

August 15th



The Pastor's Child

Featuring: Samuel Johnson (Page 6)

Written and edited by the Dunlop Kids



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NEW!

NEW!

AND MORE!!!

Axolotl Journal: Part 1

It is August 19, 2020 on a hot day in Mexico, but the water where we are is cool. It is nearly dark, and I am near the lake of Xochimilco (so-chee-mill-koh) because that is the only place in the world that Axolotl (aka: Mexican Walking Fish) live. Lake Xochimilco was once a part of a system of lakes and rivers, but a lot of that system has been drained because it is so close to Mexico City. They drained the lakes to stop them from flooding Mexico City during the wet season, but when they did that they really damaged the area that these creatures live.

There is still some lake left, but it is much smaller than it used to be. We noticed that the water was very polluted because of the garbage from the city and because there are lots of boats on the lake. But, even with these problems, there are still some Axolotl living in the lake.

The bottom of the lake, where the Axolotl live, is very muddy, and that's how the creatures like it. There are lots of plants for the Axolotl to lay their eggs on, and lots of fish, worms and insects for them to eat.

By Bronwyn Plant, Journalist for the Pastor's Child Magazine



Bronwyn Plant is a journalist for the Pastor's Child Magazine and is in the 5th grade. She is homeschooled. She is 10 years old.

What's up? News for kids

We're back!

After an almost 2-month long summer break, the Pastor's Child Magazine now lives to publish another week! With in-person school next year, the editors will be short on time, so to keep the magazine running, please send in articles of your choice to our email: thepastorschild@gmail.com.

Comics

Toy Soldier Trouble



The Toy Review Series: Why are LEGOs so expensive?

As kids, and maybe, if you are one, as adults, you have probably bought a LEGO set sometime in your life. And I can totally assure you, I have bought many LEGO sets myself. But now, as a thirteen year old, after going to a LEGO store in the Bay Area of California last week, I'm beginning to wonder whether LEGOs are really worth it. Why is it that small boxes of plastic pieces have prices that are hundreds, if not thousands of dollars? I looked up this question online, and here's the answer I got:

Reason 1: Attention to Detail

When you think about it, it must take a lot of work to get plastic pieces to fit so perfectly and exactly together. In fact, LEGOs are accurate within 0.004 millimeters, which is as narrow as one tenth of a single human hair! That is *extremely* accurate. Also, the accuracy of LEGO molds is so high that only 18 out of a million LEGO bricks don't fit LEGO's extremely demanding standard. That's pretty crazy.

Reason 2: Size of the Sets

The number of pieces in LEGO sets definitely influences the size of the set, and therefore the cost. Although LEGO sets are more expensive today than 40 years ago, the price of LEGOs has actually decreased in the last 40 years. In 1985, a LEGO brick cost an average of 40 cents. Today, each brick costs about 10-20 cents. The difference in cost is actually due to the size of the sets. LEGO sets used to be much smaller than they are today. Back when our parents were kids (if you are not an adult), a LEGO set consisted of about 500-800 pieces. Today, LEGO sets can have thousands of pieces, and often do.

Reason 3: Brand name

That reason sounds a bit weird, especially to us kids. If it's the name of the brand, then why don't you just switch to another brand? Well, not all brands have the same quality as LEGO. Also, LEGO is probably the most famous toy brand out there. In 2015 LEGO became

the most powerful brand in the world, overcoming Ferrari, a sports car brand. Today, LEGO has an estimated \$7.51 BILLION brand value. That's a lot!

Reason 4: Licensing

Many LEGO sets are based on stories and movies, such as LEGO Marvel, LEGO Star Wars, and LEGO Harry Potter. To make these sets based on stories and movies made by other companies, LEGO has to pay fees. Although most of the cost of a LEGO set is the actual cost of the pieces, licensing fees still amount to a lot of money.

Reason 5: High Quality Materials

LEGOs are made from a plastic called thermoplastic, which is known for strength and durability. The plastic is made of petroleum oil (though some LEGOs are starting to be made out of compostable materials), which means that prices are based on how expensive the oil is. LEGO molds are designed to withstand many uses without losing their functionality. And if you've stepped on a LEGO brick (Ouch!), you definitely know how sturdy those pieces of plastic are. LEGOs are also easy to clean. In a study, Dr. Ian Johnston found that a LEGO brick could withstand 4,240 Newtons, or 375,000 LEGO bricks of pressure. That's equivalent to a tower of LEGOs 2.17 miles high!!!

Now that you've read this article, hopefully you understand how amazing and top-quality LEGO bricks are. And if a toy is top-quality, of course it should be expensive. I guess if you really want a top quality toy you've got to pay a lot for it.

Sources cited:

Groenewald, Retha, Why Are LEGO Sets So Expensive?, Fractus Learning, 6/17/2021, <https://www.fractuslearning.com/why-are-legos-so-expensive/>

By CJ Dunlop, Editor of the Pastor's Child Magazine



CJ Dunlop is the Editor of the Pastor's Child Magazine and is a rising 8th grader at DC International School in Takoma, DC. He is 13 years old and likes to swim, play the piano, and unicycle.

Exclusive interview with Samuel Johnson

And this week: a real exclusive interview! Just before he left with his family for Turkey, we interviewed Samuel Johnson: missionary kid, pastor's kid, and sibling of two. Let's see what Samuel has to say!

This interview has been edited for clarity

Reporter: Hi Samuel, and thanks for being interviewed today.

Samuel: You're welcome.

Reporter: Usually at the Pastor's Child magazine, we give interviewees three questions, and our first question today is: *We all know that on many vacations, you have to travel on a plane. So what do you normally do while on a plane?*

Samuel: I watch movies, try not to sleep, and basically that's it.

Reporter: Once you've arrived at your vacation spot and have free time, what do you do without all of your things that you would normally have at home?

Samuel: I annoy my brother and sister, I always have a backpack, so I have some trash in that, and then I - well, we usually go to Ausboots (I'm not sure I wrote that write), which is a vacation spot, and I have friends there, and I make friends quick, so I usually play with other kids, play outside, climb trees, and go swimming and stuff like that.

Reporter: That sounds pretty awesome. It's cool how you make friends in a completely different place.

Samuel: Yeah, that's because they speak English. A lot of them.

Reporter: So our second question is:
What is it like being a missionary kid and living in a different country with people who don't speak English?

Samuel: Well, it's something interesting, because I have to learn Turkish, but it's hard, and I'm kind of not very good at it. At all. Whatsoever.

The interview pauses due to Samuel's mom telling Samuel something about laundry. We continue with a follow up question.

Reporter: So what do you think are some big differences between Turkey and America?

Samuel: Well, the language. The food is very different. They have Turkish food, but it's sometimes similar because they like American food, but it's also different because they don't have good American food, and they don't have good bacon. 'Cause it's a Muslim country they don't have any pork. So it's hard with that. Yeah, that's mostly it. Any other questions?

Reporter: What is Turkish candy like?

Samuel: Oh, it's delicious. There's this holiday called Shikar Bairam where all grown-ups don't have to but give kids candy. And it's really fun. Any other questions?

Reporter: Our third question is:
What are the best and worst things about having two older siblings?

Samuel: Well the worst is that they're total garbage, and the best is that they're nice to me. And sometimes they even do nice

things for me like let me play with their toys. And another worst thing is that they are just complete and total garbage.

Reporter: Is it nice to have their company when you're in a different country?

Samuel: Nope, 'cause the kid who lives above me is, well, he speaks English, he has a trampoline, and he has a nintendo switch. So I'm pretty busy playing with him. And they can just do their trashy stuff.

Reporter: What do you think your siblings would think about what you just said?

Samuel: Um, given that I'm about to grab a pillow and run, and be in the room with my mom for a few minutes, they might be angry at me.

Reporter: We'll leave it there. Thanks for being interviewed, Samuel, and your answers were really nice.

Samuel: Really? Rats.

That's it! You can watch the interview at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/zQC6FnSjaGCghfV78>

Bonus video: Samuel's brother's response: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/2nyVd9QCq5MtzcfG9>

Reporter: CJ Dunlop, Editor of the Pastor's Child Magazine

Cameraman: Drew Johnson, brother and pillow-whacker of Samuel Johnson



CJ Dunlop is the Editor of the Pastor's Child Magazine and is a rising 8th grader at DC International School in Takoma, DC. He is 13 years old and likes to swim, play the piano, and unicycle.

Short Story: the Ant Series. The Art of the Catapult.

It seemed to the Red Ants that there was no way to get into Black Ant territory. Still recovering from their recent loss, Red Ant engineers knew that there must be a way. If Black Ants could get into Red Ant territory, then why couldn't Red Ants get into Black Ant territory? It all became clear one night.

It was a night of terror. Not for humans, but for ants. It was the night of a party. As ants huddled inside their shelters, they listened with fear as the thud of shoes on dirt continuously grew closer and closer, stomping to the rhythm of terrifying beats blasting into the night sky. But the one good thing that parties meant for the ants was a nice scavenge the next morning. The next morning was bright and clear. Young ants ran outside with wide smiles, ready to collect strange human material. But this time, scavenging was off limits. The government had arrived.

Under the protection of soldiers, Red Ant engineers marched around the scene of the party, looking for useful materials. Strange clear plastic surrounded by not clear plastic? No. Green paper with a scary human face on it? No. Strange stretchy rope? That could be of use. With the help of laborers, the engineers towed the stretchy rope back to their headquarters,

brainstorming all the way. By the time they got to the lab, they had an idea. They would transport Red Ant soldiers by air. The engineers attached the stretchy rope to a series of sticks, attaching a basket to a long stick towering above all the others. They then created a pulley system in order for the long stick to be pulled back and released with great power. After a few days, the Red Ant engineers were ready for a test pilot.

The test pilot came in the form of Ant Anne the Ant. Ant Anne the Ant was a brave, noble, patriotic young ant. And the key to the operation was that although everyone knew of her, no one knew who she *really* was. It was a great mix for a spy.

With a quick spray of black paint on her body (an idea taken from the Black Ants), Ant Anne the Ant climbed up into the catapult basket. As both government leaders and engineers held their breath, a team of huffing and puffing ant laborers slowly pulled her towards the ground. Then, at the signal of the head engineer, Ant Anne the Ant was thrust into the air. With a twang, operation LAUNCH had begun.

By CJ Dunlop, Editor of the Pastor's Child Magazine



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Advice Column

#	Question	Answer
1:	Why did the Pastor's Child stop for a couple of months? - Anonymous	Due to the fact that journalists and magazine subscribers kept going on vacation earlier during summer break, we didn't have a steady stream of articles to use, which meant that it was hard for us to write the magazine. Also, it did seem to the editors that it was time for a break.

Any questions you need advice on? Email them to us at thepastorschild@gmail.com.

Book Recommendations

Need new books to read? Well, maybe check out these:

1. The Goddess Girls (series) by Joan Holub and Suzanne Williams
2. Felicity: An American Girl Adventure (series) by multiple authors
3. Spies: the Secret Showdown Between America and Russia by Marc Favreau
4. Zoe's Rescue Zoo (series) by Amelia Cobb
5. D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths by Ingri and Edgar Parin D'Aulaire

Any other recommendations? Email them to thepastorschild@gmail.com.

Fun Activities

Olympics!

Continuing next week (more sports coming!)

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

Word Bank:

Basketball	Archery	Gymnastics	Swimming	Badminton	Baseball
Volleyball	Boxing	Canoeing	Cycling	Diving	Equestrian
Fencing	Soccer	Golf	Handball	Hockey	Judo

Philistia

Ancient Biblical Kingdoms: For Kids!



The Philistines were a group of people who lived in the Levant (modern day Israel, Gaza, Syria, and Lebanon), arriving during the 12th century B.C. The Philistines lived during a time when many cities and civilizations in the Middle East were collapsing.

The Philistines themselves left no texts for us to read, so much of our information about them comes from the people that they encountered (and often fought). Some of these sources include the Bible (from the Israelites' perspective), Egyptian texts, and Assyrian texts. The book of

Joshua says that the

Philistines inhabited or controlled the cities of Ashkelon, Gaza, Gath, Ashdod and Ekron 3,000 years ago.

One of the earliest mentions of the Philistines that we have today is from Ramses III, an Egyptian Pharaoh. Ramses III claims that the Philistine forces were "made ashes" by the Egyptian army, though modern scholars doubt whether that was really true.

The Philistines are also mentioned by Assyrian texts from the 8th and 7th centuries B.C., when the Assyrian empire



ruled a lot of the Middle East. One text shows a treaty between Assyria and Tyre. In the treaty, the Assyria's rule of the 'land of the Philistines' is acknowledged. Another text says that the Assyrian king had trouble finding a reliable vassal ruler who could control Ashkelon, a city that was ruled by the



Philistines. A third text even says that the ruler of Ashkelon, according to the Assyrian ruler Tiglath Pileser III, “did not bow to my yoke”. I guess the Philistines were a rowdy bunch! The confusing thing about the Philistines is that we aren’t sure that all of our information about them is correct. One reason is that the texts that we have are written by non-Philistine sources, which tend to have a negative view of the Philistines. So, maybe the people who wrote the sources cared more about how they are portrayed than whether what they are saying is actually true.

Even though we don’t know much about the Philistines now, we will, hopefully, in the near future. Over the past century, archaeologists have excavated some of the cities that the Philistines were said to control, such as the city of Yavne. But for now, we can only guess at who the Philistines really were, and see how things turn out.

By CJ Dunlop, Editor of the Pastor’s Child Magazine

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Jarus, Owen, Who Were the Philistines?, LiveScience, 7/16/2016,

<https://www.livescience.com/55429-philistines.html>



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Verse of the Day: 1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

KIDS Section:

For KIDS 6 or younger

Hi all kids out there! I'm Carissa, and today we are going to talk about whales. When you think of whales, you probably think of a humpback whale or a spout of water rising out of the sea. But there is more to whales than that.



Whales are divided into two groups: baleen whales and toothed whales. The first group, baleen whales, include humpback whales, blue whales, and grey whales, to name a

few. Toothed whales include dolphins (all of them), orcas, beluga whales, and sperm whales, to name a few.

Baleen whales have baleens instead of teeth. A baleen is a plate that hangs from the top of a whale's mouth like a comb, which baleen whales use for eating.

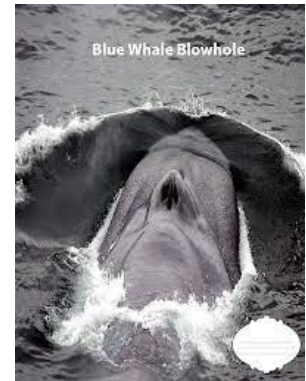


Baleen whales eat by swimming through the water with their mouths open, using their baleen to catch krill and other small animals. The baleen will filter water out of their mouth, but trap the krill and animals.



Toothed whales use their teeth to eat fish or any sort of seafood, except plants. Toothed whales bite into prey like us humans, and eat larger foods than baleen whales.

All whales are mammals, which means that they don't lay eggs, they drink milk from their mothers when they are young, and they all have spines. As mammals, whales need to breathe in air, but they still need water to survive. So, whales have blowholes on top of their heads. Because of this, they don't need to put their entire head out of the water in order to breathe.



After being born, whale calves stay with their mothers for a few years so that they can learn the whale migration route, how to hunt, and how to communicate. After leaving

their mothers, these young whales will go out and mate and have babies, causing the cycle of whale life to start again.

By Carissa Dunlop, Co-Editor of the Pastor's Child Magazine



Carissa Dunlop is the Co-Editor of the Pastor's Child Magazine and is a rising 4th grader at Washington Yuying Public Charter School. She is 9 years old and likes to swim, play the violin, and run.



The Pastor's Child Issue 17. Issue 18 coming out next Sunday (possibly next, next Sunday).

Remember: Church at 10:30 AM in the church building (525 A St NE).
Prayer Service on Zoom or at church at 5:00 pm.

Thanks for reading!

The Pastor's Child

CJ Dunlop — Editor

Lucas Dunlop, Carissa Dunlop — Co-Editors

Bronwyn Plant — Featured Journalist

Contact us at thepastorschild@gmail.com or visit our website at

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