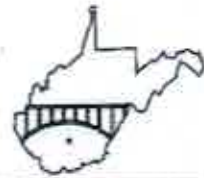


# Fayette County Board of Education

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## Reimagining Time

This school year for the first five snow days, students will not have to make up these first five snow days. They will complete snow packets at home and turn them in within the first two days upon returning to school. Snow packets will be posted on the internet and hard copies will be available from the school upon request. Teachers will be available at the school on these reimagined time days to answer any questions about the curriculum provided in the snow packet. Snow packets will become available during the dates listed below.

First two snow packets- October 16-20

Snow packet three and four- November 6-10

Snow packet five - November 13-17

*Fayette County Schools Administration*

Sixth  
Grade  
Day 5

# Baltimore seventh-grader is national youth chess champ, credits barbershop

By The Baltimore Sun, adapted by Newsela staff on 08.07.17

Word Count 810

Level 790L



Cahree Myrick, 12, (right) plays chess after school with Sundiata Osagie, owner of the Reflection Eternal Barbershop. Myrick is a seventh-grader at Roland Park Middle School. He won the individual championship in his division at the U.S. Super Nationals Chess Tournament in Nashville in May. Photo from: Amy Davis/Baltimore Sun/TNS.

In the back of a Baltimore barbershop, a man named Sundiata Osagie sits locked in a chess battle — with a 12-year-old boy.

Osagie is the owner of the Reflection Eternal Barbershop in Baltimore, Maryland. He is a skilled chess player, and he easily beats most of his customers. But this is no ordinary opponent. This is Cahree Myrick, the first national youth chess champion in the history of Baltimore.

"This is the chess champion of the country right here," Osagie brags to customers.

Cahree learned to play chess in a formal chess league, but his mother, Yuana Spears, often brings him to the barbershop to play. Here, with buzz cuts and jazz music in the background, Cahree tests his skills.

### A Perfect Score

In May, Cahree competed at the United States Federation SuperNationals. He won seven games and lost none. A perfect score! Osagie and others in Baltimore have been bragging about Cahree's achievements ever since.

Cahree plays in the Baltimore Kids Chess League. The group described his victory as "perfection." Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh honored Cahree and his teammates at City Hall. The Baltimore Orioles even invited him to visit their stadium.

"The City of Baltimore wants you to know we are really proud of your accomplishments," Pugh told Cahree. Then she hung a medal around his neck.

In the tournament, Cahree played better than 249 players from a total of 28 states. "This is a big deal," said Steve Alpern, the commissioner of the chess league. "To win it with a perfect score is pretty incredible."



The Baltimore Kids Chess League is open only to the city's public school students. The program has produced three national championship teams, but Cahree is the first player to win an individual title.

"I don't brag about it as much as my relatives will," Cahree says. "I only talk about it if someone asks about it."

### **Practical Benefits From Playing Chess**

Lesla Horne coaches the chess team at Roland Park Middle School, where Cahree goes to school. She said the students on her team immediately benefit from practicing chess.

"They have to learn a lot of focus," she said. "It teaches them to plan ahead and learn from their mistakes."

Horne added, "I'd rather them learn from mistakes on the chess board than on the streets."

Going into the tournament, Cahree said he didn't believe he would win the championship. Then he started to win, and win and win.

"Everyone has a chance to win against whoever they play," Cahree says. "I knew if I stick to my plan and tried my best that I would be fine."

### **The Key To Winning Is Never Giving Up**

His mother, Spears, traveled to Tennessee with the team for the competition. During the tournament, she stood outside the room where her son was playing.

"It was nerve-racking. You're waiting. You're anticipating," she said. "It was very intense. He did not show he was stressed at all. He was very confident about the whole game."

Cahree's final game was against an opponent from Texas. As the game went on, his confidence grew.

"It was my toughest game yet," he said. "The key to winning is not giving up. Keep thinking and pushing until you get there, and that's what I did."

Cahree started playing chess in first grade. Now in seventh grade, he splits his time between his twin passions: chess and track.

He says he plays about five games of chess per day.

"Whenever I have time alone, I play as many games as I can," he said.

Spears said she saw how hard he was working going into the tournament.

"On the weekends he put in a full day's work, easily eight hours a day, getting ready for this tournament," his mother said. "He showed the dedication. He showed the drive. He showed the hunger for getting ready for this tournament, and he was successful."



After the competition, the men at the barbershop warmly welcomed Cahree. They posed for pictures with him and boasted of his victory.

"The culture of chess in Baltimore is bigger than people know," Osagie said. "It flies under the radar."

"Cahree's victory and his performance in the national tournament prove that guys have been putting in work, 24-7," he added.

### **You're Never Out Of It**

Back at the shop, Osagie's game against Cahree continues, and it looks like Osagie is closing in on victory. The room grows quiet, but the middle-schooler stays calm, strikes back and tips the game in his favor.

"He made a good move. I gotta give him credit," Osagie says. "In chess you can't give up. You're never out of it."

## Quiz

- 1 Which of the following are two MAIN ideas from the article?
- (A) Cahree won the championship by practicing often; Cahree was not confident he could win at first.
  - (B) Many people in Baltimore are proud of Cahree; Cahree got to visit the Baltimore Orioles' stadium.
  - (C) Cahree worked hard to win the championship; many people are proud that Cahree won.
  - (D) Cahree likes to play chess and run track; Cahree had to work hard to win the championship.
- 2 Which sentence from the article would be MOST important to include in a summary of the article?
- (A) In the back of a Baltimore barbershop, a man named Sundiata Osagie sits locked in a chess battle — with a 12-year-old boy.
  - (B) Cahree learned to play chess in a formal chess league, but his mother, Yuana Spears, often brings him to the barbershop to play.
  - (C) Lesa Horne coaches the chess team at Roland Park Middle School, where Cahree goes to school.
  - (D) Back at the shop, Osagie's game against Cahree continues, and it looks like Osagie is closing in on victory.
- 3 What effect did Cahree's win have on his family and friends?
- (A) They were worried that he would lose the tournament.
  - (B) They were proud of him and bragged about his success.
  - (C) They were happy that he wouldn't need to practice as much.
  - (D) They were surprised that he did so well in the championship.
- 4 Why did Cahree's mother feel nervous during the tournament?
- (A) She didn't know what was happening in the room where he was playing.
  - (B) She didn't want him to lose the championship.
  - (C) She knew many people were counting on him to win.
  - (D) She had traveled all the way to Tennessee to watch him play.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Use the ask and answer questions strategy to help you understand what you read.

## Life in the Desert

13 What do you think of when you hear the word *desert*? You probably  
26 picture an environment that is hot and dry and that cannot support much  
39 life. Although some desert areas are cold, most are indeed dry and hot.

53 A desert is an area that receives less than ten inches of rainfall each  
65 year. Even though the conditions are harsh, deserts are habitats that are  
78 rich in animal life. Survival for desert animals depends on their ability to  
adapt, or change.

### 81 Structural Adaptation

83 One kind of adaptation is structural. This means the animal's body has  
95 changed so that it can survive in the climate. The gundi is an example of  
110 this adaptation. A gundi is a small rodent found in the deserts of Africa.  
124 Even in the dry desert, gundis get all the moisture they need from their  
138 diet of plants. Their fur keeps them cool during the day and warm at night.

### 153 Behavioral Adaptation

155 Another type of adaptation is behavioral. Desert animals act in ways  
166 that help them survive. Since the desert heat is so extreme during the day,  
180 many animals are nocturnal. They rest under rocks or in other cool places  
193 in the daylight hours, and come out at night to hunt for food.

### 206 Thriving in the Desert

210 Most desert animals adapt in a combination of ways. Dromedary  
220 camels live in the deserts of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. They raise  
233 their body temperature to reduce perspiration, and they can live for days  
245 without eating or drinking. Dromedaries have a hump on their backs  
256 that is made up of fat. They use the fat for energy when food is scarce.  
272 Dromedaries sweat very little, which saves water. When they do drink,  
283 they can take in as many as thirty gallons of water in about ten minutes!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The fennec fox is a tiny fox that weighs only about three pounds as an adult. Like dromedaries, fennec foxes live in the African and Arabian deserts. Their sand-colored fur allows them to blend in with their surroundings to avoid enemies. The light color also keeps them cool during the day. Fennec foxes even have fur on the bottoms of their feet. This fur provides insulation and keeps their feet cool as they run across the hot desert sand. Their bodies lose water very slowly, so they can go for days without drinking. Fennec foxes rest in burrows during the day. At night they hunt for eggs, insects, and other small animals.



Fennec foxes live in the harsh desert climates of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

The Sonoran Desert of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico is home to a large lizard called a Gila monster. Gila monsters store fat in their abdomens and tails, which lets them live for months without eating. They come out only at night during the summer. In winter the lizards hibernate. During this period of inactivity, they conserve food and energy.

Many different types of snakes live in the desert. Because they are cold-blooded, snakes' body temperatures change with that of their surroundings. To avoid becoming too hot, they find shelter under bushes or rocks. Some rattlesnakes, for example, are nocturnal and bury themselves in the sand during the day. In the hottest part of the year, many snakes have a period of reduced activity similar to the winter hibernation of some other animals.

Meerkats are members of the mongoose family that live in Africa. They hunt early in the day to avoid the heat. They live in mobs, or groups, of as many as thirty members. The mob helps keep its members safe. Predators, such as eagles or jackals, are often frightened away by a meerkat mob.

Even though deserts are one of Earth's harshest environments, the animals that live in them have bodies that are adapted for extreme conditions. These adaptations help the animals avoid heat, store food and water, and protect themselves from enemies.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.**

1. What are the two types of adaptation that animals make in response to desert habitats? Explain each type.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What evidence in the fifth paragraph explains how the dromedary camel's adaptations help it survive in the desert?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why is it important for desert animals to be able to survive for long periods of time without eating or drinking water? Use evidence in the passage to support your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to rate and accuracy. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.**

	Words Read	-	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		-		=	
Second Read		-		=	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Use what you know about desert animals to write a paragraph with context clues. First write a definition for each of the words below. Then write a paragraph that includes the words. Be sure to include context clues that describe each word's meaning. When you finish writing, circle each word and underline its context clues.

1. nocturnal: \_\_\_\_\_

2. behavioral: \_\_\_\_\_

3. hibernate: \_\_\_\_\_

4. cold-blooded: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Desert Plant Adaptations

Plants adapt to living in the Mojave Desert by conserving water. Spines or thorns direct cooling air flow and reflect hot sunlight. Waxy leaves hold moisture in and reduce transpiration, or water loss. Some plants have shallow roots that help plants take advantage of every bit of rainfall. Other plants have very long roots that allow them to get water from deep in the ground. Desert flowers bloom only when water is available. These adaptations enable a variety of plants to survive in the desert.



Answer the questions about the text.

1. What genre of text is this? How do you know?

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2. Based on the genre, what is the purpose of this text?

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3. Name the text feature and tell why you think the author included it.

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4. How would you change the text feature to be more effective?

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## Applications

For Exercises 1–8, list the common multiples from 1 to 100 for each pair of numbers. Then find the least common multiple for each pair.

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. 8 and 12  | 2. 3 and 15  |
| 3. 7 and 11  | 4. 9 and 10  |
| 5. 24 and 36 | 6. 20 and 25 |
| 7. 42 and 14 | 8. 30 and 12 |
9. a. Find three pairs of numbers for which the least common multiple equals the product of the two numbers.  
b. Look at the pairs of numbers you found in part (a). What is true about all three pairs of numbers?

For Exercises 10–13, find two pairs of numbers with the given number as their least common multiple.

- |        |         |
|--------|---------|
| 10. 10 | 11. 36  |
| 12. 60 | 13. 105 |
14. a. A restaurant is open 24 hours a day. The manager wants to divide the day into work shifts of equal length. The shifts should not overlap, and all shift durations should be a whole number of hours. Describe the different ways this can be done.  
b. The restaurant's two neon signs are turned on at the same time. Both signs blink as they are turned on. One sign blinks every 9 seconds. The other sign blinks every 15 seconds. In how many seconds will they blink together again?



15. The school cafeteria serves pizza every sixth day and applesauce every eighth day. If pizza and applesauce are both on today's menu, in how many days will they be together on the menu again?

For Exercises 16–23, list the common factors for each pair of numbers. Then find the greatest common factor for each pair.

16. 18 and 30  
 17. 9 and 25  
 18. 60 and 45  
 19. 23 and 29  
 20. 49 and 14  
 21. 140 and 25  
 22. 142 and 148  
 23. 84 and 105

24. **Multiple Choice** For which pair is the greatest common factor 8?

- A. 2 and 4  
 B. 7 and 15  
 C. 32 and 64  
 D. 56 and 72

25. **Multiple Choice** For which pair is the greatest common factor 15?

- F. 60 and 75  
 G. 30 and 60  
 H. 10 and 25  
 J. 3 and 5

26. **Multiple Choice** For which pair is the greatest common factor 1?

- A. 5 and 10  
 B. 8 and 4  
 C. 8 and 10  
 D. 8 and 15

27. Mr. Mendoza and his 23 students are planning to have hot dogs at their class picnic. Mr. Mendoza can buy hot dogs in packages of 12 and hot dog buns in packages of 8.

- a. Mr. Mendoza plans that everyone will get the same number of hot dogs and buns and there will be no leftovers. What are the least number of hot dog packages and the least number of bun packages Mr. Mendoza can buy? How many hot dogs and buns will each person get?
- b. Suppose that the class invites the principal, the secretary, the bus driver, and three parents to help supervise. How many packages of hot dogs and buns will Mr. Mendoza need to buy so that everyone will get the same number of hot dogs and buns with no leftovers? How many hot dogs and buns will each person get?

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