

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
JUNE 23, 2024



FUNDA Y TIMES

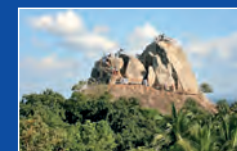


The Eastern Band at 'Visakha Walk 2024'

Pic. by Akila Jayawardena

**KIDS'
WORLD**

PAGES 2 - 3



**POSON
PAGE 4**

(ONLINE)



**FAMOUS PEOPLE
PAGE 5**

KIDS NEWS

PAGES 7 - 8

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Please send competition entries to:



Funday Times
C/O the Sunday Times
P.O. Box 1136, Colombo.
Or
8, Hunupitiya Cross Road,
Colombo 2.

Please note that competition entries are accepted by email.

All competition entries should be certified by a parent or guardian as your own work.

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Please write the name of the competition and the date clearly at the top of your entry and include the following details:

Full Name, Date of Birth, Address,
Telephone No. and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

Competition entries without the full details requested above, will be disqualified.

Closing date for this week's competitions:

July 10, 2024



Rainy day



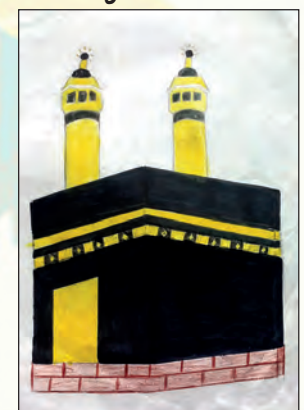
M. R. M. Arkam (Grade 6)
Hejaaz Int. School

Ballet Dancer



Eliza Jurie (6 years)
Wycherley Int. School

Haj Festival



M. Z. M Aalif (12 years)
Royal College, Colombo

The Importance of Education

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." – Nelson Mandela

Education is precious; it is the key to success. From a young age, our teachers, parents and elders have enlightened us with knowledge, morals, values and discipline. Their goal is to shape us into great individuals within society.

"Parents are a child's first teachers and their influence lasts a lifetime." – Anonymous

Our parents provide endless support, time, money and love, while our teachers guide us to be our better selves. As students, it is our duty to study diligently, achieve good marks and maintain discipline. By excelling in our Ordinary Level and Advanced Level exams, we honour the efforts and sacrifices of our parents and teachers.

"They inspire you, they entertain you, and you end up learning a ton even when you don't know it." – Nicholas Sparks

They guide us to ensure we have a future filled with joy, happiness and peace. Therefore, it is crucial to study effectively.

Here are some tips to help us achieve our academic goals:

- ◆ **Create a Timetable:** Allocate specific times for each subject.

"A goal without a plan is just a wish."

– Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

- ◆ **Daily Revision:** Review what you've learned every day after school.

"Repetition is the mother of learning, the father of action, which makes it the architect of accomplishment." – Zig Ziglar

- ◆ **Practice Past Papers:** Regularly practice with past exam papers to evaluate your understanding and progress.

"Practice isn't the thing you do once you're good. It's the thing you do that makes you good."

– Malcolm Gladwell

For those who want to study, the best time to start is now. *"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now."*

– Chinese Proverb.

By following these tips, we can make our parents and teachers proud and secure a bright future for ourselves.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." – Eleanor Roosevelt

Vasanthakumar Anjana (15 years)
Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalaym, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Indigenous People

When we say the words, 'Indigenous People' the tribe that comes to our mind is the Veddha tribe. They are the earliest known aboriginal people of Sri Lanka. They have lived here since the 6th Century B.C.

There are two general ideas as to how long there have been on this island. There is an idea that Veddhas are the descendants of King Vijaya but the scientifically proven idea is that they date back to the Stone Age.

Veddhas inhabited the forests of Sri Lanka from long ago. Since then they were known as 'Forest People'. The most important natural resource that the Veddhas depend on is coconut palms as it provides them not only with food, but also with materials to build huts, create shelter, make ropes and even bowls to keep things in.

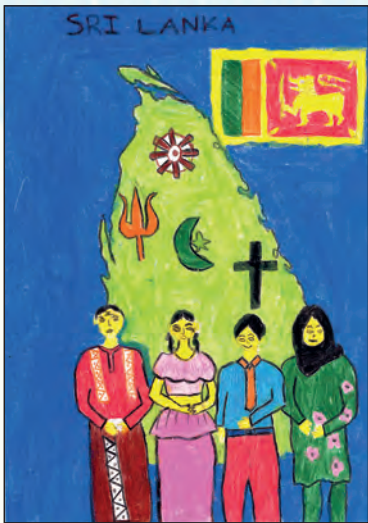
Veddhas have adapted to dress in sarongs but used to wear fibre coverings, but it is not common any more.

They have a close connection to nature and have ritualistic songs which are like a communication with the elements. Veddhas used to have their own language but it is now no longer in touch. Most Veddhas use Sinhala as their language now.

Even though the Veddhas prevailed since the Stone Age, their mere existence in future could be in jeopardy.

Harshadaa Rameshkumar (13 years)
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo

Our Motherland



Ashmal Rameez (9 years)
Matale Int. School

My family



Vethum Vinvidu (Grade 2)
President's College, Embilipitiya

Tanjore Brihadisvara Kovil, India



Pratheepkumar Sriharishan (9 years)
Rambaikulam Girls' M.V., Vavuniya

Scenery



Aasiya Shimla (Grade 4)
Zahira College, Gampola

Scientists

Scientist is a man who works to make life better. A scientist discovers new ideas.

There were many scientists in the past. They work in their own way. All the modern things in this world are because of Science. And Science creates them with the help of scientists. Scientists are the key of progress.

But scientists also make some dangerous things like machine guns and atomic weapons. In this way Science can be harmful.

Ileesha (Grade 4)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Water

Water is one of the important things in our life. It helps us in cooking, drinking, watering plants and many more. We should drink enough water because we would die of dehydration.

We can find water everywhere, like in lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, oceans and sometimes up in the mountains. Some animals live in water. They are called aquatic animals.

If we look at the globe, we can see that some places are coloured blue. It is water. Water is everywhere on our planet Earth.

Some people pollute the water, that bad activity is called water pollution.

So, instead of making the people and animals sick, we should save water.

Sahasna Desharthree (Grade 5)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Famous People
- **Page 6** – Young Reporter
- **Page 7** – Kids News
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

Please log on to the Funday Times website on www.fundaytimes.lk or check out the Sunday Times epaper on www.sundaytimes.lk for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.

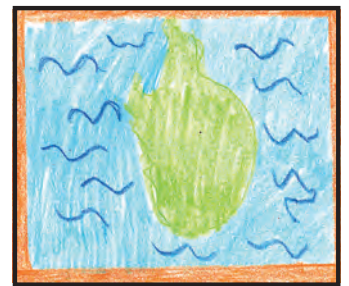
Father

Always sitting next to me,
As my shadow,
Showing me to protect the environment,
and enjoy life,
You are the pilot,
In my life aeroplane...
You are the hero,
Who guides me to overcome challenges...
You are the teacher,
Who teaches me to win in life,
And move forward...
When you are old, day by day,
I'll be your shadow always...

Thenuri Keerthisena (Grade 8)
Maliyadeva B.V., Kurunegala

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is a beautiful island. It is a developing country. The present president is Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe.



There's a beautiful natural habitat. As a natural disaster there are floods. The biggest river in Sri Lanka is Mahaweli. And the tallest mountain is Pidurutalagala. There are lots of birds and animals in the jungles.

Foreigners visit the country because of the beautiful, clean, natural habitat.

Saweth Weerasinghe (Grade 4)
Boswell College Int., Kalutara

Please remember that **ARTICLES, POEMS** and **PAINTINGS** sent, will not be published unless they are certified as your own work by a parent or teacher.

Also please mention the topic, your full name, date of birth and address in your entry. Articles should not exceed 200 words. Art should be on A4 size paper.



Poson

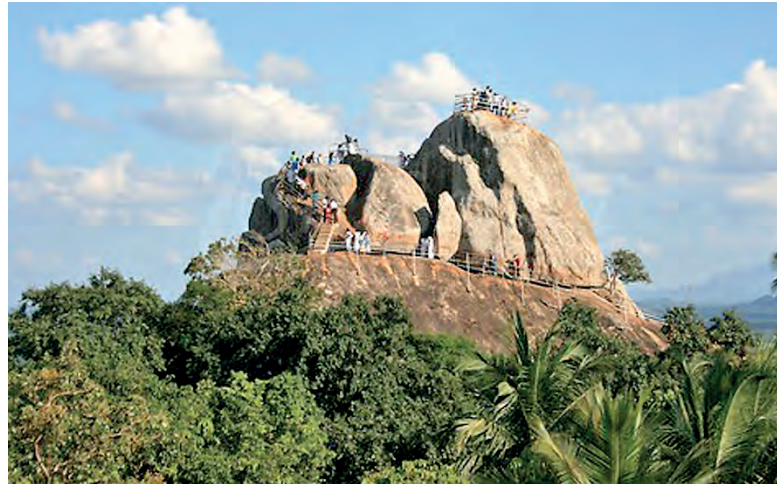
Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

Poson or Poson Poya is an annual Buddhist festival, celebrated on the full moon day falling in June, that marks the introduction of Buddhism to Sri Lanka.

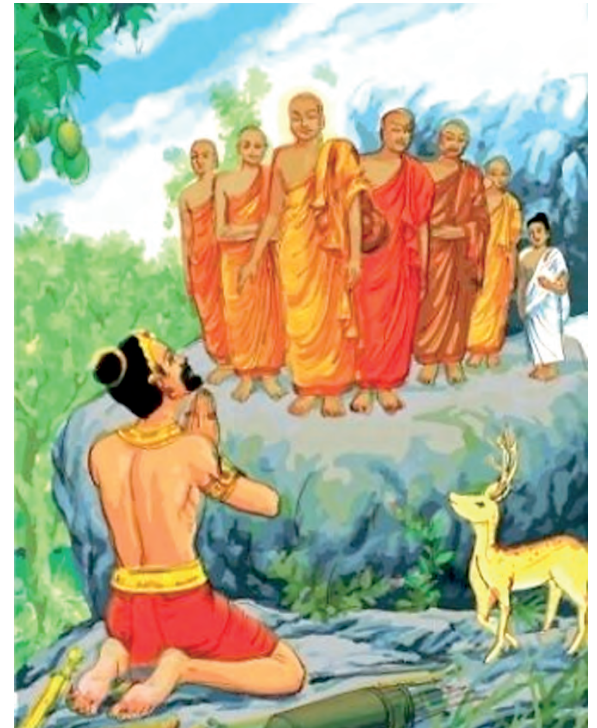
In the 3rd century BC, while Devanampiyatissa, the King of Anuradhapura, was out hunting, Arahat Mahinda, the son of Emperor Asoka of India, appeared to him at Mihintale.

Arahat Mahinda posed a riddle about a mango tree to the king to see if he would be intelligent enough to understand

the teachings of Lord Buddha. After King Devanampiyatissa succeeded in answering the riddle, Arahat Mahinda explained the teachings and converted the king, who declared Buddhism the religion of the state.



Mihintale



Arahat Mahinda converting King Devanampiyatissa

Ambasthale Dagoba



Ambasthale means “mango tree” and refers to Arahat Mahinda’s riddle to King Devanampiyatissa. Ambasthale Dagoba, which is built above the city of Mihintale, is said to be situated on the very spot that Arahat Mahinda appeared to King Devanampiyatissa.

Poson Poya is the second most important Buddhist holiday after Vesak, which commemorates the Birth, Enlightenment and Passing Away of Lord Buddha.

The Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi

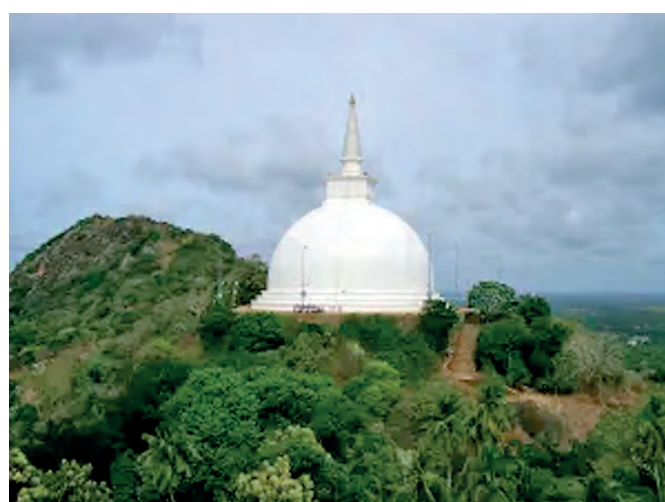
The Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi is a sacred Bo tree or fig tree (*Ficus religiosa*) which has grown from a sapling of the Bo tree under which Lord Buddha attained Enlightenment.

It was the sister of Arahat Mahinda, Sangamitta Theri, who was responsible for bringing the sapling from India on an Unduvap Poya Day.

The 2,300-year-old tree was planted in the Mahamevuna Uyana in 288 B.C., and holds the Guinness World Record for the oldest-known human-planted tree in the world.

Maha Seya

To the right of Ambasthale Dagoba, this large stupa known as the Maha Seya is on the summit of the Mihintale hill, built by King Mahadathika Mahanaga (7 - 19 A.D.) the base of which is 136 ft (41 m) in diameter. The stupa which was in a dilapidated condition has been completely restored.



The Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi in Anuradhapura

Today, Buddhism has spread throughout the island and is the official religion, with around 70% of the population following it. Sri Lanka is also the oldest country to be a continually Buddhist country.

George Orwell

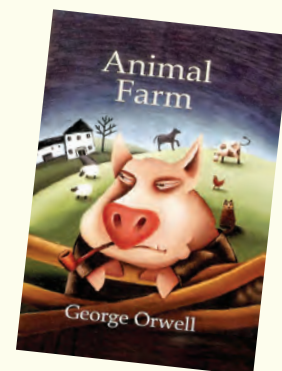
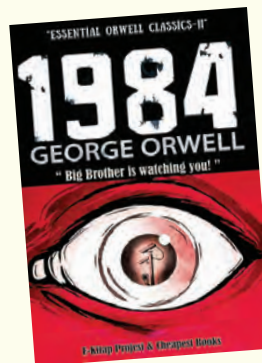
George Orwell was an English writer best known for his novels 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' and 'Animal Farm'. He was born on June 25, 1903 in Motihari, Bihar, India to Richard Blair and Mabel Blair. His birth name was Eric Arthur Blair, but he used George Orwell as his pen name.

George Orwell began writing when he was young, and it is believed that he wrote his first poem when he was only four years old. His first poem was published when he was 11, in a local newspaper. George attended boarding school on scholarships, and then joined the India Imperial Police Force for 5 years.

He spent the rest of his life writing and became well known as a novelist, essayist, critic and journalist. He is considered to be one of the 20th century's most influential writers.

Interesting Facts:

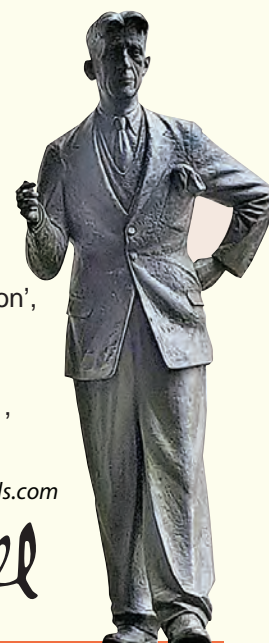
- George Orwell joined the India Imperial Police Force in 1922, as he did not have the money for a university education after boarding school.
- George Orwell left the Imperial Police Force and returned to England, where he began to write seriously.



- Orwell's first book titled 'Down and Out in Paris and London' was published in 1933. The book explored the lives of working poor and transients. He started using the pen name George Orwell because he did not want his family to suffer any embarrassment at the topics in his first book.
- Orwell's second book was 'Burmese Days'. It was published in 1934 and was about British colonialism in India. It is believed that this book sparked his interest in politics.
- George Orwell married Eileen O'Shaughnessy in 1936.
- In 1936, George fought in the Spanish Civil War, and was shot in the arm and the throat. George and his wife left Spain, narrowly missing the treason charges brought against them.
- George Orwell had various health issues, and developed tuberculosis in 1938. He struggled with it for the rest of his life.
- In 1941 George Orwell began working for the BBC, but resigned in 1943.
- 'Animal Farm' was published in 1945. This novel made Orwell famous and financially sound. The book was an anti-Soviet satirical story about two pigs representing Leon Trotsky and Josef Stalin.
- In 1944, George and his wife Eileen adopted a son. They named him Richard Horatio Blair.
- Eileen passed away in 1945, and their son was then raised mostly by Eileen's sister Avril.
- In 1949, George Orwell's book 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' was published. The book is also published as '1984' in later editions. This was a book about the government controlling everything, even a person's thoughts.
- George Orwell's fictional predictions about the future in 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' were not that far off. Many of his ideas have come true.
- George Orwell married Sonia Brownell in 1950.
- 'Animal Farm' and 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' were both made into movies.
- George Orwell wrote six novels in his lifetime including 'Burmese Days', 'A Clergyman's Daughter', 'Keep the Aspidistra Flying', 'Coming Up for Air', 'Animal Farm', and 'Nineteen Eighty-Four'. He also wrote three non-fiction books including 'Down and Out in Paris and London', 'The Road to Wigan Pier' and 'Homage to Catalonia'.
- George Orwell passed away on January 21, 1950 at the age of 46, in London, England.

Source: Softschools.com

George Orwell



From a Funday Times Young Reporter

Sri Lanka: The best place for urban wildlife?

Sri Lanka's commercial capital Colombo has many suburbs which are home to some of the most adaptable species. Colombo is a wetland city, with good sites for wildlife such as Diyasaru Park, and some of its suburbs have fragmented patches of forest.

Most parts of Colombo are home to the Critically Endangered but common western subspecies of the endemic Purple-faced Leaf Monkey. The bigger parts of wetland in Colombo, such as Beddegana Wetland Park, Diyasaru Park and the Talangama Wetlands, are home to the Fishing Cat, Indian Crested Porcupine, Black-naped Hare, Indian Brown Mongoose, Yellow spotted mouse deer, and are also good for butterflies, more than 31 species of dragonfly and wetland birds like the Waterhen, Asian Spoonbill and the migrant Black-headed Ibis.

The suburbs, on the other hand, can have high populations of the Purple-faced Leaf Monkey, Indian Crested Porcupine, Indian Brown Mongoose, Common Palm Civet, Ring-tailed Civet, both species of Sri Lanka's monitor lizards (Bengal Monitor and larger Asian Water Monitor), and some highly adaptable snakes such as the Rat Snake, Spectacled Cobra, and Sri Lankan keelback water snake.

Some rarely seen populations of peacocks and Black-naped Hare also live in the suburbs, and in the wildest of suburban areas near Colombo, the areas are visited by the Fishing Cat and even the endemic Sri Lankan subspecies of the Golden Jackal.



Bengal Monitor Lizard, locally and incorrectly known as Iguana.



An angry Common Garden Lizard.



Water Monitor, the second largest lizard in the world.



Indian Brown Mongoose.



A Rat Snake in my garden.

So to conclude, Sri Lanka is probably the best spot for urban wildlife in my opinion. Some areas in temperate countries have skunks, raccoons and foxes visiting towns and suburbs but Sri Lanka has more species even in its most highly populated areas.

K. Dulain Sasnula (Grade 6)
Horizon College Int., Malabe



Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given and send it in to us along with a recent report or interview not exceeding 300 words. Photographs or illustrations would enhance the report.

Young Reporters who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.



Or



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Young Reporters Coupon

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June Solstice marks the start of the Northern Hemisphere Summer

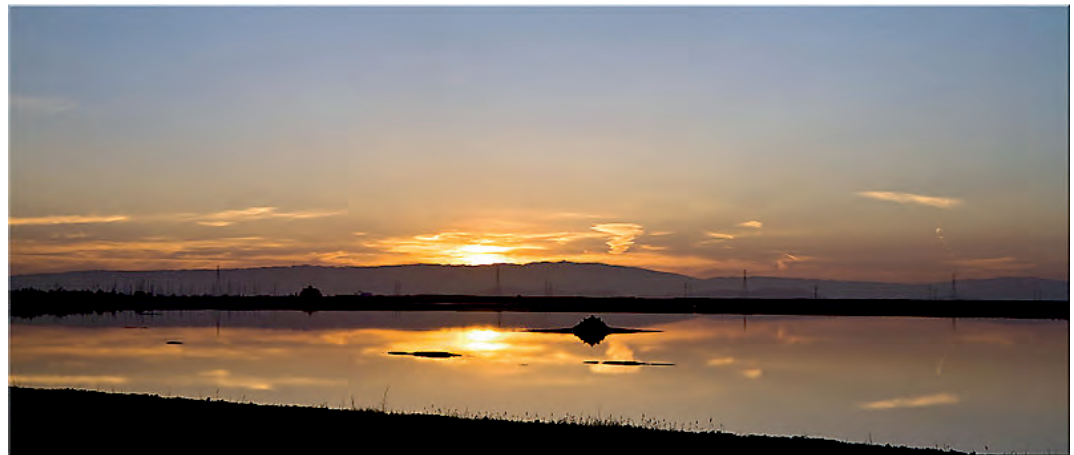
June 14, 2024

On June 20, 2024, Northern Hemisphere residents will celebrate the first official day of summer.

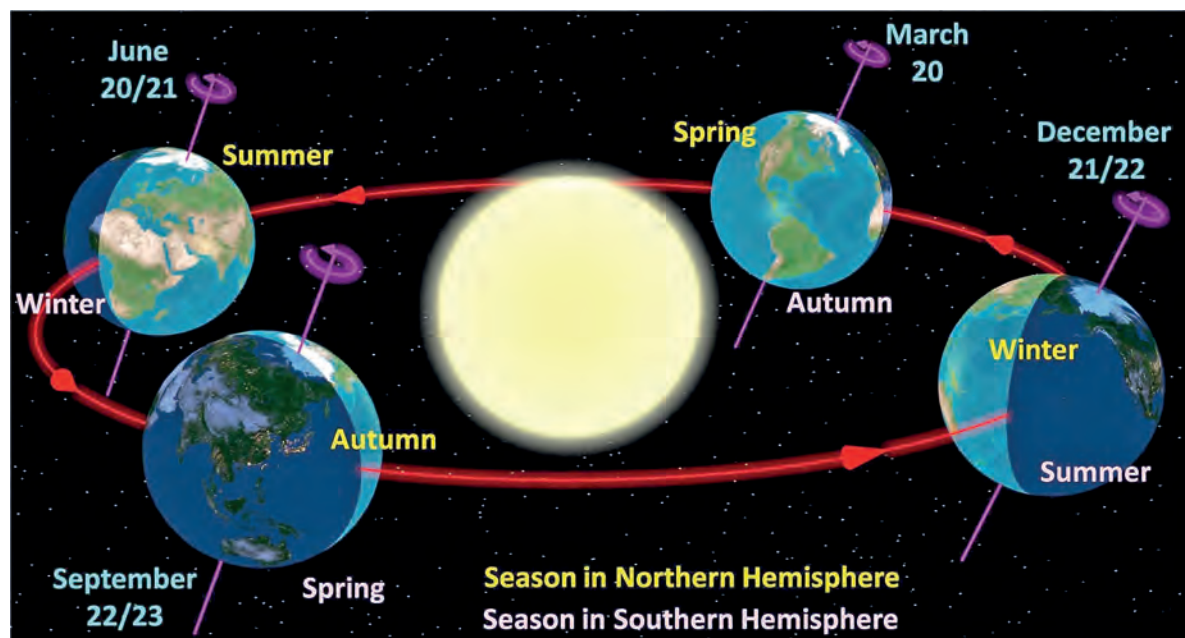
Also known as the June solstice, it is the day when the North Pole is most tilted toward the Sun. As a result, the Northern Hemisphere will enjoy its longest day of 2024. Conversely, those in the Southern Hemisphere will mark the start of winter with the year's shortest day.

Solstice celebrations can last all day. But the solstice occurs at the moment when the Sun is farthest north from the equator. In 2024, this will be at 4:51 PM EDT (1:51 PM PST). All countries in the Northern Hemisphere will enjoy at least 12 hours of daylight on June 20. But those closer to the North Pole will get a lot more. New York City residents will bask in over 15 hours of sunshine. Those in London, UK, will enjoy over 18 hours. Sweden's capital Stockholm, will experience 21 hours of light. In some areas of Northern Norway, the Sun will not set for several days!

The June solstice is marked worldwide with many exciting events. One of the oldest celebrations takes place at Stonehenge in Wiltshire, England. Thousands of people visit the prehistoric monument every year at dawn to witness the rising Sun.



June 20 is the first day of summer in the Northern Hemisphere



The June solstice occurs when the Sun is farthest north in the sky.

Japan's "Candle Night" puts a modern-day twist on the event. The eco-friendly celebration urges residents to turn off all lights and electronics from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM on the evening of the solstice.

Sweden's Midsummer Festival is observed with family gatherings and traditional dances. The most popular is the frog dance. It involves hopping around a 20 foot (6 m) pole while singing a classic Swedish song. Iceland celebrates the occasion with a three-day-long Secret Solstice Festival. It features music and dance performances by artists from around the world.

In Alaska, the June solstice is celebrated over many days with numerous events. The most unique is the Midnight Sun Game in Fairbanks. This fun tradition dates back to 1906 and involves playing baseball in the middle of the night without using artificial light.



June solstice "Candle Night" celebration in Japan.

DOGO News

June 18

News in Pictures



Kew, England
The 'Titan arum' plant, which only blooms once every two years. Endemic to the island of Sumatra, Indonesia, the 'Corpse Flower' stinks of rotting flesh when in bloom.



Cambridge, England
A firework display over the River Cam during the May Ball at Cambridge University's Trinity College.

Ruidoso, USA
Smoke rises from a wildfire in New Mexico.



Dongping, China
A drone photo shows a flooded area in Fujian province, south-east China. Southern China was reeling from heavy rains that triggered landslides killing at least nine people, knocking out power for entire villages and burying crops.



June 17

London, UK
An aerial view of the Palace of Westminster and a placid River Thames as the nation prepares to elect a new parliament.



Porto Alegre, Brazil
A car is left buried after flooding in the city.



Nirmaljote, India
People gather at the site of a train collision near Rangapani station in West Bengal. At least eight people were killed when a goods train driver missed a signal and slammed into a passenger train, officials said.



Paris, France
A police boat patrols the River Seine as security operations start to gear up ahead of the opening of the Olympic Games next month.

Gaza Strip
A street vendor sells toys in the Jabalia camp for Palestinian refugees.



Source : The Guardian