How will the U.S. fight the coronavirus?

The coronavirus has a new name: COVID-19*. The World Health Organization has called it a pandemic*. As of March 13, there were 130,000 cases in 100 countries. The most cases were in China, Italy, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, and Iran. The U.S. had 1,700 cases. The numbers increase every day. At this date, no one really knows how many cases there are in the U.S. There were not enough testing kits to test people.

What does COVID-19 do?

This is a new disease. Doctors don’t yet know everything about the virus. People have no immunity* to it. There is no treatment* and no vaccine* so far.

Symptoms* of COVID-19 are cough, fever*, and difficulty breathing. Most people have only a mild* case. Some people have the virus and don’t even know it. The virus can turn to pneumonia*. This is a danger for old people.

(continued on page 6)

Life in the U.S.A.
Laws about work

There are many laws and regulations* about work in the U.S.

Who can work?

- Employers may hire* only legal workers. They must be old enough to work legally. Children are not allowed to do all of the same jobs that adults can do.
- New workers must bring identification and fill out an Employment Eligibility Verification* Form (I-9).
- Children under 14 may deliver newspapers or work as actors. They may do small chores* around a home.

Children 12 and older can baby-sit.
- Children aged 14 and 15 may not work during school hours. They may not work more than three hours on a school day, eight hours on a non-school day, or 40 hours in a non-school week. They may not work in hazardous* jobs, in factories, or in mines*.
- Children aged 16 and 17 may do any non-hazardous job. They may work any number of hours. People who are 18 years or older may work at any job.

Wage laws

- At many jobs, employers must pay at least the minimum wage*.
April Fools’* Day

The first day of April is a day of fun. People play tricks* on each other. They tell lies to make people believe foolish* things. Then they shout, “April Fool!”

The jokes, tricks, and lies on April first should be harmless*. People usually make up their own lies and tricks. Some stores sell “practical jokes.” April Fools’ Day is for fun, not for hurting anyone.

One April Fools’ trick is to put “googly” eyes on a person’s books, backpack, food, or other objects. What other tricks can you think of?

Photos: Dreamstime.com

Events

April 2020

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National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month. A poem is a piece of writing for the ears, the eyes, the imagination*, or the heart. A poem may tell a story or show feelings. A poet chooses words carefully. He or she uses rhythm*, meter*, and powerful images*. Some poems rhyme*, and some don’t.

During National Poetry Month, schools may have poetry readings, poetry writing, and poetry contests. Read the poem The Crocodile by Lewis Carroll on page 9. Learn how poets can say a lot with just a few words.

National Cherry Blossom* Festival

March 20 to April 12, 2020, is the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. This annual* tradition began in 1912. The people of Japan gave 3,020 cherry trees to the people of the United States.

There will be concerts*, kite flying, fireworks, and many other events. Because of COVID-19, the events in March have been canceled.

Income-tax deadline*

People who earned money in 2019 must file* an income-tax return* by midnight, April 15, this year. This is the deadline for paying taxes for the year 2019. There is a penalty* for late payments. Some Post Offices are open until midnight on this day. You can get the forms to file your taxes at IRS.gov.

Uncle Sam* wants you to pay your taxes! Bigstockphoto.com

Passover

Passover is a Jewish celebration that lasts eight days. This year, it begins on the evening of April 8. Before Passover, families clean their homes. They buy special foods to eat during Passover. They do not eat regular breads and cakes. They eat a flat bread called matzoh*.

Stores sell many special foods for Passover.

On the first night of Passover, many Jewish families go to their synagogue*. Later, they have a special dinner called a seder*. At the seder, the youngest child asks questions about this special night. There are special things on the dinner table. These things all help tell the story of the first Passover. There are songs that help to tell the story, too.

The family reads the story of the first Passover from special books. The story tells how Moses led the Jews out of Egypt about 3,500 years ago. The Jews had been slaves* in Egypt. The story tells how God did many miracles* to help Moses. Finally, God sent the Angel of Death* to kill the firstborn boy in every Egyptian family. But Death passed over the homes of the Jews.

At last, the Jews escaped* from Egypt. They crossed the Red Sea and started to walk to the land that God promised them.

Moses went to the top of a great mountain. He stayed there 40 days. When he came down, he carried two large stone tablets*. Moses said that God had written ten commandments* on the tablets. The Ten Commandments became the laws for the Jewish nation. Later, they became laws for Christianity as well. Jews have celebrated this Passover since 1300 B.C.
Easter is the holiday when Christians celebrate the resurrection* of Jesus Christ. It is the most important holiday for Christians.

The Easter season has many parts. Some events are religious and some are not. February 26 was Ash Wednesday*. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent*. Lent is the 40-day period of sacrifice* before Easter Sunday.

Palm* Sunday

The Sunday before Easter Sunday is called Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday is April 5 this year. It reminds Christians of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem about 2,000 years ago. It was five days before he died.

Good Friday

April 10 is Good Friday. It marks the day that Jesus died on the cross*. It is the saddest day of the Christian year. The Bible* story says that Jesus’ friends wrapped his dead body. They put it into a tomb*. They rolled a huge* stone in front of the tomb. Two Roman soldiers guarded* it.

Easter Sunday

The Bible story says that Jesus’ friends came to his tomb three days after he died. They were surprised; the huge stone had been moved. Jesus’ body was not in the tomb. An angel* told them that Jesus was alive again. The story says that later the friends met Jesus. They walked and talked with him. He had been resurrected.

In the story, Jesus said that people who believed in him would go to Heaven* after they died. They would live with him forever.

Many Christians go to church on Easter Sunday. It is the happiest day of the year for them. They wear new spring clothes. They have a big family dinner. This year, Easter Sunday is April 12.

Other Easter events

During the spring, we see many symbols* of new life. Children color hard-cooked eggs in school or at home. On Easter Sunday, children look for their Easter baskets. The baskets are filled with colored eggs, chocolate rabbits, and candy. They believe that the “Easter Bunny*” brought them.

Many towns have spring events in the parks for children. There are egg hunts and games with eggs. In Washington, D.C., many children go to the White House* lawn*. They roll Easter eggs up a hill with a spoon. They may see the President or the First Lady*.

Ramadan

Ramadan is a holy* month for Muslims*. This year, the first day of Ramadan in the U.S. is Thursday, April 23.

During Ramadan, Muslims over age 12 fast* during the daylight hours. They eat breakfast early in the morning before the sun is up. They do not eat or drink again until the sun goes down. Fasting helps Muslims learn self-discipline* and sympathy* for hungry people. Young children, sick people, pregnant women, and travelers do not have to fast.

Muslims read the Koran* each day during Ramadan. They go to mosques* for prayers. Muslims give money to their mosques and food to poor families.

The Muslim calendar has 354 days. For this reason, the month of Ramadan begins 11 days earlier on the western calendar each year.

Eid al-Fitr

At the end of Ramadan (May 23), Muslims celebrate a special holiday called Eid al-Fitr* [EHED al FIEEtr]. They decorate their homes. They get together for a big meal with their families and friends. They wear their best clothes. They give gifts of money to children.

Source: The Fiqh Council of North America

Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22. There are many events around the world in the month of April. Schools may use the whole month of April for teaching about the planet* Earth. There are community events and special TV programs. People work together to clean up rivers, parks, forests, wetlands*, and beaches during this time. Read about Gaylord Nelson and the first Earth Day on page 6.

Find out what your school or community is doing for Earth Day. Find out more about Earth Day at Earthday.org.

Office Workers Day

April 27 is Administrative Professionals* Day. It’s a special time to thank the support team* at your school or job.

Businesses, schools, government offices, hospitals, and doctors’ and dentists’ offices cannot work well without these teams of workers.

They are secretaries, receptionists*, customer service* workers, order takers, editors, bookkeepers, mail clerks, and office managers.

At Easy English NEWS, we thank our customer service people, Amanda Scott and Elaine Simpson; our managing editor, Carol Brigham; our bookkeeper, Rebecca Beamon; and our wonderful copy editors, Sharon Flynn, Lynn Schaefer, Cathie Whitmire, Fran Davis, Nancy Huddleston, and Nadine Simms; and our tech advisor, Mike Mercer.

Without these people, Easy English NEWS would not get to you!
Unlucky surprise

One sunny day, I walked to Walgreens to get my mother-in-law’s medicine. I was under a telephone pole, waiting for the traffic light. Suddenly, I felt something wet on my head and face. I thought it was rain, but then I smelled something bad.

I wiped my face and realized it was poop*. I heard, “Caw, Caw.” I looked up and saw a black crow standing on the pole. It looked like it was laughing at me. At first I was mad. Then, I thought it was funny.

Black crows are unlucky birds in Chinese folktales. I hoped that more bad things wouldn’t happen to me that day.

Rita Li
New Hope, Minnesota
(China)

Confusing directions

I went to the dentist for the first time in the U.S. She started to clean my teeth. After a few minutes she said, “Close.” I moved a little bit closer to her. Once again she said, “Close.” I moved closer to her. I was right next to her.

Then she said, “Close your mouth.” I finally understood what she wanted! She didn’t want me to move closer to her. She wanted me to close my mouth. I was so embarrassed!

I learned the difference between the verb close [kloz] which means to shut and the adjective close [klos] which means nearby.

Six months later, I went to the same dentist. This time when she said the word close, we both started to laugh. I love this dentist now and look forward to seeing her next time.

Megumi Doura
Fishers, Indiana
(Japan)

No more fear

My daughter is in her last year of high school. She wanted to have some fun memories and adventures* before she left the school. She took a Project Adventures class. This is a class where students climb to different heights. They begin at 35 feet and go up from there.

When she told me, I was surprised. I know she is afraid of heights. She came home and told me that her first climb didn’t go well. She went up the 35-foot pole. She said that she was fine climbing up the pole. When she got up there, she realized she had to walk on a line to get to the other side.

She looked down and saw how far she was from the ground. She started to panic* and began to shake. She told me she had never felt this scared in her life. She was so afraid that she couldn’t move and asked to come down. When her feet touched the ground, she started to cry.

She didn’t want to fail the class. She had no choice but to do all the other climbs. She didn’t let fear hold her back. She was able to finish the class with 12 climbs. She got an A. I’m so proud of her.

Romeles Mesidor
Maplewood, New Jersey
(Haiti)

Locked out

When we moved to the USA, my daughter was almost two years old. She liked to play with her toys in the living room.

One spring day, we were playing indoors. I looked out the window and saw a towel blow away in the wind. I went outside to get it. The door closed behind me and locked. I couldn’t get back in!

My daughter couldn’t reach the lock, I told her to sit right there. I would be back. I ran to the front of the house. I asked some man if I could use his phone. It was an emergency!

I called my husband and said, “Don’t ask any questions. I need you to come home now. Our daughter is inside the house and I am locked outside. You need to unlock the door!” I thanked the man and ran back to my house.

My daughter was playing with her toys. I told her to get some storybooks and sit on the floor near the back door. I read to her as she turned the pages. My husband came home 25 minutes later. He saw a calm* and happy scene. She saw her father and got up to hug him. I was glad to see him too.

After this, I hid an extra key in the backyard. I never want to go through this again.

Suzi Chaves
Maple Grove, Minnesota
(Brazil)

Happy ending

Last month I ordered clothes from the internet. They were supposed to come in four days. Nothing came. I looked up the tracking number*. It said that the order had arrived.

I called the delivery service. I told them that my order didn’t come. They told me that the order was left near my mailbox.

I looked again, but nothing was there.

I wrote to the website and told them what happened. They told me they would get back to me. Two days later an email said they would return my money. I got it the next day.

I was very happy. I really didn’t expect this. I thought my money was gone forever!

Halyna Savanchuk
Newark, New Jersey
(Ukraine)

Interesting fact

We use Easy English NEWS in our ESL class. One day, I read Patriot Day in the “Events in September” page. It said that One World Trade Center was built next to where the Twin Towers had been. One World Trade Center is 1,776 feet tall. It’s the tallest building in the United States.

The number was familiar. The Declaration of Independence* was signed in 1776. They did it on purpose. The height in feet is the same as the year when the United States Declaration of Independence was signed. It was done to remind us that America is the home of the brave* and the land of the free.

Lan Nguyen
Irving, Texas
(Vietnam)

All photos from Bigstockphoto.com
Who will be the presidential candidates?*

The Republicans

The Republicans already know that Donald Trump will be their candidate for president. He is the incumbent president. That gives him many advantages. He is in the news every day. Everyone knows him. He has held many rallies to get his supporters excited. One other Republican candidate is still in the race to win the nomination: former governor of Massachusetts Bill Weld. As of the day Easy English NEWS went to press, Weld had one delegate for the Republican National Convention. Donald Trump has 1,104. He is sure to get the 1,276 delegates that he needs.

The Democrats

But for Democrats, trying to be the nominee of their party is taking a long time. It’s exhausting. It costs millions of dollars. Candidates need to introduce themselves to the American voters. There are TV debates, town hall meetings, making speeches, shaking hands with voters, and traveling from city to city in state to state.

The Democrats started out with 29 candidates. As of March 14, twenty-six candidates have dropped out.

Who’s left?

On February 22, Senator Bernie Sanders won the most delegates in the Democratic caucus in Nevada. Former vice president Joe Biden came in second. He had not done well in the earlier primaries. It looked like Joe Biden had no chance to win the Democratic nomination.

However, on February 29, Joe Biden won a huge victory in the South Carolina primary. Bernie Sanders came in a distant second.

“Super Tuesday”

March 3 was “Super Tuesday.” Fourteen states and one territory had their primary elections and caucuses.

Two days before “Super Tuesday,” two Democratic candidates dropped out of the race: Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar. They endorsed Joe Biden. Their extra support helped Joe Biden win the most delegates on super Tuesday: 629.

Bernie Sanders won 539 Michael Bloomberg won only 61.

The following day, Michael Bloomberg dropped out of the race. He endorsed Joe Biden.

Elizabeth Warren won only 63 delegates on Super Tuesday. She dropped out of the race. She has not endorsed anyone yet.

The next primaries

In the Democratic primary races on March 10, Bernie won 126 and Biden won 195 delegates so far. The delegates from these races were still being counted.

There will be more Democratic primaries or caucuses: March 14, 17, 24 and 29. In April there will be primaries on April 4, 7, 28. In May: May 2, 5, 12 and 19. In June: 2 and 6.

As of March 13, 2020

Needed: 1991

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<td>Michael Bloomberg*</td>
<td>61</td>
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<td>Tulsi Gabbard</td>
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Note: Easy English NEWS went to press on March 13. Watch the news on TV to find out who won delegates in the next primaries. There is a chart at our website to help you to keep track. It’s free: ElizabethClaire.com/free-stuff. Download and print out the “2020 Election Chart.”

Arbor*

National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April. This year it is April 24. People across the U.S. plant trees to celebrate it. Each state chooses the day that is good for planting trees in their own state. Thirty-eight states celebrate Arbor Day in March or April. Twelve states have Arbor Day in other months.

Day

How to plant a tree

When you plant a tree, you have to think into the future. How big will the tree be in 30 years? It will need a lot of space then. Don’t plant it too close to other trees, a sidewalk, a house, a fence, or a wall. Don’t plant the tree under telephone lines or electric power lines.

Choose a good location for the tree. Choose a place where the tree will get enough light and water.

If you want to plant a tree on your own land, there is no problem. But if you want to plant a tree on public land, you will need permission. You may be able to join a citizens’ tree-planting group.

What you need

You will need a small, healthy young tree or a tree seedling, a shovel, a bucket for water, stakes, a piece of nylon stocking, a hammer, compost, and mulch. You can get a tree at a tree nursery. Or you can grow a tree from a seed yourself. Wait until the tree is one or two feet tall before you plant it outdoors.

What kind of tree should you plant?

Choose a type of tree that grows well in your area. (Ask at your local garden store or tree nursery.) Some trees have large roots that grow on top of the ground when they are older. These roots can lift up sidewalks. They make it hard to cut the grass. Trees with roots that grow straight down are best on city streets.

Some trees produce flowers, seeds, and fruits. The land around them will need cleaning up each year.

Prepare the planting area

Dig a wide hole, three to five times the size of the ball of roots. Make the hole deep enough to cover the ball of roots.

Put the tree in the hole. Mix the dirt with compost, and fill in the area around the tree. Add two to four inches of mulch on top of the dirt. (Do not pile mulch directly next to the trunk of the tree.) Water your tree well each day for a month. After that, water it once a week unless there has been a lot of rain.

Protect your tree

Hammer the stakes into the ground near the tree. Tie the tree to the stakes with the nylon stocking. The stakes will help to keep your tree standing. Dogs, other animals, children, and the wind can hurt a tree. You can also put a little wire fence around your tree.

For more details about planting trees, see treesaregood.com/treecare/resources/new_treeplanting.pdf.
How will the U.S. fight the coronavirus? (continued from page 1)

people and people with other health problems. A few healthy people have also become very ill.

How can we stop COVID-19?

Every day there is new information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the government. Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health said that "things are going to get worse before they get better." The most important thing is to keep people away from others who may have the virus. And wash our hands.

The U.S. has banned flights from China, Iran, and 26 European countries. Governors of some states banned gatherings of more than 100 people. Businesses canceled large meetings. Many movie theaters and Broadway theaters are closed. Church services and other religious events are canceled in many countries. Governors of some states banned gatherings of more than 100 people. Businesses canceled large meetings. Many movie theaters and Broadway theaters are closed. Church services and other religious events are canceled in many countries.

The St. Patrick’s Day parades in New York and many other cities were canceled. Tourists canceled vacation trips. Hotels, restaurants, and many other businesses are losing money. Planes, trains, buses, and taxis have no one to transport. Many businesses had to lay off their workers.

Many university and college students are taking classes online. Many schools and day-care centers closed for weeks or even months. When younger children don’t go to school, parents must stay home from work to care for them. Employers lose workers. Workers lose pay.

People changed their wedding plans.

National TESOL canceled its conference for ESL teachers. The 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan may be canceled.

People want to stay away from other people. But how can people in jail or nursing homes get away from people who have the virus? What will homeless people do when they are sick?

What about people who get COVID-19?

The illness lasts about two weeks for most people. Eighty percent or more recover without needing medical help. Some may need to be in a hospital. Hospitals may run out of beds and breathing equipment for seriously ill patients. While the hospital is full of COVID-19 patients, doctors are not able to treat people who need other kinds of medical treatment.

Tests are important to be sure a patient has COVID-19. But there were not enough tests as of mid-March.

What about the government?

Some members of Congress have been near people who had COVID-19. They are quarantining themselves for 14 days. President Trump was still shaking hands with people on March 9. A person with COVID-19 was next to him at a meeting. Trump had not been tested so far.

COVID-19 may affect the U.S. election. Candidates have canceled big rallies. People may be afraid to come out to vote in primary elections. Voters will look at the economy when they choose a president in November.

(continued on page 11)

Don’t catch COVID-19

Wash your hands!

The virus spreads through tiny droplets in the air from a sneeze or cough. The droplets fall on anything: tables, desks, railings, handles, doorknobs, and shopping carts. The virus can stay there for more than a week.

Use soap and clean running water to wash your hands. Don’t forget the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your fingernails. Wash after touching things outdoors, after using the bathroom, and after blowing your nose. (Sing Happy Birthday two times while you are washing.) Use hand sanitizer if you cannot wash. Don’t touch your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands.

Don’t touch!

Push doors open with your elbow. Don’t shake hands or hug or kiss people when you greet them. Greet people with a smile and a nod of your head instead.

Avoid crowds

Shop at night when there are fewer people in the supermarket. Have enough food and supplies in your home in case you become ill or need to be quarantined: medicines, juices, canned tuna and vegetables, face masks, rice, food for your pets, toilet paper, tea and coffee.

Do you need to wear a mask? No, not unless you already have the virus. Ordinary masks will not stop the virus from getting into your nose and eyes. But if you are sick, a mask can limit the distance that virus can travel: in your coughs and sneezes go. Health workers need a stronger mask, N95, but leave these for them.

If you have been near a person who has the virus, quarantine yourself. Stay at home and away from others for 14 days. Sleep in a separate bedroom if possible.

If you become sick, protect others. Don’t use the same drinking cups, straws, forks, towels, or bedding. Drink lots of fluids. Blow your nose into a tissue and throw it away in the trash. (Wash those hands!) Cough or sneeze into your elbow.

Clean the surfaces and the objects you touch.

(continued from page 10)
Heroes and History
Gaylord Nelson and Earth Day

Scientists say that the Earth is 4.6 billion years old. It has been a wonderful “Mother Earth” to us humans and many other living things. But “Mother’s” children have not always taken good care of her.

The U.S. 50 years ago

Fifty years ago, there weren’t many laws against air and water pollution*. Gasoline for cars contained lead*. Cars got only 13 miles to the gallon of gas. Cities dumped garbage in the ocean and sewage* in the rivers. Factories dumped toxic waste* into rivers. The water in lakes and rivers was not safe to drink, and the fish were not safe to eat.

There were big mountains of garbage out of many large cities. Incinerators* burned trash; dirty smoke filled city air. Smog* in some cities made people’s eyes burn and gave children asthma*. There were no strict* rules about drilling for oil in the ocean near the shore.

Most people knew that pollution was bad for people’s health. Many small groups had tried to get the government to pass laws. The small groups did not have much power to do anything.

Governor Gaylord Nelson

Gaylord Nelson was governor of Wisconsin from 1959 to 1963. He helped create many state laws to protect* the environment*. Later, he became a U.S. senator. Senator Nelson tried to get laws to protect the whole country’s water and air. But other congressmen were not interested.

The 1969 oil spill*

In 1969, an oil rig* was drilling in the ocean near Santa Barbara, California. The rig exploded*. Three million gallons of thick, ugly oil covered beautiful beaches. It killed thousands of birds and sea mammals. It was the largest oil spill that had ever happened in the United States.

The first Earth Day

When Senator Nelson saw the oil spill, he got angry. He knew things had to change. He noticed how college students at that time had organized teach-ins*, marches, and protests* against the war in Vietnam. These young people had tremendous energy. He invited college students to help wake up the whole country. He inspired* hundreds of universities and cities to plan the first Earth Day in 1970. It was not a government program. It was a people’s program.

That year, 20 million Americans attended teach-ins and demonstrations. Ten thousand schools, two thousand colleges, and one thousand communities took part in that first Earth Day.

People learned that the Earth was in trouble. That first Earth Day taught the government that we needed laws to protect the environment. By the end of the year, Congress* passed the Environmental Protection Act*. It also passed the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species* Acts. A lot has been accomplished* since then. But there is still a lot more to do.

Our “Goldilocks*” planet

There are millions of different forms of life on Earth. The earth is the perfect planet for living things.

It is not too close to the sun, so it is not too hot. It’s not too far from the sun, so it’s not too cold. Water on the planet is not frozen and it is not a gas.

The earth has an atmosphere*. The atmosphere protects* the earth from too much radiation* from the sun.

The atmosphere also holds heat on the planet, so it doesn’t freeze at night.

The atmosphere contains oxygen. All of those conditions make the earth “just right” for life.

The Earth gives us life. All of us can give back to the earth to take care of it.

Life on Earth

Humans share the earth with many other living things. The Earth belongs to all of us. There are over 2,141,700 species* of animals and 391,000 species of plants on Earth. Many species are in danger of extinction* because of human activities. Bigstockphoto.com
Idiom Corner
Illustrations by Dave Nicholson
Have you heard people use these idioms?

1. walking on air
   happy and excited because something good has happened
   - Kim has been walking on air ever since Bernard asked her to the school dance.

The judges chose my painting for first place in an art contest! I’m walking on air!

2. up in the air
   unsure, uncertain
   - I don’t have any plans for the weekend yet. It’s up in the air.

   The future of Harvey’s company is up in the air. It hasn’t made any money in three years.

3. quick on the trigger
   acting quickly, without thinking
   - I hate working with Laurie. She’s quick on the trigger and always ready to get mad.

   My boss is quick on the trigger. He often makes bad decisions for the company.

4. to go out on a limb
   to take a risk
   - Simon was not very good at football, but he went out on a limb and tried out* for the team anyway.

   Brittany wanted to be an actress, so she went out on a limb and moved to Hollywood. She doesn’t know anyone there or have a job yet.

Crossword Puzzle

Across
1. Many ______ live in forests.
2. Trees take carbon dioxide out of the ______.
3. A dime equals ten ______.
4. Another word for automobile
5. The number before eleven
6. To copy another person
7. Pedestal is another word for the ________ of a statue.
8. A container is a jar, a bag, or a _______
9. Move. Let’s _______ the show.
10. Thoughts
11. Tender, loving care (abbreviation).
12. A very, very smart person. Albert Einstein was a ______.

Down
1. Things to do. There are many ______ at Earth Day events.
2. If you dig a hole, you ______ a shovel.
3. _____ Grande River
4. Smallest state (abbreviation)
5. People from Ireland
6. A low cloud or mist that makes it hard to see
7. The language of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and other Middle Eastern countries.
8. Soft paper. Use this when you blow your nose.
9. Short name for sister
10. Frozen water
11. Paid (abbreviation)
12. Large, with extra room.
13. Abbreviation for street
14. Ginny Song’s initials
15. Preposition or adverb, the opposite of down

Answers are on page 11.
Poetry Month

April is Poetry Month. It is a time to read poetry, learn about poetry, memorize poetry, and love poetry. We can enjoy poems all year, not just in April.

Poetic devices

A person who writes poems is called a poet [POH et]. A poet wants to express an idea, tell a story, or show a feeling with words. The poet chooses the words carefully. Sometimes a poet will repeat a word or line for emphasis.

Often poets will use the same sounds at the end of words. This is called a rhyme [RIME]. Many poems contain rhymes, but some do not.

In the poem The Crocodile by Lewis Carroll, you’ll hear a pattern of rhymes. The last words in lines 1 and 3 rhyme (crocodile and Nile). The last words in line 2 and 4 also rhyme (tail and scale). This pattern is called ABAB.

Lewis Carroll uses personification (talking about something as if it were a person) to make the crocodile more human.

One example of personification in The Crocodile is using the pronoun he for the crocodile instead of it. Can you find other examples of personification in this poem?

A poem has meter. This means the number of stressed syllables in each line.

Read the poem and notice which syllables and words you need to stress. If you can’t hear them, ask a native English speaker to read the poem to you. Listen to hear which words are stressed.

A poet might use symbols to communicate a larger meaning. That’s one reason it is difficult to translate poetry into another language.

The Crocodile

By Lewis Carroll

How doth1 the little crocodile
Improve2 his shining tail,
And pour the waters of the Nile3
On every golden scale4!

How cheerfully he seems to grin5,
How neatly spreads his claws,
And welcomes little fishes in,
With gently6 smiling jaws?!

1 does
2 make something better
3 a very long river in Africa
4 rough skin on a crocodile
5 smile
6 nicely, kindly

Lewis Carroll (1832-1898)

Lewis Carroll’s most famous stories are Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass. People love Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland all over the world. It has been printed in over 90 languages. This poem, The Crocodile, was written for Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland.

Carroll’s name is written on a stone in the Poets’ Corner of Westminster Abbey in London. The stone helps people to remember him. It shows how important he was to England and the world.

Carroll’s real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. He used the name Lewis Carroll for his writing. He was born in England on January 27, 1832. He was a teacher, photographer, and writer.

He wrote 11 books about math and 12 fiction books.
Laws about work (continued from page 1)

The national minimum wage is $7.25 per hour. Some states have higher minimum wages.

- Employers do not have to pay the minimum wage to service workers* who receive tips* or salespeople who receive commissions*.
- At some jobs, workers must receive time-and-a-half* pay for any hours they work after the first 40 hours in a week.

**Taxes and keeping records**

- Employers must pay a Fair Labor Law* against workers because of their gender*, race, national origin*, age, religion, disability*, or pregnancy, as long as the worker can do the job.
- Employers and co-workers may not harass* other workers. All people in the workplace must respect* others’ gender, religion, national origin, age, and physical appearance.
- Men and women must get equal pay if they do equal work.
- An employer may not require* an employee to speak English if English is not necessary to do the job.

**Job safety**

- Workers have the right to a safe workplace. The Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) has rules to prevent* accidents at work. These rules help keep workers safe.
- Employers must have fire alarms, fire drills, and safety programs. They must train* employees who use dangerous equipment* or machinery.
- Workers must wear hard hats, goggles*, gloves, or other safety equipment to do certain jobs.
- Employers must pay for Workers’ Compensation Insurance*. This insurance pays medical expenses for workers who are hurt at work. In some cases, Workers’ Compensation Insurance pays workers who have been hurt while on the job and cannot work.

**Licenses, certificates, and permits**

- Many professional* workers need state licenses or certificates to do their work. Some examples are doctors, dentists, physical therapists, teachers, lawyers, accountants, plumbers, electricians, taxi drivers, bartenders, barbers, manicurists, and many others.
- Salespeople who go door-to-door may need a permit from the local government.

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**Taxes and keeping records**

- Employers must keep records about employees.
- Employers must pay a share* of Social Security* and Medicare* taxes for their employees.
- They must withhold* the employees’ share of Social Security and Medicare. They also withhold the employees’ state and federal taxes.
- In January, employers must give employees a W-2 form*. This shows the worker’s income* and withholdings for taxes from the past year.

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The U.S. stock market dropped to its lowest point since 2008. Many people lost a large part of their investments. The U.S. pumped in a trillion dollars to try to keep the stock market from crashing. But it did crash.

The ripple effect

When the virus began in Wuhan, China, the government quarantined the city. No one could leave. Factories closed to avoid spreading the disease. This has slowed the spread of COVID-19 in China.

China produces many things to sell to people in other parts of the world. Manufacturers in the U.S. and Europe cannot make their products because China closed its factories. Stores that sell things made in China don’t have much to sell.

When will the pandemic end?

The U.S. will spend $8.3 billion dollars to help fight COVID-19. The money will help the CDC and each state to fight the virus. It will help doctors find medicines to treat patients. It will pay for tests. It will pay for researchers to develop a vaccine.

It may take a year to make a vaccine that is safe. Then drug companies have to make enough vaccine for millions of people.

While we wait, it is important to protect ourselves and our families.

Let’s talk about it

How will the U.S. fight the coronavirus? (pages 1 and 6)

1. What are the symptoms of COVID-19?
2. Who might have the most serious cases of COVID-19?
3. In what ways has COVID-19 slowed down world trade?
4. In what ways has it slowed down education? Entertainment?
5. How does COVID-19 affect hospitals?
6. In what ways does COVID-19 affect the country’s economy?
7. What plans does your school have to protect students from COVID-19? What are you doing to protect yourself?
8. Tell the meaning of these words: mild, pneumonia, CDC, quarantine, spread, cancel, crowd, investment.

Laws about work (pages 1 and 10)

1. What are the laws about work for children aged 14 and 15? Aged 16 and 17?
2. What is the purpose of Form 1-9?
3. Tell eight workers who need a state license or certificate. Why is it important for these workers to get those documents?
4. How does harassment hurt people in the workplace?
5. What safety rules does the OSHA require?
6. Tell three types of safety equipment for dangerous jobs.
7. What is the purpose of Workers’ Compensation Insurance? Who pays for it?
8. Tell the meaning of these words: regulation, chore, hazardous, mine, minimum wage, tip, share, withhold, income, permit, professional, fair, national origin, train, disability, harass, equipment.

Events in April (pages 2 and 3)

1. What happens on April Fool’s Day?
2. What is special about the cherry trees in Washington, D.C.? When is the National Cherry Blossom Festival?
3. What deadline is on April 15?
4. Who celebrates Passover? What is the purpose of the Passover Seder?
5. Where did Moses say he got the Ten Commandments?
6. What events lead up to Easter Sunday? What do Christians do on these events?
7. What will your town do for Earth Day? What will you do?
8. What are Muslims supposed to do during the month of Ramadan? What is the purpose?
9. What is the purpose of Administrative Professionals’ Day?
10. Who are the office workers at your school? What do they do?
11. Tell the meaning of these words: fool, harmless, imagination, blossom, fast, synagogue, miracle, tomb, commandment, resurrection, self-discipline, mosque.

This is your page (page 4)

1. What an unhappy surprise did Rita Li get on sunny day?
2. Have you been to a dentist in America? Tell about it.
3. What fears do you have? Do they stop you from doing some things?
4. Have you ever been locked out of your house? Tell about it.
5. Have you had problems when you bought things online? What happened?
6. Tell the meaning of these words: unlucky, crow, panic, calm, tracking number.

Who will be the presidential candidates? (page 5)

1. Who will be the Republican candidate for president? Why?
2. When was Super Tuesday? Which Democratic candidate won the most delegates on this day?
3. Why did some Democratic candidates drop out of the race?
4. Which candidates won delegates on March 10?
5. Are you registered to vote in the United States? Have you voted in an election here? Have you voted in an election in your home country? Tell about it.
6. Tell the meaning of these words: delegate, candidate, drop out, convention, primary election, caucus.

Arbor Day (Page 5)

1. What is the purpose of Arbor Day?
2. Tell six steps to plant a tree.
3. Where would be a good place to plant a tree? Tell why.
4. Tell the meaning of these words: seedling, mulch, compost, roots, produce.

Don’t catch COVID-19 (page 6)

1. How does COVID-19 spread?
2. When should you wash your hands?
3. Why shouldn’t you touch your face with unwashed hands?
4. How can you greet people without shaking hands?
5. Who should wear a mask?
6. If you become ill with COVID-19, how can you protect your family and others?
7. Tell the meaning of these words: door knob, sanitizer, supplies, elbow.

Gaylord Nelson and Earth Day (page 7)

1. How old is the Earth? How old is Earth Day?
3. Has there been improvement? Which of these problems are still here today?
4. What event caused Gaylord Nelson to take action and create Earth Day? Who helped create it?
5. How did people participate in the first Earth Day?
6. What laws did Congress pass in 1970?
7. Why is the Earth called a “Goldilocks Planet?”
8. Tell the meaning of these words: pollution, lead, incinerator, environment, endangered species, atmosphere, radiation.

Poetry Month (page 9)

1. What is the purpose of Poetry Month?
2. What is the purpose of a poem?
3. What are some poetic devices?
4. In the poem, The Crocodile, which words rhyme? Which words show personification?
5. What is a poem you like in your native language? Tell it to the class. Does it have rhymes?
6. Tell the meaning of these words: memorize, rhyme, meter, symbol, grin, scale, claw, jaws.
accomplish verb. To do something that has a good result.
advise verb. To give a person or group of people better or worse than expected.
adjacent adjective. Next to something else; near someone or something else.
adjunct noun. A member of a political party.
an an noun. A person who wants to be elected.
candidate noun. A person who wants to be elected.
chore verb. To do a task that is necessary.
cancel verb. To stop an event from happening.
challenge noun. A difficult activity that requires a long training period.
candidate for president. A person who wants to be elected.
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