

Kick-Start

Into the World of General Knowledge **SERIES**

4

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1 One of a kind!

Lydian Nadhaswaram, the 13-year-old child prodigy from Chennai, was the favourite to win 'The World's Best' global talent contest, for playing on the piano.

In February 2019 Lydian was declared the winner, taking home \$1 million in prize money.

His feat: He played 208 beats per minute. He then increased his speed to 325 beats per minute.

He played three variations of 'The Flight of the Bumblebee', originally composed by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov in 1900 for the Tale of Tsar Saltan opera.

Lydian did the unthinkable! He set the metronome to 208 beats per minute. He did so by requesting one of the judges, Drew Barrymore to help him out.



If that wasn't enough, he increased it to 325 beats per minute and played it flawlessly.

He spent four years at maestro A.R. Rahman's KM Music Conservatory and is now tutored by his father Varshan Satish. He spends on an average six hours a day, practising music.

The prodigy can play blindfolded, handle two pianos simultaneously, apart from being adept at playing the guitar and the mridangam.

Currently, he is investing time on the technical side, learning skills such as mixing, sound systems.



Let us understand some more about the piano.

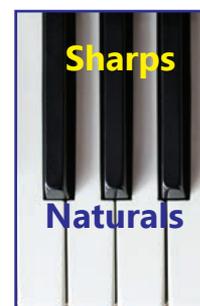


- The piano is known as “**The King of Instruments**” and it has earned this title for the following reasons:

Tonal Range: The piano covers all the instruments in an orchestra.

Versatility: The piano also gives the player the ability to produce melody and accompaniment at the same time.

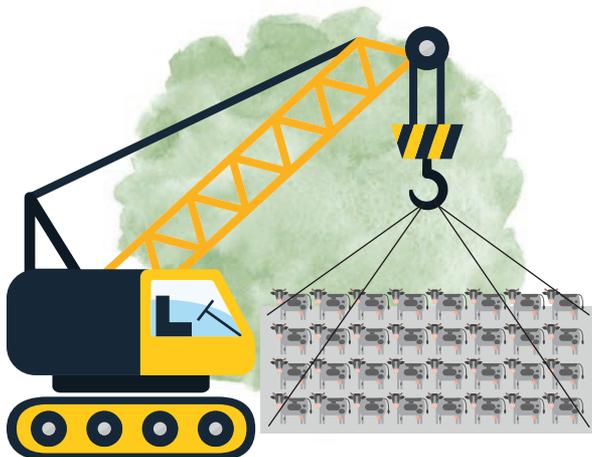
- It is one of the largest musical instruments. A standard piano has 88 keys. 52 Naturals (white keys), 36 Sharps (black keys).



- The first piano was built in 1700 by an Italian harpichord maker named Bartolomeo Cristofori (1655-1731). He lived in Padua, Italy. His piano could play notes softly and loudly.

- The name ‘piano’ is an abbreviation of Cristofori’s original name for the instrument: ‘piano et forte’ or soft and loud. The average piano has 230 strings with each string having about 165 pounds of tension, with the combined pull of all

strings equalling approximately 20 tons! That amount of tension is equal to lifting 32 adult cows off the ground at the same time!



- The key is a part of the piano you touch when you play. The natural keys are made of wood with a thin sheet of white plastic on top. Ivory, made from elephant tusk, was used before plastic was invented.

- Pianos can have upto 10,000 parts made from wood, steel, iron, copper, felt, leather, and even paper!
- Tuning a piano is like tuning 38 acoustic guitars and having them all sound the same!
- If you are thinking about pursuing a career in music, you should study the piano. Many music schools require at least one semester of piano, regardless of your major.



Activity time

There are many numbers associated with the piano.

A. Fill the table with the details for the numbers.



Ethical compass

Music is

a stress buster

only an entertainment

Numbers	Details
20	
32	
36	
38	
52	
88	
165	
230	
1700	
10000	

B. Answer these.

1. Why is it called the 'King of Instruments'?

2. How will you describe its size?

3. What is 'black and white' in it?

4. What does 'piano' mean?

5. What does versatility mean?

2 **Speak up!**

Public speaking is the process of communicating information to audience. It is usually done before a large audience, like in school, the workplace and even in our personal lives.

Why should a person be a public speaker?

1. It increases one's self confidence.
2. One can reach more people in a short time.
3. To know one's knowledge in the subject.
4. To inspire people.

To become a better speaker, use the following strategies:

- Plan appropriately.
- Practise.
- Engage with your audience.
- Pay attention to body language.
- Think positively.
- Cope with your nerves.
- Watch recordings of your speeches.



What will you do?



1. When you are afraid of public speaking

- a. take a deep breath and visualise your success
- b. postpone the public speaking



Get a grasp

The top fear in most people's mind in the world is public speaking.



2. When your audience yawn during your speech

a. make the session interactive

b. wait till they pay attention



3. When your audience asks you question

a. answer them

b. neglect that question



4. When will you use multimedia tools?

a. when you know technology

b. when it enhances your message



5. When speaking in public

a. just speak the information on the spot

b. prepare and gain knowledge before the speech

3

Residence of the President

A presidential palace is the official residence of the President of a nation and is located in the capital city. It is usually a palatial building, stunning in its beauty and architecture.

Given below are pictures of some presidential palaces around the world. Identify the name of the country.



It is one of the most expensive presidential palaces in the world. It is located in Abu Dhabi.

1



It is called the Bangabhaban, located in Dhaka.

2



It is also known as the Great Kremlin Palace; took 12 years to build this palace; located in Moscow.

4



Help box

United Arab Emirates

Poland

Greece

Bangladesh

Tajikistan

Italy

France

Russia

Germany

United States of America



It is called the White House; located in Washington D.C. The entire building is painted white.

3



This is called the Tajik Presidential Palace, also known as the 'Palace of Unity'. It is located in Dushanbe.

5



It is called the Quirinal Palace; located in Rome. It is one of the three current official residences of the President.

6



It was built in 1955; has been rebuilt and remodelled many times; is located in Warsaw.

7



It is known as the Elysee Palace; has been the official residence of the President from 1848; is located in Paris.

8



It is known as the Bellevue Palace; located in Berlin on the banks of the Spree River.

10



It is the official residence of the President of the Hellenic Republic; was constructed in 1897. It is known as the New Royal Palace and is located in Athens.

9



Get a grasp

Know your President's residence - The Rashtrapati Bhavan

The Rashtrapati Bhavan is the official residence of the President of India. There are 340 rooms inside the palatial building, and it is considered the world's biggest residence of a president. Sir Edwin Lutyens was the main architect of this building. The Durbar hall, the Ashoka hall and the Banquet hall are the main halls. Portraits of all the former presidents decorate the walls of the Banquet hall. The Ashoka hall has a painted ceiling.



4

What is a stage?



Yonder

Discuss about the experience that you had in your annual day celebrations at your school theatre.

Theatre is a collaborative form of fine art that uses live performers, typically actors or actresses, to present the experience of a real or imagined event before a live audience in a specific place, often a stage.

A theatre has various components. Let's learn about them.

This is the space the audience occupies.

1



It means behind the scenes. It has dressing rooms, offices, make-up stations and costume stores buzzing with creative energy from many people who ensure that the performance runs seamlessly.

2

This refers to seating on a level above the stalls. In smaller theatres, these seatings may offer the best view of the whole stage.

3



This is the place where you buy your tickets in person, online or by phone. These staff are some of the most knowledgeable people in the theatre.

4

Here, performers change their dresses, do their make-up and rest in between scenes.

5

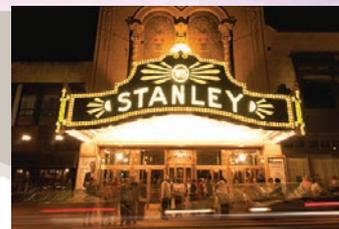


This is a spotlight to highlight one performer on stage.

6

This is the sign above a theatre, advertising the name of a show or its stars.

7



Live music played at the theatre.

8

These are objects used in a show. The show's designer will source them for the production and many shows have multiple versions of each one in case they break during the action.

9



This is the landscape, the room, the area in which the action takes place.

10

This is the platform on which the actors perform.

11



On either side of the stage, hidden places lead actors to and from backstage, so they can make their entrance, or store their props.

12



**auditorium balcony backstage dressing room limelight box
office wings stage set props orchestra marquee**

5

How to resolve conflicts?

Arguments, disagreements, disputes, oh my!

You can solve problems without fighting by using conflict resolution skills.

Karan is the class bully. He sometimes scares, annoys or teases his classmates. Most classmates are unhappy. The classmates can do any one of these to handle Karan's bullying:



Take turns and avoid Karan



Wait and cool off



Join a different group or activity



Ask him to stop



Talk it out



Make him ask for "sorry"



Walk away



Ask the teacher for help



Make a deal

What will you do? Why?



Ethical compass

Which is better?

Avoid conflicts

Resolve conflicts

You can resolve the conflicts and SAVE the day!

Let's work it Out!



Life skills

Practise RESOLVE whenever you have issues or conflicts with others.

R Reach out



Come together with the person you are having conflict with.

E Engage in a conversation



Remain calm and make sure to talk one at a time.

S Seek to solve the problem



Agree to come up with sensible solutions you both can accept.

O Open up



Calmly communicate your side of the story to explain how you feel.

L Listen intently



Listen to the other person so that you understand their point of view.

V Voice solutions



Brainstorm solutions to resolve your conflict together.

E End on a good note



Agree to the solutions; give a compliment and shake hands.

Look at these situations. How will you resolve the conflict? Get into pairs and discuss. Use the RESOLVE technique.

1. Your best friend is playing with someone else at lunch break. When you try to join they say they have enough people.
2. Your friend uses a nickname to call you that you don't like. You ask him/her to stop but he/she laughs. You don't think it is funny.
3. You give a wrong answer in class. Someone calls you stupid!
4. You share your secret with a friend. He/she tells someone else!

6

All in the game



Yonder

Think of one more game to play for any other concept in any subject.



Game 1: 101 and Out...

- This is a paper and pencil game.
- It can be played by teams of students or in pairs.
- **You will need:** A sheet of paper, a pencil, and one dice.
- **Object of the game:** To score as close to 101 without going over or "out."
- Each team/pair should take turns rolling the dice.
- As you roll, you can either take the number as a one or a ten.
- **Example:** if you roll a 5, you could take it as a 5 or a 50.
- Keep a running record of your total as you play.

Game 2: Back to Back

- This game requires some "brain sweat"!
- **You will need:** A board, chalk/marker, and someone who is quick with his/her maths facts for a "Caller."
- **Object of the game:** Guess the other player's number before they guess yours.
- Two students come up to the board and stand back to back. They can write on the board, but their view of the other person's number is blocked.
- The "Caller" states, "Numbers Up".
- This is a signal for the two students to write a number of their choice on the board.
- To keep it easy decide on numbers: 2-9
- The Caller then states the sum or product of the two numbers.
- The students figure out what the other person's number is when added or multiplied by their number.
- The first player to say the other person's number wins the round.
- The "loser" gets to choose the next person to come to the board.



7

How smart are you?



Train of thought

Remember!
Smartness takes you a long way! All you need is that extra smarts...

Can you guess which of the following are true and which are false?

1. Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.
2. Alfred Hitchcock didn't have a belly button.
3. A pack-a-day smoker will lose approximately 2 teeth every 10 years.
4. People do not get sick from cold weather; it's from being indoors a lot more.
5. When you sneeze, all bodily functions stop, even your heart!
6. Only 7 per cent of the population are lefties.
7. Forty people are sent to the hospital for dog bites every minute.
8. Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until they are 2-6 years old.
9. The average person over 50 will have spent 5 years waiting in lines.
10. The toothbrush was invented in 1498.
11. An average housefly lives for one month.
12. 40,000 Americans are injured by toilets each year.
13. A wire coat hanger is 44 inches long when straightened.
14. The average computer user blinks 7 times a minute.
15. Your feet are bigger in the afternoon than any other time of a day.
16. Most of us have eaten a spider in our sleep.
17. The REAL reason ostriches stick their head in the sand is to search for water.
18. The only two animals that can see behind themselves without turning their heads are the rabbit and the parrot.
19. In most television commercials advertising milk, a mixture of white paint and a little thinner is used in place of the milk.
20. Prince Charles and Prince William NEVER travel on the same airplane, just in case there is a crash.
21. If colouring weren't added to Coca-Cola, it would be green.

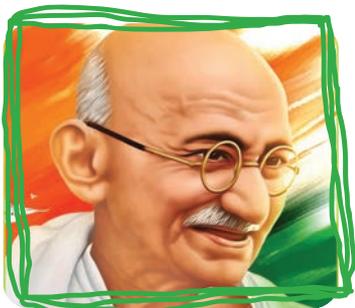
8

How did it become famous?

Some cities and states have a special significance. They have gained importance because of the great personalities or great institutions, associated with them.

Given below are some places associated with some great Indians.

Read the sentences carefully and write the correct answer, using the help box.



A historical march was led by Gandhiji in this place.

1



It was the Buddha's birth place.

2



Maharana Pratap fought a battle with Akbar in this place.

3



A famous mutt was founded by Swami Vivekananda in this place.

4



Life skills

Discuss one idea in class to make your city famous.



Help box

Lumbini

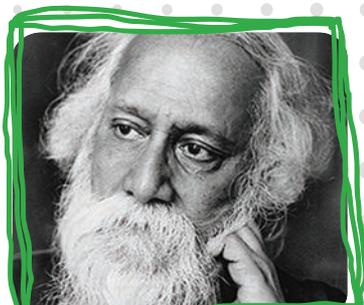
Vaishali

Shantiniketan

Dandi

Belur

Haldighati



Tagore founded a famous ashram here, which has a renowned university today.

5



It was Lord Mahavir's birth place. He is worshipped by the Jains.

6

Answers

Pages 05-07 A. 20 - The combined pull of all piano strings is equal to approximately 20 tons.

32 - The amount of tension created by a piano is equal to lifting 32 adult cows.

36 - The 36 black keys are called Sharps.

38 - Tuning a piano with 230 strings is like tuning 38 acoustic guitars.

52 - The 52 white keys are called Naturals.

88 - A standard piano has 88 keys.

165 - Each string has about 165 pounds of tension

230 - Average piano has 230 strings.

1700 - Piano was invented by Bartolomeo Cristofori.

10000 - Pianos can have up to 10,000 parts.

B. 1. The piano is called the 'King of Instruments' because of its tonal range and versatility.

2. It is one of the largest musical instruments.

3. The black are the 36 black keys which are called the Sharps. The white refers to the 52 white keys that are called the Naturals.

4. The word 'piano' is an Italian word that means 'soft and loud'.

5. Versatility means the quality of being versatile or having many different abilities and skills.

Pages 08-09 1. a 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. b

Pages 10-11 1. United Arab Emirates 2. Bangladesh 3. United States of America 4. Russia 5. Tajikistan 6. Italy 7. Poland 8. France 9. Greece 10. Germany

Pages 12-13 1. auditorium 2. back stage 3. balcony 4. box office 5. dressing room 6. limelight 7. marquee 8. orchestra 9. props 10. set 11. stage 12. wings

Pages 14-15 Free answers

Page 17 All the statements are 'True'.

Page 18 1. Dandi 2. Lumbini 3. Haldighati 4. Belur 5. Shantiniketan 6. Vaishali

Page 19 1. Paralympics 2. Summer Olympics 3. Winter Olympics 4. Youth Olympics 5. European Games 6. Pan American Games 7. African Games

Page 20 1. QUILTING 2. KNITTING 3. EMBROIDERY 4. TIE AND DYE 5. SCRATCH ART 6. MARBLING 7. GLASS PAINTING 8. MOSAIC PAINTING

Page 21 1. nyctophobia 2. arachnophobia 3. astraphobia 4. claustrophobia 5. acrophobia

Pages 22-23 1. Russia 2. Japan 3. U.S.A 4. Saudi Arabia 5. Italy 6. China

Pages 25-27 1. Yes 2. Yes 3. No 4. No 5. No 6. No 7. No 8. Yes 9. No 10. Yes

Page 28 A. lexicon 1. clone 2. oxen 3. coil 4. lone

B. ACROSS 4. Impartial 6. Boring 8. Relish 9. Swiftly 11. Plunge 12. Ruin

DOWN 1. Finish 2. Clarify 3. Eager 5. Inactive 7. Gather 10. Slice

Page 29 1. Maharashtra 2. West Bengal 3. Bihar 4. Tamil Nadu