

Kids' Corner

- Sudhakar Attili.

The narrow minded frog

(Author unknown. Received through E-Mail. Thanks to the Author for a great illustration.)

Once upon a time, where the rolling hills ran down to the sea, there stood a tiny village. No one new quite how long it had been there, but the thick stone walled cottages with their thatched roofs had withstood the gales for many a generation.

The village had a pretty green where women often exchanged the time of day, when they met as they went to draw water from the village well. But none of them knew that inside the well there lived a solitary frog.



This frog had been dropped in the well by a bird when it was only a tadpole. It knew only the inside of the well which it thought was very pleasant and grand. It had seen nothing of the outside world except the buckets which were lowered into the water and then drawn up again, disappearing out of sight. The frog never wondered why they came or where they went to.

One day it started raining. It rained and rained and continued for a number of days. Suddenly another frog fell into the well. It had been living in the nearby estuary where the river joined the sea. Because of the rain the river had flooded

its banks and the frog had been washed onto the village green from whence it had hopped into the well for shelter.

"My dear fellow", said the well-frog in surprise. "Where did you come from? I haven't seen you in my well before."

"I live in the estuary, where the great river joins the sea beyond", replied the newcomer. "The heavy rains caused the river to flood and I was tossed about until I landed on the green. Can I please stay and shelter in this well until the rain stops?"

"Stay as long as you want." Said the well-frog, feeling very proud. "As you see, this well of mine is such a spacious and beautiful place to live, so there is plenty of room. I have never had a visitor before and shall be very glad of your company and of having someone to talk to."

The Well-frog went to his larder and took out some worms for dinner which he courteously offered to his guest. Soon they were talking like long-lost brothers and felt themselves fortunate to have met.

Eventually the Well-frog enquired "You spoke of the great river and the sea beyond. What are they?"

"I often go exploring and I've found that the river I live in flows down from the high hills. The river is big with many small streams joining it. One of these tributaries feeds this well. I know that by the taste" replied the River-frog.

"So our water comes from the same river! I shall think of you as my own cousin" exclaimed the Well-frog feeling very magnanimous. "But what is the sea?"

"That is a great mass of water which spreads much, much further than I can swim. The water tastes differently, too."

"It can't be as deep as my well!" said the Well-frog, diving deep into the well and coming up several minutes later.

"It's much, much deeper." Laughed the River-frog.

"It's not as wide as my well", said the Well-frog, somewhat sharper this time, not having liked being laughed at.

"I can't tell you how wide it is", the River-frog's voice was more serious now. "There is nothing here I can compare it with."

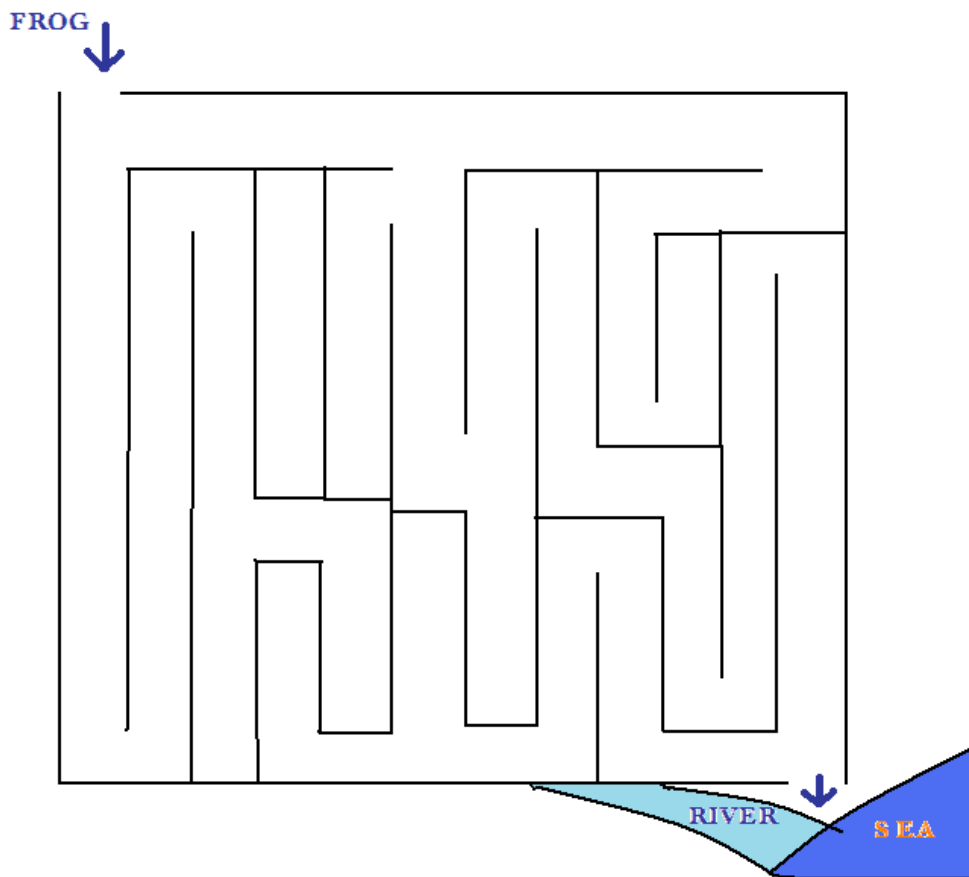
"You liar", said the Well-frog, bursting with anger and completely forgetting his manners. "How can there be anything bigger than my well? All this talk of rivers and seas is nonsense. Get out of my well at once!"

The River-frog felt sad, but he thought it is wise to jump out of the well. Fortunately the rain had stopped, so he returned to the estuary where the river met the sea. He knew he could not change the poor Well-frog's narrow view of the world.

What do we learn from this story?

We often think that we know everything. We rather try to point out others' mistakes. If we think we know everything, we never listen to others and thus we never learn anything. If we are with open mind, then we can learn from others and if we can utilize the information whichever is appropriate for us.

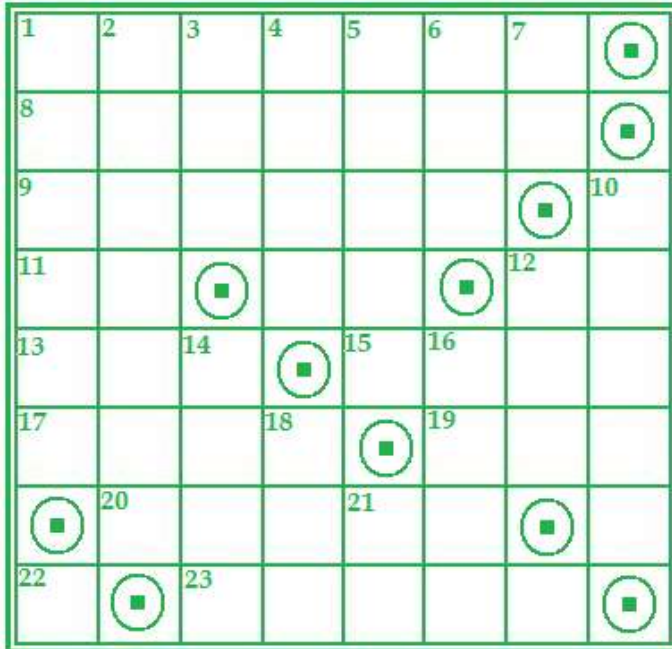
Lead the river frog to its home



Can you find the word?

1. This is a 10 character word and it means a great relation.
2. First 6 characters form a person with whom you love to share. It is also second part of 'Sanghamitra'.
3. Last 4 characters in sequence form a word which is a transport mode on ocean.
4. 4th, 5th and 6th characters in sequence form a word which means concluding.
5. 8th, 9th and 10th characters form a word which is a part in human body. What is the word?

Cross Word for kids



Across : 1. Branch of knowledge requiring systematic study and method. (7)

8. Not familiar with, not certain. (7)

9. Name of a city in Karnataka, not your sore. (6)

11. State abbreviation for Montana. (2)

12. Abbreviation of casual leave, which is in 'Clone' and 'Class' also. (2)

13. Owed, payable immediately. Right to left. (3)

15. Feeling of expectation and desire. (4)

17. Underground part of a tree. (4)

19. Not cooked, not yet processed or manufactured. Characters jumbled. (3)

20. A curved, closed outline. (5)

22. How do you pronounce 'sea', 'see'. (1)

23. Short form of a mammal with one horn or two horns on its nose. (5)

Down : 1. A season during which kids get lots of holidays. (6)

2. India, China, Canada - Each one of them is a ----- . Characters jumbled. (7)

3. Winter sport. Bottom to top. (3)

4. A 3D geometrical shape stood on its vertex. (4)

5. A direction. (5)

6. First initials of Center, West and East. (3)

7. Abbreviation of North-East written from South to North. (2)

10. Free from dirt or impurities. (5)

12. Abbreviation of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. (3)

14. Hinged, sliding or revolving barrier in the opening to enter or exit a house. (4)

16. Not up, but ----. Characters jumbled. (4)

18. A small shelter. Written from down to top. (3)

21. Not out, but --. Witten in upward direction. (2)

Send your answers (Crossword and 'Can you find the word?') to the below address or e-mail on or before *September 15th*.

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That's all for this issue.