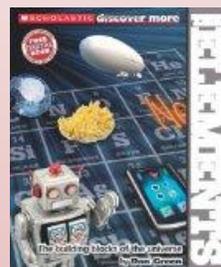




June 2012

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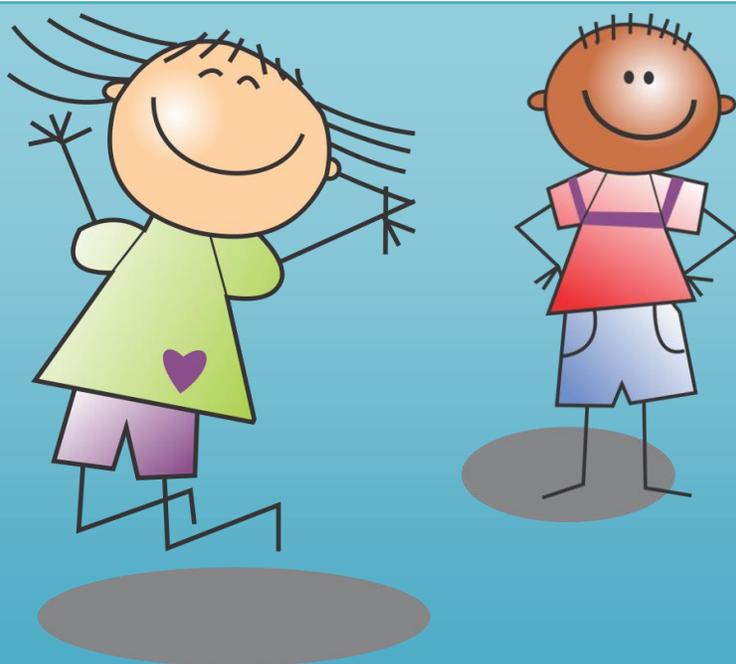
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Great Books for Kids

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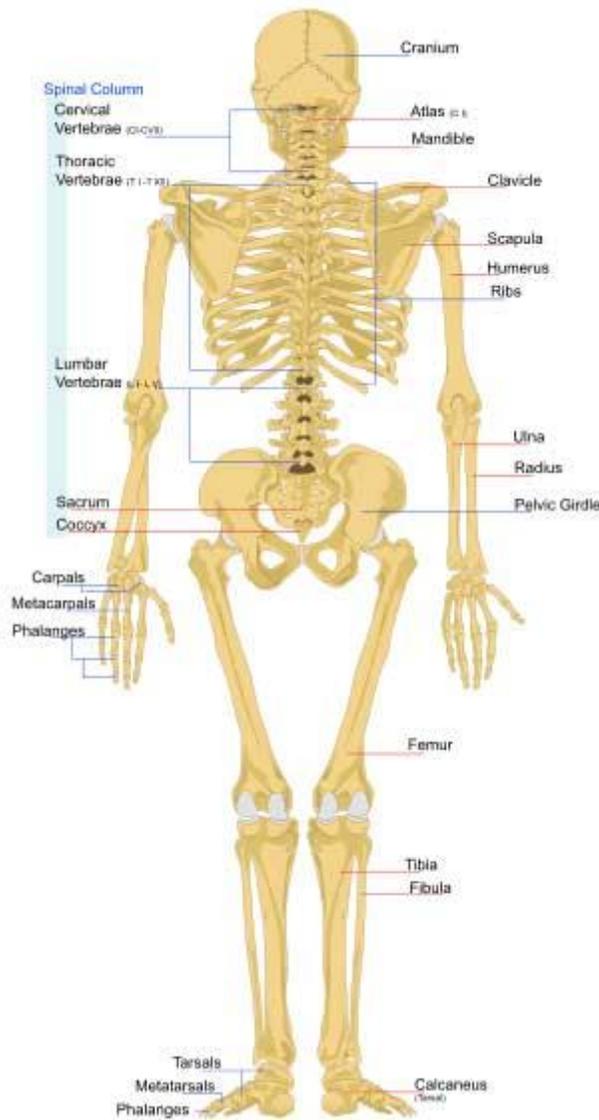


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Bones of the Head

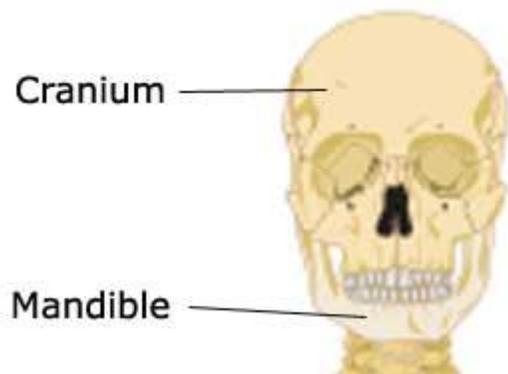
Your skeleton has many important jobs. It holds you up. Without it, you would be a pile of mush on the floor. The muscles you need to run, play and smile are attached to the bones of the skeleton. Far from being scary, skeletons are an important part of us.



The human skeleton has 206 bones. That's a lot of bones but it's easy to learn the names of the most important bones. Let's start with the bones of the head called the skull. The complete skull has 22 bones.

The **cranium** has several flat bones. The cranium is like a helmet. It's protects the delicate brain.

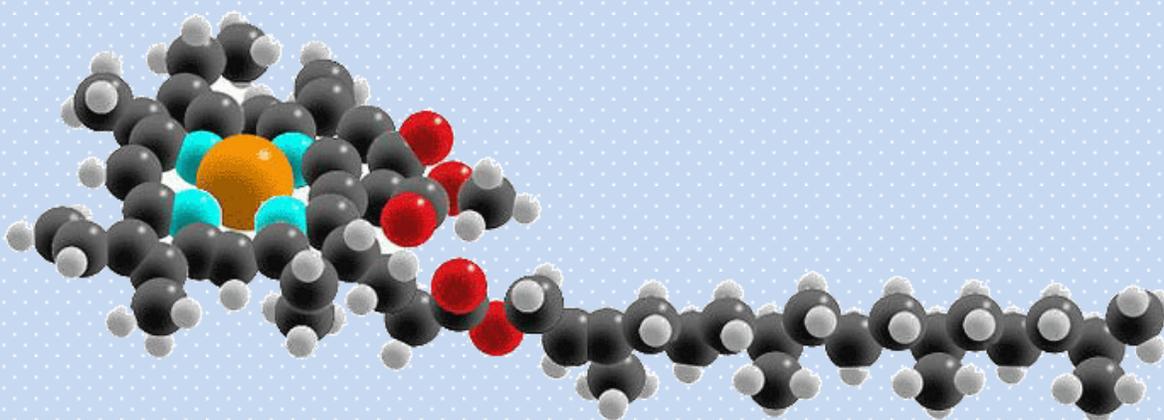
The **mandible** is the jaw bone. When you eat or talk, you move your mandible.



Other important bones in the face are the **zygomatic** or cheek bones and the **maxilla**, which is right above your mouth.

CHEMISTRY CORNER

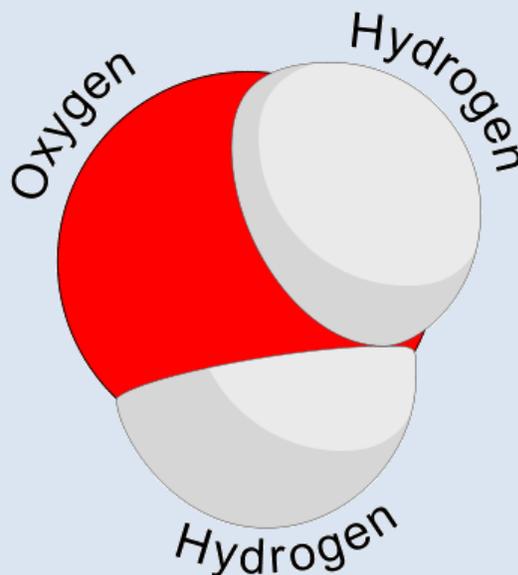
Everything is made up of little particles called atoms. Atoms get together and make up molecules. Humans, wood, plants, and sand are all made of atoms and molecules. Scientists use the word materials or matter to describe all these things. The science of chemistry studies how materials or matter behave and change. If you freeze water, it turns to ice. If you boil water it changes into a gas.



Take hydrogen atoms
And oxygen too
You will get water molecules

Take sodium atoms
And chlorine too
You will get salt molecules

Take silicon atoms
And oxygen too
You will get sand molecules



Six Kingdoms of Life

In six kingdoms
It's taxonomy
Are all the organisms
All life you see

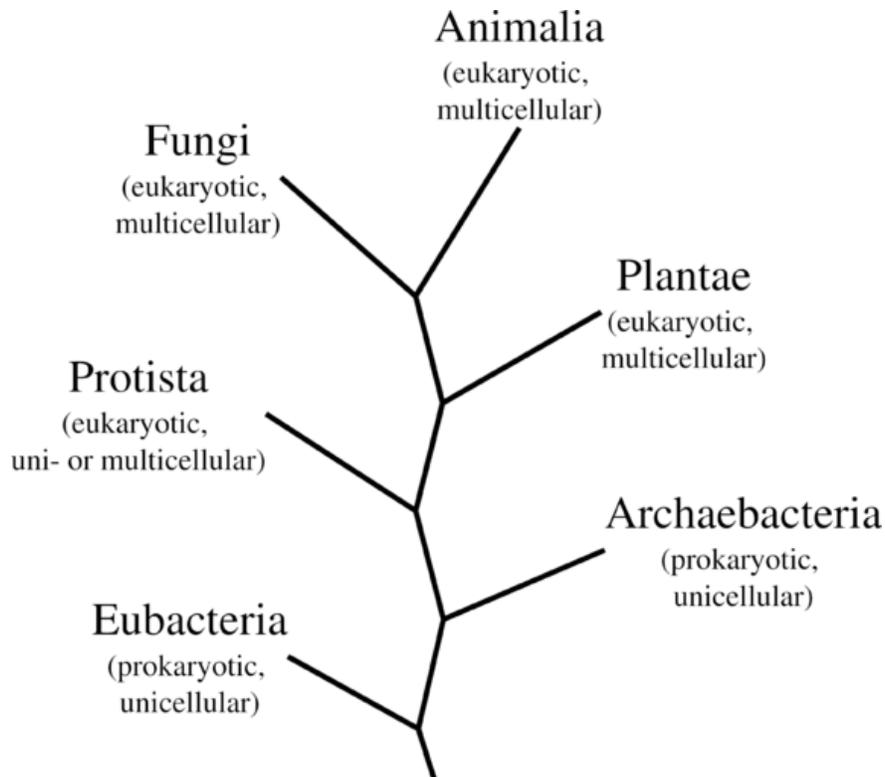
Animalia has mammals
Insects and frogs too
Reptiles, worms and birds
And also me and you

Plantae has plants
Like mosses and trees
Vegetables and of course flowers
That feed the honey bees

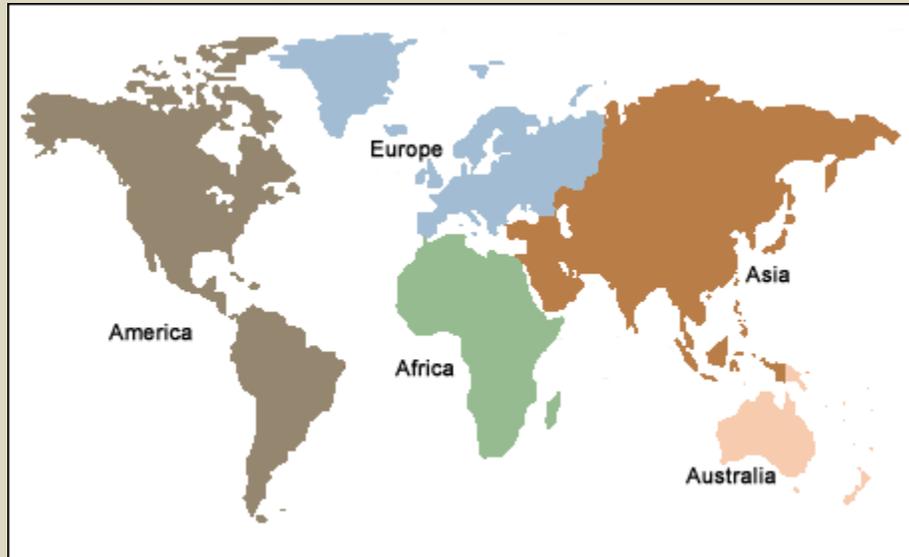
Fungi has those mushrooms
You see on pizza pie
Yeast makes the crust rise
Mold is also fungi

Protista include things
Like amoeba and algae
And lots of others things
Which are a bit slimy

The last two are **bacteria**
There's **Archae** and **Eu**
Some can make you sick
But some are good for you



Continents: North America



North America has a population of 529 million people in more than 20 countries. The United States, Canada, Mexico and Guatemala have the largest populations. Most countries in North America have very small populations of less than a million people. Many of these are islands, such as Antigua and Barbuda, the



New York City in the United States

Bahamas, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands. There are also larger islands, such as Jamaica, Panama and Puerto Rico. Central American countries like Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua are part of North America as well.

Greenland is physically part of the North American continent. But it is part of the Kingdom of Denmark in Europe. Some islands in North

America are part of other European nations. The British Virgin Islands is part of the United Kingdom. Aruba is part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The five most populated cities in North America are Mexico City in Mexico, New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago in the United States and Toronto in Canada.

English and Spanish are the most widely spoken languages on the continent. French is the language of Quebec, a province in Canada. French is also spoken in parts of the Caribbean. Other Caribbean languages are Dutch, Creole and Papiamentu. There are also many Native American languages.



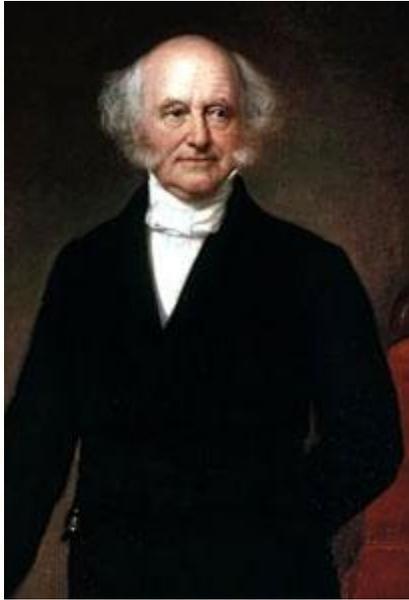
Mexico City in Mexico

The Mississippi River is the longest river. Mount McKinley in Alaska in the United States is the tallest mountain. The Native American name for Mount McKinley is



The City of Montreal in Canada

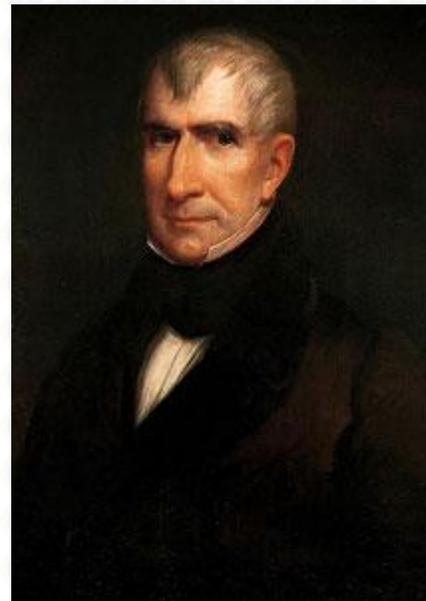
Denali, which means The High One. Lake Superior in Canada and the United States is the largest lake. The largest desert is the Chihuahuan Desert in both Mexico and the Southwestern United States. The Mojave Desert in California is the hottest desert.



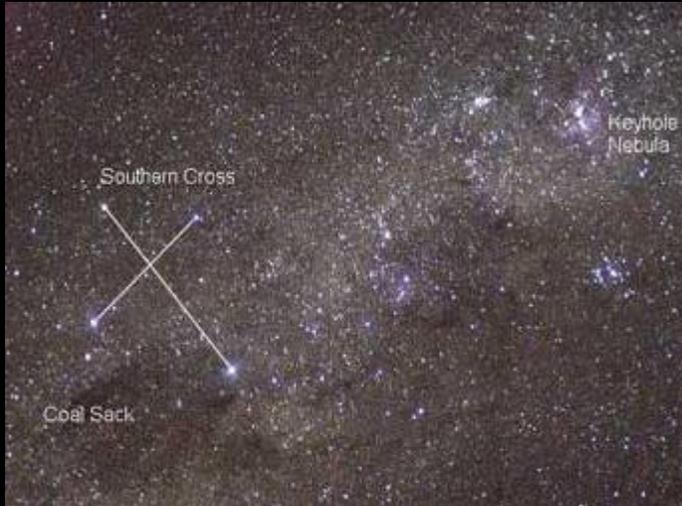
Martin Van Buren was the 8th president of the United States. He was born in Kinderhook, New York on December 5, 1782. He was of Dutch ancestry. His family was poor. He worked for his father in a tavern. He finished school at the age of 14. Later, he studied law and became a lawyer. He became a US Senator in 1821.

Van Buren had to deal with a financial crisis throughout his presidency. It was called the Panic of 1837. Over 900 banks closed down and many people didn't have jobs. Texas applied for statehood during Van Buren's presidency. Van Buren didn't want another slave state joining the Union, so he refused to admit Texas. A future president finally made Texas a state.

William Henry Harrison was the 9th president of the United States and a signer of the Declaration of Independence that led to the American Revolution. He was born on February 9, 1773 in Virginia. His family's home was attacked during the American Revolution. Harrison studied to become a doctor but later dropped out of Medical School. He joined the army and fought in the Indian Wars and was a military commander in the War of 1812. The War of 1812 was fought between the United States and Britain. The British actually burned the White House during the war. The war ended in 1815. Harrison became president in 1841 but died after only one month in office.

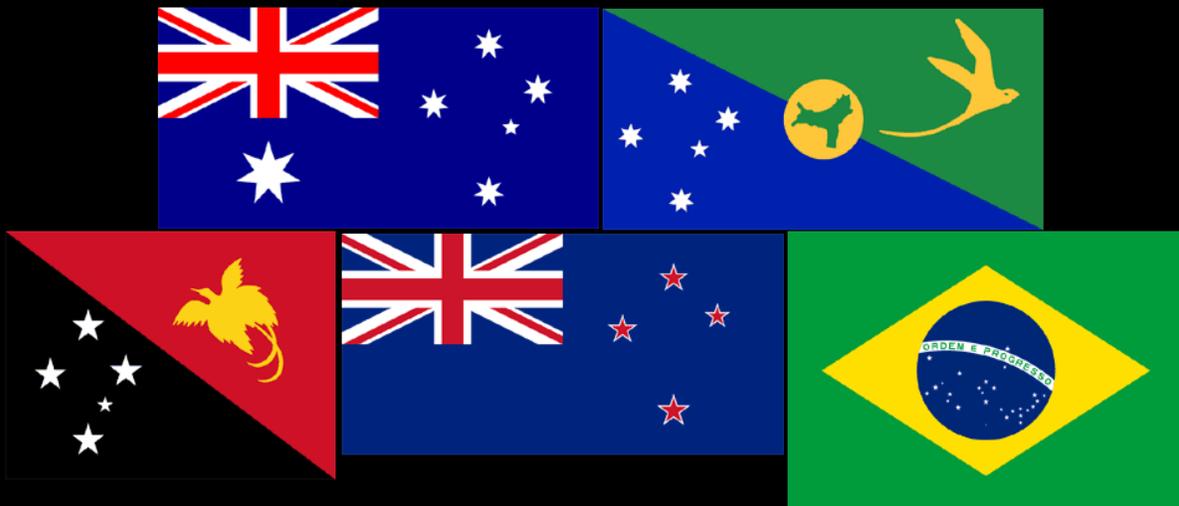


The Southern Cross



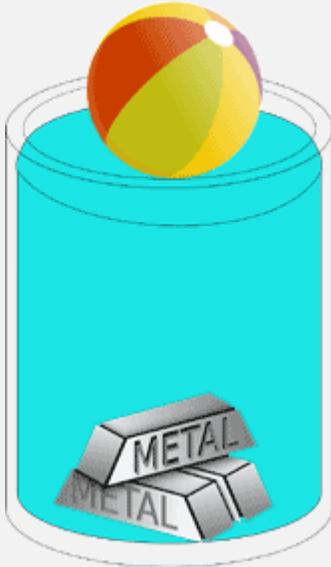
Polaris or the North Star is a very important star because it is often used for navigation, which is finding where you want to go. But Polaris is only visible in the Northern Hemisphere. There is no pole star in the Southern Hemisphere. Instead a constellation called Crux is used to mark south.

The constellation Crux is the smallest of the 88 constellations. It is commonly known as the Southern Cross. Two of the stars in Crux, Alpha and Gamma, point toward the south celestial pole. The brightest stars in Crux appear on the flags of many countries in the Southern Hemisphere, including Australia, New Zealand and Brazil.



FLOAT OR SINK

When you play in the bath, you notice that some of your toys float and some sink. Whether something will sink or float depends on its density. An object that has more density than water will sink. An object that has less density than water will float.



What is Density?

Atoms are the building blocks of everything. Atoms get together and form molecules. In some objects, molecules are more tightly packed than others. This is known as density. The more tightly packed the molecules of an object, a liquid or a gas, the denser they are.

In a solid, like a rock, molecules are packed tightly together. A rock is much denser than water, so it will sink. There is a lot of space between the atoms in a liquid like water, so water is less dense than a rock. This is why a rock will move easily through water.

Musical Instruments: Cymbals



Musical instruments fall into different groups: strings, woodwind, brass, percussion and keyboard. Which group do you think cymbals should be in? Cymbals are a percussion instrument. Percussion instruments make sounds by being hit with something like hands or drumsticks. Cymbals have thin, round plates made of various metals. Cymbals are widely used in orchestras, rock groups, jazz bands, and marching bands.



Emily Dickinson was born on December 10, 1830 in Amherst, Massachusetts. She spent the last years of her life a recluse, writing poetry. A recluse is someone who lives a solitary life and doesn't like to be around other people.

After Dickinson's death, her sister found hundreds of poems she had written and got them published. She is now one of the most renowned and respected of all poets.

Nature

by Emily Dickinson

NATURE, the gentlest mother,
Impatient of no child,
The feeblest or the waywardest,
Her admonition mild

In forest and the hill
By traveller is heard,
Restraining rampant squirrel
Or too impetuous bird.

How fair her conversation,
A summer afternoon,
Her household, her assembly;
And when the sun goes down

Her voice among the aisles
Incites the timid prayer
Of the minutest cricket,
The most unworthy flower.

When all the children sleep
She turns as long away
As will suffice to light her lamps;
Then, bending from the sky,

With infinite affection
And infiniter care,
Her golden finger on her lip,
Wills silence everywhere.



Reading in Autumn Scenery by Shen Zhou

Shen Zhou was a 15th century Chinese painter, poet, and calligrapher. He used ink on paper for his paintings. He lived during the Ming Dynasty. He is most famous for painting landscapes.



But he also painted flowers, fruits, vegetables, and animals using monochrome ink. Monochrome means one color. He was part of a group of scholar-painters called the Wu School.

This is a self-portrait of Shen Zhou painted at the age of 80.

The Four Seasons Summer



The Four Seasons is composer Antonio Vivaldi's most famous work. Antonio Vivaldi was born in Venice, Italy in 1678. He was taught to play the violin at an early age. He and his father traveled around Venice playing the violin. Venice was considered a center for baroque music. It had many music schools. Vivaldi became a violin teacher at one of the music schools.

The Four Seasons includes Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Vivaldi wrote sonnets to go with each season. A sonnet is a fourteen line poem. The sonnets were originally written in the Italian language.



Summer Landscape, Gergely Pörge (1858–1930)

Sonnet for Summer

Allegro non molto

Under a hard Season, fired up by the Sun
Languishes man, languishes the flock and burns the pine
We hear the cuckoo's voice; then sweet songs of the turtledove and finch are
heard.

Soft breezes stir the air... but threatening north wind sweeps them suddenly
aside.

The shepherd trembles, fearing violent storms and his fate.

Adagio e piano - Presto e forte

The fear of lightning and fierce thunder
Robs his tired limbs of rest
As gnats and flies buzz furiously around.

Presto

Alas, his fears were justified
The Heavens thunders and roar and with hail
Cuts the head off the wheat and damages the grain.

Source: http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Four_Seasons_Sonnets

Egyptian Pharaohs

An important civilization grew up along the Nile River in Egypt. The leaders of Egypt were called Pharaohs. Most were men. Two famous female Pharaohs were Nefertiti and Cleopatra.



King Narmer

Egypt used to be divided into two kingdoms. The kingdom in Lower Egypt was called the red crown. Upper Egypt was called the white crown.

About 5000 thousand years ago, King Narmer (also called Menes) the pharaoh of the north conquered the south, so Egypt became united. He wore both a red crown and a white crown after uniting the country. This was the beginning of a period in Egyptian history called the Old Kingdom.

The Pharaoh was thought to be a demigod. This is someone who is half man and half god. The Egyptians believed that the Pharaoh was the god Horus. Horus was one of the most important Egyptian gods. He was often depicted as a falcon-headed man wearing a red and white crown to symbolize his rule over all of Egypt.



Depiction of Horus

Three Branches of Government

Executive Branch

The United States of America has 3 branches of government. They are:

- The Executive Branch
- The Legislative Branch
- The Judicial Branch



The president is the head of the Executive Branch. The president is called the Chief Executive. A candidate for the presidency must be at least 35 years old, a natural-born U.S. citizen, and have lived in the United States for 14 years.

The United States has federal, state and local government. The federal government is responsible for the whole country. The president is the manager of the federal government. The president ensures that the laws passed by Congress are enforced and obeyed. They pledge to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.

The Executive Branch includes the Cabinet. The Cabinet advises the President. The Cabinet includes the Vice President, the heads of various departments, and other people chosen by the President. The Cabinet meets regularly to discuss matters that affect the country.

The President plays an important role in making the nation's laws. They must approve the laws that Congress makes. When Congress passes a bill or, they send it to the President. If the President agrees with the law, they will sign it and the

law will go into effect. If the President doesn't agree with the bill, they can refuse to sign it. This is called a veto.

The president is limited to serving 2 four year terms. They must run for re-election to serve a second term.



George Washington was the first president of the United States



Barack Obama is the current president of the United States

EXCERPT

THE SECRET GARDEN

BY FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT



She did not finish the sentence, because the door opened, and Mrs. Medlock walked in. She had on her best black dress and cap, and her collar was fastened with a large brooch with a picture of a man's face on it. It was a colored photograph of Mr. Medlock who had died years ago, and she always wore it when she was dressed up. She looked nervous and excited.

"Your hair's rough," she said quickly. "Go and brush it. Martha, help her to slip on her best dress. Mr. Craven sent me to bring her to him in his study."

All the pink left Mary's cheeks. Her heart began to thump and she felt herself changing into a stiff, plain, silent child again. She did not even answer Mrs. Medlock, but turned and walked into her

bedroom, followed by Martha. She said nothing while her dress was changed, and her hair brushed, and after she was quite tidy she followed Mrs. Medlock down the corridors, in silence. What was there for her to say? She was obliged to go and see Mr. Craven and he would not like her, and she would not like him. She knew what he would think of her.

She was taken to a part of the house she had not been into before. At last Mrs. Medlock knocked at a door, and when some one said, "Come in," they entered the room together. A man was sitting in an armchair before the fire, and Mrs. Medlock spoke to him.

"This is Miss Mary, sir," she said.

"You can go and leave her here. I will ring for you when I want you to take her away," said Mr. Craven.

When she went out and closed the door, Mary could only stand waiting, a plain little thing, twisting her thin hands together. She could see that the man in the chair was not so much a hunchback as a man with high, rather crooked shoulders, and he had black hair streaked with white. He turned his head over his high shoulders and spoke to her.

"Come here!" he said.

Mary went to him.

He was not ugly. His face would have been handsome if it had not been so miserable. He looked as if the sight of her worried and fretted him and as if he did not know what in the world to do with her.

"Are you well?" he asked.

"Yes," answered Mary.

"Do they take good care of you?"

"Yes."

He rubbed his forehead fretfully as he looked her over.

"You are very thin," he said.

"I am getting fatter," Mary answered in what she knew was her stiffest way.

What an unhappy face he had! His black eyes seemed as if they scarcely saw her, as if they were seeing something else, and he could hardly keep his thoughts upon her.

"I forgot you," he said. "How could I remember you? I intended to send you a governess or a nurse, or some one of that sort, but I forgot."

"Please," began Mary. "Please—" and then the lump in her throat choked her.

"What do you want to say?" he inquired.

"I am—I am too big for a nurse," said Mary. "And please—please don't make me have a governess yet."

He rubbed his forehead again and stared at her.

"That was what the Sowerby woman said," he muttered absentmindedly.

Then Mary gathered a scrap of courage.

"Is she—is she Martha's mother?" she stammered.

"Yes, I think so," he replied.

"She knows about children," said Mary. "She has twelve. She knows."

He seemed to rouse himself.

"What do you want to do?"

"I want to play out of doors," Mary answered, hoping that her voice did not tremble. "I never liked it in India. It makes me hungry here, and I am getting fatter."

He was watching her.

"Mrs. Sowerby said it would do you good. Perhaps it will," he said. "She thought you had better get stronger before you had a governess."

"It makes me feel strong when I play and the wind comes over the moor," argued Mary.

"Where do you play?" he asked next.

"Everywhere," gasped Mary. "Martha's mother sent me a skipping-rope. I skip and run—and I look about to see if things are beginning to stick up out of the earth. I don't do any harm."

"Don't look so frightened," he said in a worried voice. "You could not do any harm, a child like you! You may do what you like."

Mary put her hand up to her throat because she was afraid he might see the excited lump which she felt jump into it. She came a step nearer to him.

"May I?" she said tremulously.

Her anxious little face seemed to worry him more than ever.

"Don't look so frightened," he exclaimed. "Of course you may. I am your guardian, though I am a poor one for any child. I cannot give you time or attention. I am too ill, and wretched and distracted; but I wish you to be happy and comfortable. I don't know anything about children, but Mrs. Medlock is to see that you have all you need. I sent for you to-day because Mrs. Sowerby said I ought to see you. Her daughter had talked about you. She thought you needed fresh air and freedom and running about."

"She knows all about children," Mary said again in spite of herself.

"She ought to," said Mr. Craven. "I thought her rather bold to stop me on the moor, but she said—Mrs. Craven had been kind to her." It seemed hard for him to speak his dead wife's name. "She is a respectable woman. Now I have seen you I think she said sensible things. Play out of doors as much as you like. It's a big place and you may go where you like and amuse yourself as you like. Is there anything you want?" as if a sudden thought had struck him. "Do you want toys, books, dolls?"

"Might I," quavered Mary, "might I have a bit of earth?"

In her eagerness she did not realize how queer the words would sound and that they were not the ones she had meant to say. Mr. Craven looked quite startled.

"Earth!" he repeated. "What do you mean?"

"To plant seeds in—to make things grow—to see them come alive," Mary faltered.

He gazed at her a moment and then passed his hand quickly over his eyes.

"Do you—care about gardens so much," he said slowly.

"I didn't know about them in India," said Mary. "I was always ill and tired and it was too hot. I sometimes made little beds in the sand and stuck flowers in them. But here it is different."

Mr. Craven got up and began to walk slowly across the room.

"A bit of earth," he said to himself, and Mary thought that somehow she must have reminded him of something. When he stopped and spoke to her his dark eyes looked almost soft and kind.

"You can have as much earth as you want," he said. "You remind me of some one else who loved the earth and things that grow. When you see a bit of earth you want," with something like a smile, "take it, child, and make it come alive."

"May I take it from anywhere—if it's not wanted?"

"Anywhere," he answered. "There! You must go now, I am tired." He touched the bell to call Mrs. Medlock. "Good-by. I shall be away all summer."

Mrs. Medlock came so quickly that Mary thought she must have been waiting in the corridor.

<http://www.gutenberg.net>