

Vol. 86 No. 14 ISSN 1554-2440



February 12, 2018



SCHOLASTIC

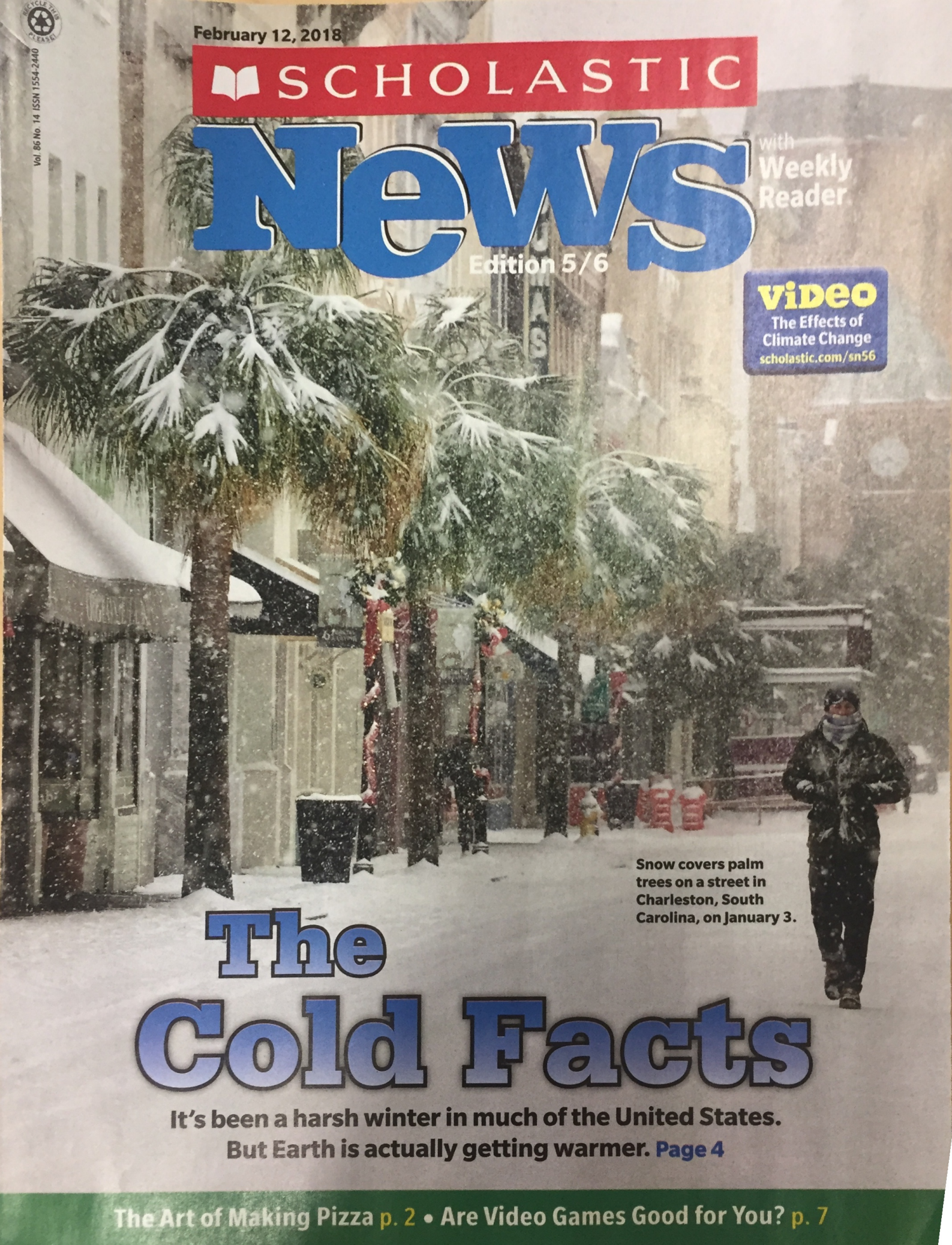
# NEWS

Edition 5/6

with  
Weekly  
Reader.

**video**

The Effects of  
Climate Change  
[scholastic.com/sn56](http://scholastic.com/sn56)



Snow covers palm trees on a street in Charleston, South Carolina, on January 3.

## The Cold Facts

It's been a harsh winter in much of the United States.  
But Earth is actually getting warmer. **Page 4**

The Art of Making Pizza p. 2 • Are Video Games Good for You? p. 7



# Prized Pizza

In one Italian city, pizza makers have a big reason to celebrate.

It's official: The way pizzas are made in Naples, Italy, can't be topped! In December, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) gave the city's pizza-making process a special honor. UNESCO added that technique to a list of traditions that are important parts of world **heritage**. The list was created to raise awareness about certain customs and to protect them so they don't die out. UNESCO recognizes more than 350 other customs, including yoga from India and flamenco dancing from Spain.

In Naples, the process for crafting the perfect pizza is called *pizzaiuolo* (peetz-eye-OH-loh). It involves making the dough and stretching it to be flat and round.

### Word to Know

**heritage** *noun*. important traditions that are handed down from generation to generation



Pizza makers in Naples, Italy, show off their dough-spinning skills.

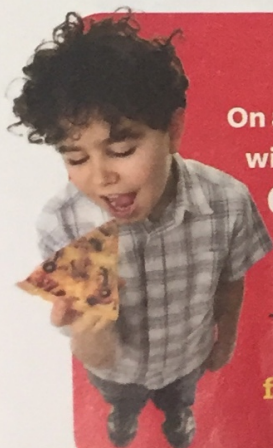
This is often done by tossing the dough into the air and twirling it. Traditional pizza in Naples is often made with fresh tomatoes, mozzarella cheese, basil, and olive oil—and no fancy toppings. It's baked in a wood-burning oven.

Experts believe that pizza was invented in Naples in the 1700s.

It became a popular, inexpensive meal among the city's poor working class. When immigrants from Naples came to the United States, they brought their pizza-making skills with them.

Today, Naples is home to about 3,000 pizza makers. The day UNESCO announced the pizza-making honor, restaurant owners in Naples celebrated by handing out free slices. It was like a huge pizza party!

## P-I-Z-Z-A IN THE U.S.A.



On average, Americans will eat more than **6,000 slices** of pizza during their lifetime.

The world's longest pizza was made in California in 2017. It measured more than **6,300 feet**. That's about **1.2 miles long!**

**Lombardi's in New York City was the first pizzeria in the U.S. It was opened by a bread baker from Naples in 1905.**

What's America's favorite type of pizza? Here are the top three choices from one poll:

**39%** New York-style thin crust

**17%** Neapolitan (the style made in Naples)

**9%** Chicago-style deep-dish





# Noah's March

An 11-year-old finishes a walk across America for an important cause.

Last January, Noah Barnes went for a walk—and it didn't end until almost a year later! He walked 4,240 miles, crossing the United States. The 11-year-old is the youngest person ever to have walked across the country.

Noah wasn't trying to set a record, though. He was walking to raise money for a cure for type 1 diabetes. This disease prevents Noah's body from making enough insulin, which controls the level of sugar in the blood. Without proper treatment, type 1 diabetes can lead to heart and nerve problems, and it can even be life-threatening.

Noah is among the more than 1 million Americans who have type 1 diabetes. Living with the disease can be a struggle. Noah

## Word to Know

**motivation** *noun.* a reason for doing something

Noah Barnes walks in Washington State with a cart full of food, water, and other supplies.



has to test his blood-sugar level up to 10 times a day, which involves pricking his finger every time. He also has to get daily insulin shots.

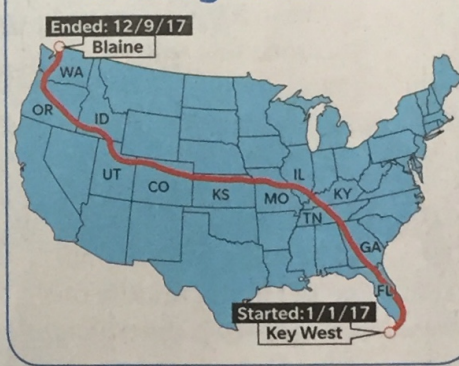
Noah started his walk on January 1, 2017, in Key West, Florida. His parents set up a website called Noah's March, where people could track his progress and donate money for diabetes research.

Each day, Noah and his dad walked about 17 miles while his mom and two younger siblings rode along in the family's SUV. At night, they stayed at camp sites and hotels or with friends. Noah's mom homeschooled him and his brother along the way. Noah finally finished his

trek in Blaine, Washington, on December 9. He says the cross-country journey was worth it. Noah's March has raised more than \$30,000.

"There were a couple of times I wanted to give up," he says. "But I got my **motivation** from not wanting to take shots anymore."

## Walking for a Cure



## Will You Be Mine?

On Valentine's Day, many people try to win over a new sweetheart with gifts. Some male dolphins use a similar strategy, according to a study released in November. But instead of chocolate or flowers, they give sea sponges.

Scientists spent 10 years studying Australian humpback dolphins. They observed male dolphins diving down and plucking sea sponges from the ocean floor. The dolphins would then bring the sponges to the surface and present them to females. Experts think this behavior is the males' attempt to impress potential mates.



Sea sponges look like plants, but they're actually animals.



People in Boston, Massachusetts, dig out their cars after a foot of snow fell on the city on January 4.



# The Cold Facts

**The harsh weather this winter has some people wondering whether global warming is real.**

**A**s the calendar changed to 2018, much of the country was focused on keeping warm. New Year's Eve fell in the middle of a two-week cold snap that affected much of the United States. Hundreds of cities and towns had record low temperatures and extreme wintry weather.

The thermometer dipped to a bone-chilling -32 degrees Fahrenheit in Watertown, New York, on December 28. Six days later, Savannah, Georgia, saw its first snowfall in nearly eight years. At the same time, some cities in Florida were colder than Alaska.

### Words to Know

**negate** *verb.* to cancel out or cause to be untrue

**prolonged** *adjective.* continuing for a long time; lengthy

The frigid weather got a lot of people talking about global warming, the gradual increase in Earth's average temperature. Some question how it could be so cold if the planet is heating up. Scientists say that despite our recent cold weather, Earth has slowly been getting hotter for more than a century.

"Two weeks of really cold temperatures don't **negate** decades of warming," says Jake Crouch. He's a climate scientist at NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

### The Big Picture

To understand how cold weather occurs in a warming world, it's important to know the difference between climate and weather. Weather is what's going

on outside in one place on any given day. It can change quickly and be hard to predict. Climate, on the other hand, describes what weather is usually like in a place over a **prolonged** period of time. Climate is more predictable than weather, and it changes slowly.

Crouch explains that short-term weather events like the recent cold snap are small pieces of the climate puzzle. The weather in one place has little effect on the overall global temperature.

"What's happening in your backyard is not representative of what's happening everywhere," Crouch says.

In fact, while it was bitter cold in the eastern U.S. last month, other parts of the world were experiencing record-setting heat. For example, in Australia (where



# How Earth Stays Warm

Here's a look at how the greenhouse effect works.

- 1 Energy from the sun travels through Earth's atmosphere. The energy is in the form of light and heat. About half of this energy is absorbed by Earth's surface.
- 2 Clouds, snow, land, and the oceans reflect much of the rest of the sun's energy back toward space.
- 3 Greenhouse gases trap some of that reflected energy in the atmosphere, warming the planet further. Too much of these greenhouse gases in the air results in global warming.



it's summer), temperatures reached a sweltering 117 degrees.

To determine the average temperature for the entire planet, scientists take into account all the weather events around the world. That includes heat waves, cold spells, and everything in between. Climate scientists say that worldwide, the heat is beating the cold.

## Turning Up the Heat

A warm planet is a good thing. If Earth were much colder, humans, animals, and plants couldn't survive. The process that keeps the planet warm is called the greenhouse effect. Gases called greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, act like a blanket that traps some of the sun's heat in Earth's atmosphere (see "How Earth Stays Warm").

But most scientists agree that human activity has been having a negative effect on this natural process. Most people rely on fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, to create electricity and make our cars run. Burning these fuels releases more greenhouse gases

into the atmosphere, which causes Earth's temperature to slowly rise. Last year was the second warmest since records were first kept in 1880. In fact, 17 of the 18 warmest years on record have occurred since 2001.

Scientists say this warming trend is damaging the planet. Glaciers and ice sheets in polar regions are melting. This causes sea levels to rise, putting coastal

communities at risk of flooding. Warmer temperatures are also linked to more severe droughts and more intense wildfires.

Scientists predict that temperatures will continue to climb. "With climate change, we expect more warm temperatures," Crouch says. "We're going to see really cold temperatures occur less frequently."

—by Tricia Culligan

## Climate or Weather?

If you're confused about how weather differs from climate, it helps to think about them in terms of clothing.

The weather helps determine what you choose to wear on a given day. For example, if the forecast calls for rain, you'll probably wear a raincoat.

But climate influences your overall wardrobe. Hawaii has a tropical climate, so it's usually hot. If you live there, you probably own a lot of shorts but not a heavy coat. If you live in Alaska, which has a cold climate, you probably own winter hats, mittens, and snow boots but not as many pairs of shorts.





A scene from the 1997 movie *Titanic*



# Final Message

A letter from a doomed ship sells for nearly \$170,000.

**O**n April 13, 1912, an American businessman named Alexander Oskar Holverson was returning home aboard a ship from England. He wrote a letter to his mother, saying, "If all goes well we will arrive in New York Wednesday A.M." Tragically, Holverson never made it home. He was a passenger on the **fateful** first voyage of the *Titanic*.

The famous ocean liner was the world's largest ship when it set sail from England on April 10. The night after Holverson wrote to his mother, the ship crashed into an iceberg. Within hours, it had sunk to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, killing more than 1,500 passengers and crew members. Holverson didn't survive, but his letter did. Rescuers found it when they

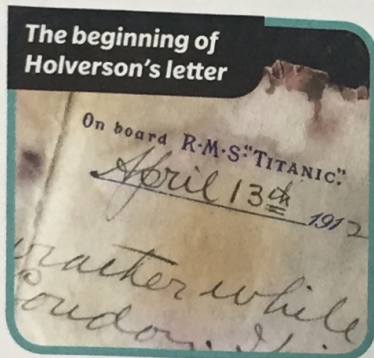
recovered Holverson's body. The three-page letter recently sold at an auction in England for about \$170,000.

In the letter, Holverson wrote that "the food and music is excellent." He also described seeing John Jacob Astor, the richest man in the world at the time, who also died during the disaster.

The letter is one of many artifacts from the *Titanic* that have sold for enormous sums in recent years (see "*Titanic Prices*"). Andrew Aldridge is the co-owner of Henry Aldridge & Son, the company that sold Holverson's letter. He says items from the *Titanic* continue to fascinate the public because they're a direct link to the more than 2,200 people who were part of the doomed voyage.

"Every man, woman, and child on that ship had a story to tell," Aldridge says.

—by Joe Bubar



## Titanic Prices

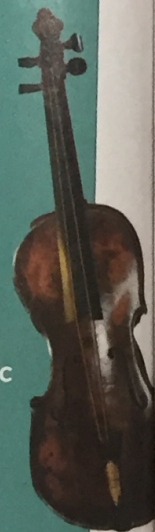
Here are some other artifacts from the *Titanic* that have sold at auctions in recent years.

### Violin and case

Price: \$1.7 million\*

Year Sold: 2013

This violin and its case belonged to the ship's bandleader, Wallace Hartley. Survivors said that Hartley and his bandmates played music to calm passengers as the *Titanic* was sinking.



### Dinner menu

Price: \$118,750

Year Sold: 2015

The menu from the last meal served to the ship's first-class passengers included roast duckling and roast squab (baby pigeon).

### Cracker

Price: \$23,000\*

Year Sold: 2015

Possibly the oddest *Titanic* artifact, this cracker was part of a survival kit on one of the ship's lifeboats.



\*Figures are approximate because the sales were in British pounds

## Word to Know

**fateful** adjective. having a serious and usually bad result





# Are Video Games Good for You?

Parents often tell kids that playing video games will rot their brains. But a study released last June found the opposite—certain video games can give your brain a boost. Researchers from the University of Montreal, in Canada, asked a group of people to play *Super Mario 64* for 90 hours over the course of about 10 weeks. They found that those people experienced growth in the part of the brain that is responsible for memory. Other studies have shown that playing video games can help improve your hand-eye coordination, reaction time, and concentration.

But many people argue that there's nothing good about staring at a screen for hours at a time. They say that playing sports, reading, and doing other

activities can give you the same benefits that playing video games does. Plus, some video games can be harmful. The study from the University of Montreal also found that playing shooter games like *Call of Duty* has the reverse effect of playing *Super Mario 64*—it causes the region of the brain that's responsible for memory to shrink.

Jeff Haynes is the senior editor for video games at Common Sense Media. He says when it comes to playing video games, the key is to not overdo it.

"You can spend so much time playing a game that you wind up literally disconnecting yourself from your family and friends," he says.

Here's what two of our readers think.

## Yes! Playing video games can be good for you.

Playing video games can be beneficial because it involves skills like problem solving, strategic thinking, and sometimes teamwork. A study by researchers at the University of Glasgow, in Scotland, found that playing video games improves your communication skills and ability to find ways to solve problems.

Video games can also help you become more creative. For example, *Minecraft* requires you to think outside the box and build things with materials you never even knew existed. You can build your dream house or a skyscraper! Some schools are even using *Minecraft* to teach topics like math and computer science.



Mackenzie Reidy, Nebraska

## No! Video games are fun, but they're not good for you.

Playing video games takes time away from other, more important things. I used to spend a lot of time playing them. Sometimes that kept me from doing things I needed to do, like studying my spelling words.

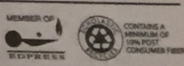
Playing video games can also be bad for your health. The World Health Organization recently announced that it will recognize video game addiction as a mental health disorder. Plus, gamers might not get enough exercise. Last year, researchers studied kids and teens in Canada who play video games. They found a link between playing video games for hours before going to bed and obesity.



Devin Lewis, Arizona

What's Your **OPINION**? Go online to cast your vote and download an opinion-writing skills sheet: [www.scholastic.com/sn56](http://www.scholastic.com/sn56)

POSTAL INFORMATION: SCHOLASTIC NEWS Edition 5/6 (ISSN 1554-2440) is published weekly during the school year except holidays and mid-term, 22 issues, by Scholastic Inc. 2931 East McCarty St., P.O. Box 3710, Jefferson City, MO 65102-3710. Periodical postage paid at Jefferson City, MO 65102 and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTERS: Send notice of address changes to SCHOLASTIC NEWS Edition 5/6, 2931 East McCarty St., P.O. Box 3710, Jefferson City, MO 65102-3710. Copyright ©2018 by Scholastic Inc. Scholastic News and associated designs are trademarks/registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc. All Rights Reserved. Materials in this issue may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form or format without special permission from the publisher. Printed in the USA

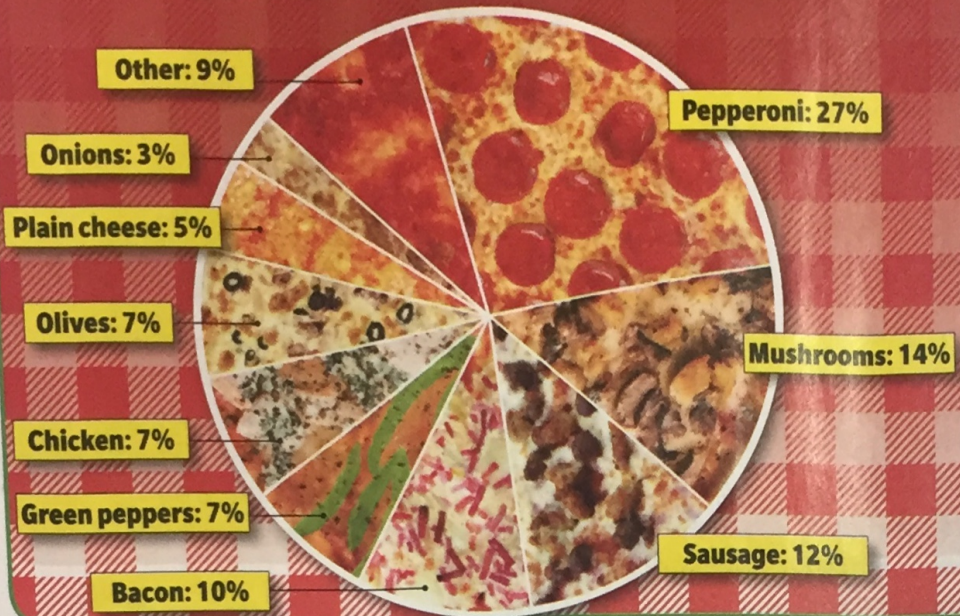




## News Graph

Unlike traditional pizzas made in Naples, Italy, pizzas in the U.S. are often loaded with toppings. In a recent survey, 500 Americans were asked about their favorite toppings. Here are the results.

### Americans' Favorite Pizza Toppings



Note: Figures do not add up to 100% because of rounding. Source: Public Policy Polling

1. About one-quarter of Americans prefer which pizza topping?

2. Which topping is twice as popular as olives?

- (A) onions  
(B) chicken

- (C) sausage  
(D) mushrooms

3. True or false? More than half of people surveyed prefer a meat topping. Explain your answer.

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## News Review

### The Cold Facts pages 4-5

4. The author compares some cities in Florida to Alaska to explain \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) how rare cold spells are  
(B) how cold parts of the United States were in early January  
(C) the difference between weather and climate  
(D) the effects of global warming

5. Which of these statements is true?

- (A) The greenhouse effect is bad for the planet.  
(B) Climate is what's going on outside in one place on a given day.  
(C) A cold spell is an example of weather.  
(D) Cold spells are becoming more common.

6. Which word is closest in meaning to *negate*?

- (A) question  
(B) understand  
(C) cancel  
(D) prove

7. Which of the following is a greenhouse gas?

- (A) carbon dioxide  
(B) coal  
(C) oil  
(D) energy from the sun

### Final Message page 6

8. Which of the following artifacts from the *Titanic* sold for the largest amount of money?

- (A) a dinner menu  
(B) a cracker  
(C) a violin and case  
(D) a letter

9. What made the *Titanic's* voyage *fateful*?

- (A) The *Titanic* was the largest ship at the time.  
(B) The ship was making its first voyage.  
(C) Several artifacts from the ship have sold for huge sums of money.  
(D) More than 1,500 people died when the ship sank.

10. Based on the article, you can infer that \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) Alexander Oskar Holverson didn't expect to reach New York  
(B) many people still have a great interest in the *Titanic*  
(C) only wealthy passengers survived the disaster  
(D) every artifact from the *Titanic* has been sold

