Time for Kids 6
These ice pops are from a new book, Chef Junior. Find the recipe inside.

Perfect ice pops, a striking space mission, hometown heroes, and more!
PARKS REOPEN

By Brian S. McGrath

U.S. national parks are reopening. Will visitors follow social-distancing rules?

All around the country, states are loosening coronavirus restrictions. Businesses, restaurants, and other public places are slowly reopening. On Memorial Day weekend, people crowded onto beaches for the first time in months. But many weren't following social-distancing guidelines.

This could become a problem at national parks, which are also starting to reopen. The Grand Canyon, in Arizona, began admitting visitors again in mid-May. At the time, at least one tourist felt safe. Matthias Zutter, a visitor from Switzerland, said, "You could see that people took precautions and were keeping their distance." But that could change as the summer heats up. And it presents a challenge for park officials.

Cam Sholly is the superintendent of Yellowstone National Park. Most of it is in Wyoming. The park gets 4 million visitors a year. Sholly says it's hard enough for staff to keep people away from wildlife, such as bears and bison. "The notion that we're going to keep every human being six feet apart is ridiculous," he says. He adds that a "massive amount of signage" has been posted around the park encouraging visitors to keep a safe distance apart and to clean their hands.

Some parks will close off sections to prevent crowding. Grand Canyon visitor centers, hotels, and restaurants remain shut down. But its cliff-hugging trails will be open. Spokesperson Lily Daniels says hikers will be expected to practice "self-governance."

Rob Arnberger, a former superintendent at the park, thinks that's a bad idea. "It simply defies logic," he says. In his opinion, people are likely to cluster at popular spots.

Other parks, such as Rocky Mountain National Park, in Colorado, may use timed entry to manage crowds. Visitors will have to buy tickets in advance.

For now, parks are working with health officials to make sure visitors are safe. Sholly says it's a time of uncertainty: "No one's an expert at reopening national parks in a pandemic."
SNAPSHOT

A FUNNY FIND

Do squirrels need to practice social distancing during the pandemic? No. Can humor get people through tough times? Definitely! On May 20, TIME Edge got a kick out of this tiny sign in Fort Greene Park, in Brooklyn, New York. We hope it gives you a chuckle too.
A sinkhole in Rome reveals a piece of ancient history.

Everything was quiet at the Pantheon, in Rome, Italy, on the afternoon of April 27. That is, until the ground opened up outside the ancient temple and cobblestones fell into the earth.

No one was hurt. The normally crowded Piazza della Rotonda was empty because of the COVID-19 pandemic. So at first, nobody could see what the sinkhole revealed: several 2,000-year-old paving stones. These slabs of travertine, a kind of sedimentary rock, were once part of a bustling street.

"This is further evidence of Rome's inestimable archaeological riches," Daniela Porro told ANSA, an Italian news service. Porro is special superintendent of Rome.

The sinkhole measures about 10 square feet. The ancient stones lie eight feet below. Porro says they were laid around 27 B.C., making them as old as the original Pantheon built at this site. That temple was erected by statesman Marcus Agrippa, a friend of the Roman Emperor Augustus. It was destroyed by fire, and then rebuilt circa 128 A.D. It is one of the best-preserved of Rome's ancient structures.

The paving stones had been discovered once before, in the 1990s, when cables and pipelines were laid here. At the time, officials decided not to dig them up.

ON DANGEROUS GROUND
Sinkholes have increasingly become a problem in Rome. For nearly a century, the city averaged 30 of them each year. That number more than tripled in 2008, and has continued to increase ever since. In 2018, there were 175 sinkholes in the city, and another hundred the following year. By comparison, Naples, another major Italian city, recorded only 20 in 2019. A sudden collapse can be dangerous. The largest sinkholes can swallow cars and houses.

Sinkholes appear when water wears away the rock beneath the streets. That puts Rome on shaky ground. The city sits on soft soil that is easily eroded, especially after heavy rain. The ground is made even more unstable by ancient tunnels and catacombs.

"The main cause of a sinkhole in the city is the presence of an underground cavity," geologist Stefania Nisio told the Italian news agency Adnkronos. She's working on a project to map Rome's sinkholes. "The most sensitive area is eastern Rome, where materials were quarried in ancient times."

After a massive collapse in a residential neighborhood in 2018, city leaders put forth a plan to repair Rome's streets. But progress on that has been slow.

In the meantime, sinkholes will continue to hold the possibility of new discoveries. What wonder of the past could the next sinkhole in Rome unearth?

—By Rebecca Katzman
The pandemic has forced the world’s museums to shut their doors. Some may close for good.

About one in eight museums worldwide is at risk of permanently closing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. That’s according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

“It is alarming data that we are giving,” says Ernesto Ottone Ramirez, assistant director-general for culture at UNESCO. The pandemic has forced about 90% of the world’s museums to close. That’s 85,000 museums. Some are starting to reopen, but others may never be able to do so. After being closed for months, “they have no revenues,” or income, Ottone Ramirez says.

Popular museums in Europe have lost up to 80% of their income.

The situation is especially tough in Latin America. There, Ottone Ramirez says, 99.4% of all museums are closed. “So you have [an entire region] that doesn’t have anything open,” he says.

Reopenings in Europe, however, offer a glimmer of hope. In Berlin, Germany, 10,000 visitors—close to half the usual number—trickled into several museums over the course of a week.

World leaders are showing their support. Sophie Wilmès, the prime minister of Belgium, toured the Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, in Brussels, on May 19. She encouraged others to do the same. “[We have to] show that [museums] are open again and that people can come back here in complete safety.”

**GOING ONLINE**

While lockdowns are in place, some institutions have found creative ways to deliver the museum experience to people at home. These institutions have been offering free virtual tours of their collections.

For example, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York City, has a page where kids can explore 5,000 years of art history and get ideas for art-related projects. At the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History site, visitors can wander exhibition halls, sometimes with an expert’s narration. These digital experiences may not produce revenue. But they might be a way for museums to keep people interested until they can once again visit in person.

—By Rebecca Mordechai
New technology is helping service dogs communicate with humans.

Imagine you're out for a walk with your family when a strange dog approaches. The dog isn't aggressive, but it seems to want something. It nudges you with its snout, and barks.

What you don't know is that this dog is trained to help a person with a medical condition. Around the corner, the dog's owner has collapsed, and the dog has run off to find help.

That's you! But how can the dog make you understand what's wrong? It's not like dogs can talk.

Now imagine that the dog is wearing a high-tech vest. There's a rope attached to the vest, and the dog uses its teeth to tug on it. This causes an audio recording to play. It says something like: "My owner needs help." You'd understand that you should follow the dog to its owner.

It might sound like science fiction, but this is the goal of the FIDO project, an ongoing study at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

**NEW TRICKS**

Dogs can be trained to do many tasks. For example, epilepsy alert dogs fetch help if their owner has a seizure. Epilepsy is a condition that can cause a person to lose consciousness and twitch uncontrollably. Allergy dogs can smell a life-threatening allergen nearby. Diabetes dogs know when their owner's blood sugar is dangerously low.

FIDO stands for Facilitating Interactions for Dogs with Occupations. The team's goal is to make it easier for working dogs to do their job, and researchers believe wearable technology can help. "Technology can give dogs so much more power as they help their humans," FIDO director Melody Jackson told *TIME Edge*.

FIDO researchers designed a vest with a tiny computer built in. It can call 911, send a text to a family member, or play an audio recording, among other things. The next step was to figure out how a dog would activate the computer.

The team made several sensors and put them on a prototype. There was a touch sensor (it's similar to the touch screen of a phone).
BEST MEDECINE

Wynn is a year-old Labrador retriever. She's training to be a service dog. Her handler, Dr. Susan Ryan, is an emergency doctor in Denver, Colorado. While Ryan works, Wynn hangs out in a hospital office. When COVID-19 hit, hospital workers felt anxious. Many started visiting Wynn. Ryan says taking a break to pet Wynn helps manage stress. "We get anxious when we think about the future," Ryan told TIME Edge. "Wynn helps us return to the present."

FIDO researchers are developing another piece of technology for that purpose. It's a special touch screen—think of a smartphone or tablet. Touch screens are designed to be activated by the moisture of the skin on our fingertips. Since a dog's nose is also moist, a dog can activate a touch screen with a tap of its nose. The FIDO team has found that, with training, dogs are able to use a touch screen to call 911 or send other important messages.

WORK IN PROGRESS

For now, FIDO's technology is only being tested in the lab. Jackson is in talks with several companies that are interested in manufacturing the devices to make them available to people who need them.

Jackson hopes that soon, service dogs will wear high-tech vests on the job. "How many dogs can use cell phones?" she says. "Well, ours can, and that means they can save a person's life."

—By Shay Maunz
Handwashing becomes a sport thanks to this Rube Goldberg engineering contest.

Handwashing just got competitive. Jennifer George has issued a challenge: Find a creative way to drop a bar of soap into someone's hand. But there's a catch. Participants must do so in 10 to 20 steps by creating their own Rube Goldberg machine.

"A Rube Goldberg machine is a ridiculously complicated contraption that, in the end, does a very simple task," George told TIME Edge. In addition to being Rube Goldberg's granddaughter, she's the legacy director of Rube Goldberg Inc.

THE MAN, THE LEGEND

Rube Goldberg, an inventor and Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper cartoonist born in 1883, drew about 50,000 cartoons in his career. He also liked eating giant bowls of whipped cream, and wore shoes while swimming.

Goldberg is best known for his humorous drawings of elaborate devices, such as a self-operating napkin and an automatic back-scratcher. He "trained as an engineer," George says, "so the way he thought would creep into his art."

Today, there are lots of videos of Rube Goldberg machines posted on YouTube. A famous one from 2010, by the music group OK Go, has nearly 65 million views. It features a chain reaction nearly four minutes long that includes a smashed television and a dropped piano. According to George, it took the crew 87 tries to get it right.

Fun and Games

In addition to the challenge, George is also asking for submissions of videos that feature Rube Goldberg machines. She says the goal is to "create an unedited video of their machine. The video must show every step in the process, and the squeaky-clean finale should feature a bar of soap dropping into a person's hand. Submissions are due by May 31.

Goldberg made a career of drawing complicated inventions, but here's a surprising fact: He never actually built them. "I think he would be really amused that we're all sitting here now trying to build these machines in his name," George says.

—By Rebecca Katzman
Astronaut Andrew Morgan took a 272-day trip to the International Space Station (ISS). He conducted seven spacewalks and orbited the Earth 4,352 times before returning on April 17. Morgan talked with TFK Kid Reporters Henry Carroll, Priscilla L. Ho, and Mira McInnes about living in space and coming home to a pandemic.

1. Priscilla: "After landing in Kazakhstan, how did you get back to the United States, with all the COVID-19-related travel restrictions?"
   After our capsule landed, we took a helicopter to an airport, then a plane to Canada. Within 24 hours of the landing, I was in Houston, Texas. Now I’m in a quarantine facility at Johnson Space Center. They’re running tests to make sure my immune system is healthy enough for me to go home to my family.

2. Henry: "Did you follow the news from space?"
   I sure did. My two crewmates and I watched streaming news and taped news reports. We knew the Earth would change while we were away, but this was a little more dramatic than we expected.

3. Mira: "How did you cope with not seeing family members and friends while you were in space?"
   We made phone calls or did video chats. I spoke to my wife and kids almost every day. Being apart from them was hard. But I’m also a military officer, and I was deployed overseas and had been separated from my family before. So it wasn’t new to me.

4. Priscilla: "What did you and the crew talk about?"
   We had operations going on at the ISS, capturing visiting vehicles and unloading cargo, doing spacewalks or science experiments. There was a lot to talk about.

5. Henry: "What’s the most interesting thing you observed while in space?"
   It was looking back at the Earth. There are windows on the ISS that are pointed toward Earth so that we can make observations and take pictures. We can also see phenomena around the Earth—the aurora borealis and aurora australis. We can see the moon and the stars.

6. Henry: "Any surprises upon returning to Earth?"
   Even though Earth is facing a global crisis, it still feels the same. It was beautiful from above, and it’s beautiful, still, on the ground. It is still worth returning to.

7. Mira: "After 272 days in space, how would you advise kids who find social distancing hard?"
   It’s hard to imagine that life will ever be normal again. But as a nation, as a planet, we have endured tough times before. I assure you, we’ll get to the other side of this, and life will feel normal again.

8. Priscilla: "What final message do you have for kids?"
   When we looked down from the ISS, we saw an Earth without borders. There are big problems that affect us all equally, in spite of borders, and COVID-19 is just one of them. And just as we do on the ISS, we can work together as nations to solve those problems.
KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Be Our Chef is a new cooking competition show that takes place at Walt Disney World, in Florida. Watch as five families cook tasty dishes inspired by Disney stories and family traditions. In each episode, contestants' creations are judged by a panel of chefs. The winning family's signature dish will be added to the menu at Disney World.

The Robbins family is one of the families competing on Be Our Chef. Father FRED ROBBINS told TIME Edge that he loves watching the family working together to create the most delicious dishes possible.

Daughter ALEXIA ROBBINS (pictured, center) has been cooking since she was 6 years old. She says all kids should give cooking a try—there's something for everyone. "It's an art project. You can put a creative spin on it," Alexia says. "But it's also a science."

Be Our Chef is streaming now on Disney+.

—By Karena Phan

FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOURS

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, in New York City, is a world-renowned cultural institution. It's a showcase for the best in theater, concerts, and dance. Lincoln Center is temporarily closed because of the coronavirus pandemic. But now, kids can watch live performances online with Lincoln Center at Home's #ConcertsForKids. The series features musicians and dancers doing shows from home.

ZESHAN B is one artist in the series. During his virtual concert, he introduces viewers to music inspired by Indian and Pakistani traditions. Zeshan told Time Edge this was an opportunity to "provide comfort to people through music" and to "teach them a thing or two" about unique musical instruments such as the tanpura and harmonium. The shows air live on Lincoln Center's website, as well as on its YouTube and Facebook pages. They're also available on demand.

—By Rebecca Mordechai