



FUN DAY

TIMES



Art by Nethmi Batuwita (14 years)

Kekulu

ART COMPETITION
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STORY
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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.

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.

Please note competition entries are also accepted by email. 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:
October 9, 2024

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

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In our online issue this week:

- Page 5 - Events
- Page 6 - Animals
- 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.



Kekulu Kinder ART COMPETITION - 2024

SINCE 1934

Model Application Form

Child's Full Name :

Date of Birth :

Permanent Address and Telephone Number :

Email Address :

Kindergarten Name and Address :

Name of the Kindergarten Principal :

Phone Number :

Kindergarten Email :

District :

Kindergarten Principal's Signature :

- Eligible only for children between 2 ½ to 5 years of age.
- Competition topic is 'A Rainy Day'.
- Drawing can be submitted only on an A4 sheet using pastels only.
- Should be certified by the Kindergarten Principal, that the drawing is done by the child.
- It is mandatory to paste the application to the back of drawing.
- Certificates are given only for drawings where application form is filled correctly.
- The product wrappings and the drawing to be enclosed in an envelope without stapling together and sent to the following address before 01st October 2024.
- Address: **Hettigoda Industries (Pvt) Ltd., No. 33/3, Sri Dharmarama Road, Ratmalana.**
- It is important to have filled the following application form correctly. If not, the drawing will be rejected.
- Any clarifications on the competition, please call Imanji on 077 834 4219 or Gayani on 077 638 6807.

It is mandatory to include a product wrapping from any of the following product categories, to partake in the competition.



Kekulu Baby Soaps



Kekulu Toothpastes



Kekulu Baby Colognes



Kekulu Toothbrush



THE OFFICIAL RADIO PARTNER



OFFICIAL PRINT PARTNER



OFFICIAL BANKING PARTNER

* Important Notice - To all Kindergarten Principals, please ensure that all drawings are submitted with the correct product wrappings to the above address before 01st October 2024.



Kitty and Patty

By Manoshi De Silva

Kitty opened her sleepy eyes wondering why the people in her house were all talking in excitement. Kitty slept the whole day and got up only to have her meals. She thought of herself as the 'queen' of the house. "Whatever they are talking about can't be anything interesting to me," she thought closing her eyes again.

But how wrong Kitty was! The people at Kitty's house had got another pet; a puppy.

"Kitty, meet Patty!" said the little girl of the house. Kitty opened one eye to look at what she was talking about. Seeing a puppy in the small girl's arms shocked Kitty and the fur on Kitty's body and tail stood up, stiff like a wire brush.

Kitty hissed at Patty showing her sharp teeth and claws. The puppy wagged his tail and struggled to get near Kitty to play with her, not realizing how angry the cat was. "We will have to keep Kitty away from Patty, till she gets used to him!" said the little girl's mother, carrying Patty away.

"There goes my freedom and peace," thought Kitty, shaking in anger. "They have me, the perfect pet, but yet they go and bring this silly puppy home!" thought Kitty, lying down feeling annoyed. "I'll have to get rid of that silly little puppy soon!"

When Kitty was given lunch that day, Patty was also given his lunch. Kitty watched Patty gulp down his lunch like he'd never seen food before. "What a greedy fellow he is," thought Kitty. "He finished his whole meal at once!" Patty then came like a flash towards Kitty's plate and started eating Kitty's lunch as well. Kitty snarled and hit Patty hard, making him yelp in pain.

The little girl picked up Patty and scolded Kitty for hurting him. "What a joke this is," thought Kitty, feeling very angry. "That stupid puppy stole my food, and they blame me!" Kitty ate her food and went back to her bed, only to



find Patty sleeping on it. Kitty hissed and chased Patty, making him run off.

"I must get rid of this dog as soon as I can," thought Kitty, watching the little girl petting the puppy. "I can bite him or scrape him, but that will only make him shout and they will end up scolding me for hurting him. How can I chase him from this house without getting scolded?" Kitty thought of ways to chase off Patty, without getting caught to the people at home.

Patty tried his best to make friends with Kitty. He brought his ball and pushed it towards Kitty, trying to get her to play with him. The sight of the rolling ball was very tempting and Kitty wanted to run after it. But she stopped herself because she didn't want to make friends with Patty.

"Remember to keep the gate closed!" Kitty heard the little girl's mother advising her. "If it's open, Patty will run away and we won't be able to find him!" "That's it!" giggled Kitty, "if I manage to open the gate and get that silly little puppy to go on to the road, he'll run off like an idiot and won't come back home." Kitty licked her paws and wiped her face feeling very happy with her plan.

A little later Kitty went near the gate and observed it. There was a latch on top of the gate. Kitty knew that if she could lift the latch and open the gate her plan would be successful.

"Once I manage to open the gate, I must push the ball out and get Patty to follow it. The ball will roll down the road and Patty will run out after it!" thought Kitty.

"But how do I reach the gate latch? I'll have to climb up the wall and get to the top of the gate." Kitty tried to jump up the wall, but it was too high. She looked around and saw a piece of wood leaning against the wall. "If I climb on this, it will be an easy jump onto the wall," thought Kitty and started climbing up the piece of wood.

As Kitty climbed to the top of the piece of wood, she took her aim and tried to jump onto the wall. But the piece of wood slipped away and Kitty lost her balance. Splash! Kitty fell into the pond that was not too far from where she had jumped. Now, Kitty didn't know how to swim. She splashed around in the cold water, struggling to get out.

The edge of the pond was muddy and slippery, so Kitty's sharp claws didn't help her at all. Water got into Kitty's nose and mouth as she tried to shout. She was so scared that she couldn't think of anything. But out of nowhere appeared Patty. He kept his paws at the edge of the pond and pulled out Kitty with his mouth. It took some effort but Kitty managed to climb out with the help of Patty.

Kitty was wet and shivering, but more than anything, she was very embarrassed. So she ran away and hid behind the house. "Patty saved my life!" she thought gratefully, while drying herself. "He is not all that bad. In fact I am the bad one. I hated Patty for no reason, even when he did no wrong to me. I was jealous, and that's not a good thing!"

So, from that moment on Kitty made friends with Patty. She shared her meals and even her toys with Patty. "What's going on with these two?" wondered everyone at home in surprise. "Kitty hated Patty just yesterday and today they are best friends!"

"Being friends with Patty is not too bad," thought Kitty. "He's a little different than me. But that's not a problem to make friends with someone. Being friends with someone is much nicer than being jealous of them!"



Liberty Bell

At the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, on July 8, 1776, in Philadelphia, a large bell is said to have been rung. Now called the Liberty Bell, it has become a well-known symbol of the freedom of the United States of America.



▲ Liberty Bell Center

Inscribed on the bell are the words, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land and unto all the inhabitants thereof," which comes from the Bible (Leviticus 25:10).

It was first called the Liberty Bell in the 1800s, in an antislavery pamphlet.

The Liberty Bell is made of about 70% copper and 25% tin, with trace amounts of lead, zinc, arsenic, gold and silver.

Weighing about 2,080 pounds (943 kg), it measures 12 feet (3.7 metres) in circumference around the lip and 3 feet (1 metre) from lip to crown.

In 1751, the Pennsylvania legislature had the bell made to hang in their new meeting place, the State House, now known as Independence Hall.

The Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London, England, cast the bell, which arrived in Philadelphia in 1752. Unfortunately, the bell was soon cracked by the clapper during testing. Two local metalsmiths, John Pass and John Stow, recast it, using metal from the original bell. It was then hung in the State House steeple, where it was used for many years to call the legislators to meet.

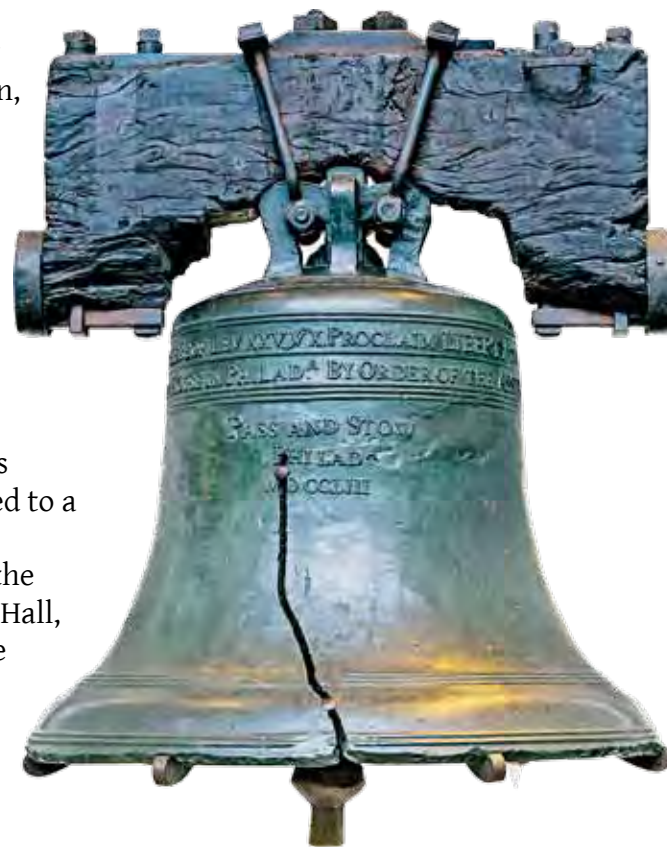
The bell was not rung, as has often been said, on July 4, 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was adopted, though it may have tolled four days later.

In 1777, during the American Revolution, the Americans temporarily moved the bell to a church in Allentown, Pennsylvania, to hide it from British troops.

According to tradition, the bell cracked again in 1835, while it was tolling for the death of John Marshall, chief justice of the Supreme Court. When the bell was rung on George Washington's birthday in 1846, it cracked beyond repair.

In 1976, the year of the United States bicentennial, the Liberty Bell was moved to a pavilion outside Independence Hall.

Since 2003 it has been displayed in the Liberty Bell Center near Independence Hall, both of which are part of Independence National Historic Park. From the southern end, the bell is visible from the street 24 hours a day. Each year, the bell attracts about 2 million visitors.



▲ The Bellman informed of the Passage of the Declaration of Independence, an 1854 depiction of the story of the Liberty Bell being rung in July 1776.



On every Fourth of July, at 2 pm Eastern time, children who are descendants of Declaration signers symbolically tap the Liberty Bell 13 times while bells across the nation also ring 13 times in honour of the patriots from the original 13 states.

Each year, the bell is gently tapped in honour of Martin Luther King Day. The ceremony began in 1986 at the request of Dr. King's widow, Coretta Scott King.



▲ The Bell's First Note, a 1913 painting of the Liberty Bell by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris.

Fun Facts

- Bell's original purpose was to call parliamentarians to legislative sessions. It was also used to inform the public of gatherings and proclamations.
- A piece of American elm that is thought to be the Bell's original yoke is used to suspend it.
- The original Bell cost £150, 13 shillings, and 8 pence (\$225.50) in 1752, with insurance and shipping, included.

Famous Landmarks Quiz 52

Q: Where is the Liberty Bell currently on display?



Famous Landmarks Quiz 51

► Thisalya Gunasena,
Kadawatha



Storytelling in Jaffna



British Council, Jaffna had a storytelling session at the Jaffna Public Library celebrating the Literacy Month 'September' and encouraging young children to start reading at an early age.

If you are interested, look out for more events at British Council Library events page.

National Kiddoree 2024



The 2nd National Kiddoree 2024 was held on September 7 at Viharamahadevi Park in Colombo.

Pix by Eshan Fernando

Aardvark

The aardvark gets its name from a South African word meaning "earth pig." Although the aardvark looks like a pig, especially with its body and snout, aardvarks actually share common ancestors with elephants and golden moles. Aardvarks live throughout much of sub-Saharan Africa.



Aardvarks use their large front claws to dig holes at a rate of 2 feet in 15 seconds so they can quickly get to their favourite meal: termites and ants. Aardvarks have long, sticky tongues, which can be up to 12 inches (30 cm) long. Each night, they are able to dig up termite mounds and ant nests and slurp up and swallow tens of thousands of insects.

Aardvarks are most active at night and tend to live alone. During the day, they sleep curled up in a ball in their burrows. As night falls, aardvarks will emerge cautiously from their dens, jumping around on the lookout for predators. They are able to see at night, but otherwise have poor vision and are colour-blind. They rely on their senses of sound and smell, using their long ears and snouts to get around and find insects.

Female aardvarks give birth in their burrow usually to one baby at a time. A baby aardvark stays in the burrow for two weeks and then begins to venture out to forage at night with its mom.

Babies begin digging for their own meals when they reach six months and they grow to full size in about one year.

The aardvark's fast digging skill also helps protect it from predators, such as hyenas and lions. When threatened, an aardvark can dig a hole and cover itself up in about ten minutes. Its large claws are another layer of defense.

Though aardvarks remain widespread, humans are the aardvark's biggest threat. Some landowners don't like the holes that aardvarks leave behind and kill the aardvarks. The use of pesticides to grow crops on land inhabited by aardvarks has also reduced the number of insects available for aardvarks to eat.

COMMON NAME	: Aardvark
SCIENTIFIC NAME	: <i>Orycteropus afer</i>
TYPE	: Mammal
DIET	: Insectivore
AVERAGE LIFE SPAN	
IN CAPTIVITY	: 23 years
SIZE: Head and body	: 43 to 53 inches;
Tail	: 21 to 26 inches
WEIGHT	: 110 to 180 pounds



Source: National Geographic Kids

“The Great Elephant Migration” across US

September 18, 2024

A herd of 100 life-sized elephant sculptures have begun their trek across the United States. The "Great Elephant Migration" aims to promote harmony between humans and animals. The project is spearheaded by Ruth Ganesh. She is a trustee of Elephant Family USA and cofounder of The Coexistence Collective, a community of 200 indigenous artists in Southern India.

The elephants began their journey in Newport, Rhode Island, on July 4, 2024, before moving to New York City on September 6, 2024.



The elephant sculptures are currently in New York City.



The travelling exhibit hopes to create harmony between humans and animals.

After a few months in the city, they will head to Florida and then to Montana. Their cross-country "migration" will end in California in July 2025.

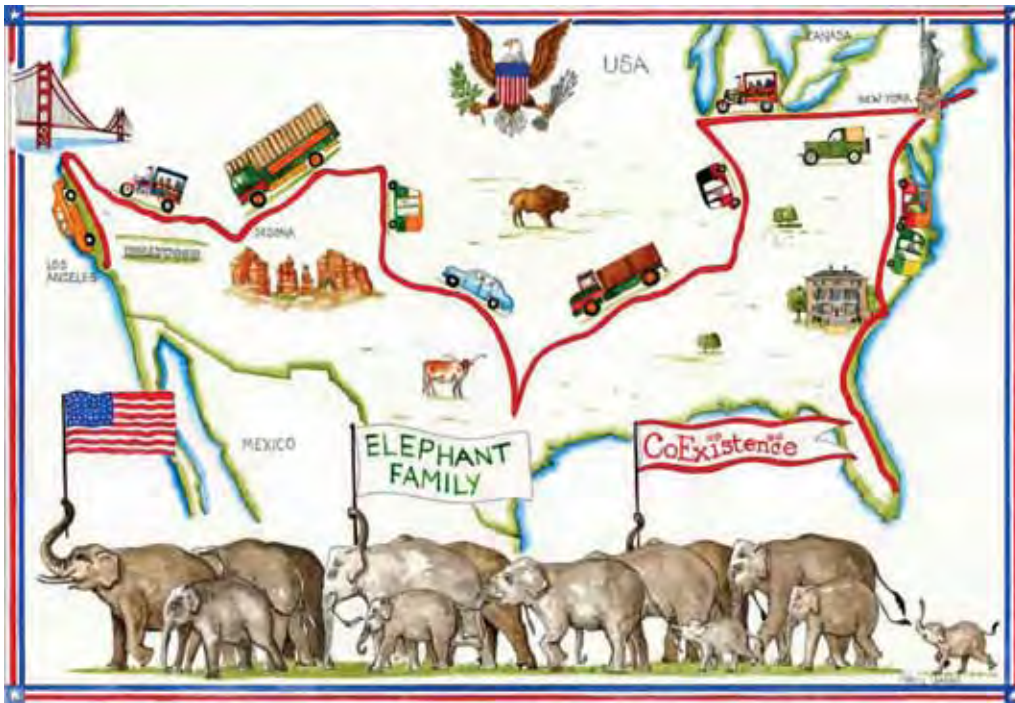
"I hope this exhibition reminds us of the awe we feel when in the company of wild, free animals and, in our increasingly urban world, inspires the human race to better share space," said Ganesh.

Each sculpture took about three months to make. The adult elephants reach up to 11 feet (3.3 m) tall and weigh as much as 750 pounds (340 kg). The artworks are made of lantana camara. This invasive weed is rapidly replacing the native plants the elephants rely on for food in South India's Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. This forces the mammals to search for food in nearby tea and coffee plantations.

Despite frequent intrusions, farmers in Southern India have learned to coexist with the elephants. Ganesh hopes the travelling exhibit can inspire similar harmony between humans and animals in other regions of the world as well.

"Our magnificent herd is here to tell its story, inspiring the human race to share space and be part of this transformative movement," Ganesh said.

The exhibition doubles as an important fundraiser for conservation. Each elephant sculpture is available for between \$8,000 to \$22,000. The proceeds are donated to local nonprofits. To date, 30 sculptures have been sold.



“The Great Elephant Migration” will end in California in July 2025.

DOGO News

ISS: What is life like for stranded astronauts?

September 16, 2024

Two astronauts who are stranded in space for eight months for what should have been an eight-day mission to the International Space Station (ISS) have said it was hard watching their ship depart without them.

Sunita 'Suni' Williams and Barry 'Butch' Wilmore travelled to the ISS in June for what was supposed to be an eight-day mission.

Problems with the ship they travelled on, the Boeing Starliner, mean they have to return in 2025 on a different space capsule. NASA say Suni and Butch will be brought back to Earth on a SpaceX Dragon craft next year.

Speaking to journalists, the astronauts said it was "hard" watching Starliner return to Earth last week. They also said they were happy and "trained to expect the unexpected".



CBBC Newsround

September 18

News in Pictures



Jinhua, China
A person walking over burning charcoal to perform a traditional fire-walking ritual called Lianhuo.



Tefé, Brazil
A man is seen on a boat in front of the sandbanks at the Solimões River, one of the largest tributaries of the Amazon, during a Greenpeace flyover to inspect what Brazil's national centre for monitoring and early warning of natural disasters (Cemaden) says is the most intense and widespread drought Brazil has experienced since records began in 1950.

Pulwama, India

Security personnel stand guard as voters queue to cast their ballots at a polling station in the first phase of assembly elections, as Indian-administered Kashmir began voting in the first local elections since the cancellation of its special semi-autonomous status sparked fury in the troubled Himalayan territory, which is also claimed by Pakistan.



Ciudad Juárez, Mexico
People watch the full moon rise ahead of the lunar eclipse at the Samalayuca Dunes.

Islamabad, Pakistan

Sunni Muslims in a decorated vehicle as they take part in a rally to celebrate Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi, the birthday of Prophet Muhammad.



September 17

Mumbai, India

Hindus carry an idol of the god Lord Ganesha toward the sea as part of the Ganesh Chaturthi Festival in which idols of deities are worshiped before they are immersed in water.



Stonehenge, UK

A dragon dance at Stonehenge to mark the Chinese mid-autumn festival.

September 16

West Sumatra, Indonesia

A woman poses for a photo with the *Rafflesia arnoldii* flower, which boasts the largest bloom in the world, at the Palupuh Forest.



Seoul, South Korea
Tightrope walker Seo Joo-Hyang performs Jultagi, or Tightrope Walking, to celebrate Chuseok, the Korean festival of thanksgiving.

Source : The Guardian