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NEWS

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Edition 5/6



How to Raise a Hippo

video

Helping Baby Fiona

scholastic.com/sn56

When Fiona the hippo was born too early, it was up to the staff at the Cincinnati Zoo to keep her alive. **Page 4**



A school of silky sharks swims in the waters of the new marine reserve.

A Safe Place at Sea

Mexico creates the largest protected marine area in North America.

About 250 miles off the western coast of Mexico, you can find four small islands that are actually the tops of underwater volcanoes. They're surrounded by clear, blue water that's teeming with diverse wildlife.

In November, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto took a big step toward ensuring the safety of that unique ecosystem by making it a national park. The newly protected area covers more than 57,000 square miles surrounding the Revillagigedo (reh-vee-yah-hee-gee-doh) islands. That's bigger than New York State. It's now the largest marine reserve in North America.

Fishing of any kind is no longer allowed in that part of the Pacific Ocean. Deep-sea mining on the ocean floor is also banned. No one lives on the islands, and tourists aren't allowed to set foot on them. President Peña Nieto's decision ensures that hotels will never be built there.

Word to Know

flourish verb. to grow and develop successfully

However, scuba divers will still be allowed to observe the huge variety of wildlife in the waters. Hundreds of species of fish live around the islands, including 26 species that can't be found anywhere else in the world. The reserve is also home to 37 types of rays and sharks. Plus, several species of whales and sea turtles feed in and pass through the area. The islands themselves are home to more than a dozen bird species, some of which are endangered.

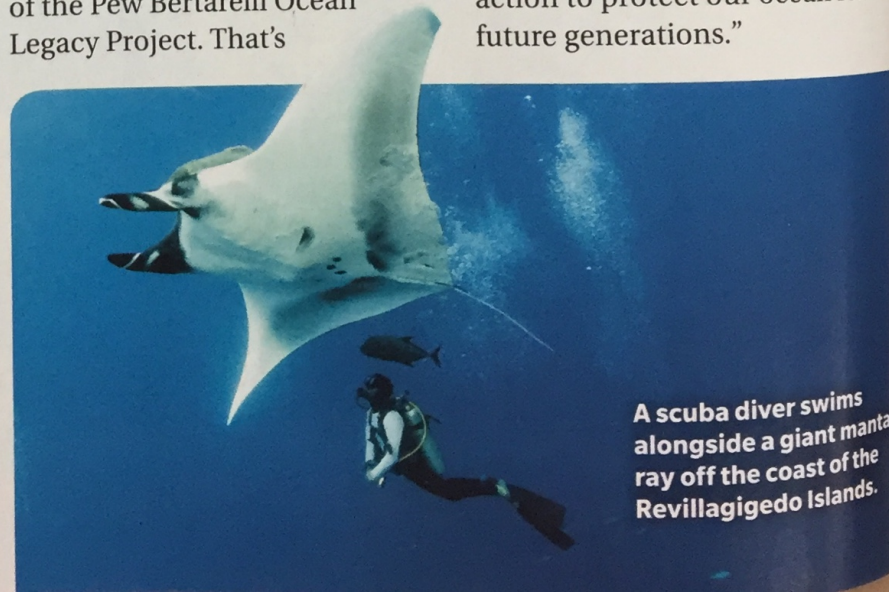
"This is now a safe haven so that marine life can flourish," says Matt Rand. He is the director of the Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy Project. That's

one of the conservation groups that helped the Mexican government establish the new reserve, which Rand calls "an underwater Disney World."

The Ocean's Future

Many other countries, including the United States, have created marine reserves in the past. Still, less than 10 percent of the world's oceans are protected. Rand hopes leaders around the world will stay committed to saving our seas.

"The ocean is a pretty spectacular place," he says. "We need to take more serious action to protect our ocean for future generations."



A scuba diver swims alongside a giant manta ray off the coast of the Revillagigedo Islands.

No More Snow Days?

Many schools are replacing snow days with blizzard bag days.

In many places in the U.S., a big snowstorm can mean a day off from school. But for a growing number of kids, the learning doesn't stop when school closes. Their schools have turned snow days into blizzard bag days.

At some schools, blizzard bags are packets filled with worksheets. At others, the term is used for lessons that students complete online. When bad weather is forecast, teachers assign blizzard bags so their students can work at home if school is canceled.

Rhode Island recently passed a law allowing public schools to start blizzard bag programs this school year.

"Snow days are fun, but it's also important for students and teachers to stay on track with their learning," says Governor Gina Raimondo of Rhode Island.

Some schools in at least three other states already use blizzard

bags. Public schools in the Kearsarge school district in New Hampshire have used them since 2009. For fifth-graders in that district, blizzard bags might include math worksheets or reading assignments. Students in sixth grade and up are given online assignments. If 80 percent of all students in the school complete their work, the day counts as a school day.

Kearsarge officials say blizzard bags are a good **alternative** to having to make up snow days at the end of the school year.

"We always have between five and eight snow days, so there were times we almost ran out of days in June," says Winfried Feneberg, the superintendent of the Kearsarge school district.

But critics say blizzard bags are no substitute for learning in class. Plus, some kids and parents think schools should just let students have time off on snow days, even if that means adding more school days in June.

Word to Know

alternative *noun.* another option or choice



NAME: Carson Kropfl

AGE: 12

HOMETOWN:

San Clemente, California

►WHAT HE DOES:

The seventh-grader is the inventor of Locker Boards—skateboards small enough to fit inside most lockers and backpacks.

►WHY HE DOES IT:

Carson always liked riding his skateboard to school, but it was too big for his locker. So in 2016, he cut the ends off one of his boards to fit. After he posted a video of himself riding his new mini-board on Instagram, people started asking him where they could buy one.

That inspired Carson to turn his idea into a business. He makes Locker Boards from old skateboards that otherwise would have been thrown away. So far, Carson says, he's sold more than 600 boards, which cost \$98 and up. Sales took off after he appeared on the TV show *Shark Tank* last year.

►CARSON SAYS:



How to Raise a Hippo

The staff at the Cincinnati Zoo raised Fiona the hippo from birth—and helped her become a celebrity.

This time last year, staff members at the Cincinnati Zoo in Ohio were buzzing with anticipation. Bibi, the zoo's 17-year-old Nile hippopotamus, was going to have a baby.

But the excitement soon turned to panic. Bibi gave birth to a calf, named Fiona, on January 24—six weeks earlier than expected. Newborn hippos usually weigh from 50 to 120 pounds, but Fiona weighed just 29 pounds.

"I was amazed she was alive," says Christina Gorsuch, the zoo's curator of mammals. "She was just so tiny."

Fiona was so weak that she couldn't stand on her own. Had she been born in the wild, the hippo likely would have died that night. The zoo staff knew it was up to them to save her. Fiona's story of survival became one of the feel-good stories of 2017 and made her an online star.

Words to Know

premature adjective. born too early

captivating adjective. capable of holding people's attention; charming



Here's Fiona about two weeks after she was born. Her first tooth appeared about a week later.

Humans Help Out

From the start, Fiona's keepers knew they had a tough task ahead. There was no record of a **premature** hippo ever being born alive, let alone surviving.

"The odds were not in our favor," Gorsuch explains.

Early on, the staff cared for the baby hippo 24 hours a day. One of their biggest jobs was making sure she was getting the proper nourishment. Fiona was too weak to nurse from her mother, so zookeepers mixed Bibi's milk with a special formula and fed it to Fiona from a bottle.

The staff also had to carefully regulate the newborn's body temperature. To keep Fiona warm, they set her up in a specially heated room and wrapped her in blankets. They even snuggled with the tiny hippo at night.

Another challenge was keeping Fiona's skin moist. Most hippos spend about 16 hours a day in the water. But because Fiona was too weak to stand, she couldn't go into the zoo's big hippo pool. Instead, zookeepers had to hold her while she splashed around in a kiddie pool.

A Star Is Born

The staff at the zoo weren't the only ones watching Fiona. The day after she was born, the zoo started a blog to update the public on her progress. Each day, the zoo shared photos and videos that showed how the little hippo was doing. A growing online audience watched as Fiona reached every new milestone.

By March, Fiona was strong enough to stand on her own. On March 6, the zoo posted a video

of Fiona nervously walking up a ramp into her new bigger pool. To date, it has been viewed more than 21 million times on Facebook, making it the most popular of the dozens of Fiona videos.

In mid-March, Fiona moved into a new living space and had her first taste of normal hippo food, hay. As her health improved, the zoo staff decided it was time for Fiona to get to know her mother. Bibi hadn't seen her calf since the day Fiona was born. The team was worried that she wouldn't recognize Fiona and might even harm her. But Bibi responded well to her baby. By July, Fiona had moved into the big outdoor pool with her mom.

Now that Fiona was outdoors, her fans finally had a chance to see her in person. The zoo says its attendance for 2017 increased more than 20 percent from the year before—and that its star hippo had a lot to do with that.

"It's an against-all-odds kind of story, and she's insanely cute, and she has so much personality," says Gorsuch. "Those things together just make her very **captivating.**"

A Happy Hippo

Fiona no longer needs round-the-clock care, but her keepers still closely track her development. By mid-December, she weighed 625 pounds, just about what a hippo her age should weigh.

Fiona will celebrate her first birthday this month. Gorsuch says the staff is looking forward to many more exciting moments for Fiona and her many fans.

"We hope for a normal, happy hippo life for her," says Gorsuch. "She's an all-star hippo."

Fiona's First Year



A few weeks after she was born, veterinarians attached a tube to Fiona's nose to help her breathe.



When she was 2 months old, Fiona drank about 2 gallons of formula a day.



Fiona took a lot of naps when she was younger—even when she was in the pool!



Say cheese! Fiona played with her mom, Bibi, in the zoo's big pool last summer.

Caught on Camera?

A rare photo of a famous outlaw may have been found.

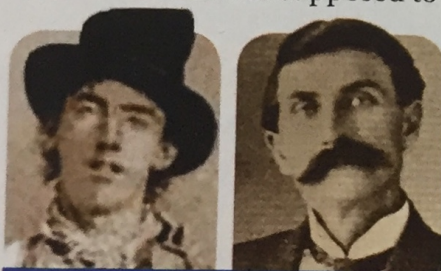
In 2011, Frank Abrams bought three old photographs at a flea market in Asheville, North Carolina, for \$10. One of those photos, which shows a group of five cowboys, may turn out to be worth millions. Some experts believe that photo shows the **notorious** outlaw Billy the Kid and the man who later killed him, Pat Garrett. It would be just the second authentic, or genuine, photo of the Kid ever found.

"I consider myself the luckiest man in the world," says Abrams.

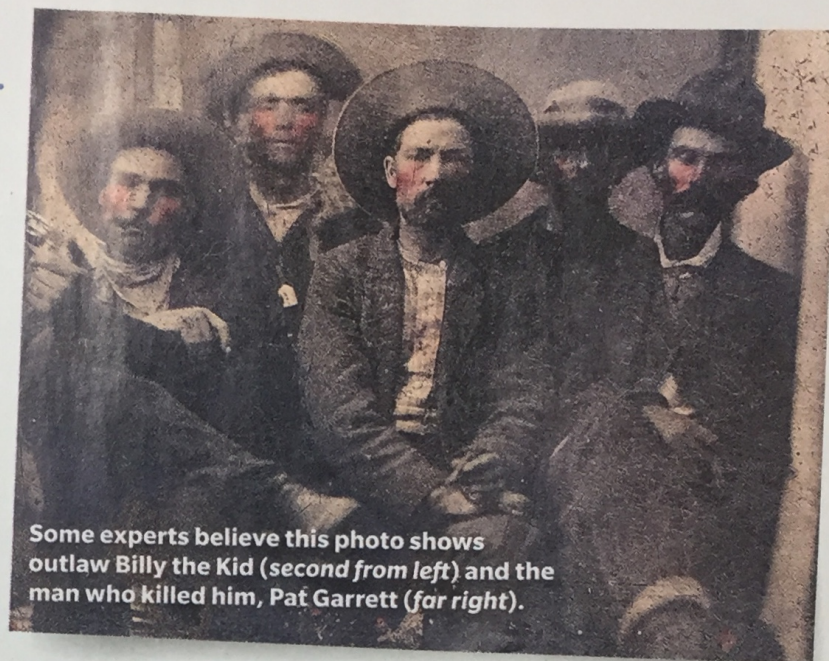
A Famous Chase

The story of Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett is one of the most well-known tales from the Wild West. The Kid's real name was probably Henry McCarty. From 1876 to 1880, he stole cattle and horses and killed several people, including a sheriff and a deputy.

The Kid and Garrett were friends before Garrett was elected sheriff of Lincoln County, New Mexico, in November 1880. Six weeks later, Garrett captured his former friend after a shootout and threw him in jail. But Billy escaped four months later, just weeks before he was supposed to



These are authentic photos of Billy the Kid (left) and Pat Garrett (right). Do you think the men in the photo above look like them?



Some experts believe this photo shows outlaw Billy the Kid (second from left) and the man who killed him, Pat Garrett (far right).

be hanged. He became the most wanted man in the West.

After months of pursuing Billy, Garrett tracked him down on a ranch in New Mexico. The sheriff shot and killed the famous outlaw on July 14, 1881. His death made headlines across the country.

Picture Perfect?

For years, people have hoped to find another photo of Billy the Kid. In 2015, Abrams learned about a photo that some people claim shows the Kid and his gang. (Historians still debate whether that photo really shows the Kid.) That led Abrams to take a closer look at the cowboy photo he had bought four years earlier. While researching the Kid online, he came across several photos of Pat Garrett. Abrams saw a close resemblance between one of the men in his photo and the famous lawman. That got him wondering about the other men in his photo.

Abrams decided to show his image to experts who've studied

old photos, including Kent Gibson. Gibson used special software to match the faces of the men in the photo to pictures of Garrett and members of the Kid's gang.

What about the man in the back left? Is it Billy the Kid? Gibson says that was difficult to confirm because there's only one picture to compare it with. Still, he says with "high certainty" that the man in the back left of Abrams's photo is the famous outlaw. That means the photo could be worth a fortune. The only authentic image of the Kid sold for \$2.3 million in 2011. Abrams says he doesn't plan to sell his prized discovery, but he's learned a valuable lesson.

"Always be curious," he says. "Do your research, do your homework, because what you find might change history."

—by Joe Bubar

Word to Know

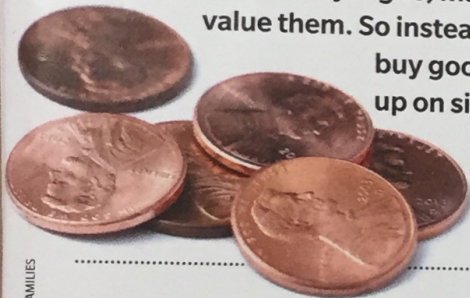
notorious adjective. well-known, especially for something bad

Should We Get Rid of the Penny?

An old saying goes that finding a penny will bring you good luck. But these days, you won't get much of anything for a penny. That's why many people say producing pennies doesn't make "cents" anymore.

Last March, Senators John McCain of Arizona and Mike Enzi of Wyoming introduced a bill in Congress that would stop the production of pennies. The main argument to eliminate the one-cent coin is the cost: It actually costs more to make a penny than the coin is worth. The U.S. Mint, which produces our coins, makes pennies out of zinc and copper. The prices of those metals have gone up in recent years. As a result, in 2016, it cost 1.5 cents to make one penny.

People who support getting rid of pennies also point out that handling them at the cash register adds unnecessary time to most purchases made with cash. Plus, they argue, many Americans don't value them. So instead of being used to buy goods, the coins often end up on sidewalks or between couch cushions. "The penny is now nothing more than a



The U.S. Mint produced more than 8 billion pennies in 2017.

nuisance," says Jeff Gore. He is the founder of a group called Citizens to Retire the U.S. Penny.

But not everyone thinks we should ditch the penny. In fact, in a 2014 survey, only 34 percent of people polled said they were in favor of eliminating the penny. Many argue that without pennies, stores would round up prices. That means a store that currently sells a bottle of water for 98 cents might start charging \$1. Penny supporters say this type of small increase could add up over time, and it might hurt families who struggle to make ends meet.

Here's what two of our readers think.

Yes! It doesn't make sense to keep producing pennies.

There aren't many things you can buy for less than five cents. I have been to only one penny candy store, and they are rare. We cannot use pennies in vending machines or parking meters. Sure, we would lose one part of our currency, but if we can't really buy anything with a penny, why should we keep it?

Plus, the government loses money on every penny it makes. In 2016, the U.S. Mint spent about \$135 million to produce and distribute about \$90 million in pennies.

Other countries, including Brazil, Canada, and Australia, have gotten rid of their lowest-valued coin. The U.S. should be next.



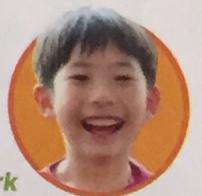
Caroline Brown, Ohio

No! The U.S. Mint should continue making pennies.

Getting rid of the penny would cost people money. Businesses would have to round their prices to the nearest nickel. Most stores and restaurants would probably decide to round up instead of down.

Also, eliminating the penny might not save the government money after all. Without pennies, the U.S. Mint would have to make more nickels. In 2016, it cost more than six cents to make each nickel.

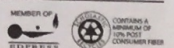
Finally, many people collect pennies, and others donate them to charity. At my school, we had a coin drive, and I donated all the pennies I had saved in my piggy bank.



Eugene Ahn, New York

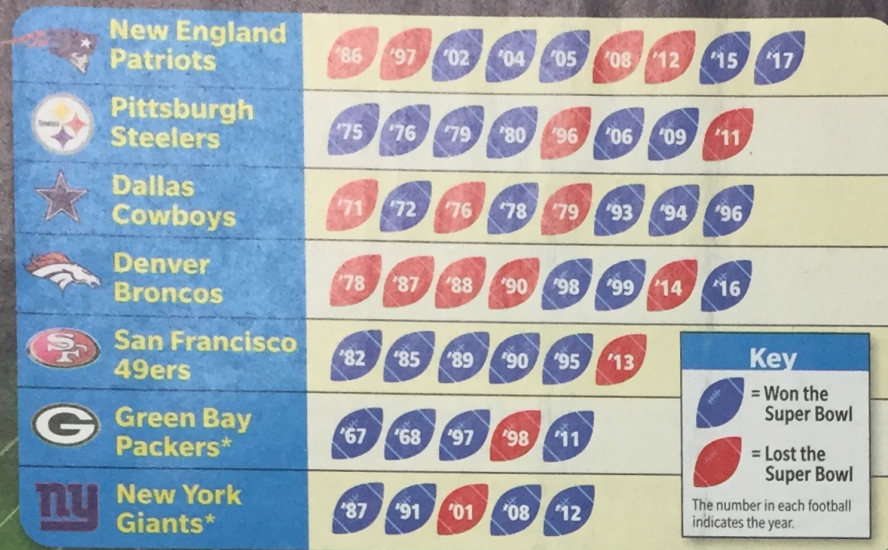
What's Your **OPINION**? Go online to cast your vote and download an opinion-writing skills sheet: www.scholastic.com/sn56

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News Graph

The 52nd Super Bowl kicks off in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on February 4. The pictograph below shows the teams that have played in the most Super Bowls—and whether they won or lost.



*Three other teams (the Dolphins, Raiders, and Redskins) are tied for five Super Bowl appearances but have fewer wins. Source: National Football League

1. Which team has won the most Super Bowls?

2. Which team on the graph has never won the Super Bowl two years in a row?

3a. What fraction of the Super Bowls the Dallas Cowboys have played in did they win?

- (A) $\frac{3}{8}$ (C) $\frac{5}{8}$
 (B) $\frac{3}{5}$ (D) $\frac{5}{3}$

3b. In your answer to 3a, what does the denominator represent?

News Review

How to Raise a Hippo pages 4-5

4. Which detail tells how zookeepers helped Fiona get the proper nourishment?

- (A) "Zookeepers mixed Bibi's milk with a special formula and fed it to Fiona from a bottle."
 (B) "Fiona's keepers knew they had a tough task."
 (C) "They set her up in a specially heated room."
 (D) "Zookeepers had to hold her while she splashed around in a kiddie pool."

5. Which of the following happened last?

- (A) Fiona walked up a ramp to her new bigger pool.
 (B) Fiona joined Bibi in the zoo's outdoor pool.
 (C) Fiona drank 2 gallons of formula each day.
 (D) Fiona ate hay for the first time.

6. Zookeepers worried that Bibi might _____ Fiona.

- (A) miss (C) injure
 (B) recognize (D) abandon

7. Which detail best supports the idea that Fiona is captivating?

- (A) A video of her has been watched more than 21 million times.
 (B) Her weight is normal for a hippo her age.
 (C) She was born six weeks early.
 (D) The zoo staff cared for her 24 hours a day.



Caught on Camera? page 6

8. What is the article mainly about?

- (A) the search for an outlaw from the Wild West
 (B) how technology helps experts identify people in old photos
 (C) a photo of the outlaw Billy the Kid that sold for \$2.3 million
 (D) a photo that may show Billy the Kid and the man who killed him

9. The purpose of the section "A Famous Chase" is to explain _____.

- (A) how Frank Abrams discovered a photo of Billy the Kid
 (B) the history between Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett
 (C) how experts determine if a photo is authentic
 (D) why Abrams decided to take a closer look at an old photo of a group of cowboys

10. Which phrase from the article provides a clue for the meaning of *notorious*?

- (A) "famous outlaw"
 (B) "valuable lesson"
 (C) "former friend"
 (D) "close resemblance"