



KidNuz Noodlers

October, 2022

Have an answer you're proud of?

Send it to us at noodlers@kidnuz.org and we just might feature your response on our social media or website!

1. Pros and Cons

News from Tuesday, September 27th



About 70 companies in Britain are half way through a 6-month trial of a 4-day work week. The New York Times reports that most say they have had no drop in productivity. In fact, some are seeing a big improvement when compared to a 5-day week.

Workers say they have more time to exercise, spend time with family, and just relax. The possibility of a 4-day school week has been discussed and tested for years — and is now getting real world testing in districts with COVID related staffing shortages. Pre-pandemic research from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2018 pointed out the benefits of this schedule, like improving school attendance and teacher recruitment. But the research also showed one less day of school can be a challenge for working parents—who will take care of the kids on the one day off?—and any savings for the schools was quite small.

List at least three reasons that we should have a 4-day school week and at least three reasons that we should not. Find a partner, choose sides, and debate!

2. Design it!

News from Friday, September 2nd



California is getting ready to break ground on its next big eco project: shading the open-air canals that deliver water up and down the state with solar panels. Project Nexus aims to generate energy and save water from evaporating. The project is the first of its kind in the country and will begin with three short stretches to see how well it works. And if all goes to plan, experts tell CBS News that expanding the project to cover all 4,000 miles of the state's water delivery system could potentially save 63 billion gallons of water every year.

Where in your community would be a good location for shade-providing and energy-producing solar panels? Draw a plan and include notes about how it would benefit the community.

3. If You Ran Things

News from Monday, September 12th



Major League Baseball voted last week to speed up baseball games by adding a pitch clock, which would cut down the time between pitches and between batters. When added to minor league games, it reportedly reduced the length of a game by about 26 minutes. Also approved: New, larger bases. The size is moving from 15 square inches to 18, to accommodate the bigger feet of today's players. And, going forward, field players will shift less. According to CBS sports, allowing fewer defensive shifts means more balls will find open spots, leading to a higher batting average and more action. The new rules kick in next year.

What are some new rules you would make for a game you play that would improve it in terms of fun, fairness, safety, excitement, or something else? Write out the new rules and include an explanation for why each rule change would make the game better.

4. Imagine!

News from Friday, September 16th



A lot of factors go into making friends—such as if you have the same interests. But a new study seems to indicate that people also form friendships with others who have a similar body odor. Researchers at the Weizmann Institute of Science could even predict whether there'd be connection between complete strangers by first 'smelling' them with a device known as an electronic nose, or e-Nose. These findings, published this week in *Science Advances*, suggest that the sense of smell may play a larger role in human social interactions than previously thought.

Write a short science-fiction story about a problem you experience if the e-Nose were to become widely used. If you want, you can use this story starter: *We all thought that the e-Nose would improve our lives, but it turned out to quickly be a big shock to my life when classmates started holding it up to....*

5. Expand It!



Monday, September 12th

Merriam-Webster is catching up with today's kids. The dictionary has just added "Yeet" - for when something is cool, "Janky"- for when something is anything but cool, "MacGyver" - to fix something on the fly, and "Pumpkin Spice," which pretty much speaks for itself. But Ms. Smith's 5th & 6th graders in Swan River, Manitoba Canada wrote to KidNuz to provide some important 'kid' perspective. They say that for them, "Yeet" doesn't mean 'cool,' it means 'to throw something.'

What is a word—either in English or another language—that is used in your family, friend group, or community that many people would not understand without your help? Write a dictionary definition.

6. Design it!

News from Wednesday, September 21st



Say happy birthday to the emoji. 40 years ago, computer science professor Scott Fahlman from Carnegie Mellon University combined a colon, hyphen and end-parenthesis to create a sideways smile that added a little levity—and some context—to whatever he was sending his colleagues;-) Guinness has confirmed it as the first digital emoticon and the forerunner to today's 3,600 e-faces, symbols and gestures.

Design a new emoji that expresses the feeling that you're having at school today. Write a short explanation underneath it.

