Mama bobcat is brave. Her home burned in a forest fire. She found a new place to live. Her den is safe inside thick bushes and trees. Her four little kittens are happy and healthy.

These kittens have a brave mother.

A plane drops water on the wildfire.

Mama bobcat and her kittens are safe.

A wildfire burned the bobcat’s land. The fire did not hurt Mama. Wildlife officials found her and her kittens. She has one boy and three girls. The bobcat family is safe. “We’re happy to see her thriving,” says an official. A bobcat is in the cat family. So is a lion. Do you know a Bible story about a den of lions? Read Daniel 6:16-23.
Acorns and other foods squirrels love were plentiful in New England last year. Lots of kits were born this spring. They were hungry. They used to eat apples from the ground. They climbed into the apple trees this year. They took a bite here and a bite there. An apple (or a pumpkin) with a hole in it is ruined. New England farmers were happy to see winter come.

Praise the LORD beasts and creeping things! Read Psalm 148:10.

Notre Dame is an old, old church in Paris, France. Maybe you know someone who has visited it.

The wooden roof of the cathedral caught fire and burned. Its beautiful spire fell. People were sad.

But twin bell towers are safe. The pipe organ and stained glass windows are fine.

People will rebuild the burned part. It will take a long time.

The Cathedral of Notre Dame was built on a small island in the Seine River in Paris. Its architecture is beautiful. Millions of people visit it every year. Copper statues of the twelve apostles had been taken down for cleaning. Workers were repairing parts of the church. It caught fire a week before Easter. People still don’t know what caused the fire. But God does. Proverbs 15:3 says, “The eyes of the Lord are in every place.” He keeps watch over everything.
A horse named Country House came in second. But he won the first place prize!

Who won the race?

The Kentucky Derby is a big horse race. A fast horse won the race. But his rider broke the rules. The horse didn’t win the first place prize after all.

A horse named Country House came in second. But he won the first place prize!

A horse named Maximum Security won the Kentucky Derby. But he blocked the paths of other horses in the race. That isn’t fair! The race officials disqualified him. That means he didn’t win the race. The second place horse became the first place winner! Winning a race is hard work. It takes self-control. Racers must obey the rules. Galatians 5:7 says, “You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?”

Who won the race?

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Flavien Prat rode Country House to victory!

AP Photos
The park was in bad shape. Things were broken, trash overflowed, and weeds grew. Then the park was restored. What was done first? Number the pictures in the right order. Circle the word that is best for each picture. “Restore us, Lord God Almighty.” (Psalm 80:19)
Let's go camping! You don't need a tent. You don't need a camper.

Your family can sleep in a fancy covered wagon.
It has a big bed, bunk beds, and a small table.

The pioneers slept in covered wagons. You can too!

Mr. and Mrs. Steinman had a big idea. Covered wagon camping! They built a fancy wagon. It is comfortable. It has space to sleep and eat. It even has electricity! The wagon is like a motel on wheels. The Steinmans plan to build more wagons. Would you camp in a covered wagon? What a fun way to spend time in God's creation. The Old Testament is filled with stories about camping. Moses camped. David camped. The Israelites camped. Who else camped in the Bible? Read Joshua 1:10-11.
Justin Schuetz and Alison Johnston studied ten years of Google searches for kinds of birds. Americans like whooping cranes, common ravens, and peregrine falcons—even if we have never seen one. “Stranger” birds were the ones that were hardly ever looked up on the internet. The two scientists hope this study will help us pay more attention to the birds where we live. Deuteronomy 14:16 mentions the “little owl and the short-eared owl, the barn owl, and the tawny owl.”

What birds are your favorites?

Do you ever watch birds? Two scientists did a study: Which birds do Americans like best?

We really like owls. We like birds that come to feeders. We like bird sports team mascots too.

What birds would you call “friends”? Which would you call “enemies”? 

Brewer’s Sparrow

Whooping Crane

Hammond’s Flycatcher

Greater Sage Grouse

Lifters wait their turn to compete.

Barn Owl

Barn Owl

Purple Martin

Purple Martin
Frankincense plants are dying out. Guy Erlich wants to keep them alive. A sticky sap oozes out when bark on the trees is cut. Mr. Erlich plans to sell the sap to be used in perfumes or oils. For now, he collects honey made from the plant blossoms. Frankincense in Old Testament times was used in offerings to God. It smells like oranges or lemons when it burns.

The Wise Men brought the baby Jesus frankincense as a gift. Read Matthew 2:11.

Mountain farmers in Spain have made a sport out of rock lifting. “Stone Lifters” contests are held in many towns.

Men wear kneepads. A tight band protects their stomach muscles. Their arms are not covered.

The stones are granite. They can be round or square, a cylinder or a rectangle. And they weigh between 220 and 470 pounds!

Who can lift the most weight the most times in three minutes? He is the winner!

“Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might,” says Ephesians 6:10. Rocks are often hidden in the farmland of northern Spain. Basque [bask] farmers learn how to lift and move those rocks. They become strong. A contest called “Harri-jasotze” [ahree-hat-5O-zay] is held in towns. Local men, and some women, come to test their strength. One man set a record 18 years ago. He lifted one stone that weighed 725 pounds!
Look carefully! Find two birds that match in each row. Circle them. Add the numbers and write that number in the white circle.
Joe Schepman and his brother were digging a sewer line on their farm. They turned up heavy, stony, old bones. These were too big to belong to a cow. So they took photos and sent them to Ron Richards at the Indiana State Museum. He said the bones are from a mastodon! Those animals looked like an elephant and lived in North America long ago. Mastodons ate leaves and twigs. God says in Genesis 1:30, “And to every beast of the Earth, I have given every green plant for food.”

Farms in Indiana usually do not have bones in the fields.

One farm family was working to put in a sewer. Surprise! They found fossils of a long tusk, parts of a skull, and a jawbone with teeth.

They sent photos to a museum. The bones are from a long-ago mastodon!
Halley Bay, Antarctica, used to have up to fifty thousand Emperor penguins each year. It has been a safe place for the birds to lay eggs and hatch chicks. Scientists wonder what has happened to the penguins. Some moved to a nearby place. But the numbers are still low. Scientists want to know why. People cannot see where all the penguins have gone. But God sees. Read Matthew 10:29-31.

Thousands of Emperor penguins go to Halley Bay each year. It is near the South Pole. Their chicks hatch there.

No penguins came this year. Very few came last year. Or the year before that. Did they move away? Did something bad happen?

Scientists look for answers.

Emperor penguins huddle together on the ice.
The Broad Street Ministry in Philadelphia is a post office. It gives mail service to homeless people. Guests use the ministry’s address as their own. They get necessary letters in the mail. One guest says, “Mail is so important.” Having an address helps people get jobs. Everyone needs a way to get mail! **Matthew 6:8 says, “Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”**
Stamps came off the letters. But snailman can put the stamps back because they rhyme with the names on the letters. What rhymes with each name? Write that word under the name on each letter. An example is shown.

feet    drill    bell    wave    gate
bed      whale    ship    plane    shark

Jane     Kate     Fred
Dave     Pete     Skip
Nell     feet     Gail
Mark     Bill
It’s a beetle comeback!

This big beetle creeps around the woods at night. It eats dead stuff. But it was in danger of dying out.

Now there is good news! Scientists raised lots of these beetles. The bugs are showing up in many states. The American burying beetle is coming back!

The American burying beetle once was found in 35 states and three provinces in Canada. Only eastern Oklahoma and Rhode Island had any of these beetles left thirty years ago. Now the bugs have been found in seven different U.S. states. Scientists are thankful these insect helpers are no longer in danger. Psalm 104:20 says, “You make the darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep about.”
“Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with living things, both great and small,” says Psalm 104:25. The seaweed business in Maine is booming. Companies harvest it for food for humans and animals or use it in fertilizer and mulch. The state’s Supreme Court has now said that companies must get permission from landowners to harvest the seaweed. Company officials ask, “Who owns the land in the mud flats?” Landowners worry that rockweed might disappear.

Whose seaweed is it?

Seaweed! It is squishy. But fish can hide in it. Animals, fish, and people eat it.

Rockweed is a kind of seaweed. It grows in mud flats off the coast of Maine. Companies once could harvest it wherever they found it.

There is a new law. Landowners must say it is okay. Then companies may harvest seaweed from their land.

All Clint Jones wanted was a good cup of tea. He went looking for one. Now he is a tea expert. He knows how to prepare tea. Use hot water, not boiling. Steep, or soak, leaves for one minute. He knows what to eat with each tea. Try fresh fruit, cheese, or cucumber. But NEVER use milk, sugar, or lemon juice. It will ruin the tea’s pure flavor.
Mr. Jones knows tea!

All Clint Jones wanted was a good cup of tea. He went looking for one. Now he is a tea expert. He knows how to prepare tea. Use hot water, not boiling. Steep, or soak, leaves for one minute. He knows what to eat with each tea. Try fresh fruit, cheese, or cucumber. But NEVER use milk, sugar, or lemon juice. It will ruin the tea’s pure flavor.

Clint Jones lives in Pennsylvania. No tea is grown there. He orders most of his tea from Asia. His dining room is filled with pots from every country tea comes from. He has also taken classes. He has learned where many teas are grown, how the leaves are plucked, dried, and rolled, and how to prepare each tea too. **Tea first was used as medicine. Ezekiel 47:12 tells of a river where all kinds of trees will grow. It says, “Their leaves shall be for healing.”**
What’s for dinner? What’s the difference? Can you find ten differences between the pictures? Describe them. Put a tally mark in the box for each difference you find.
The Transcontinental Railroad was completed on May 10, 1869. Tracks connected the East Coast and the West Coast of the United States for the first time. Over 4,000 workers, most of them from China, and some from Ireland and America, laid tracks over rivers, through mountains, and across the prairie. The work was dangerous. Many died. Remember Exodus 15:2 when you face hard-to-do things: “The Lord is my strength and my song.”

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God’s Big WORLD • July/August 2019
Aren’t the frogs’ colors amazing? God made them bright and covered with poison! The colors warn enemies: “Do not eat me!” It is against the law for people to take these frogs from the wild. But that doesn’t stop some. Iván Lozano lawfully breeds and sells these frogs. He helps others do the same. They want to protect their country’s dazzling frogs. Ecclesiastes 3:11 reminds us that God “has made everything beautiful in its time.” Even frogs!

Colombia has many brightly colored frogs. They look like jewels. People in other countries want to own some.

Smugglers steal the frogs from the wild. They sell them on the internet. Collectors pay lots of money.

Iván L. raises the same kinds of frogs. He sells them for far less money. Could this stop the stealing?

He raises “jewels of the rainforest!”

People work late into the night to raise frogs. Frogs are put in containers to send to the United States.
Frankincense plants are dying out. Guy Erlich wants to keep them alive. A sticky sap oozes out when bark on the trees is cut. Mr. Erlich plans to sell the sap to be used in perfumes or oils. For now, he collects honey made from the plant blossoms. Frankincense in Old Testament times was used in offerings to God. It smells like oranges or lemons when it burns.

The Wise Men brought the baby Jesus frankincense as a gift. Read Matthew 2:11.

People in Cyprus know how to make good perfume. They put rich olive oil in a clay vase. They add herbs to the oil. Then they heat the oil. The herbs make the oil smell good. Perfume often is mentioned in the Bible. Queen Esther used perfume of oil and spices. Mary washed Jesus’ feet with perfume. John 12:3 says, “The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.” There are more verses about perfume. Read Proverbs 27:9.
What are you doing to have fun this summer? Find the hidden words. They may go across or down. Some spaces have pictures. The letter for that space is the first letter of the thing in the picture. Circle the hidden words.

Find:  EAT  FISH  CLIMB
PLAY  BAKE  KICK  CAMP
RUN  SKATE  HELP  HIKE
SPORT  DRAW  SWIM  RAFT
There is a new museum. It is beside the Statue of Liberty.
The museum tells the statue’s story. It has old pictures.
It has a movie. It has the statue’s first torch. It shows
how the statue was made.

The new museum has lots of things to see. It has a huge model of Liberty’s foot! It also has a
model of the statue’s face. Visitors learn why the statue was made. They see the city through
the statue’s eyes. They think about freedom. Why? The statue stands for freedom. God sent
His Son Jesus to free us from sin. John 8:36 says, “So if the Son sets you free,
you will be free indeed.”
It is a sea dragon! It's a seahorse cousin. These fish live near Australia. But people steal them.

A California aquarium built a huge tank. Three leafy sea dragons and eleven weedy ones swim there.

Sea dragon babies are called “fry.” Will any be hatching soon?

"Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?" asks Job in chapter 12. A sea dragon in the water looks like a branch of kelp. Then an eye moves. Ridges of tiny, see-through fins flutter. The fish glides through the water. You can see why people might like one for a pet. But some people break the law to catch and sell them.

Workers at the Birch Aquarium in La Jolla, California, want to see little sea dragon fry swimming in the big tank soon.

July/August 2019 • God's Big WORLD
Frankincense plants are dying out. Guy Erlich wants to keep them alive. A sticky sap oozes out when bark on the trees is cut. Mr. Erlich plans to sell the sap to be used in perfumes or oils. For now, he collects honey made from the plant blossoms. Frankincense in Old Testament times was used in offerings to God. It smells like oranges or lemons when it burns. The Wise Men brought the baby Jesus frankincense as a gift. Read Matthew 2:11.

The Navajo Nation covers parts of Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado. Thousands of people who live there do not have electricity. A project called “LightUpNavajo” is bringing electricity to hundreds of homes. Volunteer electric workers come from all over the country to help. It will take years until the project is done. *Hebrews 13:16* reminds us, “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

They are no longer in the dark.

You flip a switch. Lights come on. Many people in our country cannot do that.

Four workers from Ohio went to Arizona. They helped Navajo families.

They put up power poles. They hooked up electric lines.

Over 200 family homes got power. For the very first time—ever!

The Haskie’s used oil lamps.

Add a meter.

Jayden brushes his teeth by a flashlight.

Line workers put up a pole and attach power lines.

Turn on the light!

You flip a switch. Lights come on. Many people in our country cannot do that.

Four workers from Ohio went to Arizona. They helped Navajo families.

They put up power poles. They hooked up electric lines.

Over 200 family homes got power. For the very first time—ever!
Describe ten differences between these pictures.
Volunteers spiff up cemeteries. They plant flowers by graves. They pull weeds and prune trees. The grave gardeners work hard. Their hard work pays off! The grave gardens are gorgeous. They are full of color and life. People want to spend time there. **Jesus used unkept graves as an example in his teaching. He warned the Pharisees in Luke 11:44, “Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without knowing it.”**

They grow things in graveyards.

Look at that park. It is very old. Can you believe it’s a graveyard?

Now it is green and tidy. People work hard to keep it nice. They plant flowers. They make the graves beautiful!
Psalm 95:5 tells us, “The sea is [God’s], for He made it.” There are four marine sanctuaries near San Francisco, California. They are places in the ocean that are for protecting sea creatures and plants. These have what the whales need to feed on before they swim away for the winter. Ships have no speed limits at sea. But 22 shipping firms now have their ships slow down from twenty knots to ten when they pass through those places.

Whales are big. But they are not as BIG as some ships.

Whales and ships travel along the coast of California. Ships hit and kill some whales.

Blue, humpback, and gray whales feed in four sheltered spots in the ocean.

About half of the ships that pass through those places now slow down.

A ship passes the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. A humpback whale leaps out of the water in an area where ships pass.

A ship passes the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. A humpback whale leaps out of the water in an area where ships pass.
The Hill Aerospace Museum is in Ogden, Utah. It has a new classroom. It’s a cargo plane that is now connected to the building. The inside looks just like a working C-130 Hercules. Kids—and grownups—interested in weather, astronomy, planes, and other kinds of science can see the inside of this one. Older kids can take a 12-week course in the summer. This plane once flew into the heavens. Psalm 36:5 reminds us, “Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens.”
Find the letters and numbers hidden in each fish. The letter S and the number 6 are hidden in the sea star. Circle the gray letters when you find them in a fish.
Japan used to produce much of the world’s silk. Now Japanese companies work with farmers in Kenya. “The climate in Kenya is so much better for silk farming,” says one Japanese investor. Mulberry trees grow well there. They can survive in the dry climate. The silkworms feed on those trees. Silk farming could help Kenyan farmers to earn more money.

The “excellent wife” in Proverbs 31 makes clothing for herself and her household. The “fine linen” in verse 22 can also be translated as “silk.”

Silk is the new crop.

Coffee, corn, sugarcane, cotton. These are the crops most farmers in Kenya grow. Now there is a new crop. It is silk! Maybe your mom has a silk scarf or a silk blouse. How can those be a crop? The farmers raise silkworms. These spin cocoons. The farmers harvest them. Slender silk threads unwind from each cocoon. Machines weave the threads into cloth.
Cicadas creep out of the dirt. They climb up trees. They shed their crunchy skins.

The boys start to sing. The girls flick their wings. They lay tiny eggs in twigs.

Baby bugs hatch from the eggs. They drop down to the ground. They dig into the soil.

See you later, little cicadas!

Some cicadas live in the ground for 17 years! Do they need a clock? No! God tells them when to climb out of the ground. They crawl out of the soil, shed their skin, and start to sing. Cicadas are not graceful fliers. They zoom around, bumping into things. Soon they are gone. They won’t be back for 17 more years! Cicadas look a lot like bugs called locusts. Psalm 105:34 tells us that God directs the locusts. “He spoke, and the locusts came, young locusts without number.” God instructs cicadas too!

God’s Big WORLD
Three-two-one. **Go!**

It was the Soap Box Derby in Michigan! Twelve kids raced downhill two-by-two. But there was only one champion. It was Chase McCallum. Chase lost his first race. That made him nervous. He kept trying. And he won!

Racers scrunch down low to go faster.

Soapbox cars have no motors. Gravity pulls each car and its driver down a long, sloping track. Gravity is God’s “pulling down” rule. It is what holds everything to Earth. We would float away without gravity. The first soapbox cars were built from wooden soap or apple crates and roller skate wheels! Chase’s car was streamlined and colorful. He built it with his dad. Psalm 111:7-8 says, “The works of [God’s] hands are established forever and ever.” Gravity will always hold us to Earth.
Draw lines to match the things in one shop that rhyme with the things in the other shop. Circle the words as you find those things.

- cake
- fish
- thread
- pie
- fan
- dish
- lock
- rake
- clock
- bear
- tie
- pan
- chair
- bread