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The informative easy to read introduction to world news



## Activities

## Basic version

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Transit of Mercury (Page 1)

**Instructions:** Read the article ‘Transit of Mercury’.

Fill in the boxes with the correct answers to find the mystery word.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

### Clues

1. However, years later, because of its size, Pluto was “\_\_\_\_\_” to a dwarf planet
2. Of the eight planets in the Solar System, Mercury is \_\_\_\_\_ to the Sun
3. The four \_\_\_\_\_ planets to the Sun, Mercury, Venus, the Earth, and Mars, are all “rocky”
4. It may be the smallest planet, but \_\_\_\_\_ is also the fastest
5. In 2014, the rover \_\_\_\_\_ Mercury transiting, or moving across the face of, the Sun
6. Expeditions were sent from \_\_\_\_\_, Austria and France to record the event
7. The Transits of Mercury and Venus are \_\_\_\_\_ important
8. In 2012 a NASA robotic vehicle landed on \_\_\_\_\_
9. Transits of Venus are less \_\_\_\_\_
10. Mercury is named after a \_\_\_\_\_ god, or deity

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**'Strangely toothed' creature (Page 7)**

**Instructions:** Read the article 'Strangely toothed' creature'.  
Check either true or false for the following statements.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Of all marine animals that have ever lived on the Earth only a few are carnivores.		
2. The researchers say that the creature's mouth looked like the end of a vacuum cleaner.		
3. Two years ago scientists uncovered an ancient fossil in Yunnan province, in south west Japan.		
4. They think that it used its teeth to scrape algae off the rocks on the seabed.		
5. In the Earth's long history there have been several mass extinctions.		
6. The new fossils show that the reptile had a T- or hammer-shaped head and snout.		
7. When shut, the reptile's mouth and teeth would have looked like a closed zip.		
8. The reptile sucked in the "cloud" and opened its mouth.		
9. The mass extinction at the beginning of the Permian is also called the Great Dying.		
10. The scientists suspected that the marine creature used its mouth like a shark.		



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Runestone translation (Page 8)

**Instructions:** Read the article 'Runestone translation'.  
Draw a line to connect the correct links. The first is done for you.

Riddles	Denmark
Vikings	Legends
Rök	Devil worshipers
Sagas	Puzzles
Jewelry	Christian Church
Norway	Sweden
Roman alphabet	Scandinavia
Runic script	Swords

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**New national mammal (Page 10)**

**Instructions:** Read the article 'New national mammal'.  
Answer questions 1-8. The first is done for you.

1. I am the mythical symbol of Indonesia.

G A R U D A

2. I am a symbol of New Zealand.

□ □ □ □

3. Many Native Americans died from me.

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. I am another name for bison.

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

5. I am the national bird of the U.S.

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

6. I am a river in the U.S.

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

7. I am a springbok. I am the national animal of this country.

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

8. I signed the ruling into law.

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**World Map (Page 13)**

**Instructions:** Listed below are 12 countries. Eliminate from the list those countries that appear on the map of the world. You will be left with one country that is not named on the map. That is the answer.

Finland

Colombia

Azerbaijan

China

Norway

Philippines

Russia

Venezuela

Germany

Tunisia

Argentina

Kazakhstan

**Missing Country =**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Endeavour found? (Page 3)**

**Instructions:** Read the article 'Endeavour found?'.  
Fill in the boxes with the correct answers to find the mystery word.

Fill in the boxes with the correct answers to find the mystery word.

1.											
2.											
3.											
4.											
5.											
6.											
7.											
8.											
9.											
10.											

**Clues**

1. In 1768 Cook was appointed as the \_\_\_\_\_ of *Endeavour*
2. He joined the navy and became an expert \_\_\_\_\_, or mapmaker
3. Scientists on his ship collected \_\_\_\_\_ of local plants
4. This city is in Rhode Island, one of \_\_\_\_\_ smallest states
5. To get to Tahiti, Cook sailed across the \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean
6. Lord \_\_\_\_\_ was the man in charge of the British navy
7. Cook mapped the coast of New \_\_\_\_\_ two largest islands
8. If they do locate the *Lord Sandwich* then they would have found \_\_\_\_\_
9. Best known as the *Endeavour*, the \_\_\_\_\_ is close to Newport
10. Cook named the place where he landed in \_\_\_\_\_ Botany Bay