oceanic waters, the coral reef extends for over fourteen degrees latitude. It has a unique range of ecological communities: about four hundred types of coral, one thousand five hundred species of fish and about four thousand types of molluscs. May to October is considered the best time to go swim there, the waters not too cold and a great underwater visibility. In the warmer months, a lycra suit is highly recommended to avoid jellyfish stings.

THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH

Contradicting the title of this article, this next feature is man-made: the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, also called the Pacific Trash Vortex. This is an island discovered in 1997, situated West Coast of North America to Japan, and composed of 3.6 trillion pieces of plastic. This contributes to the fact that its current size is about twice the size of Texas and three times France's, and it continues to grow. Each year, an alarmingly large number of marine life is killed: about one million seabirds and one hundred thousand marine mammals. Do note, this is not the only garbage patch on Earth, just the biggest.

FUN FACT:

Did you know that Antarctica doesn't have a flag as it is not a country?!



Sanderson

VS AUDIBLE



Bestselling fantasy author Brandon Sanderson has refused to put his latest books on Amazon's Audible audiobook platform.

Brandon Sanderson is no lightweight in the publishing industry; he's sold over twenty million books worldwide and has the most highly funded Kickstarter campaign of all time. And he's not putting his latest books on Audible. This is not a simple decision of logistics but a matter of principle and will hurt Sanderson's sales significantly but he's doing it because he has something to say. He's saying what Audible's doing isn't right.

Firstly, some background: as he lays out in his statement, the industry standard for digital products is 70% of the sale goes to the creator; it's even what Amazon pays on their own e-books. But, on Audible, it's 40%, a lower rate than even a standard physical shop. Less than half goes to the creator and the rest is siphoned off to the middleman – unless you don't sign the exclusivity deal, then you get an insulting 25%. A quarter, when Audible has such a ridiculous market share (63.4%, a significant majority), is borderline monopolistic at best and an affront to democracy at worst.

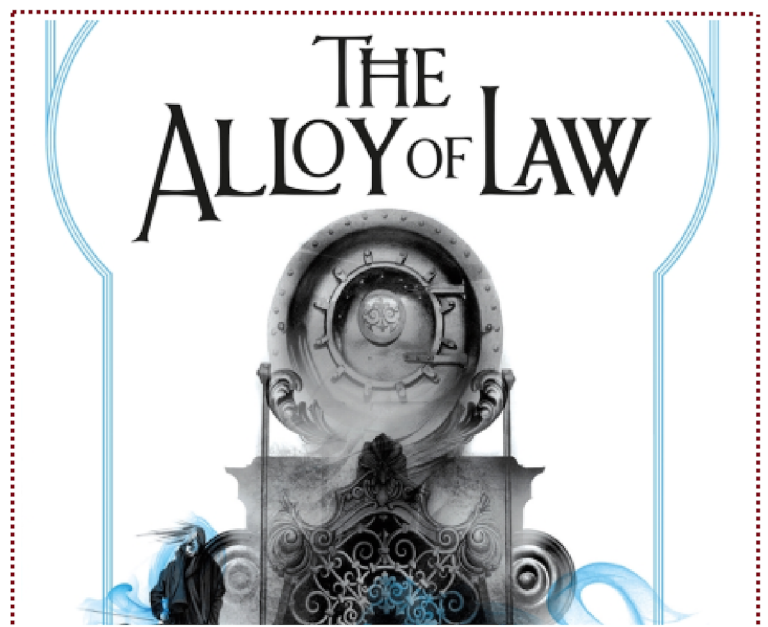
This is why Sanderson is using his platform and taking a stand, even though it's a “dangerous move on [his] part.” He's encouraging readers to look at other platforms, specifically Spotify and Speechify, who give a fair, industry standard rate to make the industry fairer and improve Audible by helping it get real competition.

I would echo his message and encourage anyone who's interested to check out his statement on his 'State of the Sanderson 2022' blog post and genuinely look into alternative audiobook services.

By Francis Pendleton-Crane



**PSST:
GO CHECK OUT SANDERSON'S
BOOKS ->**



ADVICE

THE QUAC!

Hello everybody, and welcome back to the Quinton Chronicle's advice column! We've got more burning questions in need of answers, and I'm here to answer them.

I'm Quackers, your amazingly wise and knowledgeable guide to this here advice column!

2023 is fully in swing, and everyone's settled into the rhythm of school life. But it seems there's a few who feel unsettled and some group problems. Never fear, Quackers has solutions!

Dear QUAC,

My two best friends who I normally hang out with are slowly leaving me on my own. I feel lonely and I don't have any more friends. I don't want to lose them, but I feel like I am the only one putting effort in this friendship. What should I do?

This is always tough, to solve and to go through. I know it may feel hard but talking to your friends about why this is hurting you and talking about what is happening between each other can help, and could solve all possible problems. However, there are a few types of friends who don't want to talk or will blank you when you try. If they're starting to be rude to you in general, you can go to Study Support, to talk about how you're feeling, or get it solved. But, in life, friends come and go, and maybe them drifting away is a sign that they weren't the greatest friends, and the best idea would be to find new friends.

We collect the questions from the forums every 2 weeks. Your identity will be hidden so no need to embarrassed! You can ask any question on the Microsoft form!



TO QUACKERS:

Dear QUAC,

I'm feeling terrible at school. I'm one of the only people in the lower set for maths in my year, and people pick on me and make comments about me for it. Everyone thinks I'm "the stupid one" even though I do really well in other lessons. It makes me wonder why I should even try. What do I do? I really need some help.

I'm really sorry this is happening to you. No one should ever define you by your abilities. I suggest going to Study Support or talking to your form teacher about what's going on with the other students picking on you. They can help you sort out this issue and put an end to it. You also should remember that it isn't your fault. There is nothing wrong with needing some extra guidance. No one (including yourself) should put you down for what you can't do yet. Believing in your abilities and saying "hey, I can do this if I really try" is the most powerful thing you can do for yourself in this situation. You should also think about talking to your maths teachers about it.

Dear QUAC,

I'm so angry at my friends! They keep on talking about me to other people behind my back, and it's always something I told them with trust to not tell anyone else. They've directly gone back on their word! I'm so annoyed, and I'm wondering if this is the end of our friendship.

This is always annoying to go through, and it can feel like your friends are making fun of you. I believe the best thing to do in a situation like this is to talk to your friends. Tell them how it's making you feel and specifically why you told them not to tell anyone. Talking with your friends calmly and maturely can avoid any possible arguments and a total breakdown of the friend group. If they're true friends, they wouldn't want to do anything that could hurt your feelings.

And **we're done!** I **hope these answers can help, even to those who didn't ask the questions.** I can't wait to **see your burning questions for next issue.**

NEXT, TIME, QUACKERS

Y10 Match against Bedford Greenacre (A)

On Tuesday 7th February, the Year 10 Football Team travelled to Bedford to play a friendly against Bedford Greenacre Independent School. After a solid 7-0 victory previously against Greenacre's Year 9 team, the boys were prepared for battle and raring to go.

Quinton started off with a 4-3-3 formation, planning to attack Bedford's defence. With plenty of quality within the side, the squad was incredibly capable of returning home with a good result. Everyone got game time – some more than others though – reflecting QHS's togetherness. And they would need it. A rather tall Bedford line-up consisted of not just Year 10s, but a few Year 11s too.

The game started evenly, with chances at both ends of the pitch. Contrasting Bedford's physicality, QHS went for a more skilful approach, combining well to create chances. Both sides played really attractive football which led to a start full of quality. About 10 minutes into the first half, Quinton broke the deadlock, with a bullet of a strike from the left flank finding its way into the top right corner. The goalkeeper could only watch as the ball nestled into the back of the net.

But straight from kick-off, Bedford were back. A ball was hefted over the top, leaving the Northamptonshire side vulnerable. When no one met the ball in the air, the Greenacre attacker was the quickest to react. He tore down upon the goal with blistering pace. This was the opportunity of the game. As he swung his leg back to shoot, the ball was taken from underneath him. A Quinton defender had put in a challenge at the very last moment to surely prevent a certain goal but the ball bounced up onto his arm mid-tackle, giving the referee no choice but to point to the spot. The Bedford player stepped up to take the penalty but didn't shoot. Instead, he passed to his onrushing teammate who slotted it home. Despite the celebrations, the goal was soon chalked off as the player who scored was already in the box before the penalty was taken.

Before half time, two goals were scored – one at each end. First, Greenacre utilised their pace in behind with another long ball over the top. This time, the striker was too far away from the defence. He slotted home and the game was level. But that Quinton despair turned very quickly to delight, as another wonder strike pierced into the net again. The ball swerved from left to right as it took flight from the edge of the box, swiftly landing in its destination – the Bedford goal. Both teams went in at the break with work to do, looking to complete an unfinished masterpiece in the making.

The home side started the second half brighter, with numerous chances being created. With each attack, Quinton struggled more and more. A goal was surely inevitable. About 10 minutes into the second spell, Greenacre won a corner. The ball in wasn't cleared away and the Bedford player pounced on the second ball. He fired the ball towards the goal and once again, the two teams were level.

QHS faced wave after wave of attack but held tight – a sturdy defence doing the job. Tackle upon tackle and block upon block – it really was a mammoth effort to frustrate the opposition. But after some miscommunication at the back, Greenacre's winger was left unmarked at the back post. He took one touch, and coolly placed the ball in. The comeback had been completed. The home side wheeled away in celebration, jumping for joy at the comeback.

With the game at 3-2, Quinton had to salvage something. Despite being outplayed in the second half, they stayed in the game and didn't let Bedford extend their advantage. With 10 minutes left on the clock, QHS won a corner. The midfielder sent an exceptional looping ball in, leaving the goalkeeper in two minds whether to catch it or not. The ball wasn't claimed and ended up deflecting in for an own goal – 3-3!

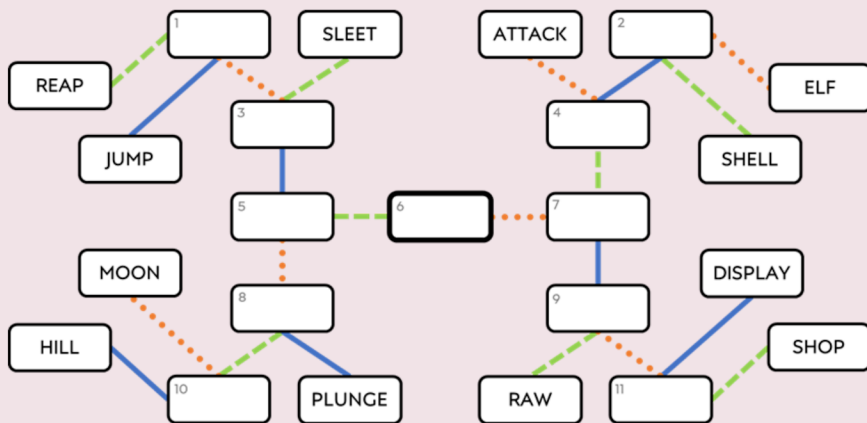
Still, Bedford continued to apply constant pressure on a strong Quinton defence. Every shot was met with a courageous block. Every pass was met with a swift interception. And every heavy touch was met with a crunching tackle. It truly was a brave display but would all count for nought if Greenacre were to score. And then there was the chance. In the last play of the game, the Bedford attacker danced past three QHS defenders. He found himself one on one with the goalkeeper. This was it. Do or die. The opportunity which would define the game. He went to place his shot into the corner. The Greenacre players were already celebrating. But at the decisive moment, a Quinton leg outstretched to prevent a certain goal. The ball was swept away to safely decide that the points would be shared. The Quinton players rejoiced at a result which felt like a win, reflecting the effort which went into the game. It really was an excellent team performance.

by Dylan Dhiman

BITS & BOBS

There's something for everyone in the Bits & Bobs column, from cerebral puzzles to light-hearted trivia – take a look!

WORD WEB



Complete the word web by filling in the blank squares with words, following the key below. The goal is to find the word in the centre.

- - - - CHANGE ONE LETTER
- RHYMES WITH
- — — — SAME MEANING AS

MATCH-UP

Match up the events in history that happened in the same year.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Invention of the lightbulb | A Britain defeated in the Anglo-Zulu War |
| 2 Nintendo founded | B Hoover Dam completed |
| 3 Last public hanging in America | C The Holy Crusades begin |
| 4 Napoleon Bonaparte begins military campaign | D Jack 'The Ripper' 3-year investigation ongoing |
| 5 Teaching at Oxford University starts | E First smallpox vaccine |



TWO TRUTHS, ONE LIE

Find the lie hiding in the truths to win this round!

- A) There are more than 24 timezones.
- B) Every giant panda around the world is property of the government of China.
- C) Seagulls are the most common birds on Earth.

DINGBATS

Dingbats are visual word and picture puzzles from which a well-known phrase or saying should be identified. Have a go at these ones now!

<p>BACK BACK BACK</p>	<p>GROUND LONDON</p>
<p>INNER ILL UCK ATES ARK CHOC RAGON FRUIT</p> 	

ANSWERS

WORD WEB: (in order 1-11) LEAP, SHELF, SLEEP, RACK, BUNK, BANK, RANK, DUNK, ROW, DUNE, SHOW
MATCH-UP: 1A, 2D, 3B, 4E, 5C
LIE: C
DINGBATS: (from top left to bottom right) Back to back, London Underground, Foo Fighters, Ben & Jerry's

2023

CANADA

SKI TRIP



Full of anticipation and devoid of wakefulness, we all turned up at seven o'clock – more or less – on

Friday morning to get the coach to Heathrow's most prestigious airport. And, after an hour's delay, we did just that.

Three or so hours later, we arrived at the airport and trudged through a series of security procedures before finally reaching the end, then the plane.

The lucky few that managed to fall asleep on this nine-hour flight would be grateful later when the expected five-hour coach ride morphed into a journey of three hours more. Eight.

The back of the year eight and nine's coach was alive with music for the first half hour but this quickly died down. Another of those later led us to a short stop at the services, a welcome break. And the last break we would get for a while.

The time to the hotel seemed to stay the same for an unnaturally long period and claims such as "Jasper doesn't exist" began to permeate our coach as sleep spread like the plague, except those who evaded felt nothing but resigned frustration.

Then, after the many identical towns with the same selection of shops had passed, a joyful cry came from the front.

We were at the hotel.

Most of us got relatively little sleep that night but that which we did get was deep and blissful. The unavoidably long journey and seven-hour time difference had left us rather jetlagged so we had a day to recover before skiing which was kicked off spectacularly by the catering team's glorious breakfast, which we would get wonderfully used to over the coming week.

This was preceded by a casual start and time in the hotel's pool and hot tub, lunch in town and a walk in some icy canyons with impressive natural formations. Slightly more sleep and an earlier than expected breakfast later left us with our first day of the main attraction: the slopes. We wrapped up warm and piled into the coaches, brimming with excitement.



These photos were taken by our very own editor-in-chief: Frankie!

Some of us had skied many times before whilst others – like me – had not an hour of the sport under our belts. This was all quantified in groups after the first half-hour (I was in the beginners' group). Although taxing, it was a fun day all round and we got to hear the amusing falls, unfortunate wipeouts and special moments from all the groups in our first of many entertaining daily roundups at dinner.

We hit the slopes with more experience and enjoyed it even more because of it. Some of us were still falling perhaps a tad more than others but that didn't stop us zooming down the picturesque mountain in Marmot Basin. The spent energy from this excursion almost certainly contributed to what was – for me, at least – the first good night's sleep in the new time zone. Despite a rocky start remedied with a snowball fight with Mr. Plummer, Mr. Tedd and Miss Clancy, we hopped on the late bus for our third day of skiing with all groups finally on the main mountain and away from the learning areas – much more thrilling than the School House run.



Frantic packing and a last trip to the pool later, we finished up our meals and put our hands together for the final awards night where Rylee White won, preceded by many other well-deserved awards, the coveted fluffy moose.

I could bore you with mildly painful recollections of our second twenty-four-hour period of travel but I'd rather talk about all the fun things I haven't yet mentioned. We may have had a few rough tumbles but we also had two birthdays on the trip; we saw an ice hockey match and went to a bigger pool in Jasper; and I, personally, got buried on a tree run and cut up by a squirrel. But I can't end this off without addressing the elephant in the room: none of this would've been possible if it weren't for Mr. Macmillan's incredible planning, Mrs. Rihal as "the glue" of the trip as described by the first of this list of every other teacher who accompanied us on the slopes and reigned in our chaos: Mr. Plummer, Miss Clancy, Mrs. Fillmore, Ms. Harman, Mrs. Herbert and Mr. Tedd.



AROUND THE WORLD: NATIONAL ANIMALS

By Martina Pastor Prado

Animals are important on Earth, controlling a vital part of its ecosystem. From colossal elephants to minute mice, each animal is special in its own way. However, humans haven't always been kind to them, and, because of our superiority, animals have suffered through the ages. In this piece of writing, you'll discover what are the national animals of countries across the globe and how they are cared for.

THE HUEMUL DEER

The huemul deer is Chile's national animal, found in the south, and unfortunately an endangered species. The estimated number of huemuls in the wild is about two thousand; about one-third are in the Argentinean mountains and the rest remain in Chile. Because of their rarity, they are taken care of and not hunted.

THE MOUFLON SHEEP

In Cyprus, the mouflon is a wild sheep native to the country, and the national animal. There are over three thousand of them, luckily protected species. In 2001, the first mouflon was cloned and survived about seven months, making it the first clone of an endangered animal to surviving beyond infancy. Those who have tried mouflon lamb fillet have said they are tasty and easy to prepare, making it a rare delicacy.

THE MADAGASCAN LEMUR

Madagascar is the fourth biggest island in the world and a country in Africa. It is home to lemurs, which can be found in the wild nowhere else. Lemur numbers have decreased because of reasons such as the destruction of their habitats including illegal logging, and hunting them illegally for food or pet trade. Nevertheless, multiple foundations work in order to preserve Madagascar's whole flora and fauna, concentrating on lemurs and some biomes.

THE KIWI

A curious case is New Zealand's, because of its lack of endemic mammals. That is why the national icon and unofficial emblem is the kiwi. The kiwi is a flightless bird, with hair-like feathers and no tail. The five species of kiwi have great meaning to the country, treasured as a symbol of uniqueness. However, kiwis are being driven to extinction because their native forest habitat is being reduced for human use and humans introducing new predators there. Nowadays, many companies are trying to reduce that possibility by managing kiwi eggs and chicks and managing their predators.

THE Bull

Spaniards have the ancient tradition of bullfighting, which is the main reason why bulls are our national animal, providing entertainment for many centuries. Opinions across the country about the tradition range from love towards history to hate towards cruelty. In Catalonia and the Canary Islands, bullfighting is prohibited, but Madrid has the largest bullfighting arena. The objective of bullfighting is watching the bullfighter kill the bull or vice versa. If the bull wins, all his line will be sent to the slaughterhouse, starting with the mother.

THE ARABIAN ORYX

The Arabian oryx is the United Arab Emirates' national animal, the same as some other countries, like Jordan, Oman, and Qatar. The UAE has the largest amount of these species, counting 6,900. They are of high importance to the country because, for many years, they were considered extinct in the wild, but because of efforts put into preservation by Saudi Arabia and the UAE, they were brought back.



IN OUR FIRST MATCH



In our first ever match, the girls' KS3 basketball team won 24-14 against Moulton School. Everyone played with excellent team spirit, showing passion and eagerness for this sport. The scoring was evenly spread throughout the teams.

Everyone played in the game, with a different starting five playing in the first and third quarters and the second and fourth quarters.

We played fast attacking basketball in the first and second quarters, which then set us up for the rest of the match. We were winning from the start and continued to win throughout the match.

We had a massive lead against them, but they slowly caught up to us throughout the game. Knowing that we had enough points difference took the stress off us, in the end making us better and able to score more keeping up the score difference.

We had our coach, Mr Justice, on the side lines refereeing the game. He cheered us on at every shot whether we missed or scored.

We are thankful for having Mr Justice as our coach. We hope to play them once again as a re-match. With both of us having improved. it would be a great match and maybe another win.

We are looking forward to future matches and training on Wednesdays. Congratulations to the team.

By Lauren Callaghan



NUSAYBA'S COMICS



BY NUSAYBA DAUD

CULTURE IN SCHOOLS

From the sizzle of Caribbean jerk chicken to the spicy bite of Indian curry, Britain is an eclectic melting pot of cultures, each with its own unique flavour. That's especially true when it comes to the experience of ethnic minorities – a diverse population with their own distinct cultures, languages and customs that often deviate from the mainstream British way of life. From the infectious music and dance of Afro-Caribbean communities to the mouth-watering flavours and smells of Taiwanese cuisine, the ethnic minority experience in Britain is an exciting and unique one, full of fascinating stories and traditions.

Nevertheless, this journey can be a challenging one for ethnic children in school, as they try to navigate the vast differences between their cultures and that of Britain. Considering that there are endless amounts of ethnic identities in the United Kingdom- one of which I am a part- it wouldn't be right to squeeze those diverse backgrounds into just the term "ethnic".

The different traditions and customs, the languages, and even the different diets, often leave children feeling like they don't quite fit in. We can, however, celebrate our identities



and heritage with pride when we are supported and understood, appreciating the unique differences between us.

While white Britons account for most of the UK, 6.9% of the UK's population are Asian or Asian British, 3.0% are black/black British, and 2% are other mixed other communities of colour.

Even so, ethnic minorities may be pressured to conform to the "norm" and may be left out of certain activities and conversations.

They may also experience racism and prejudice from their peers and teachers.

Studies have found that racial discrimination in educational settings contributes to feelings of isolation and marginalization. This can lead to low self-esteem, health risk behaviours, reduced social and adaptive functioning, and even delinquent behaviours among youths.

Therefore, we should strive to ensure that all students, regardless of where they're from, feel welcome and celebrated in our school community.

We should be like a big, happy family, so let's make sure we all have a seat at the dinner table, and no one gets left out - even if they bring a casserole!

We can lessen stigma by discussing different cultures and asking questions to further our understanding and appreciation of them. We can also create an environment where students can share their customs and traditions with their peers in a fun way such as a Culture Day.

We can also support student-led initiatives that promote cultural appreciation and understanding, such as guest speakers, and cultural exchange programs. By making these efforts, we can create an inclusive school community that embraces and celebrates diversity.

It's like a mosaic, with each individual contributing their own unique piece. When the mosaic is complete, it creates a beautiful, vibrant picture that is greater than the sum of its parts.

By Rachael Fajebe

THE VEXILLOLOGY OF AFRICAN NATIONS

Vexillology: the study of the history and symbolism of flags.

RED, YELLOW AND GREEN

Many African nations have three colours on their flag: red, yellow and green and although these colours are represented in a variety of ways, all of these colours have been adopted from one specific African country: Ethiopia. The colours all represent



something many nations want to link to their country: red is commonly a representation of

the blood spilled for a country; green usually represents the natural beauty and nature in the land of a country; and yellow is almost always representing the wealth and riches of a nation. Ethiopia is a country of vast history being one of the oldest known civilisations, dating back to 8th century BC as a part of the D'mt empire, which included Eritrea, and has since then kept its independence throughout history including the colonisation of Africa; the only fall in this streak was a brief occupation by Fascist Italy from 1935 to 1941. Due to this impressive streak of independence, many African nations 'look up' to Ethiopia as a figurehead of freedom hence the colours from their flag were adopted with slight personalisations.

THE STAR AND OTHER SYMBOLS

The black star is another common part of African flags although it is not always black like in Cameroon's flag which has a yellow star. However, this colour change doesn't take away from the meaning of the symbol which is considered to be pro-freedom and anti-colonialism. Although it is not as popular as the aforementioned three colours, it is still a prominent



Flag of Ghana

part of many flags. Furthermore, this symbol has no ties to Ethiopia instead being adopted by the use of stars in navigation towards freedom. Although nowhere near as prominent, the flags of Kenya and Eswatini both have a tribal shield on them to represent their countries' many divided tribes.



Flag of Kenya

MUSLIM AFRICA

In many northern nations, a crescent moon accompanied by a star is the main symbol for their flags. The reason for this common occurrence lies in the root of the symbol as the symbol of Islam and many of their religions. Almost all of Northern Africa is Muslim in faith due to the 'Arabisation' of the area. This spread of Arabs and their religion was mainly due to trade routes around the Swahili coast on the east and the Sahara on the west; however, trade wasn't the only cause as many modern nations were unified by an empire leading to a faster spread and a quicker acceptance and conversion due to everyone else converting. Although not as prominent, scholars swept across Africa along with their knowledge and religion and with this knowledge, they were able to persuade many more to convert to Islam. On a different note to the symbol, Islam has colours which many African nations display with their flag. These include green, red, black and white and although not all of the colours are used in the same flag, they are spread throughout many countries like Nigeria and Algeria.



Flag of Algeria

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