



FUNDA Y TIMES



Esala Perahera

Art by
Heesara Maddumage (Grade 5)

WINNERS

POETRY & ESSAYS
PAGES 2 & 5



ELEPHANTS
PAGE 4

(ONLINE)



FAMOUS PEOPLE
PAGE 6

KIDS NEWS

PAGES 7 = 8

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.

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

Full Name (including Surname),
Date of Birth, Address,
Telephone Number and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

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

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

Closing date for this week's competitions:
August 28, 2024

Telephone: 2479337/2479333
Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Book Winners Essays
- **Page 6** – Famous People
- **Page 7** – Olympics in Pix
- **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.

BRITISH COUNCIL

Age groups:
6 – 10 years / 11 – 15 years
Word limit: 100 Words



6 – 10 years

The wind

Whistling cool, sings a lullaby tune,
Gentle breeze, blowing through trees,
Tickling leaves, dancing high,
Whispering secrets as it passes by.

Carrying scents from afar,
Guiding birds like a star,
Softly it caresses through the grass,
Rustling branches in its wake,
Nature's gentle handshake.

It weaves its airy art,
Bringing calm to every heart,
With each gust telling a story,
In whispers, secrets never old.

Adheesha Jayasekara
Wesley College Primary

Please write the date at the top of your entry.

Poetry Competition

This is your chance to get your poem published here. Entries should be in your handwriting and clearly certified by a teacher or parent as your own creation. Your poem should be posted to Funday Times with 'Poetry Competition' written at the top of the entry. The winner of each age category will be awarded a British Council Young Learner's Library membership.

11 – 15 years

Happy 24th Anniversary!

To the Funday Times, on your twenty-fourth year,
We send our best wishes, full of cheer.
To the Editor and team, who make dreams come true,
Happy Anniversary — here's to many more with you!

From headlines of wonder to cartoons that delight,
For twenty-four years, you've been a guiding light,
From lessons that teach, to fun that inspires,
With quizzes that test and exciting challenges.

You've awarded grand prizes, and sparked friendly contests,
With stories and events that inspire and impress,
Helping young readers to learn and to dream,
Happy Anniversary — may your impact always gleam!

Suhanya Gamaarachchi
Horizon College Int.

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.



or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: My best friend

Win: As You Like It – A Shakespeare Children's Story

"All the world's a stage..."

One of the most quoted lines of Shakespeare was first heard in this play.

This short narrative version has been suitably adapted to help introduce the play to young readers.



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: Esala Perahera

Win: Five Children & It by E. Nesbit

The five children are Cyril, Anthea, Robert, Jane and the Lamb, their baby brother. And 'It' is the Sand-fairy known as the Psammead that lives in the gravel pits. It is furry and fat, with hands like a monkey's – and, when it's in the mood, has the power to grant wishes.

The children discover that wish-making is fun at first, but sometimes when wishes come true, fun can soon turn into trouble...



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

Book Competition



10 – 12 years

Our Solar System

Pradhishan Ketheeswaran
Gateway College

13 – 15 years

Alternative Energy Sources

Aksharran Ketheeswaran
Gateway College

Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: Olympic Games 2024

Win: The Village By The Sea by Anita Desai



With their mother ill and their father permanently drunk, Hari and Lila have to earn the money to keep house and look after their two young sisters. In desperation, Hari runs away to Bombay, and Lila is left to cope alone.

From a Funday Times Young Reporter

Visit to Yala National Park

We went to Katharagama for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year holidays and on April 15, very early in the morning, we set off to Yala. We arranged food and beverages for the ride. We went in safari jeeps. There were also many rules and guidelines such as, 'no feeding the animals', 'no throwing trash', 'no swimming in water bodies, etc.

During our journey we saw many animals. We saw both big and small crocodiles in small lakes, floating like logs. The deer population is very high – we saw a lot of them. Another animal we saw was the Indian Bee-eater, which is a beautiful bird with green colour shaded feathers.

From a far away distance we spotted a majestic eagle on an isolated tree. On the way ahead we saw an elephant and her baby resting and eating. While we proceeded on our journey, we met a small civet rolling on the ground. We also saw many wild boar. Amazingly we had the opportunity to spot the fantastic Mr. Fox! Almost everywhere we saw peacocks and peahens.

Just like all the animals, we saw a great variety of plants. These plants help the animals by shading them, sheltering them and by



providing food. The trees in the dry atmosphere have less leaves but they are rich in thorns and have fleshy stems.



At the beginning of our journey it was very sunny but suddenly it started to drizzle and the drizzle turned into rain.

There were many different water bases in Yala. Small streams, creeks, lakes, ponds and rivers were some of them. Most interestingly Yala beach was absolutely clean. We all enjoyed the safari ride!

Senuri Gunawardana (10 years)
Methodist College, Colombo

FROM THE EDITOR

Hi Kids,
Please send in your Articles and Art for Kids' World, to be published in the Funday Times online edition and website.

As you can see, we have space only once a month for Kids' World articles and art in the print edition. Therefore, we are planning to carry them every week in the Funday Times online pages as well as on the Funday Times website.

We also invite schools to send in their students' work for a school page in the online edition and website.

Thanking you in anticipation of your positive response.



or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com



or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given and send it 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.



Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval:

Date:

.....



Elephants

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

Elephants are the largest living land animals, and there are three species alive today:

- Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*)
 - Sri Lankan elephant
 - Indian elephant
 - Sumatran elephant
 - Bornean elephant
- African bush elephant, also known as the African savanna elephant (*Loxodonta africana*)
- African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*)

The largest of these is the African bush elephant, while the smallest is the Bornean elephant.

Known as 'ecosystem engineers', African elephants are a keystone species (species that play a critical role in their ecosystem), because they shape their habitat as well as the lives of other animals.



African bush elephant

When feeding on trees and shrubs, the African bush elephant preserves the open landscape of the savanna which is vital for animals (such as zebras) to thrive, while the African forest elephant clears paths for smaller animals in the forest. African elephants

also excavate riverbeds with their tusks and make water holes that provide water to a variety of animals during the dry seasons. Furthermore, plant seeds are dispersed through their dung, which is also home for dung beetles.



World Elephant Day is observed annually on August 12.

It was created to raise awareness of the issues faced by Asian and African elephants. Some of the most pressing issues include poaching, habitat loss, human-elephant conflict and mistreatment in captivity.

Sri Lankan Elephants

The Sri Lankan elephant is the largest subspecies of Asian elephant. The population, which was once dispersed throughout the island, has now been limited to smaller areas due to deforestation for urban and agricultural expansion, and has reduced by 65% since the 1800s.

Elephants are listed as an Endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and killing one carries the death penalty under Sri Lankan law.



Sri Lankan elephant

Proboscideans

Proboscideans refer to the members of the order, Proboscidea, which includes elephants and their extinct relatives such as mammoths and mastodons.

While there are only three proboscidean species alive today, over 160 proboscidean species have roamed the Earth in the past. The most well-known species is of course, the woolly mammoth, who were also featured in the 'Ice Age' movies. The closest living relative of the extinct mammoth is the Asian elephant.



The Human-Elephant Conflict

When humans encroach into forests inhabited by these massive creatures, the result is habitat loss, as well as the deaths of both humans and elephants, and damage to crops and property.

Termed the human-elephant conflict (HEC) this is a major issue in many areas; however, some communities have found ways to co-exist with these majestic giants.

The Anamalai hills in Tamil Nadu are home to the second largest population of elephants in India. From the late 1800s onwards, large areas of the rainforest were destroyed to make way for plantations, which resulted in human-elephant conflicts. In 2002, the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) began studying the elephants' behaviour to identify where and when conflicts occur with humans. With the support of the Forest Department and local plantation companies, the NCF implemented various measures to minimise conflicts, such as moving storage locations to better buildings, shifting shops away

from housing colonies, setting up better protection (such as electric fences) for buildings and recommending companies to insure specific buildings to mitigate risks.

In 2006, an early warning system was also set up which includes a bulk-SMS system to warn of any elephants in an area, and red indicator lights which inform that an elephant is within 1 km.

Meanwhile, the human inhabitants surrounding the Kui Buri National Park, which is home to some of Thailand's largest elephant populations, began adapting to living with them. After years of suffering damage to crops because of elephants, one farmer learnt more about their behaviour, and also learnt foreign language skills, to become a local guide. Other farmers also began to seize the opportunities presented by elephants and began producing handmade elephant-related souvenirs, such as paper made from elephant dung, which they then sold to tourists who came to see the elephants in their natural habitat.

10 – 12 years

Our Solar System

The Solar System is a system of a huge star and the objects around it. The star at the centre of our Solar System is the Sun and the objects are the Planets. There are eight planets, five dwarf planets, asteroids, comets and hundreds of moons.

The first and closest planet to the sun in our solar system is Mercury, but it is not hot. Next is Venus, which spins in the opposite direction of Earth. This is the hottest planet. Then is Earth, the third closest to the sun. It is the only one where there is life. It is our home planet.

The fourth planet is Mars, the Red Planet. After that comes Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system. Next is Saturn which is the only planet in our solar system that has visible rings. The last two are Uranus and Neptune, far from the sun. One day on Uranus is 17 hours on Earth.

Other than all these planets, we can also see comets which are balls made of ice and dust, rocks called asteroids and many more.

In conclusion, our solar system is the place in space where our planets are and we live in.

Pradhishan Ketheeswaran
Gateway College

Book Competition



13 – 15 years

Alternative Energy Sources

Energy is something predominant that we need in our day-to-day lives and we get it in different ways. One way is by using alternative energy sources. It refers to renewable sources that are natural. In fact, this is one way of benefitting from nature without harming it.

Wind energy, solar energy, hydro-electricity, biomass, nuclear energy and hydrogen energy are some of the crucial types of alternative energy.

Wind is one of the foremost alternative energy sources we require. Moreover, wind moves the blades in wind turbines and creates electrical energy. In addition we use windmills for this action.

On the other hand we can use Solar energy, which transfers heat from the sun to thermal power. Therefore we operate solar panels.

Hydro-electricity is formed by the power of water that flows – for instance, the water in fast-flowing rivers to produce current.

The fourth significant alternative energy source is Biomass, where organic matter from animals and plants is converted into electricity in biomass power plants.

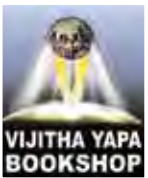
Next comes, Nuclear energy which is frequently produced by the nucleus, also known as the core of atoms, made up of unique protons and neutrons.

The final source is Hydrogen energy, which is used to store and give energy formed from other alternative energy sources.

Today, in many countries we use hydrogen-powered buses, which are eco-friendly and there is no need to burn fuel; this will stop the spread of greenhouse gas emissions.

In conclusion we need these sources to maintain national security, which will later become world security!

Aksharran Ketheeswaran
(13 years)
Gateway College



Read-a-Book and win a voucher from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop

Read any book of your choice and write briefly about it. What we want is not just a summary of the story but your views on the book.

The best account in the three age groups will be awarded book vouchers of Rs. 500 each from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop. Three winners will be selected each month.

Your account should not exceed 200 words. Please indicate word count, fill in the coupon and attach it to your entry.

Read-a-Book for July

13 – 15 years



Nipunika Tharangani

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
by J. K. Rowling



or

email fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

Rugrats





John Logie Baird

Scottish engineer John Logie Baird was a pioneer in the development of television. With a mechanical television system he invented, he became the first person to televise pictures of objects in motion.

John Logie Baird was born on August 13, 1888 in Helensburgh, Scotland. His father worked in the clergy. He enjoyed spending time tinkering with inventions and showed early signs of an engineer's mind. One of the first things he engineered was a telephone rig that connected his house to the houses of his friends in the neighbourhood.

Eventually, he used this creative thinking in his education at the Larchfield Academy, and then later at the Royal West of Scotland Technical College.

Later, Baird attended the University of Glasgow. Unfortunately, his education at the University of Glasgow was disrupted by the onset of World War I. Due to his illnesses, he was not permitted to join the military and serve in the war. Instead, he took a job as a supervisory engineer at the Clyde Valley Electrical Power Company.

After the war, he sought to establish himself in the business world, but was unsuccessful. Instead, he decided to conduct experiments in the hopes of developing what would later become television.

Scientific Research

He moved to the south of England and worked on his new project. In 1924 he could send the image of an object, albeit unstable, from a few feet away. By 1924, he had experimented with television by transmitting outlines of objects. By the following year, he had successfully televised human faces that were visible enough to be recognizable.

The very next year in 1926, Baird was able to successfully demonstrate televising of objects in motion. He presented his findings at the Royal Institution in London.

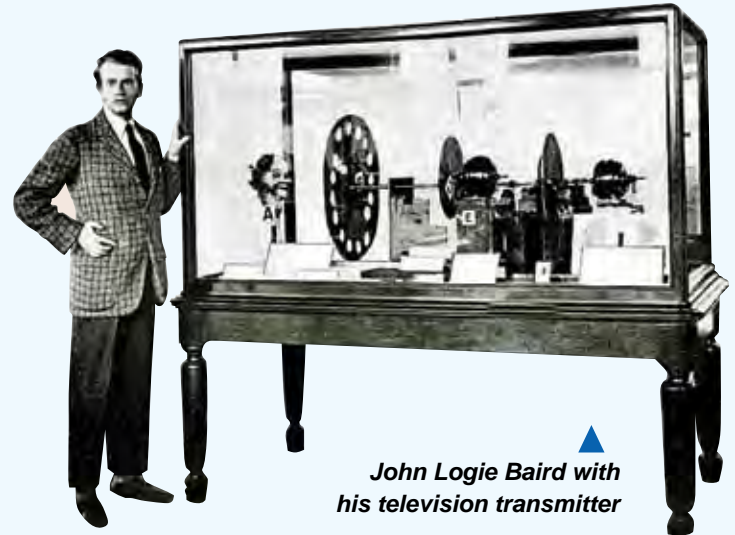
The following year, Baird's television system was able to be transmitted across more than 438 miles of telephone wire.

This allowed a television transmission from London to Glasgow, and, being the first scientist to accomplish this, he created the Baird Television Development Company.

In 1928, Baird's company was also the first to accomplish transatlantic transmission of television. Baird astonished researchers by transmitting television from London to a ship in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, and also from London to New York.

Due to his success, the German post office provided him the facilities necessary to develop a television broadcasting service in 1929, as his mechanical transmission system was the only one in operation at the time.

Originally, sound and vision could not be transmitted for television at the same time. This was quickly amended however, and by 1930 television had simultaneous sound.



John Logie Baird with his television transmitter

Impact

His efforts proved very effective, and by the year 1936, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) was a fully formed and functioning public service.

At the time, the BBC's competition was a company called Marconi Electric and Musical Industries. By this time, the mechanical system that Baird had developed was being overcome by the electronic systems that were becoming more popular. In fact, Marconi Electric developed an electrical system that operated on 405 lines, and became favoured over Baird's 240 line system.

However, by February of the following year, BBC bought and merged with the Marconi Electric system.

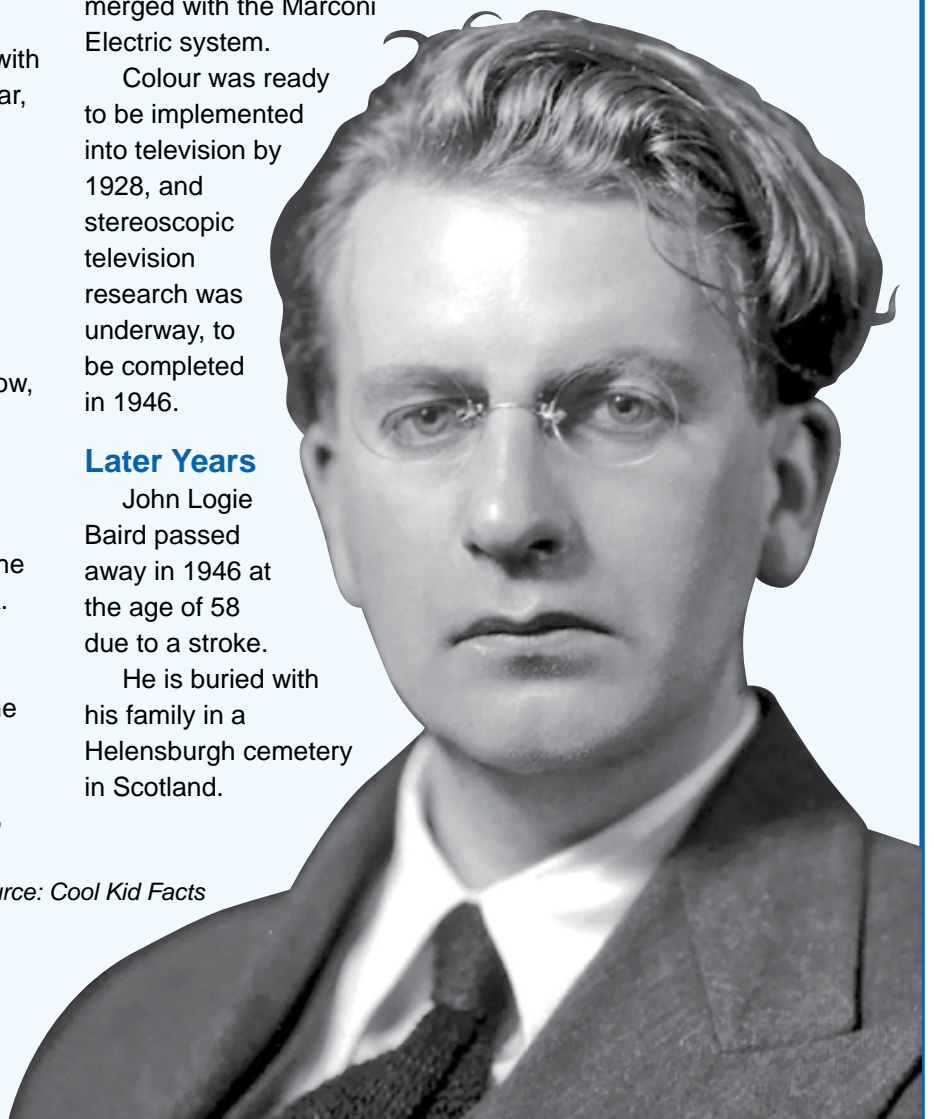
Colour was ready to be implemented into television by 1928, and stereoscopic television research was underway, to be completed in 1946.

Later Years

John Logie Baird passed away in 1946 at the age of 58 due to a stroke.

He is buried with his family in a Helensburgh cemetery in Scotland.

Source: Cool Kid Facts



Olympics in Pix



Gold medallist Armand Duplantis of Sweden celebrates after vauling a new world record of 6.25 m in the men's pole vault.



▲ Noah Lyles of the USA crosses the finish line to win gold in the men's 100 m final.



▲ Gabrielle Thomas of the USA reacts after crossing the line to win gold in the women's 200 m final.



▲ Julien Alfred of Saint Lucia celebrates after crossing the line to win gold in the women's 100 m.



▲ Chi-Lin Wang and Yang Lee of Taiwan celebrate after winning gold against Wei Keng Liang and Chang Wang of China during the men's badminton doubles gold medal match.



▲ Noemie Fox of Australia reacts after winning gold in the women's kayak cross final.



▲ Gold medallist Leon Marchand of France celebrates on the podium after winning gold and setting a new Olympic record in the men's 200 m individual medley.



▲ Qinwen Zheng of China celebrates after winning gold against Donna Vekic of Croatia in women's singles tennis.



▲ Florian Trittel Paul of Spain celebrates after winning gold in Sailing – Men's Skiff Medal Race in Marseille Marina, Marseille.

Source : Reuters

August 6

News in Pictures



Edinburgh, UK
The massed pipes and drums create an anchor formation on the esplanade during the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle. This year the Royal Navy takes the helm of the show, called Journeys, with a celebration of nautical themes.



Dhaka, Bangladesh
People celebrate at Parliament House after the fall of the country's Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina.



Mekelle, Ethiopia
Internally displaced people wait at a food distribution base at the Seba-Care camp. Despite a peace deal signed in November 2022, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates there are still 1.1 million IDPs in the conflict-hit Tigray region.

Cotonou, Benin
Children with albinism visit the headquarters of the Albi International Association. The albino population faces heightened health risks as west Africa grapples with extreme heat-waves.



August 5



Paris, France
The Eiffel Tower at sunset was a dazzling backdrop for a men's volleyball match between Brazil and the Netherlands at the Olympic Games.

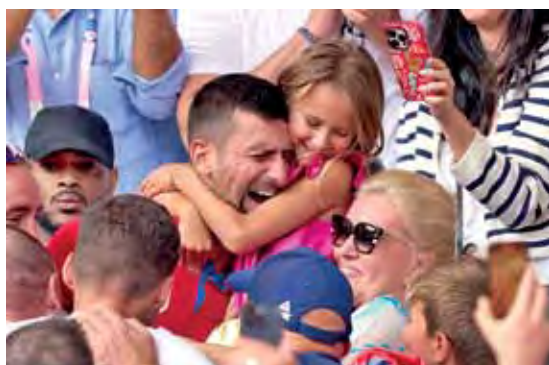


Moscow, Russia
Watermelons are seen at the start of the watermelon season in a fountain in the centre of the GUM, Moscow's largest luxury goods store at Red Square.

Chonburi, Thailand
Jockeys compete during the annual buffalo racing festival, where rice farmers in Chonburi city mark a new rice-growing period at the start of the rainy season.



Paris, France
Novak Djokovic is hugged by his daughter after winning the men's singles Olympic gold-medal match against Carlos Alcaraz.



Catoira, Spain
Participants stage a Viking invasion during the Romeria Vikinga (Viking pilgrimage) festival, which commemorates the role that the town played in defending Galicia against Norman attacks.



Source : The Guardian