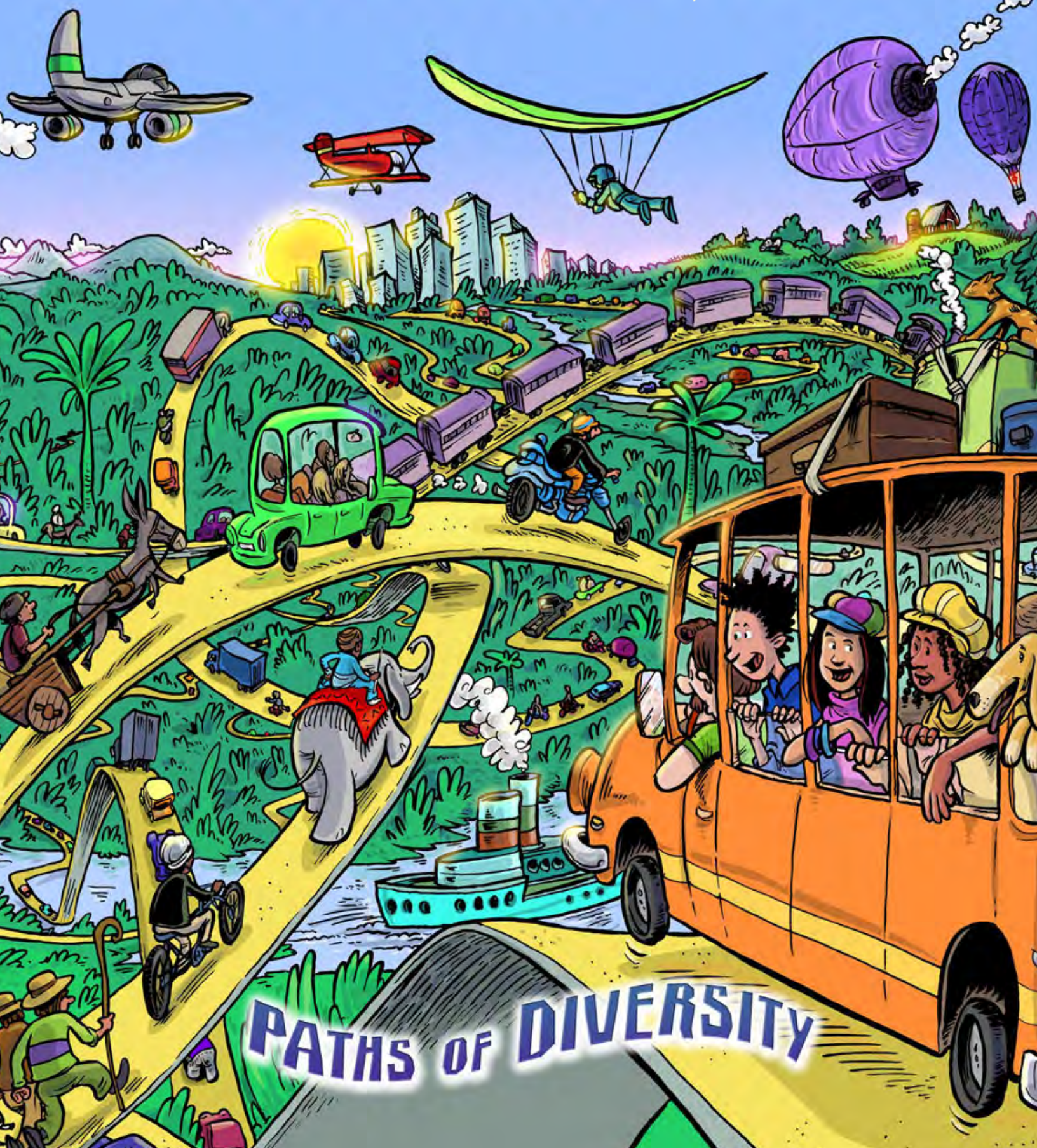


Brilliant Star

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

MAY/JUNE 2010



PATHS OF DIVERSITY

Brilliant Star

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Brilliant Star magazine invites all kids to explore the Bahá'í Faith. It is the second most widespread religion in the world, with more than five million Bahá'ís.

The Bahá'í Faith was founded by the Prophet **Bahá'u'lláh** ("Glory of God" in Arabic) in 1863. Bahá'u'lláh taught that all people are part of one human family, and that all religions come from one God. Bahá'ís work to bring peace and unity to the world, and end prejudice and discrimination of all kinds.

Bahá'u'lláh's eldest son, **'Abdu'l-Bahá**, interpreted His teachings and led the Bahá'í community after Bahá'u'lláh's passing.

Brilliant Star encourages kids to bring their virtues and talents to light, and use them to make the world a better place. **Brilliant Star** is produced bimonthly by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.S.

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We often provide Internet resources to encourage readers to explore a topic, or to share our references. While we make every effort to choose reliable websites, **Brilliant Star** does not endorse or account for all content in referenced websites. Furthermore, we urge caution and parental guidance when using the Internet. For more information about Internet safety, visit: www.wiredkids.org/wiredkids_org.html

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Did you know there's a teacher in your living room?



DEAR FRIENDS,

Our planet is home to more than six billion people who eat, dress, play, work, and live in different ways. We speak nearly 7,000 languages. We live in about 195 countries, with various holidays, festivals, customs, music, and arts. We express our faith through many religions.

The world's cultures are amazing. Though diversity can sometimes lead to conflicts and prejudice, it doesn't have to be that way. We're all different, yet we're one human family. Diversity makes our lives more fun and interesting. We can seek common ground and treat each other with respect.

In this issue of **Brilliant Star**, paint a picture of your culture, learn to say "thank you" in 16 languages, quiz yourself on your open-mindedness, and learn about flags around the world. Also, meet Khalil Fong, a star of soul-pop music from Hong Kong.

Celebrate Earth's diversity with us—there's always something new to explore!



With love from **Brilliant Star**



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GLOBAL ADVENTURES

Pack your bags—it's time to travel the world! Maybe you dream of visiting far-off lands, or perhaps you've already traveled to another country. Whether you go on a family vacation, for a service project, or as an exchange student, touring the world firsthand can be an incredible experience. You might explore wildlife, ancient ruins, the tallest mountains, or the most beautiful beaches. You can

make new friends who eat, speak, work, and play in diverse ways. And you can enjoy universal kindness and laughter.

Where do you want to go? What do you want to experience? You can start thinking about your trip, studying different cultures, and even saving money for your travels. Before you know it, you'll be off on your own global adventure.

Juliet is packing for an exciting journey with her family to visit Africa, go on a safari, and do a service project. Find nine items that will help their trip go smoothly.



Brave
Binoculars



Curious
Camera



Dependable
Daypack



Grateful
Guidebook



Hopeful
Hat



Modest
Map



Patient
Passport



Purposeful
Pens



Sincere
Sketchbook



A Brief Timeline

The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

The highlighted area marks the time in which this story takes place.

1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in Tihrán, Iran

1844

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the "Black Pit" of Tihrán

1853–1863

Exile in Baghdád, Iraq. From 1854–1856, He goes into the mountains to pray in solitude.

1863 April 22

Declares Divine Mission as Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith

1863–1868

Exile in Constantinople (Istanbul), then Adrianople (Edirne), Turkey. Begins writing letters to kings and rulers in 1867, urging world unity

1868

Last exile, to prison-city of 'Akká, Israel

1877

Finally free to live in countryside homes of Mazra'ih and then Bahjí, outside 'Akká

1892 May 29

Bahá'u'lláh passes away at Bahjí.

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace Finding Light in the Darkness

Imagine a gloomy, filthy dungeon with a horrible stench. Deep underground, it's miserably cold and crawling with vermin, such as insects or rodents. In 1852, Bahá'u'lláh was thrown into such a terrible dungeon in Tihrán, Persia (now Iran). It was called the Siyáh-Chál, or the "Black Pit." Bahá'u'lláh was not a criminal, but a follower of the Bábí Faith, a new religion founded by a Messenger of God known as the Báb.

The Báb taught that another new Messenger of God would soon come. Persian officials wanted to stop the Báb's teachings from spreading, because they believed they were a threat to the Islamic clergy and government. They arrested and executed Him and many of His followers. When some confused Bábí youth attacked the sháh (the king) in revenge for the Báb's martyrdom, abuse toward the Bábís increased. Innocent Bábís, including Bahá'u'lláh, were imprisoned in the Black Pit.

Bahá'u'lláh described the prison as "a place foul beyond comparison." Many prisoners, including thieves and murderers, were crowded with Bahá'u'lláh and the other Bábís, most with no clothes or bedding. Bahá'u'lláh's feet were placed in stocks, and at all times He was forced to wear one of two heavy chains around His neck—one weighed about 112

pounds (51 kg)! For three days and nights, He had no

food or drink. Later, some of His food was poisoned by those who wanted to kill Him. The effects caused Him health problems for years.

Through these hardships, Bahá'u'lláh and the other Bábís remained patient. Bahá'u'lláh taught them to sing, "God is sufficient unto me; He verily is the



Prisoners of the "Black Pit" were chained and led through a dark corridor, then deep underground.

All-sufficing! In Him let the trusting trust." The sound of their voices echoed through the dungeon and amazed the sháh, who heard them from his palace near the prison.

Each day, guards called the name of a Bábí to be executed. When unchained, he would leap to his feet, embrace Bahá'u'lláh and the other Bábís, and go to his martyrdom with courage.

It was here, in the darkest place imaginable, that Bahá'u'lláh had a wondrous spiritual experience. He said, "I felt as if something flowed from the crown of My head over My breast, even as a mighty torrent . . ." In a vision, He heard a sweet voice, and saw a Maiden who pointed her finger at His head and said, "By God! This is the Best-Beloved of the worlds . . . the Beauty of God . . . the Mystery of God and His Treasure . . ."

Bahá'u'lláh's vision was the birth of a new religion, the Bahá'í Faith.

He was the

Messenger of God promised by the Báb. About 10 years would pass before He would announce His station publicly.

After four long months in the Black Pit, Bahá'u'lláh was exiled from Persia. But He and His teachings endured, and His message of unity and peace spread throughout the world.



_____'s Cultural Canvas

Your Name _____

Imagine a world where *all* the houses everywhere were one style, shape, size, and color. Cities and towns would look so dull! And how would you remember which house was yours? Luckily, our planet has infinite styles of architecture, from skyscrapers to castles to cabins.

Where you live expresses your culture—along with language, customs, food, celebrations, clothing, music, sports, games, and art. All of these things make you unique. How does your culture color *your* life?

A paint palette with ten sections for cultural information. The sections are labeled as follows:

- My ancestors came from ...
- Language(s) I speak
- Favorite holiday or celebration
- Favorite family tradition
- Favorite foods
- I live in ...
- My hobbies
- Special clothing
- My religion or beliefs
- Favorite music or instrument
- Favorite sports or games

To paint a picture of your culture, fill in your answers in each of the paint spots above. Then draw your favorites below.

Appreciation Station

"If everybody could speak one language, how much more easy would it be to serve humanity!" –'Abdu'l-Bahá

"¡Hola! ¿Cómo está usted?" Wouldn't it be wonderful to step off a train in any country and be able to ask questions and talk about the new sights and sounds around you? Whether you're traveling or meeting a visitor from abroad, greeting someone in their own language is a great way to make friends. Bahá'ís believe that in the future, the

people of the world will agree on a universal language to use, in addition to our native languages. This will be a big step toward world peace, because we'll be able to share ideas in words we all understand. Until that day comes, learning to say things such as "Hello!" and "Thank you!" in different languages is a good way to start speaking the language of peace.

These travelers say "Thank you" in various ways. Find the words going forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.

AHÉHEE (Navajo)	E SHEO (Yoruba)	KIITTOS (Finnish)	SHUKRAN (Arabic)
ARIGATO (Japanese)	GRACIAS (Spanish)	MERCI (Persian)	SHUKRIYA (Hindi)
DANKE (German)	GRAZIE (Italian)	OBRIGADO (Portuguese)	SPASIBO (Russian)
DANKON (Esperanto)	KAMSAHAMNIDA (Korean)	SALAMAT (Tagalog)	XIE XIE (Mandarin)

M	C	M	U	I	Y	E	H	V	N	R	Q	H	D	E
G	R	A	C	I	A	S	Y	E	J	M	H	F	T	I
N	K	A	M	S	A	H	A	M	N	I	D	A	F	Z
O	Q	T	S	H	U	K	R	A	N	Y	H	Z	O	A
S	O	X	N	A	C	N	D	U	C	K	Z	N	T	R
G	U	K	A	Y	I	R	K	U	H	S	F	A	Z	G
C	E	K	N	A	D	S	Z	D	N	G	M	Z	Y	H
B	O	S	O	B	I	S	A	P	S	A	K	D	A	S
E	E	O	E	W	E	O	T	E	L	C	B	S	X	O
S	D	A	N	K	O	N	Q	A	J	X	A	P	I	T
H	X	I	E	X	I	E	S	Q	G	Y	C	S	H	T
E	C	Q	H	H	C	O	B	R	I	G	A	D	O	I
O	N	R	D	E	P	O	T	A	G	I	R	A	Z	I
G	N	U	Y	M	R	H	G	M	E	R	C	I	I	K
Z	Q	S	P	Y	S	I	C	A	H	E	H	E	E	S

Spanish: ¡Hola! = Hello!; ¿Cómo está usted? = How are you?

In some languages, ways to say "thank you" can vary with different situations, including age differences, gender, and the number of people addressed.

Zeke's Travel Tips

Hi! It's Zeke, from the planet Zilizag. My pet Rhombus and I are planning another trip to search for peaceful planets. Some of our friends are about to go on their first intergalactic adventure, so I'm giving them some tips. On our own travels, we've learned so much about exploring planets with kindness and respect. When visiting new places and

cultures, it can be tricky to know how to act. What's polite on Zilizag might be rude on a planet like Narfblatt, or downright silly on Earth.

There are so many different customs across the galaxies, but some courteous practices are universal. Here are some tips I like to share with other explorers. Check them out by using the Zilizag Decoder.

1 Get to _____ as much as you
can about the _____
before visiting a new place.

2 Keep an open _____. Some
_____ may surprise
you, but they are natural for others.

3 Learn as much as you can in the native
_____. "Hello" and
"_____" are a good start.

4 _____ and _____
the people you meet.

5 Be willing to _____ new _____.

6 Be careful with body and hand
_____, such as
pointing. They can have different or even
negative _____.

7 Treat the _____ with
respect. Leave things as you saw them, and put
your _____ in the trash.

8 Ask _____ when
you're not sure about something. Most people
appreciate that you're trying to _____.

ZILIZAG DECODER

A	C	E	G	I	K	M	O	Q	S	U	W	Y
B	D	F	H	J	L	N	P	R	T	V	X	Z

Cycle of Life in the Rainforest

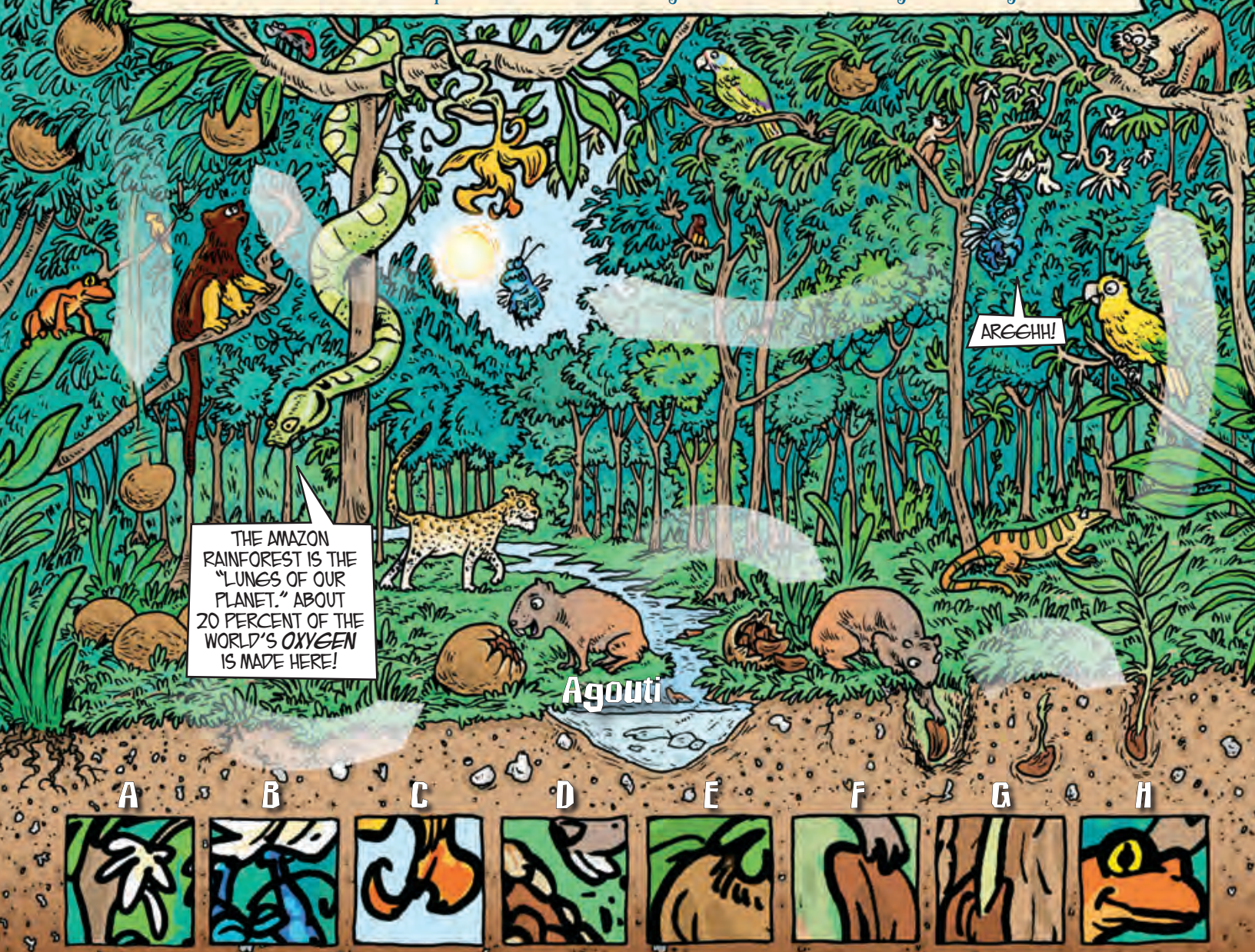
Millions of species make up Earth's incredible biodiversity. Animals, plants, and insects work together in amazing ways, forming communities called **ecosystems**.

A fascinating example of this is the Brazil nut tree, which grows in the rainforests of South America. Brazil nuts are seeds that grow in a hard pod, like a coconut, and they're an important food for animals and people. A cat-sized animal called an **agouti** is one of the only creatures with teeth strong enough to chew through the pod. The agoutis eat some seeds and bury others, which then grow into new trees.

Brazil nut trees blossom only once a year. The flowers have lids, and only very strong bees can open the lids to feed on the nectar and spread the flowers' pollen. Once pollinated, the trees can produce nuts. The bees also depend on nearby orchids to survive.

Together, the Brazil nut trees, agoutis, bees, and orchids all rely on each other. They also help the rainforest thrive, which benefits all creatures—from jaguars to birds to people. As we discover more about nature's ways, we can protect ecosystems like this one, and create a healthier planet.

Follow the arrows to track parts of the Brazil nut cycle. Then find each magnified image below.





Beat of Unity

"The diversity in the human family should be the cause of love and harmony, as it is in music where many different notes blend together in the making of a perfect chord." — 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Give me a beat! The powerful sound of drums can raise excitement, move us to dance, or help us celebrate. But did you know drums have been used to create music, communicate messages, and honor special occasions since ancient times? In some cultures, drums are considered sacred and are played for healing or religious ceremonies.

From djembe drums of Africa, to taiko drums in Japan, to tombak drums of Iran, people in diverse cultures create and play drums of various shapes and styles. In its basic form, a drum is a bowl or

tube made of a material such as pottery, wood, or metal. One or both ends have some kind of covering, called a head.

Across the globe, people of all ages and backgrounds gather in drum circles to create rhythm and foster unity and friendship. Each player adds their own beat to the mix. You can use items around your house to make your own drum to play with your friends and family.

LET'S CREATE HARMONY!



You'll Need

Two sturdy 9 oz. (266 ml) plastic cups • paper plate • scissors • two 2 1/2" (6 cm) rubber bands • masking tape • newspaper • white glue • unused 9" (23 cm) latex balloon • 3 ft. (91 cm) piece of yarn • water • paint • paintbrushes • tablespoon

Make Your Own Drum

- 1 Cover your work area with newspaper. Carefully cut off the bottoms of both cups with scissors.



- 2 Cut open the side of one cup as shown. Remove 1/2" off one cut edge, then tape the edges back together.



- 3 Fit bottom of taped cup inside bottom of other cup and secure with tape.



- 4 Tear newspaper into stamp-sized pieces. Combine two tablespoons glue and two tablespoons water on plate. Dip paper in glue mixture and press smoothly to outside of drum. Continue until covered. Let dry overnight.



- 5 Paint drum to cover paper. When dry, paint with colorful designs.



- 6 Cut tail off deflated balloon so top portion is 2" (5 cm) long. Stretch to fit snugly over wider end.*



- 7 Wind rubber band twice around balloon edges. Wind other rubber band around center of drum.



- 8 Tuck one end of yarn under center band. Keeping yarn taut, thread through upper and center bands to make triangles around drum. Knot ends and trim yarn.



- 9 To play, hold the drum in one hand. Use your free hand to make different sounds.



How Open-Minded Are You?

"We must lay aside all prejudice—whether it be religious, racial, political or patriotic; we must become the cause of the unification of the human race." —'Abdu'l-Bahá



Has anyone ever asked you to “keep an open mind” about something? While your brain doesn’t open or close, having an open mind is like keeping a door open to new ideas. It means you’re willing to try new things and consider other people’s ideas and points of view.

An open mind is important, because without it, people can form unfair opinions before knowing all the facts—and that’s **prejudice**. Strong prejudice about people who look, talk, believe, or act in different ways has caused violence and the loss

of human rights.

We all have some prejudices, and we may not even realize it. But we can watch for them and overcome them. If you hear about a new idea and feel your mind starting to close, tell yourself, “Wait! I want to learn more about this before I decide.”

Keeping your mind open can bring you lots of new ideas and experiences. It doesn’t mean you’ll agree with everyone or like everything you try. But you can have a lot of fun exploring our wide, wonderful world.

* Are you open to new ideas? Circle your answer for each statement, then add up your points. *

1. I enjoy learning about different people, countries, and cultures.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1



2. I think that everybody has valuable ideas to share with the world, no matter who they are.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

3. I respect different world religions and their beliefs.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

4. When I hear someone tell a racist joke or insult people of a certain race, I speak up or change the subject.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

5. When I disagree with someone, I listen and try to understand their point of view.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

6. I like to travel and see different parts of my community, country, and world.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1



7. When I meet a new kid in school who looks or talks differently from me, I’m friendly and welcoming.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

8. I’m kind and respectful to people with disabilities.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

9. If a kid at school is teased or bullied, I try to be a friend to them.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

10. I get the facts and make up my own mind about things, rather than just go along with what others say.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1

11. I’m willing to try new things, even if they’re different from what I usually like, such as new foods, music, books, or games.

Often=3 • Sometimes=2 • Rarely=1



My Total Points: _____

33–26 points: You’re doing an excellent job of keeping an open mind about people and ideas. Keep up the good work!

25–18 points: You’re keeping your mind open most of the time. Look for ways to let in even more new ideas.

17–11 points: The doors of your mind can be more open. Choose some tips from the quiz and try them out.

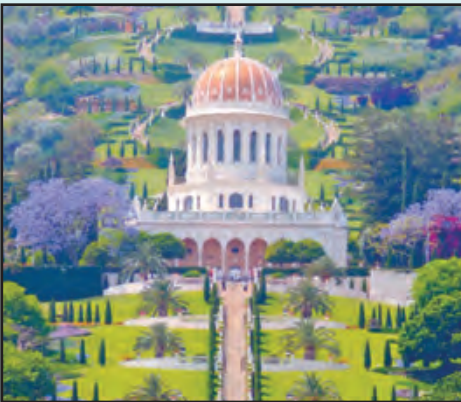
Heritage of Humanity

All over the world, cultural and natural treasures help tell the story of our planet. Places such as the pyramids of Egypt, the Galápagos Islands in Ecuador, and the Statue of Liberty in the U.S. help us understand our long, often mysterious past.

The World Heritage program was created by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization (UNESCO) to highlight places with “outstanding value to humanity.” UNESCO encourages countries to protect the sites and educate people about their history and significance. The World Heritage list currently includes 890 sites in over 140 countries. It’s up to all of us to preserve these amazing places, so they can inspire future generations.

Check out the clues below and match them to these World Heritage sites.



A Shrine of the Báb, Israel



B Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania



C Acropolis of Athens, Greece



D Machu Picchu, Peru



E The Great Wall, China



F Chateau of Chambord, France

1

At over 3.6 miles tall (5,895 m), this is the tallest mountain in Africa. Climate change is causing the ice at the top to disappear.

This is one of the holiest places on Earth in the Bahá'í Faith. From the terraces of Mount Carmel, it overlooks Haifa Bay and the Mediterranean Sea.

Starting in 1519, King François I built this castle at his hunting grounds in the Loire River valley. It has 440 rooms and 282 fireplaces.

2

High in the Andes Mountains, this city was built around 1450 CE by the Inca people. Terraces provided stability and farming area.

It took many centuries to build this long barrier in Asia as a protection from invaders. It stretches about 5,500 miles (8,852 km).

In the 5th century BCE, this structure was built primarily in honor of the goddess Athena. Its country was the home of the first Olympic Games.

5

6

EXPLORE AND PROTECT THE EARTH AND ITS CREATURES

"All the members of this endless universe are linked one to another." —Bahá'í Writings

WE
ARE
ONE

EARTH-SAVING TIP

Unplug it.

About 5–10% of your home's electricity goes into products that are switched off. Unplug your electronics when you aren't using them.



WOW, REALLY?

Our Earth has traveled more than 5,000 miles (8,047 km) in the past five minutes.

OUR CONNECTIONS



The word "race" is used to refer to a group with similar traits or ethnic origins. But did you know that there's no way to scientifically classify people by race? There are no genes that can identify you as belonging to a race. No characteristic—not skin color or eye shape or hair texture—separates all members of one race from another. While there are many diverse people and cultures, there is only one human race.*

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Ban Ki-moon, from South Korea, leads the United Nations as its Secretary-General. He travels the world, speaking out for global causes such as peace, human rights, and the environment. He says, "We have a chance [to] preserve our planet and build a safer, cleaner, more prosperous and sustainable future for all."



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



The onion-shaped domes of this cathedral are recognized around the world. Built in the 1500s to honor a military victory, it contains the tomb of St. Basil. *Unscramble the letters to find its location:*

OSMWOC, ARUISS

AMAZING ANIMALS



This creature is most active at night, when it comes out of its burrow. Some species can change color to match the sand. *Fill in the blanks to find its spooky name:*

H S R A

RADIANT STARS

Getting to know kids who shine

Connect with kids around the world!
How are they like you? How are they different? Each of us has a unique story to tell. What's yours?

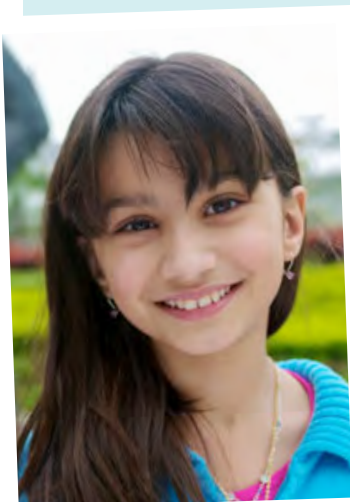
Eve R.

Age: **9**

I live in: **Macau**

Best quality or virtue: **Responsibility**

Hobbies or sports: **Playing piano, singing, reading novels, riding my bike, and playing [Settlers of] Catan (a great board game)**



Country I'd love to visit most: **I would like to visit Israel so that I could see the Shrine of the Báb, because it [is] a Bahá'í holy place.**

Favorite traditions or celebrations in my family: **Ayyám-i-Há* . . . I also like the Fast, because I get [up] early and have a big breakfast of pancakes and bacon with my family.**

Have you visited another country? If so, what did you like best about it? **Yes, I used to live in the [U.S.], but then my family pioneered** to Macau . . . I really like . . . that I can walk almost everywhere I want to go. I also like learning to sing songs and prayers in Chinese . . .**

Zoe T.

Age: **13**

I live in: **Kampala, Uganda**

Best quality or virtue: **Honesty and kindness**

Something I like about me: **I'm friendly and outgoing.**

Hobbies or sports: **Listening to music, texting, running (track), swimming, being with friends, chatting . . . on Facebook, dancing, reading, going to Bahá'í and school events/parties**

Favorite animal or pet: **Cheetah**

I like to help people by: **Understanding, listening to people's situations, and giving advice**

Country I'd love to visit most: **Hawaii, because of its gorgeous beaches and luaus . . . seems like paradise!**



On an adventure around the world, I would bring these three things:

I would take my cell phone . . . a journal, and my little brother (Billy).

Do you think it's important to make friends with people from different cultures? **It's good to see how people do things differently, different beliefs and traditions. No one should be treated differently because of their background and culture.**



Tevya V.

Age: **9**

I live in: **Illinois, U.S.**

Best quality or virtue: **I recycle a lot and love animals.**

Hobbies or sports: **Swimming and puzzles**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Art and community service**

Favorite animal or pet: **All of them!**

I like to help people by: **Helping my classmates with work, and cleaning up the neighborhood**

Country I'd love to visit most: **I would love to visit Japan to learn about Japanese culture.**

On an adventure around the world, I would bring these three things:

A friend, a cell phone, three books

Have you visited another country? If so, what did you like best about it? **The food, people, and clothes [in Mexico]**

Do you think it's important to make friends with people from different cultures? **Yes, because I love to learn about other ways of life.**

Adeeb N.

Age: **10**

I live in: **California, U.S.**

Best quality or virtue:
Honesty

Something I like about me:
I am a good athlete.

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
**Singing Ayyám-i-Há*
songs in the neighborhood**

Favorite animal or pet:
Great white shark

I like to help people by:
**Cheering them up
when they feel sad**

Country I'd love to
visit most:
**Mexico, to learn more
Spanish language**

Favorite traditions or
celebrations in my family:
**Ayyám-i-Há, because
there is a scavenger hunt
for presents each day ...**

On an adventure around the
world, I would bring these
three things:
**Healthy food, water,
and a map**

Have you visited another
country? If so, what did you
like best about it?
**Germany, and Israel for
nine-day pilgrimage. [I
liked] seeing the Bahá'í
gardens in Israel. And in
Germany, seeing snow.**



**“God has crowned you with honor and
in your hearts has He set a radiant star;
verily the light thereof shall brighten
the whole world!”** — ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Mingway W.

Age: **10**

I live in: **Missouri, U.S.**

Something I like about me:
I'm very trustworthy

Hobbies or sports:
Games and basketball

I like to help people by:
**Holding doors and
being kind**

Country I'd love to
visit most:
**Israel, because it's the
Holy Land. Also, I like
the kind people there.**

On an adventure around the
world, I would bring these
three things:
**Passports and tickets
for the rides. Maybe
some money, just
in case.**

Have you visited another
country? If so, what did you
like best about it?
**Europe ... we did lots
there ... [In] China—**

**we enjoyed visiting
relatives and [eating]
foods there.**

Have you or a friend ever been
teased or excluded because
of your culture or religion?
**I just told the teachers
at school and turned
away to play with other
friends instead.**

Do you think it's important
to make friends with people
from different cultures?
**Yes, because you can
learn what they do ...
Maybe even learn a new
language.**



Juliet B.

Age: **9**

I live in: **Pennsylvania, U.S.**

Best quality or virtue:
**Truthfulness, because
it's the foundation of all
human virtues**

Something I like about me:
I like that I am a Bahá'í.

Hobbies or sports:
Art, reading, writing

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Teaching the Faith

Country I'd love to visit most:
**France, because it's so
pretty, and I heard they
have really good food,
and I really want to learn
the language.**

Favorite traditions or
celebrations in my family:
**Ayyám-i-Há* ... it's the
best time of year, because
we have a huge party**

**and invite everyone
... and an Ayyám-i-Há
fairy comes to our house
and delivers presents to
everyone there. It's awe-
some ... My mom even
comes to my class and tells
everyone about why we
celebrate Ayyám-i-Há ...**

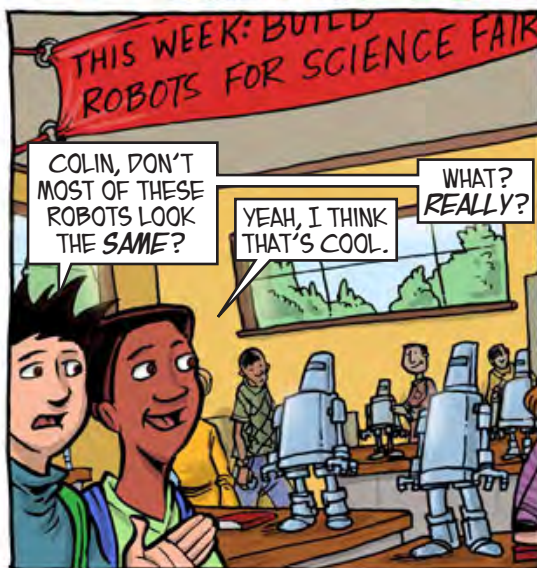
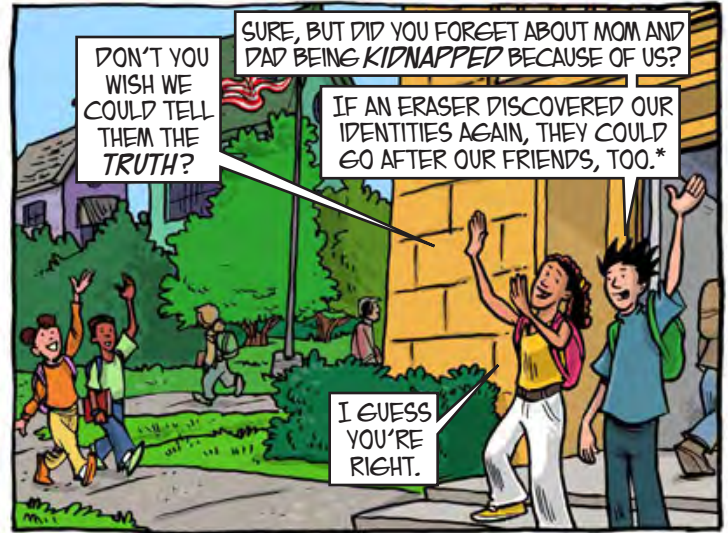
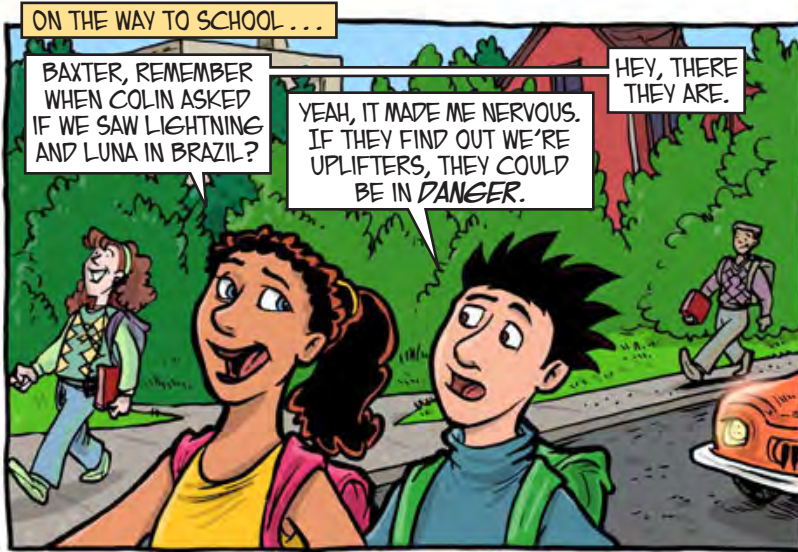
On an adventure around the
world, I would bring these
three things:
**Clothes ... a camera, and
my favorite prayer book**



You can be a Radiant Star!

Here's how:

1. If you're age 7–14, write us at brilliant@usbnc.org or Brilliant Star, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Include your name, age, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address.
2. When it's your turn to shine, we'll send you questions and a form for you and your parents to sign.
3. Answer the questions and send them to us with the signed forms, along with at least two good-quality, close-up photographs of your smiling face. Photos should be in sharp focus and show your eyes clearly. Please don't send color copies, low-resolution digital images, or copyright-protected images (like school portraits).



LATER, ON A POPULAR T.V. BROADCAST ...

DR. DIXON DEVIOUS, YOU WROTE THE BESTSELLER *FITTING IN*. AS A SCIENTIST AND MEDIA EXPERT, WHY DID YOU WRITE A BOOK FOR *YOUTH*?

GROWING UP, I HATED GETTING BULLIED. NOW, I HAVE THE SOLUTION—IT'S CALLED *CONFORMITY*.



ISN'T THAT LOSING YOUR *INDIVIDUALITY*?

JUST IMAGINE—IF THERE ARE NO CLIQUES—NO JOCKS, NO SNOBS, NO NERDS—THERE'S *NO BULLYING*! WITH *MY* WAY, THERE ARE NO OUTSIDERS, SO KIDS WILL *FIT IN* AND BE HAPPY.



BUT WHAT ABOUT THINKING FOR YOURSELF? AND CREATIVITY?

WAKE UP! MANY PEOPLE ARE JOBLESS. OVER A BILLION LIVE IN POVERTY. COUNTRIES ARE AT WAR. HOW WILL PAINTING A PRETTY PICTURE HELP US?



CREATIVITY HAS LED TO HISTORIC DISCOVERIES AND BREAKTHROUGHS—

IF I MAY, MY BOOK ISN'T THE NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER FOR NO *REASON*—

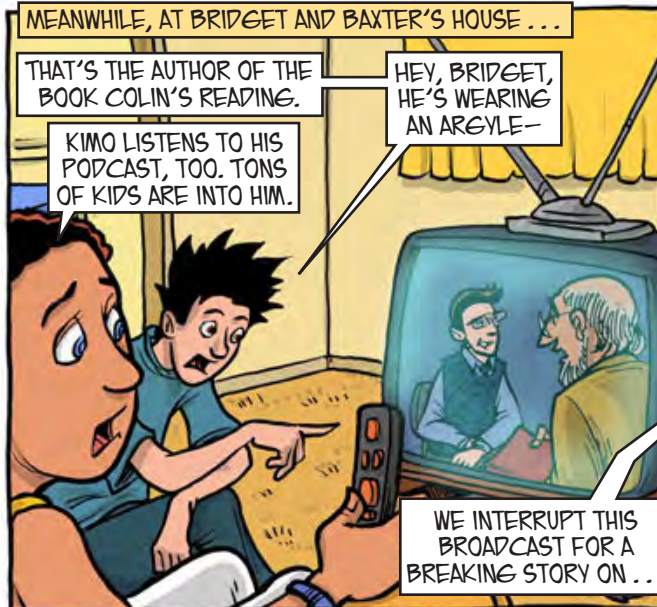


MEANWHILE, AT BRIDGET AND BAXTER'S HOUSE ...

THAT'S THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK COLIN'S READING.

KIMO LISTENS TO HIS PODCAST, TOO. TONS OF KIDS ARE INTO HIM.

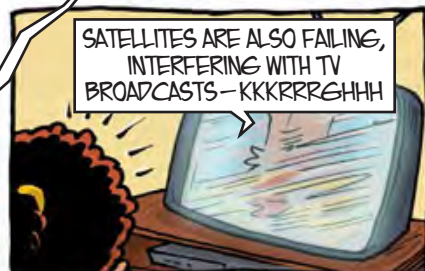
HEY, BRIDGET, HE'S WEARING AN ARGYLE—



A SUDDEN LOSS OF MILLIONS OF WEBSITES. INTERNET SERVICE IS DOWN, DISRUPTING GLOBAL COMMUNICATION!



SATELLITES ARE ALSO FAILING, INTERFERING WITH TV BROADCASTS—KKKKRRRRHHH

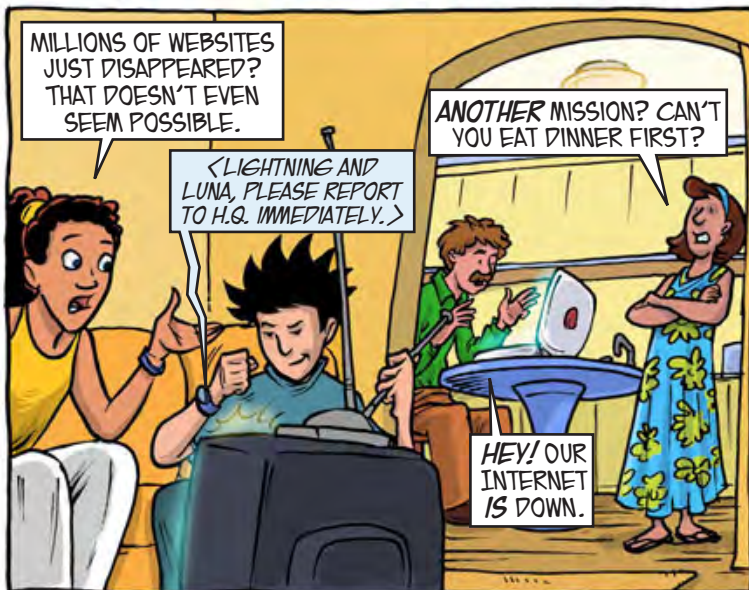


MILLIONS OF WEBSITES JUST DISAPPEARED? THAT DOESN'T EVEN SEEM POSSIBLE.

<LIGHTNING AND LUNA, PLEASE REPORT TO H.Q. IMMEDIATELY.>

ANOTHER MISSION? CAN'T YOU EAT DINNER FIRST?

HEY! OUR INTERNET IS DOWN.



THE COAST IS CLEAR, LIGHTNING. LET'S GO!



WILL THE UPLIFTERS DISCOVER DR. DEVIOUS'S EVIL PLAN?



Flags Around the World

Hi, I'm Felipe. My favorite way to learn about other countries is by studying their flags. You can find cool facts about the history, culture, and geography of a country from its flag. Colors and symbols can stand for principles like peace or freedom. Natural elements like snow, the sun, or the sky are shown in simplified forms. National emblems, religious symbols, or native animals also give clues about the country. These colorful flags can show the diversity of nations on our planet.

Read the clues, then fill in the missing letters to discover the name of each place.



The blue bands stand for the clear sky in this South American country. The sun represents freedom.

A R _ _ N T _ _ A



The star represents unity among the diverse people of this African nation, where about 100 languages are spoken. The blue stands for peace.

_ T H _ O P _ _



This Asian nation has over 7,000 islands. The sun symbolizes unity and independence, and the stars represent three main groups of islands.

P _ _ L _ P P _ _ _ S



The blue stands for the sea and sky, and gold is for the beaches of this island nation in the Caribbean Sea. The trident symbolizes the mythical sea god Neptune.

B _ R _ A _ O S



This flag represents the harmony of a group of countries. The circle stands for unity, and the 12 stars stand for perfection.

_ U R _ P _ _ N U _ I O N



Green is for hope and red is for courage. The sphere is a navigational tool representing this European country's tradition of historic explorations to other lands.

P _ R _ U G _ L



This country near China is known as "Land of the Thunder Dragon." The two colors represent the government and the Buddhist religion.

B H _ _ T _ _



The cedar tree on this flag is an ancient symbol of this Middle Eastern country. It represents strength, might, and fortitude.

L _ B _ N _ _



The circle on this Asian flag stands for the dual forces of life, such as old and new, or male and female. Its country is on a peninsula.

S _ U _ H _ _ _ R _ A

Handmade with Love

In her desert home, a young Navajo girl studies the movements of her mother's hands as she weaves long reeds into a basket. The art of basketry has been passed down for generations in the American Southwest. The finished basket will be a useful and beautiful symbol of her people's history and culture.

Around the world, about 370 million people come from native or **indigenous** cultures. Their

traditional ways of life include a wealth of hand-made arts and crafts, using natural materials and techniques that have been perfected over time.

However, many indigenous people face extreme poverty and discrimination. Traditional customs, languages, and wisdom are in danger of disappearing. Learning about native arts can help us understand and appreciate these ancient cultures. They add to the joy and creativity of our human family.

Read the clue for each craft to discover its country. Write in the matching numbers below.

1 Wounaan Tagua Nut Carving

I WAS **CARVED** FROM THE NUT OF A TAGUA PALM TREE THAT GROWS IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN RAINFOREST.

2 Hopi Pottery

I WAS HAND PAINTED WITH A BRUSH MADE FROM YUCCA LEAVES GROWN IN THE DESERTS OF ARIZONA.

3 Aboriginal Bark Painting

IN MY COUNTRY, WHERE KANGAROOS ROAM, ABORIGINAL ARTISTS USE THE **BARK** FROM A STRINGYBARK TREE AS A CANVAS.

4 Maasai Beadwork

EACH COLOR OF MY **BEADS** HAS SPECIAL MEANING TO MY AFRICAN PEOPLE. JEWELRY LIKE ME CAN SHOW A PERSON'S ROLE IN THE GROUP.

6 Coast Salish Bentwood Box

I WAS **CARVED** FROM ONE PIECE OF CEDAR THAT WAS STEAMED AND BENT INTO SHAPE. I'M FROM THE WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST COUNTRY, IN TERMS OF TOTAL AREA.

5 Sami Bracelet

I'M MADE FROM WOVEN STRANDS OF PEWTER AND LEATHER. MY COUNTRY IS NEAR NORWAY.

7 Andean Carved Gourd

I'M MADE FROM A DRIED **GOURD** THAT WAS ETCHED WITH A CARVING TOOL CALLED A **BURIL**. MY HOME IS IN THE ANDES MOUNTAINS.

8 Dhokra Metal Casting

I WAS CRAFTED FROM A MOLD MADE USING BEESWAX AND CLAY. MY ART FORM HAS BEEN USED FOR OVER 4,000 YEARS IN MY SOUTH ASIAN NATION.

A Australia

B Canada

C India

D Kenya

E Panama

F Peru

G Sweden

H United States

Some of these crafts are also made by native groups other than those shown.

Answers: A) 3, B) 6, C) 8, D) 4, E) 1, F) 7, G) 5, H) 2

KHALIL FONG



Khalil Fong is a soul-pop star who is taking the Asian music scene by storm, with sold-out concerts full of cheering fans. “Fong’s concerts are cherished events that attract industry people and music aficionados” writes the *Taipei Times*. The publication also says, with “his smoldering voice and his beautifully crafted . . . songs, he has been conquering radio and television in Taiwan.” Another journalist calls him “one of the best musicians to come out of the Hong Kong music scene in recent years.”

Khalil, who is 26, was born in Hawaii. When he was six, he and his family moved to China, in part to connect with their Chinese culture. Khalil started writing music in his teens and taught himself to play piano and guitar. At 19, he was hired by Warner Music Hong Kong as a songwriter. Warner later released his first CD, *Soul Boy*. Khalil has since produced five CDs in three languages—Mandarin, English, and Cantonese. He’s won many awards in Hong Kong, where he lives with his family. He has also been honored as a top musician in Korea, Taiwan, China, Singapore, and Malaysia.

Q. What’s your favorite childhood memory?

Going to farmers’ markets in Hawaii and having fresh coconut [from] this guy named Coconut Joe. He would climb the coconut trees . . . [and] sell them in his small truck. He’d have this big cane knife, and he’d just cut the top open and give you a straw, and you’d have the coconut juice. And after you finished, he’d cut it in half, and you’d have the coconut meat.

Q. How did you know you wanted to be a performer?

When I was three or four, I saw . . . a film about Ritchie Valens, who really made that song “La Bamba” famous during the ’50s . . . After seeing that film, I wanted to be a singer . . . It was like kids [who] see a movie about firemen, or they really admire policemen or superheroes . . . Kids grow up wanting to be them. For me, it was like that with Ritchie Valens and rock stars. So since four, I loved singing. I started off listening to . . . ’50s music after that . . . plus some ’70s Soul/R&B [Rhythm and Blues] . . . some jazz . . . And also at that time, everyone was pretty crazy about Michael Jackson. So there was a period of three or four years when I actually impersonated Michael Jackson.



Left: At about two years old in Hawaii, Khalil was following in his father’s footsteps as a drummer. Right: Khalil, at age 11 in Hong Kong, practicing the Chinese martial art of wushu.

Q. How would you describe your music to the kids who haven’t heard it yet?

It’s Soul/R&B with a little bit of everything, but mainly Soul/R&B in Mandarin, and occasionally I do some English songs . . . In the States or in the Western world, people have heard a lot of Soul/R&B. But mainly in Asia, it’s pretty rare . . . So I’m just trying to introduce Soul/R&B to the people in China, in Malaysia, and Mandarin-speaking areas.

Q. You're doing a lot at a young age.

Oh, I don't know. A lot of youngsters are really coming about, and [there is] really so much talent on the Internet. You just click on YouTube, and I'm surprised often [by] the talent that's out there. It's quite something . . . Sometimes you wonder, "Why am I the one singing?" . . . So I think it's really cool these days to have things like Facebook and YouTube . . . [It's] a good way for people to gain knowledge of what other musicians are doing on the other side of the world.

Q. How would you sum up the message or messages that you want to convey to people with your music?

First, being positive is one of the main overviews or topics that I like to write about, [and] some social issues . . . I like to write about life in general, so whatever I see or hear, and if I can find a good melody to go with it, then I like to write about it . . . I try to incorporate Bahá'í perspectives in my music, although I don't directly talk about religion . . . But I try to bring that kind of culture into my music.

Q. What advice do you have for kids who want to be professional musicians?

I would say, practice. Practice is the best way, and to listen to a lot of music . . . And be flexible. A lot of people might want to be into the whole superstar thing. I think these days, it's more sing and be happy . . . Live your life positively and try to do some good in your work, and perfect your craft, whatever it is.

Q. In this issue of *Brilliant Star*, we're talking about unity in diversity. How would you encourage kids to deepen their appreciation for cultural diversity?

Being a traveler, I've met a fair amount of different types of people, and I find that the more you get to know people, the more you learn that everyone's really just about the same. You learn to differentiate cultural habits . . . [from] what everyone is really looking for in their hearts. I think that's really good. It's really easy to sort of make friends. It's really easy



Top: Khalil sings from his latest album, *Timeless*, in Hong Kong in 2009. The concert was sold out. PHOTO BY LUCY CHEN
Bottom: Khalil performs with Grammy-winner Jason Mraz at a concert in 2009. PHOTO BY CHRIS CHAN

Q. If you had one wish for readers of *Brilliant Star*, what would it be?

In Chinese, we have a saying . . . "Good Health and Prosperity." During the [Chinese] New Year, we always say that . . . So "Good Health and Prosperity," and spiritual health at the same time.

to understand conflict, because a lot of conflict is just a product of our habits clashing. It helps to see things from a different perspective, and I think being in a diverse situation also enables you, or challenges you, to get into other people's minds—in a good way—and to see how other people think and actually apply that to your daily life.



MUSIC CAFÉ

"Music, sung or played, is spiritual food for soul and heart." —Bahá'í Writings

I LOVE MAKING FRIENDS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. WE MAY NOT ALWAYS UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S WORDS, BUT WE ALL SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF **MUSIC**, AND IT BRINGS US CLOSER TOGETHER. MUSIC CAN MAKE...

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE By Bunny Hull



Verse

4 1 From Mex-i-co to Eng-land, Chi-na to Pe-ru From

7 Ger-man-y to In-di-a There are peo-ple like me and you From Pak-i-stan to E-gypt From

10 Is-ra-el to Spain Though we have dif-ferent lan-gua-ges We're real-ly all the same

Chorus

One We are o-ne We are o-ne in a world of difference One We are one

15 We are one in a world of lo-ve Hum Na na na na na Na na na na na

20 na in a world of dif-ference Hum Na na na na na

23 Back to beginning

na Na na na na na in a world of lo-ve

2 From Canada to Russia, Belize to Afghanistan
From North to South Korea...oh, let us understand
From America to Cuba, Barbados to Congo
No matter where we come from
There's one thing we must know

Chorus • Chant

3 From Greece to Ethiopia, Guatemala to Thailand
From Kenya to Morocco we are one race human
From Chile to Jamaica, Australia to Iran
We share one sun, one life, one dream
For peace in every land

Chorus (2x)





RILEY'S RAINFOREST

"Send down...from the clouds of Thy mercy the rains of Thy healing..." —Bahá'u'lláh

The Spice of Life

Did you know there's a whole world to explore right in your own kitchen? Whether you sprinkle cinnamon in your oatmeal or oregano on your pizza, you use herbs and spices from around the world.

Since ancient times, herbs and spices have been used for food, medicine, and perfume. As people traveled to other lands, they began to share and trade spices. This led to explorations around the globe.

Spices come from the seeds, bark, and fruits of plants, while herbs are the leaves. It's often a mix of herbs and spices that give foods their unique flavors. A rice dish in India might be made with garam masala, a blend with cardamom, cloves, and cumin. Rice in Liberia might use red and black pepper and thyme.

Ever notice how some countries' foods tend to be spicy? In one study, scientists found that places with hotter climates use more spices than cooler lands—and health may be the reason. Since herbs and



spices such as garlic, oregano, and cinnamon can kill harmful bacteria, they believe people used spices through the ages to stay well.

Herbs and spices support health in other ways, too. Cloves have been used by dentists to numb pain. Ginger is used to ease nausea and help digestion. Garlic is high in antioxidants, substances that can protect your body's cells. Studies have even shown that people who eat more garlic seem to have a lower risk for some types of cancer.

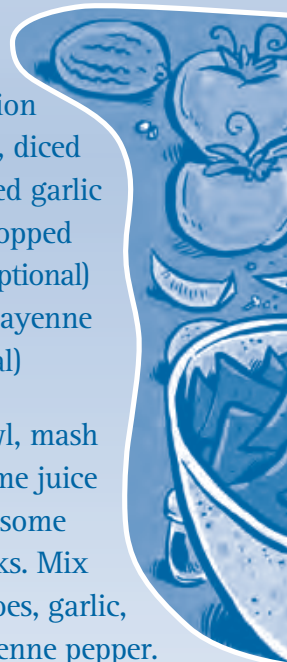
Try exploring your spice cabinet. With so many flavors at your fingertips, you can enjoy the unique tastes around the world, and add a little more spice to your life.

Explore and Soar Yummy Guacamole!

Avocados have been a staple food in Mexico and Central and South America since 500 BCE. They're also full of nutrients. Spices help give this guacamole recipe its distinct flavor.

- 3 avocados—peeled and pitted
- 1 lime, juiced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup diced onion
- 2 small tomatoes, diced
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro (optional)
- 1 pinch ground cayenne pepper (optional)

In a medium bowl, mash avocados with lime juice and salt, leaving some avocado in chunks. Mix in onions, tomatoes, garlic, cilantro, and cayenne pepper. Serve with tortilla chips, veggies, or salad. ¡Buen provecho!



Fruit for Thought

"Human tastes differ; thoughts, native lands, races and tongues are many . . . It is possible, however, for all to become unified through one spirit, just as all may receive light from one sun."

— 'Abdu'l-Bahá



Curiosity Canopy

What spice is known as the "king of spices"?

Answer: Black pepper. It's the best-selling spice in the U.S., and it's used in dishes all over the world. Most pepper is grown in Vietnam, India, Brazil, and Indonesia. Although it's common now, peppercorns were once so valuable they were used as money!

LOUIS GREGORY: Golden-Hearted Promoter of Justice

What do you think your life would be like if your parents and grandparents had been slaves? Louis Gregory was born in 1874, just nine years after his mother and grandmother were freed from slavery at the end of the U.S. Civil War. His father died of tuberculosis when Louis was small. His mother worked as a tailor to support Louis and his brother.

Louis's family stayed strong in the face of poverty, suffering, and injustice. His grandfather was killed by the Ku Klux Klan, a white terrorist group. But his grandmother refused to be filled with hatred. She helped teach Louis to face challenges with courage and dignity.

In 1881, his mother married George Gregory, who was supportive and became "a real father" to Louis. He encouraged Louis to get the best education possible.

"Changed for the Better"

After high school, Louis earned a bachelor's degree from Fisk University in Tennessee. He was one of very few African Americans to achieve this goal at the time. He soon decided to be a lawyer. There were few opportunities for African Americans to study law, but Louis was able to earn his law degree from Howard University



Louis Gregory wrote, "Wherever in the world today there is hatred of class for class, nation for nation, race for race, tragedy lurks."

in Washington, D.C., in 1902. He practiced law in Washington and also worked for 10 years in the U.S. Treasury Department.

Like many of his peers, Louis was concerned about the common injustice and violence toward African Americans. He spoke out against racial segregation and promoted equal rights.

Louis had sought religious truth, but had given up hope of finding it. Then he heard about the Bahá'í Faith and felt drawn to its teachings on racial equality. After studying the Faith for more than a year, he became a Bahá'í in 1909 at age 35.

He said that because of the Bahá'í Faith, "my whole nature seems changed for the better."

Working for Race Unity

In 1911, Louis traveled to Egypt to meet 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the leader of the Bahá'í Faith at that time. 'Abdu'l-Bahá urged him to work for unity and harmony between the races.

Louis did just that. He traveled throughout the U.S. speaking about the Bahá'í Faith and race unity. He was a powerful speaker. In 1916, Louis gave up his law practice to travel and speak full-time.

Louis married Louisa Matthew, a white English Bahá'í, in 1912. Interracial marriage was uncommon in the U.S. and even against the law in many areas, so they often couldn't travel together safely. They had long, difficult periods of separation.

Louis and Louisa finally retired to Maine in 1946. Louis passed away in 1951. Shoghi Effendi, who led the Bahá'í Faith after 'Abdu'l-Bahá's passing, wrote that he grieved the "loss of dearly beloved, noble-minded, golden-hearted Louis Gregory . . ." He appointed Louis a Hand of the Cause of God.* Today, several schools are named for Louis, including the Louis G. Gregory Bahá'í Institute in South Carolina, and his childhood home is now a museum.



PEOPLE ARE
LIKE A RADIANT
RAINBOW!



COLORS OF HUMANITY

ROY G. BIV—have you used this acronym to remember the colors of the rainbow? It stands for red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. Though sunlight appears white, it can actually separate into bands of color.

Like a rainbow, humanity has a wide spectrum of diversity. We have physical differences, and we come from many different countries, cultures, and

backgrounds. Each of us has unique ways of thinking and expressing ourselves. But just as all the colors of a rainbow come from the sun's light, each individual belongs to the same human family.

Every day, we can share our unique talents, strengths, and ideas, and we can learn from one another. The more we all live and work in unity, the more light we bring to the world.

MAKE YOUR OWN RAINBOW

You'll Need: Clear glass bowl or dish about 7" (18 cm) wide and 3" (7.5 cm) tall
Round mirror about 5 1/2" (14 cm) • clear water • UV sunglasses • room with brightly sunlit window

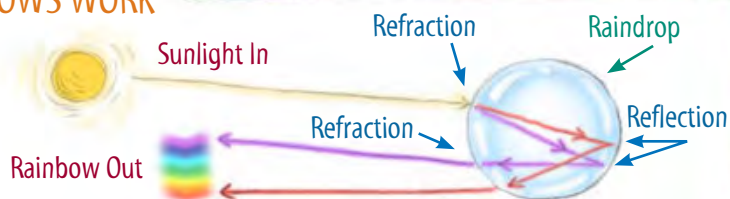
CAUTION: Even with sunglasses, never look directly at the sun or its reflection in the mirror. The sun's powerful rays can damage your sensitive eyes.

1. Pour water in the dish until it's about two-thirds full.
2. Place the dish near a sunny window on the floor or a table.
3. Put on your sunglasses and place the mirror inside the dish, partly submerged in the water.
4. Make sure the mirror is angled toward the sun. The sun's light should shine into the mirror.
5. Remove your sunglasses. Now look for one or more rainbows on the ceiling or walls.

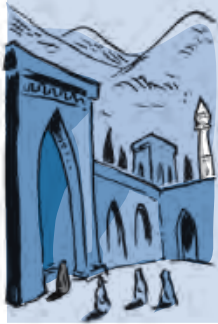


HOW RAINBOWS WORK

Why do we most often see rainbows on rainy days? Sunlight contains waves of light in different lengths, or wavelengths, and these wavelengths can appear as different colors. When the sun comes out and its white light enters a raindrop, the waves bend, or refract, in varying amounts, depending on their length. This causes the waves to separate into the colors of the rainbow.



To make it easier to follow the wavelengths, only two of the seven colors of the rainbow are shown in this raindrop. You can usually find a rainbow when the sun is low in the sky and shining from behind you, onto a distant rain shower.



In 1819, a child was born in Shíráz, Persia (now Iran), Who would later carry out an extraordinary mission. His name was Siyyid 'Alí-Muhammad. Throughout His youth, He was known for His excellent character, wisdom, and devotion to God. During this time, many people awaited a new Messenger of God promised by Christianity and Islam. In May 1844, Siyyid 'Alí-Muhammad announced that He was this promised Messenger. He became known as the Báb, meaning "the Gate" in Arabic. He prepared the world for the next Messenger of God — Bahá'u'lláh—Who would bring a new age of peace. On May 23, Bahá'ís celebrate the Declaration of the Báb with prayers and fellowship.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Every 19 days, Bahá'í Feast is held on or near the first day of the Bahá'í month.

2
TWELFTH DAY OF RIDVÁN

Honors Bahá'u'lláh's departure from Baghdád, Iraq



4
National Teacher Day (U.S.)
Say "thank you" to your teachers today.



5
Cinco de Mayo (Mexico, U.S.)
Join in the celebration of Mexican heritage.

1
My Goal for the Month:



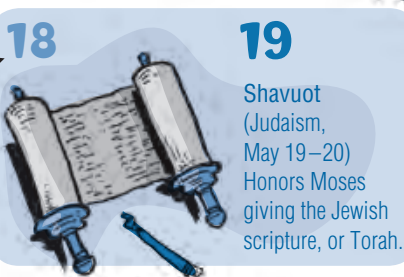
8
World Migratory Bird Day (UN, May 8–9)
Many of the 1,500 species of migratory birds suffer from loss of habitat.

9
Mother's Day
Whether she's *Mom*, *Madre*, or *Mama*, make something special for her today.

11
Cosmo's Word Challenge
a) To descend a cliff using a rope
b) Harmonious relationship
c) A written document



14
International Day of Families (UN)
Take a nature walk with your family.



19
Shavuot (Judaism, May 19–20)
Honors Moses giving the Jewish scripture, or Torah.



21
World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (UN)
Promotes unity in diversity



17
BAHÁ'Í MONTH OF 'AZAMAT (GRANDEUR)

23
DECLARATION OF THE BÁB

24
Memorial Day (U.S.)

25
Africa Day (African Union)
More than 1,500 languages are spoken in Africa.



27
Did you know?
African elephants' ears are shaped much like the continent of Africa.

29
ASCENSION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH
In 1892, Bahá'u'lláh passed into the next life at 3:00 AM.

Where might you find hip-hop dancers, Chinese acrobats, American Indian storytellers, Caribbean bands, and a spread of Mediterranean food all in one park? At a Race Unity Day celebration! On the second Sunday of June, Race Unity Day honors the cultural diversity of our human family. The holiday was started by the Bahá'ís of the U.S. in 1957 to build unity and friendship among people of different backgrounds. It's celebrated with parties, parades, plays, picnics, and other events as diverse as the people who participate in them.



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Every 19 days, Bahá'í Feast is held on or near the first day of the Bahá'í month.

1

My Goal for the Month:

2

CAMARADERIE MEANS ...

Cosmo's Word Challenge

- a) Friendship, fellowship
- b) Tool for recording visual images
- c) Tea made from dried flowers

3



4

5

BAHÁ'Í MONTH OF NÚR (LIGHT)

6

Did you know? Orcas (or killer whales) are actually the world's largest dolphins.

7



8

World Oceans Day (UN)
The Pacific Ocean covers one-third of the earth's surface.

9

10

11

Soccer World Cup begins in South Africa.

12

Did you know? Soccer is the most popular sport on the planet.

13

Race Unity Day (U.S. Bahá'í)

14



Flag Day (U.S.)*
The first U.S. flag was adopted on this day in 1777.

15



16

17

World Day to Combat Desertification (UN)
Learn how climate change has damaged land around the world.

18



19

Juneteenth (U.S.)
Honors the actual end of slavery

20

World Refugee Day (UN)

Father's Day

21

National Aboriginal Day (Canada)
Celebrate Canada's native people

Summer Solstice

22



23

True or false? "America" comes from Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci.

24

BAHÁ'Í MONTH OF RAHMAT (MERCY)

25



26

Did you know? Insects are the most diverse animals, with 750,000 species!

27

Canadian Multiculturalism Day
In 1971, Canada was the first country to adopt a multi-culturalism policy.

28

Did you know?

In Asia, it's impolite to play with your chopsticks, make noise with them, or use them to spear food.

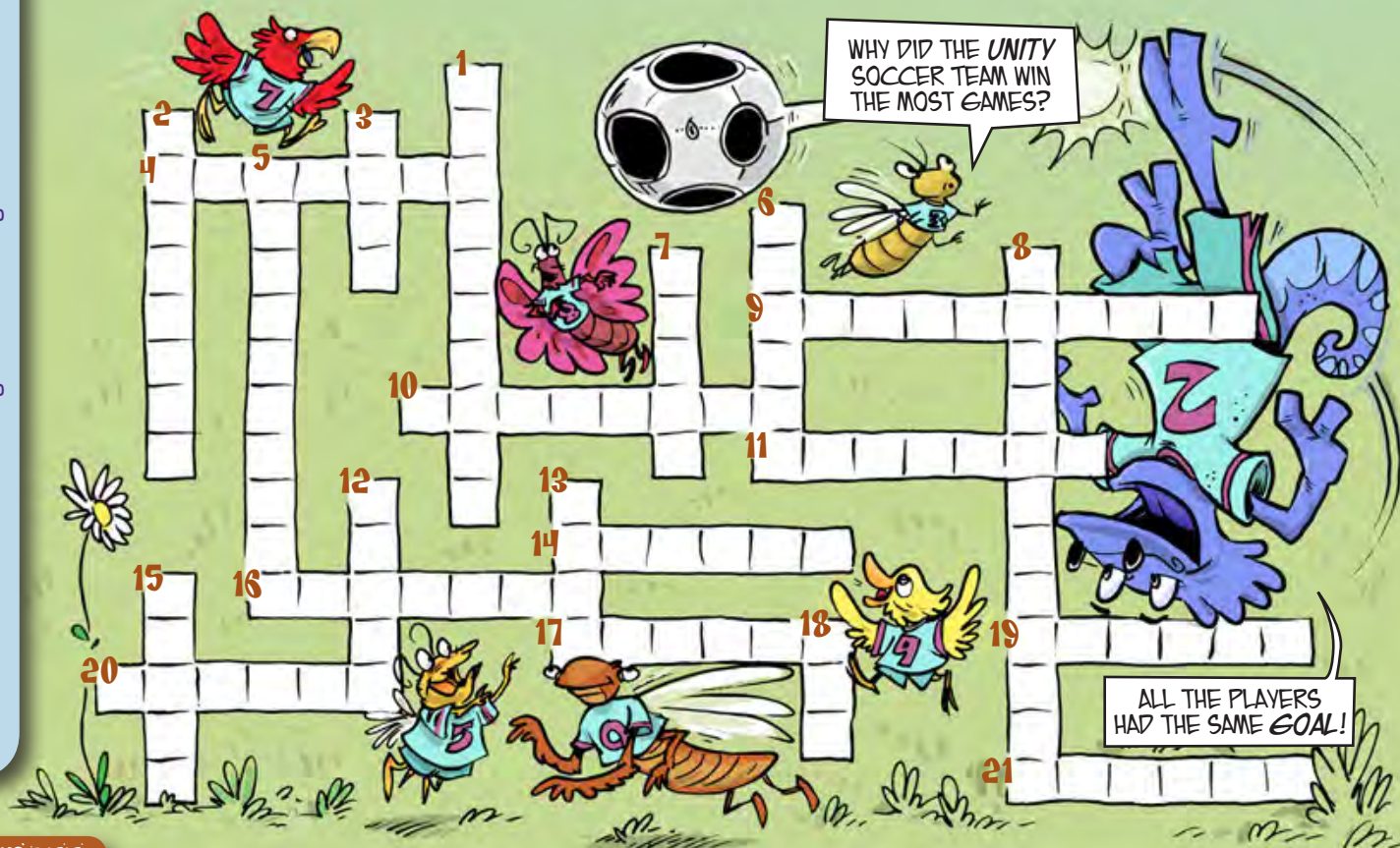
29



30

WHAT'S YOUR DAD'S FAVORITE KIND OF MUSIC?





ACROSS

4. "Thank you" in Japanese (p. 5)
9. Khalil says, "Live your life _____ and try to do some good in your work . . ." (p. 19)
10. The World _____ program highlights places with "outstanding value to humanity." (p. 10)
11. Letters that stand for the colors of the rainbow (p. 23)
14. Mingway and Eve would both like to visit this country. (pp. 12-13)
16. "Thank you" in Arabic (p. 5)
17. The flag of Bhutan has a _____ on it. (p. 16)
19. World's most popular sport (p. 25)
20. Louis Gregory spoke out against racial segregation and promoted equal _____. (p. 22)
21. "E sheo" means "thank you" in this West African language. (p. 5)

DOWN

1. When animals, plants, and insects work together, they form _____. (p. 7)
2. When traveling, learn as much as you can in the native _____. (p. 6)
3. Tevya loves to learn about other _____ of life. (p. 12)
5. Around the world, about 370 million people come from native or _____ cultures. (p. 17)
6. Known as the "King of Spices" (p. 21)
7. There are many diverse cultures, but only one _____ race. (p. 11)
8. Earth's magnificent range of living things is its _____. (p. 27)
12. In some cultures, _____ are considered sacred and are played for special ceremonies. (p. 8)
13. Keeping your _____ open can bring you lots of new ideas and experiences. (p. 9)
15. Race _____ Day was started by the Bahá'ís in 1957. (p. 25)
18. An agouti is one of the only creatures with teeth strong enough to chew through the Brazil _____ pod. (p. 7)

FROM OUR MAILBOX



I like the Lightning and Luna comics . . . I especially like the idea of good against evil. But what I like most about it is that the villain comes up with some evil plan or scheme or something, and the Uplifters foil his or her plans. Evil shall never triumph!

—Stewart A., age 11, Texas, U.S.

ANSWERS

Page 2: Binoculars at bottom right, camera at bottom left, daypack at center, guidebook at center left, hat at top right, map at top left, passport at center right, pens at bottom right, sketchbook at center right

Page 6: 1) know, culture; 2) mind, customs; 3) language, thanks; 4) smile, greet; 5) try, foods; 6) gestures, meanings; 7) environment, litter; 8) questions, learn

Page 7: A) flower at top right; B) bee at top right; C) orchid at top center; D) agouti at bottom center; E) seed pod at top right, near parrot; F) agouti burying nut at bottom right; G) roots of sapling at bottom right; H) frog at center left

Page 10: 1) B, 2) A, 3) F, 4) D, 5) E, 6) C

Page 11: Moscow, Russia; Ghost Crab

Page 16 (left to right): 1) Argentina, 2) Ethiopia, 3) Philippines, 4) Barbados, 5) European Union, 6) Portugal, 7) Bhutan, 8) Lebanon, 9) South Korea

Page 27: Cardinal flower at bottom left, butterfly weed at bottom left, wood lily at top center, giant sunflower at center right, goldenrod at center, wild bergamot at bottom right, white prairie aster at bottom center, great blue lobelia at center left, fireweed at center

Page 28: 1) Balance, 2) family, 3) diverse, 4) consult, 5) homework, 6) humor, 7) peaceful, 8) respect, 9) Search, 10) scared, 11) need, 12) history

Backyard Biodiversity

"Consider the flowers of a garden. Though differing in kind, color, form, and shape, yet ... this diversity increaseth their charm, and addeth unto their beauty." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

Have you ever crunched into a fruit or vegetable you grew yourself? Do you eagerly wait for your garden plants and flowers to spring to life? Tending a garden can be magical. It can give you a glimpse of Earth's magnificent range of living things, or biodiversity. Millions of plants and animals add to nature's beauty and health, just as diverse people and cultures enrich humanity.

Sadly, many species are threatened with extinction due to things such as pollution and loss of habitat. But planting a biodiverse garden creates a refuge with food

and shelter for local creatures. It has grasses, flowers, shrubs, and trees that grow naturally in the area. Together, they attract birds and insects that help the plants grow.

Biodiverse gardens support human health by providing nutritious fruits and vegetables. But did you know growing your own food helps the environment by reducing energy use and pollution from transportation and factories?

When you create a garden, you're caring for yourself, your family, and the creatures that share our world. Imagine the wonderful things you can grow!

In this biodiverse garden in the midwestern U.S., find nine kinds of native flowers.

Cardinal Flower

Butterfly Weed

Wood Lily

Giant Sunflower

Goldenrod

Wild Bergamot

White Prairie Aster

Great Blue Lobelia

Fireweed

WHEN PLANTING A GARDEN, GROUP TOGETHER PLANTS THAT NEED THE SAME AMOUNT OF WATER, AND SUN OR SHADE.

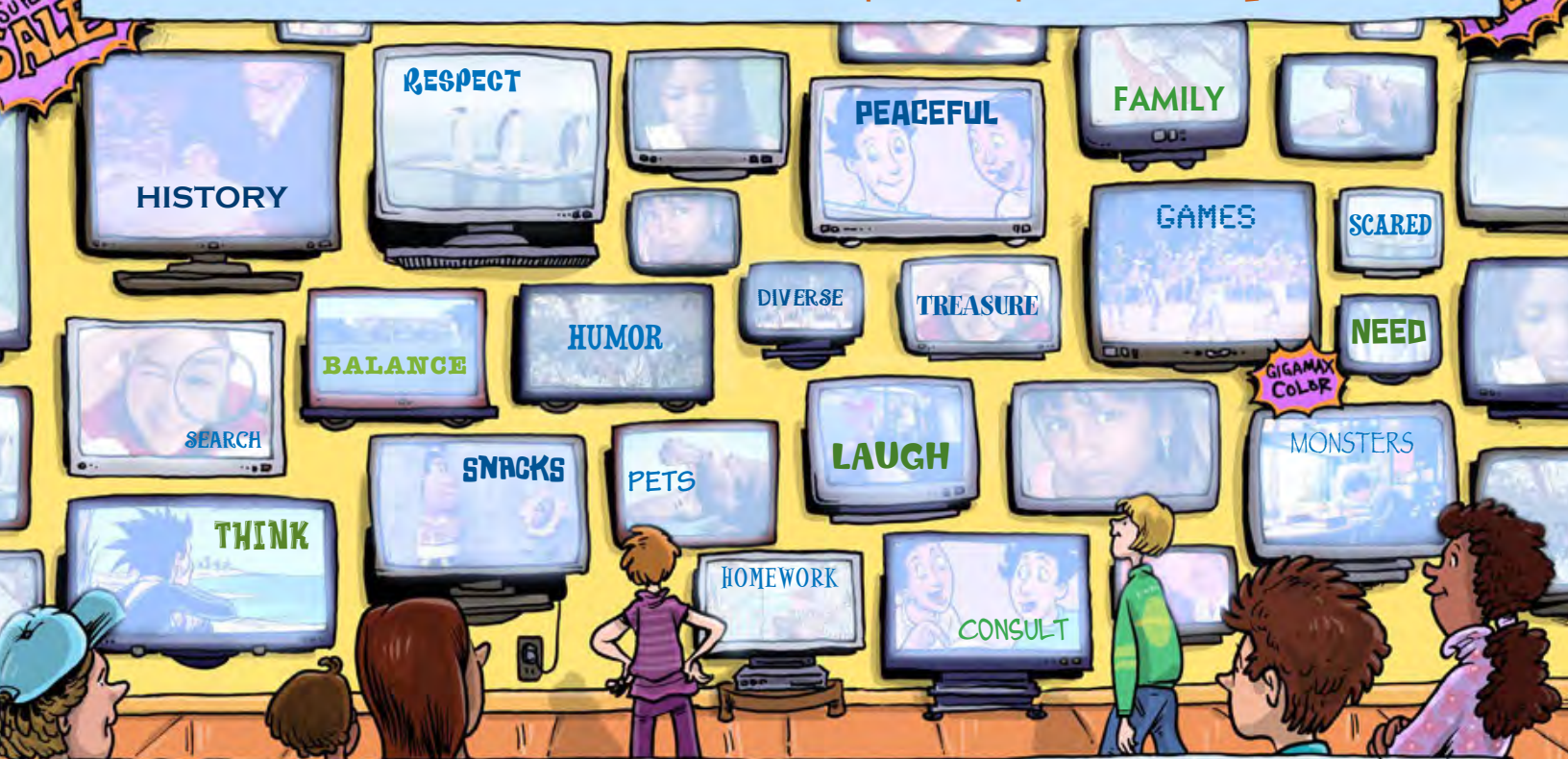
WATCH WITH WISDOM

How many teachers do you have? There are your math, science, and art teachers. Your parents are your teachers, too. But there's another powerful teacher: your television.

You can learn a lot from TV shows about the universe, ocean life, or explorers in history. But some TV shows can teach negative things—and you may not even be aware of it.

Do you think carefully about what you see on TV? On your favorite shows, do only boys play sports? Are the girls just interested in clothes and jewelry? If so, you're seeing **stereotypes**—assumptions that all people in a group are alike. When you watch shows that promote stereotypes or prejudice against a group, it can be easy to start believing them. TV can be fun, but you have to use your head and think for yourself.

Check out the televisions below. Fill in the words that complete the tips about watching TV with wisdom.



1. _____ TV time with activities such as playing outside, reading, and being with friends.
2. Watch with your _____, and talk about the shows you see.
3. Look for shows where people of _____ backgrounds play strong, intelligent characters.
4. List shows you'd like to watch, and _____ with your parents about the best choices.
5. Turn off the TV during family meals or when doing _____.
6. Find programs where the _____ is friendly, rather than based on insults.
7. Choose programs and cartoons where characters find _____ solutions to problems.
8. Look for programs where kids treat their parents with _____.
9. _____ for special programs about your interests, such as science, art, or nature.
10. Avoid violent shows that make you feel _____ in real life.
11. Watch out for commercials that can make you think you _____ the latest gadget or unhealthy food.
12. Is TV telling you the true story? Research the facts and _____ to find out for sure.

Tree of Humanity

aMAZEing
ADVENTURE

"All may be seen to be the parts of the same tree — the great tree of the human family. For mankind may be likened to the branches, leaves, blossoms and fruit of that tree." —'Abdu'l-Bahá


Have you ever drawn your family tree? When you do, you can discover amazing things about your heritage. And if you could trace that tree back far enough, scientists say you'd find that we all have common ancestors who lived in Africa long ago.

We're all part of one human family, with a wonderful variety of cultures and ways of life.

Around the globe, we create fun music, languages, art, games, clothes, and foods. No matter where you live or what your background, you can learn about and taste those fruits of human creativity. Though our cultures are different, we can live together in harmony. So explore the human family tree, and celebrate our diversity.

Visit the friends playing in harmony, then find your way to the top of the tree.





"When you meet those whose opinions
differ from your own, do not turn away
your face from them. All are seeking truth,
and there are many roads leading thereto."

—'Abdu'l-Bahá

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