



# THE PAW PRINT

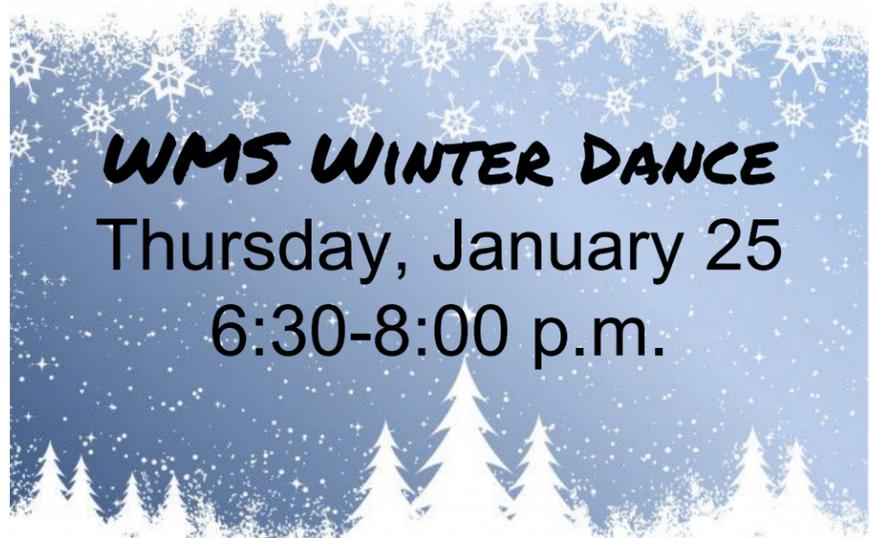
Western Middle School



Russiaville, IN

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**WMS WINTER DANCE**  
 Thursday, January 25  
 6:30-8:00 p.m.

*Tickets go on sale soon during lunch!*

## Meet the New Paw Print Staff



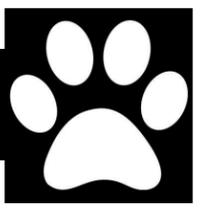
We welcome the following members to this term's Paw Print staff: (from left to right) Jeffery Raines, Ashton Justice, Gavin Gifford, Le'na Chapel, Charlie Ailor, Caleb Turnpaugh, and Kadin Dempsey.

## Don't Forget to Look for the DGU Paw Print in the Paper Each Week!

DGU stands for "Don't Give Up", and it is a special paw print in the paper! Search for the paw print, find it, and get a reward! When you find the paw print, take a picture and email it to Mrs. Sipes at [lsipes@western.k12.in.us](mailto:lsipes@western.k12.in.us). The first person in 6-8th grade to find it and send it in will win a gift card. Even the staff can earn a reward for being the first staff member to find the paw print. Get your glasses on and search for it!

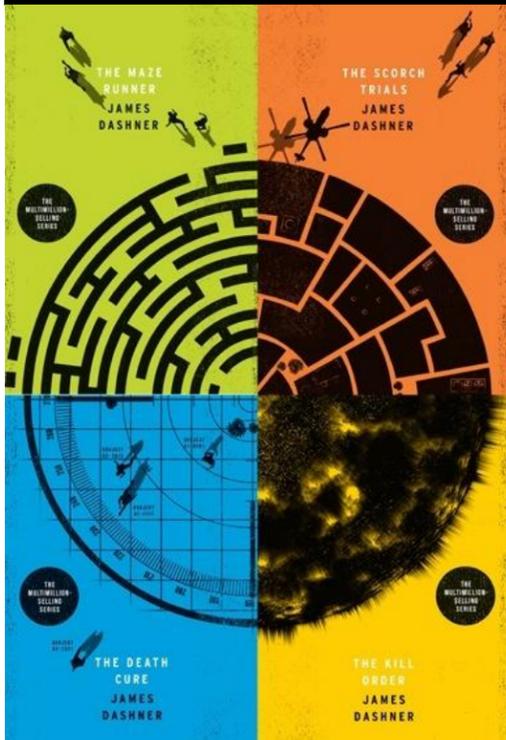


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# One in a Million



By Charlie Allor

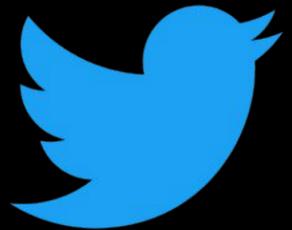
This review is on the *Maze Runner* series by James Dashner. He has written several books starting with *The Maze Runner*, *The Scorch Trials*, then *The Death Cure*, followed by the prequel to the Maze Runner Series *The Kill Order*, followed by *The Fever Code*. The author was born on November 26, 1972. The books are dystopian novels, which means they have a post apocalyptic feeling.

I extremely enjoyed this series. I think my favorite book was the first book, *The Maze Runner*. My least favorite one is the third one, *The Death Cure*. My favorite character is Thomas and my least favorite character is Gally. My favorite part from *The Maze Runner* is when Thomas and Minho kill the grievers. James Dashner wrote his first *Maze Runner*

book in 2009 and his last in 2016.

Some of the boys got their names from famous people Thomas got his name from Thomas Edison, Newt got his name from Isaac Newton, and some of them just got their names from somewhere else, like Minho. When asked about writing, Dashner said, "I swear on my kids that I had no idea what the word 'dystopia' meant. I was just trying to write a cool story. I was just wrote the best story I could." Dashner doesn't really describe *The Maze Runner* as 'dystopian.'" He was inspired by a number of things. In high school he read *Lord Of The Flies*, which had an obvious influence on his novel.

## Editorial: The Military Can't Stop Undermining Trump on Twitter



By Ashton Justice

President Trump has been tweeting a lot and it is angering people across the U.S. and even the globe. The military has been roasting Trump secretly on Twitter. On the other hand, Trump's tweets have been getting out of hand at times.

For one of his tweets, he said "Such respect for the people of Iran as they try to take back their corrupt government. You will see support from the U.S. at the appropriate time!" The military and people who know Trump have been insulting him on his grammar usage and his intelligence. He has been called mentally unfit on twitter. The tweets he has posted have been insulted.

Should President Trump be able to say whatever he wants? He called the court ruling outrageous and that is his opinion. Mr. Trump has already called the court system unfair and criticized them.

Twitter was used by former President Obama, but it has not been used this often by a president until now.



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# Who Is It??



This is a picture of one of the teachers in the middle school building. Can you guess who it is?

Look for a baby picture of a teacher in each issue of *The Paw Print* this year. Your job is to guess which teacher it is each time.

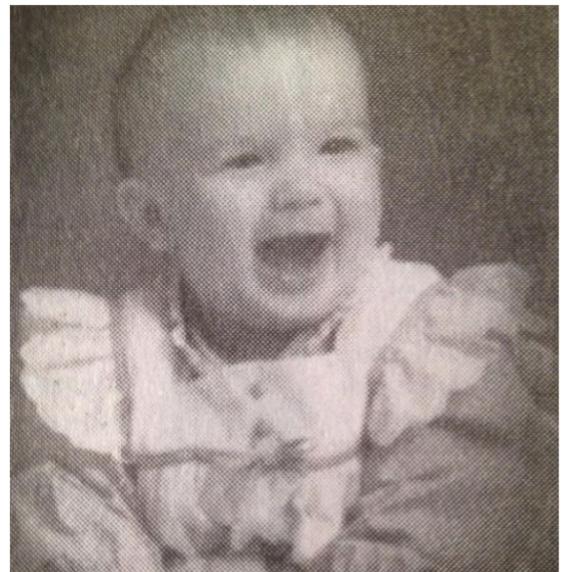
If you think you know, stop by Mrs. Sipes' room (601) during passing period. The first person with the correct answer claims the reward!

## Previous Baby Pictures: How Many Have You Guessed?

Issue 8: Mr. Abston  
Spanish and World Languages Teacher



Issue 9: Mrs. Lee  
6th Grade Social Studies Teacher



Issue 10: Mrs. Coulson  
7th Grade Science Teacher



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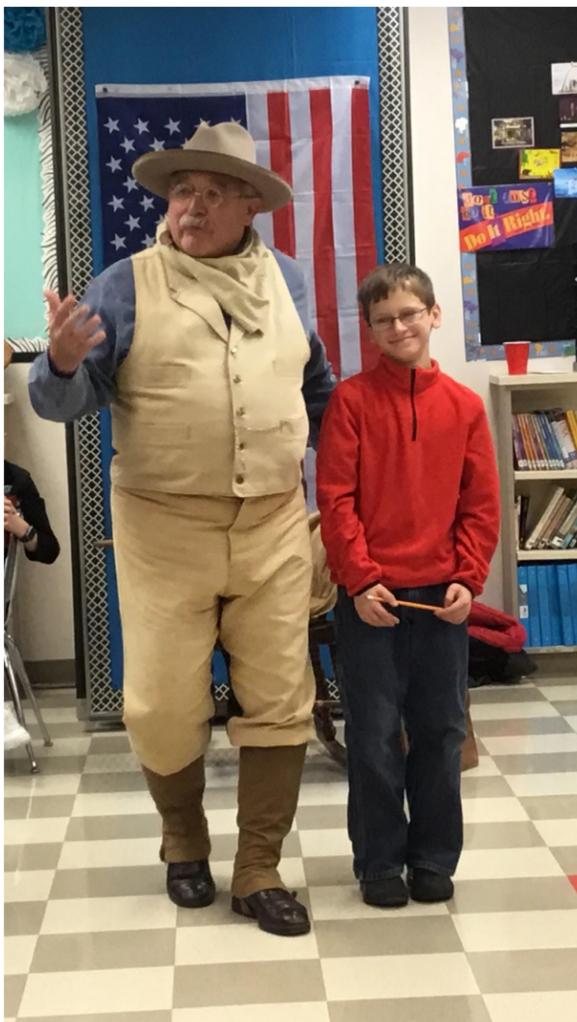
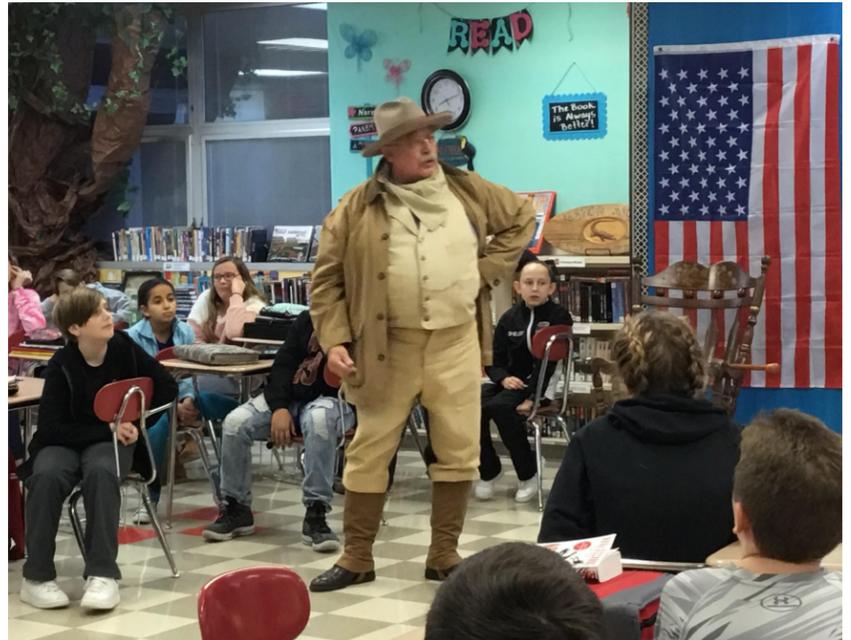


# Former President Theodore Roosevelt Visits WMS



By Charlie Ailor and Jeffery Raines

On January 10 the Navigator team had a guest speaker...and it was Teddy Roosevelt. He was at Western Middle School to talk about his life story, the national parks, and his time as a U.S. president. He also talked about the bird preserves and how the population of pelicans was going down dramatically in his time.



The former president shared about a time he went to go hunt bear in Mississippi. When he received news that they had his bear, he saw that it was all beaten up and close to death. He let it free and said, "I shall not kill this bear." He went on to explain that this was the story of how Teddy bears became a popular toy. Sixth grade student Leroy Carter (left) helped the guest speaker by playing the part of the bear.

President Roosevelt also gave out rewards to those students who answered questions or participated. Two of the students who earned a reward were Alex Bolinger and Leroy Carter (below). Alex received a gold \$1 dollar presidential coin and Leroy received a pencil with Teddy Roosevelt's catch phrase.

Mr. Roosevelt also talked about his first national park, which was Yellowstone. He told students about Devil's Tower and explained that it was his first national monument.



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# New Year's Resolutions



***“You can't go back and make a new start, but you can start right now and make a brand new ending.”  
- James R. Sherman, Ph.D.***

By Caleb Turnpaugh

Today I will be talking about the New Year's Resolution. The New Year's resolution is when people set up goals for what they are going to do in the year. For example, if a person is an alcoholic, he can try to stop drinking alcohol. If a person smokes, they can try to stop smoking within the year. You get the point. If you don't, then it means if a person is doing something bad, they can try to stop whatever they are doing bad in the year. You basically just try to change who you are if you are doing something bad. If there is something good you want to do, you set that goal.

Say I was a bad person. I can change that in a year and be someone who is doing something good. If I am doing something bad, then I can change my behavior during the year and do something good. A New Year's resolution is like a promise to yourself to make that change.

So this is what a New Year's resolution is: it is a goal you make at the first of the year to complete by the end of that same year. A New Year's resolution is a tradition in which a person resolves to change an undesired trait or behavior, to accomplish a personal goal, or improve their life in some way.

For example: If you are homeless, you can try to get money for cleaning up the streets. You could earn money by doing that. That way you won't be homeless anymore when you save enough money by helping other people.

## Top 10 Resolutions Each Year:

1. Stay fit and healthy
2. Lose weight
3. Enjoy life to the fullest
4. Spend less, save more
5. Spend more time with family and friends
6. Get organized
7. Stop making resolutions
8. Learn something new; start a hobby
9. Travel more
10. Read more

Source: Nielsen



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# A History Lesson: The Mayan Civilization



By Kadin Dempsey

Way back in 2600 BC lived the ancient people of the Maya. Back then there were no iPads, phones, or even computers! I know, right? How would all those people live without electronics? Well, back then a lot of the people had jobs. For example, the men either became the king, priests, or lower class men. For another example, the women would take care of the children, cook, make yarn, and weave cloth.

## The Levels of the Mayan People

The highest you could be is the king of the society. The king made all of the decisions for the society. The people believed that the kings were related to the gods and that the gods choose them for that reason. Next in position of the society were the noble warriors, priests, and rich merchants. They had authority over others and helped the king make his decisions. They were all considered the upper class of the society. The upper class had all power of the people. Most of the Mayan people belonged to the lower class. This group was made up of the families that lived outside the cities. These people were the men, women and children who helped with farming. The lower class had to pay their rulers part of their crops and goods, such as cloth and salt. They helped construct and build the buildings. If there was a war, Mayan men were sent to battle and the captured were often used as slaves. Slaves were used for carrying goods to trade routes and serving the upper class people or farmers.

## Religion

The Maya worshipped many gods. Some of their gods were the sun god, a creator god, a moon goddess, and maize god. Each god was believed to have a different job each day. According to the Mayan people, the gods could be harmful or helpful. The Mayan people would always try to please their gods by offering blood because the Mayan people believed that their gods needed the blood to prevent disasters or the end of the world. Everyone would pierce their younger or skin. On a special occasion, they would make human sacrifices. They would use their prisoners captured in battle and cut out their hearts for stone carvings and offer them to their gods. Mayan temples were shaped like mountains, which the Maya considered sacred because they allowed people to approach the gods.



*People visiting ancient temple of the Mayan people.*



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# The Sports Section: The National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR)



By Gavin G. Gifford

Feb. 15 1948...the day that started it all. The first official NASCAR race was held in Florida on Daytona Beach. Cars were lined up at the starting line ready to race. Their engines roared when the green flag waved. The cars were bumping into each other. It was the race that started the franchise, NASCAR.



Cars Getting Ready for a Race on Pit Road

## What is NASCAR?

NASCAR stands for National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing. Back when NASCAR first came out, the cars were called stock cars. These were cars that were built by normal automakers and then people tuned them up for racing; it wasn't only one type of car, it was all different brands of cars. They are still called stock cars, but really, they're not anymore because they have all the same type of performance aspects and they are upgraded to be safer, (they are made by different car manufacturers, but they are still the same base).

NASCAR isn't just a one man job, you need a team. There's the race car driver and the pit crew that when you need your tires changed they will change them, they will refuel your car, they will fix your car if you have minor damage, or anything else the car needs. There is also the spotter which, by the name you can probably guess that they check to see if you can pass someone or if someone is trying to pass you. NASCAR is not like any normal racing because in NASCAR, on most tracks like Daytona International Speedway, Talladega Superspeedway, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, etc., they are round and the cars go in circles. In most racing they have wavy tracks where you do all different turns, such as, Silverstone Circuit, Sepang International Circuit, and Marina Bay Street Circuit.

There are 6 main flags in NASCAR; they are, green, yellow, red, black, white, and checkered. The Green Flag means the race has started, the Yellow Flag means there is debris or there has been an accident, so slow down, the Red Flag means there is oil on the road or there is a big accident, so stop, the Black Flag means you have been penalized, the White Flag means last lap, and finally, the Checkered Flag means you won. Victory Lane is the place where every NASCAR driver wants to be. If you win, you drive into the inside of the track and pull your car up on to the podium, you get a big drink to drink, you hold your trophy up high with your team and get a photo taken of everyone, and also you get to take home some money. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

**SIX GENERATIONS OF SPEED: THE EVOLUTION OF STOCK CAR STYLES**

The development and design of the latest NASCAR Sprint Cup Series cars continues a robust tradition of styling that dates back to the earliest days of our sport. Here's a quick-hit look at how stock cars have changed through the years, including some important transitional makes and models.

- GENERATION 6: 2013 -**
  - Manufacture-unique body panels placed on existing chassis
  - Enhanced body design better resembles the cars found in showrooms across the United States
  - Design puts the "stock" back into stock car racing
- GENERATION 5: 2007-2012**
  - Introduced new era of safety
  - Common body and chassis for all manufacturers reduced need for track-specific racers
  - Front splitter, rear wing, other items were adjustment options
- GENERATION 4: 1998-2006**
  - Highly-modified body
  - Teams spent hours and money to gain an edge
  - Bumpers/noise and tail composed of molded fiberglass based off of production counterparts
- GENERATION 3: 1991-1997**
  - Wheel base reduced to 110 inches
  - NASCAR downsizes cars to better resemble cars on the showroom floor
  - Body panels still purchased through manufacturers
- GENERATION 2: 1987-1990**
  - Stock body with a modified frame
  - Modified chassis became part of the sport with Holman-Moody, Burt, Matthews and Hutchinson Pagan building chassis for teams
- GENERATION 1: 1948-1986**
  - Brutish stock frame and body
  - Chairs strapped or bolted into seat belts required
  - Heavy-duty seat belts required to keep cars from flipping during the race

Evolution of NASCAR Cars



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# The Sports Section: The National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR)



By Gavin G. Gifford

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

NASCAR is not only one race, it is a series of races. The higher your place is in races, the more points you get. If you have enough points, you get in a special race where there are several short parts. In that race you can get more points and money. If you are the leader in points, you can get a special trophy, a lot of money, and a banquet. Jimmy Johnson, Dale Earnhardt and Richard Petty have the most Championship wins at 7 Championships.

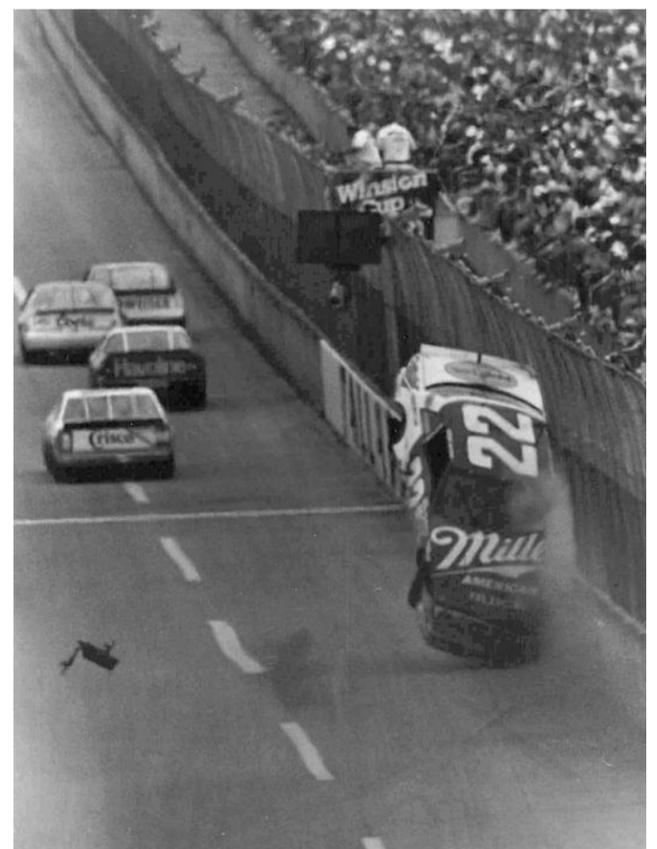
The main thing that made NASCAR huge was that in 1979 it was the first NASCAR race broadcasted on live network television. There was a big snow storm that caused several network to go down, so more people watched NASCAR that day. It was during Daytona 500 that Donnie Allison and Cale Yarborough were trying to get the lead. Both cars kept bumping into one another, eventually causing both of them spin out. Richard Petty took the lead and won, but that was not what the cameras were on. They were on the fistfight between Allison and Yarborough. It was over who wrecked who and to this day they still blame each other on it. Even now the fights are one of the top things people like about NASCAR.

## Old vs. New

Back when NASCAR first came out, it wasn't the same as now days. Now the cars are way more safe when in crashes and the suits are better for protecting the driver. When NASCAR was a new sport, the cars were heavier, and more bulky. Now the cars are more efficient, they are sleek, smaller, more lightweight, and more fit for racing. The old cars didn't have as much protection because they were just normal cars, but modified.

Now cars have roll cages which are bars that surround the driver and will protect the driver if they get in a crash. The older cars would not protect the driver as well and would crumble the car in a crash and crush the driver. Now they have safety barriers so if you smash into the wall, it will flex and bounce you back which would reduce damage and risk of injury. Old walls were made out of concrete, so when a car would hit it, it would crush the car. Nowadays, they have better protection. NASCAR has full helmets with window visors to protect your eyes. Also, they have special fireproof suits, shoes, and socks that protect your feet from the hot floor. Back then, they had didn't have as protective helmets and they didn't have visors, so your eyes were vulnerable.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)



Bobby Allison Crash in 1987



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# The Sports Section: The National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR)



By Gavin G. Gifford

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

They didn't have fireproof suits, or special shoes and socks that protected your feet from the floor. They had normal suits and normal shoes and socks. The last main difference is that back then there were 68 cars per race, now there are only 43 because 68 cars were too many for a race.

## Crashes that Changed NASCAR Forever

Through the 1950s and 1960s, Fireball Roberts was one of the most popular NASCAR drivers around, but in May, 1964 Ned Jarrett and Junior Johnson crashed and Roberts spun trying to dodge the accident, then he hit the wall and exploded into flames. Sadly, he died 6 weeks later in a hospital and because of it, NASCAR decided to make fireproof suits, metal fuel tanks, and on board fire extinguishers. Today, NASCAR has window nets to make sure your arms are in the car if in a crash. Back then, they did not have window nets until 1970. Richard Petty, also known as the King, was driving and lost control. Then he hit the inside wall. He started to flip and his arms were out the window when he was flipping. Luckily, he had minor injuries to his elbow, but his head hit the pavement several times. Since he was wearing a helmet, he was okay. This is why they made the safety net. Also, to make sure the driver is okay in an accident, they have to put their net down.

In the 1980's, cars used to be able to go 221 mph on average, until 1987 when Bobby Allison blew his right, back tire and slammed into the catch fence at over 200 mph. The car tore the fence to pieces and injured fans. After that, NASCAR decided to add something called a Restrictor Plate to the car for some races. A Restrictor Plate is a Plate with 4 holes in it that doesn't let the engine have as much air, which reduces speeds. Now they can only go up to 200 mph on average. The saddest crash of all was in 2001. Dale Earnhardt, also known as The Intimidator (one of the most famous race car drivers of all time), got bumped into and hit the outside wall. It looked like a minor accident compared to all the flips he had done and the walls he had hit in other crashes, but he died from a skull fracture. That led to the neck brace so that the driver's neck would stay in place and it also led to an encapsulated polyethylene barrier or safety barrier which replaced the concrete barriers.

...On Feb. 15 1948, during the last lap at Daytona Beach, Red Byron was in the lead on the last turn and he crossed the finish line first and takes the title of winning the first NASCAR race ever.

Some more places to get more information

<https://www.nascar.com/#>

<https://www.howstuffworks.com>



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# The Sports Section: College Championship Alabama Goes to Georgia



By Kadin Dempsey

On January 9th, 2018 the Alabama Crimson Tide defeated the Georgia Bulldogs in overtime. The Championship took place in Atlanta, Georgia, at Mercedes-Benz stadium. Both teams worked very hard to get to this position, Alabama finishing a 13-1 season only losing one game and Georgia finishing the season with a 13-1.



*Devonta Smith catching overtime game winning touchdown.*

## Stats

Alabama's quarterback Tua Tagovailoa threw 14 for 24 for passing, 166 passing yards, rushed for 27 yards and had three touchdowns in all. On the other hand, Georgia's quarterback, Jake Fromm, threw 16 for 32, 232 passing yards, one touchdown throw, and two interceptions.

Alabama's running back, Najee Harris, lead Alabama in rushing yards with six rushes with 64 yards averaging 10.7 yards a rush. Georgia's running back Sony Michel rushed fourteen times and had 98 yards, averaging 7 yards a rush. Also, Georgia's other running back, Mecole Hardman, rushed for 10 yards with one rushing touchdown, averaging 5 yards a rush. With this game, the Alabama's head coach, Nick Saban, has five national championships, 10 bowl championships, and five sectional championships.

## How the Game Went

The game started slow with neither Alabama, nor Georgia scoring in the first quarter. Alabama was starting their Jalen Hurts who could not really find the answers, going 3 for 8 for 21 yards. In the second quarter, Georgia took the lead. After the half, Alabama decided to put in their freshman from Hawaii, Tua Tagovailoa. The freshman came out with a boom! He was the answer in winning this game. Tagovailoa lead Alabama to scoring their first two score in the second quarter! Georgia also connected with a touchdown by the end of the quarter.

In the fourth quarter, Alabama's defense stepped up their game, holding Georgia to zero points, allowing their offense to get the ball and run some plays! During the fourth, Alabama scored another ten points. By the end of the fourth quarter, the game was tied up: Alabama with twenty and Georgia with twenty. That meant that there was going to be an overtime.

Alabama was coming back from a thirteen loss to a tied game going into overtime. The game came to a end by freshman quarterback, Tua Tagovailoa, connecting with freshman wide receiver Devonta Smith! Alabama had won the NCAA national football championship. With their star rookie quarterback leading them from a drought, Alabama pulled through to beat the Georgia bulldogs.

For Nick Saban, head coach of Alabama, this would be his 5th NCAA national football championship. The game ended past twelve in the morning and it sure was one to remember!



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## HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD...



# Climate Change is Suffocating Large Parts of the Ocean

By Jeffery Raines

Did you know for some marine creatures, low oxygen levels can hurt reproduction and shorten life spans? A new study says warming has reduced the oxygen levels in large parts of the deep ocean, threatening marine life around the world.

Eric Prince, a billfish expert who retired from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, was stumped. He studied blue marlin off the Ivory Coast and Ghana, Jamaica, and Brazil, and he has never seen anything like it. Why wouldn't these expert divers dive?

The billfish were trying to avoid being suffocated. The marlin near Guatemala and Costa Rica wouldn't go into the dark depths because they were avoiding a deep, gigantic, and expanding strip of water that did not contain enough oxygen. This discovery was one of the first examples of the many ways sea life is changing to a new reality. It hasn't gotten much attention in Marine waters. Even far out in the high seas, they are losing oxygen thanks to climate change. It affects where and how sea creatures live. These low oxygen zones do occur naturally, but they have grown by more than 4.5 million square kilometers. It is because of rising temperatures.



A blue marlin swims in the Sea of Cortez off Baja California. Marlin are some of the fish that are crowding toward the surface in some parts of the ocean as they move away from low-oxygen zones in the deep.



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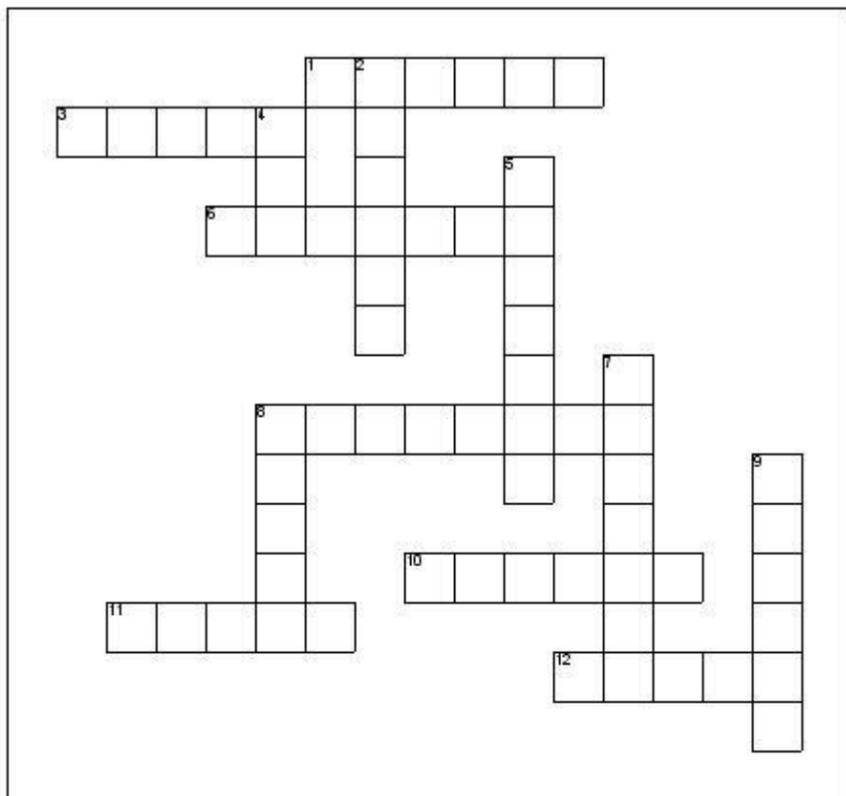




# Paw-fect Puzzles and Games



## Canada



HERE'S A LITTLE PUZZLE FOR ALL THE 6TH GRADE STUDENTS GETTING READY TO STUDY CANADA AND FOR ALL THE 7TH AND 8TH GRADE STUDENTS WHO SHOULD REMEMBER IT!



### Across

- 1. The basic unit of currency in Canada is the Canadian \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. The Eskimos of Canada are now called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_ has the largest population out of all the Canadian provinces.
- 8. The prime \_\_\_\_\_ is the head of Canadian government.
- 10. Canada borders three oceans--the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, and the \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean.
- 11. The southern border of Ontario touches the five great \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12. The colors on the Canadian flag are red and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Down

- 2. The capital of Canada is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. Canada has \_\_\_\_\_ provinces and three territories.
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ is the capital of Ontario, and also the largest city in the country.
- 7. The monarch of Canada is also the \_\_\_\_\_ monarch.
- 8. Canada's national symbols are the beaver and the \_\_\_\_\_ leaf.
- 9. Most French Canadians live in the province of \_\_\_\_\_.

Created with the help of Worksheets - [www.Qualint.com](http://www.Qualint.com)

**CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?  
THERE ARE 10.**



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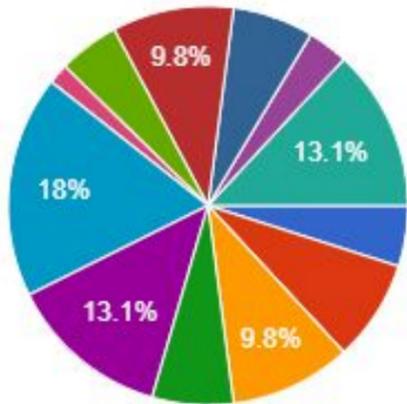




# Paw-fect Puzzles and Games



Poll Responses from December 19:  
Which is Your Favorite Christmas Carol?

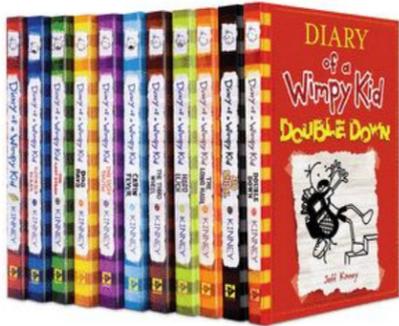


- "Deck the Halls"
- "Frosty the Snowman"
- "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer"
- "Joy to the World"
- "Jingle Bells"
- "Silent Night"
- "Blue Christmas"
- "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas"
- "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
- "All I Want for Christmas" (Alvin the Chipmunk version)
- "O Come All Ye Faithful"
- "Santa Baby"



## THE PAW PRINT POLL

By Charlie Ailor



Which is your favorite book series?

*Maze Runner* by James Dashner

*Harry Potter* by J. K. Rowling

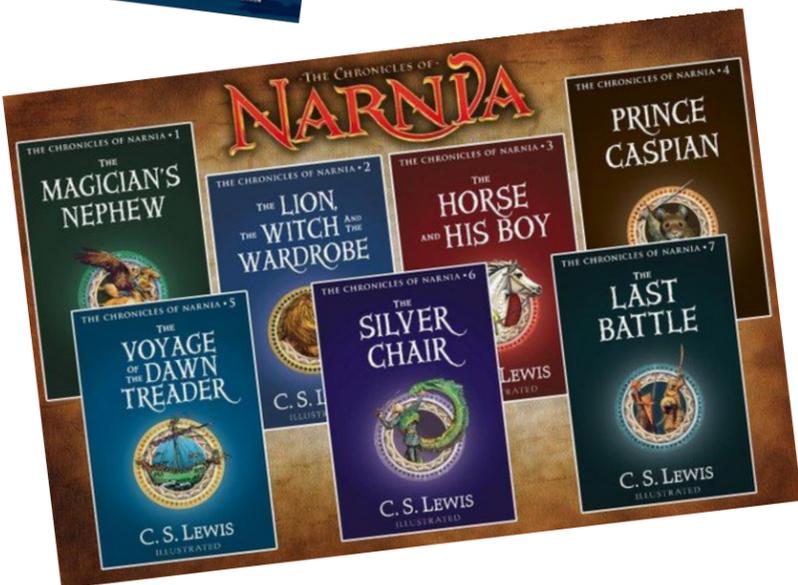
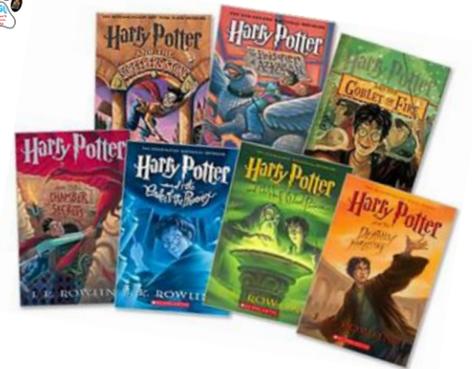
*Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

*Percy Jackson* by Rick Riordan

*Zombie Goldfish* by Mo O'Hara

*Diary of A Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney

*The Chronicles of Narnia* by C. S. Lewis



Click [HERE](#) to submit your response online.



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