

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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RIDDLES: ANCIENT FUN

What is a riddle? Simply put, riddles are something challenging to understand. Sometimes they are a question with a surprising answer. Riddles make you think. And when you find the answer to the riddle, you just might feel a little smarter, or start laughing!

World's Oldest Riddle

Riddles have been entertaining and challenging people for at least 4,000 years! The oldest riddle that was written down is from Ancient Sumeria, where Iraq is today. It was written about 1900 B.C.

Ancient Sumeria is also the civilization with the oldest surviving writing system that we know of!

Here's the world's oldest riddle. Can you figure out the answer?

"There is a house. One enters it blind and comes out seeing. What is it?"

ANSWER: A schoolhouse! Clever, right? And a reminder of the importance of school!



The Riddle of the Sphinx

Throughout history, heroes in tales must solve riddles to save others or travel to certain places. In one Greek myth, the hero must solve the riddle posed by the Sphinx guarding the city of Thebes.

Answer it right... or else!

The Sphinx was a mythical creature with the body of a lion, the head of a human and the wings of an eagle. And as the guardian of Thebes, it ate the people who could not answer this tricky riddle!

Can YOU answer it?

"What animal walks on four legs in the morning, two legs at noon, and three legs at night?"

Think about it. Then, circle every other letter to reveal the answer.

A B H C U Y M J A S N
V B W E L I K N C G B

A H _____

How can this be? Hold this page up to a mirror for the explanation.

26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

No, the OTHER Sphinx!

Sphinxes appear in the art and legends of both ancient Greece and ancient Egypt. Ancient Egyptians made many large statues of sphinxes. The largest and most famous Egyptian sphinx was carved near the the pyramids of Giza in about 2500 B.C. Do the math to see how big it is.



_____ feet long
99 + 99 + 42

_____ feet high
22 + 22 + 22

King Odin's Riddles

Odin is the Norse god of wisdom, poetry, death, and magic. Odin is also the king of the mythological land of Asgard. (You may remember from comic books or movies that his sons were Thor and Loki.)

In ancient Viking myths, riddles are used to test intelligence and wisdom. A Norse myth about three mythological characters, King Odin, King Heidrek and Gestumblindi is a tale full of riddles.

To save Gestumblindi's life, Odin asks King Heidrek 35 riddles. To do this, Odin poses as Gestumblindi. King Heidrek gets them all correct.

But he also figures out that it is Odin and not Gestumblindi asking the riddles. King Heidrek becomes furious and tries to kill Odin. Odin magically turns into a hawk and flies away.



Odin's Riddle #1

Thirty white horses on a red hill, first they champ, then they stamp, then they stand still. King Heidrek, guess my riddle.



Odin's Riddle #2

Who is that great one who grasps the earth, swallowing wood and water? Bad weather he dreads, wind, but no man, and picks a fight with the sun. King Heidrek, guess my riddle.



Use King Odin's Secret Code to solve the riddles.

★ = E	▲ = O
▲ = F	▲ = S
● = G	⚡ = T
▲ = H	● = V

Extra! Extra! Riddle Poetry

Look through the newspaper for words that start with each letter in the word, RIDDLE. Cut out the words and then make a little poem using words that describe riddles and start with each of the letters in RIDDLE.

R _____
I _____
D _____
D _____
L _____
E _____

Standards Link: Language Arts: Understand that poetry has multiple forms.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

REBUS: A PICTURE RIDDLE

A rebus is a word or a phrase spelled out in pictures and letters. One of the most famous is:



Can you figure out what these rebuses say?

Y	+ T	- E
2	- V	+ B

Double Double Word Search

MYTHICAL REMINDER
ANCIENT RIDDLE
OLDEST ANSWER
SPHINX HEROES
SOLVE TALES
REBUS WALKS
BEING HUMAN
LION

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

L A C I H T Y M C O
R I T N H E R O E S
E B O N T S E D L O
D E S N E L K T U L
N I P N D I A L D V
I N H D R L C U A E
M G I R E W S N A W
E R N S U B E R A M
R S X H U M A N A H

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Make a Rebus!

Cut pictures out of the newspaper and arrange them to create a word or a short message, such as "I love you" or "Do you see me?" Can a family member figure it out?

Standards Link: Visual Arts: Understand that art can convey feelings or ideas.

What foods are the most fun at parties?

ANSWER: Fungii!

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