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# News

with  
Weekly  
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Edition 5/6

**video**

The U.S. Military  
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# Our Parents Are Soldiers

Isabella and Daniel Gomez's parents both serve in the U.S. Army. Find out what it's like to be a military kid. **Page 4**

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# Mummy Mystery

Archaeologists study newly discovered mummies in Egypt.

**D**eep beneath the ground in Luxor, Egypt, a team of archaeologists recently discovered an ancient tomb. Inside the burial site were several mummies. Experts are working to find out who these people were—and whether more mummy-filled tombs are nearby.

Ancient Egyptians preserved the dead as mummies because they believed that a person still needed his or her body in the afterlife. Experts say the newly discovered tomb may lead them to others. **Artifacts** in the tomb show the names of Egyptian officials whose tombs have not yet been found. Archaeologists are hopeful that this is a sign that those lost tombs are close by.

But archaeologists say it's no mystery whom the newfound

## Words to Know

**artifacts** *noun, plural.* objects made or used by people long ago



An archaeologist studies a sarcophagus in the newly discovered tomb. Egyptian mummies were often buried in this type of decorated coffin.

tomb belonged to. Statues of a man named Amenemhat (uh-MEN-uh-mat), his wife, and their son were found in the tomb. Amenemhat lived about 3,500 years ago. He was a goldsmith who made items that honored an Egyptian sun god. Though researchers know the tomb is Amenemhat's, it's still unclear if

the mummies are the remains of the goldsmith and his family.

Archaeologists found other objects in the tomb, including wooden masks and skulls. But so far, none have provided clues as to who the mummies were. Experts will study these mummies—and the area—to see what more they can uncover about Egypt's past.



## Ghostly Giraffes

Giraffes are tan with brown spots, right? Not all of them! This white female giraffe and calf were recently caught on film for the first time outside a nature reserve in Kenya, a country in Africa. They have leucism (LOO-sih-zem), a condition that makes their fur white, so their spots are barely visible. Other animals, including some penguins, buffalo, and moose, have also been found with this condition.

# So Long, Saturn

A spacecraft takes its final look at the ringed planet before vanishing forever.

For nearly 13 years, a spacecraft named Cassini orbited Saturn and its mysterious rings. But in September, that mission ended when Cassini burned up in Saturn's atmosphere.

Scientists at NASA, the U.S. space agency, launched Cassini in October 1997. The spacecraft reached Saturn seven years later and began collecting information about the planet, its rings, and its dozens of moons. During this mission, Cassini orbited Saturn nearly 300 times and took more than 450,000 photos (including the image shown above).

One of the highlights of the mission came in 2005, when Cassini launched a probe that landed on Saturn's biggest moon, Titan. It was the first spacecraft to land on a moon other than Earth's. The probe detected water beneath Titan's surface. Cassini later found

water beneath the surface of another moon, called Enceladus (en-SEH-luh-duhss). The presence of water means there could be life on these moons.

"Finding liquid water was the thing that really knocked everybody's socks off," says Jo Pitesky, a NASA scientist who worked on the Cassini project.

Scientists knew that by the end of the mission, Cassini wouldn't have enough fuel left for the long trip back to Earth.

They worried that it would crash into one of Saturn's moons and **contaminate** the surface. So they decided to send Cassini on a one-way trip into Saturn's atmosphere.

On September 15, Cassini flew through the gap between Saturn and its innermost ring, sending back the most close-up photos of the planet ever taken. Then it burned into pieces, bringing a fiery end to its 20-year mission.



Cassini was about the size of a school bus.

## Word to Know

**contaminate** *verb.* to infect, dirty, or pollute through contact

See some of Cassini's most dramatic photos of Saturn at [www.scholastic.com/sn56](http://www.scholastic.com/sn56).



**NAME:** Lavender Petty

**AGE:** 10

**HOMETOWN:**  
Washington, D.C.

### ▶ WHAT SHE DOES:

Lavender runs a blog called the5FootCritic, where she reviews food and restaurants from a kid's point of view.

### ▶ WHY SHE DOES IT:

Lavender was inspired to start her blog by her grandfather, who's a chef, and her mom, who is also a blogger. Lavender wrote her first review, of a local cupcake shop, earlier this year.

Since then, she has visited dozens of restaurants in Washington, D.C., where she avoids ordering foods like mac and cheese and hamburgers.

"The kids menu is always the same things," the fifth-grader says. "I want to taste all different types of food."

In addition to writing about the food, Lavender rates the service and whether the menu has items for kids who, like her, have food allergies. She hopes to encourage kids to make more interesting food choices.

### ▶ LAVENDER SAYS:

"Don't be scared to try new things."

# Our Parents Are Soldiers

Daniel and Isabella Gomez's mom and dad are in the Army. What's life like for the kids when their parents are serving overseas?

In July 2016, 10-year-old Daniel Gomez and his 5-year-old sister, Isabella, said a tearful goodbye to their mom and dad. Their parents, Jose and Elizabeth, are in the U.S. Army. They were being deployed to Kuwait, a country in the Middle East. It's about 7,000 miles away from their home in El Paso, Texas. They wouldn't return for nine months.

"The hardest part about it was that I couldn't see them in person and I couldn't hug them," Daniel says. Daniel and Isabella are among the nearly 2 million kids in the U.S. who have at least one parent in the military. While their parents have the difficult job of keeping America safe, these kids often face challenges of their own.

## Parents On Duty

Last year's deployment wasn't the first for either of the Gomezes. In 2010, Elizabeth had been sent to Afghanistan, a country in Asia where U.S. troops have been fighting for the past 16 years (see "Fighting Overseas"). Her job is to keep track of everything that her Army unit needs as it moves—such as food, ammunition, supplies, and tanks and other vehicles.

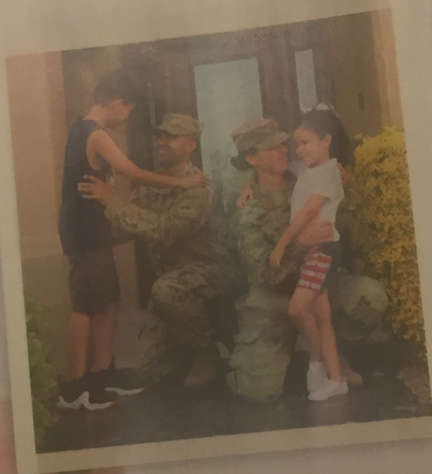
Jose is an artillery targeting officer. He uses maps and computers to locate enemy targets and helps commanders come up with a plan of attack. Jose has been deployed overseas five times, including three tours of duty in Afghanistan.

But last year marked the first time that both parents were sent overseas at the same time. Their Army units were sent to Kuwait in case they needed to assist with military operations in Afghanistan or another nearby country. After a few months, Jose's unit was moved to Iraq, where the U.S. is helping in the fight against terrorists.

## Words to Know

**deployed** verb, past tense. moved troops or equipment into position for military action

**endure** verb. to deal with or accept (usually something difficult or unpleasant)



Jose and Elizabeth Gomez met in 2005 at U.S. Army Airborne School, where soldiers learn to parachute from airplanes.

## A World Apart

Daniel and Isabella had to adjust to life without their parents. They went to live with their grandparents in Tampa, Florida. Daniel says he missed going to the movies and playing basketball with his parents. He also missed the feeling of knowing they'd be home to greet him after school. Plus, he sometimes worried for his parents' safety.

"I get nervous, like I don't know what's going on," Daniel says.

Talking to his parents on FaceTime on his smartphone helped him deal with the stress. Daniel and Isabella chatted with their parents every couple of days while they were deployed. Because of the time difference, when it's morning in Florida, it's the evening in Kuwait and Iraq. So Daniel and Isabella had to talk with their parents early in the morning or late at night. Daniel treasured those moments.

"I would tell them that I miss them," says Daniel. "They calmed me down."

Still, Daniel says the happiest day of his life was when his mom and dad made a surprise return home last March.

## On the Move

For many military kids, life can still be difficult even when their parents aren't overseas. They have to **endure** frequent moves when their parents get relocated to different bases in the U.S. In addition to living in Texas and Florida, Daniel has lived in North Carolina and Virginia.

Daniel's dad knows what that's like for his kids. His father was also in the military.

"You make friends for two or three years, you become comfortable, you know the people, you know the area, and then you just pick up and move and start from scratch," Jose says.

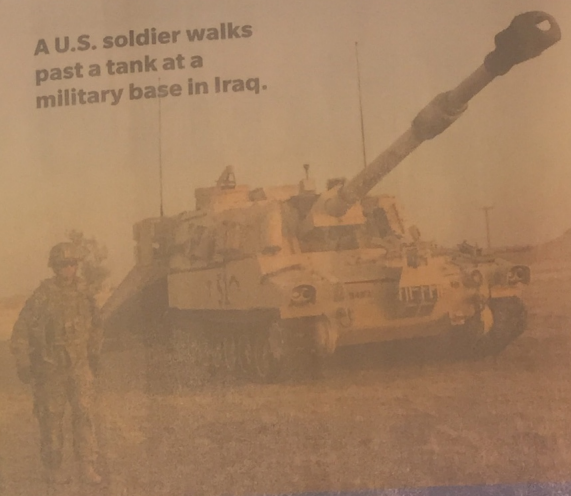
But Daniel says he has gotten used to the moves and making friends in new places. Despite the difficulties, he's proud of his parents. He even wants to join the military when he grows up.

"I'm glad they have this job and that they're serving this country," says Daniel.

—by Joe Bubar



A U.S. soldier walks past a tank at a military base in Iraq.



## Fighting Overseas

Thousands of U.S. troops are serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. Here's why.

### Taking On the Taliban

The war in Afghanistan began in response to the terrorist attacks on the U.S. on September 11, 2001. The following month, the U.S. and its allies invaded Afghanistan to hunt down members of Al Qaeda, the terrorist group responsible for the attacks. The terrorists were being protected by a group called the Taliban that was in control of Afghanistan.

The U.S. and its allies toppled the Taliban and killed or captured many of the terrorists. But the Taliban have been fighting to regain control of the country ever since. About 11,000 U.S. troops are currently serving in Afghanistan. In August, President Donald Trump announced that he would be sending more U.S. troops there.

In the past 16 years, more than 2,400 U.S. troops have been killed in Afghanistan and more than 20,000 have been wounded.

### The Fight Against ISIS

The U.S. fought a war in Iraq from 2003 to 2011, and American troops are still serving there. Now they're helping Iraqi forces fight a terrorist group called the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS. The group has been trying to take over Iraq and the neighboring country of Syria. It has also threatened to destroy the U.S. About 6,000 U.S. troops are fighting ISIS in Iraq and Syria. (American troops are also battling ISIS in Afghanistan and other countries.)

Since 2003, more than 4,500 U.S. troops have been killed in Iraq.

# Wonder Boy

Meet Jacob Tremblay, the 11-year-old star of the movie *Wonder*.

**H**ave you ever felt different from the other kids at school? Auggie Pullman, the protagonist in the best-selling fiction book *Wonder*, by R.J. Palacio, definitely knows what that's like. Auggie was born with a type of facial deformity called a severe craniofacial difference. *Wonder* tells the story of the challenges he faces during his first year in middle school.

This month, Auggie will make the leap from the pages of the book to the big screen. Jacob Tremblay plays Auggie in the movie *Wonder*, which opens in theaters on November 17. Jacob recently talked to *Scholastic News* about what it was like to play this unique character.



Jacob Tremblay



Jacob Tremblay as Auggie Pullman (left) in a scene from the movie version of the book *Wonder*. Noah Jupe plays Auggie's friend Jack (right).

**Scholastic News: What did you do to prepare to play Auggie?**

**Jacob Tremblay:** I read the book, and I loved it. I learned a lot about people with differences, including facial differences. My family and I went on a retreat in Florida where I got to hang out with some really cool kids who are like Auggie.

**SN: Are you and Auggie alike at all?**

**Jacob:** Auggie and I have lots of things in common. We both have good imaginations. We're both huge Star Wars fans. We both have pet dogs, and we both have an older sister. But most of all, Auggie just wants to have friends and he just wants to have fun,

**Word to Know**

**protagonist** noun. the main character in a story, book, movie, or play

and I want the same things, like most kids. Even though people may look different or act different, everyone's still human.

**SN: To play this role, you had to be made to look like Auggie. What was the makeup process like?**

**Jacob:** It took two hours every day to put the makeup on. Once I got used to the process, it actually felt shorter. I would watch movies and shows while they applied the makeup.

**SN: Dealing with bullying is a big part of Auggie's story. Have you been bullied in real life?**

**Jacob:** I've had some experiences with bullying. When I got bullied, I would just ignore it and go to a different space in my head and

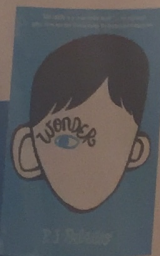
try not to care about what they said. I also would talk to my mom about it. And I would try and make sure that I was not rude back to the bullies.

**SN: What do you hope people will learn from this movie?**

**Jacob:** I hope that they will learn that if you're kind to other people, then they'll be kind back. Even if other people are pressuring you to be rude, you should still be kind.

—Interview by Nicole Tocco

*Wonder* has sold more than 5 million copies since it was published in 2012.



JOHN SCHULTEGETT IMAGES FOR SPOTLIGHT CINEMA NETWORK (JACOB TREMBLAY); DALE ROBINETT/COURTESY OF SCHOLASTIC ENTERTAINMENT (WONDER); COURTESY OF ALPHEA (A. PATRIP) (GROSS)

## Is It OK for Restaurants to Ban Kids?

No kids allowed! That's the rule at the Chart Room First Class Coffee Lounge in the town of Brixham in England. Owner Bob Higginson doesn't allow anyone under the age of 12 in his eatery. Higginson says many adults want a place where they can eat and relax without noisy kids bothering them. In fact, he says, the Chart Room is now the busiest coffee shop in the neighborhood.

"I felt there was a need for a child-free zone that many adults want and enjoy undisturbed—parents included," says Higginson.

A lot of other people like the idea of not allowing kids in certain restaurants. They point out there are plenty of family-friendly restaurants and coffee shops where parents can go with their kids.

But many people oppose Higginson's rule and have sent him angry emails and messages on Facebook and Twitter to let him know. Some argue that adults



can be just as loud and rude at restaurants as kids might be, but no one is banning them. Others say restaurants that don't allow kids spoil families' chances for a special night out together. They point out that dining out together lets busy parents take a break from cooking while still spending time with their kids. Plus, not all parents can easily find or afford babysitters. Many people argue that if a child is acting up at a restaurant, the manager should speak to that individual family rather than banning all kids.

Here's what two of our readers think.

### Yes! Some restaurants just aren't places for kids.

When I go out to eat, I often see kids who are misbehaving. Kids can be really loud, like they are in the lunchroom at school. That type of behavior isn't appropriate at a restaurant.

Also, kids can sometimes be clumsy and spill things. It would be horrible if a kid spilled juice or something else on a fancy tablecloth at an expensive restaurant.

A lot of restaurants don't serve food that kids would like anyway. So kids wouldn't even want to go to some restaurants. Plus, staying home means they can do other fun things. When my parents go out to eat, I get to spend extra time with my grandma or my friends.



Clayton DeBruyn, Michigan

### No! It's not fair for some restaurants to ban kids.

I love going out to eat with my family, and I'd be upset if my favorite restaurants didn't allow kids. Kids want to spend time with their parents, not sit at home while they go out to eat.

Plus, it's fun to try new foods and check out different restaurants. One time, I went to a restaurant that had sports helmets hanging from the ceiling. It wouldn't be fair if I were banned from this cool place just because of my age.

Besides, most kids are well-behaved at restaurants. When I go out to a fancy restaurant, I use my best manners and put my napkin on my lap. As long as kids aren't rude and disruptive, they should be allowed in all restaurants.



Caitlyn Wood, Missouri

**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)

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name \_\_\_\_\_

## News Chart

Both Jose and Elizabeth Gomez serve in the U.S. Army, one of the five branches of the armed forces. Use this chart to answer the questions.



### The U.S. Armed Forces

Branch	Year Created	Did You Know?	Current Number of Troops*
Army	1775	George Washington was the first commander of the Army.	466,000
Navy	1775	The Navy has 279 battle-ready ships and more than 3,700 aircraft.	320,000
Marine Corps	1775	The Marines are often the first branch to go into a dangerous area on land or at sea.	184,000
Coast Guard	1790	This branch defends U.S. coastlines and waterways and makes sure people obey the laws in those places.	41,000
Air Force	1947	The Air Force was part of the Army until it became a separate branch.	319,000

1. About how many more people currently serve in the Army than in the Navy?

2. Which two branches have about the same number of troops?

3. Which statement is false?

- Ⓐ The Marine Corps and the Army were formed in the same year.
- Ⓑ The Air Force is the youngest branch of the military.
- Ⓒ The Air Force used to be part of the Army.
- Ⓓ The Air Force is the only branch that has aircraft.

## News Review

### Mummy Mystery page 2

4. What is the mystery related to the newly discovered tomb in Luxor, Egypt?

- Ⓐ whom the tomb belonged to
- Ⓑ when Amenemhat lived
- Ⓒ what Amenemhat's job was
- Ⓓ who the mummies inside the tomb were

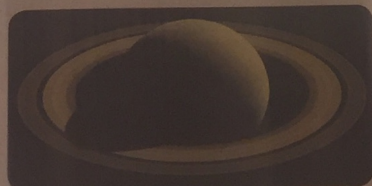
5. According to the article, archaeologists think the artifacts found inside the tomb may help them \_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ locate the tombs of Egyptian officials that have not been found yet
- Ⓑ understand why the ancient Egyptians preserved the dead as mummies
- Ⓒ learn more about an ancient Egyptian sun god
- Ⓓ find clues about the afterlife

### So Long, Saturn page 3

6. What happened to Cassini at the end of its mission?

- Ⓐ It crashed into one of Saturn's moons.
- Ⓑ It burned up in Saturn's atmosphere.
- Ⓒ It began the long trip back to Earth.
- Ⓓ It landed on one of Saturn's moons to search for water.



### Our Parents Are Soldiers pages 4-5

7. Last year was the first time \_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Elizabeth Gomez was sent to Afghanistan
- Ⓑ Jose Gomez was deployed overseas
- Ⓒ Jose and Elizabeth Gomez served overseas at the same time
- Ⓓ Daniel and Isabella Gomez had to move to a new state

8. To endure something means that you \_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ have to deal with it
- Ⓑ disapprove of it
- Ⓒ stop it
- Ⓓ enjoy it

9. According to Daniel Gomez, the happiest day of his life was when \_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ his parents joined the U.S. Army
- Ⓑ his parents made a surprise return home
- Ⓒ he went to live with his grandparents in Florida
- Ⓓ he talked to his parents on FaceTime last year

10. The purpose of the map on page 5 is to show \_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ the locations of the countries mentioned in the article
- Ⓑ all the places where the Gomezes have lived
- Ⓒ Daniel and Isabella Gomez's current hometown
- Ⓓ every country where U.S. troops are stationed