



4/08/2025: The World From A to Z with Carl Azuz

Mr. Lautzenheiser - 8th Grade American History - Crestview MS (Convoy, Ohio)

It's not every day that we start with a rat, but this is no ordinary rat. Ronin is a five-year-old rodent in Cambodia. Cambodia is a country in Asia. Back in the 1900's Cambodia had a lot of war. In these wars people hid land mines in the ground. Cambodia has a lot of these mines in the ground still. Rats don't weigh enough to set off the land mines. So African giant pouch rats like Ronin get training to smell the chemicals in the bombs. The rats find the bombs without hurting themselves or their handlers. APOPO is an organization that uses rats for this dangerous job, they have cleared about one hundred seventy thousand land mines on many continents. Ronin has uncovered 109 between 2021 and 2025. Because of this, he has a Guinness world record for sniffing out the most explosives. He is a hero, not a pest. Hi, I'm Carl Azuz! Today I will be going from A to Z. You're the best part about what we do. Florida may pass a new law about young people working. This is happening as there is a shortage of workers across the country.

The Problem: America's workforce is getting smaller. For decades it has been this way. There are eight million job openings, but less than 7 million people to work. Some adults retire, and some look online for work. The population is aging, and people are not having children like they used to. Also, some states like Florida are trying to stop undocumented people from working.

Florida has people trying to change laws for teens. They may take away some rules about teens working. The bill is trying to remove state child labor laws about hours for teenagers. The law's author says that Florida has stricter rules for work than the national government does. Some people think it will be good and teens can make more money. Others think it is bad because employers might take advantage of the teens. The Bill says that Parents would get to decide where and how long their kids could work. People have opinions over it, for example, some in Tallahassee Florida think letting teens work makes sense. It might be hard with lots of requirements about time. On the other hand some business owners are concerned about letting

teens work and hope they will be able to have time to do things. The proposed law says that sixteen to seventeen-year-olds can work 8 hours before the school day and 30 during the week without mandating food breaks. There are some who believe we are not protecting our kids. Do you think a law like that is Constitutional? Well, back before the 17th amendment, senator's were chosen by the Electoral College but not anymore so that statement is false.

We will now discuss CORK. Cork is used in many ways around the world. Portugal is the largest cork producer in the world. A cork tree is a tree with the special thick bark. The cork oak grows a thick layer and grows back after being removed. It was put in the sun and rain for six months and is treated in a factory to make it flexible. It is waterproof, fire resistant and has a hollow. So what kind of things can cork be used for? The truth is you can make a ton of stuff with it like office furniture, shoes, building materials and more. A lot of companies are looking to start doing different things with it to add profit.

Here are some places that are viewing from our channel John F Kennedy Middle School in Plainfield Illinois Oklahoma Christian Academy in Oklahoma Broad Rock Middle School, Wakefield Rhode Island

We know that a hare lives less than 10 years and a tortoise lives to be older, about 90.

April 8th, 1974 Hank Aaron became major league baseball's home run king at Atlanta's Fulton County stadium! On April 8th, 1975 Frank Robinson Became the first African American to be a Manager in MLB history. Let's celebrate Ellen Ochoa who became the first Hispanic woman in space April 8th, 1993!

Reading Summary

- Ronin, a giant pouch rat, is a hero for finding landmines in Cambodia and holds a Guinness World Record for sniffing out the most explosives.
- Florida is considering a law that would allow teenagers to work more hours, with parents deciding how long and where their children can work.
- Cork is a versatile material used in many products, from furniture to building materials, and Portugal is the world's largest producer of cork.

Vocabulary

Term	Definition	Example Sentence
undocumented (adjective)	Not having the required legal documents to live or work in a country.	The government is trying to stop undocumented workers from getting jobs.
mandating (verb)	To require something by law or rule.	The new law mandates that all students wear uniforms.
Constitutional (adjective)	Following the rules and principles of the Constitution, the main law of a country.	The Supreme Court decides if laws are Constitutional.
flexible (adjective)	Able to bend or change easily.	The new material is very flexible and can be used to make many different things.
profit (noun)	The money that a business makes after paying all its costs.	The company made a large profit last year.

Multiple Choice Questions

Question #1	Question #2	Question #3
What is the main reason why Florida is considering changing its laws about teenagers working?	What is the main reason why Ronin the Rat is a hero?	What is one of the main benefits of using cork?
A. Florida has a shortage of workers and needs more people to fill job openings. B. Florida wants to encourage teenagers to get more experience in the workforce. C. Florida wants to make it easier for teenagers to earn money. D. Florida wants to make sure that teenagers are protected from unfair working conditions.	A. He is a very intelligent rat. B. He is a very friendly rat. C. He helps to clear landmines and keep people safe. D. He is a very rare type of rat.	A. It is a very strong and durable material. B. It is a very cheap and easy material to produce. C. It is a very environmentally friendly material. D. It is a very lightweight and easy material to transport.