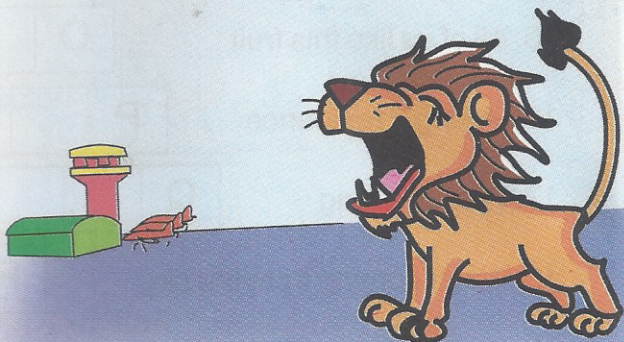


The students were very excited. They started talking in unison trying to tell the strangest fact of all and win the prize.

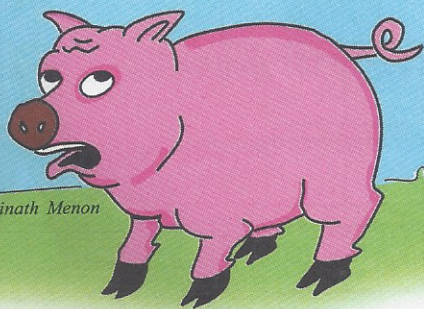
Aru got up all excited. “Hmm,” he thought for a while. “Pigs cannot look up at the sky.”



“Excellent Sumi,” said the teacher and looked at Medha.

The teacher smiled. Everyone in the class laughed.

Anu stood up and said, “A snail can sleep continuously for three years.”



Gopinath Menon

"Good," said the teacher, "next."

Neerav went next. “Goldfish have very short memories. They forget everything in less than 3 minutes.”

“Very nice,” encouraged the teacher. “Who is next?”



“Nice fact, Anu,” said the teacher and looked at the class.

Manas got up and said hesitantly, “A waterfall in Hawaii flows up instead of down.”

“Oh!” boohooed the class.

“Good, Manas. But where did you hear this?” questioned the teacher. “Didn’t you find it weird that water flowing up instead of down, defying gravity?”

“My dad visited the waterfall last year and got a video of that, Miss,” said Manas.

“Fine. But did you find out why the water

flows back?” enquired the teacher knowingly.

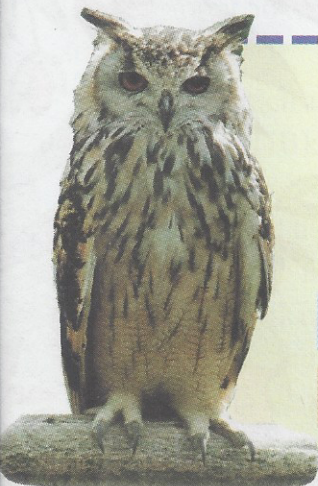
“Oh yes, Miss,” said Manas happily. “It is the strong winds, Miss, which are stronger than the force of water flowing down. The wind pushes the water droplets coming out of the waterfall to move upward.

The water actually flows down, like all other waterfalls, but the outer mist of the waterfall, pushed up by the strong winds, gives a false impression of water flowing in the reverse direction,” concluded Manas confidently.

The teacher appreciated Manas heartily. Everybody in the class clapped.

When it was time to leave, the teacher said to the class, “All of you did a good job. But Manas not only told a strange fact, but also explained the reason behind it. Therefore, the prize goes to Manas.”

The whole class applauded. Manas felt very happy. ●



Owls

- Owls can turn their head almost 360 degrees but cannot move their eyes.
- Owls are active at night.
- A group of owls is called a parliament.

Deena Singh, Chennai