

The Tecumseh Hoax



Volume 1

Issue 1

Produced by Galen, Lara, Emil, Riona, Freddie, Anita and Colette

Community

Writing Competition

The Tecumseh Hoax is hosting a writing competition! Get your story featured in the next edition. Send your story into our thread in the Literacy channel by Wednesday, December 16.

Winter Break is Coming



By Emil

Winter break is soon to come, and schools to a close. On December 18th winter break will commence. Prepare for Christmas, other holidays, and fun times abroad, though it may be hard to not spend as much time with family and friends. After winter break, we have Heritage Fair!

Heritage Fair is quite similar to Science Fair, but is focused on a historical event or place. Last year, I, Emil, did my Heritage Fair on Treaty 7, one of the numbered treaties with 3 Indigenous tribes. Throughout Heritage Fair, you create pieces of work called products. There are 5 different products you must create around different ideas. There is the written product, the 3 dimensional product, the visual product, the interactive product, and the creative product. For the written product you can write a letter relevant to your topic, or a poem. For the interactive product, you can create a puzzle or a game to interact with the audience. For the 3-dimensional product, you create a model of something related to your topic. For the visual product, you can draw something or create something visual for your audience to look at. For the creative product, you must have a creative perspective, and use a very unique method of communicating your project, such as a comic book or a painting (there is lots of grey area of with other products). Heritage Fair also has a report like Science Fair, and many other similarities. There are also other types of thinking like Historical Perspectives and many others. I will use Historical Perspectives as an example. For this you have to look at the perspectives from the time. Like, if it is a bill, you would look at the perspective of those for it and for those opposed to it.

For a seasonal activity we are doing Secret Kinder! You already know what this is, but make sure to be kind. Also, remember to fill out your sheets if you want to succeed, and make your cards and acts of kindness personal and specific to your Secret Kinder because it makes all the more fun (in my humble opinion).

That about sums it up, remember to be nice this holiday season (and obviously other seasons too) and to have a wonderful winter break. Have fun!

Ask the Expert

James Bond: Dragon?



By Lara

You've probably heard about James Bond before; a super spy, the mission impossible dude, 077, yeah, you know the basics. But what if I told you that for one girl, Riona T, this doesn't come to mind. What comes to mind for her is an adorable, bearded dragon. In fact, her bearded dragon, James Bond. I've always known about him before writing this, I've even fed him mealworms (yuck), but I've never investigated his story deeply until now. So, for my first article of Ask the Expert, that's what I wanted to do; interview Rio. I hope you like this article!

Let me start by telling you how Rio's family came to own James. It was shortly before Rio's brother's birthday, and he wanted a pet frog. They decided to take a visit to the pet store after finding a small terrarium for it. Once they were there, they searched and searched, or as the narrator from *Salut Mon Ami* would say, *cherched et cherched* for the perfect pet to take home. That was when Rio's mom noticed a bush. She wondered what was behind it, and when she took it away, there was James. Immediately everyone was blinded by his cuteness and soon James Bond Taylor was united with his family.

When I asked Rio why they named their lizard James Bond, she informed me that it was because he is quick, sly and chomps down his food like a pro. When I asked her for more information, she confessed it was also because he liked the mission impossible music her dad would play when he was eating. Talk about endearing!

James' personality is not what you would expect out of a lizard at first glance. Some think that bearded dragons tend to be aggressive creatures, but they are not unless irritated, which makes them friendly pets. James Bond is both gentle and kind, according to Riona, and won't poop on her. However, he has pooped on her brother and his friend. But he's still a real gentleman, Rio added.

But then again, what do we really know? When James was a baby growing up in the pet store he was kept in the same space as his brother, which sparks problems, and definitely did to James' brother. One day, they (the brothers) got into a fight that resulted in the loss of James' brother's arm. James had bitten it off! Rio doesn't know why this happened. Maybe because he was younger, she questioned. She assures everyone reading this that he genuinely is calm and friendly.

Riona also had some compelling facts about lizard quarantine ready for my disposal so I thought I would put them below:

1. Rio would fashion cute clothing for James Bond!
2. One time Rio and her brother thought it would be amusing to get Caramel Macchiato (hedgehog) and James together. What happened was Caramel tried to bite James' tail off, which I guess was scary, funny, and cute!
3. James learned how to climb up and down the stairs!
4. Before and during quarantine, James, as Rio likes to put it, went into retirement!

To conclude the interview, I asked Rio the ultimate question I had wanted to ask her from the start. What is it like living with a bearded dragon? Rio answered with a jumble of words, and what I took from those words is that it is truly unpredictable. Of course, what did I expect from an animal that has a third eye on the top of its head?

-Lara

Global News

COVAX Explained: Part 1



By Anita and Freddie

Scientists are working hard to develop a cure for SARS-CoV-2. Though we have not found a real cure yet, scientists have taken a huge step by producing a vaccine. A vaccine produced by two scientists Ugur Sahin and Ozlem Tureci is almost confirmed to be working. Now, you might be wondering how they test the vaccine and that's a good question. That was also a question that came to my (Anita's) mind. My first thought was that they would give the people who took the vaccine COVID-19 to see if it would affect them. You probably think that that is absurd, and I certainly thought so too. I found out that that is not the way that they tested the vaccine. To experiment with the efficacy of the vaccine, the scientists would inject the vaccine into a person. To find out if the vaccine was effective, they would see if the person could produce the proper antibodies to defeat the coronavirus. There would be many phases for the testing. If a lot of the phases proved that the vaccine was effective, it would be determined effective. There is a possibility that for different groups of people, like old and young, there would be different results. Scientists are now a huge step closer to producing a COVID-19 cure, or at least a prevention.

There are currently more than 52 vaccines in clinical testing, commonly referred to as clinical trials. 8 main types of prevention for COVID have been tested, or are undergoing current testing. Health Canada has approved emergency authorization to the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, which uses RNA protein. I'll break down all the types of prevention for the novel coronavirus:

Whole Virus Vaccines

Inactivated virus vaccines are the most common type of vaccine for general use in other diseases. The virus is grown in large amounts in egg or mammalian cells, and then killed, usually with a chemical like formaldehyde, although radiation or heat can also be used. An advantage of this strategy is that people even with weakened immune systems can get this vaccine. However, this is not to come with disadvantages. Because this vaccine is formed from dead virus cells, it may not give an immune response that compares to the other types. Several "booster" doses are usually necessary. In addition, it may be hard to produce this type of vaccine because you have to grow COVID-19 in large quantities. Another aspect of this is that the prevention usually cannot be given to people with egg allergies.

Live, attenuated virus vaccines are still grown in large quantities, but instead of being killed, they are weakened so they cannot infect cells and reproduce as effectively. With past vaccines this was done by making the disease adapt to a different environment than they are used to. The COVID vaccine using this strategy used a genetic engineering approach called "codon deoptimization," where the virus is rebuilt from scratch, adding on strategic mutations that weaken it. These usually provide long-lasting protection, but may not be suitable for people with weakened immune systems, need to be refrigerated and cannot be produced easily. This is also another common vaccine type used before.

Vaccines that target part of a virus

Virus-like particles are a special type of protein subunit, which means they assemble outside of the body. The proteins assemble themselves to look like viruses to the human immune system. This method may be more effective than regular subunit vaccines and production is much faster than whole virus vaccines. However, ensuring stability, purification and producing these in large quantities can take quite some time.

Non-replicating viral vectors are carrier viruses that don't carry the virus they're protecting you against, but can be engineered to carry parts of viruses. They have been genetically modified to not be able to cause disease, while containing a protein such as the coronavirus spike protein. These vaccines may be more effective than standard subunit vaccines and have the ability to be stored at lower temperatures, but people who have already been exposed to certain diseases may be resistant, it may be harder to scale up than DNA vaccines, and have a long production time.

Replicating viral vectors are similar to non-replicating versions of them, but they either are weakened or don't cause symptoms in humans. It gives a stronger immune response than non-replicating, much less virus needs to be injected, and less time may be needed to produce it. However, it may require more testing before approval, and needs to be transported at low temperatures.

RNA vaccines simply contain the instructions to make the novel coronavirus. No virus is needed to make the vaccine, which may cut down on production time, but it is not stable and needs to be stored at *very* low temperatures, about at -80 Celsius.

DNA vaccines are very similar to RNA, but instead use DNA. It enters the cell, and the cell produces the viral protein. It is quick and relatively inexpensive, not needing to be stored at low temperatures. However, it needs to get into the cell nucleus, which is harder to do compared to what the RNA vaccine does.

Lots of Canadian vaccine candidates are currently being developed. Michael Houghton, the University of Alberta professor leading that university's vaccine development team, says some of the COVID-19 vaccines under development in Canada may be useful as boosters later on, as they may be cheaper than the earliest COVID-19 vaccines approved.

I highly encourage you to visit the CBC COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker (available at www.is.gd/cbcvaccinetracker), as it contains loads of information not mentioned here. Happy learning!

Pssst! Fun fact, some COVID-19 vaccines contain rabies in them! That's right! Want to know more? Ask me (Freddie) in school!

America Votes: The US Election



By Galen, Emil and Freddie

Basics of the US Electoral System

There are two parties in the US electoral system, the Democrats and the Republicans (though there are the Green Party and the Libertarians, they have never won and don't get many votes). Before the election itself, each party has a series of debates to decide who the electoral candidate will be for each party. After someone is nominated from each party the two people who have been nominated start to try and persuade voters to vote for them. Each candidate also picks a Vice President, who will assist them in many ways. The nominees also participate in many debates.

The entire election is based on College Votes, and each state has a certain amount of College votes. In total there are 538 College votes, so each potential President races to get 270 of them. Once one of the people running for president gets to 270, they win the election. Most elections contain lawsuits of some kind, usually related to an incorrect conclusion for a state. This is usually used as a Hail Mary, or last resort.

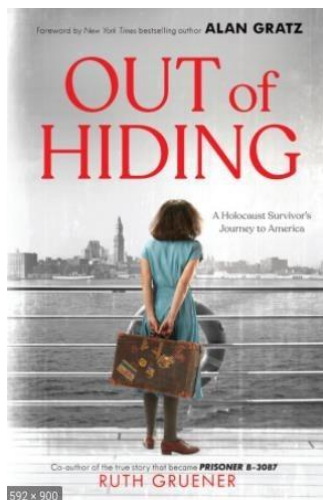
Current Election Details

The 2020 election for the 46th president of the USA was a very significant event for many people in the United States. In the days leading up to the election many cases of harassment from both parties were reported. Acts of violence have been committed against both Democrats and Republicans. Some say that these are attempts to convince citizens to vote for a specific party.

The U.S's current president, Donald Trump, refuses to concede the federal election. This means that while Joe Biden, the Nominee for the Democrats, statistically won the election, Donald Trump refuses the fact that he lost. His legal team continues to launch lawsuits against the Democratic party and other non-partisan organizations.

Entertainment

Out of Hiding



By Lara

Recently, I read a book about a girl who survived the Holocaust. You might be thinking, oh I've read a million of those books before, but this book isn't one of those books that just magically comes together when she arrives in America. This book also isn't just an author's imagination; it happened in real life. Written by Ruth Gruener, this book entails her early life in the Holocaust as well as growing up and moving to America in her early teens. Now I bet if you've ever read the book *Prisoner B-3087*, you recognize the name Gruener very vaguely. That's because in Alan Gratz's book the storyline is based off Ruth's late husband (may he rest in peace), Jack Gruener's experiences in concentration camps. Speaking of Alan Gratz, he writes the foreword for the novel, which is just another reason to read it, especially if you like his novels. I also recommend this book because it might be the only one I've ever heard of (except for *Diary of a Young Girl*) that is in the perspective of a real female. By real, I mean not made up. In reading this book you will find out what it really meant to be living in the Holocaust.

In case you decided to read further, I'll summarize the book a bit more carefully. Overall, it's about a Jewish girl who had to hide from Nazis in an apartment without her parents. She couldn't talk, couldn't walk, and couldn't go outside. When she could, she had forgotten how to. Just imagine that. Actually, now that I do, it kind of reminds me of lockdown times 100. After her lockdown, Ruth is reunited with her family and they decide to go to Brooklyn, where some relatives live. At this time WW2 had just ended, but it took much longer to get to the US than expected. It's only after a lot of moving, a lot of change, and a lot of resilience that Ruth gets to America. She quickly adapts to the change, but she is haunted by memories of the terrible Holocaust. She tells herself to forget, but she can't; not until she realizes she must remember.

The moral of the story, in my opinion, is to remember and move on. That's what Ruth had to do in order to start a new life in the States. And even in the modern day, we must remember to remember. If we try and forget, we will make the same mistakes over again. We cannot afford to do that. That is why I'm asking you, dear reader, to take a moment and remember the horrors of the Holocaust, to remember why this matters. This matters for Holocaust survivors like everywhere, for little girls and boys like Ruth. This matters for all the prisoners of war, all the people affected by us humans' terrible choices. This matters for you, reader; it matters for everyone in the whole wide world. This is our future, our life. And the book *Out of Hiding* was a fragment of Ruth's. So, please, remember.

Among Us



By Riona

Among Us is a team player game where an alien impostor out to murder everyone, and it's up to the rest of the group to determine who it is. As players complete tasks to repair the ship or base and get the crew back home, the impostor attempts to kill others while concealing their identity. This game was

made 2 years ago in 2018 but gained popularity in September 2020. Now it is the 3rd most popular game in the world. I decided that I would ask some people what they thought of Among Us.

Lara, one of my friends, and an Among Us lover, stated, "Among Us is really entertaining because it doesn't matter if you are a crewmate or an imposter; there's always things to do. I would definitely recommend this because it's free, you can play with your friends, and you can always deceive people."

Another person I asked was Emil, one of my classmates. Although he says Among Us isn't his favorite game, he thinks you should play it. He says, "I like Among Us because it has both mechanical maneuvers and having to lie your way out of situations and being persuasive."

In conclusion, Among Us is a simple free, but entertaining game. We hope you try it out! It's available on the iOS App Store, the Google Play Store and on Windows 10 through the Steam store. You can also get it on Linux, ChromeOS or MacOS through the Play Store version.

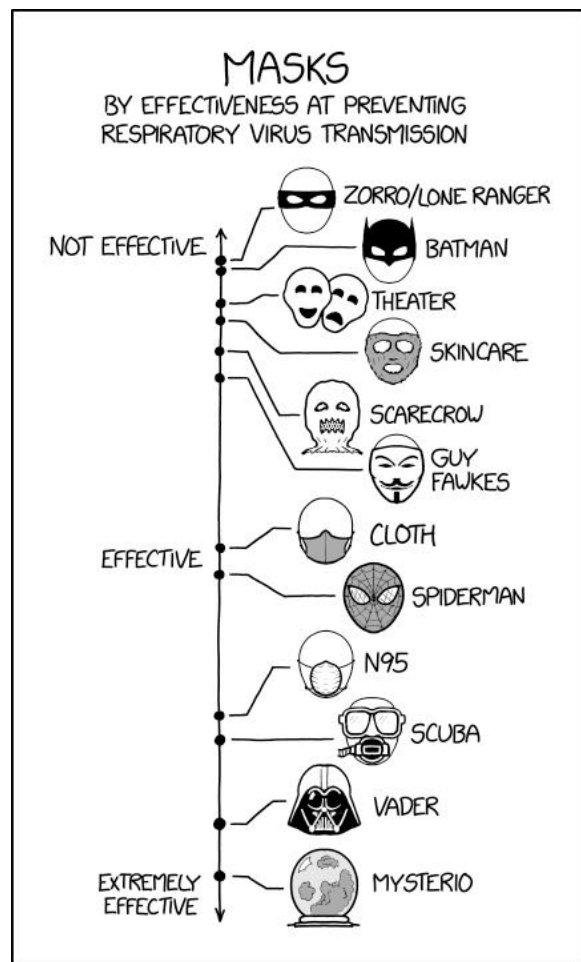
Comic Corner



Selected by Galen and Freddie



Cyanide and Happiness by Matt Melvin and Dave McElfatrick



XKCD by Randall Munroe