# NEWS FLASH

## Teacher Resource Pack

November 2026

Issue #108




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# Fill in the Blanks

*Read through the words in the Word Bank first and make sure you understand them. Then read the article. Think about the best place to put each word, not simply the first place it might fit. Be careful as you go, as some words may fit in more than one place while others will suit only one.*

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## Diwali

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **families** | **Ireland** | **lamps** |
| **clay** | **patterns** | **clothes** |
| **sweets** | **fireworks** | **light** |

Every year, millions of people around the world celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights. It is an important time for Hindu, Sikh and Jain _____, including many who live here in _____. The date changes from year to year because it follows the moon, and in 2026 the main day falls on November 8.

In the days before the festival, homes are cleaned from top to bottom. Then the decorating begins. Small _____ made of _____, called diyas, are filled with oil and lit. Rows of them glow on windowsills and doorsteps. The word Diwali comes from an old word meaning ‘row of lights’.

Doorsteps are also decorated with rangoli, colourful _____ made from coloured powder, rice or flower petals. Families wear new _____, visit relatives and share _____. After dark, _____ light up the sky in many places.

Traditions differ from family to family, but the idea at the heart of Diwali is the same everywhere: _____ winning out over darkness, and good winning out over evil.

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# All the Mistakes

*Read through the article taken from this month's issue and see if you can spot the ten spelling mistakes.*

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## Rare Giant Mussel Found

Last month, divers exploreing the seabed near Valentia Island in Co. Kerry came across a fan mussel, one of the rairest shellfish in Europe.

The team from Sea Synergy, a marine reserch centre in Kerry, and Fair Seas, a group of enviromental organisations, were counting native oysters in the Portmagee Channel when they spotted it.

The part they could see mesured 25cm wide and 20cm tall. Up to two-thirds of a fan mussel's shell stays burried in the soft mud of the seabed, so this one is likely much bigger. The divers measured it by eye and left it undisturbed.

Fan mussels may live for up to 100 years. They were once far more common, and in the 1800s shell collectors prized them. Their silky threds, which anchor them to the seabed, were even woven into expencive gloves and stockings.

Today, fan mussels are critically endangerd, which means they are at very high risk of dying out in the wild. The main threats are trawling (dragging large fishing nets along the sea floor), dredging (scraping up the seabed to catch shellfish or clear channels for boats) and polution.

**Correct spelling**

| | |
|---|---|
| **1.** | **6.** |
| **2.** | **7.** |
| **3.** | **8.** |
| **4.** | **9.** |
| **5.** | **10.** |

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# Word Workout

*Go to the page, fact or story shown, then find the word that matches each clue. The number of letters and the first letter are given in brackets.*

| Page | Article / Paragraph | Clue | Answer |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Flashy's Five Fun Facts | An agreement between countries (6, t) | |
| 4 | Rare Giant Mussel Found | At high risk of dying out (10, e) | |
| 5 | Wild Shots | Gas released as poo breaks down (7, m) | |
| 6 | Picture This | How leaves release water vapour (13, t) | |
| 8 | This Month in History | First public showing of a movie (8, p) | |
| 9 | Art to Heart | Threatening or evil-looking (8, s) | |
| 10 | People Working in the Community | Leaving dough to rise (7, p) | |
| 11 | AG MAG | Ridge at the base of a horse's neck (7, w) | |
| 12 | Experiment Time | A guess about what will happen (10, p) | |
| 15 | Star Quality | The glowing part of a bulb (8, f) | |
| 18 | Around the World | Old part of a Moroccan city (6, m) | |
| 20 | Amazing Animals | Rear section of an insect's body (7, a) | |
| 21 | World of Science | Exploding stars (10, s) | |
| 23 | Sports Desk | Welcomed into a hall of fame (8, i) | |

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## Quiz 24

*This month's 24-question quiz is based on the 24 pages of News Flash. The question number corresponds to the page it is taken from. For example, the answer to Q.7 can be found on page 7 and the answer to Q.14 can be found on page 14.*

1. What is the man on our cover looking through?

2. What has Flashy lost this month?

3. What are the clay lamps lit for Diwali called?

4. Near which Kerry island was the fan mussel found?

5. What was in Oscar Whitfield's winning photo?

6. How much of Earth's surface is covered by oceans?

7. Which is Earth's deepest lake?

8. Who directed the first Harry Potter movie?

9. Who painted Vasilisa the Beautiful?

10. Name the four main ingredients of bread.

11. How tall is Hugo to the withers?

12. What is it called when water climbs through paper?

13. What do you add to water to make an egg float?

14. What did Edison call his sound-recording machine?

15. In which year did Edison's team show a working lamp?

16. Where are the children in this month's Eye Spy?

17. How many words are hidden in the word search?

18. What is the capital of Morocco?

19. Who will co-host the 2030 World Cup with Morocco?

20. How hot can the bombardier beetle's spray get?

21. Which animal has the biggest brain?

22. Who do Ireland's women play in the World Cup play-off?

23. How many All-Stars did Cora Staunton win?

24. When does Hexed arrive in cinemas?

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# What's in the News?

*How well have you read this month's magazine? Here in 'What's in the News?', as well as testing your memory and retention skills, we also test your imagination and creative skills. This activity is based on the News Desk section on pages 4 and 5. Read the articles and answer the following questions:*

1. How long can a fan mussel live?

2. Where had live fan mussels been seen in Irish waters before this find?

3. What was the Danish man doing when he found the Viking silver?

4. How much did the hoard weigh in total?

5. Which Norse god was the tiny hammer linked to?

6. What was stuck in the pelican's right wing?

7. How many photographers entered Wildlife Photographer of the Year?

8. Nobody knows why the pelican came to the laboratory door. Write your own explanation in two or three sentences.

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# Know Your Sport

*How well have you read this month's sports news? Here, in Know Your Sport, we're testing your memory and retention skills. This activity is based on the sports section. Read the articles and answer the following questions.*

1. What was the aggregate score when Ireland beat Kazakhstan?

2. In which country will next summer's Women's World Cup take place?

3. Where will Arsenal play Manchester City on November 29?

4. Which back-to-back world champions visit Dublin on November 21?

5. In which year did Brian O'Driscoll make his Ireland debut?

6. How many All-Ireland titles did Cora Staunton win with Mayo?

7. How many seconds did it take Robin Fellhauer to score?

8. In which race did Lara Gillespie win gold in Shanghai?

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# Crack the Joke

*In this month's Crack the Joke on page 17, a funny joke is waiting to be cracked. When you solve the code and reveal the gag, see if you can come up with an illustration that you think best captures the joke.*

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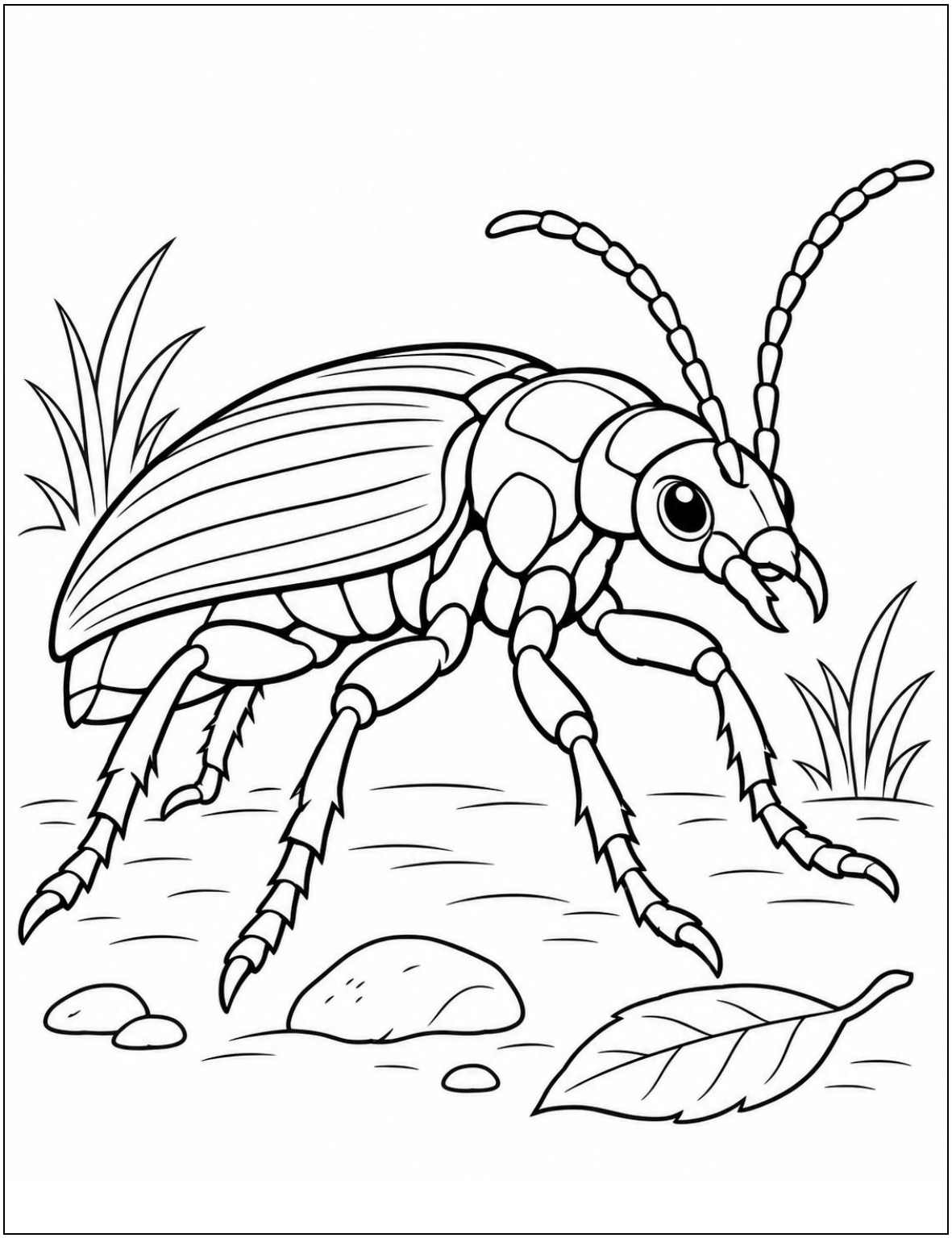
# Colouring Time

*Meet Billy the bombardier beetle from page 20. Colour his shiny wing cases, his long legs and the stones and leaves he shelters under. Look back at the article for ideas, or invent your own colours for the scene.*



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## Design Your Own Cover

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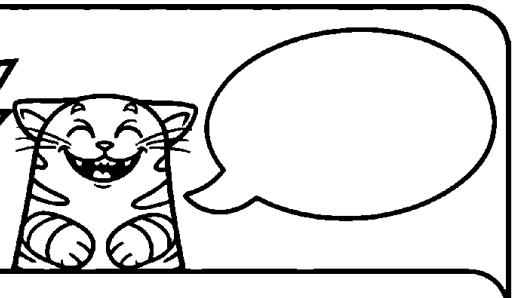
MONTH _____ ISSUE _____

# News Flash



P __ P __ P __

A fun monthly news magazine for curious young minds

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# Let's Talk About It

*Some of these you will agree with straight away. Some will make you cross. That is the point. Take a side, give your reasons and listen properly to somebody who thinks the opposite. You are allowed to change your mind.*

1. Science Week should last the whole year.

2. A toilet is a more important invention than the light bulb.

3. The book is always better than the movie.

4. Getting up before sunrise to bake bread would be a brilliant job.

5. Hugo should be left to grow in peace instead of being measured for records.

6. You learn more from an experiment that goes wrong than one that goes right.

7. Baba Yaga is scarier than any movie villain.

8. The Viking treasure should belong to the man who found it, not the state.

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# Plan Your Own Water Experiment

The four experiments on pages 12 and 13 all start with a question. Now it is your turn. Think of one thing about water you would like to test: Does sugar dissolve faster in warm water or cold? Does salt water freeze as quickly as fresh water? Does a foil boat carry more coins flat or with its sides folded up? Draw your set-up in the box and label everything you will need. Then fill in the lines underneath. Remember the big science secret from page 13: change one thing at a time.

My question is:

What I will change:

What I will keep the same:

I predict that:

What actually happened:

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# Kindness Bingo

World Kindness Day falls on November 13. Here are nine small acts of kindness, none of which costs a cent. Try to complete a line of three by the end of the week and the full card by the end of the month. Tick each square once it is done.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hold a door open for someone | Say thank you to the school caretaker or secretary | Tidy up a mess you did not make |
| Let somebody else go first | Ask someone who is on their own to join in | Write a note telling a classmate what you like about them |
| Help with a job at home without being asked | Give someone a proper compliment and mean it | Teach somebody something you are good at |

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# My Favourite Facts

Every issue of News Flash is packed with facts and figures. Which four stuck with you? Write them down, draw a small illustration to go with each one, then share your choices with the class and see whether anybody picked the same ones. Here is one of ours to start you off:

*Male sperm whales can hear each other up to 70 km away, because sound travels so well through water.*

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

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# Word Search Maker

Build a word search for a classmate to solve. Pick 12 words from this month's issue and hide them in the grid, running forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally. List all 12 in the boxes underneath so your classmate knows what to hunt for. Then fill every empty square with random letters until your words disappear. To make it harder, hide one extra word that you leave off the list.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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# Sudoku Time

*Each row, each column and each of the nine boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9 exactly once.*

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 | | | | |
| 2 | | 9 | | 7 | 1 | 3 | | 5 |
| 7 | | | | 5 | | 9 | | |
| | 2 | 7 | | 6 | 8 | | 3 | |
| | | 1 | | | 3 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| | 3 | | | | | | | 9 |
| 3 | 6 | | 4 | 9 | | 5 | | |
| 1 | | | | 8 | | 4 | 9 | |
| 8 | 9 | 4 | 1 | | | | | |

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# Design a Poster

*Plan it in rough first, then draw it properly in the frame.*

World Toilet Day is November 19. More than three billion people still do not have a safe toilet at home, which is why the United Nations marks the day every year. Create a poster that makes people stop, think and want to do something about it.

Design the poster nobody walks past. Remember that a poster has two jobs at once: it must give people one fact they will not forget and make them want to act on it.

Before you start, decide on the four things below.

– The one image someone will see from across the room

– Your headline, in six words or fewer

– The one fact from page 3 that everybody needs to take away

– What you want people to do after they have seen your poster

**Planning Box**

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# Design a Poster

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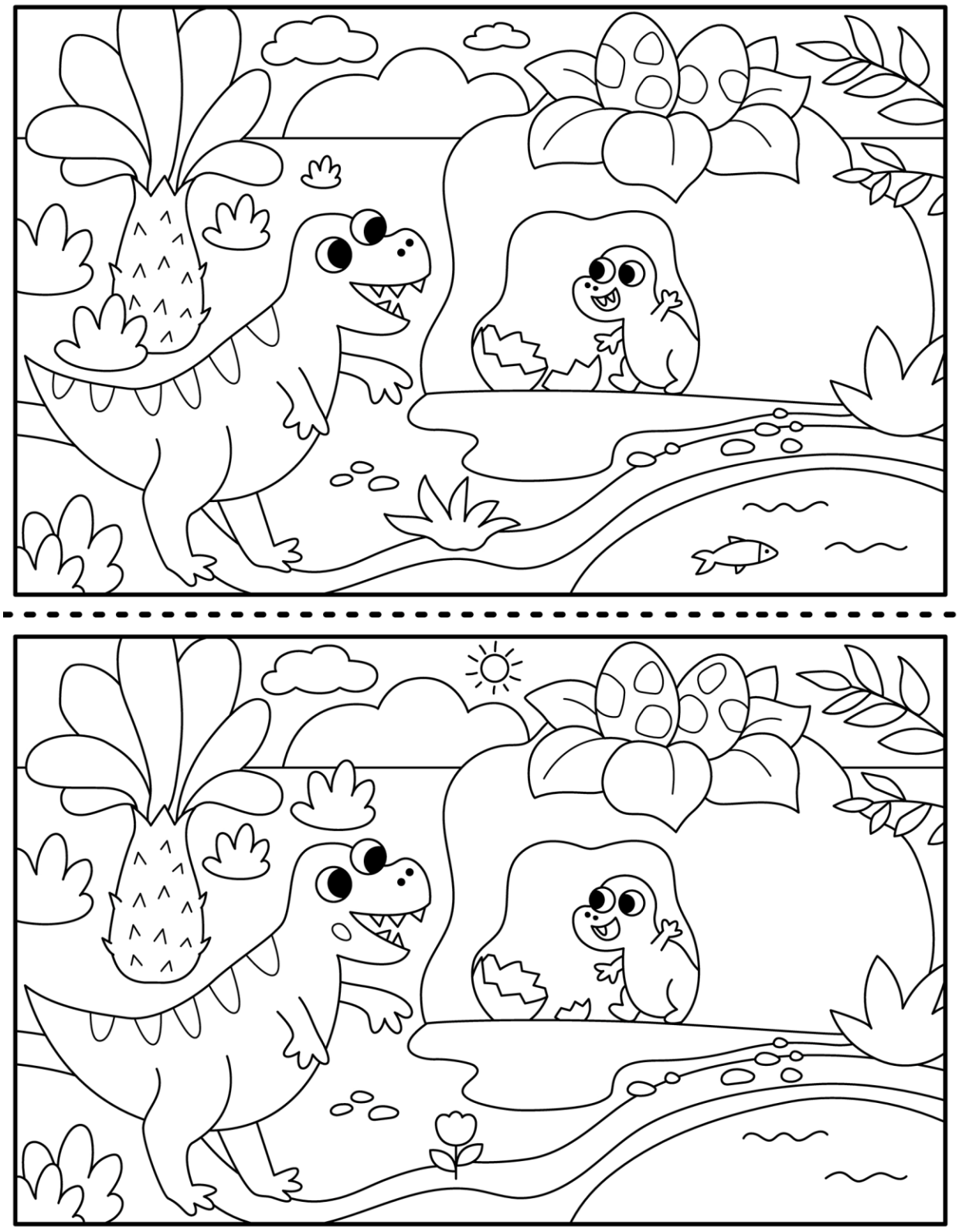
# Spot the Difference

*Ten things have changed between the two pictures. Can you find them all?*



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# Answers

### Fill in the Blanks

1. families
2. Ireland
3. lamps
4. clay
5. patterns
6. clothes
7. sweets
8. fireworks
9. light

### All the Mistakes

1. exploring
2. rarest
3. research
4. environmental
5. measured
6. buried
7. threads
8. expensive
9. endangered
10. pollution

### Word Workout

1. treaty
2. endangered
3. methane
4. transpiration
5. premiere
6. sinister
7. proving
8. withers
9. prediction
10. filament
11. medina
12. abdomen
13. supernovas
14. inducted

### What's in the News?

1. Up to 100 years
2. Off Rathlin Island
3. Clearing his back garden to lay a patio
4. 18.5 kg
5. Thor
6. A large three-pointed hook
7. More than 65,000
8. Any well-reasoned answer

### Spot the Difference (Pack)

### Know Your Sport

1. 12–0
2. Brazil
3. The Emirates Stadium
4. South Africa
5. 1999
6. Four
7. 8.4 seconds
8. The points race

### Word Search (magazine)

The missing word is Morocco.

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# Answers

### Quiz 24

1. A magnifying glass
2. His paper boat
3. Diyas
4. Valentia Island
5. A dung beetle
6. About 71%
7. Lake Baikal, in Russia
8. Chris Columbus
9. Ivan Bilibin
10. Flour, water, yeast and salt
11. 199 cm (19.2 hands)
12. Capillary action

### Quiz 24 continued

13. Salt
14. The phonograph
15. 1879
16. A cave
17. 21
18. Rabat
19. Spain and Portugal
20. Close to 100°C
21. The sperm whale
22. Poland
23. 11
24. November 27

### Crack the Joke (page 17)

How do scientists freshen their breath? With experi-mints, of course!

### All Mixed Up (page 16)

Hogwarts, Morocco, Diwali, Edison, baker, bombardier, yeast, Nintendo, Sahara and Europa.

### Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 9 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| 3 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 2 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

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