



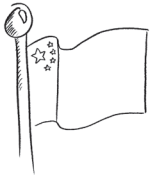
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FUN
&
PUZZLES

DONNA'S JOURNAL



Fun Facts about China, Mexico, and India



CHINA

Capital: Beijing

Money: yuan

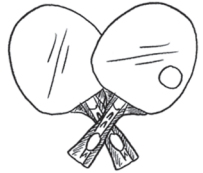
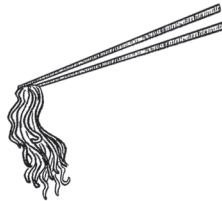
National animal: giant panda



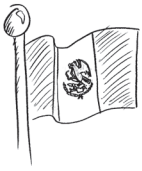
Popular sport: table tennis (Ping-Pong). Since table tennis became an Olympic sport in 1988, China's players have won fifty-three medals—more than any other country.



A famous historical site: The Great Wall of China. It's the largest human-made structure on Earth. The wall stretches 5,500 miles (8,850 kilometers) and took thousands of workers over two thousand years to build.



Amazing inventions:
ice cream, tea, noodles,
compass



MEXICO

Capital: Mexico City

Money: peso

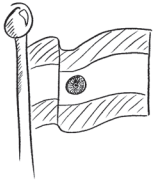
National animal: jaguar



Popular sport: fútbol (soccer).
The Mexican national team has played in sixteen World Cup tournaments, ranking them in the top five for appearances.

A famous historical site: The ancient Mayan city of Chichén Itzá. The city's huge pyramid, called El Castillo, has 365 steps—one for every day of the year.

Amazing inventions: chocolate, popcorn, chewing gum, color TV, tortilla machine



INDIA

Capital: New Delhi

Money: rupee

National animal: Bengal tiger



Popular sport: cricket. It's similar to baseball, but it's played with a flat bat and the players run back and forth instead of around the bases.

Amazing inventions: shampoo, yoga, chess, buttons

A famous historical site: Taj Mahal. This majestic white marble building is both a palace and a tomb. It was built by twenty thousand workers and a thousand elephants.

Chevon's Writing Challenge



My favorite kinds of stories are packed with superpowers and magic. But sometimes traditional folktales are a bit old-fashioned for me. That's when I get out a piece of paper, change it up, and add my own spark.

Do you want to write your own remixed folktale? It's fun!
Here's how:

- 1. Pick a classic folktale.** You can find many folktales in your library or local bookstore, or online.
- 2. Change the setting.** The setting is where and when a story happens. For example, if the original folktale was set in a cottage in the woods, maybe you move the story to an amusement park or the town pool. Or if it takes place in the winter, you change it to the summer.
- 3. Change the characters.** Maybe the old woman in the

story is written as a spunky teenager. Or maybe the shopkeeper is now an astronaut or skateboarder.

4. Change the point of view, or from whose perspective the story is told. If the folktale was originally from the fisherman's point of view, maybe try writing it from the whale's point of view (or the class goldfish's point of view).

5. Change the problem. The big problem that the characters have (and have to solve) is what makes a story interesting. Try adding a fun new twist to the problem or swap it for a different, unexpected problem.

6. Change the ending. Maybe everyone doesn't live happily ever after....

It's your turn now. Give it a try!

Ruben's Food Scramble



Last week, Mom, Grandpa, and I visited a street fair with food trucks serving delicious meals from around the globe. I was starving! I decided to try three foods from the Chinese food truck, three from the Mexican food truck, and three from the Indian food truck.

But when I went to order, the words on the menus were all mixed up. Can you help me unscramble them? Use the word bank, but be warned: there are extra foods in the word bank (hey, I couldn't eat everything they had!).

My Chinese Food Order

FOTU _ _ _ _

TWONON _ _ _ _ _

GRINSP LOLR _ _ _ _ _

My Mexican Food Order

LOTIRALT _ _ _ _ _

ROTUBIR _ _ _ _ _

COTA _ _ _ _

My Indian Food Order

MASOSA _____

NAMOG SASIL _____

OOLA BIGO _____

WORD BANK

ALOO GOBI

MANGO LASSI

SPRING ROLL

BIRYANI

NAAN

TACO

BURRITO

PEKING DUCK

TOFU

ENCHILADA

QUESADILLA

TORTILLA

KUNG PAO CHICKEN

SAMSOA

WONTON

Side Dish Bonus Question: At each truck, I got a side of rice—fried rice with my Chinese food, arroz rojo with my Mexican food, and basmati rice with my Indian food. Which of these three countries eats the most rice per year of any country in the world?

China

Mexico

India

The Curtis Challenge



I'm back with another ultimate challenge!
See how many smaller words you can
make from the letters in **FOLKTALE**.

Here are a few to get you started: *toe, lake, float*

Write your answers on a piece of paper or type them on
a computer. All words must be 3 or more letters. Can you
score **20 points**?

Here's how to keep score

Each 3-letter word = 1 point

Each 4-letter word = 2 points

Each 5-letter word = 3 points

Each word with 6 letters or more = 4 points

ANSWERS

Ruben's Food Scramble: TOFU, WONTON, SPRING
ROLL, TORTILLA, BURRITO, TACO, SAMOSA,
MANGO LASSI, ALOO GOBI

China (India is second)