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PICK YOUR BRAIN!

This book belongs to

From the Author's Desk

Hi,

Welcome to our all new General Knowledge Series titled '**pick YOUR brain**'.

We live in an era filled with amazing facts and fascinating developments. This book is carefully researched and aptly designed to make you read, think and learn more about the world around us.

I am sure this book will be great fun to read and will **kindle your curiosity**. Each book in the series is generationally relevant, with colourful pictures and interactive activities.

The section on **Topical Learning** covers various interesting topics, unique for each month of the year and is aimed at engaging young minds like yours.

Being smart and knowledgeable is bound to be fun. Let's read. Let's '**pick YOUR brain**'.

PickBrain

PICKBRAIN

Should you want to share your views about the book or even comment on something, please mail me personally at pickbrain@greycaps.com.



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CENTRE FOLD

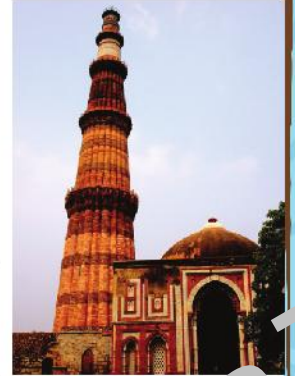
A special pull out game to improve observation and memory skills. It also enhances general knowledge.

World Heritage Sites

Here are 8 World Heritage Sites from across India.
Find out their names.



Along the River Yamuna is this tomb of a Mughal Emperor.



It is the tallest minaret in India.



These shore temples built by the Pallavas have fascinating legends.



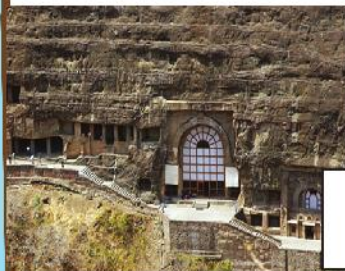
The ruins of the former capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, they get their name from the River Pampa.



This 17th century fort complex gets its name from the red sandstone used extensively to build it.



Caves treasured by splendid islands on the Arabian Sea.



These are 30 amazing, rock-cut cave monuments, which date back to the 2nd century BC.

These Black Pagodas were built from oxidised sandstone.



Who does What?

In the world of Science and Medicine, there are many areas of specialisation. Match the two columns to learn who does what!

PATHOLOGIST	<input type="checkbox"/> This person deals with the disorders of the heart.
OPHTHALMOLOGIST	<input type="checkbox"/> Deals with the gastrointestinal tract and the digestive system.
DERMATOLOGIST	<input type="checkbox"/> Deals with the anatomy and physiology of the eye.
NEPHROLOGIST	<input type="checkbox"/> Deals with the care of infants, children and adolescents.
CARDIOLOGIST	<input type="checkbox"/> This person studies the branch of medicine that deals with disorders of the nervous system.
RHEUMATOLOGIST	<input type="checkbox"/> This person studies the functioning of the kidney.
HISTOLOGIST	<input type="checkbox"/> Deals with the study of disease, its causes, mechanisms and effects on the organisms.
GASTROENTEROLOGIST	<input type="checkbox"/> This person uses imaging to diagnose and treat diseases found within the human body.
PULMONOLOGIST	<input type="checkbox"/> This person studies the microscopic structure of cells and tissues under a light microscope.
RADIOLOGIST	<input type="checkbox"/> Deals with the study of the skin.
NEUROLOGIST	<input type="checkbox"/> This person is someone who studies the lungs.
PAEDIATRICIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> Person who can offer diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the joints, muscles, bones and tendons.



What is déjà-vu?

It is a strange experience of being in a completely new situation or environment, but getting a strong feeling of having experienced the same thing in the past, or being able to sense what could happen next. Déjà-vu in French means 'already seen'.

Uncommon Sports

Apart from the common games played today, there are a plethora of strange, unusual sports. Let us have a look at some of them.

CHESS BOXING

Invented by Dutch artist Iepe Rubingh, chess boxing combines Chess and Boxing. With alternate rounds of these two, the first player who checkmates his opponent in chess or delivers a knock out punch, is declared the winner.



CUP STACKING

Cup stacking (also known as sports stacking) is a game of speed and skill, which involves the stacking of cups. The cups used here are specially made for the sport and players usually race against time or an opponent in a race of sports stacking.

SEPAK TAKRAW

Sepak Takraw is a volleyball game that you play with your feet. It is a sport, native to the Malay – Thai peninsula. Each team comprises of three players. During the game, the players can be seen mostly air borne, as they can touch the ball with their feet, knee, chest and head only.



BICYCLE POLO

What happens when you substitute the horses with cycles in a game of Polo? The resultant is the game of Bicycle Polo. There are many variants of Polo like Elephant Polo, Yak Polo, etc.

TOE WRESTLING

Toe wrestling is quite similar to arm wrestling. Instead of wrestling with your arm, you wrestle with your toe. The sport is gaining popularity in the U.K., where the Annual World Championship event for the sport happens.



REAL TENNIS

Real Tennis is the racquet sport from which the modern version of Lawn Tennis is derived. The rules are similar to Tennis and the sport is played in an indoor court. This sport finds mention in several Shakespeare plays, including **Henry V**, **Much Ado About Nothing** and **Pericles**, to name a few.

Harry Potter

The Harry Potter series was created and written by J. K. Rowling. The series has a total of 7 books which illustrate the life of a young boy named Harry Potter, who, one day, discovers that he is a wizard and that he has been offered to attend the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The books further go into detail to explain about Harry's past, his friends and his battle of good over evil by defeating the Dark Wizard, Lord Voldemort.



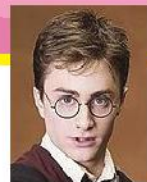
J. K. Rowling says that the idea of Harry Potter's character 'simply fell into her head' on a crowded train journey to London. She didn't even have a functioning pen to jot down the details of the character and instead, just sat and thought about the character, which became more and more real to her.

Interesting facts on the Harry Potter franchise.

- Today, the Harry Potter franchise is a series of 8 successful films, merchandise, video games, audio books and attractions.
- J. K. Rowling and Harry Potter share the same birthday, 31st July.
- The first book, 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' was renamed as 'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone', for the U. S. edition.
- 'The Wizarding World of Harry Potter' is an attraction located in 'Islands of Adventure', the theme park at Universal Parks and Resorts in Orlando, Florida, USA.
- The highest grossing Harry Potter film is 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 2'. Daniel Radcliffe played the character of Harry Potter.



The coat of arms of Hogwarts, displays the four school houses – the Lion for **Gryffindor**, the Serpent for **Slytherin**, the Eagle for **Ravenclaw** and the Badger for **Hufflepuff**. The motto translates as '**Never tickle a sleeping dragon**'.



Help Box

- Severus Snape
- Draco Malfoy
- Harry Potter
- Lord Voldemort
- Ronald Weasley
- Hermione Granger
- Minerva McGonagall
- Sirius Black
- Albus Dumbledore
- Rubeus Hagrid

Identify these characters from the Harry Potter movies.

Space Movies



'Independence Day' is a film which involves a story about an alien invasion. On which historical day does the climax occur in the movie?

The 'Autobots' and the 'Decepticons' are two rivals from which movie franchise?

The 'Alien' movie series is about a vicious and highly aggressive extra-terrestrial which uses human beings as hosts to grow in. Who directed the first movie?

In the film 'Apollo 13', who is the actor that portrays the character of Jim Lovell, the astronaut who was part of an unsuccessful Moon landing mission?



Tommy Lee Jones was one of the lead actors in the movie 'Men in Black'. Who was the other lead actor?

Which movie is based on an ancient ring-shaped device, that enables travelling to a similar device elsewhere in the universe?

Which movie franchise has been released in titles such as 'Revenge of the Sith', 'The Empire strikes back' and 'Return of the Jedi'?



If Superman is exposed to a particular substance from his home planet, he grows weak. What is this substance called?

'Jake Sully' and 'Neytiri' are two characters portrayed in the film 'Avatar'. On which planet do they meet?

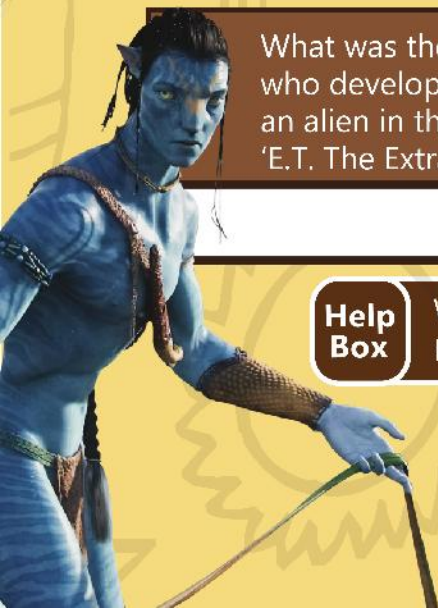
In the movie 'Armageddon', what were the names of the two space shuttles assigned on a mission to stop an asteroid from striking the Earth?

What was the name of the boy who develops a friendship with an alien in the motion picture 'E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial'?

'Live long and prosper,' is a famous dialogue from which movie?

Help Box

Will Smith | Elliot | Pandora | Tom Hanks | July 4th | Stargate | Star Trek | Kryptonite | Ridley Scott | Freedom & Independence | Transformers | Star Wars



Innovative Gadgets

Find out the names of these gadgets from the clues given.



Here, each apartment can revolve at the touch of a button and the luxury of having a different view any time of the day is enjoyed by the residents.

S _ _ T _ V _ _ _ _ _ D

This device is an alternative to walking and is used in many countries by the police and even tourists for sightseeing.



S _ _ W _ Y



This has multiple uses in the field of medicine and is considered much more safer and hygienic than older methods. It can be used to cut, burn, sculpt, join, seal, measure and identify problems.

L _ _ E R

This smart shoe can record a thousand changes in pressure and send the information to a motor via a microchip, which alters the shape of a cylinder in the heel to change its cushioning.



A _ D _ S - 1



This is a tiny, cute looking car, which runs on compressed air and is pollution free.

A I _ P O _ _

This is a gadget connected to our mobile Bluetooth devices. It scores our brushing and helps us improve our brushing techniques.



B _ _ _ T _ _ T _ _ OOT _ B _ U _ H



This type of screen contains more and tinier pixels, ensuring that the picture looks more clear and with details.

H _ _ H DE _ I _ I _ ION (_ _)

This car-sized machine landed on the surface of the planet Mars to investigate many features of the planet.



C _ RI _ SI _ Y RO _ ER



The **BMW GINA Light Visionary Model** is a concept sports car, which has a fabric-skinned, shape-shifting exterior. The fabric is stretched over a moveable frame of the car and can change its structure, based on certain requirements.



SEPTEMBER



Anant Pai, popularly known as Uncle Pai, was a renowned educationist and creator of Indian comics, namely 'Amar Chitra Katha' and 'Tinkle'. His birthday is on 17th September.

About Uncle Pai

Amar Chitra Katha, which is translated into more than 20 Indian languages, retells biographies of historical characters, traditional Indian folk tales and mythological stories.

In 1980, he launched Tinkle. He created some immortal characters such as Suppandi, Shikari Shambu, Kalia the Crow and Tantri the Mantri.

Uncle Pai had earned many awards and accolades throughout his life. He started the Partha Institute for Personality Development, aiming to mould the characters of youngsters. He also started a magazine called 'Partha' for the same purpose.

Anant Pai initially worked for the Times of India Books Division in 1961.

Why did Uncle Pai start the Amar Chitra Katha comic series?

Uncle Pai setup Amar Chitra Katha in 1967, to educate Indian children about their history, culture and mythology. Anant Pai's inspiration to create a series of easy to read books on Indian culture came from a minor incident. He watched a quiz contest, where he saw that the participants (Indian children) could answer questions on Greek Gods and Tarzan, but could not answer simple questions based on 'Ramayana' (Indian Epic).

He realised that the youngsters in India are getting alienated from their cultural heritage. That is when he decided to use the popular medium of comics to acquaint Indian children with their rich cultural heritage. The series finally began with the launch of the first title, 'Krishna'.

