

AWESOME KIDS

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A YEAR IN REVIEW

2014 was a year full of big headlines. Here are three of the year's top stories.

RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

Russia claimed territory in, and later invaded, the neighbouring country of Ukraine.

Countries worldwide, including the U.S., condemned Russia's actions.

Some Ukrainians feel a close bond with Russia. For decades, both nations were part of a larger country, the Soviet Union, which split into 15 separate nations in 1991.

In February, pro-Russian rebels took over government buildings in Crimea, an area in southern Ukraine. Later, Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, moved troops into the region – which many people saw as a step toward starting a war. In March, the majority of Crimeans voted to leave Ukraine. Russia quickly annexed the region, or added it to Russia's own territory.

Meanwhile, fighting broke out in other parts of Ukraine. Rebels have been trying to take control of areas in eastern Ukraine, likely with the help of Russia's military. By November, more than 3,600 people had been killed.

A DEADLY DISEASE

Countries in West Africa have been dealing

with the spread of a deadly disease called Ebola. Most cases have occurred in three countries: Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.



By December 20, more than 7,500 people had died from Ebola. The U.S. and other nations are working to help officials in Africa treat patients and contain the disease.

A few cases of Ebola were reported in the U.S. this fall. A man who had flown here from Liberia died of Ebola in a hospital in Dallas, Texas. Two nurses at that hospital

were infected, but they soon recovered. And a doctor in New York City found out he had Ebola after returning home from Guinea, where he had been treating patients with the disease. However, health experts say the disease is unlikely to spread much further in the U.S.

MISSIONS TO MARS

It was a busy year for scientists studying Mars. In August, *Opportunity*, one of NASA's Mars rovers, broke the record for longest distance travelled on another planet. The rover landed on Mars 10 years ago and has been helping scientists learn more about the planet. It has also been on the lookout for signs of life

on the Red Planet, such as the presence of water.

On September 21, the NASA spacecraft MAVEN entered Mars's orbit after a 10-month journey. It was joined two days later by a spacecraft launched by India, called Mars Orbiter Mission (or MOM). Both spacecraft have

been collecting data on the Martian atmosphere.

Source: <http://magazines.scholastic.com/news/2014/12/2014-Year-in-Review>



TOO COLD FOR SCHOOL?

Schools in the USA close due to extreme cold.

Dozen of school districts in Chicago and the Midwest cancelled school due to brutal cold and dangerous wind chills. The National Weather Service says highs in northern Illinois will be from -4° to 2°F with wind chills as low as -30° . Communities around the state have opened warming shelters to help people in the subzero temperatures.

The frigid temperatures and winds make a dangerous combination, and it is in the best interest of the students to cancel classes.

The Chills Temperatures in northern Illinois will fall to about -7° overnight, with wind chills of -25° or colder.

Keeping Warm People are advised to stay

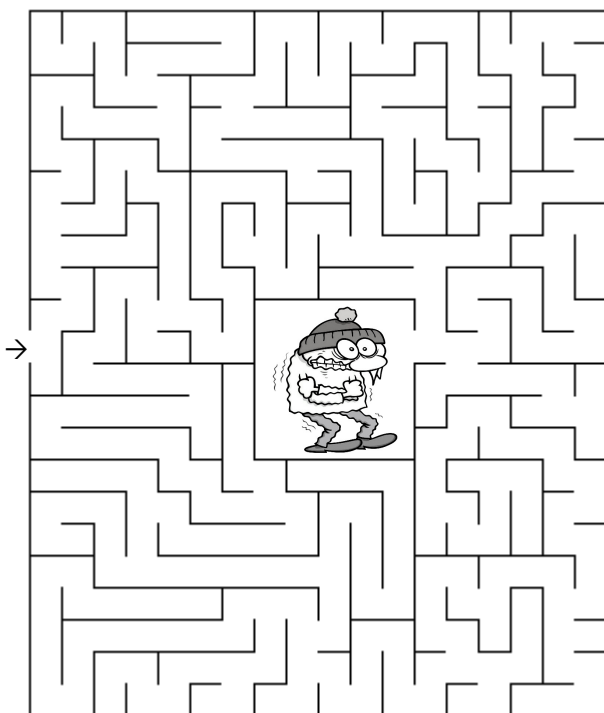
indoors, if possible, and cover all exposed skin if they



must go out. Frostbite can occur within minutes in the extreme cold. Experts are asking people to check on neighbours, especially the sick or elderly.

The Illinois State Police cautioned drivers to stock their vehicles with extra water, food, and warm clothing in case they get stranded.

Source: <http://www.timeforkids.com/news/too-cold-school/202581>



WORDSEARCH

Chills	Frost	Warming
Cold	Snow	Weather
Freeze	Temperature	Winter

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