

Happy

Halloween!

October

# Cedar Chips



*The British museum isn't really British - ask Melanie!*

*Israel and Gaza at war again - Patrick sums it up!*

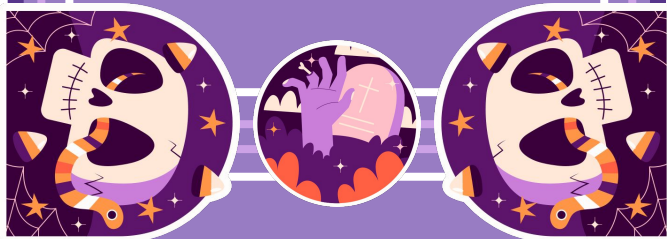
*Halloween is not the only gave in town- ask Ximena!*

*What does a Captcha capture? Melanie explains!*

*Jurassic Park's dinosaurs aren't very accurate - Patrick enlightens us!!*

*Clip & Save! Candy Sorting Guide- this one's a keeper!*

*Halloween ha-ha's Patrick has Halloween jokes to share*



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## DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS AND THE ALEBRIJE

*By Ximena D.*

The Day of the Dead, or Día de los Muertos, is very widely known and celebrated by the people of Mexico. Families will offer food, drinks, and gifts to the souls of their relatives (who are able to pass through the mortal realm from October 31 to November 2, which is when the gates of heaven are open.)

Decorations such as skulls, flowers, candles, and more are prominently displayed throughout the homes and neighborhoods of many people. People wearing costumes, visiting cemeteries, and setting up altars (ofrendas) can also be seen during this time of year. Día de los Muertos is when family members come together and celebrate the memory of their ancestors. A Día de los Muertos and Alebrije parade can also be attended during the end of October to the beginning of November in Mexico City.

Alebrijes are fantastical and colorful creatures, which are believed to be spirit guides for those entering the afterlife. The most common form of an alebrije is a sculpture of some kind, which originated from Pedro Linares, an artist who fell ill and had visions/dreams.

One of these dreams included mythical creatures that would repeatedly yell out, "Alebrije! Alebrije! Alebrije!" Linares would then use his artistic abilities to bring these creatures to life. Linares' alebrijes were made from paper mache, while another artist, Manuel Jimenez, made his out of wood from the copal tree. Linares is also credited with not only the creation/concept of the alebrije, but its name as well. Not all alebrijes look the same, the reason for this being that an alebrije can be made up of many different body parts, such as antlers, wings, tails, and horns.

While celebrating the life and memory of the ancestors who came before is the driving force behind Día de los Muertos, it is also about coming to terms with death and morality, and ultimately living life is a fulfilling way.

# Israel and Gaza at War (Again)

*“In other news, the sky is blue”*

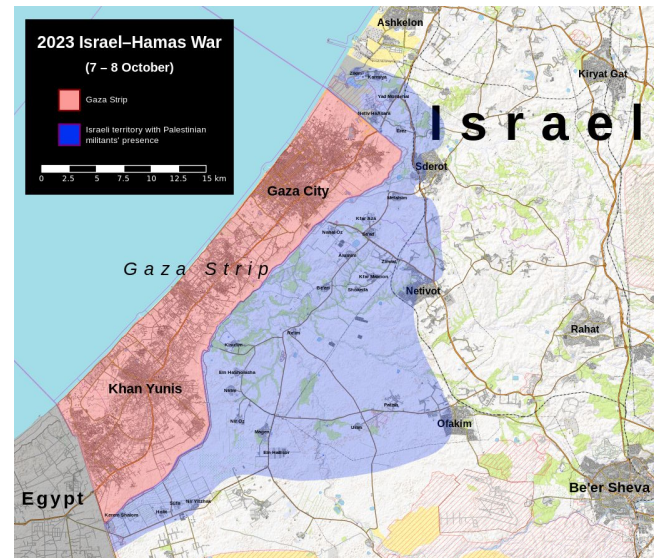
*By Patrick L.*

On 7 October 2023, members of the Palestinian militant group Hamas initiated an offensive named *Operation Al-Aqsa Flood*, attacking multiple **Kibbutzim** in the vicinity of the Gaza Strip. Since the attack, Israel and Hamas have been at war, leading to the death of thousands and a humanitarian crisis.

## Battles and Offensives

*Operation Al-Aqsa Flood*, the initial Hamas operation, started with a barrage of ~5,000 rockets from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip against Israel. This was followed by a land invasion of ~2,500 soldiers into the Gaza Vicinity, attacking numerous civilian communities and IDF military bases. At least 1,400 Israelis, mostly civilians, were killed, including 260 at a music festival in the Re'im kibbutz. Hundreds of civilian hostages, including women and children, were taken by Hamas militants to the Gaza Strip.

Israel launched retaliatory strikes on the militants during the initial invasion, before declaring war the next day. The IDF operation, named “*Operation Crossed Swords*,” cleared Hamas militants from the Gaza Vicinity, before launching airstrikes against Gaza, killing 5,000 Palestinians.



*Approximate situation on 7-8 October*  
*Image source: Wikipedia*

## Humanitarian Crisis

Following the Hamas attacks, Israel imposed a ‘total blockade,’ as it was named by the Israeli government, on the Gaza Strip. This is an expansion of the joint Israeli-Egyptian blockade of Gaza since 2007, which controls the flow of weapons and people to Gaza, by now also blocking the entry of essential materials, including food, water, and medicine. This caused the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital, Gaza’s only cancer hospital, to shut down after running out of fuel.

Many foreign and UN officials, such as Secretary-General of the UN Antonio Guterres, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrel, and Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan, have condemned the blockade, with some saying that it amounts to collective punishment, a war crime, and a violation of International Law.

On 18 October, Joe Biden announced that Egypt and Israel agreed to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza. As well, on 21 October, Egypt opened the Rafah Border Crossing, allowing further humanitarian aid to flow in via Egypt.

## Evacuation of Northern Gaza

On 13 October, Israel ordered civilians of Northern Gaza, roughly 1.1 million people, to evacuate south, before a ground invasion. Defense minister Yoav Gallant cited the reason for this as militants’ use of civilian populations as camouflage. This order was condemned as a blatant violation of international law. Many individuals believe the evacuation is the foreshock of Ethnic Cleansing in Gaza, and many Palestinians have called this a “second Nakba.”



*Left: A peace movement poster, featuring Israeli and Palestinian flags with the word ‘peace’ in Arabic and Hebrew in the center.*

## Definitions

**Kibbutzim** - Israeli intentional communities, traditionally based on agriculture. The singular name *Kibbutz* is translated as “*gathering*” or “*clustering*”.

# What Else is Captcha Capturing?

*By Melanie T.*

Do you remember having to decode distorted blurry words just to prove that you were not a robot? Well, you were also helping decipher and digitize old newspapers, books, magazines and pamphlets. Luis Von Ahn was part of a team of researchers at Carnegie Mellon University that created Captcha in 2003, then later created a program called reCaptcha. Captcha stands for “completely automated public turing test to tell computers and humans apart.”

At the time, Captcha's only purpose was to determine if you were a human or not. The group found that around the world, 500,000 hours were being spent solving Captchas a day. Luis Von Ahn felt that a lot of brainpower was being wasted, so his solution was to use already existing words to create a sort of win-win scenario.

The test would give two words. One was a known word to determine if you were a human. The other was the questioned word. Multiple people will be given the same word, and if everyone gives the same answer, it will be determined to be the accurate word. It will then go into the online copy of the book or whatever it came from.

This project originated when Von Ahn was working with his team trying to digitize all the old New York Times. There are just some things that the software can't recognize. For example, words could be blurry, smudged or crooked, the ink could be faded or the pages are old and stained. These kinds of things cause the computer to make mistakes, so when humans decode reCaptchas they are helping the computers catalog the words.



## The Ultimate Sorting Guide for Your Halloween Haul

Next Tuesday is the big day! We hope you get a good haul, but we all know candies are not created equally. Here's a guide to help you sort your haul! Note, you will have to order amongst the categories yourself. We can't do everything for you.

### Top 10

#### Best Halloween TREATS!

1. Kit Kat's
2. Milky Way
3. Take 5
4. M&M's
5. Almond Joy
6. Skittles
7. Twix
8. Butterfingers
9. Reese's
10. Sour Patch Kids

### Top 10 Filler Treats

1. Hershey's
2. Three Musketeers
3. Whoppers
4. Tootsie rolls/pops
5. Milk Duds
6. Laffy Taffy
7. Candy Corns
8. Starburst
9. Swedish Fish
10. Snickers

### Worst 10 Halloween "treats"

1. Sixlets
2. Twizzlers
3. Smarties
4. Raisins
5. Jolly Ranchers
6. Baby Ruth
7. Reese's Pieces
8. Dots
9. Now & Laters
10. Sweet Tarts



# How Accurate is Jurassic Park?

By Patrick L.

Michael Crichton's 1990 novel *Jurassic Park* and its 1993 film adaptation have begun a cultural phenomenon, sparking general interest in dinosaurs, causing a surge in discovered dinosaurs, and inspiring many young people to become paleontologists. But there is something the franchise has been scrutinized for for a long time - the scientific accuracy of its dinosaurs. In this article, I'll cover the accuracy of some dinosaurs in the *Jurassic* franchise. Please note that this article is not meant to state that the Jurassic Park movies are bad, I just want to tell you that there are things they got wrong.

## Velociraptor

The Velociraptors in the *Jurassic* franchise have two main issues with their accuracy. For example, Jurassic Park portrays Raptors as moderately large creatures, roughly 2m long and 90 kg in weight, but they were likely closer to the size and weight of a turkey. Secondly, Raptors come from Asia (hence the type species name *V. Mongoliensis*), while in the first movie, a raptor fossil is excavated in Montana. However, there is a reason for these issues - the franchise's raptors were based on the *Deinonychus*, which fits the physical characteristics and location of the raptors.



Two Velociraptors in the 1993 film  
Image source: Wikipedia



## Dilophosaurus

Dilophosaurus, best known for killing corporate spy Dennis Nedry in the first film, had three issues with accuracy. First, the Dilophosaurus was unable to spit venom, as seen in the movie. However, a report in 1996 reported that the Dilophosaurus might have had venom in its bite. Secondly, Dilophosaurus did not have a neck frill, as the bones required to hold up the frill have not been found in Dilophosaurus specimens. Lastly, Dilophosaurus was actually larger than the movie's version. However, the series did get one thing correct about Dilophosaurus - this dinosaur, along with Brachiosaurus, are the only two dinosaurs to have appeared in the first film that actually lived in the Jurassic period.

Image source: Jurassic Park Wiki



Reconstructed Spinosaurus in  
swimming posture  
Image Source: Wikipedia

## Spinosaurus

Spinosaurus, the main dinosaur antagonist of *Jurassic Park III*, does have some issues with accuracy, but to be fair to the moviemakers, there was much less known about the dinosaur during JP3's production than there is now. The main problem is that Spinosaurus is believed to have been a Piscivore - or fish eater - unlike the film's representation, which is carnivorous. As well, Spinosaurus is believed to have been mainly aquatic, while the film's Spinosaurus was mainly on land.



## Scales vs. Feathers

Until the most recent film in the franchise, *Jurassic World Dominion*, all the dinosaurs in the franchise appear scaled. While for a while this was up to date with what was known, nowadays - and even before the release of *Jurassic World* in 2015 - many dinosaurs, including the fan favorite Velociraptor, are believed to have been feathered.

# British Treasures...*and more* *By Melanie T.*

The British Museum has been under a lot of scrutiny for its resistance to return artifacts that have been taken under unethical terms. These stolen items were acquired through conquest, colonialism, violence, and war.

One of the British Museum's reasons for keeping the items is that they feel they are the most accessible, remain safe, are well-maintained, and can be best shared under their custody.

News came out in August that over multiple years an employee stole an estimated total of 2,000 artifacts and was selling them on eBay. Ittai Gradel emailed the museum two years earlier, but his concern about the theft was initially dismissed. On top of that, the director of the museum, Hartwig Fischer, resigned shortly after the news broke out on August 25. They even reached out to the general public for help in finding the stolen artifacts. "One of the most insulting reasons that they've given is that the other countries that these items belong to would either not be able to take care of them or they are likely to be stolen," Bell Ribeiro-Addy said. "But you've got people in this country putting them on eBay."

Parliament has repeatedly stated that they will not interfere, and that it is up to the museum for the return of the artifacts, but the museum is constrained by the British Museum Act of 1963. This law makes it illegal for them to give back the artifacts. It is ultimately up to Parliament to change this law.

The Rosetta stone was first discovered in Egypt in 1799. It was a wonderful discovery and helped translate ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics for the first time. The stone says the same thing but in three different scripts. It was taken from Egypt in 1801 after the British Empire defeated the French. Dr. Zahi Hawass has been working since 2002 for the return of wrongfully stolen artifacts and launched a [petition](#) in November 2022 for the return of the Rosetta Stone.

The Parthenon sculptures come from the temple of Athena on the Acropolis in Athens,

Greece, and were constructed in the 5th century BC.

The Greek government's first request for their return was in 1983. Prime Minister Boris Johnson told a Greek official that it would be "a grievous and irremediable loss" if they left the British Museum.

The British Museum has at least 26,000 Chinese cultural relics which include paintings that date back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907), and bronze vessels that date back to the dawn of China's civilization. About 2,000 of those pieces are currently on display at the British Museum.

The Benin bronzes (sculptures, including intricately decorated cast plaques, commemorative heads, animal and human figures, pieces of royal regalia, and personal ornaments) are one collection currently in the British collection. Benin was part of the British Empire from 1897-1960, which is when most of the pieces were taken. They have been asking for their artifacts back for decades.

The Maqdala collection is made up of many spiritual pieces and represents great artistic traditions of Ethiopia, and the way the pieces were taken was pretty horrific.

"We hear the voices calling for restitution. But creating this global British Museum was the dedicated work of many generations. Dismantling it must not become the careless act of a single generation," said George Osborne, who is the chair of the British Museum.

The idea of returning objects is not new. For instance, art stolen during the third reich and World War II from Jewish families have been returned to their rightful owners for decades. Other European museums that have had requests for the return of objects have either returned the relics or made promises to do so. Belgium's government agreed to a plan to give ownership of stolen artifacts back to their African countries of origin. President Emmanuel Macron of France returned 26 looted artifacts from the colonial age back to Benin.

These countries are desperately longing for the return of their missing pieces of cultural history to come back to them.

# October News Recap

*By Patrick L.*

2 October - The United Nations Security Council approves the creation of a Kenyan-led security force to combat gang violence in Haiti for the next year.

2 October - The European Space Agency announces that the James Webb Space Telescope detected Jupiter-sized objects, known as Jupiter-Mass Binary Objects (JuMBOs), moving in pairs in the constellation Orion.

2-9 October - The six Nobel Prizes are awarded to various individuals.

3 October - Following a dispute in the Republican Party over the US Government's 2024 FY Budget, Kevin McCarthy is removed as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

4 October - The US and Russia test their emergency population warning systems.

5 October - Typhoon Koinu makes landfall in Taiwan with winds of over 342 km/h, the strongest typhoon to hit Taiwan.

7 October - Hamas militants initiate Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, beginning the 2023 Gaza-Israel war.

9 October, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. withdraws from the Democratic party primaries, opting to run as an Independent instead.

10 October - France begins withdrawing its soldiers from Niger after demands from the country's government.

14 October - An annular solar eclipse is visible from the western hemisphere, but is not visible from the DMV due to a rainstorm.

17-25 October - After four ballots, the US House of Representatives elects Representative Mike Johnson of Louisiana following the removal of Kevin McCarthy.

23 October - An off-duty pilot attempts to hijack and crash an Alaska Airlines flight over the US West Coast.



*JuMBOs 31-35 in the Orion Nebula*



*Katalina Kariko and Drew Weissman, laureates of the 2023 Nobel Prize in Medicine*



*Typhoon Koinu on 4 October*



*Mike Johnson (R-LA), elected Speaker of the House on 25 Oct*



# JOIN THE CEDAR LANE BOXING CLUB!



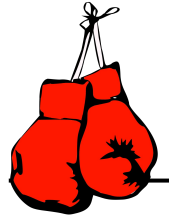
**WHO:** You! Boxing is for everyone: boys, girls, hes, shes, its, and them!

**WHAT:** Boxing is a full-body workout sport that improves both body and mind. Classes will include boxing basics, body/weight conditioning, and functional movement drills.

**WHERE:** This year the Boxing Club trains at TITLE Boxing Fairfax, a professional boxing gym. Transportation is provided on special mini-buses.

**WHY:** Boxing is a great sport! It helps focus the mind and relieves stress. The substantial snacks provided afterwards (Chipotle, meatball subs, etc.) are great, too.

**HOW:** Check it out with Dr. Barba in the Clinical Suite!



## Halloween Jokes *with Patrick L.*

1. Why did the Skeleton run away?
2. What is a Vampire's favorite Halloween candy?
3. When do Zombies finish trick or treating?
4. What do birds give to trick or treaters?



*1. Because a dog was after his bones. 2. A sucker 3. When they are dead tire 4. Tweets*

## Hugs



## &

## Hits



☺ candy

☺ friends

☺ dressing up

☺ a good Halloween haul

☺ Spirit Days

☹ cavities

☹ costumed people who creep you out

☹ when you are the only one who dressed up

☹ stomachaches

☹ having to stop at the grocery store on your way home in your PJs

# HALLOWEEN

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

Boo

Corn

Ghost

Night

Spooky

Cat

Darkness

Ghouls

Party

Trickortreat

Cavities

DiadelosMuerto

Halloween

Pumpkin

Vampire

Costume

Eerie

Maze

Scare

Witch

Candy

Frankenstein

Monster

Skeleton

Zombie

