

# JRN JAMES RIVER NEWS

**MARCH 2019**

**VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5**

We are a great group of homeschool kids participating in a cooperative. Our mission in creating this newspaper is to display our writing skills, creativity and to inform others of some things we learn during our homeschool journey.



**This Month's  
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Lydia  
Nyle  
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Solayla

# MIRACULOUS LEAGUE

By: Kamryn

Previously on Miraculous League... Dark clouds began to head inside the dance studio -where is this smoke coming from.?



The next day the girls were with Connie and Kai's parents and Lucy saw the black smoke on the stage and said, "What's that smoke doing on the stage?" Everyone saw it too then the smoke cleared up,



showing a ballerina figure.



The mysterious ballerina said "Greetings! I am Black Swan, the queen of swans. Soon I will bring Pixie, Wolf Claw, and Rena Rouge's Jewels to director Rose shadow" They realize that Rose Shadow is their enemy



who uses black crystals to turn people evil just like lightning gale.



Kai was so ready to fight so she and the other girls went to separate dressing rooms in the studio and transformed, ready to face Black Swan. "Be careful, she's good at dodging attacks!"



The heroines took the advice and were off...

**To Be Continued....**

# Spotlight

## THE LEGEND OF THE LEPRECHAUN

By: Amaya

***Leprechauns are a type of fairy found in Irish Folklore. They usually look like little bearded men in a green coat and hat that cause lots of trouble . The name Leprechaun comes from an Irish word meaning pigmy or sprite. There has also never been a female leprechaun, always male. They are usually celebrated on Saint Patrick's day which is a cultural and religious holiday in March. The Legend dates all the way back to the 800`s but before the 1800`s the theory was that actually wore red instead of green. The legend also states, they began as little shoemakers and if you were close enough you could hear them tapping on shoes. They always hide their pots of gold deep in the Irish countryside and if ever lucky enough to find a Leprechaun they would grant you 3 wishes. In 2009, in a small Irish town of Carlingford, a man supposedly saw a Leprechaun leading to a law being passed that makes Leprechauns a protected species. So if you are ever lucky enough to come across our little friend, keep an eye out for his tricks a pots of gold.***



# Interesting Animals

## Vampire Bats

By:Aron

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Vampire bats are the only mammals in the world that feed entirely on blood. They live in the tropics of Mexico, Central America, and South America. The common vampire bat, *desmodus rotundus*, feeds on sleeping mammals, usually cattle and horses and sometimes even people. The other species of Vampire bats eat birds.

The vampire bat is about 3 ½ inches long and has a wingspan of 7 inches. The vampire bat makes a small cut with their teeth and then lap up flowing blood with their tongues. Unlike some other species of bats, vampire bats can walk, run, and jump. They have very strong hind legs and a special thumb that helps them take off after feeding. Also, heat sensors on their noses help them find a good spot on an animal's body to feed.

The common vampire bat feeds for 30 minutes, usually without waking the animal up. The victim does not lose a dangerous amount of blood, but just enough to feed the bat. It is possible to die from the bite, though, because the bite can spread disease like rabies and infection. Over the course of one year, a colony of 100 bats can drink a volume equal to the blood of 25 cows or 14,000 chickens.



## The Pistol Shrimp

By: EJ

The pistol shrimp, also called the Snapping Shrimp or Alpheid Shrimp is one of the smallest creatures and it is also one of the loudest to live on our planet. Pistol shrimp grow no more than 1-2 inches in length. but they are the major source of noise in ocean. When pistol shrimp are together in a colony, they can easily interfere with underwater communication and sonar. During World War 2, the United States used the noise from the shrimp colonies to hide their submarines from Japan!

The pistol shrimp has one large claw that is much bigger than its body and can be on the left or right side. This large claw does not have pincers like other shrimp. Instead of the pincers, the claw has two parts. One of the two parts is known as the hammer' which, using a joint, moves 90 degrees backward from the other part. A pistol shrimp can lose or break its large claw, but then smaller claw on the other arm will grow into a snapping claw and the lost limb grows back into a smaller claw.

While hunting, a pistol shrimp opens the hammer part of its claw and then releases it, allowing it to snap into the other part. This release is very fast and makes a bubble that stuns prey. The bubble shoots out at a speed of 62 miles an hour, reaching a temperature of 4700 degrees Celsius. This is almost as hot as the temperature on the sun! This all takes place very fast and can only be seen when using a high speed camera. The bubble bursts with a sound that is louder than a gunshot. The sound the pistol shrimp's bubble makes can break glass, so you would not want to keep one in your fish tank.

There are around 600 different species of these shrimp, which are usually found in oyster reefs and coral reefs and they dig burrows. Most pistol shrimp are found in temperate and tropical waters. Pistol shrimp are often found living in colonies of over 300. There is one queen in the colony, which will possibly have only a single mate. The rest of the colony will be made up mostly of males that act as soldiers.

Pistol shrimp have a symbiotic relationship with goby fish, which means they help each other. Goby fish have a good eyesight, while the pistol shrimp do not. So, the pistol shrimp will build and take care of the burrow while the goby fish watches for danger. When both the goby fish and the pistol shrimp go out the burrow, the shrimp will stay behind the goby fish, but touch the goby with its antennae.



# Powerful Protista: Strangest Species

By: Emma

Whoever heard of Protists? The microorganisms in Kingdom Protista are unicellular and most species of this kingdom do not live in colonies. Although Protists sound a lot like bacteria, they are radically different. The creatures in Kingdom Protista are eukaryotic (containing membrane bound organelles). While Kingdom Monera's species are prokaryotic (do not contain membrane bound organelles). So now that we have that covered, let's dive into the divisions of Protists.

Within Kingdom Protista there are two sub kingdoms. They are subkingdom protozoa and sub kingdom algae. There are great differences between the two. In Subkingdom Protozoa, most protozoas do not like to form colonies and are heterotrophic (consumers). On the other hand, the microorganisms in Subkingdom Algae are autotrophic and like to form colonies. Many protozoans have a way of locomotion. In these two subkingdoms there are nine phyla that each boast great diversity from each other. However, I will not go into great detail with all the phyla because it is too much information to take in right away. Needless to say, here are the phyla. In Subkingdom Algae are Phylum Chlorophyta, Phylum Chrysophyta, Phylum Pyrrophyta, Phylum Phaeophyta and Phylum Rhodophyta. In Subkingdom Protozoa are Phylum Sarcodinia, Phylum Mastigophora, Phylum Sporozoa and finally Phylum Ciliophora.

Now that I have given you a rundown on the basic divisions in Kingdom Protista, you can really see how massive these kingdoms are. Now I can talk about some interesting Protists. Let's start off with Diatoms (Phylum Chrysophyta). They are known for their very sharp and rigid structure. These microorganisms cell walls are made up of silicon dioxide, a principle component in glass. This protist is found in huge deposits and has many uses in human products. Diatoms can filter liquids, are used in abrasive toothpaste and kill bugs by slicing up their abdomens



# Jellyfish

By: Lydia

Jellyfish are not really fish, of course, because a fish's anatomy is centered around its backbone, whereas the jellyfish is a dome-shaped invertebrate. Therefore, it's more accurate to refer to them simply as "jellies." Believe it or not, these roving creatures, with their umbrella shape and hanging tentacles, are most closely related to corals, sea anemones, sea whips, and hydrozoans. Why? They share a distinctive body part – a harpoon-like stinging cell used to capture prey. Generally, these cells are called cnidocytes, which comes from the ancient Greek word for nettle. Therefore, animals in this phylum are called cnidarians.

Jellyfish are carnivorous and use their stingers to capture algae, and other fish. Its tentacles contain the weapons used to immobilize prey. Each jellyfish tentacle is packed with thousands of cnidoblasts which are cells that contain nematocysts. Think of nematocysts as little harpoons full of venom. Touch triggers them to shoot. The stinging thread at the tip of the harpoon inserts itself into the skin and injects venom. The venom is a neurotoxin, which is meant to paralyze prey but is still painful for humans. Jellyfish venoms are complex and contain porins, neurotoxins and lipids. The porins tear holes in blood cells and trigger an inflammation response in mast cells (cells in the immune system responsible for allergies and anaphylaxis). Some proteins in the venom cause local pain and skin lesions. I have been stung by a jellyfish and it is not a pleasurable experience at all. It feels like many bee stings all at once in one area.

The habitat for Jellyfish is very vast as they can live in any ocean water. With over 2,000 species out there they have been able to find plenty of locations where they can thrive. Some species live in the cold Arctic water and others live in the warm tropical waters. The saltier areas of the ocean seem to have more blooms than the other locations. Their average lifespan is about 1 year in the wild. They eat fish, shrimp, tiny plants and other species of jellyfish.

There will be times when a Jellyfish is out there moving around by itself in the habitat. Then there are times when they form blooms that can have a handful or thousands of them in a given location. Some jellyfish can be as big as a human, and they can also be as small as a pinhead! And jellyfish have no brain, heart, ears, eyes or nose! Jellyfish are mainly made up of water and protein. Jellyfish are a very important aspect of the ocean, even though they can have deadly stings. They act as food for other sea creatures, and they also act as protection for other fish.

**LIONS MANE**



**BARREL JELLYFISH**



**COMPASS JELLYFISH**



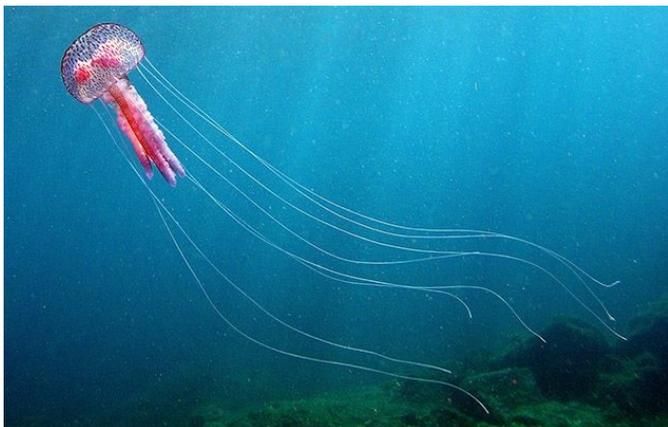
**MOON JELLYFISH**



**MAUVE STINGER**



**BLUE JELLYFISH**



# Kids Revealing the World

## The History of Mario Games (Part: 1)

By: Patrick

Mario is an iconic character in video game history, he had many amazing games, and I think I can only cover around half of them in this. Mario started off as a character in Donkey Kong where he was called Jumpman and was jumping over barrels to save Pauline, after that He starred as the main villain in Donkey Kong 2 where you play as Donkey Kong Junior trying to save his Dad after Mario captured him. Nintendo realized that Mario could make some serious money so they gave him his own game for the FamiCom/NES called Super Mario Bros. most notably known for being bundled with Duck Hunt in a game cartridge that came with the NES when you purchased it. While Mario became an international success, he needed a sequel so Nintendo of Japan went to work by making a true sequel, but they thought it was too hard for Americans to play so they gave us a random game but slapped Mario on it hoping no one would notice (We did). So then Nintendo gave up on being lazy and actually gave us a new Mario game! Super Mario Bros 3, it was a pretty good game, and had good sales so Nintendo was happy.

Then the SNES came out and they had to make a Mario game for it, so then Super Mario World was born. At this point Mario was crazy popular so people wanted more, and so Nintendo made a few spin-offs like Mario Paint, Mario Kart, Dr. Mario, Yoshi's Island, and many more. So people loved Mario so much that they decided to hack the game and make their own "fan-games" like Kaizo-Mario, and 7 Grand Dad. But wait, there's more, so much more that I can't mention all of it in one article. So stick around for The History of Mario Games Part 2.



Alexandre Dumas was a famous author in the 1800s. He was born in Villers-Corrierêts, France on July 24, 1802. His full name is Dumas Davy de la Pailleterie. Alexandre's father was a General in the army and died when Alexandre was only four years of age. After that, Alexandre grew up in poverty with his mother and grandparents in the French countryside.

Then, when Alexandre was twenty-one, he went to Paris to seek his fortune. He had always been a great reader and soon was writing plays at first, then novels. Alexandre Dumas wrote "The Three Musketeers", published in 1844, and had a great success. In 1846, he wrote "The Count of Monte Cristo." He was one of the first authors to write lively, exciting, historical stories and combine them with romance and adventure. Dumas' works have been translated into more than one-hundred languages.

As a successful novelist, Alexandre earned a fortune, but his lifestyle cost even more. He died on December 5, 1870 in Puys, France in poverty once again. His son also became a famous novelist. Today, they are known as Alexandre Dumas (father) and Alexandre Dumas (son).



# **Baking Event**

By Solayla

My brother and I baked nonstop for The Children's Business Fair baking cookies, cakes, and cupcakes. At about 8:00 p.m. the evening before the Fair we received a surprise visit from our grandparents. We were so happy that my grandparents were in town coming to support our big event. Our first sale was to my grandmother as she bought a cupcake that night. I was so excited I could not sleep that night. I dreamed of cakes and cupcakes and flour and the Candyland game.

The next morning we drove to the location for the Fair and when we arrived we were placed right at the front of the door and we thought it was the perfect table. There was a mix up, we were told, and we were moved to a different location but it was actually better even though we were in the corner. I was nervous that we would not make a sale but we sold out!

The event gained a lot of attention throughout the Richmond area. Newspaper reporters and cable television reporters came to our booth. It was overwhelming trying not to make a mistake that the whole Richmond area was going to see but I did not make a mistake so that was good.

After the Fair many people connected with us and one person right after the fair wanted an order of cookies.

The Fair was amazing and it helped me learn more about being an entrepreneur.

I would like to thank everyone who supported me in many different ways that helped make the experience a good one.



# Track and Field is the Best

By Nyle

*"Pant, pant, pant, I am running fast! I think I am going to win. Although I am tired I don't really care because I must win in Track and field."*

Track and field is a sport that includes events like running, jumping, and throwing. The name Track and field comes from where the sport takes place. There is a grass **field** in the middle of an oval **track** that goes around the field. The field events are, shot put, javelin throw, hammer throw, and discus throw. Some other field events are the long jump, high jump, triple jump, and pole vault. The track events are the 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, and the mile run.

One of the fastest track athletes of all time is Jessie Owens. He was born James Cleveland Owens on September 12, 1913 and he died on March 31, 1980. He went to The Ohio State University and did not get a scholarship and he had to live off campus because he was black. He had to work to earn money to attend college. Jessie Owens won eight individual medals in college. His nickname was Buckeye Bullet. He was the first black man elected captain of The Ohio State varsity team. The 1936 Olympics took place in Berlin, Germany and Jessie Owens won four gold medals. This was a world record and was not broken until the 1984 Olympics.

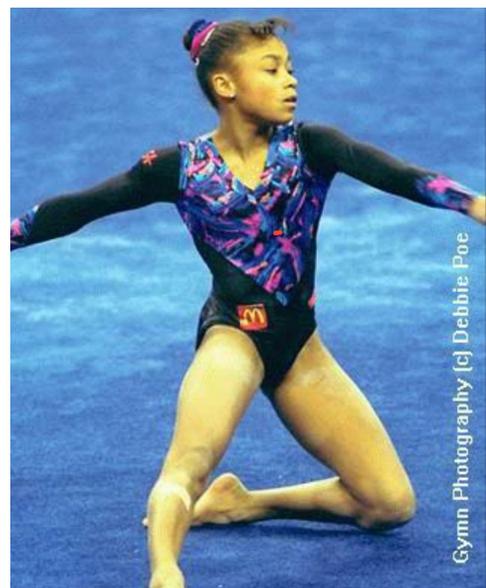
Track and Field is all about an all body workout. I am now participating in Track and Field. Personally, I like the long jump. I also like the 100m, 200m, and the 400m race. Learning about Jessie Owens gets me excited about Track and Field because he is so good. I push myself to be as fast as him.



# DOMINIQUE DAWES

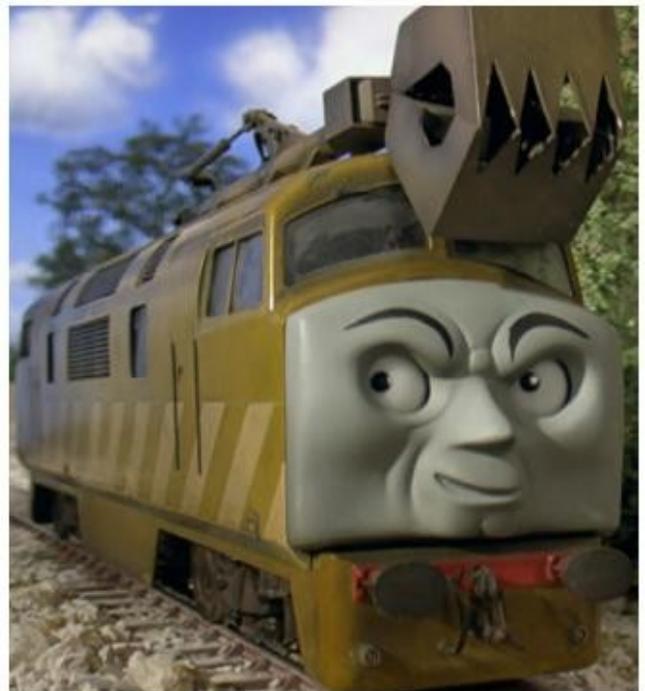
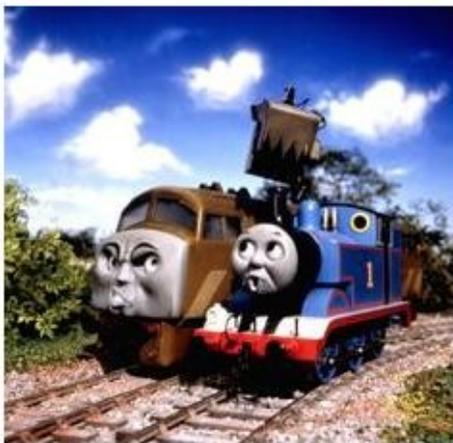
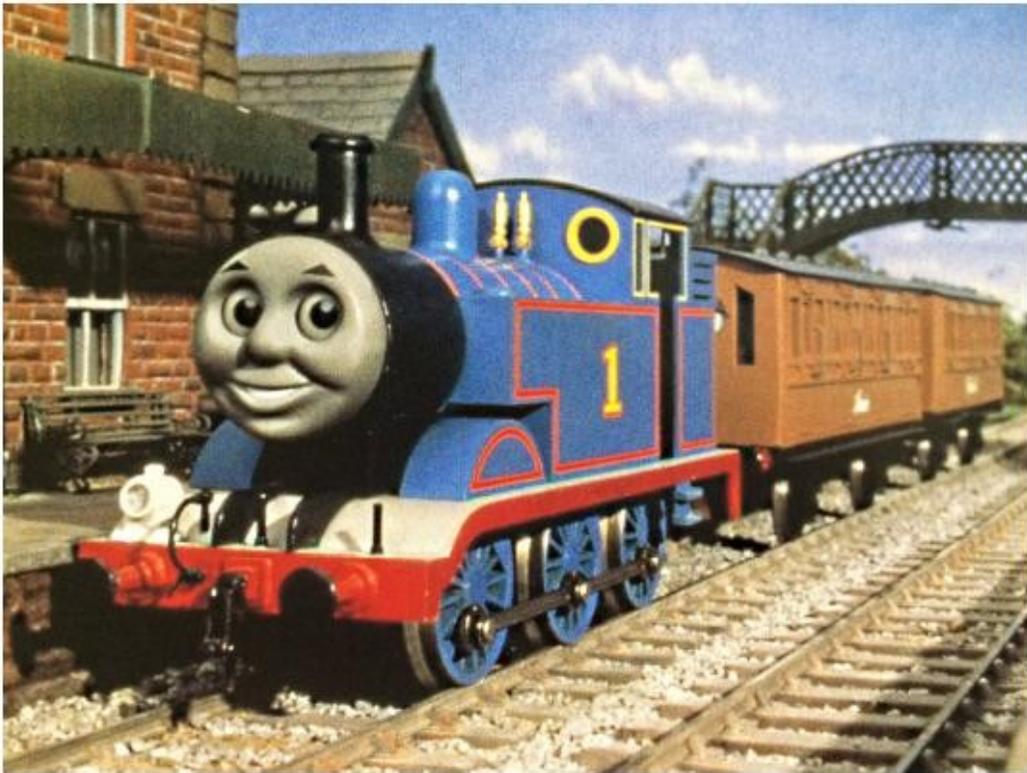
**By: Arianna**

***Dominique Dawes is an American Gymnast. She was born November 20th 1976 in Silver Spring, Maryland. She started gymnastics when she was 6. By 10 she had competed in the Jr. Elite Level. She was given the nickname Awesome Dawesome. Her coach's name was Kelli Hill. Dominique was the first African American to win an Individual Olympic Gymnastic's Medal. She was also part of the Magnificent 7 that won gold at the Atlanta games. She has won 15 American Titles. In 2004 she became the youngest President of the Women's Sports Federation. President Obama even made her co-chair on The Council of the Fitness, Sports and Nutrition in 2010.***



The Magic Railroad  
Book Review  
By: James

Once upon a time, there was an engine named Thomas. Thomas lived on the Island of Sodor. Life on the Island of Sodor was peaceful and busy until one day. On that day, Diesel 10 came to Sodor. Diesel 10 is mostly naughty. He came to destroy Sodor. Mr. Conductor and Thomas stopped Diesel 10. Hooray the day is saved!



# FLORIDA EVERGLADES

By: Carissa

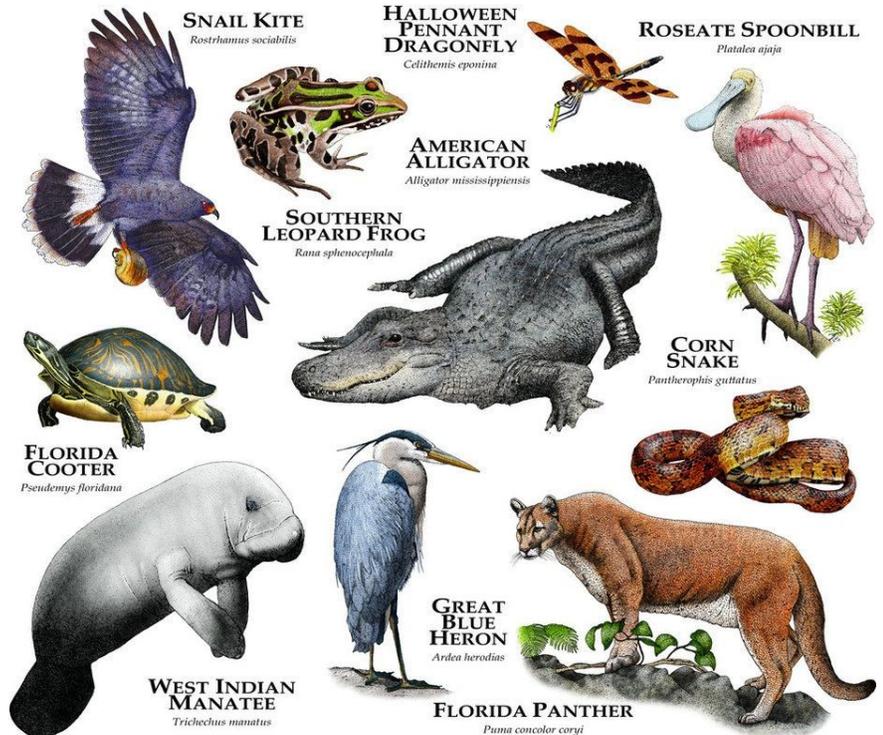
In the 1920's, people thought the Everglades in Florida was just a big swamp and they began to drain it to build buildings there. The National Park Service became aware of the huge numbers of animals that live, breed, and feed in the area, like manatees, so to protect the land and animals from builders, they voted to designate the Everglades as a national park in 1934.

Today, Florida's Everglades National Park is a 1.5-million-acre wetland ecosystem. Much of the area is covered with saw grass, a grass-like plant that sprouts in water. The park also has mangrove swamps, where mangrove trees grow. You can take a boat along the swampy wetlands or you could bike through forests that have rooted in rockier areas of the swamp. Unfortunately, the Everglades are still threatened by humans building and pollution from agriculture.

The Everglades are home to many plants and animals. Some animals found there are: alligators, manatees, panthers, blue heron, Florida cooter and Spoonbills. Some plants there are: Spanish Moss, Saw Grass, Cypress trees, white water lilies and water willows. This is the only place where the American alligator and the American crocodile can be found living together.



## ANIMALS OF THE EVERGLADES



# FUN PAGES

## Funny Business

Episode 3

By: Aron

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Why did the kid put sugar under his pillow?              | So he could have sweet dreams               |
| 2. What do you get when you drop a piano down a mine shaft? | A flat miner                                |
| 3. What do you call a bear with no teeth?                   | A gummy bear                                |
| 4. How does NASA plan a party?                              | They planet                                 |
| 5. What pan is the best to make sushi in?                   | Japan                                       |
| 6. What does a grape say when it gets stepped on?           | Nothing, it let's out a little wine         |
| 7. C, Eb, and G walked into a bar?                          | The barman said sorry we don't serve minors |
| 8. What days are the strongest?                             | Saturday and Sunday, the rest are week days |
| 9. What does an angry pepper do?                            | It gets jalapeño face                       |
| 10. What is Beethoven's favorite fruit?                     | A bananana                                  |