

JET,
SET,
GOAL!

Wield a pencil, sharpen your mind and get cracking. Try this Times NIE worksheet that is set to keep your brain ticking

YOUR OPINION

DO YOU TREASURE A HOT CUP OF TEA LIKE MOST INDIANS?

Masala chai, a beloved Indian beverage, has secured the second spot on a prestigious rating of the world's top non-alcoholic drinks, as per TasteAtlas. Describing masala chai as an aromatic beverage originating from India, the Zagreb-headquartered online culinary guide shared this in an Instagram post, revealing a list of winners from its year-end 2023-24 awards. The beverage prepared by combining sweetened milk with black tea infused with a blend of spices known as masala is a 'pick-me-up' for countless desis. The Instagram post received an overwhelming response, amassing over 5K likes and generating numerous comments. Indian food enthusiasts and chai lovers from around the world expressed their pride and admiration for masala chai's global recognition. Masala chai's placement on this list not only celebrates India's rich culinary heritage but also highlights the enduring popularity and appeal of this aromatic beverage.

Students, tell us your opinion: Prompts: (Pick any one line of thought) 1. Tea is a beverage, chai is an emotion. What do you think? 2. What is your opinion of these 'best of the best' lists? Do you follow them? 3. Most Indians have a 'the day chai saved me story'. Share yours. 4. Are you a foodie? Write a colourful anecdote on a dish that you tried for the first time.

Share your thoughts at toinie175@gmail.com
(Please send in a word doc format)

HOW TO USE THIS PAGE

'Skill Sift' is a page designed to promote the "21st century skills" or the 3Ls:

- Learning Skills: Critical Thinking, Creativity & Innovation, Collaboration, Communication
- Literacy Skills: Information Literacy, Media Literacy, Technology Literacy
- Life Skills: Flexibility and Adaptability, Leadership and

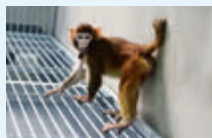
Responsibility, Initiative and Self-Direction, Productivity & Accountability, Social and Cross-Cultural Interaction

You can use this page daily to:

1. Enhance critical and creative thinking skills
2. Increase news awareness
3. Start a discussion on important current topics
4. Expand worldviews
5. Improve writing skills
6. Enhance visual thinking

Do give us your feedback and how you found this page useful. Please write to us at toinie175@gmail.com

QUIZ TIME



Pic: AFP PHOTO / HANDOUT / Zhao Di Liao / Nature Communications

Question 1: This Rhesus monkey caused a flutter in scientific community recently. Do you know why?

- ☐ It's the first cloned rhesus monkey to reach adulthood.
☐ It's a culprit in a high-stakes robbery in Berlin.
☐ It's being trained to go on a space mission.
☐ It survived a complicated surgery involving a heart transplant.



Pic: AFP PHOTO / Garcia / Joannes-Boyeau (Southern Cross University)

Question 2: Can you identify this species of ape, which at 3-metres is now thought to be largest primate to exist and a very distant human ancestor before going extinct.

- ☐ Titanoprimateus darki
☐ Colossalanthropus ebonyi
☐ Gigantopithecus blacki
☐ Megamonkey obsidianensis



Question 3: Do you know what does the Slender Loris like to eat?

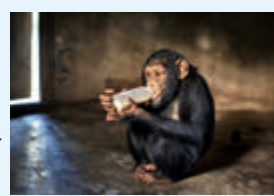
- ☐ Flowers
☐ Slugs
☐ All of the above

Question 4:

The chimpanzee is credited as one of the smartest primates to ever walk on earth.

Which of the following option is not within its intellectual capabilities?

- ☐ Learning sign language
☐ Self recognition in a mirror
☐ Making spears for hunting
☐ Solving Wordle



Pic: Dan Kitwood/Getty Images

Answers: 1. It's the first cloned rhesus monkey to reach adulthood; 2. Gigantopithecus blacki; 3. Slugs; 4. Solving Wordle

WRITE PRACTICE

HOW TO WRITE A SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET

■ **Know the structure:** Sonnet is made of 14 lines (that's non-negotiable). A Shakespearean sonnet is divided into 4 subgroups – first three subgroups have four lines each, which makes them "quatrains," with the second and fourth lines of each group containing rhyming words. It concludes with a two-line subgroup, and these two lines rhyme with each other: There are typically ten syllables per line. There are four types of sonnets but a Shakespearean one is most common.

■ **Rhyme scheme:** A Shakespearean sonnet employs the following rhyme scheme across its 14 lines: ABAB CDCD EFEF GG.

■ **Write on familiar topics:** Before obsessing over the right syllable count, rhyme scheme, and the number of lines, draw inspiration from your life for a topic.

■ **Start with a question:** Shakespeare started perhaps the most famous sonnet ever with "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" Start your sonnet with a query.

Prompt: Pick a topic of your choice. A school day or your best friend. Choose your sonnet style. Use the last two line to sum up the poem or give it a twist.

REASON ASSERTION

In the following questions, the assertions and reasons have been put forward. Read both statements carefully and choose the correct alternative from the following: a) Both the Assertion and Reason are correct and the Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion; b) The Assertion and Reason are correct but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion; c) The Assertion is true but the Reason is false; d) The Assertion is false but the Reason is true

QUESTION:

Assertion: Zirconium can be purified by van



Arkel method. Reason: ZrI4 is volatile and decomposes at 1800K.

EXPLAINED: The Van Arkel technique is used to refine Zirconium or Titanium. Impurities found in Zirconium or Titanium in the form of nitrogen and oxygen are eliminated

using this technique. To make metal iodide, the unrefined metal is heated with iodine in an evacuated tank. The metal iodide being more covalent, volatilises and decomposes at 1800K to give pure Zr.

Answer: (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

LEARNING OUTCOME: This section will help you with critical thinking as it encourages you to analyse and evaluate information. It also increases scientific literacy and cognitive flexibility.

GET THE PICTURE

What do you think is happening in the picture?

1. Write a caption. (Less than 20 words)

2. Write three descriptive sentences after looking at this pic.



WHAT'S HAPPENING? A fountain at Antioch in downtown Houshou still runs as ice bitterly cold freeze, with temperature hitting record lows of -12 degrees. AP

WORD OF THE DAY

adjudicate

uh-joo-di-keyt / verb

The word was in news after a recent case on whether salaries of nuns and priests should be taxed came up in Supreme Court. Can you use it in a sentence?

WRITE SENTENCE HERE

Adjudicate: _____

WHAT IT MEANS

■ make a formal judgement on a disputed matter. Eg: "The Committee adjudicates on all disputes"
■ act as a judge in a competition. Eg: "We asked him to adjudicate at the local flower show."
■ pronounce or declare judicially. Eg: "He was adjudicated bankrupt."

USED IN CONTEXT

Should the salaries of nuns and priests, working as teachers in government-aided Christian missionary schools, be subjected to income tax? The Supreme Court has agreed to **adjudicate** this question raised by nearly 100 dioceses and congregations from Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

LET'S TALK

A HOUSE ON WHEELS

Create a chat between Rhea and Ryan



WHAT'S THIS PIC?

A woman rides a bicycle transporting bamboo and rattan household items for sale on a street in Hanoi, Vietnam. AP
Prompt: Ever seen a street vendor carrying interesting wares? Talk about that.

Rhea: _____
Ryan: _____

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MY RESOLUTIONS FOR 2024

As the New Year unfolds, I have decided upon a host of resolutions and dreams ready to take flight and reach new heights. Here are my five resolutions for 2024:

1. The first and foremost aim is to master a new language. I would like to learn Spanish and it will be amazing to speak a new language and surprise

POSITIVE STEPS



my friends.

2. The second intent is to avoid more than necessary texting to people on social media and try out writing letters by post as was the practice earlier when smartphone didn't exist.

3. My third vow is to incorporate an hour of physical exercise every evening in my daily routine. Investing these sixty minutes will help me become fit and healthy.

4. Next, I have an innovative resolution in store tagged as "To-Be Accomplished" for the year 2024. I have learnt some cooking and now, I have resolved to make a new dish for my family every now and then – especially on weekends.

5. Lastly, I will start writing a gratitude journal every night before I go to sleep. This will help me get into the practice of writing every day and will also help me express my feelings better.

DEBABRATA HAZRA, class VIII, Magnus Global School, Burdwan, West Bengal

Painters' Gallery



YIBHA, class XI, Vidya Jain Public School, Rohini, Delhi



ARDIKA GUPTA, class VIII, Ryan International School, Kandivali, Maharashtra

SOCIAL MEDIA'S IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION

Embarking on a journey through the digital landscape, I am intrigued by the profound impact social media wields in shaping public opinion. As a virtual hub accessible to 61% of the global population, it serves as a dynamic force influencing perspectives worldwide.

LOT OF MISINFORMATION ALONG WITH GOOD INFO

While platforms like Twitter and Facebook offer unique spaces for expression of thoughts and opinion, there is a darker side to it all. The ease with which misinformation spreads is disconcerting. The Covid-19 pandemic



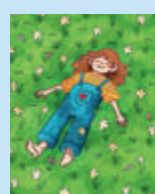
time witnessed a surge in false claims circulating on popular social media platforms, exemplifying the tangible consequences of misinformation. This dual impact of social media, as a powerful tool for expression and a potential source of harm, defines social media's intricate role in modern life.

SAKKHI DUTTA, class VIII, The Indian Heights School, Dwarka, New Delhi

I FEEL THIS

Do you want to be our next contributor? Share your thoughts at toinie175@gmail.com. You can also log in to toistudent.com

WHEN I WAS A KID



I used to roam in my invisible jeep, With my wildest sheep. We sang in busy mornings, Those thoughts still linger. Yes, we were reckless, but not ruthless, We did fight, but getting along was in sight. Because our minds were light, And we were on a never-ending flight. We were steady in our lead, But time leaped. I was always a lousy sleeper, And on a voyage with my adventure seekers, But we moved, time flew, Saying goodbye ain't new. Inside I haven't changed a bit, I am still like how, when I was a kid.

DHARSAY, class X, Vellalar Mt Hr Sec School, Thindal, Erode, Tamil Nadu