

Favela Street Kid

The mid-afternoon sun was hot and unforgiving in the favela. In this heat, roads melted and the sand burned your feet. It had been in the high thirties for over a week now and Little Pele's Brazilian neighbourhood of narrow lanes, jigsaw bricks and corrugated metal felt like one huge, town-sized oven.

What made matters worse was that it was too hot for the tourists. They had been staying in Rio's air-conditioned hotels and villas for the past few days, which, to a street kid like Little Pele who needed to sell his papayas while they were still ripe, meant no money for his family. It also meant he might have to work on the rubbish dumps to earn some money. He had been wandering the streets all day but hadn't sold anything. Little Pele picked up his crate and headed towards Copacabana beach.

On his way, he came across a game of street football.

"Lil' P!" someone shouted. It was Gabriella, his best friend. "It's the final of 1970 - Brazil versus Italy! It's 1-1! We need Pele!"

Little Pele's passion was football. When he wasn't selling papayas or sifting through rubbish dumps looking for something he could sell, he was kicking a ball with his friends. His family were football-mad as well. His parents named him after Pele, 'the greatest footballer of all time' his dad said. He looked at the papayas and then back at the game. If he didn't sell the papayas, his family would have no money to buy simple things like bread and water.

Suddenly, the ball flew over to where he was standing. Little Pele controlled the ball on his chest, juggled it between both feet, balanced it on his head, flicked the ball up and trapped it under his foot.

Sell the papayas or score in a World Cup Final? Hmm, it was a tough choice...



1. What do you think papayas are? Give a reason for your answer.



2. What did Little Pele do when he wasn't selling papayas or sifting through rubbish dumps?



3. Was it really a World Cup Final? Explain your answer.



4. What do you think Little Pele will do next?

Who's the Best Footballer on the Planet?

Cristiano Ronaldo



Club Teams:

Sporting CP, Man Utd, Real Madrid

Games: 719

Goals: 529

League titles: 5

Champions Leagues: 4

International Team:

Portugal

Games: 140

Goals: 73

Euro Championships: 1

World Cups: 0

Career Hat-tricks: 47

World Player of the Year: 4

Lionel Messi



Club Teams:

Barcelona

Games: 615

Goals: 518

League titles: 8

Champions Leagues: 4

International Team:

Argentina

Games: 118

Goals: 58

Euro Championships: 0

World Cups: 0

Career Hat-tricks: 41

World Player of the Year: 5

They have been wowing crowds and entertaining television viewers for years with their silky skills and unbelievable goals. Between them, they have scored over 1000 club goals, winning 13 league titles, 8 Champion's Leagues and 9 World Player of the Year awards! Many people believe they are the best players of all time! But throughout their years of dominance, there's one question that has divided the footballing world...who's better - Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi?

In terms of raw stats, there's not much to choose between them. The debate could go on forever! There is, however, one thing that everyone agrees on - both are awesome players! Check out their stats below. Which one do you think is the best footballer on the planet?



1. Which international teams do Messi and Ronaldo play for?

Ronaldo: _____

Messi: _____



2. Complete the missing stats:

Cristiano Ronaldo		Lionel Messi	
Club goals		League titles	
Career Hat-tricks		Champions Leagues	4
Euro Championships	1	World Player of the Year	



3. '...there's one question that has divided the footballing world'

Explain what it means by 'dividing the footballing world':



4. Who do you think is the best player between Ronaldo and Messi? Write an argument for your choice. Use the text to include at least two stats to support your view.

A Trillion Tropical Leaves

The Amazon river's a mighty beast
that meanders and powers and weaves;
its fingers and veins flowing into the heart
of a trillion tropical leaves.

It sits in the land of the samba and dance,
South American countries count nine:
There's Brazil and Peru, Colombia too,
then Bolivia waits next in line.

The rainforest's huge; the biggest on Earth
with millions of creatures and trees.
Great Britain could fit in there 26 times,
or 42 Englands with ease!

There're caimans and sloths, and ocelots too,
piranhas and things that can bite;
tarantulas, crocodiles, spiders and snakes,
and jaguars spotted and bright.

And what do we do to this Eden on Earth?
This land of such beauty and awe?
We slash and we burn and we chop it all down,
then we slash and we burn it some more.

The Amazon Rainforest's crying for help,
ecosystems are naturally linked,
it's dying, it's hurt; shall we chop down some more
until all of Earth's life is extinct?



1. Write down six animals that the poem mentions:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____



2. What does it mean by
'its fingers and veins flowing into the heart of a trillion tropical leaves'?



3. Look at the words at the end of the lines in the poem. Some of them rhyme.
Find and write the word in the poem that rhymes with each of these:

nine → bite →
extinct → more →



4. Read the final verse. In your own words, summarise what's happening in the verse and what the poem is actually saying:

LUCKY LOTTERY WINNERS... WIN AGAIN!

Reported by Susan Sharp, Media Correspondent, Ports Bay

Mr and Mrs Mills of Smith Lane, Ports Bay, could quite possibly be the luckiest couple in the country. William and Betty, who buy a lottery ticket once every month, have been celebrating for the second time in four years.

The couple scooped a huge £275 000 back in February 2012, having bought their ticket at the very last minute. Once they'd recovered from the initial shock, they donated a large amount to several different charities, as well as making improvements to their home and treating their family and friends to a few special holidays.



William and Betty Mills - are they the luckiest couple in the country?

On the night of their most recent win, Mr and Mrs Mills had their granddaughter staying with them. Betty told us how it happened, 'The lottery draw was on television and Alisha happened to be watching it. My husband and I were busy doing the dishes in the kitchen so she asked if she could check the numbers for us. The next thing we know, she's screaming and shouting the house down! I thought she was joking.' The couple had five matching numbers, winning them a life-changing amount of £800 000. Mr Mills added, 'We were all jumping around and dancing in the living room. We never believed it could happen again.' Alisha commented on the experience, 'I

never knew my grandad could move like that!'

When asked about their secret for choosing winning numbers, Mr Mills explained, 'We've always chosen numbers which mean something to us, like family birthdays or house numbers. My lucky number is 13.'

The two winners have revealed that they'll be donating £600 000 of their win to local, national and international charities. 'They need the money more than we do,' stated Mrs Mills. 'We'll treat ourselves to a nice meal out somewhere and give the rest to the family. We have our health and happiness so what more could we ask for?'

Lottery Comprehension Questions

1. How often do William and Betty play the lottery?

2. When did they win £275 000?

3. Why do you think they donated some of their prize to charities?

4. How do the couple choose their numbers?

5. Write down 2 adjectives to describe William and Betty. Give reasons for your choices.

6. How was their second win celebrated?

7. What would you do with £800 000? Explain your reasons.

8. William's lucky number is 13. Research on the Internet why some people believe that 13 is unlucky.

Fidget Spinners

Fidget spinners are gadgets with a ball bearing in the middle and three 'branches' coming from the centre. The branches of the gadget spin around the middle.

They are made from a range of materials like stainless steel, brass, ceramics, titanium, copper and plastic. The use of different materials changes the vibration and length of time that the toy spins.



How to Spin a Fidget Spinner

- Hold the middle of the spinner between your index finger and thumb as if you are picking it up.
- Flick one of the outside branches with your middle finger and watch it spin.

How the Fidget Spinner Began

Fidget spinners were created by an American inventor, Catherine Hettinger, in the early 1990s. She was ill but still caring for her eight-year-old daughter and found she didn't have the energy to play with her as much as she would have liked. Catherine began inventing toys for her daughter and between the two of them, they created the first fidget spinner.

Disaster!

In 1997, the fidget spinner toy was patented, which means the person who created it has rights over it to protect the idea from being copied.

However, a patent has to be renewed every few years and in 2005 Hettinger didn't have enough money to renew the patent. She lost the rights over the design and now any company can freely make their own versions. The companies make a lot of money from them but have to give none of it to Hettinger. When she owned the patent, Hettinger would have been making most of the money from the product.

Uses of the Fidget Spinner

Some people believed that the fidget spinner would be useful for helping people to concentrate. It was found to be an especially useful gadget to help children who have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or other special educational needs that affect concentration spans. It is thought that the sensory

experience of the spinner vibrating and creating patterns helps some children with specific needs, to concentrate or to calm down.

The fidget spinners are also used to reduce stress by helping the user to 'zone out' and clear their mind. Because of this, many office workplaces are seeing a rise in workers using finger spinners to ease stress and nervous energy within adult workers.

Fidget Spinners in School

Some schools have banned fidget spinners as they say they are a distraction to other pupils and can negatively affect learning. They could also pose a potential safety hazard.

Some parents of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) are concerned that banning the devices will cause their children to lose concentration and/or feel 'different' to their peers if they are allowed them but their friends are not.

Questions

1. Which materials are fidget spinners made from? Tick two.

wood	<input type="checkbox"/>
titanium	<input type="checkbox"/>
aluminium	<input type="checkbox"/>
plastic	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Why are fidget spinners made from different materials?

3. Write your own title for this 'Fidget Spinner' text.

4. How do you make a spinner spin? Tick one.

Flick it with your index finger	<input type="checkbox"/>
Push it with your thumb	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use your middle finger	<input type="checkbox"/>
Put it on the ground	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Why did Catherine Hettinger create the fidget spinner? Tick one.

She was caring for her daughter. ☐

She was ill. ☐

She wanted to entertain her daughter. ☐

She wanted to make money. ☐

6. Match up the sentences.

Hettinger could not renew the patent

has rights over a design.

A patent means that a person

could now freely make the spinner.

other companies

because she didn't have enough money.

7. Explain how the fidget spinner could help a person's concentration.

8. Put a T for true or F for false beside the following statements.

Then, correctly rewrite the false statements.

Fidget spinners can help some people cope with stress. ☐

The vibrations of the spinner might cause nervous energy. ☐

Hettinger is making a lot of money from the spinners. ☐

The spinners have helped some children with ADHD feel calmer. ☐

Office workplaces are seeing a rise in spinners being used at work. ☐

The spinners can help children with special educational needs to make patterns. ☐

9. Give two different reasons why some schools have banned fidget spinners.

a)

b)

10. What are your thoughts about fidget spinners being used in schools?
