

World A super typhoon slams the Philippines.



World A teen helps girls in Afghanistan.



Nation Voters get set for Election Day.

TIME FOR KIDS

EDITION
5-6



This is the actual size of a bedbug. A special microscope was used to shoot the larger image of the underside of a bedbug.

BEDBUG INVASION

Tiny bedbugs are a big problem worldwide.
What can be done about them?



Filipino villagers make their way through strong winds and heavy rain.

DENNIS M. SABANGAN—EPA

● World

Wild Weather Hits Asia

Flattened homes and scattered debris lined the roads in the northern Philippines last week. On October 18, Super Typhoon Megi crashed ashore with heavy rains and strong winds, leaving a path of destruction. A typhoon is a hurricane that occurs in the northwestern Pacific Ocean. The storm is called a super typhoon when winds exceed speeds of 150 miles per hour. Megi's fierce winds reached 162 miles per hour.

Megi was the strongest storm to hit the Southeast Asian island nation in four years. As of October 20, it had claimed at least 20 lives. Several people were injured by collapsed rooftops, falling trees and shattered glass, officials said. More than 10,000 residents took shelter in schools, town halls and churches.

The storm damaged thousands of homes and flooded rice paddies and cornfields.

Then, Megi headed toward China. The storm lost some steam as it passed through the Philippines. But it was expected to regain strength and make landfall in southern China by October 23.

Chinese Officials evacuated 140,000 people from coastal areas. In the southern island province of Hainan, residents rushed to stock up on water and food, said China's official news agency.



Power Words

hub *noun*: a center of activity
migrate *verb*: to travel from one region or habitat to another

● World
A Swiss Breakthrough

Swiss workers drilled through the last portion of the world's longest tunnel on October 15. The Gotthard Base Tunnel is 35.4 miles long. It edged out Japan's Seikan Tunnel, which is 33.5 miles long, for the world record. The Swiss train tunnel will connect Zurich, Switzerland, and Milan, Italy—**hubs** of Europe's high-speed rail network—to cut down on truck traffic through the Alps. The tunnel will protect the area from pollution. It is expected to be completed in 2017.



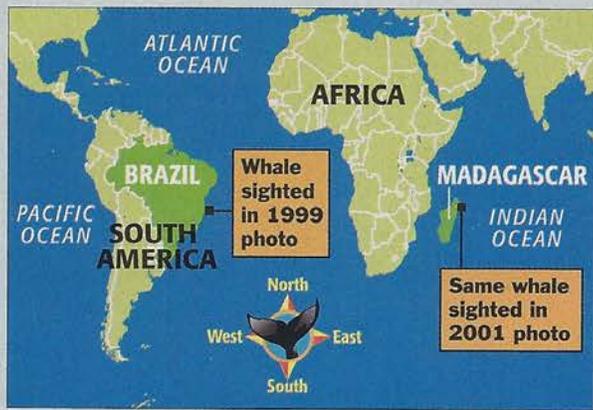
Halloween Costumes

Are you dressing up for Halloween? Here are this year's most popular costumes for kids, according to a survey of shoppers.

1. True or false: More than one in 10 kids will dress up as a princess.
2. What do you think makes these costumes so popular?

SOURCE: NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION

FROM LEFT: BUYCOSTUMES.COM (4); COSTUMECRAZE.COM



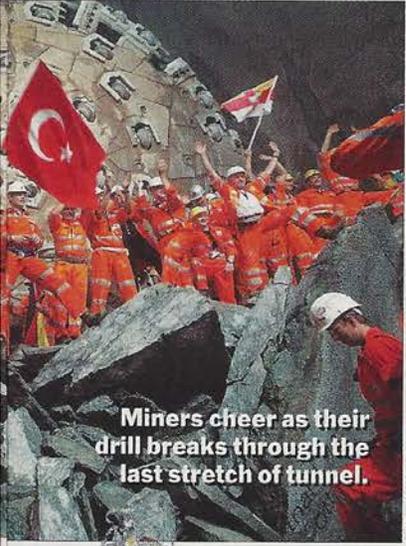
● **Science**
A Whale of a Trip!

Humpback whales migrate south to mate and north to feed. So why did a female humpback swim thousands of miles east, from Brazil to the island of Madagascar?

“It may be that this is an extreme example of exploration,” says biologist Peter Stevick. “Or it could be that the animal got lost.”

Stevick calculated that the whale traveled about 6,200 miles. Researchers believe it is the longest single trip ever taken by a mammal—humans excluded.

Think → How will a train tunnel help Switzerland? Name two benefits.



Miners cheer as their drill breaks through the last stretch of tunnel.

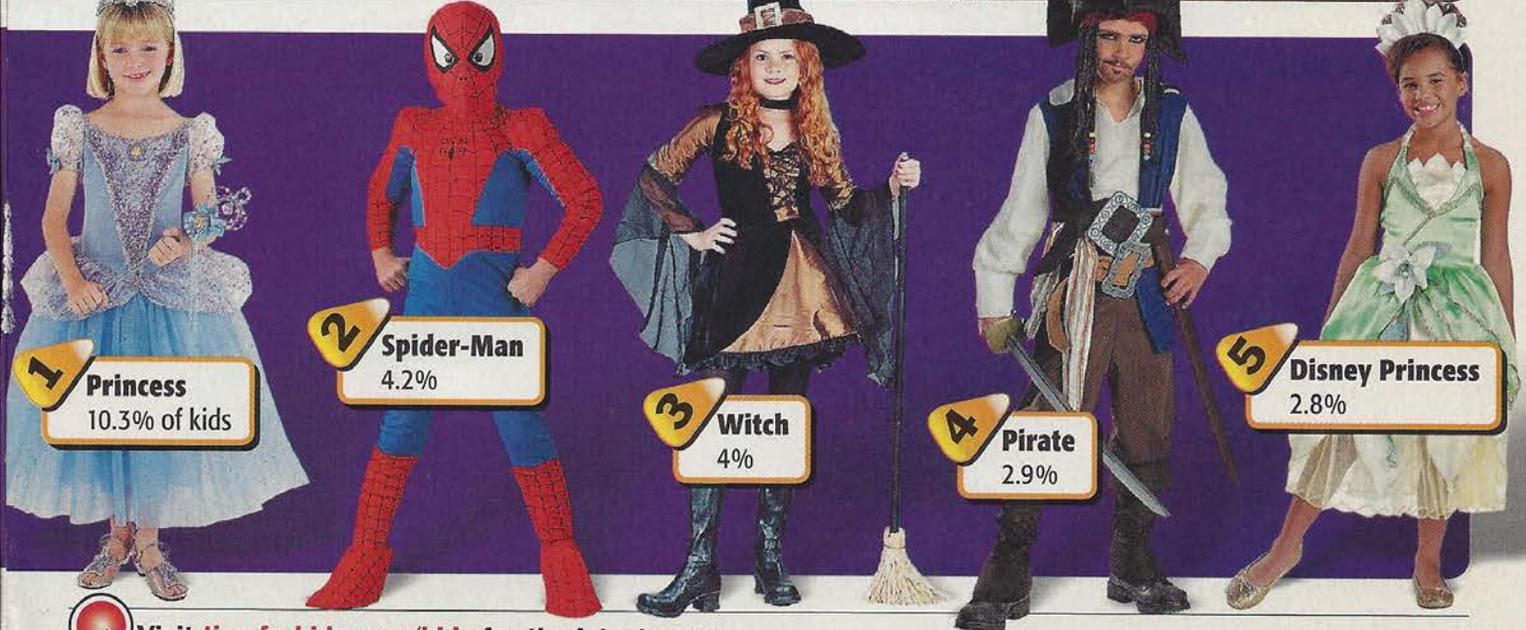
MARTIN RUETSCHI—EPA

Snapshot

Spider silk is nature’s strongest fabric. It is stronger than steel and more elastic than a rubber band! A new species of bark spider found in Madagascar, an island in the Indian Ocean, produced this supersize web.



MATJAZ KUNTNER/BLACK SHEEP





Pesky Pests



PETER THOMPSON—THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX

Beagles can smell bedbugs. Here, a

Bedbugs were almost wiped out in the 1950s. But now they're back. Experts are looking for ways to combat the pesky critters.

"Sleep tight. Don't let the bedbugs bite!" It's a silly thing to say. But it's a real problem. Bedbugs hide in headboards, mattress seams and furniture until it's time to wander out in search of a meal—a drop of human blood. In the 1950s, a chemical called DDT almost wiped out bedbugs. But the tiny bloodsuckers have an amazing ability to survive. A few critters hid, ate and multiplied. Now they're back! And DDT is no longer used, because it's bad for the environment.

The common bedbug, *Cimex lectularius*, has been found "in all 50 states and around the world," says Jeff White, star of the Internet series *Bed Bug TV*.

A Really Persistent Pest

In a recent survey of 1,000 pest-control companies across the country, 95% said they have seen bedbug problems in the past year. New York City is being hit the hardest. Bedbugs have been found in the Empire State Building, at the United Nations, in office buildings and in stores. Last week, bedbugs were found in a dressing room in Lincoln Center, the home of the New York City Ballet and Opera.

Bedbug bites produce no reaction in one

Very high heat kills bedbugs. Here, an exterminator steams a mattress at a hotel in San Francisco, California.

out of three humans. People who do react often mistake their itchy, red welts for mosquito bites. The good news is that these little devils don't fly or transmit diseases. But they can do very real emotional damage. "They're creepy," White explains.

Can We Beat Bedbugs?

On September 21, more than 350 people gathered in Chicago, Illinois, for the first-ever bedbug summit. One scientist showed how the bugs hop from continent to continent on clothing, suitcases, backpacks and purses.

Experts explained that the best solution is to avoid bringing bedbugs into the home. People should be careful in public places where surfaces meet backpacks and bags. Travelers should inspect hotel



NOAH BENDER—THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX



dog named Scooby searches a home in Wheeling, Illinois.

beds and headboards for signs of bedbugs.

Battling bedbugs works best if they are found early. Once the bugs have been discovered, the best offense is to call a pest-control professional. Amanda Shaw, of Bloomington, Indiana, says she fought the bugs for two years before she called in the pros.

Experts may use a portable oven to destroy the bugs, or a powerful vacuum to suck them up. It can cost more than \$1,000 to treat a single-family home.

White hopes to launch a charity this year to offer bedbug control to needy families. He says bedbug scientists must find a cheaper way to conquer the insects.

“In the next 10 years, a silver bullet will be found,” says bedbug expert Richard Cooper. “Somebody made Velcro, and it changed the world. Somebody will figure out how to deal with bedbugs, and after that, they will be just another pest.”

—By David Von Drehle for TIME, with reporting by Dawn Reiss/Chicago

A close-up view shows a flat, oval-shaped adult bedbug. It is actually the size of an apple seed.

Think

Can bedbugs and stinkbugs cause financial damages? Explain how.

This Bug Stinks!

Another insect is causing problems across the country: the stinkbug. It doesn't bite. But it does, well, *stink*. Like skunks, stinkbugs let off a smell when they get hurt or scared. If you see a stinkbug in your home, spare your sense of smell! Either carefully take it outside, flush it down the toilet, drown it in a jar of soapy water or vacuum it up.

Although they're harmless to humans, stinkbugs are making trouble for farmers. Swarms of them are feasting on—and ruining—fruit and vegetable crops in Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and other states.



STEVE RUARK—THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDFUX



INGO ARNDT—MINDEN PICTURES

Power Words

silver bullet *idiom or expression:* a simple solution for a big problem

summit *noun:* a big meeting or conference

Watch a video about a bug scientist at timeforkids.com/bugs.

School for Girls

Many girls in Afghanistan don't have the opportunity to attend school. A 13-year-old girl from Canada is working to change that.

Alaina Podmorow, 13, admits that she once took her education for granted. She often grumbled about getting up at 6 a.m. Now she feels "quite lucky" that she actually has a school to attend.

What changed? When she was 9 years old, Alaina heard a speech by journalist Sally Armstrong. In the speech, Armstrong talked about how many girls in Afghanistan can't go to school (see "A Girl's Life"). "The worst thing you can do is nothing," Armstrong said.

Alaina decided then and there to take action. She created a group, called Little Women for Little Women in Afghanistan, to support education in the war-torn country.

Making a Difference

Little Women began with 20 members. Today, there are many chapters in elementary and middle schools around Canada, and one in the U.S. The girls organize fundraisers, including bake sales and car washes. The money they raise pays for teacher salaries, teacher training and library books.

Power Words

humanitarian *adjective*: helping to improve the health and happiness of other people

symbolize *verb*: to stand for



Alaina Podmorow helps girls in Afghanistan go to school.

Alaina travels around Canada and the U.S. speaking about her humanitarian work. She tells people that education for everyone is the path to peace in Afghanistan.

Little Women's symbol, which Alaina designed, is a flower in the colors of the Afghan flag: red, green and black. "It looks like a bird being set free," Alaina told TFK. "It symbolizes the girls in Afghanistan, their freedom and their ability to grow."

—By Ariella Pultman

A Girl's Life

In 1996, a group called the Taliban (*tah-lih-bahn*) took control of Afghanistan. Its leaders made harsh rules that restricted freedoms. Girls were not allowed to go to school. In 2001, the United States and its allies removed the Taliban.

Today, Afghanistan has a new government. But the Taliban still operates in some areas. Girls' schools have been burned down. Many families refuse to allow their daughters to be seen by unrelated men, which is a problem because there are few female teachers.

A girl's life is hard.

In public, many women cover their faces.



Think Why should both girls and boys be educated?

These girls go to a school that Little Women helps.



Election 2010

The race is on! In just a few days, Americans will vote for the lawmakers who will help guide the nation.

Election Day, November 2, is a big day for American voters. They won't be electing a new President. That happened two years ago. In the **midterm** elections, citizens will be choosing other officials who will make laws and help run the country.

Voters will elect 37 governors, 37 senators (see "Races to Watch") and all 435 members of the House of Representatives. Together, the House and Senate make up Congress.

Who Controls Congress?

Last week, President Barack Obama hit the campaign trail. His goal: to energize Democratic voters.

In Ohio, Obama told voters that he knew it was "a tough time for Democrats." But he urged them to "knock on doors, make phone calls and get organized" to help Democrats return to Congress.

The Republican and Democratic parties are the two main political groups in the nation. Obama wants to make sure that his party remains in control of Congress. In order to

have a majority in the House, Republicans need to win 40 seats. In the Senate, they currently hold 42 of the 100 seats.

Ohio Congressman John Boehner is the leader of Republicans in the House. He told voters that his party has plans to "create

jobs, cut spending and put power in the hands of the people."

Voting has already started in some states. In Oregon and Washington State, the voting is done by mail. The **ballots** have been mailed. Now it's all up to the voters.

—By Nellie Gonzalez Cutler

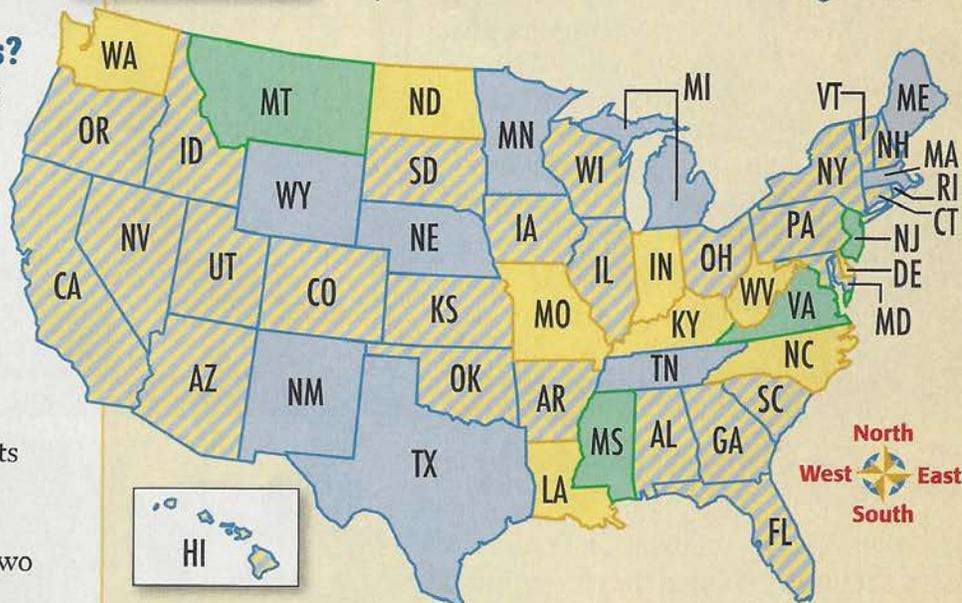
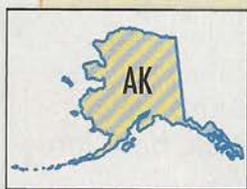
Races to Watch

Every two years, Americans vote for the 435 members of the House of Representatives. This year, voters will also choose senators in 36 states.* In 37 states, voters will elect a governor, the state's leader. Whom will citizens be electing in your state?

★ Districts in each state send **representatives** to the House.

★ Each state has two **senators**.

★ Each state has one **governor**.



KEY	
	= Governor
	= Senator*
	= Both
	= Neither

Map It Out! This map shows the states that have Senate and governor's races. Use the map and key to answer the questions.

1. How many states do not have a Senate or governor's race?
2. True or false: Voters in Kentucky (KY) will be choosing a governor in 2010.

Power Words

ballot *noun*: a vote; the paper used to record a vote

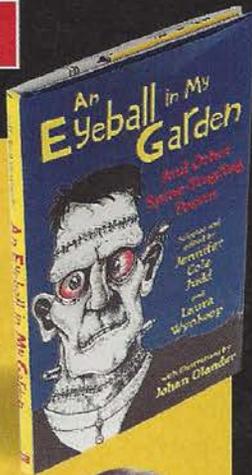
midterm *adjective*: the time half-way through a President's term

*NEW YORKERS WILL BE VOTING FOR TWO SENATORS.

ALASKA AND HAWAII ARE NOT DRAWN TO SCALE.

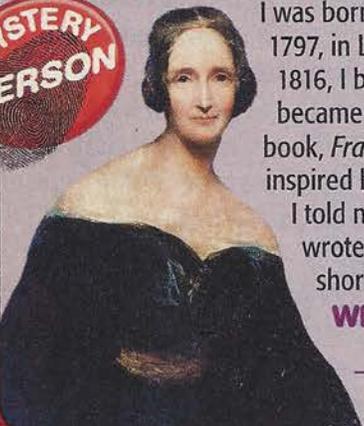
Spooky Poetry

Just in time for Halloween comes the spine-tingling poetry collection *An Eyeball in My Garden*. Poet **JENNIFER COLE JUDD** helped select the poems, in which spiders, mummies and boogymen abound. "I was born on Halloween," Judd told TFK. "Maybe that's why I enjoy writing about spooky subjects."



REBECCA CARTER

MYSTERY PERSON



I was born on August 30, 1797, in London, England. In 1816, I began to write what became my most famous book, *Frankenstein*. It was inspired by the ghost stories I told my husband. I also wrote poetry, essays and short stories.

Who am I?

October 22 Mystery Person: Jacques Cousteau

Halloween Helper

Halloween is a scary time for dentists. The sticky, sugary sweets kids gobble up can mean cavities later on. This year, though, dentists *want* their patients to go trick-or-treating. But instead of candy, kids will be collecting coins for America's Toothfairy.

America's Toothfairy is a national organization that supports important dental programs for kids in need. The money raised on Halloween will help fund the group's services.

North Carolina fifth grader **EMMA PARSON**, 10, is one of thousands of kids who will trick-or-treat for America's Toothfairy.

"I have a good dentist, but a lot of kids don't," she told TFK. "Having healthy teeth is important."



COURTESY: NCOHF

King of the Patch

Now *that's* a great pumpkin! On October 9, **CHRIS STEVENS** squashed the competition at the Stillwater Harvest Fest and Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off, in Stillwater, Minnesota. The Wisconsin man's world-record-breaking pumpkin tipped the scales at more than 1,810 pounds. What's the secret to growing a giant gourd? "Sunshine, rain, cow manure, fish [fertilizer] and seaweed," he says.



JEAN PIERRE / GONZALEZ PRESS

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