

News Currents

Vol. 58 No. 32

Week of April 27, 2009

Somalia's 21st century pirates



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

New York may legalize same-sex marriage

“Cézanne and Beyond”

Presidential pets

Country of the Week
Poland

This Week in History
The Louisiana Purchase

Cartoon of the Week



See inside cover



Who Am I?

Can you answer this question? If not, here are some clues.

BASIC/GENERAL

A) I was born 47 years ago in Scotland. Until now, I have been living a quiet life in my small village, sharing a house with my cat Pebbles. But I have always dreamed of being a professional singer.

B) Earlier this month, I got my chance when I appeared on the British reality show “Britain’s Got Talent.” When I came out to sing, the crowd laughed at me because I didn’t look the part of a young and glamorous entertainer. But when I began to sing, the crowd cheered and rose to its feet.

C) Suddenly, I am famous around the world. Video clips of my performance have been watched on YouTube more than 40 million times. I have been interviewed on a number of shows and there are talks of a record deal. But I have said that all this fame won’t change me. My story has inspired people around the world to remain true to themselves. **Who am I?** (*Susan Boyle.*)

ADVANCED

A) Born 47 years ago in a small village in Scotland, I have been living a quiet life with my cat Pebbles. I have been singing since the age of 12 for local events and charity, but it has been my lifelong dream to be a professional singer.

B) Earlier this month I had my chance when I appeared on the British reality show “Britain’s Got Talent.” The audience and judges snickered at my plain appearance and appeared skeptical. But when I began to sing the soaring “I Dream a Dream” from the musical “Les Miserables,” the audience spontaneously rose to its feet and cheered. Video clips of this performance have now been viewed on YouTube more than 40 million times.

C) I have literally become an overnight sensation. There are talks of a record deal and photographers and reporters have converged on my small village. I told Larry King that “I won’t be lonely anymore.” But I have drawn the line at making myself more glamorous. People around the world agree that my charm lies in being true to myself and that I am an inspiration for shattering stereotypes. **Who am I?** (*Susan Boyle.*)

News Names, News Places, News Words

News Names

Calvin Coolidge — The 30th president of the United States; **Camille Pissarro** — French painter and leading figure in the impressionist movement; **Lech Walesa** — Polish labor leader and former president of Poland; **Louisiana Purchase** — The territory sold by France to the United States in 1803; **Paul Cézanne** — French painter who had an important influence on modern art; **Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed** — President of Somalia.

News Places

France; Germany; New York; Poland; Russia; Somalia

News Words

civil rights — Rights considered essential for all citizens; **cubism** — An early 20th century artistic style using geometric shapes; **impressionism** — An artistic style that attempted to capture the visual impression of a moment; **pirate** — Someone who robs ships at sea; **ransom** — Money demanded or paid for the release of someone being held captive; **real estate** — Property; **same-sex marriage** — A marriage between a man and a man or a woman and a woman; **trade union** — An association of workers formed to protect their rights and interests; **warlord** — Someone who is in command of an area of land and a private army.

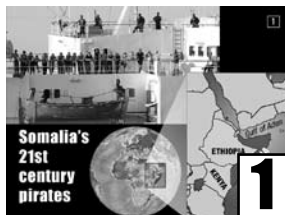
Somalia's 21st century pirates

Recent incidents have turned the world's attention to this desperately poor, unstable country.

BASIC

In the last few weeks, there have been a lot of news stories about Somalia. **Where is Somalia?** (*In eastern Africa.*) For many years, Somali pirates have threatened ships off Somalia's coast. **What is a pirate?** (*Someone who attacks and robs ships at sea.*) Somali pirates are heavily armed with guns and other weapons. Much of the world's oil and other valuable shipments go through the Gulf of Aden near Somalia. So far this year, pirates have captured more than 40 ships. The pirates

approach a ship in small boats with guns, and climb aboard with ropes and ladders. Once they take over the ship, they take the crew as hostages and demand money from the ship's owners. This money, called ransom, is sometimes dropped to the ship from a helicopter. Somalia is very poor, and the money helps some of its people. But the pirates also make Somalia a more violent, unstable country. NEXT



GENERAL

Over the past few weeks, there have been a lot of news stories about events happening off the coast of Somalia. **Where is Somalia?** (*Eastern Africa.*) These stories involve modern-day pirates taking over ships in Somalia's waters. The definition of a pirate is the same now as it was hundreds of years ago. **What do you think a pirate is?** (*Someone who attacks and robs ships at sea.*) For several years, Somali pirates have threatened ships off Somalia's coast. Much of the world's oil and other valuable cargo is shipped through the Gulf of Aden, north of Somalia. So far this year, pirates have captured or tried to capture more than 40 ships. These heavily armed pirates approach ships in small boats, usually at night, and use ropes, ladders, and hooks to climb aboard. They hold the

crew hostage, demanding money from the ship's owner. **Who knows the word for money paid to kidnappers?** (*Ransom.*) Most of the time, the owners pay the ransom, and the money is dropped by helicopter to the pirates. **Why do you think the owners pay the ransom?**

Some of the pirates are former fishermen who say illegal fishing by other countries forced them out of business. But now, piracy is big business in Somalia, an otherwise desperately poor country. Some Somali people see the pirates as heroes. But others say the pirates have made their country more violent, dangerous, and unstable. And the countries whose ships travel near Somalia are trying to figure out what to do about the problem. Let's find out more about Somalia. NEXT

ADVANCED

Over the past several weeks, you may have noticed a lot of headlines about events off the coast of Somalia. Since the start of 2009, Somali pirates have captured or tried to capture more than 40 ships. Last year, there were more than 100 attempted hijackings. Lately, the pirates have expanded their range beyond the Gulf of Aden south into the Indian Ocean. **Where is the Gulf of Aden?** (*Between Somalia and Yemen.*)

About 30 percent of the world's oil is shipped through the Gulf of Aden. The pirates are heavily armed, possessing assault rifles and rocket launchers. Some of them claim that they are not pirates, but part of Somalia's unofficial coast guard. Originally, many of the Somali pirates were fishermen who began arming

themselves to fight tuna poaching by other nations. They began to stop fishing boats and demand a fee for using Somali waters. Then, as they realized that their own government could not stop them, the fishermen escalated their activity. Some pirates also allege that European companies have long been illegally dumping toxic waste on Somalia's shores. Some accuse local warlords of accepting payments from these companies in return for dumping rights.

Piracy has brought new money to parts of this otherwise desperately poor country, and in some quarters the pirates are hailed as folk heroes. Others say the pirates are making Somalia a more violent and unstable nation. **What do you think is the best way for other countries to deal with the piracy problem?** NEXT

Somalia's 21st century pirates (cont'd)

Somalia's government collapsed in 1991.

BASIC

Somalia has not had a real government since 1991, when the government collapsed. Since then, warlords and other groups have ruled the country. A warlord is a private citizen who controls his own private army. These warlords have fought each other, and made life very difficult for many Somalis. The warlords have fought each other all around the country, and especially in Somalia's capital city of Mogadishu. The United Nations sent troops to Mogadishu to try to control the violence. In 1993, two U.S. helicopters, including the one shown here flying over

Somalia, were shot down. The U.N. troops were pulled out, and fighting has continued around Mogadishu ever since. The president of Somalia, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, has been in office since January. He is a former teacher who has spoken out against the warlords. But his government is weak and only controls part of the country. **What do you think he can do to help his country?** NEXT



GENERAL

Somalia has been one of Africa's most troubled nations for nearly 20 years. In 1991, Somalia's government collapsed. Since then, the country has not had a working central government. At first, the country split into many different groups, each controlled by a different warlord. A warlord is someone who commands a private army.

How do you think the warlords were able to gain so much power in Somalia?

The fighting between these warlords in the years after the government collapsed killed hundreds of thousands of people.

In the 1990s, the United Nations sent a peacekeeping force to Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, to try to stop the fighting. During a battle in 1993, two U.S. helicopters, including the one shown here flying

over Somalia, were shot down. Eighteen U.S. troops were killed, along with hundreds of Somali fighters, in what came to be known as the first Battle of Mogadishu. After the battle, U.N. troops pulled out, and fighting has continued on and off to this day.

Somalia is an Islamic country. In recent years, these warlords have been fighting against Islamic leaders. These leaders have taken power in many parts of the country. Somalia's new president is one of these Islamic leaders. He is a former teacher, and he is said to have gotten involved with politics after one of his students was kidnapped by a local warlord. But his government is weak and controls only parts of Somalia. **What do you think he can do to help his country?** NEXT

ADVANCED

The nation of Somalia is one of the most troubled in Africa. It has had no functioning government for more than 15 years. For much of that time, Somalia's capital has been in a state of chaos. **Who can name the capital of Somalia?** (*Mogadishu.*) In 1991, a small group of tribal warlords took over the government. In the following years, rival warlords fought each other for control of various regions.

In the early 1990s, the United Nations tried to help the many starving people in Somalia, but warlords stole much of the food and water that was meant for the poor. In 1993, U.S. forces stormed Mogadishu to eliminate one of these warlords and his militia. But two U.S. Black Hawk helicopters, including the one shown here flying over Somalia, were shot down. Eighteen U.S. troops were killed, along with

hundreds of Somali fighters, in what came to be known as the first Battle of Mogadishu. Americans were horrified at news footage of dead U.S. soldiers being dragged through the streets of the city. President Bill Clinton withdrew U.S. troops from Somalia, and the U.N. withdrew its peacekeeping force soon afterward. **Should the international community have tried harder to get Somalia's warlords out of power? Why or why not?**

Rival warlords soon faced a new threat from Muslim leaders seeking to install strict order to their chaotic nation. Somalia's new president is a former Islamic cleric who reportedly got involved in politics after one of his students was kidnapped by a local gang. His government has U.S. and U.N. backing, but still controls only parts of Somalia. NEXT

Somalia's 21st century pirates (cont'd)

Somali piracy is a symptom of a larger problem.

BASIC

Years of fighting in Somalia has torn the country apart. The fighting also destroyed most of the country's farms. **How do you think this affected Somalia?** Without farms, Somalia was left with no way of growing enough food to feed its people. Somalia has also had bad droughts that have killed what few crops were grown. A drought is a time when there is little to no rainfall. This helped cause a large famine in Somalia. **What do you think a famine is?** (*A time when food is very scarce, and people starve.*) The picture on the left shows two young victims of Somalia's

famine. On the right you see a tent city, made up of people who had to flee their homes because of violence.

Can you imagine living like this? Yet the people of Somalia have managed to survive these terrible conditions. Somali people who have left the country often send money back to their families. **What do you think the United States and other wealthy nations can do to help the people of Somalia?** END



GENERAL

The fighting between Somalia's warlords has killed up to a million people, and forced many more to flee their homes. In the process, Somalia's farms and entire system of agriculture have been nearly destroyed. This, along with years of drought, when there has been little rainfall, has led to terrible famine in Somalia. **What is a famine?** (*A period when food is scarce, and people are in danger of starvation.*) The photo on the left shows two young victims of Somalia's years of famine. The picture on the right shows one of many tent cities in Somalia, made up of people who were forced to flee their homes because of violence. **What do you think it is like to live like this?**

The fighting in Somalia also destroyed its economy, making it one of the

poorest countries in the world. The average yearly income in Somalia is only \$650, compared to about \$30,000 in the United States. Still, the Somali people have managed to create their own system of trade to keep their country running. And Somali people who have left the country often send money to their families to help them survive.

Meanwhile, Somali pirates can get more than \$1 million by capturing a ship. **Can you understand why some Somalis are willing to risk their lives and the lives of their hostages as pirates?** The Somali government has almost no power to stop the pirates from operating off Somalia's coast. **What do you think the United States and the rest of the world's powerful nations can do to help the people of Somalia?** END

ADVANCED

Up to a million people have died in Somalia due to years of fighting and devastating famine. The ongoing violence has not only killed countless people, it has also destroyed much of the country's infrastructure, particularly its agriculture. This, combined with years of drought, led to severe famine and what the United Nations has called the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The photo on the right shows one of many tent cities that are currently home to Somalia's millions of displaced people. **What do you think the United States and the rest of the world should do to help Somalia?**

Without a functioning economy or central government, Somalia has become one of the poorest countries in the world. Millions of Somalis rely on international food aid of some kind. The average annual income

in Somalia is estimated to be about \$650, although the country's situation is too chaotic to produce accurate statistics. Still, the Somali people have managed to survive by creating an unofficial economy based partly on trade. In the absence of a formal banking system, unofficial banks have been created around the country. Refugees who have fled Somalia also send money home, which has also helped it survive. In the face of such poverty, it isn't surprising that warlords and pirate bosses have no trouble recruiting young men to work as pirates. And Somalia's government has virtually no power to put a stop to the piracy. **Does knowing this information make you think differently about the Somali pirates, many of whom are in their teens? Why or why not? Does it give you a different perspective on how to best deal with the pirate problem?** END

New York could be fifth state to legalize same-sex marriage



Even after voters struck down California's same-sex marriage law, several more states have legalized it or are considering doing so.

Teacher or group leader: This story is not covered on the Basic Level. If you wish to present this story, please use the General Level. Otherwise, go to the next story.

GENERAL

As you probably know, the issue of same-sex marriage — giving men the right to marry men and women the right to marry women — is an issue about which many people feel strongly. In recent years, several states have tackled the issue in their courts, legislatures, or by having people vote on it. Massachusetts, in 2004, and Connecticut, in 2008, gave same-sex voters the right to marry. California legalized it in 2008, but the law was overturned by voters in the November elections. But just in the last few weeks, two more states, Iowa and Vermont, have legalized same-sex marriage. Now, New York looks as though it may be the fifth state to make same-sex marriage legal. Earlier this month, New York Governor David Paterson said he will propose a “marriage equality” bill for his state’s legislature. Mr. Paterson says same-sex marriage is a civil rights issue, meaning, it is a basic right that everyone should have. “The time

has come to bring marriage equality to the state of New York,” he said. **Do you agree that the right to marry should be a civil right? Why or why not?**

The nation remains very divided on the subject of same-sex marriage, although some polls show that the percent of people that accept the idea is slowly going up. Some people believe that while same-sex couples should not be able to get married in a church or have the full rights of married couples, they should have some sort of rights legally as a couple. This is sometimes called a civil union. An April poll by CBS showed that six in 10 Americans think some sort of legal recognition should be given to same-sex couples, and one-third support gay marriage outright. In 2004, only 22 percent supported gay marriage. **What do you think? Do you think same-sex marriage should be legal? If not, do you think same-sex couples should get some rights through civil unions?** NEXT

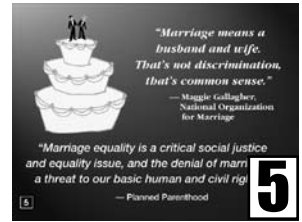
ADVANCED

Last November, as the nation was celebrating the election of its first African American president, advocates of same-sex marriage were suffering a huge letdown: the passage of California’s Proposition 8, which struck down the state’s landmark gay-marriage law. **Were you surprised by this voting result?** The vote cast doubt on the legality of thousands of marital unions. While some celebrated, mass protests took place across the state. Lawsuits have sent the issue back to the state’s high court, which heard arguments in March on whether Proposition 8 was constitutional. They are expected to rule within 90 days. **Do you think Proposition 8 was unconstitutional? Why or why not? How do you think the California Supreme Court will rule?**

Meanwhile, in other parts of the country, momentum seems to be growing to legalize same-sex marriage. Just in the last few weeks, two more states, Iowa and Vermont, have legalized same-sex marriage and in mid-April, New York Governor David

Paterson proposed a bill that would make gay marriage legal in his state. Paterson said he will send a “marriage equality” bill through the state legislature this year, in order to build on the momentum generated earlier this month by the legalization of gay marriage in Iowa and Vermont. The Democratic governor is attempting to cast same-sex marriage as a civil rights issue, comparing it to the 19th century battle for abolition. “The time has come to bring marriage equality to the state of New York,” he said. **Do you think the civil rights analogy is a good one? Why or why not?** Although the nation remains greatly divided on the issue, some polls show the percent that accept the idea of gay marriage is creeping up. One poll showed that six in 10 Americans think some sort of legal recognition should be given to same-sex couples, and one-third support gay marriage outright. In 2004, only 22 percent supported gay marriage. **Do you think Americans are becoming somewhat more accepting of gay marriage? If so, why?** NEXT

New York could be fifth state to legalize same-sex marriage (cont'd)



Those against same-sex marriage tend to see it as a threat to the traditional family, while those for it see it as an essential right.

GENERAL

What do you think of the first quote here?

Do you agree that banning same-sex marriage is not discrimination? Why or why not? As you might imagine, those who are strongly against same-sex marriage tend to be more conservative and traditional. They often argue against same-sex marriage on religious grounds. Some of them say that same-sex marriage is a threat to the traditional marriages between men and women and that it would cause further breakdown in the American family. **Do you agree or disagree with this argument?** The group led by the woman in the first quote claims that same-sex marriage is wrong because every child needs to have one female parent and one male parent. “Do we want to teach the next generation that one-half of humanity — either mothers or fathers — are ... unimportant?” **What do you think of this argument?**

What do you think of the second quote here? Do you think that the right to marry is a basic human right? Why or why not? Some people think that each state should be able to make its own laws regarding same-sex marriage. Others think that the issue should be decided in the courts. Meanwhile, more than 10 states are also considering proposals that would extend marriage-type benefits to same-sex couples. Washington state has just approved a bill that grants same-sex couples all the rights of marriage, without calling it that. **Do you think that would be a good answer? If you could vote on this issue in your state, how would you vote — in favor of same-sex marriage, in favor of civil unions or some other kind of legal relationship for same-sex couples, or would you grant no rights to same-sex couples?** END

ADVANCED

What do you think of the first quote here?

Do you agree that maintaining the traditional definition of marriage is not discriminatory to same-sex couples? Why or why not? Opponents of same-sex marriage often use arguments based on religion, and also claim that gay marriage would have a harmful effect on families. They see gay marriage overall as a threat to heterosexual marriage. A group called the National Organization for Marriage, whose president is quoted at the top of the screen, has launched a TV ad called “Gathering Storm,” which shows gay marriage as a threat to family life and the rights of heterosexuals. The group has been criticized for taking real-life events and showing them out of context, yet it stands by the ad and says that gay marriage ignores the fact that children need a parent of each gender. **Do you agree? Why or why not?**

The second quote here puts forth the idea of a different kind of threat. These people say that to deny roughly ten

percent of the population the right to marry violates their civil rights and goes against the Constitution. **Do you think their point is valid? Why or why not?** Some people think that each state should be able to make its own laws regarding same-sex marriage. Others think that the issue should be decided in the courts. Many Americans approve of civil unions, which give same-sex couples many rights within their own states, but which are not classified as marriages. Civil unions also do not allow for federal marriage benefits, such as Social Security. While bills permitting same-sex marriage are pending in just a handful of states, more than 10 states are also considering proposals that would extend marriage-type benefits to gay and lesbian couples. Washington State has just approved a bill that grants same-sex couples all the rights of marriage, without calling it that. **Do you support same-sex marriages? Do you support civil unions? Where should this issue be decided?** END

“Cézanne and Beyond”

The Philadelphia Museum of Art looks at the influence of artist Paul Cézanne.



BASIC

The artist who painted these pictures — including one of himself, shown at left — was mostly unknown during his lifetime. Paul Cézanne was born in France in 1839. He was the son of a wealthy banker, and his father wanted him to be a banker, too. But Cézanne wanted to be an artist. He didn't make much money at it, and he had to struggle to support his wife and family. **Do you think it was hard for Cézanne not to give up his dream to be an artist?** Cézanne was friends with an artist named Camille Pissarro. Pissarro was a leader of a new style of painting called

impressionism. Impressionist painters tried to paint pictures that looked like what your eye might see with a quick glance. They used bright colors and quick, short brush strokes. Cézanne learned from Pissarro, and developed his own style of painting. This painting, showing a group of items, is called a still life. **What do you think of this still life?** The Philadelphia Museum of Art has an exhibit showing how much Cézanne influenced other artists. NEXT

GENERAL

The artist who painted these pictures — including the self-portrait on the left — was almost unknown during his lifetime. But he had a huge influence on the artists who came after him. A new exhibit at the Philadelphia Museum of Art looks at how this happened.

Paul Cézanne was born in 1839 in southern France, the son of a wealthy banker. His father wanted him to become a banker, too. But Cézanne wanted to be an artist, so he worked at that. He didn't make much money, and he had to struggle to support his wife and family. The paintings he sent to art galleries were usually turned down. Many art critics of his time made fun of his work. Some were even angered by his style of painting, because it was so different from what other painters were

doing at the time. **Why do you think he didn't give up his dream?**

Cézanne didn't have a lot of friends. Some people thought he was grumpy and bad-tempered. Actually, he was polite, but very shy. One person he admired and who taught him a great deal was the artist Camille Pissarro. He was a leader of a new painting style called impressionism. Impressionists tried to paint quickly, capturing images of what their eyes could see with a quick glance. They used bright colors and quick, short brush strokes. Cézanne didn't want his paintings to look like quick glances at an image. He wanted his pictures to look permanent, and perfectly arranged. So he developed his own style of painting. **What do you think of the paintings you see here?** NEXT

ADVANCED

Artist Paul Cézanne got almost no public recognition for his work during his lifetime. Late 19th-century art critics called Paul Cézanne's work clumsy and amateurish. They mockingly said that children could paint better pictures. But among artists in the early 20th century, he was considered a genius, and his influence is still strong today. A new exhibit at the Philadelphia Museum of Art examines this influence.

Cézanne was born in 1839 in Aix-en-Provence — *ayks-ahn-PROH-vahns* — where he spent most of his life. His father was a wealthy banker who wanted his son to go into law or banking himself. But the younger Cézanne wanted to pursue art. When his father ran out of patience supporting him, Cézanne

struggled to support his wife and family, selling a few paintings. **Why do you think he didn't give up on his art?**

One of his few close friends was impressionist painter Camille Pissarro. **What do you know about impressionism?** (*It tried to capture what the human eye sees in a quick glance. Impressionist painters were very interested in light, particularly shimmering reflections and dappled shadows.*) Cézanne liked the impressionist's use of bold colors and quick, short brush strokes. But he wanted his paintings to appear permanent and solid, rather than fleeting glimpses. So he adopted what he considered to be the best elements of impressionism, and created his own style. **What do you think of Cézanne's style?** NEXT

“Cezanne and Beyond” (cont’d)

Called the “father of modern art,” Cézanne bridged the gap between impressionism and cubism.



BASIC

On the left is a painting by Cézanne of his wife, and on the right is a painting by artist Henri Matisse, who was influenced by Cézanne. **In what ways are these paintings alike, and in what ways are they different? What do you think Matisse meant by the words you see here?** Cézanne’s wife was one of the few models with the patience to sit as still and expressionless as he wished — to, quote, “sit like an apple.” **How would you sit like an apple?**

Another great artist who followed Cézanne’s style of painting was Pablo Picasso. Picasso

turned Cézanne’s style of painting into a new style called cubism.

Cubist paintings turned objects into shapes like squares or cubes. Picasso called Cézanne “the master of us all.” Many great artists were inspired by Cézanne’s work. For this reason, Cézanne is often called the father of modern art. **Which painting here do you like better? Why? Do you think Cézanne was a great painter? Why or why not?** END

GENERAL

On the left you see a portrait by Cézanne of his wife. Cézanne’s wife was one of the few models with the patience to sit as still and expressionless as he wished — to, quote, “sit like an apple.” **What do you think of this painting?** On the right is a painting done 60 years later, by artist Henri Matisse. Matisse was very influenced by Cézanne’s earlier painting. **In what ways are these two paintings alike? In what ways are they different? Which one do you like better? Why? What do you think Matisse meant by the words you see here?**

Impressionists often painted small dots with their paintbrushes, and from a distance the thousands of dots formed a picture. Instead of dots, Cézanne often used square shapes in his landscape paintings. Later painters followed Cézanne’s example

of dividing a picture into many squares. These artists went even further than Cézanne, creating paintings that showed objects or landscapes as simple shapes rather than realistic pictures. This style of painting was called cubism, and the most successful of these artists was Pablo Picasso. Picasso was so influenced by Cézanne, he called him “my one and only master!” Impressionists in the 19th century first painted pictures that weren’t truly realistic. Cézanne was inspired by the impressionists, and in turn he inspired newer artists whose work was even less realistic, and more dreamlike — a kind of art that had never been seen before. For this reason, Cézanne is often called the father of modern art. **What do you think modern art is? How would you create a piece of modern art?** END

ADVANCED

Here you see a comparison from the Philadelphia exhibit of work by Cézanne on the left, and an artist he influenced, Henri Matisse, on the right. **Have you seen other works by Matisse?** “Madame Cézanne in a Red Armchair” was painted in 1877, and Matisse’s “Woman in Blue” came 60 years later. **How do you think Cézanne’s earlier work influenced the creation of this Matisse portrait? What similarities do you find in the two pieces?**

Cézanne’s paintings changed as his style became more abstract. While impressionists tried to capture their subjects’ movement, Cézanne tried to represent movement of the viewer’s eye from one focal point to another. He often used warm colors to

make things appear to advance toward the viewer, and cooler colors to make things appear to recede.

The young artist Pablo Picasso was among those who attended an exhibition of Cézanne’s work in 1907, the year after his death. Picasso was inspired by the way Cézanne broke up his forms into slanting, square patches of color. Picasso and others took this idea even further, breaking down their subjects into abstract forms and shapes. **Who knows the name of this art movement?** (*Cubism.*) For his role in bridging the gap between impressionism and cubism, Cézanne is often called the father of modern art. **Have you seen other works by Cézanne? What do you think of his work?** END

Presidential pets have come in all shapes and sizes



Presidential pets have come in all shapes and sizes

Nearly every U.S. president has had pets — and not all of them were dogs and cats.

BASIC **What do you think of the Obamas' new dog, Bo, a Portuguese water dog? Do you think he will make a good pet for the Obama family?** Bo joins a very long line of presidential pets — nearly every president has had one or more pets, starting with George Washington, who had a parrot named Polly and 36 hounds. Some of the White House animals were rather unusual. For instance, the sixth president, John Quincy Adams, kept an alligator in the White House for six months. The nation's eighth president, Martin Van Buren, briefly had a pair of tiger

cubs, given to him by a foreign ruler. At bottom right, you see the family of Benjamin Harrison, president from 1893 to 1899. The Harrison family had a goat named Old Whiskers. **What is the goat doing here? Does that look like fun?** At left you see Grace Coolidge, wife of President Calvin Coolidge, who held office from 1923 to 1929. The Coolidges had several dogs and cats, but also some more unusual choices, including this raccoon named Rebecca. **Can you imagine having a raccoon as a pet?** NEXT

GENERAL Here you see President Obama and his daughters with their new dog. **Do you remember his name?** (*Bo.*) The Obamas had promised their daughters, Malia and Sasha, that they would get a dog after the election was over. The public waited for months as the Obamas looked for a breed that wouldn't aggravate Malia's allergies. Now, Bo joins a very long line of presidential pets. Nearly every U.S. president has had pets, starting with George Washington, who reportedly owned a parrot named Polly and 36 hounds. Some of the White House animals were rather unusual. For instance, the nation's sixth president, John Quincy Adams, kept an alligator in the White House for six months. **Can you imagine**

an alligator in the White House today? The eighth president, Martin Van Buren, briefly had a pair of tiger cubs given to him by the Sultan of Oman — but Congress made him send them to a zoo. At right, you see the family of Benjamin Harrison, president from 1893 to 1899. Harrison's family had dogs, but also a goat named Old Whiskers, which they apparently put to work. At left you see Grace Coolidge, wife of President Calvin Coolidge, who held office from 1923 to 1929. President Coolidge reportedly once said, "Any man who does not like dogs ... does not deserve to be in the White House." **Do you agree?** The Coolidges had several dogs and cats, but also some more unusual choices, including this raccoon named Rebecca. NEXT

ADVANCED The new "first pet," Bo the Portuguese water dog, has been sparking a media frenzy since his arrival at the White House. Millions of Americans have enjoyed watching the charismatic canine's romps on the White House lawn with President Obama and his family. Bo joins a long, long line of presidential pets, and while many of them have been dogs and cats, there have been some more unusual choices. **Can you think of some of the presidential pets of your lifetime, or that you have read about?** Nearly every president had some pets, starting with George Washington, who reportedly owned a parrot named Polly and 36 hounds. Some of the White House animals were not entirely domesticated. For instance, John Quincy Adams, the sixth president, kept an

alligator in the White House for six months. **Do you think people were more eccentric back then?** The nation's eighth president, Martin Van Buren, briefly had a pair of tiger cubs given to him by the Sultan of Oman, but Congress made him send them to a zoo. At right, you see the family of Benjamin Harrison, president from 1893 to 1899. Harrison's family had dogs, but also a billy goat named Old Whiskers. Besides a series of dogs, and a cat named Tige, Calvin Coolidge kept all manner of animals at the White House, including Rebecca the raccoon seen here with Mrs. Coolidge. President Coolidge reportedly once said, "Any man who does not like dogs ... does not deserve to be in the White House." **What do you think he meant by this? Do you agree?** NEXT

Presidential pets have come in all shapes and sizes (cont'd)



In more recent decades, presidential pets have drawn hordes of photographers.

BASIC

At left is our 35th president, John F. Kennedy, and his children, little John F. Kennedy Jr. and Caroline. With them is Caroline's pony, Macaroni. **Is this a good name for a pony?** Macaroni was a gift from Kennedy's vice president, Lyndon Johnson. Johnson, who became our 36th president in 1963, had two famous beagles named Him and Her. Here, you see President Johnson walking Him and Her on the White House grounds. **Do you think any of the presidential pets understood that they were**

famous? In the bottom right photo is a cat named Socks. Socks was the beloved pet of Chelsea Clinton, daughter of former President Bill Clinton. In this photo, Socks is trying to take a stroll on the White House lawn, but has met up with a bunch of photographers. **What does it look like Socks is thinking? Can you think of some other famous presidential pets? Why do you think the public is so fascinated by presidential pets?** END

GENERAL

At left, you see a very popular "first family." It's John F. Kennedy, our 35th president, and his children, little John F. Kennedy Jr., who was often called "John John," and Caroline. With them is Caroline's pony, Macaroni. **Is this a good name for a pony?** Macaroni was a gift from Kennedy's vice president, Lyndon Johnson, who became president after President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. Macaroni was able to roam the White House grounds and also received thousands of fan letters from the American public. **Would you write a fan letter to a presidential pet? Do you think Bo Obama will get fan mail?** The top photo shows a famous pair of presidential beagles, who were the pride and

joy of President Lyndon Johnson. These beagles were brother and sister, and President Johnson named them Him and Her. President Johnson once made headlines by lifting Him up by the ears, which some dog lovers thought was unkind. **Does anyone know the name of the pet in the bottom right photo?** (*Socks the cat, who belonged to the family of former President Bill Clinton.*) Socks was Chelsea Clinton's pet, but he did not get along with President Clinton's chocolate Labrador Buddy, so the two had to be kept apart. **What does it look like Socks thinks of all the media attention? Can you think of some other famous presidential pets? Why do you think the public is so fascinated by presidential pets?** END

ADVANCED

Who can identify the president in the left photo? It's John F. Kennedy, our 35th president, with his children, John F. Kennedy Jr. and Caroline. With them is Caroline's pony, Macaroni, who was a present from Kennedy's vice-president, Lyndon Johnson. Macaroni roamed freely around the White House grounds and received thousands of fan letters from the American public. Caroline also had a famous dog named Pushinka, who was given to her by the head of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev. The top photo shows a famous pair of presidential beagles, the pride and joy of President Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy after his 1963 assassination. The brother and sister hounds, Him and Her, were often photographed walking with the president on the

White House grounds. In 1964, President Johnson caused a media ruckus when he was photographed lifting Him by the ears. **What else do you know about President Johnson?** And at bottom right is a more recent inhabitant of the White House. Socks the cat was the pet of President Bill Clinton's daughter Chelsea. In the photo, you see Socks confronting the White House press corps, and looking quite nonplussed by the barrage of cameras he faced for trying to take a simple stroll. Socks and Buddy, President Clinton's chocolate Labrador, famously did not get along and had to be kept apart. **Can you think of some other famous presidential pets?** (*Nixon used his dog Checkers as part of a famous speech; Barbara Bush ghost-wrote a best-selling book in the voice of her dog Millie, and so on.*) END

Country of the Week: Poland

After spending decades under communism, Poland has made great economic strides in the past 15 years.

BASIC

Poland, a country in Eastern Europe, is this week's Country of the Week. **Have you heard of Poland? Do you know what people from Poland are called?** (*Poles.*) In the last 10 or 15 years, Poland's economy has been growing fast. Poland has about 38 million people, but many more Poles live in other countries, including our own. One U.S. city, Chicago, claims to have more Polish residents than any city outside Poland. Poland's capital city is full of many historic and beautiful buildings as you see

in the bottom photo. **What is Poland's capital city?**

(*Warsaw.*) Poland also has a lot of beautiful countryside, like the mountains shown in the top photo, and miles of coastline on the Baltic Sea. For much of its history, Poland was located between two large countries, Germany and Russia. This caused many problems for the country. Let's learn more about the history of Poland. NEXT



GENERAL

This week we head across the Atlantic Ocean to Poland. **Where in the world is Poland?** (*In Eastern Europe.*) For much of the 20th century, Poland was part of the communist region controlled by the Soviet Union, and when it became independent in 1990, life still was a struggle for many. Poland's air was very polluted in some areas, the people earned little money, and they often had to stand in long lines to buy basic items. **What do we call people from Poland?** (*Poles.*) But the country has made a lot of progress, and today, it is seen as an economic success story. Poland has about 38 million residents, but many more people of Polish descent live in other parts of the world, including the United States. **Does anyone know the U.S. city that**

claims to have more Polish residents than any city outside Poland? (*Chicago.*) **Do you have Polish ancestors?** In the bottom photo you see a picture from the city of Warsaw, Poland's capital. Believe it or not, this beautiful city was almost entirely destroyed during World War Two. But the Polish people are very proud of their history and culture, and after the war, they slowly and carefully rebuilt many of its historic areas. Poland also has a lot of beautiful countryside, like the mountains you see here, and miles of coastline on the Baltic Sea. But throughout much of its history, Poland was located between two large countries, Germany and Russia, which caused many problems. **Can you guess why?** (*Nearby countries often wanted to take over parts of Poland.*) NEXT

ADVANCED

This week NewsCurrents travels to the nation of Poland. **Where is Poland located?** (*In Eastern Europe.*) This country has much tragedy in its history, but also a rich cultural tradition that has bound its people together during the worst of times. And in recent years it has become one of Europe's economic miracles. Fifteen years ago, Poland's economy was in tatters, its air was unbreathable, and Poles often had to stand in long lines to buy basic items. Today Poland is a member of the European Union and has one of Eastern Europe's strongest economies. Still, it has a higher rate of poverty and homelessness than most Western European countries, and still bears the marks of the decades it spent as part of the Soviet Bloc. **What form of government and economic**

system did Soviet countries live under? (*Communist.*) Today, about 38 million people live in Poland, but millions more live in other parts of the world. In the United States alone, there are about 10 million people of Polish descent. **Do you have Polish ancestors?** Poland's capital, seen in the main photo, is Warsaw. Warsaw is sometimes called "phoenix city" because it was almost completely demolished during World War Two, but painstakingly rebuilt through efforts of its citizens. Poland boasts beautiful landscape, like the mountains seen in the photo, and miles of coastline on the Baltic Sea. But historically, Poland's geographic location has caused it great difficulties. **What two large countries was it wedged between for much of its history?** (*Germany and Russia.*) NEXT

Country of the Week: Poland (cont'd)

Poland experienced great devastation during World War Two.

BASIC

Many great artists, writers, and scientists have been from Poland, including the man shown at top left, Nicolaus Copernicus. Copernicus was born in 1473 and he is thought to be one of the greatest astronomers of all time.

What is an astronomer? (*Someone who studies the objects in outer space.*) Later, Poland spent more than a century being controlled by other countries. But this made Poles work even harder to keep their own language and culture. **Do you understand why?** World War Two, which began in 1939, was an awful time for Poland. Millions

died and Warsaw was destroyed by bombs, as you see in the big

photo. After the war, Poland was controlled by the Soviet Union for many years. But an independence movement started growing, led by a trade union, or workers' rights group. The man in the bottom photo, Lech Walesa, became Poland's president when it got its independence in 1990. **Would you like to visit Poland?** END



GENERAL

During the 15th and 16th centuries, Poland's culture was thriving, and it produced many famous artists, writers, and scientists. One of the most famous is the man at top left, Nicolaus Copernicus. Copernicus was born in 1473 and he is considered one of the greatest astronomers of all time. **What is an astronomer?** (*Someone who studies the objects in space and their relationship to Earth.*) Copernicus is credited with the modern idea that the planets orbit around the sun.

In the late 18th century, nearby countries and empires became greedy for Poland's land, and Poland was carved up into regions. The country of Poland did not exist on the European map for 125 years, but in a way, this made Poles even more determined to preserve their own language

and traditions. **Do you understand why?** Poland finally got its independence back in 1918. But after World War Two broke out in 1939, Poland was the center of much tragedy. It was caught between two great powers that were trying to expand: Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. Nearly a quarter of all Poles died in the war, including more than a million Polish Jews. The center photo shows Warsaw, nearly destroyed toward the end of the war. After the war, Poland was under Soviet rule. Gradually, an independence movement grew, led by a trade union known as "Solidarity." A trade union is a group that works for workers' rights. The Solidarity movement grew, and in 1990, its leader, Lech Walesa, shown in the bottom photo, won the presidency. **Do you think Poland's history has made its people stronger?** END

ADVANCED

Poland went through a golden age during the 15th and 16th centuries, at one point expanding its borders so that it was the largest nation in Europe. Its culture flourished and produced such luminaries as Nicolaus Copernicus, shown at top left. **What is Copernicus known for?** (*He is credited with the modern idea of the solar system in which the planets orbit around the sun.*) During this period, the country was tolerant of religious dissent, allowing it to avoid the religious turmoil that spread over much of Europe. It had one of the largest Jewish populations in Europe. In the late 18th century, the country was partitioned between Prussia, Russia, and Hapsburg Austria. For 125 years, it disappeared from the map of Europe. It regained independence in 1918, but World War Two was a particular nightmare for Poland,

caught between the Nazis and the Soviets. **What do you know about Poland's role in World War Two?** Nearly a quarter of all Poles died in the war, including more than a million Polish Jews. In the face of brutal treatment, the Poles fought back valiantly in several renowned uprisings, including the famous Warsaw Ghetto uprising where Jews fought against the Nazis rather than being taken to concentration camps. The center photo shows Warsaw, destroyed by Nazi bombs. After the war, the country's borders were redrawn yet again and it came under Soviet rule. Gradually, an independence movement grew, led by an independent trade union known as "Solidarity." In 1990, Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, shown here, won the presidency. **How do you think Poland's struggles have helped shape it as a nation?** END

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On April 30th, 1803, France sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States.

GENERAL

April 30th, 1803, was a very important day in United States history — but not many Americans could tell you why without looking it up. That was the day that the United States made what has been called “the most significant real estate transaction in the history of civilization.” **From the graphic here, what was this transaction?** (*The Louisiana Purchase.*) In this business deal, the United States bought a large area called the Louisiana Territory. **Do you know how this territory got its name?** (*It was named for King Louis XIV of France.*) How did this amazing sale come about? Let’s learn more about it.

In the 18th century, the United States controlled the area here shown as the Northwest Territory. **What states were eventually formed from the Northwest Territory?** (*Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.*) Farmers in the Northwest Territory sent goods like furs, grains, whiskey, and tobacco down the Mississippi River to trade in Europe. The port of New Orleans was a main link in this trade route. But at this time New Orleans belonged to Spain, which had taken New Orleans from France in 1762 along with the rest of the Louisiana Territory. **Can you see how this would be a problem for the United States?**

In 1800, Spain secretly sold the land back to France. This was such a big secret that Spain continued to administer the territory for the next two years. France’s emperor, pictured on the left, planned a great French empire in the New World. **Do you know who this emperor was?** (*Napoleon Bonaparte.*) Napoleon hoped to use the Mississippi Valley as a food and trade center to supply the island of Hispaniola, which was to be the heart of this empire. **What two countries make up Hispaniola?** (*Haiti and the Dominican Republic.*) But in the two years after the secret sale, Napoleon started getting ready to go to war with England, and

he needed a lot of money very quickly.

The U.S. president, pictured on the right, heard about the secret sale. **Who was the president during this period?** (*Thomas Jefferson.*) Because New Orleans was so important for trade, Jefferson wanted it to belong to the U.S. **Do you think he also wanted to stop France from owning land in North America?** He also knew about France’s money troubles. Jefferson sent Robert Livingston and James Monroe to France where they asked Napoleon to sell New Orleans to the United States. To their surprise, Napoleon offered to sell the whole Louisiana Territory for \$15 million. The land totaled about 800,000 square miles, so the total cost was about three cents per acre. **Does this sound like enough money for this huge territory? Was this money worth a lot more back then?**

At first, Jefferson was afraid the president couldn’t buy the land because the Constitution does not say anything about the president being able to buy land. But Congress approved the sale. **Can you tell from this map which states or parts of states were created from the Louisiana Purchase?** (*Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, Texas, South Dakota, New Mexico, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Montana.*) Buying the Louisiana Territory for this bargain price was one of Thomas Jefferson’s greatest achievements as president. The Louisiana Purchase nearly doubled the size of the young United States. Americans immediately began to move westward into the new lands. **Other than size, how would our country be different today if the Louisiana Purchase hadn’t happened?** END



FACES AND PLACES

Stephen Hawking

British astrophysicist Stephen Hawking, 67, recently was hospitalized and said to be “very ill” and undergoing tests. Sources close to him said he had been fighting a chest infection for several weeks. Days later he was said to be on the “road to recovery.” Hawking gained worldwide renown for his work on black holes and the origins of the universe, despite being paralyzed by the incurable degenerative disorder known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. Hawking wrote a best-selling book in 1988, “A Brief History of Time.” Hawking, who was diagnosed with the disease that is also known as ALS when he was only 21, communicates through an electronic voice synthesizer activated by his fingers.

Have you read Hawking’s book? What else do you know about him?

John Madden

After three decades as an NFL television analyst and broadcaster, John Madden has announced he is stepping down. He became a staple of TV football after coaching the Oakland Raiders for 10 years, during which he led the team to a Super Bowl win and landed in the Hall of Fame. Madden, 73, is widely credited with helping pro football gain the enormous popularity and money-making ability it reached in recent decades. “He changed football,” said longtime NFL broadcaster and executive Matt Millen. “He made it bigger than probably even he ever thought it could be,” he said, adding that Madden has been “the face of the NFL” and “the voice of the NFL.” Madden won 16 Emmy Awards and gained a huge following because of his ability to make viewers understand games as well as enjoy them. He was known for his offbeat style and his sound effects, such as “Boom!” or “Doink!”

Will you miss John Madden?



Iran

The case of an Iranian-American journalist who is being held in an Iranian prison is causing some complications in the move to repair relations between the U.S. and Iranian governments. Roxana Saberi is the daughter of Iranian parents and grew up in Fargo, North Dakota. A former beauty pageant contestant, Saberi was convicted of spying for the United States by an Iranian court earlier this month after a one-day trial behind closed doors. She was sentenced to eight years in prison. Saberi, who had worked for NPR, the BBC and several American broadcasters, was arrested three months ago for buying a bottle of wine, which is illegal in Iran. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called for fair treatment for Saberi and said she should have the legal right to defend herself. **Have you heard more about this case? Do you think Saberi will eventually be released?**

Washington, D.C.

On April 27th and 28th, President Obama will host representatives of the world’s 16 major economies and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon at the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate. The meeting will focus on increasing clean energy sources and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The goal of the meeting is to work out some issues before a much more important summit, a U.N. meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark in December. At the December meeting, leaders hope to forge a new pact to replace the Kyoto Protocol on cutting greenhouse gases, which former President Bush had refused to sign. “Our goal is to use this forum very much as a key part in how we reach an overall agreement,” said a White House official, calling the April talks “an important piece of the puzzle of how we get from here to Copenhagen.” **What do you think might be accomplished at this meeting?**

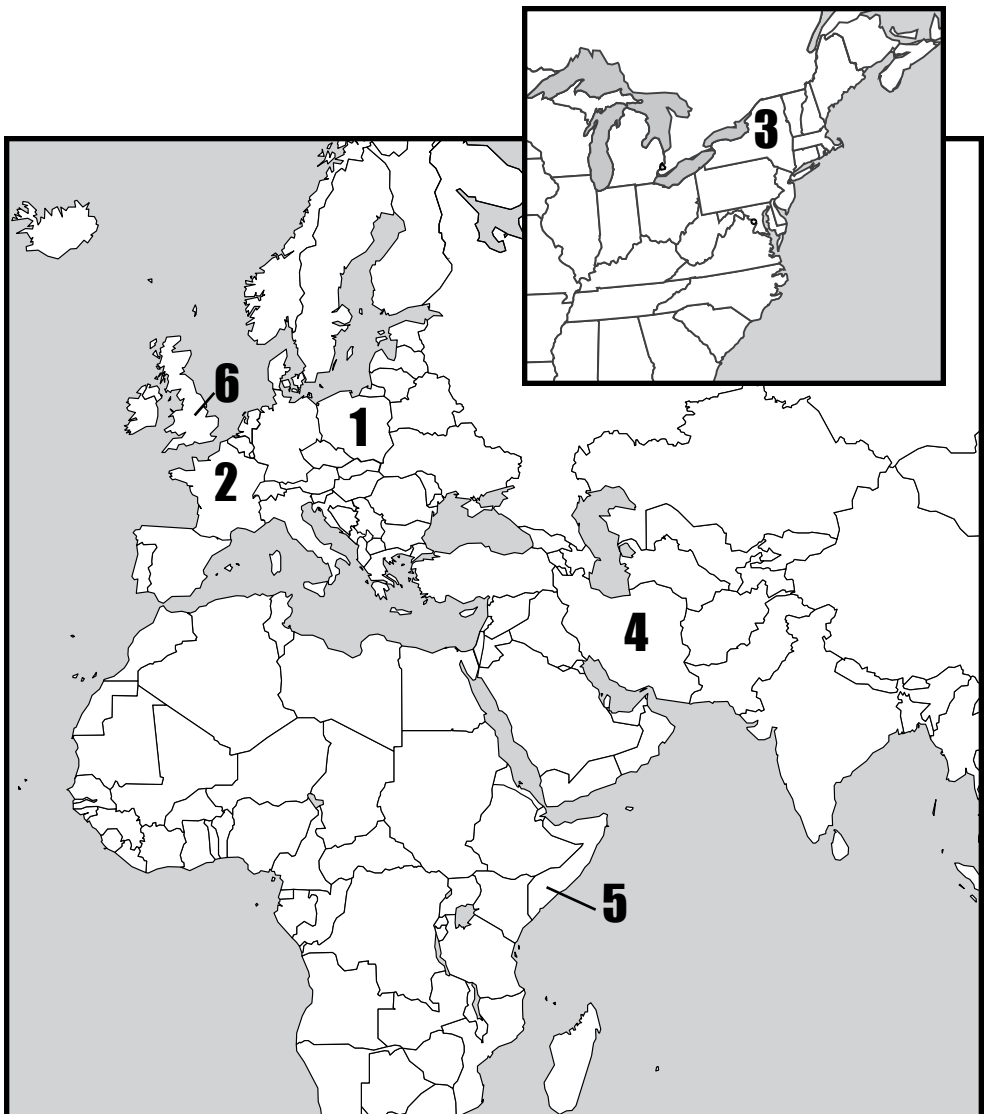
WHERE IN THE WORLD?

reproducible activity

Write the names and numbers of the locations on the map next to their descriptions below.

- a. Pirates from this African nation have attacked more than 40 ships this year.
- b. Artist Paul Cézanne lived in this European country.
- c. This U.S. state may be the fifth to legalize same-sex marriage.
- d. Lech Walesa was a union leader in this European nation.
- e. A journalist in this Western Asian country has been imprisoned.
- f. Susan Boyle became famous overnight for her performance on a talent show in this European country.

Answers on inside back cover



Cartoon of the Week

Earth racks up a big bill in this week's cartoon.

BASIC

This week's cartoon was drawn by Jesse Hu Jenkinson, a fifth-grader at Locke Hill Elementary School in San Antonio, Texas. In Jesse's cartoon, Earth is sitting at a bar, drinking. **Can you tell what Earth is drinking?** (*Oil.*) The bartender is telling Earth to pay its bill. **Can you read the word at the bottom of the bill on the bar?** (*Pollution.*) Oil is used to make fuels like gasoline. **What is gasoline used for?** (*To run cars and trucks.*) Gasoline and other fuels made from oil also cause

pollution that is harmful to the environment.

This cartoon seems to be saying that Earth is using too much oil. **What price do you think Earth pays for using too much oil? What do you think people can do to use less gasoline?** (*Drive less, walk more, take buses instead of driving, for example.*) **Do you think this is a good cartoon? Why or why not?** END



GENERAL

This week's cartoon was created by Jesse Hu Jenkinson, a fifth-grader at Locke Hill Elementary School in San Antonio, Texas. Jesse's cartoon won Third Prize in the kindergarten-through-sixth grade category of the NewsCurrents Student Editorial Cartoon Contest. In this cartoon, somebody is sitting at a bar, drinking. **Who is it?** (*Earth.*) **What is Earth drinking?** (*Oil.*) Oil, or petroleum, is one of Earth's most important natural resources. **What is it used for?** (*Making gasoline and other fuels.*) Petroleum is also a fossil fuel. That means it is found underground, and is made from decomposed remains of prehistoric plants and animals. There's a limit to how much oil we can get from underground, and we can't make it as we need it. That's why it is called a non-renewable fuel.

In this cartoon, the bartender is telling Earth to pay its bill. **What is written on the bottom of the bill?** (*Pollution.*) **Do you agree that pollution is the price we pay for using too much oil?** Using oil causes pollution that is harmful to Earth's environment in many ways, including causing the greenhouse effect that leads to global warming. **What kinds of things can people do to use fewer petroleum products?** (*Drive less, walk more, share rides, take the bus instead of driving, and so on.*) **Why do you think Earth is drinking too much oil in this cartoon? Does this cartoon do a good job of making people think about the real "price" of using too much oil? Do you think this is a good cartoon? Why or why not?** END

ADVANCED

This week's cartoon was created by Jesse Hu Jenkinson, a fifth-grader at Locke Hill Elementary School in San Antonio, Texas. Jesse's cartoon was a Third Prize winner in the kindergarten-through-sixth grade category of the NewsCurrents Student Editorial Cartoon Contest. As you can see, Earth is racking up a big bar bill in this cartoon. But instead of drinking beer, Earth here is drinking one of its most important fossil fuels, petroleum. **What makes something a fossil fuel?** (*Fossil fuels include carbon, such as coal, peat, natural gas, and petroleum. They are derived from the decomposed remains of prehistoric plants and animals.*) The United States consumes nearly one quarter of the world's petroleum — more oil

per capita than any other country. **Why do you think this is the case? Do you think it is possible for the world to substantially cut back on its consumption of petroleum? If so, how? Do you think the United States should cut more of its petroleum usage than other countries that use less oil? Why or why not?**

In Jesse's cartoon, the bartender is reproachfully reminding planet Earth that it will have to pay the bill for all of the oil it is consuming. And visible on the bar tab is the word "pollution." **Does Earth seem to be unaware of the "price" it is paying? Do you think this accurately reflects the attitudes of many people especially in the United States? Does this cartoon effectively make its point?** END

NEWSPAPER ACTIVITIES

Baseball season

Now that the baseball season is underway, check your newspaper's sports section to see which teams are doing the best so far. How is the team closest to your city doing? Who does that team play this week? Follow that team's games in the paper each day.

State crops

Farmers have begun spring planting in many states. Look for articles in your newspaper about farming in your state. Make a list of all the major crops raised in your state. Create a symbol for each crop and on an outline map of your state, draw the symbols for the crops to show where they are grown.

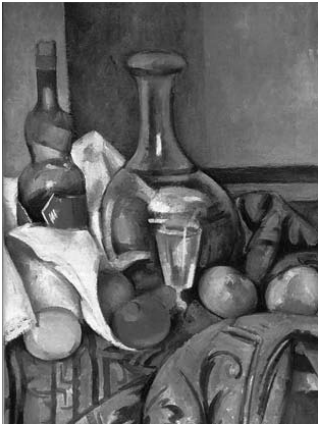
What goes around

Draw an editorial cartoon that has the caption "What goes around, comes around." Look for a story in the newspaper that you could use as the subject of a cartoon to go with this saying. Make a list of other sayings that might be appropriate captions for issues in the news.

WRITING ACTIVITY

Fantasy vacation

Many people are beginning to plan summer vacations. Choose your ideal vacation spot. Write an essay that describes this location and why you chose it for a fantasy vacation.



Word Search

If you squint at this week's word search, you'll see the names of 11 great impressionist painters.

-
- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| BAZILLE | MONET |
| CAILLEBOTTE | MORISOT |
| CASSATT | PISSARRO |
| DEGAS | RENOIR |
| GUILLAUMIN | SISELY |
| MANET | |

Solution on inside back cover

A U I U T T I A E A I T A S I L F B
 T O S C A L B A Z I L L E A N R G I
 H S K A G L I O K P E R N F S P T S
 O O A I L P A N S E T E M E F I N D
 O F I L I R I I H M G H E T W S E P
 M A C L A G U I L L A U M I N S E L
 A M I E T R F A E R Z O D U I A L G
 H O R B E T A L A E C G I C E R T C
 U R H O F U S R G R A W A C R R U L
 P I A T D M L R N H S T T I C O B F
 O S R T I E A I M E S S M N E L S M
 R O N E O T C G A M A C A E O L I Y
 E T N V I O M O N E T E N I U E S A
 G L Z A S R P N A A T N E L I I E N
 W U R U T R E N O I R I T I S I L S
 A T A N I E R T O M S N R N V G Y B
 D E G A S L I A N P H R E G R S T C
 E F S O K L G T I R O E R U L T E T

BASIC REVIEW QUIZ

- 1) Somalia is in (CHOOSE ONE: eastern, western) Africa.
- 2) TRUE OR FALSE: Somalia's government collapsed in 1991.
- 3) TRUE OR FALSE: Artist Paul Cézanne was born in Italy.
- 4) TRUE OR FALSE: Paul Cézanne learned from the impressionist painters.
- 5) Pablo Picasso turned Cézanne's style of painting into a style called (CHOOSE ONE: cubism, impressionism).
- 6) Besides dogs and cats, President Calvin Coolidge's family had a (CHOOSE ONE: rat, raccoon) named Rebecca.
- 7) Caroline Kennedy's pony was named (CHOOSE ONE: Lasagna, Macaroni).
- 8) TRUE OR FALSE: Poland's powerful neighbor to the west is France.
- 9) Poland's capital city is (CHOOSE ONE: Berlin, Warsaw).
- 10) The Louisiana Purchase was made by U.S. President (CHOOSE ONE: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson).

ESSAY OR DEBATE QUESTION

What are some of the ways our pets make our lives better? If you could have any kind of pet you wanted, what would it be?

GENERAL REVIEW QUIZ

- 1) _____ have tried to take over more than 40 ships off the coast of Somalia this year.
- 2) Somalia's government collapsed in (CHOOSE ONE: 1991, 2001).
- 3) A same-sex marriage law was overturned by a November 2008 voters' referendum in _____.
- 4) The only state to legalize same-sex marriage that is not on the East or West Coast is (CHOOSE ONE: Illinois, Iowa).
- 5) Paul Cézanne was born in (CHOOSE ONE: France, Italy).
- 6) Paul Cézanne was influenced by (CHOOSE ONE: cubism, impressionism).
- 7) John Quincy Adams had a pet _____ in the White House for six months.
- 8) Chelsea Clinton's black-and-white cat was named _____.
- 9) Poland has coastline on (CHOOSE ONE: the Atlantic Ocean, the Baltic Sea).
- 10) The _____ Purchase cost the United States only \$15 million in 1803, or about 3 cents an acre.

ESSAY OR DEBATE QUESTION

Pick one side of the same-sex marriage debate, and write a paragraph defending this viewpoint.

ADVANCED REVIEW QUIZ

- 1) About 30 percent of the world's _____ is shipped through the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Somalia.
- 2) Somalia's government collapsed in _____.
- 3) New York Governor David Paterson is framing his fight to legalize same-sex marriage as a _____ issue.
- 4) The referendum that overturned California's same-sex marriage law was called _____.
- 5) Paul Cézanne was influenced by impressionist painter _____.
- 6) Cézanne influenced _____, who painted in the cubist style.
- 7) The Obama family had to choose carefully in finding a "first dog" because of daughter Malia's _____.
- 8) Caroline Kennedy had a famous dog named Pushinka, who was given to her by the head of _____.
- 9) Polish native Nicolaus Copernicus revolutionized the science of _____.
- 10) The United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803, because Emperor _____ needed money for a war with England.

ESSAY OR DEBATE QUESTION

What do you think the United States can or should do to address the situation in Somalia and the piracy problem?

NewsCurrents News Person of the Year Poll

We'd like your students or group member to tell NewsCurrents who they think has been the most important person in the news since September 2008, the beginning of the NewsCurrents year. We will run the results of this survey later in the spring, shortly after we tally the results.

Ask everyone to give his or her choice for "News Person of the Year." Please use the space provided here to record your students' responses. Use extra sheets of paper if you need them. Be sure to indicate clearly the number of individuals giving each response.

If more than one class or grade level responds to this survey, please make extra copies of this form and send them separately.

You may mail, fax, or e-mail your survey results. Thanks for participating in this fun and important survey! We look forward to receiving your votes.

Please mail your results to NewsCurrents Survey, P.O. Box 52, Madison, WI 53701; fax to 1-800-618-1570; or e-mail your results to comments@newscurrents.com Or vote online at <http://www.newscurrents.com/Polls/NewsPersonPoll.html>

TEACHER'S NAME _____

GRADE LEVEL _____ TOTAL IN CLASS _____

SCHOOL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

GROUP LEADER'S NAME _____

FACILITY _____

FACILITY ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

Your class's choices for "News Person of the Year"

News Person	Number of vote for this person
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

FAX RESULTS TO: 1-800-618-1570

Answers to Where in the World:

a-5, Somalia; b-2, France; c-3, New York; d-1, Poland;
e-4, Iran; f-6, Great Britain

Solution to Word Search:

A U I U T T I A E A I T A S I L F B
T O S C A L B A Z I L L E A N R G I
H S K A G L I O K P E R N F S P T S
O O A I L P A N S E T E M E F I N D
O F I L I R I I H M G H E T W S E P
M A C L A G U I L L A U M I N S E L
A M I E T R F A E R Z O D U I A L G
H O R B E T A L A E C G I C E R T C
U R H O F U S R G R A W A C R R U L
P I A T D M L R N H S T T I C O B F
O S R T I E A I M E S S M N E L S M
R O N E O T C G A M A C A E O L I Y
E T N V I O M O N E T E N I U E S A
G L Z A S R P N A A T N E L I I E N
W U R U T R E N O I R I T I S I L S
A T A N I E R T O M S N R N V G Y B
D E G A S L I A N P H R E G R S T C
E F S O K L G T I R O E R U L T E T

Quiz Answers

BASIC QUIZ

- 1-eastern
- 2-TRUE
- 3-FALSE
- 4-TRUE
- 5-cubism
- 6-raccoon
- 7-Macaroni
- 8-FALSE
- 9-Warsaw
- 10-Thomas Jefferson

GENERAL QUIZ

- 1-Pirates
- 2-1991
- 3-California
- 4-Iowa
- 5-France
- 6-impressionism
- 7-alligator
- 8-Socks
- 9-the Baltic Sea
- 10-Louisiana

ADVANCED QUIZ

- 1-oil
- 2-1991
- 3-civil rights
- 4-Proposition 8
- 5-Camille Pissarro
- 6-Pablo Picasso
- 7-allergies
- 8-the Soviet Union
- 9-astronomy
- 10-Napoleon
(or Napoleon Bonaparte)

Publisher: Judith Laitman
Managing Editor: Kristii Horn
Associate Editor: Susan Dopkins
Contributing Editor: Matt Cibula
Graphic Designer: Ann Kniskern

© Knowledge Unlimited, Inc.,
P.O. Box 52, Madison, WI 53701.
Phone Toll-Free:(800)356-2303
or call (608) 661-5666
Web site: www.newscurrents.com
e-mail:
newscurrents@newscurrents.com