Need to shop? Go to the mall.
Want to ski? Go to the mall.

A mall in New Jersey has an indoor ski slope. The slope is finally open for snow skiers.

The American Dream mega-mall has the only indoor ski slope in North America. It took over ten years to make. The first person to ski down the slope was Olympic champion Lindsey Vonn. The 1,000-foot slope is fun for everyone. It has a beginners’ area where people can learn to ski. Machines make snow for the slope. They produce more than four tons of snow every hour. **Who makes real snow fall from the sky? God does!**

Job 37:6 says, “For to the snow He says, ‘Fall on the Earth.’”

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**God’s Big WORLD • March/April 2020**
Rumble. Vroom. Whoosh! It was the Dakar Rally.

This race was not on a road. It was over hot desert sand in Saudi Arabia.

Some racers got lost. Some broke down. The race was dangerous [dane-jer-us].

Frenchman Thierry Sabine started the Dakar Rally races 43 years ago. Racers have driven cars, trucks, motorcycles, quads, and UTVs (utility task vehicle) through desert sands in Africa and South America. The 12-day race now has moved to Saudi Arabia. One-third of that country is desert. It is on a hot, dry peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. God protected the Israelites when they wandered in the desert. Read Isaiah 48:21.
Mohammed al-Shenbari lives in Gaza. It is between Israel and Egypt. He taught himself how to balance all sorts of objects. His yard is full of his work. He wants to learn more. Could he balance a washing machine?

The Sun rises and sets. Water evaporates. Objects can be balanced. God promises us in Genesis 8:22 that this will be true as long as the Earth remains.

Are the cups glued together? No. They balance on each other.

Mohammed learns where the fulcrum (balance spot) is. He stacks big things on small ones. They do not fall over.

He knows how to find the fulcrum.

Mohammed can balance big items!
These unicycle performers have amazing balance, don’t you think?
Find 10 differences between the two pictures. Describe the differences.
The men never gave up.

Row, row, row the boat.
The wind thrashed.
Waves crashed.

Six men kept rowing.
They dodged icebergs.
They watched whales.

The men were cold and tired.
They kept on. Their trip across the Drake Passage took 13 days.

Fiann Paul blows a horn as the trip begins.

The team rows through the dangerous Drake Passage.

The Drake Passage is between Antarctica and South America. It is the roughest ocean path in the world. The passage was named after explorer Sir Francis Drake. But Mr. Drake never sailed it. Why? It was too dangerous. “It felt like being inside a washing machine,” said Colin O’Brady. But his team rowed all the way across. They made history! Who can still the sea? Psalm 89:9 says, “You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them.”
The Everglades has been called “a river of grass.” It is a National Park filled with birds, animals, trees, swamps, and marshes. Burmese pythons do not belong there. They eat much of the Everglades’ wildlife. State officials and volunteers work hard to remove these snakes. God promises in Isaiah 65:25, “Dust shall be the [serpents’] food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain.”

Snakes creep through the Everglades in Florida. Most are pythons from Asia. They were pets. They got too big. Owners let them go.

Python hunters catch the snakes. There are thousands more.
Some companies are making better padding for the inside of football helmets. Some are making the outside tougher. Others are improving the facemasks. All are working to keep players’ heads safe from injury. Do you ride a bike? You need a helmet. Skateboard? You need a helmet. You belong to God, and 1 Corinthians 6:20 says, “For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

Better helmets are good for everyone.

One was just a leather cap. One had only a single-bar facemask. These were the first football helmets.

People today make safer helmets. That is good news. The helmets you wear are safer too.
Oh no! This hungry python can eat all of these creatures. Don’t let him! Find a path through the maze to collect points instead of prey. How many points did the snake collect along the path?
The U.S. Constitution says a count of every person living in the United States must be taken every ten years. That is not easy. Some people live in hard-to-reach places. Soldiers and college students are not at home. Some people do not want to answer the questions. Census workers try to count everyone. We should know the new population number by December. **Luke 2:1-5 tells us that Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to be counted in a census. What happened while they were there?**
Munch, munch. Deer chomp sweet meadow grass.
Buzz, buzz. Startled insects flit up into the air.

Fallow deer rest in a meadow near Frankfurt, Germany. Starlings perch on their backs. The birds wait for lunch. The deer scare up insects as they graze. God created all kinds of animal pairs to work together for each other’s good. For example, oxpecker birds eat ticks on zebras. Sea anemones hitch rides on hermit crabs. Find out about other animal pairs. Psalm 147:9 reminds us that God “gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.”

March/April 2020 • God’s Big WORLD
His team helps runners race.

Fast runners come to the United States. Why? They want to run big races.

Bill Staab leads the West Side Runners’ Club. He helps immigrant runners.

New York City’s West Side Runners’ Club is a team of runners. Many are immigrants. They are not from the United States. They travel back and forth from their home countries. Mr. Staab writes letters to help the athletes travel. He enters them in races. He helps pay race fees. He cheers them on. Many runners come from Ethiopia. “He’s like a father. We love him,” says one Ethiopian runner. “As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him,” says Psalm 103:13.
The Census is counting people for real. But let’s have some fun counting aliens for pretend.

Count and put a number with each picture. Do the math problems below for extra credit.

- spacemen
- spaceships
- rockets
- stars
- planets

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{spacemen} & \quad \text{spaceships} \quad \text{rockets} \quad \text{stars} \quad \text{planets} \\
\end{align*}
\]
They make a long list.

Do you like to make lists? Workers at the London Zoo do. They make a list of all the zoo’s animals. It is very long. Why? Thousands of animals live at the zoo.

The London Zoo counts its animals every year. Zookeepers need to keep track. How many animals are there? Are they healthy? The zoo’s two camels are Noemie and Genghis. They are easy to count. How do the workers count scurrying spiders and wiggly worms? They take pictures. The zoo count is a census for animals. A census is an official count. Moses obeyed God’s command in Numbers 26:2. God said, “Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel.”
Do you look at the stars?

This shiny batch of circles helps college students watch stars. It is like a tool used long ago. There were no telescopes back then. These students learn to watch stars without them.

Tycho Brahe [TY-koh BRAH-hee] lived long ago in Denmark. He studied the stars. He used his eyes and tools that he built. This tool is an armillary [arm-ill-air-ee]. It is exactly like the one he used. It was made for students at St. John’s College in New Mexico. It helps students learn how stargazing was done long ago. Tycho Brahe looked at the same stars we see. Psalm 147:4 tells us that God “determines the number of the stars; He gives to all of them their names.”

Tycho Brahe
It’s a one-room school.

This public school in Michigan is 113 years old.

All six kids learn in one room. The teacher is the bus driver too.

Two students will go to high school next year. Will more students come to the school?

The Elm River Township School is in a rural (not city) part of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. The teacher-principal has third, fourth, seventh, and eighth grade kids all in one room. The old school has its original chalkboards and creaky wooden floor. But it also has computers, new books, and a teacher who can help each child learn. **God is our best teacher.** Psalm 32:8 says, “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go.”
This room isn’t just messy. It’s messed up. Use this space to tally 20 silly mistakes. Can your mom or dad or older brother or sister help find some?
Water chestnuts are not really nuts. Some say they are a vegetable. Others call them a fruit. Americans get them out of cans from the supermarket. People in China and other places in Asia grow them. This pond is near Kanpur, India. Large green leaves float on the water. The “nuts” grow underwater. People are not paid much to do this hard work.

But Luke 10:7 says, “For the laborer deserves his wages.”

Crunchy white water chestnuts grow in muddy ponds.

Workers use small wooden boats. They pull long thorny stalks from the water. They pluck off knobby brown fruit.

They bag the nuts. Then they sell them.
Teamwork saves fish.

“Please find a better place to fish,” fish experts said. Why?
“Fish families need to grow.”

Fishermen were helpful. They moved their boats. Fish families grew. Teamwork saved sea life.

A trawler [TRAW-ler] is a fishing boat. Trawlers drag a net through deep water to catch fish. Rockfish hide behind rocks. But they can’t hide from nets. Too many rockfish got scooped up in nets. How did people protect fish and keep on fishing? Teamwork! Fishermen found better spots to fish. Rockfish families grew. We read in John 21:11 about a very full net of fish. “So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them.”

March/April 2020 • God’s Big WORLD

AP Photos
Nearly 1,000 images of Native Americans were given to the Clements Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The people lived in the 1800s. Eric Hemenway is an Odawa Indian. One photo is of a woman hoeing in her garden. She is his ancestor. He says photos remind us about the people who lived before us. God does not need pictures. He never will forget us. Read Isaiah 49:15-16.

Eric Hemenway holds an old photo at the Clements Library.
Be a fishing fun finder. Describe ten differences between these two drawings. Make tally marks in this box as you find each difference.
Do you camp in a tent, cabin, or an RV? Oregon’s state parks have yurts.

Round yurts keep rain and wind out. People can use yurts all year long. It is good for parks to have campers.

Oregon’s state parks had fewer campers. What would bring people to visit? A park manager thought of setting up yurts. People started renting them. The parks now have 192! Sheep herders in Mongolia have lived in yurts for more than 3,000 years. They are made of lightweight wood covered with felt. Yurts are taken apart when the sheep need to move to new grazing patches. God Himself came down into the tent of meeting when the Israelites were in the wilderness. Read Exodus 40:34.
There are grassy meadows under the sea.

Big fields of grass grow under the sea! The grass hides sea creatures. It protects shorelines from washing away. Seagrass is food for fish.

Seagrass in New Hampshire had died off. But there is good news. The grass is growing back.

Beds of bright green seagrass sway in the shallow waters of New Hampshire’s Great Bay. Scientist Fred Short is happy. There was almost no grass left 30 years ago. Seagrass grows where sunlight can reach it. The plants turn energy from the Sun into the food they need to grow. Waste can cloud water and kill the grasses. Meadows of seagrass help to keep oceans healthy. Did you know about seagrass? Job 12:13 reminds us, “With God are wisdom and might.”
Emmett needs help walking and breathing. But that doesn’t stop her. “She is full of spunk,” says her mom. Her parents followed her around with an oxygen tank and tubes. Sixth grade teacher Ben Davis saw Emmett and had an idea. “My class can help!” His students got to work. Teams designed clips to hold an oxygen tank. They used a 3D printer to make the plastic clips. This project reminded Mr. Davis of Mark 10:14. “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them.”
Summer is coming! Is your camper ready? Describe the funny mistakes.
Find all the hidden pictures.
What do an underwater scooter, a talking toothbrush, and an air taxi have in common? All three were part of this year’s CES 2020 show. The gadget show was a hit! Thousands of people came to Las Vegas, Nevada, to see all the new ideas. The huge show was the size of 50 football fields. There were so many helpful and fun inventions. God gave us great imaginations. “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God,” says 1 Corinthians 10:31.
How big could they get?

Blue whales are GIANT creatures.
They eat tons of tiny krill.
Why don’t blue whales grow bigger?

Scientists did a study.
There are gobs of krill in summer.
There might not be as many in winter.

A blue whale has a huge mouth with no teeth. It sucks in a mouthful of water and krill. Then it pushes the water out. Baleen plates strain the krill, which the whale swallows. Other animals fill up on food each day too. Anteaters catch about 30,000 ants a day with their tongues. Elephants eat 200-600 pounds of fruit, leaves, and grass every day. Pandas eat 27 pounds of bamboo each day. *Psalm 104:27-28* tells us that the animals “look to [God] to give them their food in due season.” And He fills them up!
Locusts get frantic when they gather in big groups. They need food now. Millions come together. One swarm was 37 miles long and 25 miles wide! Locusts ate crops that could have fed two thousand people. Somalia, Ethiopia, and Sudan are some countries hurt by these pests. People try to use airplanes to spray the insects. There is not much else they can do. This swarm is bad. But God sent locusts to Egypt in Exodus 10:14. The Bible says, “such a dense swarm of locusts as had never been seen before, nor ever will be again.”

Desert locusts are as big as your finger. They get hungry. They get excited. Soon they swarm. Whirling clouds of locusts chomp crops. This is the worst swarm in 25 years. It may not end until June.
Circle the letter that finishes the whale word. Write that letter in the empty box.
Japan hosts the Olympics this summer. Hundreds of athletes will be there. What will their beds be like?

The frames are what the mattress sits on. They will be cardboard! They will be recycled when the games are over.

Athletes Village in Tokyo will have 18,000 beds. The cardboard frames can hold 440 pounds. No athlete will weigh that much. But the village’s manager says, “Of course wood and cardboard would each break if you jumped on them.” Japan’s people come up with good ideas. The mattresses are even recyclable. And the Athletes Village apartments will be sold or rented after the games. Both Olympics planners and athletes show us what Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might.”
Wild owls need to be free.

People found fluffy baby barn owls. Vets at a zoo took care of them.

The birds grew strong. They learned to hunt outdoors.

Vets put metal tags on the owls’ legs. They set the birds free.

This metal tag is a way to keep track of the owl.

The people at the zoo carefully put the tag on the owl’s leg.

“Do Not Touch” is a good rule. Some people found barn owlets alone in a nest near Brownsville, Texas. They did not know: Mama was off hunting. They took the owlets to the Gladys Porter Zoo. The owls now can live in the wild. Their tags will help vets keep track of them. The zoo’s vet says, “If you find a nest with barn owl chicks, leave it alone.”

Proverbs 27:8 says, “Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home.”

March/April 2020 • God’s Big WORLD
Stay safe, friends.
The volcano spews ash. The ground rumbles. It is time to move.
Villagers pack their bags. They need a safer place to live. Leaders will help them find new homes.

There is a volcano named Taal in the Philippines. It is on Volcano Island. Earthquakes crack the ground. Ash fills the sky. Hot rocks, lava, and gas could explode out of the volcano at any time. The island is not safe. Thousands of people have lived there for years. Now they must find a safer place to be their home. **God created Taal. Only He knows when the volcano will erupt. Psalm 104:32 reminds us that it is God “who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke!”**

God’s Big WORLD • March/April 2020

*AP Photos*