

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 toiniel75@gmail.com

YOUR OPINION

IS IT AN ORRY STATE OF AFFAIRS?

Recently, social commentator and Times columnist Santosh Desai wrote about the current social media trending topic: Orny. He starts off with his latest appearance on the popular talk show 'Koffee with Karan' talking about creating a 'relevance room' where three people hashed out a strategy for keeping him relevant. He writes: "Brand Orny, for that is what he refers to himself as, is everywhere, having first materialised on our screens as a piece of wet Velcro stuck on the arm of some film star kid or the other. Soon, it proliferated and infected every part of our media ecosystem. What makes the brand tick? He represents a form of radical honesty about all our digital pretensions. He openly and unashamedly plans every appearance, is exceedingly self-aware about the importance of being seen with the right people. He has not forced himself into our attention; it is we who have forced him into ours. The phenomenon will die, as it has to. Those are the rules of the game, and he knows them. Yet, we have a lot to learn from Orny. About ourselves."

Students, tell us your opinion: Prompts: (Pick any one line of thought) 1. Famous for being famous or knowing famous people? Write a note about this social media phenomenon. 2. Would you like to become an influencer? Give reasons why/why not? 3. How does social media and paparazzi culture create these random personalities? Think & write about the making of a social media brand. 4. Do you think "influencing" as a profession is over? Give your reasons.

Share your thoughts at toiniel75@gmail.com (Please send in a word doc format)

QUIZ TIME

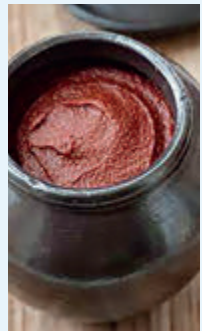
Question 1: The painting 'Lady in the Moonlight' is by which of the following artists?

- ☐ S L Haldankar
☐ Raja Ravi Varma
☐ S H Raza
☐ M F Husain



Question 2: Gochujang paste is a Korean ingredient paste made with?

☐ Red chillies
☐ Fish
☐ Cabbage
☐ Chocolate



Question 3: Name the sculptor hailing from Karnataka who made the Ram Lalla idol for Ayodhya's Ram Mandir?

- ☐ Arun Yogi
☐ Yogiraj Charan
☐ Arun Yogiraj
☐ Ajay Karnam

Question 4: Identify this fort situated near Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra.

☐ Raigad Fort
☐ Pratapgarh Fort
☐ Rajgad Fort
☐ Vasai Fort



Answers: 1. Raja Ravi Varma; 2. Red chillies; 3. Arun Yogiraj; 4. Pratapgarh Fort

WRITE PRACTICE

HOW TO

WRITE A BOOK REVIEW

Learning how to write reviews will do you a world of good and improve your comprehension and writing skills. Here are some tips...

■ **What you liked:** Focus on your thoughts and feelings about the story and the way it was told. You could try answering questions like: Who was your favourite character, and why? Did the storyline appeal to you? Did you like any character and did you feel that a certain character wasn't fleshed out well? As you answer these questions, you will set the tone for the review.

■ **Critique:** Once you have said what you liked about the book, look at the points that didn't work for you. Did you find the plot

stretched or slow? Did the end leave you wanting for more? Write freely. Later, edit out parts that sound repetitive or unfair to you. ■ **Round up:** Summarise some of your thoughts on the book by suggesting the type of reader you would recommend the book to. For example: younger readers, older readers, fans of mystery stories/slice of life/hope/abstract/fiction/non-fiction. Did the book remind you of any other book you could compare it to? If yes, write about it and elaborate your reasons for doing so. Good luck and happy writing!

Prompt: Do read the complete book before you begin to write about it. In fact, read the portions you liked and disliked twice to be sure about your thoughts.

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: India is a republic.

Reason: India has an elected head.



representatives. The President is elected, rather than being a hereditary monarch.

Answer: A. Both A and R are correct and R is correct explanation

EXPLAINED: India is a republic because it has a written Constitution that outlines the powers and functions of the government, including the office of the President, who is the head of the state and is elected by an electoral college consisting of elected

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. Basmati got the title of the 'best rice in world' for year 2023-24 by popular food and travel guide Taste Atlas. Does India's presence on these kind of best of best lists make you proud? Write your thoughts.



Basmati derives from the Sanskrit word 'basamati', which literally means 'fragrant'. The rice gets its unique aroma from a cocktail of 100 different compounds like hydrocarbons, alcohols, aldehydes but its aroma compound 2-acetyl-1-pyrroline that gives basmati that signature smell.

WORD OF THE DAY

secessionist

si-sesh-uh-nist / noun

The word was in news after Ulfa in Assam disbanded recently. Can you use it in a sentence?

WHAT IT MEANS

- a person who favours formal withdrawal from membership of a federation or body, especially a political state. Eg: "An ardent secessionist"
- (As an adjective) favouring formal withdrawal from membership of a federation or body. Eg: "A secessionist movement"

USED IN CONTEXT

Ulfa, the armed secessionist outfit that for most of its 44-year existence waged a violent campaign for an "independent Asom", consigned itself to the pages of history after a formal dissolution based on its peace deal with the Centre and the Assam government.

WRITE SENTENCE HERE

Secessionist:

LET'S TALK

HAND IN HAND

Create a chat between Rhea and Ryan



WHAT'S THIS PIC?

School children hold ribbons in the colours of the Indian national flag as they participate in Republic Day function.

Prompt: Do you remember participating in R Day function? Develop a conversation around it

Rhea:

Ryan:

Share on toiniel75@gmail.com

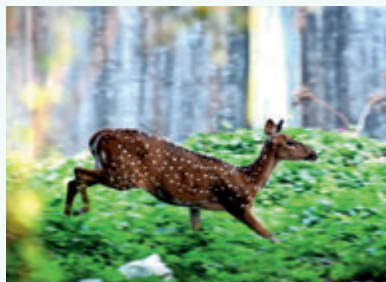
OUR READER'S VIEWPOINT

A PICTURE-PERFECT DAY

I woke up at the crack of dawn greeted by the chirping of birds. The sky was crystal blue with wisps of clouds floating like fluffy balls of cotton.

In the lush green fields with marigolds, there was a tree on which perched some beautiful birds. I walked into the deep forest where a deer was peacefully drinking water. I yelped in delight and the deer looked up with a startled expression and ran away.

I went further and from behind a tree I peeked and saw a fox and its cub basking

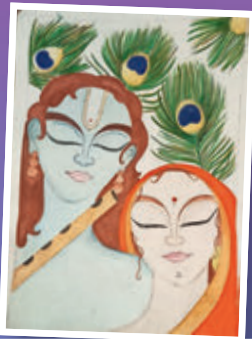


in the sun. Frightened, I slowly crept back and finally when I was far away from the foxes, I released my breath which I had held for long! A troupe of monkeys were chattering in their own language. I made my way back to my house and as I turned around, I saw something so beautiful. It was the sky, now pinkish blue. I sat down on the grass and saw the yellow sun rising from behind the clouds. Euphoria crept over me as I saw the sunflowers blooming. The fragrance of the flowers rose high in the air.

The scenery was so perfect that I cannot express it in words. The weather was pleasant. I felt blissful and happy. The problems in my life melted away. The tight knots of my heart started to loosen. Happy memories popped in my mind and all the bad memories faded away. This memory will always remain in my heart.

ANAISHA SINGH, class III, Somerville School, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi

Painters' Gallery



ANKITA BISWAS, class VIII, Raisina Bengali School, CR Park, New Delhi



MAHVISH FARHEEN NAAZ, class IX, Jibree International School, Kolkata

THE MAGIC SUCCESS FORMULA

Can you guess how one can achieve success? In my opinion, there are eight qualities you need for this: self-confidence, a good leadership, patience, hard work, smart work, courage, positive attitude and hope.

First and foremost is self-confidence. If you believe in yourself, you can achieve anything. Patience is another trait that you must be mindful of and practice. And the most important quality that will surely put you on the path of success is positivity. Believe in yourself and negate all the negativity in your life!

I would like to tell my friends who often get dejected due to failure that success never comes in one attempt. You will face many struggles in your life. We all, including me, have a mindset that



"We failed and hence, success is a distant dream." That, my friends, is the negative thought that you should banish from your mind.

So do not think that "I can't," always think "I can." Here is a sure-shot recipe for success: 1 cup of self-confidence, 2 cups of patience, 1 cup of positivity and a pinch of courage. Mix them up well and get started!

H LITHIKA SHREE, class VII, Sree Gokulam Public School, Nemmeli, Chengalpattu, Chennai

I FEEL THIS

Do you want to be our next contributor? Share your thoughts at toiniel75@gmail.com. You can also log in to toistudent.com

STARRY SKIES

If you have looked up at the starry skies, Wondering, 'what am I looking at?' Well, it is a bunch of rocks and dust and gas. You are looking at something much bigger young lad!

When you look up in the sky, You look at the home to planets, stars and holes coloured black You look at something formed due to a huge Big Bang! What you look at maybe very close or very very far away. What you look at is the source of life that gives you a new day.

Up there you'll find, things which will confuse your mind, Trust me, I've had experiences, now I don't trust mine! Are we really alone, or are we really aloof? Or are those aliens smart, who turn us to fools?

VIHAAN GUPTA, class VIII, Ryan International School, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai