

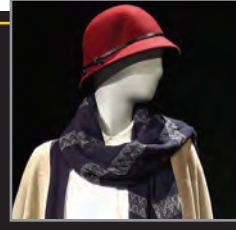


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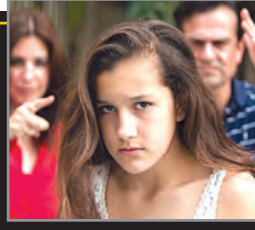
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TODAY'S EDITION

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STUDENT EDITION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020



WEB EDITION

CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2

KYLIE JENNER tops the list of Forbes' 2020 HIGHEST-PAID CELEBRITIES



American media personality and reality TV star **Kylie Jenner** has been crowned the highest-paid celebrity of 2020 by Forbes. The top-earning stars in the world earned a combined of \$ 6.1 billion in 2020, with Kylie Jenner and Kanye West at the top of the list. Kylie is worth \$590 million after she sold a majority of her beauty brand's stake to Coty Inc. Ranked at No 2, on the list is American rapper and record producer Kanye West (\$170 million), who is also coincidentally Kylie's brother-in-law. The aspiring politician has his Adidas partnership to thank for this hefty payday.

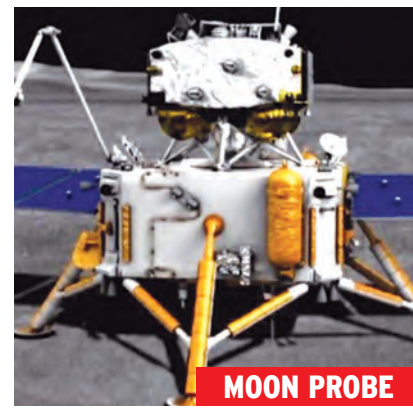
- Swiss tennis star **Roger Federer** topped the list among the sports personalities, leaving behind the football greats Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, who swapped the top spot in three of the four previous years. Federer ranked third on the list of the highest-paid celebrities, behind Kylie Jenner and rapper Kanye West, respectively
- The 20-time grand slam winner **Federer** earned a total of **\$106.3 million**, thanks to the best endorsement portfolio in sports with brands like Uniqlo, Credit Suisse

- Ronaldo** edged past Messi with **\$105 million** annual earnings having partnered with Nike, Herbalife, Altice and his own CR7 brand. **Messi** holds the third spot among the athletes and fifth overall with annual earnings of \$104 million
- Brazilian footballer **Neymar** was ranked seventh on the list, with earnings of \$95.5 million



China brings MOON ROCKS to Earth

A Chinese lunar capsule returned to the Earth on Thursday with the first fresh samples of rock and debris from the Moon in more than 40 years. Two of the Chang'e 5's four modules set down on the Moon on Dec 1 and collected about 2 kilograms of samples by scooping them from the surface and drilling 2 metres into the Moon's crust. The samples were deposited in a sealed container that was carried back to the return module by an ascent vehicle.



MOON PROBE

The spacecraft's return marked the first time scientists have obtained fresh samples of lunar rocks since the former Soviet Union's Luna 24 robot probe in 1976

THE SIGNIFICANCE

► The newly-collected rocks are thought to be billions of years younger than those obtained earlier by the US and former Soviet Union, offering new insights into the history of the Moon and other bodies in the solar system. They have been collected from a part of the Moon, known as the Oceanus Procellarum, or the Ocean of Storms, near a site called the Mons Rumker that was believed to have been volcanic in ancient times ► The lunar samples will be analysed for age and composition, and are expected to be shared with other countries



In 2003, China became the third country to send an astronaut into orbit on its own, after the erstwhile Soviet Union and US

Spotlight

SONU SOOD, SHRADDHA KAPOOR NAMED HOTTEST VEGETARIANS OF 2020 BY PETA INDIA

Actors **Sonu Sood** and **Shraddha Kapoor** are PETA India's Hottest Vegetarians for 2020. "Sonu Sood and Shraddha Kapoor are helping to change the world every time they sit down to eat," says Sachin Bangera, director, celebrity and public relations, PETA India.



Sonu has appeared in a pro-vegetarian PETA India print campaign, participated in the group's 'Hug a Vegetarian' Day, and supported a social media appeal to push McDonald's to add a McVegan burger to its menu. He also rescued an injured pigeon while playing cricket with his son

FB TO DIRECTLY ALERT USERS WHO SHARE, COMMENT ON FAKE COVID POSTS

In its bid to fight the spread of Covid-19 related misinformation on its platform, Facebook will now send notifications directly to the users who like, share or comment on such posts.

TECH BUZZ

According to a report, the social network is changing its strategy on how to reach people, who have encountered misinformation on its platform.



- The company will now send notifications to anyone who has liked, commented, or shared a piece of Covid-19 misinformation that's been taken down for violating the platform's terms of service
- The notification will read, "We removed a post you liked, which had false, potentially-harmful information about Covid-19"
- The company will then connect users with trustworthy sources, in an effort to correct the record
- If a user interacts with a fake post that has been removed, Facebook will send a notification to the user telling him/her that the post was taken down
- If a user clicks the notification, he/she will be taken to a landing page with a screenshot of the post and a short explanation for why it was removed
- It will also offer follow up actions, like the option to unsubscribe from the group that originally posted the false information or to "see facts" about Covid-19

As part of its effort to reduce the spread of "vaccine hoaxes" on its platform, Facebook had said last month that it will no longer allow advertisements that include misinformation about vaccines

UNIQUE 'CLIMATE REFUGE' FOR CORAL DISCOVERED OFF COAST OF EAST AFRICA

Scientists in east Africa have discovered a rare ocean refuge for coral, where species are still thriving despite the accelerating climate crisis impacting other nearby reefs.

ENVIRONMENT



► The newly-discovered reef complex is located in a rare "ocean cool spot", which researchers believe is helping to protect the large populations of corals and marine mammals from the devastating impact of warming sea temperatures

► The stronghold, in the Indian Ocean off the coasts of Tanzania and Kenya, teems with life and is described as a "jewel of biodiversity" by researchers

► According to the researchers, local geology, and in particular Mount Kilimanjaro – a vast dormant volcano 5,895 metres high – is responsible for creating unique oceanic conditions for such corals

ENTERTAINMENT

ABHISHEK CHAUBEY TO DIRECT MAJOR DHYAN CHAND BIOPIC

Director **Abhishek Chaubey** will be directing the biopic on legendary hockey player **Major Dhyan Chand** for Ronnie Screwvala's RSVP Movies, the makers have announced. Titled 'Dhyanchand', the film, which will be produced by RSVP in collaboration with Blue Monkey Films, will go on floors next year. It will be released countrywide in 2022.

Dhyan Chand, regarded as the greatest player in the history of hockey, earned three Olympic gold medals – in 1928 (Amsterdam), 1932 (Los Angeles) and 1936 (Berlin) for India



Quarter of world may not get Covid vax until 2022: Study

In a significant study, researchers have revealed that nearly a quarter of the world's population may not have access to a Covid-19 vaccine until at least 2022. The findings suggest that the operational challenges of the global Covid-19 vaccination programme will be as difficult as the scientific challenges associated with their development.

CORONA UPDATE



► By November 15, 2020, several countries had reserved a total of 7.48 billion doses, or 3.76 billion courses from 13 manufacturers, out of 48 Covid-19 vaccine candidates in clinical trials

► However, according to the authors of the study, just over half (51 per cent) of these doses will go to high-income countries, which represent 14 per cent of the world's population

► Low- and middle-income countries will potentially have the remainder, despite these countries comprising

more than 85 per cent of the world's population, they added ► Up to 40 per cent of the vaccine courses from these vaccine manufacturers might potentially remain for low- and middle-income countries

► However, this will depend, in part, on how high-income countries share what they procure and whether US and Russia participate in globally-coordinated efforts

TOKYO OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY TO START IN 100 DAYS



SPORTS

The torch relay for the Tokyo Olympic Games will begin on March 25, 2021, almost along the same route set before the Games was postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic.

► The relay's start point will still be the J-Village National Training Centre in Fukushima ► The flame, lit in Olympia of Greece in March, will travel 121 days through 859 municipalities across all 47 prefectures, before it arrives at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo on July 23 when the Games opens

► About 10,000 torchbearers will take part in the event

► To mark the 100-day countdown until the start of the relay, a special illumination of the Tokyo SkyTree will take place to see the landmark light up in Sakura and Gold - the colours of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch

POPULAR 'AMONG US' GAME ARRIVES ON NINTENDO SWITCH

Japanese gaming giant Nintendo has announced that the mystery-party-action game, 'Among Us', is coming to the Switch.

The game picked up the award for the best multiplayer title of the year during this year's Game Awards. 'Among Us' was also the most-downloaded mobile game globally in November 2020, according to data from Sensor Tower: The game clocked 53.2 million installs, which represented a 50 times increase from November 2019.

GAMING ZONE



'Among Us' game is priced at \$5, and is available for download from the Nintendo Switch eShop

'WATER ON MARS NOT AS WIDESPREAD AS PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT'

SCIENCE

Researchers have revealed that water on Mars in the form of brines may not be as widespread as previously thought.

According to the study, brines are mixtures of water and salts that are more resistant to boiling, freezing and evaporation than pure water. Finding them has implications, as scientists will look for past or present life on Mars and the place from where humans, who eventually travel to the planet, could look for water



THE BASIC DIMENSIONS OF PERSONALITY: THERE ARE FIVE KEY OR CENTRAL DIMENSIONS OF PERSONALITY. THESE ARE SOMETIMES LABELLED THE BIG FIVE

THE BIG 5 PERSONALITY TRAITS

OBJECTIVE: TO LEARN CONCEPTS OF ROBERT MCRAE AND PAUL COSTA'S FIVE FACTOR THEORY OF PERSONALITY.

1. OPENNESS

2. CONSCIENTIOUSNESS

3. EXTRAVERSION

4. AGREEABLENESS

5. NEUROTICISM



TRAITS OF OPENNESS

- Very creative
- Open to trying new things
- Focused on tackling new challenges
- Happy to think about abstract concepts



CONSCIENTIOUSNESS

- Spends time in preparation
- Finishes important tasks right away
- Pays attention to detail
- Enjoys having a set schedule



AGREEABLENESS

- Has a great deal of interest in other people
- Cares about others
- Feels empathy and concern for other people
- Enjoys helping and contributing to the happiness of other people
- Assists others who are in need of help

EXTRAVERSION

- Enjoys being the centre of attention
- Likes to start conversations
- Enjoys meeting new people
- Has a wide social circle of friends and acquaintances
- Finds it easy to make new friends
- Feels energised when around other people
- Say things before thinking about them



NEUROTICISM

- Experiences a lot of stress
- Worries about many different things
- Gets upset easily
- Experiences dramatic shifts in mood
- Feels anxious
- Struggles to bounce back after stressful events

Charlotte Raj, Psychology Teacher & Counsellor, The Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet, Hyderabad



HOW DO THEY DEVELOP Genetic and environmental reasons- 123 pairs of identical twins and 127 pairs of fraternal twins. The findings suggested that the heritability of each trait was

53% for extraversion, 41% for agreeableness, 44% for conscientiousness, 41% for neuroticism, and 61% for openness.

Pic: Getty Images (Pic used for illustrative purpose only)

ISC class XII Psychology

1. NAME THE TWO PSYCHOLOGISTS WHO GAVE THE BIG 5.
2. MENTION THE SHORTEST WAY TO REMEMBER WHAT THE BIG 5 STANDS FOR.
3. PUT THE FOLLOWING TRAITS UNDER EACH OF THE PERSONALITY DIMENSION
 - a) Feels empathy and concern for others
 - b) Experiences dramatic shifts in mood
 - c) Enjoys meeting new people
 - d) Finishes important tasks right away
 - e) Open to new way of tackling things

Quiz

RATE YOURSELF ON A SCALE OF 1 - 5

with (1- Strongly disagree, 2 - disagree, 3 not sure, 4 - Agree, 5 - Strongly agree)

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. I am reserved | 6. I am outgoing and social |
| 2. I am generally trusting | 7. I tend to find fault with others |
| 3. I tend to be lazy | 8. I do a thorough job |
| 4. I am relaxed and handle stress well? | 9. I get nervous easily |
| 5. I have few artistic talents | 10. I have an active imagination |

Based on your answers you can have a general idea of in which dimension you could belong.

PLAN IT OUT, PRIORITISE AND LEARN

Kavya Nair from Rajashree SM Memorial School, Aluva, Ernakulam, passed AISSCE 2019-20 with 97.4 per cent, and cleared NEET in her first attempt. She shares her study plan with Times NIE



• Time management is of utmost importance. We must learn to prioritise and allot more time to difficult concepts and subjects.

• All tend to take class XI lightly as there's no Board examination. But remember, it is the best time to focus on entrance studies.

• Prioritise the subjects which need extra studying. For instance, if you wish to appear for medical entrance, focus on Biology, Physics and Chemistry.

• Those preparing for JEE should give importance to Maths, Physics and Chemistry.

• In class XII, the pressure of Boards can cause stress. It is best to devote one day of the week to solving entrance questions. As they are MCQs, it would help strengthen concepts for Board exams.

• I used to devote my Sundays for entrance and other days for school-work. If there are class tests or practical submissions to be done on Monday, it is better to complete the work on Saturday and peacefully devote Sunday for entrance preparations.

• Prioritise subjects in class XII. I found Mathematics difficult but did not spend much time on it till December. In December, I set aside my entrance preparations and focused on practicing Maths.

• After one or two models we can gauge where we stand and the subjects that need more attention. Work out as many question papers as possible

• If there are topics which are not included for the Boards, but included for entrance, don't bother about them till the Boards are over.

• You can always view videos on Youtube or request teachers to explain those few extra topics.

• Try to keep a balance, don't let yourself be stressed out, take breaks when stress builds up.

• Last but not the least, it is equally important to enjoy the last two years of school life. Take part in all the celebrations and events organised at regular intervals as they help you to relax and enjoy -- making memories we can cherish forever.

MASTERING COMPREHENSION

IN THE ISC CLASS XII LANGUAGE PAPER, BESIDES THE ESSAY AND REPORT WRITING AND FORMAL GRAMMAR QUESTIONS THERE IS A QUESTION ON COMPREHENSION. HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO GUIDE YOU ON HOW TO GO ABOUT ANSWERING THIS SECTION..

Comprehension means understanding. It is a very useful exercise to develop one's power of understanding the meaning of a passage one hasn't read before. The understanding is tested by a set of questions based on the unseen passage, which have to be answered.

Points to keep in mind when answering Comprehension questions:

- Read the **passage** carefully so that you have a firm grasp on its meaning.
- Read the **questions** carefully so that you have grasped what is being asked.
- Find out in which part of the passage the **answer** lies.
- Answers should be **to the point**. Don't give more or less than what is asked for.
- Try to write answers in **your own words**.
- **Don't use colloquial** or telegraphic language.

Besides the questions to check your understanding of the passage there is a

question to test your vocabulary.

This is in two parts, in one part you are asked the 'meaning' question in a different way, here you are given a word or a phrase and then asked to find the word in the passage that is similar in meaning.

There is another part to this question, you are given words from the passage which you then have to use in sentences of your own. There is however, a slight twist. You have to use the word given, unchanged in form, but with a different meaning from that which it is used in the passage.

[Example: Suppose in our passage we have this sentence-"It was a hot day and to keep cool she stood in the shade." Usually the words given are in bold letters. Now we need to make a sentence with the word 'shade' but with a different meaning from that which it is used in the passage. We need therefore, to first know what the word 'shade' means in the passage-it means 'comparative darkness or coolness caused by shelter from direct sunlight.' Now we need to see what the other meanings for

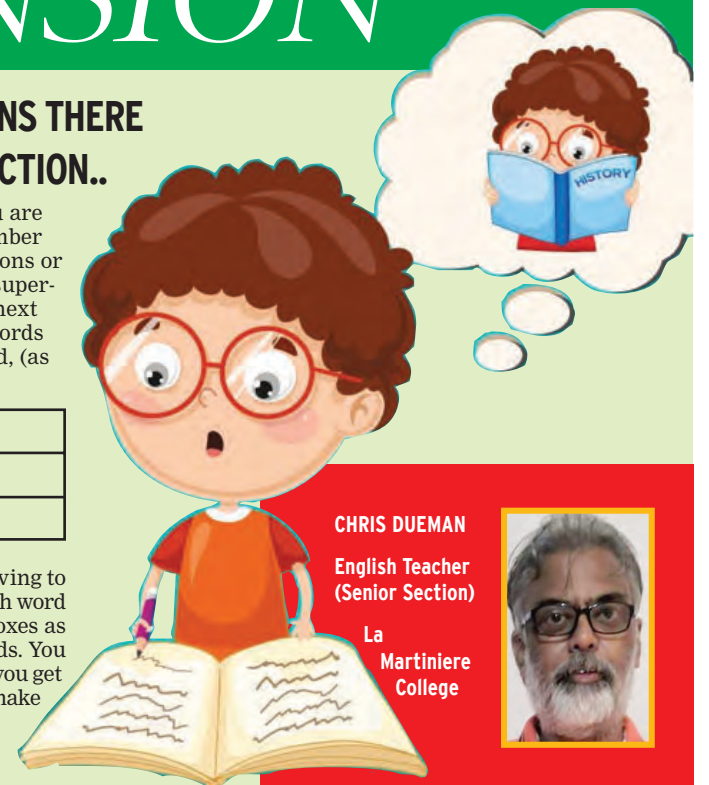
the word 'shade' are. Let's see....shade also means how dark or light a colour is, to screen one's self from direct light, to darken or colour an illustration by filling it in with pencil. Now that we have the various meanings for 'shade' we need to also be careful of another part of the instruction given... 'unchanged in form,' this implies that we have to use the word in the exact same manner that it is used in the passage.

The word here is used in its basic form 'shade' so we can't use 'shades'...the plural form or 'shaded'....the past participle form or any other form either. We can therefore, make the following sentence...."His car was of a darker shade of blue than mine." As a practice you may make sentences using the other two meanings of the word.]

There is a third part to the comprehension question, which requires you to summarise a part of the passage in 100 words. The best way to do this is to identify that part of the passage and mark the relevant points by either underlining

them or by any other means that you are comfortable with. You need to remember that any figures of speech, comparisons or examples used by the writer are all superfluous and need to be removed. You next need to see if you could substitute words with a single word. Then make a grid, (as shown below)

This helps to prevent you from having to count and recount the words. Place each word in a box, you need to have 100 such boxes as your summary needs to be of 100 words. You may need to add or subtract words till you get the required number. You also need to make sure that your summary makes sense and has fulfilled the demands of the question. Hope this is of help, all the best.



CHRIS DUEMAN
English Teacher
(Senior Section)
La Martiniere
College



Handy Parenting Guide

MODERN-DAY MISTAKES YOU ARE MAKING WITH YOUR TEEN!

Parenting teenagers can be hard

Parenting mini-adults can be really difficult for many, sometimes, more stressful than taking care of an infant. While nobody likes to be a nagging parent, we tell you about a few mistakes many parents tend to make with their teens:



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

YOU TRY TO BE THEIR BEST FRIEND!



Photo: THINKSTOCK

You can either be a parent or a friend at one time. Do not budge in, and instead, offer support.

YOU DON'T SHOWCASE THE BEHAVIOUR THAT YOU EXPECT OUT OF THEM

Kids learn by example. If you indulge in wrong acts yourself, expect them to mirror your behaviour.



Photo: THINKSTOCK

YOU TRY TO PARENT LIKE YOUR OWN PARENT

Times have changed and so have parenting styles and methods. What worked for your parents, may not specifically work with your teen.



YOU COMPARE YOUR CHILD WITH OTHERS

Comparisons never help. Judgement and drawing comparison will only drive anxiety and set the wrong example for your child.



YOU INVADE THEIR PRIVACY

With a teen in the house, there are many things off limits. When it comes to invasion of their privacy, work towards establishing healthy boundaries.

YOU ARE TOO SCARED OF CRITICISING THEM

Don't feel scared of correcting them from time to time or protect too much. It will help prepare them for the future world.



YOU ACT TOO HARSH ON THEIR MISTAKES

Allow your child to make mistakes. That's the only way they grow up. Prioritise helping them rather than being too critical.



YOU AVOID CASUAL TOPICS FOR CONVERSATIONS

It's important to talk about taboo subjects with them, rather than having them learn stuff from the internet or other sources.

4 student fears during pandemic

HOW PARENTS CAN RESPOND



HANNAH MASOOD
School Counsellor,
The Choice School,
Tripunithura Ernakulam

2 Distress over social distancing

Most students have not met their friends since the lockdown in March. Four to five months is a long time for children who otherwise meet in school, tuition centres and casually. They are sad about losing out on this social engagement.

- Encourage children to focus on gratitude, and not as much on the bitterness of the 'loss'. Practice any gratitude exercise. Eg: Make a list of things to be grateful for.
- Use this time for self-reflection and for picking up something productive.
- Try to figure out ways to make up (when the pandemic ends) for what they missed (if the resentment is high).

- Encourage children to focus on gratitude, and not as much on the bitterness of the 'loss'. Practice any gratitude exercise. Eg: Make a list of things to be grateful for.
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1 Fears about the coronavirus and what's going to happen

Students are worried about how the world is changing, how economies are being affected and places around them are closing, how social distancing and online classes might be the new normal, about how gathering and travelling carefree without sanitisers and masks might end up being a thing of the past.

- Practice cautious bravery, not fearful thinking.
- Remind children that pandemics have come and gone; this too shall pass.
- Monitor media coverage of the Covid crisis; limit it to what they need to know to stay safe.
- Remind students that all statistics show they are not at high risk.



There are many instances of pent-up frustration, irritability, and temper issues because children are confined to their homes and they lack an outlet to channel their energy into. This can be the same for adults as well.

- Tell kids that although this is difficult, it is only temporary, and it is for their protection.
- They can find solace in social media (prescribed time).
- Encourage children to pick

- Encourage children to focus on gratitude, and not as much on the bitterness of the 'loss'. Practice any gratitude exercise. Eg: Make a list of things to be grateful for.
- Use this time for self-reflection and for picking up something productive.
- Try to figure out ways to make up (when the pandemic ends) for what they missed (if the resentment is high).

4 Fears about their family's financial situation

- Consider if their situation really is as serious as they believe or if they might be overly worried.
- For overly worried: Advise them to relax and try and trust their parents/guardians who will take care of them.
- Ask them to think of other times when they were worried about something, but everything turned out fine.
- For legitimate concerns: Reinforce that they practice being brave above all else and encourage them to trust in themselves.
- Stay focused on whatever is in their control.
- If overwhelmed with resentment, use their emotions to their advantage by channelling it into something for the long term.
- Resource: HLP Empower's Resentment Liberation course for students.

5 books to read with your teen

'BETWEEN THE LINES'
By Jodi Picoult and Samantha Van Leer
This quirky love story is written by a mother-daughter team. Combining real-life emotions with whimsy, it gives the opportunity to make comparisons with classic fairy tales and delve into childhood dreams about escaping into other worlds. "It's fun and has just enough fantasy to make it magical," says Brandi Stewart, children's book critic.

'THE GIRL IN THE MIRROR'
By Meg Kearney
The mature topics in this book will appeal to older teens, but it's also about mother-daughter bonds and family connections. It's ideal for girls with adoptive, single parent or other unconventional family backgrounds. Its verse narrative will likely be a new and exciting format.

'THE HUNGER GAMES'
By Suzanne Collins
In the ruins of a future North America, a young girl is picked to leave her impoverished district and travel to the decadent Capitol for a battle to the death in the savage Hunger Games. Read it with your daughter.

'DIVERGENT'
By Veronica Roth
This dystopian fiction story is set in a society divided into castes by virtues, where teens must choose who they are and undergo initiation. Talk with your daughter about which castes you would fall into, say critics.

'TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD'
By Harper Lee
Author Harper Lee explores racial tensions in the fictional "tired old town" of Maycomb, Ala, through the eyes of 6-year-old Scout Finch. A good book for any age, read this to your daughter and see her be curious to know about the world around her.

SPECIAL RECIPE: RED VELVET COOKIES FOR FESTIVE SEASON

INGREDIENTS

- 2 eggs
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2/3 cup dark chocolate chips
- 3 1/2 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/3 cup butter
- 2 1/2 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 tablespoon edible food colour

HOW TO MAKE

Step 1: To Make flour mixture
Take a bowl and whisk flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder and salt together.

Step 2: Beat butter and sugar
Beat butter with a hand mixer until fluffy. Add brown sugar and white sugar and beat until smooth. Beat eggs, milk, and vanilla extract into butter mixture. Add food colouring and mix until uniformly coloured.

Step 3: Mix both flour and butter mixture together. Stir flour mixture into butter mixture using an electric mixer on low speed until combined. Then add 1 cup of chocolate chips. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and place it in the refrigerator for 1 hour or overnight.

Step 4: Make balls out of the cookie dough. Preheat oven to 175 degrees C. Line baking tray with baking sheet. Make balls out of the dough and place it on the baking tray. Press them slightly to flatten. Place them at a little distance from each other as they will expand in the oven.

Step 5: Bake the cookies. Bake the cookies until edges are lightly browned for about 10 minutes. Enjoy the fresh brownies! TM

Champions League round of 16 draw

TOP 3 MATCHES TO WATCH OUT FOR

While Juventus star Cristiano Ronaldo is set for a return to Portugal, Neymar's PSG will face Lionel Messi-led FC Barcelona in the UEFA Champions League (UCL) Round of 16

1 CR7 homecoming - Juve vs Porto

After winning the battle between the two GOATs (Greatest of All-Time), Juventus' charismatic forward Cristiano Ronaldo is set for a return to Portugal in the Champions League Round of 16. Ronaldo's Juventus will face FC Porto in their ongoing quest for a third Champions League crown. Former champions FC Porto will host the Turin giants for the first leg of their Round of 16 tie at the Estadio Do Dragao on February 18.

2 Low-key blockbuster - Chelsea vs Atletico

Notorious Atletico Madrid can make Chelsea look like underdogs as far as their Round of 16 meetings with Frank Lampard and Co. on paper is concerned. Ask Bayern Munich, FC Barcelona, or Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool, they all will tell you how difficult it is to get past the Rojiblancos at the knockout stage of the Champions League. Former Chelsea striker Diego Costa will also mark his return to Stamford Bridge when the Premier League giants host the La Liga heavyweights in the last 16 phase. The first leg will be played at the Wanda Metropolitano in Madrid on February 24.

3 Messi-Neymar reunion - Barca vs PSG

At last, Neymar has made his return to Camp Nou! Not the way Barca fans wanted but Neymar is now heavily tipped to help PSG avenge the historic and embarrassing 6-1 defeat orchestrated by the Brazilian himself in 2017. Neymar bagged the Man of the Match award when Barcelona pulled off the La Remontada (The Comeback) over PSG three years ago in the same competition. PSG were shellshocked by a Neymar-inspired Barcelona side when both teams last met in Europe's biggest club competition. The Messi-Neymar reunion will also intensify transfer talks as both trailblazers of their respective teams are 'bound' to leave the club they are representing this season. For the partisans, the only good news is that the Barcelona vs PSG first leg at the Camp Nou will officially mark the return of Champions League football next year on February 17.

PSG's Neymar will play against Barcelona for the first time since leaving the club in August 2017. The 28-year-old is a close friend of Messi.

Messi has not been at his sparkling best this season, with Barcelona lacking inspiration as a collective.

Did you know?

- Ever since its inception in 1955, only 22 football clubs have managed to win the Champions League, out of which Real Madrid won the cup 13 times, making it the highest number of wins in the championship.
- In 2016/17 Real Madrid became the first team to successfully defend the UEFA Champions League trophy, with AC Milan (1989, 1990) the previous club to win consecutive European Cups. Milan (1994, 1995), Ajax (1995, 1996), Juventus (1996, 1997) and Manchester United (2008, 2009) have all returned to the UEFA Champions League final as holders only to lose.
- A record five clubs from England participated in the 2017/18 knockout phase. Including 2019/20, England has also provided four clubs on eight other occasions, as has Spain five times and Germany twice. England is the only nation to have provided four quarter-finalists in a season, 2018/19 being the third occasion after 2007/08 and 2008/09.
- Lionel Messi became the first player to score five goals in a match in Barcelona's 7-1 win against Bayer Leverkusen on 7 March 2012, a feat matched by Shakhtar Donetsk's Luiz Adriano at BATE Borisov on 21 October 2014.

SOURCE: UEFA.COM

Top five run-getters in Tests Down Under

1 RICKY PONTING
(RUNS: 1,893, MATCHES: 15)

Former Australian skipper Ricky Ponting, one of the greatest to have ever played the game, was not only an exceptional batsman but also a world class leader. With a total of 1893 runs against India at a mind-boggling average of 86.04 between 1999 and 2012 in 26 innings, Ponting sits on top on the list of highest run-scorers in the bilateral series on home soil. With 7 centuries and as many fifties, Ponting was spectacular in Australian conditions.

2 SACHIN TENDULKAR
(RUNS: 1,809, MATCHES: 20)

Batting legend Sachin Tendulkar has stamped his authority across the globe throughout his career. But it was against the Australians that he always rose to the challenge, be it at home or Down Under. He played 38 innings, scored 6 centuries and 7 half centuries on Aussie soil. His unforgettable knock of 241 not out 2004 will forever remain a big highlight.

3 VIRAT KOHLI
(RUNS: 1,274, MATCHES: 12)

Virat Kohli, who led India to a historic 2-1 series victory in the four-match Test series of Australia in 2018-19, is the only active cricketer among the top-5 on this list and sits in third place. He has scored 1,274 runs in 12 Tests between 2011 and 2019. He has played 23 innings and scored 6 centuries and 3 half centuries with a top score of 169 in 2014.

4 VVS LAXMAN
(RUNS: 1,236, MATCHES: 15)

From the period between 1999 to 2012, Laxman played a total of 15 matches Down Under, scoring 1,236 runs and he sits fourth on the list of batsmen with most runs in the series. With 4 tons and 4 fifties, he scored at an average of 44.14. Of his many unforgettable knocks is the SCG Test in 2000, when he scored his maiden century off just 114 deliveries.

5 RAHUL DRAVID
(RUNS: 1,143, MATCHES: 15)

On the fast-paced and bouncy tracks of Australia, Dravid was one of the most successful Indian batsmen, who was at his best Down Under scoring at an average of 43.96, more than his average on home soil. Though he managed to score just a single century and 6 half centuries, his 233 with 23 fours and a six in 2003 gave India a memorable win.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Q1: Since which year has Rohan Bopanna been a member of India's Davis Cup team?
a) 2002 b) 2004 c) 2006 d) 2008

Q2: Who was the head coach of the Indian cricket team which won the World Cup in 2011?
a) Greg Chappell b) Gary Kirsten c) Ravi Shastri d) Duncan Fletcher

Q3: Who is the first Indian to have won the men's singles title at the All England Open Badminton Championships, in

1980?
a) Zeeshan Ali b) Anand Amritraj c) Pullela Gopichand d) Prakash Padukone

Q4: Who is the only football player in the world to have been awarded a Super Ballon D'Or?
a) Garrincha b) Alfredo Di Stéfano c) Pele d) Ferenc Puskas

Q5: Which Indian female badminton player won a silver medal at the Olympics and gold at the BWF World Championships?
a) Jwala Gutta b) Ashwini Ponnappa

c) Saina Nehwal d) PV Sindhu

Q6: How many World Cups has footballer David Beckham played in?
a) One b) Two c) Three d) Four



David Beckham

Q7: Which player holds the record of most runs in Women's T20 World Cup?
a) Punam Raut b) Suzie Bates c) Mithali Raj d) Stafanie Taylor

Q8: Who is only the second Indian footballer, after Bhaichung Bhutia, to have played 100 international games?
a) Sunil Chhetri b) Anirudh Thapa c) Farukh Choudhary d) Manvir Singh

Q9: Which player recently equalled Roger Federer's record of most Grand Slam wins?
a) Andy Murray b) Dominic Thiem c) Novak Djokovic d) Rafael Nadal

Q10: Which of the following cricketers have played the most number of World Cup matches?

a) Muttiah Muralitharan b) Sachin Tendulkar c) Ricky Ponting d) Mahela Jayawardene

Q11: At the 2018 Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, who was the first shooter from India ever to win a gold medal?
a) Anjum Moudgil b) Manu Bhaker c) Heena Sidhu d) Apurvi Chandela

Q12: In which year was Gunnar Solskjaer confirmed as the permanent manager of Manchester United?
a) 2012 b) 2018 c) 2020 d) 2019

ANSWERS: 1 a) 2002 2 b) Gary Kirsten 3 d) Prakash Padukone 4 b) Alfredo Di Stéfano 5 d) PV Sindhu 6 c) Three 7 b) Suzie Bates 8 a) Sunil Chhetri 9 d) Rafael Nadal 10 c) Ricky Ponting 11 b) Manu Bhaker 12 d) 2019