

the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 1, 2024



# FUN DAY TIMES



**Fun on Stage**

Pic. by Eshan Fernando



**COMPETITIONS**  
PAGES 2, 4 & 5



**MATHS**  
PAGE 3

(ONLINE)



**FUN CRAFT**  
PAGE 6

**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.**

**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:**  
**December 18, 2024**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

**Email: [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)**



**In our online issue this week:**

- **Page 5** – Reading Challenge
- **Page 6** – Fun Craft
- **Page 7** – Kids News
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

Please log on to the Funday Times website on [www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk) or check out the Sunday Times epaper on [www.sundaytimes.lk](http://www.sundaytimes.lk) for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.

## Christmas Cover 2024

**Hey Kids! It is time once again to think about the Funday Times Christmas Cover. We invite our readers to send in their paintings for the Christmas Cover Competition.**

Entries for the Christmas Cover should be of a suitable Christmas theme. You could use any type of paints or crayons you like but try to make your picture colourful and creative. All entries should be on A4 size paper.

Please write 'Christmas Cover' at the back of your picture, along with your Full Name, Date of Birth, Address, Telephone Number and School.

**All paintings entered for this competition should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher. Uncertified paintings will be disqualified.**

The best picture will adorn the cover page of our Christmas issue. The winner will also receive a prize. Good luck and happy painting!

**Age groups: 4 - 15 years**

**Closing Date : December 12, 2024**



Or [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)



**Eight Wonders Pre-School held their annual concert at the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) Auditorium on November 22, 2024.**

Pix by Eshan Fernando





**Maths in Action 87**  
By R. N. A. de Silva

# Unchangeable Situations



**Y**ou are having a cup of tea where an unnecessary particle has got in and you are trying to avoid it by blowing. But it keeps coming back. Have you come across such a situation?

Even such situations may involve mathematics. There is a theory called 'Brouwer's Fixed Point Theorem' which deals with such circumstances.

Luitzen Egbertus Brouwer was a Dutch mathematician who conducted a lot of research in topology which is the mathematical study of the properties that are preserved through deformation, twisting and stretching of objects.

He is regarded as one of the great mathematicians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as a founder of modern topology.

He established the Fixed-point Theorem which states that, "every continuous function from a disk to itself has a fixed point". It says that no matter how you stretch, twist or deform a disc, there is always one point that ends up in its original location.

This theorem has its influence in a surprisingly wide context and let us consider only a few instances where its applications lie.

- ◆ Consider a map of a country placed anywhere in that country. There will always be a point on the map that represents that exact point in the country.
  - ◆ Given two similar maps of a country of different sizes resting on top of each other, there always exists a point that represents the same place on both maps.
  - ◆ Consider two sheets of paper one lying directly above the other. If you crumple the top sheet and place it on the other sheet, there will be at least one point on the top sheet that is directly above the corresponding point on the bottom sheet.
  - ◆ Take a cup of coffee or tea and stir it. There will always be some particle that is exactly where it was before you stirred it.
- These are all consequences of Brouwer's fixed-point theorem.



**Math Plot - 87**

Try to find the solution to the following puzzle. You may send solutions with reasoning to [rnades@gmail.com](mailto:rnades@gmail.com) within the next three days. Please include your full name, date of birth, home address, contact details and the name of your school along with the solution.

**Mrs. Perera has four daughters. Each of her daughters has a brother. How many children does she have?**

**Math Plot 86 – Solution**

*The answer is 9861.*  
The winner is **Sanuli Dangalle** of **Musaeus College, Colombo.**  
Congratulations!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



**Methumly Guruge**  
14 years on December 6

**Exceptional 4-year-old earns Kumon's top academic honour**

Aaryan Zamrin Mabuthoon, a remarkable 4-year-old student, has been awarded Kumon India & Sri Lanka's prestigious Advanced Student Honour Roll Award for exceptional academic achievement in mathematics.

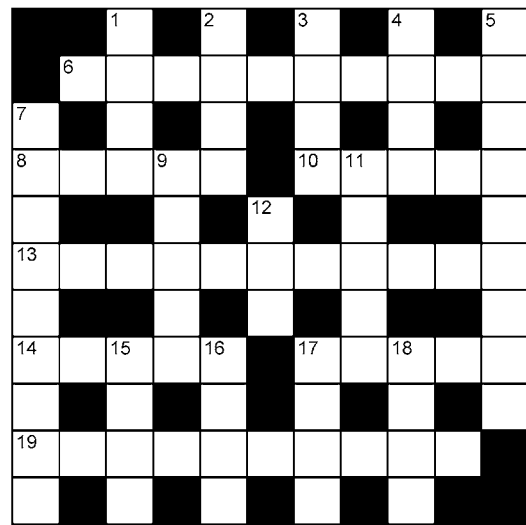
Aaryan surpassed the study content well above his respective school grade level with 100 marks across each level, making him the youngest student at the Kumon Achievers Centre to receive this distinguished honour this year.







**LUMALA Crossword – No. 4**



- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Across</b>                             | <b>Down</b>                |
| 6 The total number of people in a country | 1 Connect together         |
| 8 A meal                                  | 2 Shove                    |
| 10 A black-and-white animal               | 3 Slightly wet             |
| 13 A mountain climber                     | 4 A large African wild cat |
| 14 Find these on name tags                | 5 Not wed                  |
| 17 Go by bike                             | 7 A light metal            |
| 19 Below                                  | 9 A paddled boat           |
|   | 11 Pester                  |
|   | 12 A month                 |
|   | 15 Manufactured            |
|   | 16 Certain                 |
|   | 17 A restaurant cook       |
|   | 18 Animals that purr       |

**LUMALA BICYCLE COMPETITION**

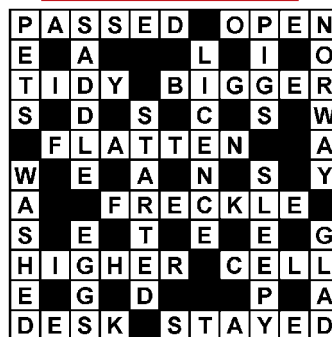
You now have a chance to win a brand new **LUMALA bicycle** for your own. One lucky winner will receive a brand new Lumala bicycle each month. All you have to do is fill in the Lumala Crossword No. 4, according to the clues given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard or paper, and send it to **Funday Times**. Cut the strip '**LUMALA Crossword No. 4**' 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: December 31, 2024*

**Solution No. 3**



**WINNER** 🏆  
**Sinethi Fernando,**  
Negombo



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**4 – 6 AGE GROUP**

Spot five differences between the pictures.



**4 – 6 years** **WINNERS** 🏆  
 ▶ Cera Gunarathna, Ja-Ela  
 ▶ Minoli Fernando, Colombo 14  
 ▶ Nethuni Weerakoon, Kadawatha  
 ▶ Haaziq Hafeel, Dehiwala  
 ▶ Aaron De Sylva, Nugegoda

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

mailto: Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com





**The British Council Reading Challenge is back!**

This year's challenge is all about creativity. From dance to drawing, junk modelling to music, there's something for everyone! Each child who joins the challenge must read six books over six weeks and submit at least two book reviews of their favourite reads. Children will also participate at a workshop which would support their book review writing. Upon successful completion of the challenge, participants will receive a certificate from British Council.

You can register by visiting British Council Library events page.

**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](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)

***Special Storytelling Session on Kindness and Respect!***

In celebration of the 16 Days of Activism, British Council invites children aged 6-12 years to a fun and educational one-hour storytelling session. Our theme is "Kindness and Respect," and we'll be exploring these important values through engaging activities and interactive discussions.

**What to Expect:**

- Circle Time: We'll start by talking about what kindness means and share personal stories of kindness.
- Story Time: We'll read "Kindness is My Superpower" and discover how kindness can be as powerful as a superhero's abilities.
- Interactive Activity: We'll discuss what kindness and respect mean and share more examples of how we can be kind and respectful to others.
- Creative Activity: Each child will receive an orange paper heart to draw and write about how they can show kindness in the future. These hearts will be added to our "Wall of Respect."

Come join us for this heartwarming session and help us build a wall filled with messages of kindness and respect. Together, we can make a difference!

**Date:** Wednesday December 11, 2024

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Venue:** British Council Library, Colombo.

**Registration fee:** Free of charge

Please visit <https://www.britishcouncil.lk/library/events> to register. Limited seats are available on first-come, first served basis.





# Pom-Pom Friends

## Materials:

- Pom-poms or cotton wool balls
- Scissors
- Neon Fuzzy Sticks
- Glue
- Glitter Fuzzy Sticks

If any of these materials are not available, you could substitute suitable items that are easily available.

## Instructions:

### Step 1

Gather your supplies.



### Step 2

Create the penguin using a large white pom-pom as the body and a medium black pom-pom as the head. Glue two wiggly eyes onto the head to begin the face.



### Step 3

Take one orange fuzzy stick and cut in four equal pieces. Fold a piece to create a small "V" shape and glue onto the face as the beak. Repeat two more times to create the penguin's feet as shown. Save the last piece for a later step.



### Step 4

To make the penguin's arms, cut a black fuzzy stick in half. Fold each piece in half and glue to the sides of the penguin's body.



5



### Step 5

Cut another black fuzzy stick in half and wrap around the neck to create a finished look between the neck and body of the penguin.



### Step 6

To make the polar bear, glue a medium white pom-pom to a large white pom-pom as the base. Glue two small white pom-poms on for the ears.



### Step 7

Decorate the face using two wiggly eyes and a tiny black pom-pom for a nose.



### Step 8

Glue five small pom-poms onto the body for arms, feet and a tail on the back!

### Step 9

Wrap a small piece of a glitter stick around his neck as a shiny scarf.



### Step 10

For the snowman, glue three small white pom-poms together. Add wiggly eyes on the top pom-pom to begin the face. Use the last orange fuzzy stick from Step 3 or an orange paper, as the snowman's carrot nose.



### Step 11

Cut two small pieces of a brown fuzzy stick to create the snowman's arms. Use a blue fuzzy stick around his neck like a scarf!







## COP29: Countries finally reach \$300 billion agreement

November 26, 2024

**Early Sunday morning, nearly 200 countries from around the world reached an agreement to help poorer countries deal with the climate crisis. The agreement came at COP29, a United Nations climate meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan. Many people think the deal doesn't do enough to help poorer countries.**

**E**xperts agree that to limit global warming, the world needs to end the use of fossil fuels like coal and oil. But ending fossil fuels wasn't part of the COP29 deal. That's largely because Saudi Arabia fought hard to keep limits on fossil fuels out of the agreement.

The host country, Azerbaijan, is also a huge producer of oil and natural gas. And COP29 president, Mukhtar Babayev, worked for Azerbaijan's oil company for 26 years. Also, over 1,700 people connected with coal, oil, and gas companies came to COP29 to argue for fossil fuels.

But there are also many other important problems that the COP meetings must consider. The main focus of this meeting was on money – who would pay for what.

For many years, poorer countries have been asking richer countries for help dealing with climate change. Richer countries are responsible for most of the pollution that has caused global warming, but poorer countries are often hit hardest by the effects of the climate crisis.

In 2009, rich countries promised to give \$100 billion (\$100,000,000,000) a year to poorer countries to help them deal with climate change. That promise wasn't kept until 2022.

The climate crisis has become more and more serious. 2024 is expected to be the hottest year on record. Many poor countries continue to be hit hard by extreme weather.

At COP29, poorer countries were hoping for much more money from richer countries.

This money is meant to help clean up after disasters and change these countries over to clean energy.

Before the meeting, a group of experts suggested that richer countries should pay \$1.3 trillion (\$1,300,000,000,000) every year. But it soon became clear that that wasn't going to happen.

A group of 77 developing countries, known as the G77, asked instead for a promise of \$500 billion (\$500,000,000,000) a year. Still, the richer countries said they were unable to pay that much. Tensions were high. On Saturday, groups representing island nations and several poorer countries walked out of the meeting.

The climate crisis has become more and more serious. 2024 is expected to be the hottest year on record. Many poor countries continue to be hit hard by extreme weather.

Finally, early Sunday morning, roughly 30 hours after the meeting was supposed to end, an agreement was reached. The deal promises \$300 billion (\$300,000,000,000) a year by 2035.

Though the deal is a step forward, people representing poorer countries aren't happy. They point out that \$300 billion is far less than the money



needed. They're also worried that the money will come as loans, which could leave their countries owing a lot of money. And rich countries aren't forced by law to follow the agreement.

Many people see the deal as a sign that rich countries are still unwilling to take responsibility for their part in creating the climate crisis.

### Climate Crisis

Since people first began burning coal to run factories, the world's temperature has gone up by about 1.2 degrees Celsius (C). This increase has led to serious long-term changes in weather patterns that affect all life on Earth.

The world is getting hotter, mainly because humans are burning "fossil fuels" like coal, oil, and natural gas to make energy. These fuels give off pollution called "greenhouse gases" or "carbon emissions", which make the climate emergency worse.

The effects of climate change can already be seen: melting ice in Antarctica and the Arctic, higher temperatures, heat waves, droughts, wildfires, record rains, and more strong hurricanes.

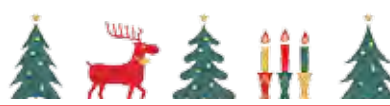
Scientists say the world must take strong action before 2030, and limit global warming to 1.5°C to avoid the worst effects of the climate crisis.



Poorer countries are asking richer countries for help dealing with climate change.

Source: NewsForKids.net





**November 26**

# News in Pictures



**North Sumatra, Indonesia**  
A girl walks through soil on the site of a landslide caused by heavy rain at Semangat Gunung Village in Karo, North Sumatra province, Indonesia.



**London, England**  
Chromointerferent Environment, 1974-2019 by Carlos Cruz-Diez at Tate Modern's major new exhibition Electric Dreams: Art and Technology Before the Internet.



**Tokyo, Japan**  
Crown Prince Akishino and Crown Princess Kiko, followed by Princess Aiko and Princess Kako, walking to a funeral service for Princess Mikasa at Toshimagaoka cemetery.



**Santiago, Chile**  
Women march during the International Day for the 'Elimination of Violence Against Women.'

**November 25**

**Manila, Philippines**  
Residents carry their belongings during a fire in the Tondo district in which flames ripped through hundreds of houses in the closely built slum area of the Philippine capital.



**Beirut, Lebanon**  
A view shows the moment of an Israeli strike on a building, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in the Chiyah district of Beirut's southern suburbs.



**Great Billing, UK**  
A car drives through flood water at the Billing Aquadrome leisure park in Northamptonshire.



**Reykjanes, Iceland**  
The aurora borealis, or northern lights, above Old Garður lighthouse on the northernmost point of the Reykjanes peninsula.



**Almaty, Kazakhstan**  
A horse grazes against the backdrop of the Tian Shan range and the peak of Khan Tengri, the country's highest mountain, on the border with Kyrgyzstan and China.

Sources: Reuters & The Guardian