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The KK Times

A SARK PROMOTIONS PUBLICATION

20 Water Facts

Splash into fun

Explore Tech behind Water Parks and Water Sports

Flowing Free

The Power and Promise of Water

DIYS

PUZZLES

INFOGRAPHIC

BRAIN TEASERS

and much more...

FOR A BETTER WORLD

Page 20

THE KREATIVE KIDS MAGAZINE NURTURES CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY & CONFIDENCE.

The KK Times

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History & Culture | General Knowledge | Health & Mindfulness | STEM Learning

Creative Expression | Vocabulary Skills | Life Skills | Puzzles & Games

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

What does water mean to you? Is it the refreshing sip on a hot day, the sound of rain tapping your window, the thrill of splashing in a pool, or the calm of watching waves kiss the shore? This month, we're diving into the world of water — from its mysteries deep under the sea to the wonders it creates in our everyday lives. In this issue, you'll explore fascinating facts about rivers and oceans, discover how water shapes our planet, enjoy creative activities that flow with fun, and maybe even learn how to be a little water-wise at home. Because water isn't just a resource — it's life, it's movement, it's magic. So turn the pages, let your curiosity ripple, and ride the wave of discovery with us. Here's to making a splash with knowledge!

Editor-in-Chief, Kanira ♡

Our Family's Water Independence

By Dr Shubhangi Gupta

As a mom, I'm always looking for ways to make our home a little bit better for everyone and for our planet. Lately, my girls and I have been on a mission: to become a **"water-independent" family**. Now, that might sound a little bit like we're getting ready for an adventure movie, but it's really about taking charge of our future.

For a long time, saving water felt like a chore. It was just another rule, like "clean your room" or "finish your vegetables." But then we started talking about what it really means to have water. We realized that every time we turn on the tap, we're depending on someone else—a river, a lake, or a big water plant—to give us what we need. And what if that source runs low? That's when my kids and I decided we wanted to **have more control over our water.** We wanted to be free from worrying about water shortages. We wanted to be independent.

So, we started a challenge. We made a game out of it. We made it a point to remind our house help, every single time, to turn off the tap while she was scrubbing utensils. We kept a tally of how many times we did this in a week, and the results were amazing! My daughter, Kanira, decided to put a small bucket in the shower to catch the water that runs cold before she gets in. That water is perfect for watering our plants, which **saves litres every day**. These little changes made a big difference. We learned that every time we turn off the tap while brushing our teeth, we're not just following a rule; we're making a conscious choice to secure our own water. We're being resourceful. So, why not start your own family's journey to water independence?

Mom's Quick Tips for Water Independence:

- **Turn Off the Tap!** Whether you're brushing your teeth or washing your hands, make it a habit to turn off the tap when you don't need the water.
- **The Bucket Brigade:** Keep a bucket in the shower to catch water while it warms up. That water is great for your plants or for flushing the toilet.
- **Check for Leaks:** A dripping faucet can waste a surprising amount of water. Work with your parents to fix any leaks you find.
- **Washing Wisdom:** Ask your parents to only run the dishwasher and washing machine when they are completely full.

Riddle Ride

What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

Check the correct answer in next edition.

Last Edition's Answer - "Wrong"

Short

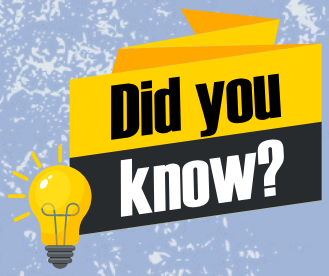
Solve This!

What has 13 hearts, but no lungs, feet or bellybuttons?

Check answers on page 24.

WHAT AM I?

Found on the beach, I'm smooth or curled. Hold me close—hear the ocean world. What am I?



LAKE BAIKAL IS LOCATED IN SOUTHERN SIBERIA, RUSSIA, IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST FRESHWATER LAKE BY VOLUME. IT CONTAINS ABOUT 20% OF THE WORLD'S UNFROZEN FRESH SURFACE WATER. IT IS ALSO THE DEEPEST LAKE (1,642 METERS AT ITS DEEPEST POINT). IT'S A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE AND IS KNOWN FOR ITS EXCEPTIONAL BIODIVERSITY.

Question Of The Month

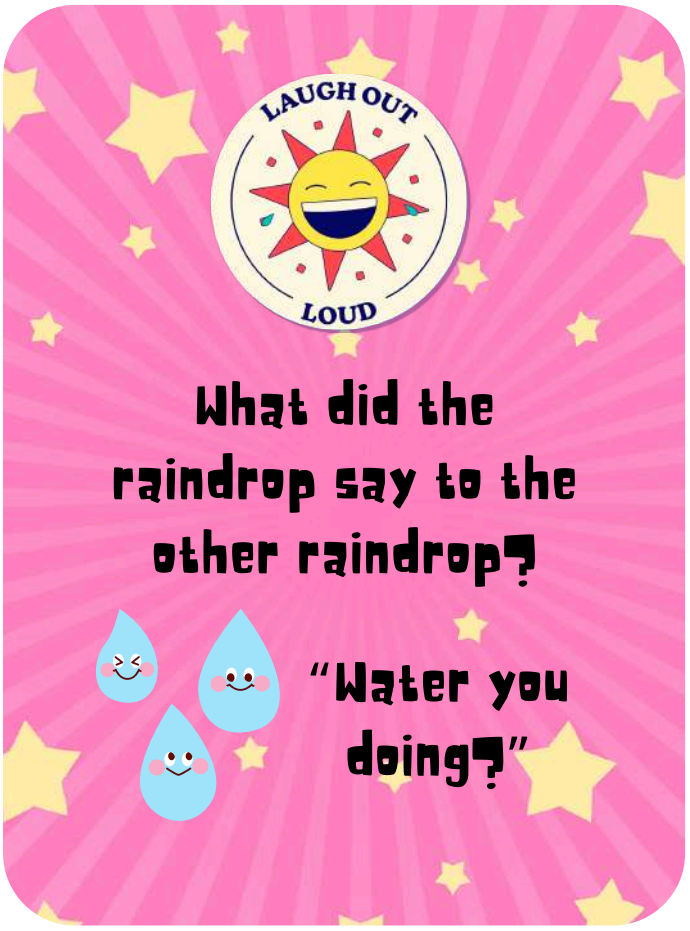
WHY DO WE FLOAT IN THE DEAD SEA?

People float easily in the Dead Sea because the water is exceptionally salty, making it much denser than regular seawater or freshwater. This high salt concentration leads to increased buoyancy, allowing people to float effortlessly on the surface.

Fun with Facts

Deeper Than The Deep

The Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench is the world's deepest ocean point at 10,984 metres – deep enough to cover Mount Everest with 2 kilometres of water. The pressure there is over 1,000 times that at sea level, yet unique life still survives.



Crazy Crafts

Water Microscope

Materials:

Large googly eye (1 inch or more), scissors, paper cup, pencil, tape, spoon, water

What You'll Need:

The water on the googly eye forms a convex lens, bending light to magnify the object beneath.

How to Make:

1. Small objects you'd like to see close up, such as parts of a flower, a slice of fruit, a shell, or a leaf
2. What to Do
3. Carefully cut the cover off the googly eye. Take it apart. Have an adult help with anything sharp.
4. Trace the plastic eye cover onto the bottom of the cup. Then draw an upside-down U on each side of the cup. Cut along all the lines you've made, so the cup has a hole in the bottom and two open sides.
5. Cut four thin, small pieces of tape. Tape just the edges of the eye cover to the inside of the cup so the curve goes inside.
6. Spoon a little water into the eye cover so it forms a pool. Now you can put small objects under it and see them magnified. You may have to move the cup a bit to get the right spot.

Rain Catchers of India: JOHADS

Imagine rain falling on your roof. Instead of letting it all run off into the drain, we can collect it! Long before pipes and water tanks, the people of western Himalayan foothills in North India had a genius solution: **the Johad.**

WHAT ARE JOHADS

A Johad is a shallow, earthen check-dam shaped like a bowl. It's dug to collect rainwater during the monsoon. The water seeps down into the soil, recharging underground aquifers, keeping wells and handpumps flowing —even in summer. Thus, they offer sustainable solution to water scarcity. Sometimes a series of them are constructed to hold the run-off from one structure to the next.

WHERE YOU'LL FIND THEM

Rajasthan: Traditional johads in Alwar and Jaipur districts.
Haryana & Punjab: Known locally as ponds or talabs.
Western Uttar Pradesh: Small bunds and ponds for farm irrigation.
Western Himalayas (Himachal & Uttarakhand): Called Naulas and Kuhls—stone or mud-lined channels that direct spring and rainwater to villages.

WHAT IS PERCOLATION

Percolation is the movement of a liquid through a porous material due to gravity and pressure differences. Think of it like water seeping through soil or even a sponge.

FUN FACTS

- Some johads in Alwar are over 500 years old.
- A restored johad can raise the groundwater level in an entire village within one or two years.

How Villages Trap the Monsoon to Drink All Year

RAINWATER HARVESTING

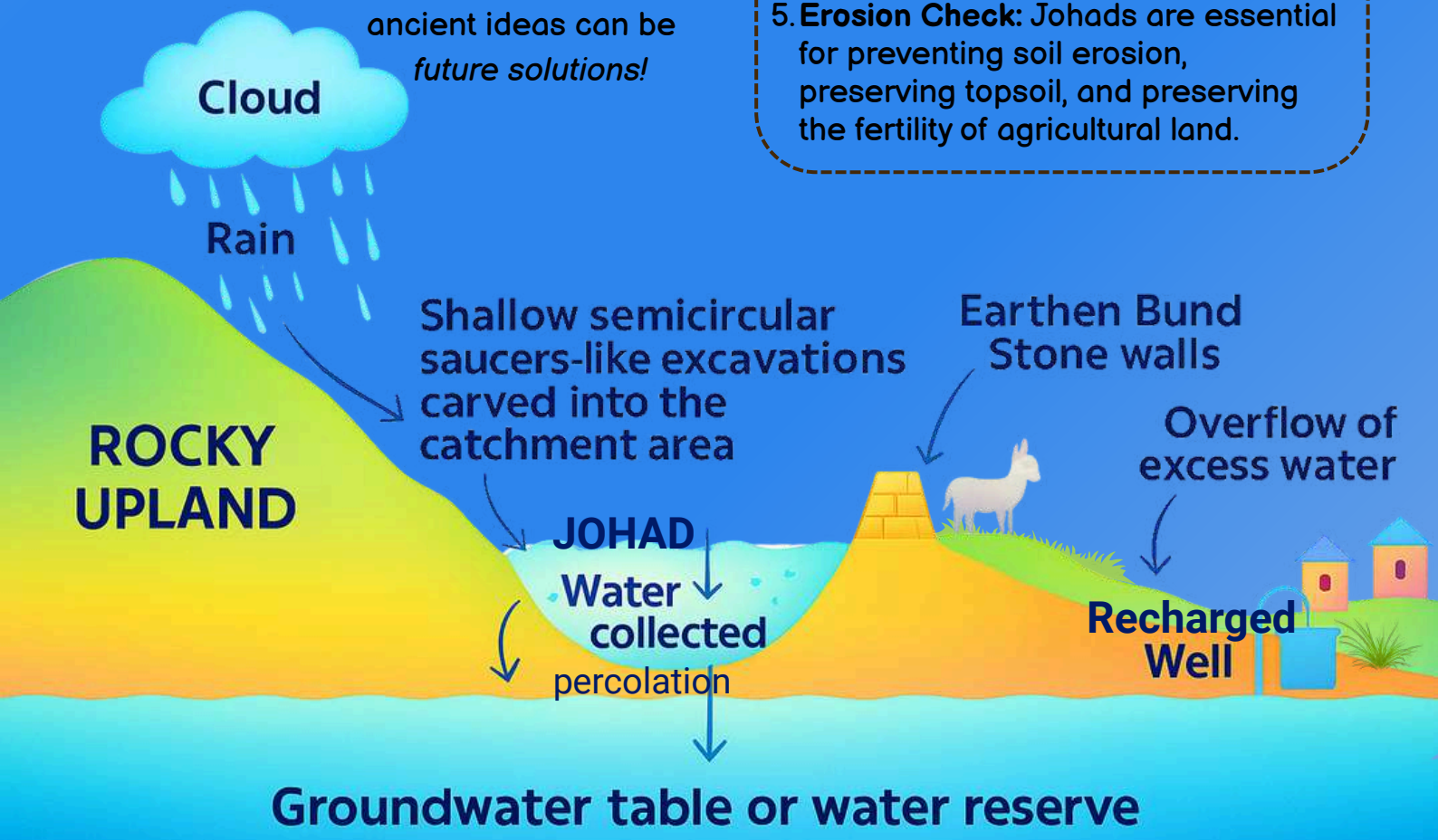
THE SCIENCE BEHIND JOHAD

- **Catch:** Rain falls on the sloping land and runs downhill into johad.
- **Slow:** Earthen bunds or stone walls slow the water so it doesn't rush away.
- **Soak:** Water seeps into the soil, replenishing groundwater—nature's underground storage tank.
- **Share:** Stored water is used for drinking, farming, animals, and even cooling the air.

Villages, NGOs, and even city planners are reviving johads and naulas as climate change increases water stress. They're proof that ancient ideas can be *future solutions!*

ADVANTAGES OF JOHAD

1. **Groundwater Recharge:** Johads significantly contribute to groundwater recharge, which is crucial for sustaining water levels in wells and borewells.
2. **Water Availability:** They provide a reliable source of water for drinking, washing, and livestock, especially in arid and semi-arid regions.
3. **Ecosystem Health:** By promoting water percolation and reducing surface runoff, johads help in maintaining the ecological balance of the region.
4. **Increased Crop Output:** By providing reliable irrigation water supplies, johads increase agricultural production.
5. **Erosion Check:** Johads are essential for preventing soil erosion, preserving topsoil, and preserving the fertility of agricultural land.



ODDY's 20 Fun Facts About Water

1 Fresh water, or water with low salts, makes up only 3.5% of the Earth's water. This freshwater can be found in lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater and glaciers.

2 Water could be the foundation of life. The presence of liquid water, particularly in what's known as the "habitable zone" of a star, is a strong indicator that a planet might support life as we know it.

3 Approximately 38% of the river water in the globe is found in the Amazon basin. Around 18% of the total fresh water discharge to the ocean comes from the same basin.

4 The oceans, covering 71% of the Earth's surface, contain 96.5% of Earth's water, and are home to a vast array of life.

5 Just one drop of ocean water can contain a lot of activity. It's likely to include millions of viruses and bacteria. Additionally, it might contain plankton, young crabs, fish eggs, or even tiny worms.

6 NASA estimates suggest there are over 3 million river segments on Earth!

7 Not all the water that we find today on Earth is from our planet. Some water may have originated from comets that are mostly water ice.

8 Oceans create over 70% of the oxygen we breathe.

9 Over 68 percent of Earth's fresh water is locked up in ice and glaciers.

10 The Caspian Sea is not a sea but the world's largest lake, with five separate countries on its shores!

11 Antarctica holds approximately 90% of the world's fresh water supply in the form of ice.

The KK Times

12

The largest of the five major oceans, the Pacific Ocean occupies almost 30% of the Earth's surface and is situated between Asia/Australia and North/South America.

13

Loktak Lake in Manipur, India is the largest fresh water lake in Northeast India and is known for its unique floating islands called "phumdis".

14

Adults are roughly 55-60% water, and a newborn baby is even higher, at about 78%.

15

On the boundary between Chile and Argentina, in a crater in the Andes Mountains, sits Ojos del Salado, world's highest lake. Its height is 6,390 meters (20,965 feet).

16

Unlike most liquids, water expands when it freezes, which is why ice floats (unlike most solids).

25

17

Water is the only substance found naturally on Earth in liquid, solid, and gaseous forms. This is rare.

18

It's possible that the water you drink today is the same water that dinosaurs drank millions of years ago, due to the water cycle

19

Water (that is vital for plants) defies gravity through their vascular systems, helping them transport nutrients.

20

Grand Prismatic Spring in Yellowstone National Park is renowned for its stunning display of colours, caused by different types of thermophilic bacteria.

SPLASH INTO ADVENTURE

SURFING – RIDING THE OCEAN'S ENERGY

Origin: Surfing began in Polynesia more than 500 years ago!

How it works: Surfers ride on waves created by wind pushing against the ocean surface.

Tech twist: Artificial wave machines in some theme parks create perfectly timed waves using giant paddles or plungers under the water.

KAYAKING – PADDLE POWER

Origin: Kayaks were first built by Inuit people using sealskin stretched over a wooden frame, perfect for icy waters.

Modern materials: Today's kayaks are made from fibreglass, carbon fibre, or tough plastics that are light but strong.

Physics in play: Narrow, streamlined shapes reduce **drag** so kayakers can glide faster.

SWIMMING – THE OLDEST WATER SPORT

History: Cave paintings from over 10,000 years ago show people swimming!

Olympic moment: Swimming became an Olympic sport in 1896 for men and 1912 for women.

Science fact: Swimmers reduce drag by wearing smooth caps and streamlined swimsuits that repel water.

Record breaker: The fastest swimming stroke is the front crawl (freestyle), with top swimmers reaching **8.93 km/h!**

Cool Facts About Water Sports & Water Park Technology

WATER PARKS – FUN MEETS ENGINEERING

Wave pools: Huge pumps push thousands of litres of water back and forth to create waves. Some waves can reach up to **2 metres** high!

Water slides: Engineers design slide angles so riders feel a thrilling drop without unsafe speeds. A balance of gravity, slope, and water flow keeps the ride smooth.

Lazy rivers: Pumps circulate water in a loop, moving it at just the right speed for a gentle float.

Water recycling: Many parks reuse water through high-tech filtration systems, cleaning and cycling it back for rides.

SCIENCE BEHIND THE SPLASH

Buoyancy: Why you float? Water pushes up on your body with a force equal to the weight of the water you displace (**Archimedes' Principle**).

Hydrodynamics: Streamlined shapes move through water with less resistance. That's why dolphins, kayaks, and swimsuits all have smooth, curved designs.

Surface tension: The same invisible "skin" on water that lets insects walk on it also affects the way splashes form and spread.

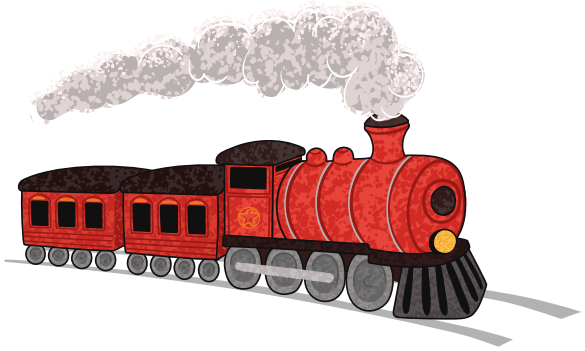
Did You Know? The biggest water park in the world is Aquaventure Waterpark in Dubai. It spans 22.5 hectares and has over 105 slides!

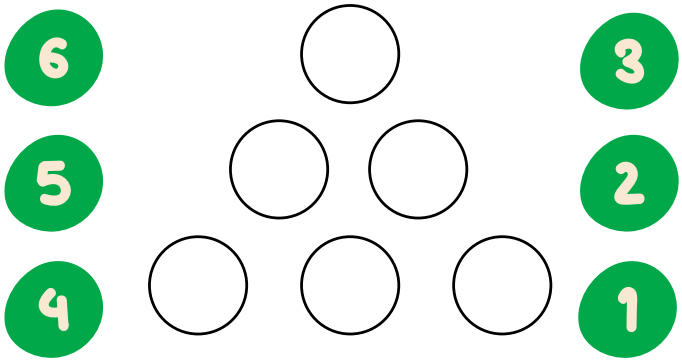
Fun fact: The word kayak means "man's boat" in Inuit languages.

Science snippet: The tallest wave ever surfed is a whopping 28.6 metres high in Portugal, in 2024!

Activity Area

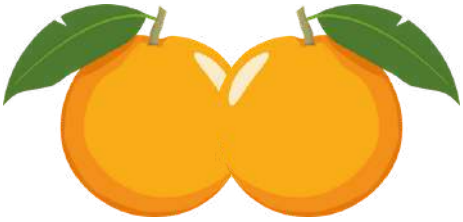
1. If an electric train is traveling south at 100 miles an hour, then slows to 50 miles an hour, which way is the smoke going?

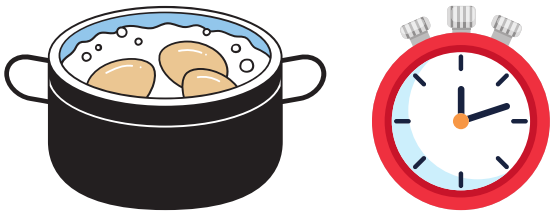




2. Place the digits 1-6 into the given blank circles in a way that the total of each side of the triangle is 9.

3. If there are seven oranges and you take three away, how many oranges do you have?





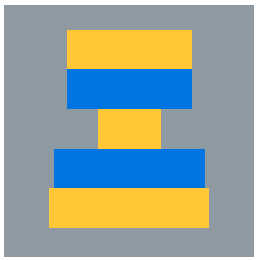
4. You want to boil an egg for two minutes. If there is only a three-minute timer, a four-minute timer, and a five-minute timer, how can you boil the egg for two minutes only?

5. What comes next in the sequence?

2, 6, 12, 20, 30, ?

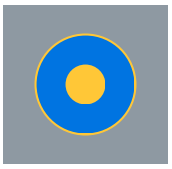
6. Two fathers and two sons make wooden chairs. If each makes a wooden chair, why are there only three produced?

7. Look at the picture on the left. Which option is the bird's eye view of this tower?



a) 

b) 

c) 

d) 

2		8		4				
			1				6	
5			7			3		
9		1		5		7		6
		7				2		
4	5	2		8		9		3
		6			2			1
	9				3			2
				7		8		4

8. Fill the empty cells so that each row, each column, and each of the nine 3x3 grids contain the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once. This is a logic-based "SUDOKU" puzzle.

9. Mrs. Mehta asked Vihaan a question which he is not able to answer. Can you read the question and try to answer?

"When things go wrong, what can you always count on?"

10. A couple went for a picnic. They have 5 sons, and each son has three sisters. Each sister has one baby. In total, how many people went to the picnic?

Check the correct answer of all 9 activities on page 23.

RUN TO THE BLUE

by Veronica

High above the earth, nestled in a cotton-candy cloud, lived a tiny raindrop named Robin. Unlike the other droplets who preferred to drift lazily, Robin was restless, curious, and full of wonder. He often gazed down at the world below, dreaming of rivers, oceans, and the stories they held. He was always asking questions like, "What's beyond the cloud?" and "Do rivers have parties?"

The older droplets would chuckle. "You'll find out soon enough," they said. "When the time comes."

And one breezy morning, the time *did* come.

The cloud rumbled like a sleepy bear waking up, and suddenly—*whoosh!* Robin was falling! He zipped through the sky, spinning and giggling, "Wheeeeee!" The wind tickled his sides, and the world below grew bigger and brighter.

Robin landed with a *plop* on a dew-speckled leaf in a quiet forest. The air smelled of moss and morning. Nearby, a graceful droplet named Tia shimmered in the sunlight. She was gentle, thoughtful, and had a calming glow.

"First fall?" she asked, smiling.

"Yep! I'm heading to the ocean," said Robin.

Tia's eyes sparkled. "That's a brave journey. I'll come with you."

Soon, they slid off the leaf into a puddle, then into a stream, where they met Bobo—a bold, bubbly, and boisterous droplet who bounced off rocks like a rubber ball.

"Going to the ocean?" Bobo boomed. "Count me in!"

From there, they joined dozens of other droplets. It was like a *watery parade!*

As the stream grew into a river, the trio passed through lush villages where children splashed in the shallows, women washed bright saris on smooth stones, and buffaloes waded in with sleepy eyes. The riverbanks were *alive* with laughter, rhythm, and the scent of mangoes.

Robin watched in awe. "It's like the river is part of their family."

Further downstream, the river snaked through bustling cities. Bridges arched overhead, and buildings leaned close to the water like curious giants. Fishermen cast nets with practiced grace, and street vendors rinsed vegetables in the shallows. Birds skimmed the surface, and dogs barked at their reflections.

Tia whispered, "So many lives depend on us."

Bobo grinned, "And we get front-row seats!"

Suddenly, a massive dam loomed ahead, blocking their path like a stone giant. Water piled up behind it, swirling in confusion.

"We're stuck," said Tia, frowning.

Robin narrowed his eyes. "Mom says water *always* finds a path."

He spotted a narrow spillway and led the way, squeezing through with Tia and Bobo behind him. They popped out on the other side, laughing.

"Nice thinking, Robin!" Bobo cheered.

The river twisted through a rocky gorge next. Jagged stones jutted out, and the current slowed to a crawl.

"This part's tricky," warned Bobo. "Some droplets get trapped here."

Robin, ever the explorer, darted ahead, finding smooth paths and hidden channels. Tia followed with quiet grace, and Bobo bounced along, occasionally bumping into rocks with a chuckle.

Together, they made it through, stronger than before.

After days of flowing, splashing, and discovering, the river widened. The air turned salty, and the horizon stretched *endlessly*.

"We're close," whispered Tia.

And then—there it was. The ocean. Vast, shimmering, and full of mystery.

Robin felt a warm glow inside. "We made it," he said softly.

The droplets joined the waves, dancing and swirling. Robin looked around at his new home, full of life and freedom.

"I'm proud of us," said Tia.

Bobo whooped, "Best trip ever!"

As the sun dipped below the horizon, Robin gazed up at the sky. "I wonder what it's like to be a cloud again."

Tia smiled. "Maybe one day we'll rise up, float in the sky, and start the journey all over."

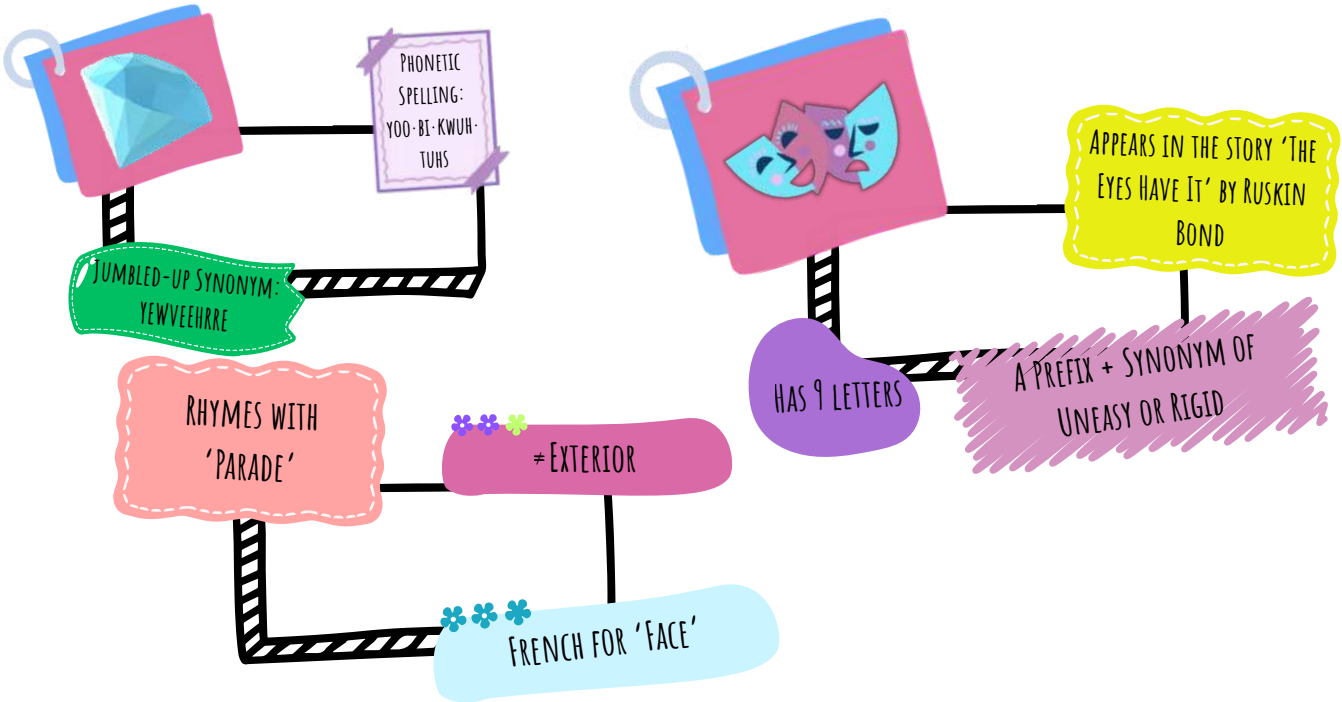
Robin grinned. "I'd love that."

The Vocabulary Building

Check-dam - small temporary dams built on waterways to control erosion
Vascular system - a network of blood vessels which circulate blood through out our body
Thermophilic - a micro organism thriving at relatively high temperatures
Hydrodynamics - a study of fluids in motion
Spillway - a structure designed to release excess water from dams or reservoirs
Gorge - a narrow valley with steep sides and a river flowing through it
Manifold - a pipe with many opening to control fluid flow
Aqueducts - a structure like a bridge for carrying water across a valley or low ground

Word Bluff

There are multiple clues given for each word (like a synonym or a picture card), but one of those clues is a bluff, in other words, it is lying. Try to fill in the correct words and circle the bluff clue in each case.



WATER WHEEL

A water wheel is a machine that converts the energy of flowing or falling water into mechanical energy.

This easy STEM activity will help you build your own water wheel with craft materials. Learn how to use power of water just like in a hydro-electric power station and explore energy conservation.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Cardboard circles (15 cm), 8 plastic bottle caps, wooden skewers (20 cm), thick straws, glue, blu tack, big deep bowl (18 cm diameter), ruler, pencil, mug of water

HOW TO MAKE

- Mark 8 equidistant points on outer edge of one of the cardboard circles.
- Glue each of the caps facing same direction perpendicular to the cardboard base. These act as paddles.
- Stick the other cardboard base on the other side of the caps so that caps are sandwiched between the two circles.
- Poke a hole through the centre of the circles, large enough for the skewer to pass through freely.
- Slide the skewer through the hole, creating an axle for the wheel.
- Cut straws into pieces big enough that the sides of the axle are mostly covered by straw, allowing the wheel to spin freely.
- Position this water wheel on the bowl. You can secure the straws with blu tack.
- Gently pour water and observe how the paddles catch the water and cause the wheel to rotate

WHAT IS HAPPENING

Water is directed towards the paddles of the wheel, causing it to spin. The spinning wheel is the source of mechanical power. This rotation can then be used to power various things, like grinding grain, sawing wood, or even generating electricity. This water wheel demonstrates a simple example of energy transformation – converting the potential energy of water (due to its height or flow) into kinetic energy (causing the motion of the wheel).

Check out this video to understand the functioning better.
https://youtu.be/b-SudYEvkG0

WATER FILTER

Approximately 2.2 billion people worldwide don't have access to clean drinking water.

This DIY water filter will help you experiment with simple everyday objects to clean muddy water and learn self-sufficiency in obtaining clean water in times of disasters.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Plastic water bottle, cotton, sand, gravel/pebbles, crushed charcoal, muddy water, transparent tall glass, scissors & knife.

HOW TO MAKE

- Cut the bottle into two. Take assistance from an adult, if required.
- Put the top part upside down in the glass (ensure cap part is in the glass).
- Place thick cotton in the bottle at its neck.
- Top that up with a layer of sand, then powdered charcoal and lastly gravel.
- Pour dirty water in the bottle slowly.
- Wait and watch the water that comes out of the bottle and collects in the glass.

SCIENCE CONCEPTS

1. Separation- a process to obtain pure substances and remove harmful components from a mixture.
2. Filtration- a method to separate solid particles from a liquid or gas by passing the mixture through a filter.
3. Adsorption- a process in which the particles of matter adhere to the surface of another material.

WHAT IS HAPPENING

This water filter purges the water of impurities, bacteria, and debris. It functions by permitting water to flow through various material layers that capture impurities. This purification method also works in real-life in riverbeds or large water treatment plants in cities. Each material used for filtration plays a significant role in cleaning water. Gravel catches large debris & dirt, whereas sand removes small particles. The charcoal helps remove chemicals and odours from dirty water while cotton prevents final debris from passing through. You can also use filter paper in place of cotton. Explore by adding more layers of sand, pebble or charcoal. Do you get even more clean water?

A WALK FOR PEACE

Poetry...
what is it?
Poetry is something that has the power to evoke emotion, provoke thought, and connect with the human experience through carefully crafted language and imagery. Whether read by a 5-year old or an 80-year old, poetry has the unique power to speak to all of our hearts. This unique collection has poems composed by freedom fighters, poems about India as well as original poems by children.

FOR A BETTER WORLD

They marched under the scorching sun with pride,
With peace in mind and no track of the time.
The world they dreamed of, where all hearts abide,
Where unity, worth a million dimes.
Each one for harmony, no one for crime.
Call for brotherhood, awakened moral,
Many in one, like a garden floral.

'Rhyme Royal' by Kaniira Gupta, Age 10

सरफ़रोशी की तमन्ना

सरफ़रोशी की तमन्ना अब हमारे दिल में है
देखना है ज़ोर कितना बाज़ू-ए-क़ातिल में है

ऐ शहीद-ए-मुल्क-ओ-मिल्लत मैं तिरे ऊपर निसार
ले तिरी हिम्मत का चर्चा ग़ैर की महफ़िल में है

वाए क़िस्मत पाँव की ऐ ज़ोफ़ कुछ चलती नहीं
कारवाँ अपना अभी तक पहली ही मंज़िल में है

रहरव-ए-राह-ए-मोहब्बत रह न जाना राह में
लज़्ज़त-ए-सहरा-नवर्दी दूरी-ए-मंज़िल में है

शौक़ से राह-ए-मोहब्बत की मुसीबत झेल ले
इक ख़ुशी का राज़ पिन्हाँ जादा-ए-मंज़िल में है

आज फिर मक़्तल में क़ातिल कह रहा है बार बार
आएँ वो शौक़-ए-शहादत जिन के जिन के दिल में है

मरने वालो आओ अब गर्दन कटाओ शौक़ से
ये ग़नीमत वक़्त है ख़ंजर कफ़-ए-क़ातिल में है

माने-ए-इज़हार तुम को है हया, हम को अदब
कुछ तुम्हारे दिल के अंदर कुछ हमारे दिल में है

मय-कदा सुनसान ख़ुम उल्टे पड़े हैं जाम चूर
सर-निगूँ बैठा है साक़ी जो तिरी महफ़िल में है

वक़्त आने दे दिखा देंगे तुझे ऐ आसमाँ
हम अभी से क्यूँ बताएँ क्या हमारे दिल में है

अब न अगले वलवले हैं और न वो अरमाँ की भीड़
सिर्फ़ मिट जाने की इक हसरत दिल-ए-'बिस्मिल' में है

-बिस्मिल अज़ीमाबादी

GITANJALI

Where the mind is without fear
and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been
broken up into fragments by
narrow domestic walls;
Where words come out from
the depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches
its arms towards perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason
has not lost its way into the dreary
desert sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is lead forward by
thee
into ever-widening thought and
action-
Into that heaven of freedom, my
Father,
let my country awake.

-Rabindranath Tagore

दुनिया का इतिहास पूछता

दुनिया का इतिहास पूछता,
रोम कहाँ, यूनान कहाँ?
घर-घर में शुभ अग्नि जलाता
वह उन्नत ईरान कहाँ है?

दीप बुझे पश्चिमी गगन के,
व्याप्त हुआ बर्बर अंधियारा,
किन्तु चीर कर तम की छाती,
चमका हिन्दुस्तान हमारा।

शत-शत आघातों को सहकर,
जीवित हिन्दुस्तान हमारा।
जग के मस्तक पर रोली सा,
शोभित हिन्दुस्तान हमारा।

-अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी

TO INDIA.

O young through all thy immemorial years!
Rise, Mother, rise, regenerate from thy gloom,
And, like a bride high-mated with the spheres,
Beget new glories from thine ageless womb!

The nations that in fettered darkness weep
Crave thee to lead them where great mornings
break . . . .
Mother, O Mother, wherefore dost thou sleep?
Arise and answer for thy children's sake!

Thy Future calls thee with a manifold sound
To crescent honours, splendours, victories vast;
Waken, O slumbering Mother and be crowned,
Who once wert empress of the sovereign Past.

-Sarojini Naidu

Rivers - The Lifelines Of History

Rivers have played a crucial role throughout human history, serving as sources of sustenance, transportation, and even shaping cultural and religious beliefs. From the earliest civilisations in river valleys to modern-day cities reliant on waterways, rivers have consistently been vital to human development and settlement.

Map courtesy mapsofworld.com

> Fun Fact:
> The Nile River is over 6,600 km long—longer than the distance from Delhi to London and back!

The Birthplace of Civilisations

For thousands of years, rivers have supported both animal and human life. Floodplains became the birthplace of the first civilisations on Earth between 5,500 and 3,500 years ago. Vibrant societies grew along the Nile in Egypt, the Tigris and Euphrates in Mesopotamia, the Indus in South Asia, and the Yellow River in China. People settled along riverbanks in prehistoric times because they could find fish to eat and water for bathing, cooking, and drinking. These civilisations were also among the first to plan irrigation systems to grow crops in dry regions. For survival, many communities relied on the natural resources available to them locally.

> "Where there is water, there is life." — Ancient proverb

Rivers as Roads and Engines

Centuries later, rivers became pathways for trade, exploration, and settlement. Scandinavian and Russian cultures near the Volga River's source exchanged goods

and ideas with Persian cultures near its mouth in southern Europe.

People began building infrastructure to use rivers more effectively. The ancient Romans built aqueducts to carry water to cities. Over 2,000 years ago, water wheels were invented to capture river energy. Rivers like the Ruhr in Germany, the Mississippi in the United States, and the Thames in England powered hundreds of water mills and industries.

> Fun Fact:
> The Thames River in London powered over 150 water mills during the Middle Ages!

Rivers in Myths and Beliefs

Because of their importance, rivers are often linked to fertility and life. They appear in myths and legends around the world, sometimes symbolising death, destruction, or supernatural powers. Rivers have been seen as gates between the divine and the mortal, or as entrances to other worlds. People feel a strong cultural and spiritual connection to rivers. For example, the Ganges River is considered sacred in Hinduism, with temples and pilgrimage sites along its banks in India, believed to have purifying powers.

> "The river is not just water—it is a goddess." — Hindu belief

Rivers in Freedom Movements

Rivers have played important roles in movements for freedom and independence. They often served as boundaries, strategic locations, or symbols of national pride. The Congo River, for example, was used by different groups during the Congo Free State era and later in

the independence movement, showing how rivers can shape political events.

During the 1857 rebellion in the Indian subcontinent, the Yamuna River and its surroundings became sites of conflict, even acting as a defence against the British army. Later, rivers like the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Sabarmati became symbols of unity and pride during India's independence movement. These rivers were not just physical features; they helped people resist colonial powers and dream of freedom.

> Fun Fact:
> Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram was built beside the Sabarmati River in Gujarat.

River Cities of the World

From ancient times to now, rivers have remained central to a city's identity. The oldest parts of many cities are found near rivers. If you look at a world map, you'll see that many famous cities are built along rivers—like New York City, Sydney, London, Cairo, Kolkata, Hong Kong, Mumbai and Shanghai. These cities benefit from easy access to water and transportation. Today, rivers are still important for farming, travel, and fun. They give life, offer places to trade, and help people feel connected to their land and history.

> "Cities grow where rivers flow."

Bookworm

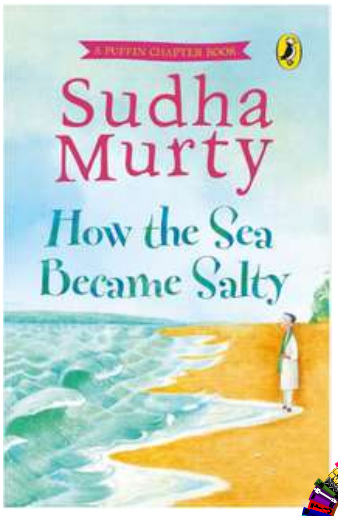
How the Sea Became Salty

Author: Sudha Murty

Age Group: 6-9 years

Publisher: Penguin Random House

Genre: Fiction



Long ago, the sea's water was sweet and drinkable. How it became salty is the heart of this remarkable tale. With her trademark wit and simplicity, Sudha Murty brings the story alive. Beautiful illustrations make this charming chapter book a perfect introduction for young readers to her timeless storytelling.

This month CurioBuddy Loves

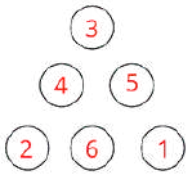
Solve This!

A deck of cards.

WHAT AM I?

Sea shell

Activity Area Answers

1. There's no smoke as it's an electric train.
2. 

3. Only 3 since you took 3 away.
4. Start the three-minute timer and five-minute timer simultaneously. When the three-minute timer ends, start boiling the egg and take it out of the water when the five-minute timer has ended. This way, the egg is boiled for two minutes only. (There is no need of the four-minute timer.)
5. This sequence is formed by adding consecutive even numbers: 2+4=6, 6+6=12, 12+8=20, 20+10=30, 30+12=42.
6. There are only three people: a father, his son, and his son's son.
7. d)
8.

2	6	8	3	4	9	1	5	7
3	7	9	1	2	5	4	6	8
5	1	4	7	6	8	3	2	9
9	3	1	2	5	4	7	8	6
6	8	7	9	3	1	2	4	5
4	5	2	6	8	7	9	1	3
7	4	6	8	9	2	5	3	1
8	9	5	4	1	3	6	7	2
1	2	3	5	7	6	8	9	4

9. Your fingers!
10. Since the couple has 5 sons, and each son has three sisters, this means that the couple has three daughters. Now each daughter has a baby, thus, there are three babies in the family. So, Total Members = 13
[Couple: 2 people + Sons: 5 + Sisters: 3 + Babies: 3]

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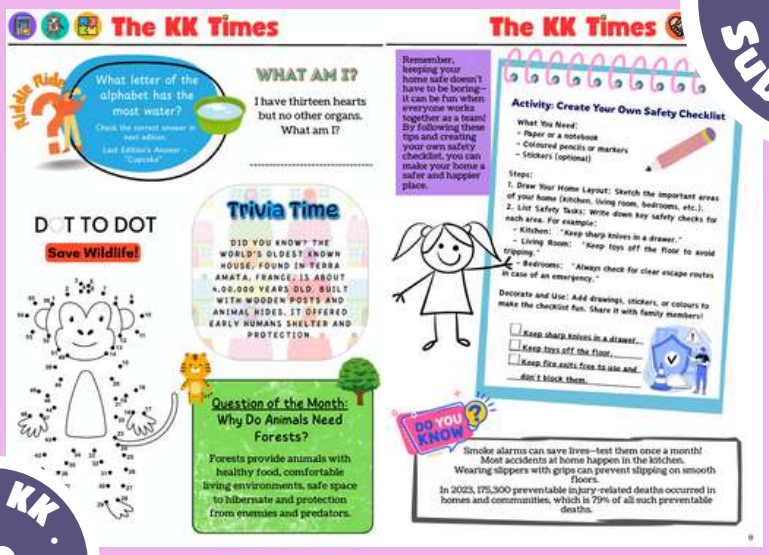

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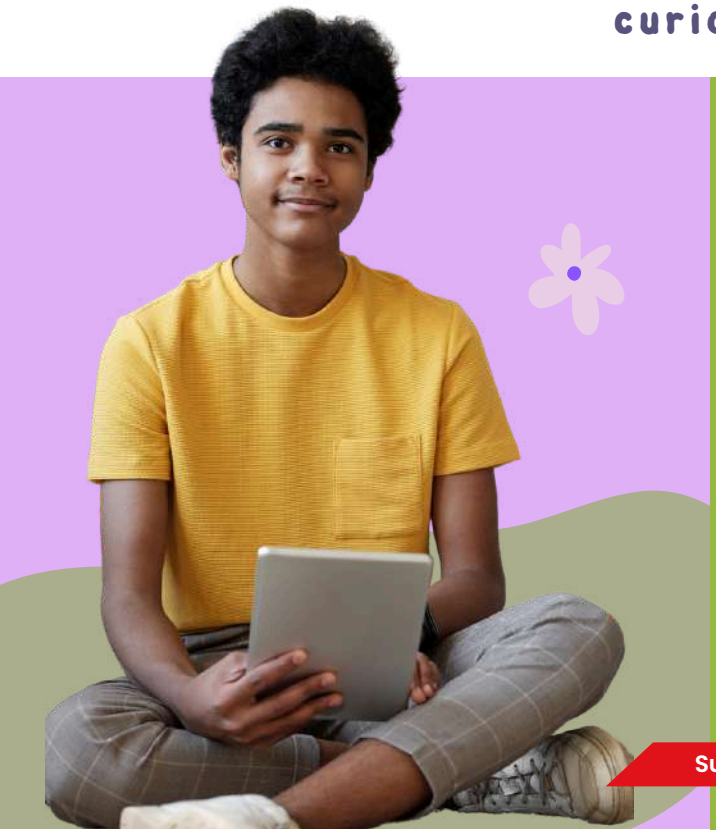
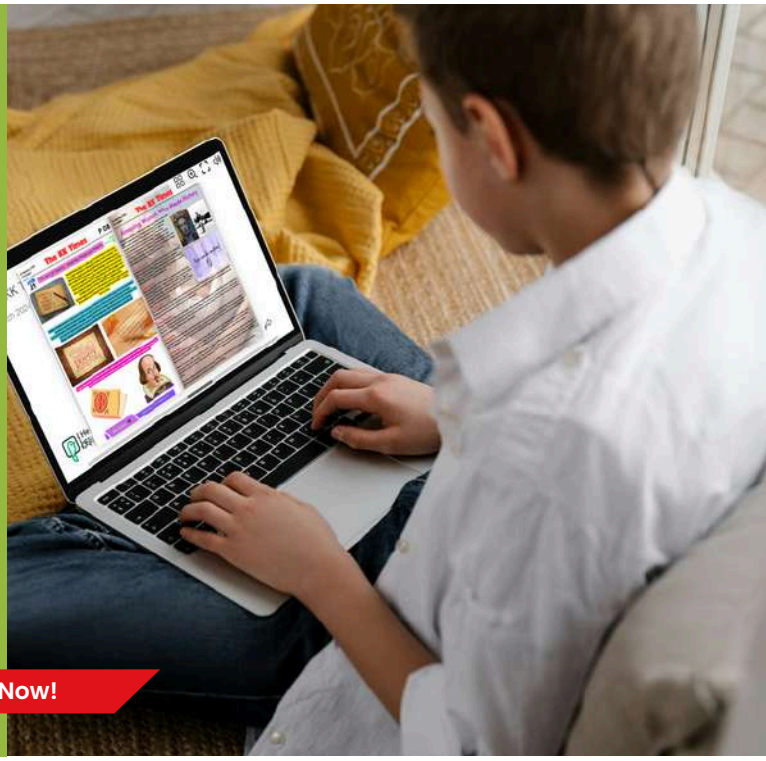


Transform Screen Time Into Learning Time



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