

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

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

GET THE PICTURE

What do you think is happening in the picture?

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

2. What emotions does this pic evoke?

3. Flower rangolis are more eco-friendly. But how can one dispose of the flowers ethically? Write two ideas.



WHAT'S HAPPENING? Students of Pratistha stand around a Ram temple rangoli in Ahmedabad. REUTERS/Anil Dave

YOUR OPINION



WILL DRONES DO BETTER JOB THAN MULES?

The sturdy and surefooted mules of the Army that have been transporting crucial loads to forward border posts through treacherous routes for over a century are now slowly but steadily marching into history. The Army is progressively inducting logistics drones, robotic mules, all-terrain vehicles and rough-terrain vehicles, in conjunction with the improvement in border infrastructure and better last-mile connectivity, to replace its existing animal transport fleet. Under the overall "force restructuring and optimisation" plan, the Army has already reduced the number of its "mountain artillery mules" by 1,500. Over 3,300 "general service mules" that transport rations, fuel, water and ammunition will be progressively retired by the end of this decade. The disbanding of so many animal transport companies will also lead to the closure of five mobile field veterinary hospitals and the remount training school and depot. The unsung mules, though few of them have commendation cards, deserve a well-earned rest. **TNN**

Students, tell us your opinion: Prompts: (Pick any one)
1. Will doing away with mules make the Army function better? Think and write how. 2. Research on the army mules and write about it. 3. Modernisation promotes efficiency. Comment. 4. How are drones used in military ops? Research and write.

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

QUIZ TIME



Question 1: Ravan was a devout follower of Lord Shiva and a great scholar and musician. On which instrument was he a maestro?

- ☐ Veena
- ☐ Sitar
- ☐ Tabla
- ☐ Santoor

Question 2: According to legend, which modern Indian city corresponds to the place where Lakshman cut off Surpanakha's nose?

- ☐ Nagpur
- ☐ Nashik
- ☐ Naggar
- ☐ Anantnag

Question 3: Jatayu, the mighty bird who fought valiantly to thwart Ravan as he abducted Sita, was the nephew of which other legendary bird?

- ☐ Kartikeya's Mayuram
- ☐ Saraswati's Hamsa
- ☐ Vishnu's Garuda
- ☐ Gandaberunda

Question 4: Sharanga was the name of Ram's mighty bow is his battles against Ravan. Who gave him the bow?

- ☐ Vishnu
- ☐ Shiva
- ☐ Brahma
- ☐ Parashuram

Answers: 1. Veena; 2. Nashik; 3. Garuda; 4. Parashuram

WRITE PRACTICE

HOW TO WRITE A MANIFESTO

A manifesto is a written statement outlining what a person or group stands for and how they plan to effect change. Here are a few tips to write an effective one:

- **Come in many forms:** Manifestos come in a few different forms. You can use a political manifesto as a public declaration of intentions to change the world at large, whereas a personal manifesto might state who you are and who you hope to become.
- **Be concise:** Manifestos should be brief, snappy and quickly list the calls to action rather than an exhaustive report of every reason you believe what you do.
- **Catch the reader's interest:** Do your best to make your manifesto as engaging as possible. Use alliteration, figurative language and interesting comparisons you're able to derive from your own experiences.

■ **Who you are representing:** Think about the community you are seeking to represent and the issues and improvements that might matter to them.

■ **What makes you stand out:** Think about how to make your campaign memorable. Some candidates choose a slogan, hashtag, colours or campaign theme. This can make it easier to create a coherent brand that is recognisable across different platforms.

Prompt: Use this information to draft your student election manifesto and present it to your teachers.

REASON ASSERTION



IN THE NEWS FOR: Kisun Chung, CEO, HD Hyundai Co., at 2024 CES in Las Vegas. The event typically doubles as a preview of how tech giants and startups will market their wares. Early announcements indicate that AI-branded products will become the new 'smart' gadgets of 2024

QUESTION:
Assertion: International trade has undergone a sea of changes in the last decades.
Reason: Exchange of commodities and goods have been superseded by the exchange of information and knowledge.



EXPLAINED: International trade refers to the exchange of goods, services, and capital across international borders. It plays a crucial role in the economic development of countries by promoting specialisation, increasing market size, and fostering competition. Over the last decades, international trade has indeed undergone significant changes. Rapid advancements in technology, particularly in communication and transportation, have revolutionised international trade. The development of the internet, digital platforms, and logistics systems has made it easier and more efficient to conduct trade across borders, especially in information and knowledge-based economy.

Answer: A. Both A and R are true and R is 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.

LET'S TALK

UNITED COLOURS OF INDIA

Create a chat between Rhea and Ryan



WHAT'S THIS PIC?

A rangoli event organised in Nagpur on the occasion of Pran Pratistha ceremony in Ayodhya. Prompt: Chat about a rangoli you made.

Rhea:

Ryan:

Share on toinie175@gmail.com

THE BEAUTY OF LEPAKSHI TEMPLE

The beauty and architecture of temples fascinate me. Lepakshi Temple, situated in Andhra Pradesh, is one that left me spellbound. The temple was built in 1530 AD by brothers Virupanna Nayaka and Viranna, who were governors during the Vijayanagar Empire. And what is the meaning of



CULTURE CROWN



Lepakshi? It means 'bird.'

IT'S A SHIVA TEMPLE

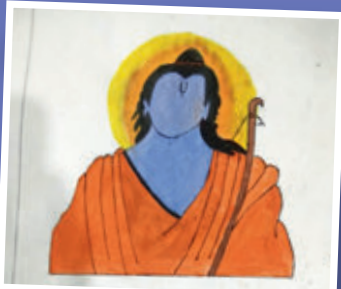
Lepakshi Temple is dedicated to Virabhadra, a fierce incarnation of Lord Shiva. This is the place where Jatayu fell for the first time, when he tried to protect Sita from being abducted by the demon king Ravana. When you visit the temple, you can see the footprints of Sita and water gushing out of this beautiful place. The temple has 70 pillars, but there is one pillar, which doesn't touch the ground, which is known as the hanging pillar. Lepakshi Temple also houses a Shiva statue of seven snakes and a huge statue of Nandi - Shiva's vehicle. Hats off to the people who built this temple at the time when technology was not advanced.

DINESH KUMAR, class VIII, Sharada Vidyalaya Public School, Delhi

Painters' Gallery



R HASVIKA, class IV, DPS, Secunderabad



AYAANSH SALVE, class VIII, St Peters High School, Kompally, Hyderabad

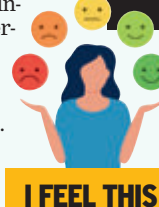
DIVERSITY IN BEAUTY STANDARDS IS A MUST

I write to you with a passion for promoting diversity in beauty standards, a cause that I believe requires urgent attention and reconsideration in our society. The specific beauty norm I wish to address is the prevailing notion that a single, narrow definition of beauty is universally applicable.

Embracing a beauty norm that values individuality and encourages people to appreciate and highlight their distinctive traits is what is required. This shift promotes a more inclusive and diverse perception of beauty, fostering self-acceptance and breaking free from societal expectations. Let's celebrate unique features like freckles, scars, or unconventional hair textures and promote diversity in beauty.



Thank You, Nayonika for replying to the question asked in the Lifestyle page about 'diversity in beauty.' Keep writing to us and encourage your classmates/friends for the same. Your views matter.



I FEEL THIS

NAYONIKA DUTTA, class XI, Shri Shikshayatan School, Kolkata

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

FROM DULL TO DOMINANT

Well, you were the one Whom I could tell my secrets. Untangled. The nostalgia you left behind In the core of my heart. Undefined. The friendship we indulged in a year ago... Time changes, so do people we know. You transformed into someone, I never expected. You tried hard to make me dumb But I got smarter in the nick of time. Now remember that when you left me... You claimed I was nothing for you, My dear friend And see the same situation Came back to you. At that time, I felt alone and now... I feel like a solitary person who enjoys being alone. Deep inside I was hurt long ago. Carrying a mask of smile, But my real friends got me out of it And made me twinkle again.

RASHI MALHOTRA, class IX, Prabhu Dayal Public School, Delhi