



FUNDA DAY TIMES



Halloween Fun

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



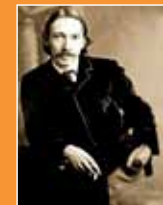
Queuing theory

MATHS
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(ONLINE)



FAMOUS PEOPLE
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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.

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:
November 20, 2024

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

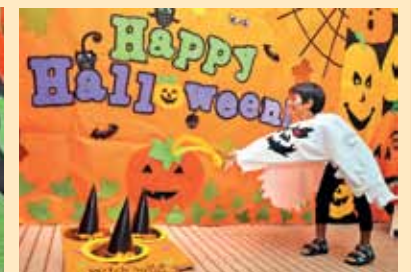


In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Famous People
- **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.

Celebrating Halloween



Maple Kids International organised a fun Halloween Day for their students on October 29, 2024.

Pix. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

Happy Birthday



Tuan Rehaab Cassim
10 years on November 3



Vishaal Prathik Perera
4 years on November 11

Photographs of members and non-members between 4 – 15 years, for the birthday page, should reach us at least ten days before the birthday, along with a letter from a parent giving full details.

Waiting in queues has become a part of our lives.

We experience queues in many places such as bus stands, railway stations, banks, supermarkets, petrol stations etc.

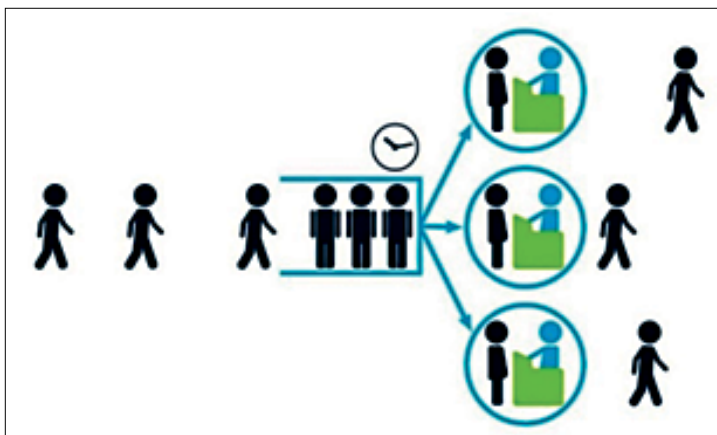
There is a branch of mathematics that deals with the behaviour of waiting lines. It is called Queuing Theory. It constructs a model so that queue lengths and waiting time can be predicted. These models have become immensely beneficial in resource management and enhancement of systems performance.

This branch of mathematics originated when mathematician Agner Krarup Erlang was trying to figure out the minimum number of phone lines needed to make sure that all calls would go through in Copenhagen in the early part of the 20th century. An 'erlang' is named as a unit of a telephone load in his honour.

Mathematicians have assumed that arrivals in a queue follow a probability distribution known as 'Poisson distribution' and service times follow an 'Exponential distribution'. With these, models have been created to evaluate system performance.

The queuing theory model has several components.

1. Arrival process – The way customers arrive at the system
2. Queue – The waiting line for service
3. Service process – The way the customers are being served
4. Service discipline – Systems such as 'first come – first served' or prioritized system.

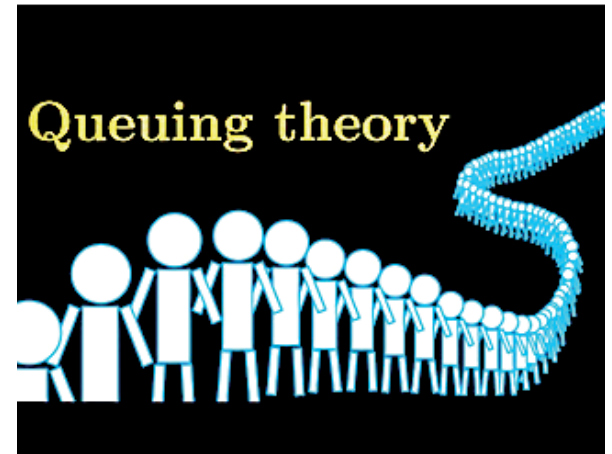


American mathematician John Little found a relationship in 1961 connecting the variables in a queue. Little's Law states that the average number of customers (L) is equal to the product of the average customer arrival rate (λ) and the average service time for a customer (W).

$$L = \lambda W$$

Queuing theorists have found that if customers form one long winding line, called a serpentine line, waiting times can be drastically reduced than having many lines serving for specific counters. Banks use serpentine lines where people wait for the next available teller. Perhaps this can be done even in supermarkets.

Queuing theory has applications in many different industries such as retail, telecommunications, transportation, finance, computing, logistics and project management.



Math Plot - 86

Try to find the solution to the following puzzle. You may send solutions with reasoning to rnades@gmail.com within the next three days.

Please include your full name, date of birth, home address, contact details and your school, along with the solution.

Edgar has forgotten the number of the bank safe. But he remembers some clues that he had formed. Try to figure out the number using these clues.

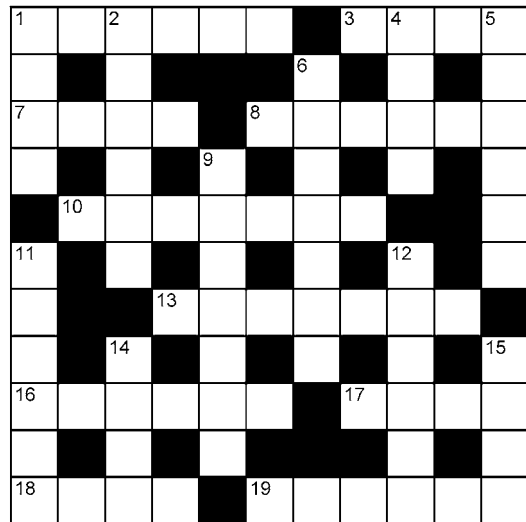
1. The number has four digits which are all different.
2. It begins and ends with odd numbers and the middle numbers are even.
3. It is divisible by 19 and also 519.

Math Plot 85 – Solution

The answer is 31,73,7,13,37,61,67,1 and 43 if written from left to right.

The winner is Nipunika Tharangani of Swarnapali Girls College, Anuradhapura. Congratulations!

LUMALA Crossword – No. 3



Across

- 1 Overtook
- 3 Not shut
- 7 Neat with everything in its place
- 8 Larger
- 10 Squash down
- 13 A skin dot
- 16 Further up
- 17 A prisoner's room
- 18 A writing table
- 19 Didn't go

Down

- 1 Tame animals
- 2 A seat on a horse
- 4 Animals kept in a sty
- 5 Where Norwegians live
- 6 You need this to be allowed to drive a car
- 9 Began
- 11 Cleaned with water
- 12 Tired and yawning
- 14 Birds lay these
- 15 Happy and pleased

LUMALA BICYCLE COMPETITION

You now have a chance to win a brand new **LUMALA bicycle** for your own. One lucky winner will receive a brand new Lumala bicycle each month.

All you have to do is fill in the Lumala Crossword No. 3, according to the clues given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard or paper, and send it to **Funday Times**.

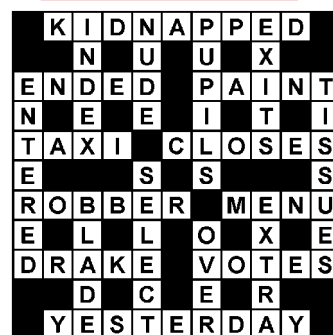
Cut the strip '**LUMALA Crossword No. 3**' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

Age Group: 8 – 15 years

Entries should be certified as your own work by a teacher or parent.

Closing Date: November 27, 2024

Solution No. 2



WINNER
Udayeswaran Habhinav,
 Wattala



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4 – 6 years **WINNERS**
 ▶ Lakiru Jayaratne, Malabe
 ▶ Fathima Aamina, Matara
 ▶ Sayyaf Riswan, Beruwala
 ▶ Faliha Juhar, Colombo 2
 ▶ Mohammed Hashim, Wellampitiya

Winners please call **Funday Times** on **2479333/2479337** and arrange to collect your prizes.

4 – 6 AGE GROUP

Count the objects and write the correct number.



Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Robert Louis Stevenson

Although he only lived to the age of 44, Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson had a great impact on the world of literature.

Some of his best-known works were for children. They include the adventure tales 'Treasure Island', published in 1883, and 'Kidnapped' (1886).

Early life

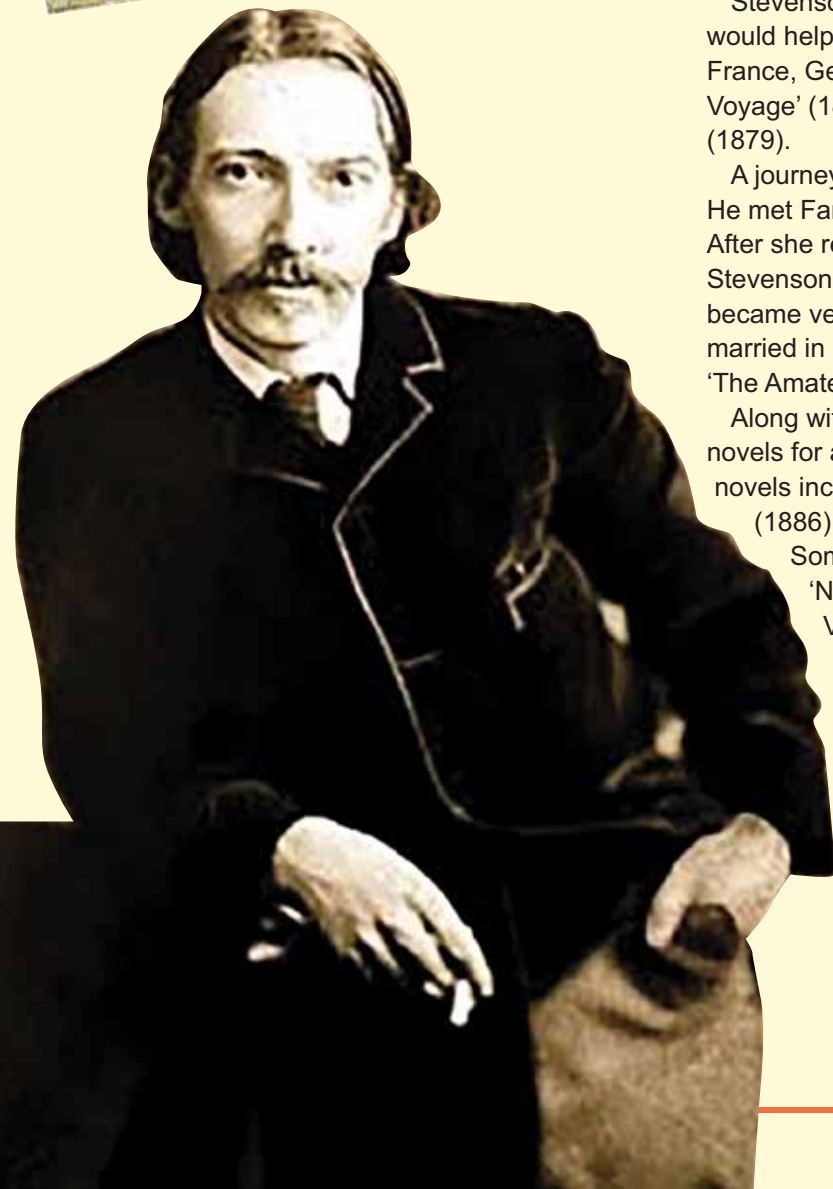
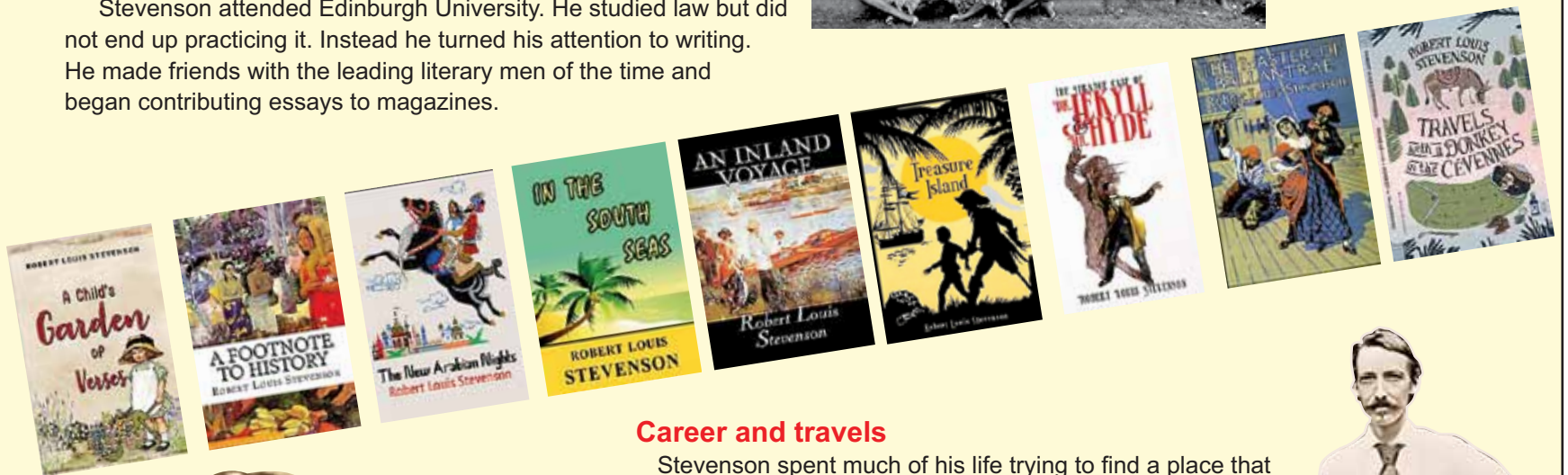
Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson was born on November 13, 1850, in Edinburgh, Scotland. He spent much of his childhood sick in bed with lung trouble. His mother read to him often, and he liked to make up stories himself.

Sometimes he was well enough to travel with his father, a civil engineer, to inspect lighthouses and harbours.

Stevenson attended Edinburgh University. He studied law but did not end up practicing it. Instead he turned his attention to writing. He made friends with the leading literary men of the time and began contributing essays to magazines.



RL Stevenson and family in Samoa.



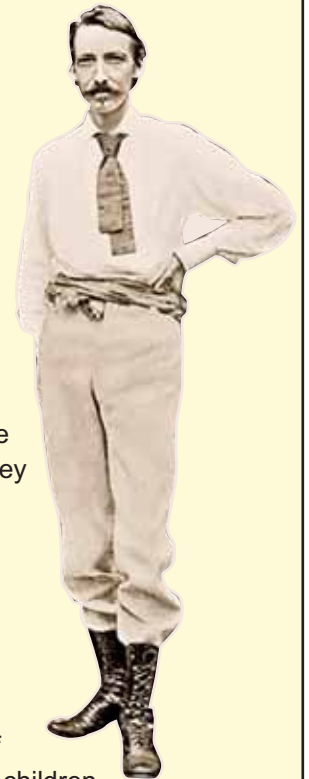
Career and travels

Stevenson spent much of his life trying to find a place that would help his health. The years he spent wandering through France, Germany and Scotland led to the books 'An Inland Voyage' (1878) and 'Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes' (1879).

A journey for another reason — love — almost killed him. He met Fanny Vandegrift Osbourne in France in 1876. After she returned to her home in San Francisco, California, Stevenson decided to follow her. During the difficult journey he became very sick. He recovered with Osbourne's help, and they married in 1880. He wrote about his trip in a book called 'The Amateur Emigrant' (1895).

Along with adventure and travel books, Stevenson wrote novels for adults, short stories and poems. His adult novels include 'Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde' (1886) and 'The Master of Ballantrae' (1889).

Some of his early short stories were collected in 'New Arabian Nights' (1882). His 'A Child's Garden of Verses' (1885) remains a popular book of poetry for children.



Later life and death

The Stevensons eventually settled in Samoa in the South Pacific. The people there liked him and called him "Tusitala" (teller of tales). His writings on the South Seas include 'A Footnote to History' (1892) and 'In the South Seas' (1896).

Stevenson died on December 3, 1894, in Vailima, Samoa, following a stroke. An unfinished novel, 'Weir of Hermiston', was published in 1896. Some literary critics consider it to be his best.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Gecko

Geckos are reptiles and are found on all the continents except Antarctica. These colourful lizards have adapted to habitats from rainforests, to deserts, to cold mountain slopes.

Over a long period of time, geckos have developed special physical features to help them survive and avoid predators.

Gecko tails serve many purposes. They help balance their weight as they climb branches, they act as fuel tanks to store fat, and as camouflage to help them disappear into their environment. Geckos are also able to shed their tails if a predator grabs them.

Most geckos are nocturnal, which means they are active at night, but day geckos are active during the day and nibble on insects, fruits and flower nectar.

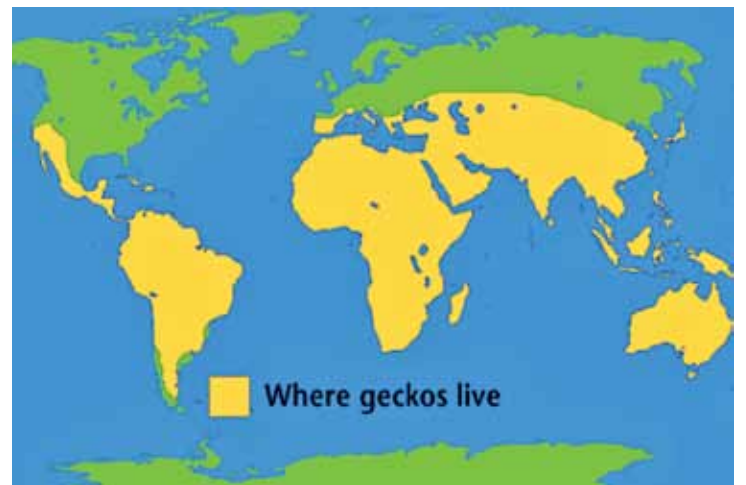
Most geckos make noises such as chirping, barking and clicking when they are defending their territory or attracting a mate.

Female geckos lay their eggs in leaves and bark.

Most geckos don't have movable eyelids and instead have one transparent eyelid which they keep clean by licking it with their tongues.



COMMON NAME: Web-Footed Gecko
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Palmatogekko rangei*
TYPE: Reptiles
DIET: Insectivore
AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD: 5 years
SIZE: 4 to 6 inches



There are many species of geckos. Depending on the species, their endangered status can range from least concern to critically endangered.

Source: National Geographic Kids

Ginger Meggs

Q: What is a collective noun for a group of judges?

A sentence.

MY OTHER CAR IS THREE KIDS AND A MORTGAGE.

Chaffield

www.GINGERMEGGS.COM Dist. by Universal Uclick

The US Presidential Election process explained

October 17, 2024

The countdown to the US Presidential election has begun. On November 5, 2024, millions of Americans will head to the polls to select a new leader for the next four years.

They will vote for either Vice President Kamala Harris or former President Donald Trump. Winning the popular vote is important for both candidates.

However, to secure the presidency, they must get the majority of the electoral votes.

The Electoral College and electors

Americans elect their president and vice president through a process known as the Electoral College. Instead of directly voting for a candidate, voters cast their ballots for members of the Electoral College, known as electors. This group, formed every four years for the election, then votes on behalf of the states. For example, if a candidate wins the popular vote in Nevada, Nevada's electors will vote for that person.

Each state receives two electoral votes for its two senators, plus additional votes based on the number of Representatives in the House. The number of House members is proportional to the state's population. The bigger the state's population, the more "votes" it gets.



Americans will cast their vote for a new president on November 5, 2024.

For example, California, the country's most populated state, has two senators and 52 House members. Therefore, it gets 54 electoral votes. Smaller states, regardless of population, always have at least three electors (two senators and one representative). In total, there are 538 electoral votes, and a candidate needs at least 270 to become president.

Winner takes-all

Most states follow a winner-takes-all system. This means that if a candidate wins the majority of votes in a state — even by a small margin — they receive all of that state's electoral votes. As a result, candidates do not need to win by a large margin to secure a state's electoral votes. They just need slightly more than 50 percent of the vote.

This system can make it possible to win the presidency without winning the national popular vote.

For instance, in 2000, Democratic nominee Al Gore won the popular vote. However, George W. Bush secured the presidency by winning the 271 electoral votes.

Would removing the Electoral College solve the issue?

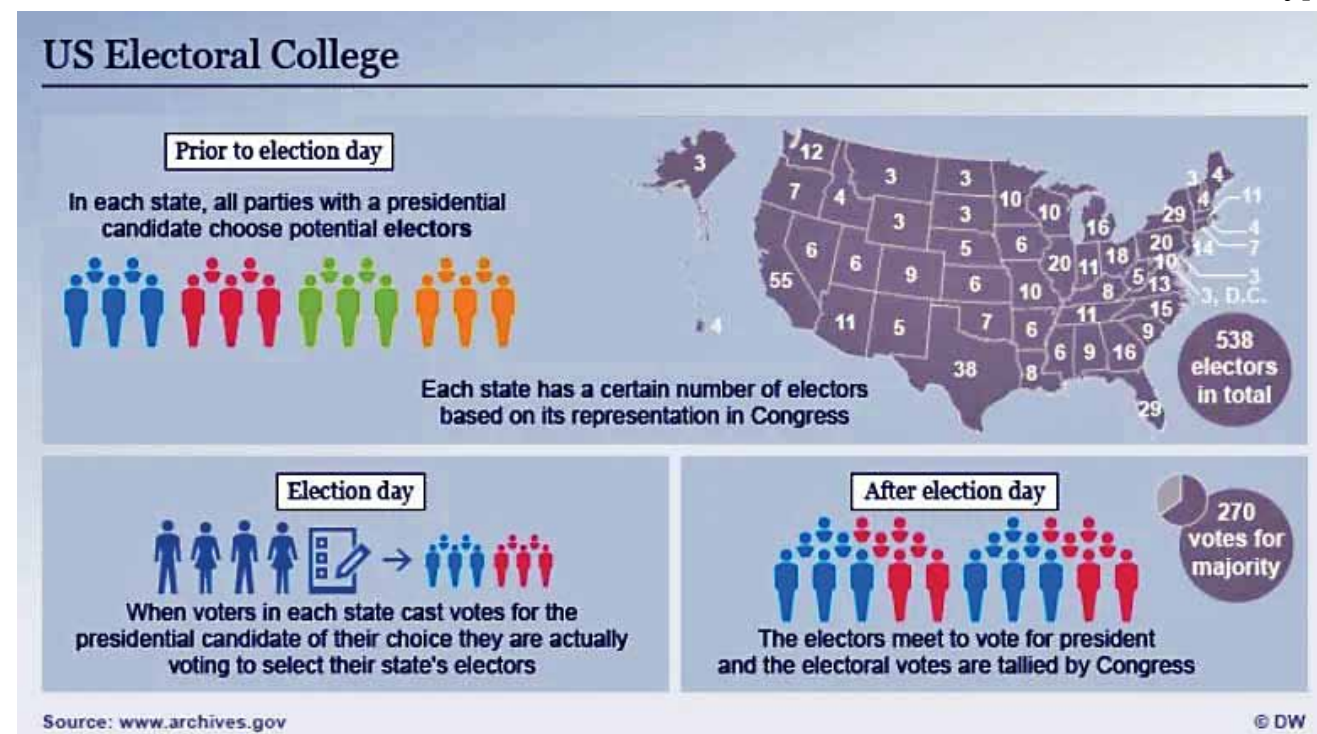
Some Americans think the Electoral College should be abolished. They believe it does not assure victory for the candidate whom most of the country prefers. The system also deters people from voting, especially in states that heavily lean toward a certain party. For example, in the largely Democratic state of California, Republican voters often refrain from casting their ballots.

However, supporters of the Electoral College argue that it ensures that people in less populated areas have an equal say in choosing their leader as those living in densely populated areas. They believe that without this system, presidential candidates would focus only on the most populous states, such as California, New York, and Texas. Additionally, they point out that there have only been five instances in US history where a presidential candidate won the electoral vote but lost the popular vote.

When does a new president's term begin?

Unless the race is very close, the winner is typically announced on election night. If there is a change in president, the time after the election is known as the transition period. During this time, the new leader selects their team and prepares for the next four years in office.

The new president's term officially begins after the inauguration ceremony, usually held on January 20 of the following year.



Source: www.archives.gov

© DW

Americans elect their leaders through electors.

Source: DOGO News

October 29

News in Pictures



New York, USA
The New York City department of transportation unveils three sculptures in Times Square in celebration of 'Dia de los Muertos' (Day of the Dead).



Giza, Egypt
A professional skydiver flies over the historical site of Giza Pyramids, as they fly over the Pyramid of Menkaure during Egypt International Skydiving Festival "Jump Like a Pharaoh", in Giza.



Tel Aviv, Israel
Women carrying rifles walk in Dizengoff Square in Tel Aviv.

Tyre, Lebanon
Smoke billows over the UNESCO-listed port city of Tyre after Israeli strikes following Israeli military's evacuation orders, in southern Lebanon.



Kyiv, Ukraine
A robotic dog of the National Guard of Ukraine takes part in the Run4 Victory charity marathon in Kyiv.



Oslo, Norway
A derailed tram that crashed into a building in a busy street in the centre of Oslo. About 20 people were onboard the tram and emergency services treated four injured people at the scene, none of whom were seriously injured.

October 28



Paris, France
Spain's and FC Barcelona's Aitana Bonmati with the Ballon d'Or award.

London, UK
Ballet dancers stand in the wings as they wait to perform on stage at the Pointe Black ballet school. Pointe Black is a Black-owned ballet school based in south London. Fuelled by years of racial discrimination as a young Black ballet dancer, its founder, Ruth Essel, created Pointe Black to provide a safe space for Black children and adults to access ballet.



Moscow, Russia
People wearing medieval armour take part in a friendly fight event held on a basketball court. The 'Tushino manoeuvres', or friendship fights between clubs, were created to preserve the traditional aspects of medieval street battles and pass them on to younger generations.

Sources: Reuters & The Guardian