



Cedar Chips

Hockey Season has Returned

By David R.

The NHL season has finally begun, starting five months later than normal. With multiple changes in the way the league is structured, there is no doubt that they will finish the season. Money no doubt has a large part to do with that.

The two biggest changes are the restructuring of the divisions and the shortening of the season. Knowing that the bubble they used in the playoffs wouldn't work for a four month season, the NHL changed the divisions to limit travel. The four new divisions are the Central, the East, the West, and the North(Canada). The seven Canadians teams have been officially banished to Canada for the whole season. A cruel punishment, but it serves a purpose.

Teams will play games in their division only. Each division has eight teams, and every team will play each of their divisional opponents eight times. Do the math, and it adds up to 56 games in the season. The Canadian division only has seven teams, so they won't play every team the same amount of games.

Overall, this is by far the best solution and once again, the NHL seems to at least be trying. \$\$\$\$\$\$



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Raccoons

By Sophia S.



Raccoons are the cutest little trash burglars in the world. Not only are they fluffy, but they have small little hands that they use to rip through your garbage. They are irresistible, so it's hard not to reach out and pet them. That begs the question, should you pet wild raccoons? Let's find out.

Most likely, if you try to pet a raccoon they will run away from you. You would have to either corner or trap it. Both of which are not good ideas. Raccoons will defend themselves if they feel threatened, and a massive scratch to your face and/or body is not ideal.

Raccoons can carry many diseases, including rabies. In 2015, a study of 5,508 rabid animals by the CDC showed that raccoons made up 29.4% of rabies deaths. That's 1,619 dead raccoons due to rabies. If you're bitten by a raccoon, it is very important to go see a doctor immediately, especially if you suspect the raccoon is rabid.

Some raccoons are kept as pets. Raccoons are most likely taken care of by a human because they're orphaned or disabled, they would struggle to survive in the wild. These people usually have some prior knowledge or experience before fostering a raccoon. Normal, healthy raccoons who can live full and happy lives in the wild should not be kept as pets. Please don't try to take in a stray raccoon if you're not equipped.

At the end of the day raccoons are still wild animals, and they deserve to live without human interference. That being said, NO you shouldn't try to pet a stray raccoon. Pet them with your eyes and love them by giving them the space and respect they deserve. They will appreciate you for it.



New Year's Resolutions

By Liam C.



Finally, one of the worst years of all time is over! Now that another year has gone by, You can make a New Year's resolution. Basically, at the beginning of a year, you come up with something to do or improve yourself or something. Whether it's breaking a habit, losing weight, better diet, etc. However, it is hard to do.

According to research, only 8% of people actually succeeded, which is a good reason to take steps at first so it gets easier later on. 94% of people kept their resolutions for about a month before they messed up. The type of resolution you make could play a part in the success rate. If you're not sure what you want to do, here are some ideas on how to improve. A habit can take anywhere from 18 to 254 days for a person to form one and an average of 66 days for a new behavior to become automatic.

The first suggestion is that you could lose or gain weight. If you don't like what weight you're at or the state of your health, you could go to the gym. Although, many people with the same or similar resolution may come there, and the gym would be crowded or full in January and will probably be less crowded in February as people may have failed it or thought it was for the month.

Another idea is a resolution of being healthy: better diet. You can try to do better on what type of food you eat. (unless you think you already eat healthy.) There's types of things you should consume like protein, vitamins, etc. Something like fruit, and other healthy things rather than fast food and junk food.

The third and final thing is saving money. You can make a budget to monitor your spending and you can use coupons. If there's any old things you want to get rid of, you can either donate them or sell them either online or in a yard sale.

Whatever you choose, don't lose it by the end of the month.

Mysterious Monoliths, Aliens or Anomaly?

By Avi W.

The 21st century has its own version of "alien crop circles": Monoliths!

What is a Monolith? A monolith is a single large stone or rock, frequently in the form of an obelisk or column. Several monoliths have been popping up around the world without explanation, the first being discovered about a month ago in a remote part of Utah. This monolith was discovered by national park workers counting the mountain goat population.

By different methods such as finding it on Google Maps, people have deduced the monolith was installed years ago, with 2016 at the latest. It is expected that installing such a piece required a powerful saw used for cement or something of the sort in order to flatten the land and bolt the piece into the ground. After the first one, another popped up in Europe, and soon many copies were being set up all over the world.

Where did these mysteries come from? Could this be because of aliens? While no one knows for sure, probably not. One of the most common explanations is the first was an art piece, as they can be quite common in environments such as the Utah desert.

Due to the sudden appearances of more monoliths right after the first was discovered, it is reasonable to deduce the subsequent monoliths were simply copies of the first. However, the first one may have been inspired by the 1968 movie "2001," in which a similar monolith is installed to speed up the advancement of humankind.



The Bronze Age: Palace Economics

By Ian A.

When one thinks of ancient Greece, they may picture striking white pillars, or bronze swords and shields. The period matching this description is referred to as the “classical era,” between 700 BCE and 500 CE. Within this span of time, figures like Homer, Aristotle, and Julius Caesar dwelt- not at the same time, mind you- and the foundations of much of Europe and the Near East were laid down.

However, before the Odyssey was ever tabulated, a surprisingly different society lived in the lands around the Mediterranean. The bronze age began around the year 3300 BCE, in the Mesopotamia region of modern-day Syria and Iraq, where the Euphrates and Tigris rivers provided fertile land for the rapid development of civilizations based on agriculture. Powerful city-states grew into kingdoms which waged war on one another for resources and territory. This period is marked by an economic system, a “palace economy,” in which a central power controlled the production and distribution of produce. Similar developments happened along the Nile, and in Greece, Anatolia (modern-day Turkey), and along the Eastern Mediterranean coast.

Bronze is an alloy of two other metals, copper and tin, and was vital to the nations of the bronze age, as the name would imply. On the island of Cyprus, a kingdom flourished due to their numerous copper mines, which were dotted in several places around the Mediterranean basin and in Afghanistan. Tin was much rarer, with much of it being imported from mines in the area that now comprises Germany and Czechia.

Large empires grew from the prosperous kingdoms. In Egypt, the legendary peoples we are familiar with, who built the Great Pyramids, vied for power with the Libyans in the West and the Nubians in the South.

In Anatolia, control fluctuated between several powers: an empire expanded out of the ancient city of Hattusa (the Hittites), but met resistance from the Mitanni, who were expanding Northward and Eastward out of Syria; on the Western shores, indigenous city-states eventually formed a confederation, called the Assuwa League, to resist the Hittites. On the Ionian peninsula, the Greeks settled into bustling, independent cities, competing for control of the massive international (in the Mediterranean) trade system. These Greeks, the Mycenaeans, wrote and spoke in a different language, called Linear B.

As stated earlier, these robust nations with sophisticated governments are not the ones of antiquity, from which came the basis of much of our contemporary knowledge. So, where did they go? In the late bronze age, starting around the year 1200 BCE, the entire web of commerce and diplomacy was disrupted, and fell into disarray. Simply called the “late bronze age collapse,” this tumultuous period of history is denoted by the violent destruction of many ancient metropoli, a large decrease in literacy, and therefore writing, and the fracturing of societies, all of which will be covered in a later article.



The city of Hattusa was the capital of the Hittite empire and the source of its name.

A Master List of Master Irons to Make Your Clothes Look Smooth and Stuff

By Sophia S.

Everyone should iron their clothes. Not only does it make them look crisp, but it also keeps the garment in its original shape. That being said, one should only iron with the best machine they can manage. Your clothes will only look as good as your iron, you see. I've gathered a list of irons from different reputable sources to present to you "A Master List of Master Irons to Make Your Clothes Look Smooth and Stuff".

First things first, I've compiled this list using information from three websites,

www.goodhousekeeping.com, www.nymag.com, and www.nytimes.com. Each one has a different overall best iron. Good housekeeping goes for the Chi electronic retractable iron. It's performance on tough fabrics was good, the water tank was large, the steam burst was powerful, and it was comfortable to use. This iron cost \$99 though, so nobody is realistically going to buy it unless they are crazy or a seamstress.

Nymag's top choice was the PurSteam Professional Grade 1700W Steam Iron. They reported this iron also having a large water tank and superb steam abilities coupled with a nice heavy feel. The nymag iron is considerably less money, clocking in at \$40.

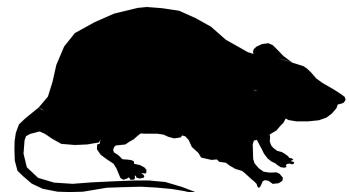
Last but not least we have Nytimes with the Maytag M400 Speed Heat Iron and Vertical Steamer. They report that it's quick and effective at getting rid of wrinkles, and that despite its small water tank, it produces steam in 25 seconds and it lasts 30 seconds longer than the other irons they tested. At around \$46 this iron is one of the best, more affordable options they tested.

Now you have no excuse not to iron your clothes, unless you like wrinkles. If that's the case then I don't know why you even read this, but to each their own, I guess. Ironing has been around for centuries, so there must be something to it. At least now you don't have to burn your clothes on a coal heated piece of cast iron. In all seriousness, ironing takes less than 15 minutes and is a great way to spruce up your outfit. So iron away my sweet children, iron away.

Ten Replacements for Curse Words

By David R.

1. Frig
2. Flip
3. Shucks
4. Shoot
5. Fork
6. Dag Nabbit
7. Frick
8. Truck
9. Dag Gummit
10. Rats



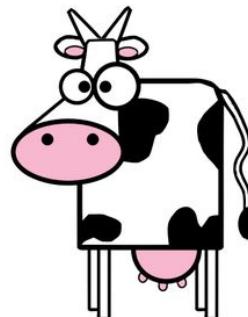
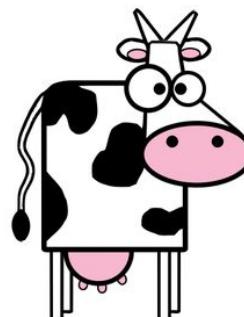
Happy Valentine's Day!



TOP ANIMAL SOUNDS

By David R. and Ian A.

1. ooh ooh ah ah
2. bakawk
3. fart
4. baaaaaa
5. meow
6. cockadoodledoo
7. mooooo
8. ooh ooh(slaps legs)
9. woof
10. AHHHHHHHHHH



Top Ten Resolutions

By Liam C.

There's many things you can do, and here's a simple list of ideas for inspiration.

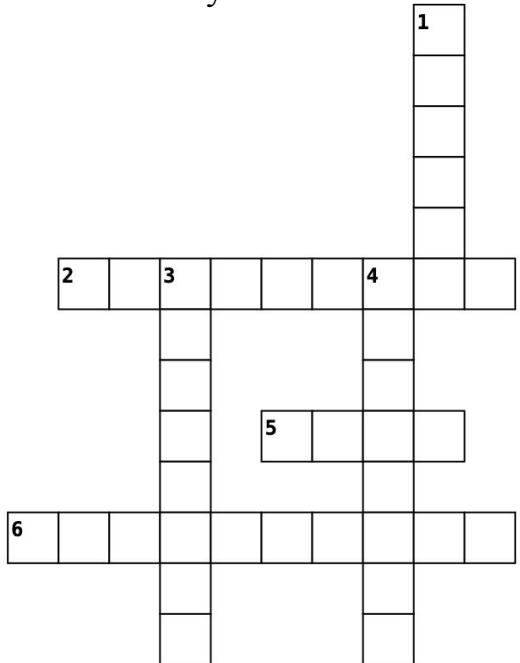
- Saving money
- Keeping your house clean
- Doing more chores
- Exercise (push-ups, sit-ups, etc.)
- Healthier diet
- Breaking bad habits
- Be more productive
- Doing more work
- Reading books
- Make something cool



Cedar Chips Crossword-

Get extra clues by reading the articles!

By Avi W.



Across

2. Cedar Lane students get help from an online _____
5. Used to spiff up clothes
6. Made in January but are often given up by March

Down

1. An age that last from ~3000 BCE - ~1200 BCE
3. Fluffy trash buglers
4. Many popped up all around the world recently

see answer key on page 6

Cedar Lane Students Get Help from Online Performer to Record Original Song

By Cat S.

“This is Twinkie” is a song written by Cat S. and her friend, August H. Cat reached out to her friend, August, who has experience with songwriting. “This is Twinkie” is about *Egghead & Twinkie* which is a film written and directed by Sarah Holland. Originally, it was a short film starring Sabrina Jieafa as Twinkie and Louis Tomeo as Egghead. Twinkie is a high school student who is coming to terms with her sexuality, and Egghead is her best friend who happens to be in love with her. When her parents refuse to accept her, she asks Egghead to go on a road trip with her, and the adventure will be explored in the feature film.

“This is Twinkie” is paying tribute to a movie that Cat really loves. According to Cat, she likes the movie, because it makes her feel better when she is down. She also really likes the actors and has seen them in movies she grew up on. The song is not for the movie, as much as it is about the movie. One of Cat’s favorite lyrics from the song is, “When I was 17, I wanted to be a marine biologist.” This is a line from the movie that made the song, because it shows how much Twinkie loves her dad.

Cat and August needed to find someone to sing the song, so Cat reached out to Melissa E., who is a social media star. Melissa direct messaged Cat and said she would be honored to sing the song. The song is going to be sung by the amazing and very talented singer/songwriter Melissa (better known as her stage name, Elomel.) Elomel has released two songs on Spotify. One of her songs is called “Moonchild” and the other song is called “Devil with a Halo”.

In “This is Twinkie,” there will be voiceovers from the film, *Egghead & Twinkie*, in the song. The voiceovers will be from the cast, mainly Sabrina Jieafa as Twinkie, Louis Tomeo as Egghead, Kelley Mauro as Twinkie’s mom, and J. Scott Browning as Twinkie’s dad.

You can listen to Melissa’s amazing covers as well as her original songs on the Guitar Tabs app. Her username is melissaguo2008.



DAD JOKES

By Sophia S.



1. What's brown and sticky?
2. What do you call it when a group of apes starts a company?
3. Why do bees have sticky hair?
4. How can you tell it's a dogwood tree?
5. Why is Peter Pan always flying?

honeycomb 4. By its bark 5. Because he Neverlands
I. a stick 2. Monkey business 3. B/c they use a

HUGS & HITS

By Cat S.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Snow | Ice |
| Hot chocolate | Yellow snow |
| No school | Walking to school in the snow & ice |
| New Year, New You | Falling on ice |
| Marshmallows | Rain |

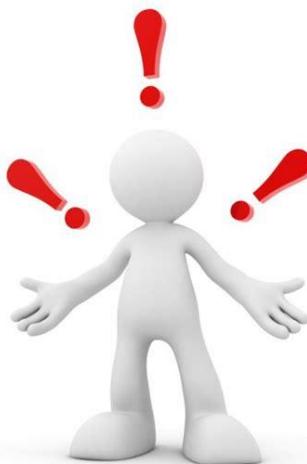


Top 10 Exclamations!

By Ian A.

Note: Please do not replace any of the following words with expletives, thanks!

10. Darn it!
9. Holy crap!
8. Dagnabbit!
7. What the heck/frick?!?
6. Oh, my heart!
5. Deary me!
4. Doggone it!
3. Oh my goodness!
2. (Gosh) Dang it!
1. Sheesh!



Top Ten Frogs

By Sophia S.



1. Happy frog
2. Serious frog
3. Slimy frog
4. Jumpy frog
5. Silly frog
6. Playful frog
7. Bashful frog
8. Angry frog
9. Sleepy frog
10. Sweet frog

Cedar Chips Crossword - Get Extra Clues by Reading the Articles!

Plot spoiler!
Answer Key



Across

2. Cedar Lane students get help from an online ____
5. Used to spiff up clothes
6. Made in January but are often given up on by March

Down

1. An age that last from ~3000 BCE - ~1200 BCE
3. Fluffy trash buglers
4. Many popped up all around the world recently

Winter Word Search

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

BALL DROP
BEGINNING
BIG POOFY JACKET
BOOTS
CALENDAR
CELEBRATION
CHILLY
COLD
EARLY NIGHTS
FRESH START
FROST
HAIL
HOT CHOCOLATE
ICE
INAUGURATION
JANUARY
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
MITTENS
NEWYEAR
OLDER
RESOLUTIONS
SADNESS
SHORTS
SKATING
SLEET
SNOW
SNOW SHOVELS
SUN
SWEATER
WINTER

