



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION

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WEB EDITION

SUSHIL MODI, DY CM OF BIHAR, PITCHES FOR ONLINE VOTING FOR THE BIHAR ASSEMBLY POLLS DUE TO COVID-19

Should India introduce ONLINE VOTING?

Senior BJP leader and deputy chief minister of Bihar, Sushil Modi has urged the Election Commission of India to shift to online voting, at least for the upcoming Bihar Assembly polls that are due in October this year. Covid-19 pandemic has cast a shadow on not only the election but electioneering as well. Supporters of this proposal say India has a long track record of being early to adopt democratic innovations—from universal suffrage to Electronic Voting Machine (EMs), and should also take a lead in online voting as well. Election expenditure would go down over time, they argue. The 2019 Lok Sabha elections cost the government ₹ 6,500 crore — an expense of ₹ 72 per voter. Mobile voting can cut this down multi-fold.

THE BIG DEBATE



IS IT A GOOD IDEA? STUDENTS REACT

With the pandemic going to stay for some time, online voting looks like a good option. However, to succeed, the Commission should analyse and execute diverse strategies to make it work efficiently for people belonging to all sections of the society. **B NAMITA VARSHINI**, class XI, The Hindu Senior Secondary School, Chennai

Online voting is a good idea, provided we take utmost care in uploading the original documents of the vote while voting. Moreover, steps need to be taken to check the hacking of votes. More important, basic infrastructure, like access to internet should be in place. **GURKEERAT KAUR**, class IX, La Martiniere Girls College, Lucknow

Online voting will not only revolutionise our democratic set up but also benefit the economy. The government would be able to save expenditure, as digital voting would mean less manpower and minimal infrastructure. However, steps need to be taken to check online frauds. **K. NEEHARIKA**, AS Level, Rockwell International School, Hyderabad.

THE CHALLENGES

Thanks to a huge digital divide— 50% of our population still don't have access to internet, online voting seems impractical. **DR M J VINOD**, professor, Pol sc, Bangalore University

The first challenge would be to train people to cast vote digitally as most of the voters in rural areas don't have access to internet. Besides, possibility of a faulty voting and hacking cannot be ruled out.

V K SHARMA, Political commentator, Ahmedabad

Online voting can be highly manipulated. Moreover digital infrastructure has to be in place, especially in villages. It may weaken our democracy as voters may not vote digitally.

C R NEELAKANDAN, activist, Kerala

THE PRESENT SCENARIO

Remote voting in the form of postal ballots is already a part of the existing electoral system but is open to only some eligible citizens, such as those in the armed force, police, senior citizens etc.



Share your views at toinie175@gmail.com / timesnie175@gmail.com

I RECOMMEND

4 COOKING CHANNELS FOR YOU TO FOLLOW



AMBER KELLEY, UNITED STATES:

Youtuber teen chef Amber Kelley shows you how easy and fun it is to cook fresh, delicious foods! Amber is a member of Jamie Oliver's Food Tube family. She has been recognised by former First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House, as well as through Disney Channel's Emmy Award-winning 'Make Your Mark' series. Frequency 1 video / week. On since Nov 2012. Channel: [youtube.com/user/CookWithAmberKelley](https://www.youtube.com/user/CookWithAmberKelley)

KIDS FOOD CHALLENGE INDIA:

This channel is about Kids food eating challenges. If you like the videos, then don't forget to like, share and subscribe. On since September 2019. Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwboqqrPXrCrZHHnwiAv7g>



KID FOOD NATION CANADA: Ever wanted to know what goes into your favourite dish? Do you love to cook or want to learn how? Kid Food Nation is here for you. Frequency: 1 video / quarter. On since July 2017. Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp78M51954-X20Jzb0Lz50A/videos>



MY FUSSY EATER (CIARA ATTWELL) KENT: Looking for a healthy and fun family food? Check out Ciara, a food blogger at 'My Fussy Eater' where she shares lots of healthy eating recipes the whole family will enjoy, along with the odd indulgent treat! Frequency 1 video / month. On since March 2015. Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq_2T16-nLANAacEP9FDH-z0

(PLS NOTE: If you plan to try out a recipe, do so strictly under adult supervision...)

NEWS IN CLUES

Which was the first ocean to be crossed by ship and airplane?

CLUE 1: It covers approximately 20% of the Earth's surface and about 29% of its water surface area.
CLUE 2: In total, there are 52 different nations that have shorelines along the ocean.
CLUE 3: Icebergs are common from February to August in the Davis Strait, Denmark Strait and the northwestern part of the ocean.

ANSWER: ATLANTIC OCEAN. Recently, US President Donald Trump opened the Atlantic Ocean's only fully-protected marine sanctuary to commercial fishing, dismissing arguments that crab traps, fishing nets and lines dangling hooks can harm fish and whales

KARAN JOHAR RAISES AWARENESS ABOUT CHILD ABUSE

Filmmaker Karan Johar has said that child abuse in any form is "unacceptable" and one must do everything possible to preserve the innocence of children. Johar took to Twitter and shared a short film uploaded by Union minister Smriti Irani, which highlights the ordeals of children, who are at the receiving end of abuse.



CELEB TALK

"If you witness or suspect child abuse, just dial 1098. It's our responsibility. #Childline #Spreadtheword," Johar wrote.
The short film is produced by filmmaker Shekhar Kapur. Irani tagged the makers of the film and said, it's important to spread the message about child abuse

NEWS IN BRIEF

CLICK HERE FOR MORE

CBSE TO RATIONALISE CURRICULUM TO MAKE UP FOR ACADEMIC LOSS DUE TO COVID-19

The Central board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is working on rationalising the curriculum to make up for academic loss caused by Covid-19 pandemic, and the reduced syllabus will be ready in a month's time, board chairman Manoj Ahuja said. "We cannot bring sudden changes in the education system and create confusion and uncertainty. The curriculum reforms are going to be in sync with the learning outcomes," he said during a virtual conference on 'Future of Schools: Overcoming COVID-19 challenge and beyond', organised by Ashoka University.



EDUCATION

HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal had announced in April that CBSE will be reducing the curriculum for all the classes to make up for the lost time due to the lockdown, asserting that the curriculum will be curtailed in proportion to the lost time. The HRD ministry has come up with an alternative calendar for different grades detailing the learning plan during the lockdown.

AWARD

I AM HONOURED: JAVED AKHTAR ON BECOMING FIRST INDIAN TO RECEIVE DAWKINS AWARD

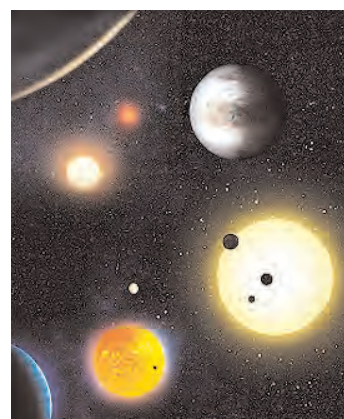
Veteran lyricist Javed Akhtar said he is honoured to be named this year's recipient of the Richard Dawkins Award as he has been a huge fan of the world-renowned English evolutionary biologist, in whose name the recognition is bestowed. Akhtar became the first Indian to be given the honour for critical thinking.



Every year, the award recognises a distinguished personality from the field of science, scholarship, education, or entertainment, who publicly proclaims the values of secularism and rationalism. British actor-comedian Ricky Gervais received the honour last year

DISCOVERED

ANOTHER EARTH LIKE PLANET



The star Kepler-160 is probably orbited by a planet, less than twice the size of the Earth, with a star-planet distance that could permit planetary surface temperatures conducive to life.

It takes 378 days to complete an orbit. It is also believed that the star gets 93% as much light as Earth gets from the sun.

The Planet KOI-456.04 is about 3,000 light years away from Earth.

Scientists have found a new exoplanet-star pair having resemblance to Sun-Earth system. The star, Kepler-160 and its companion, KOI-456.04 are more reminiscent of the Sun-Earth system than any previously-known exoplanet-star pair, according to a team of scientists.

PUBLISHERS SUE INTERNET ARCHIVE OVER FREE E-BOOKS

A group of publishers have sued Internet Archive, saying that the non-profit group's trove of free electronic copies of books is robbing authors and publishers of revenue at a moment when it is desperately needed.



Internet Archive has made more than 1.3 million books available for free online, which were scanned and available to one borrower at a time, for a period of 14 days. Then in March, the group said, it would lift all restrictions on its book lending until the end of the public health crisis, creating what it called "a National Emergency Library to serve the displaced learners." But many publishers and authors have called it something different: theft

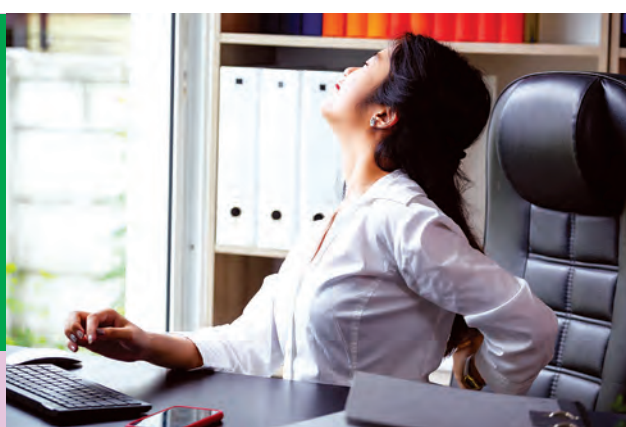
Share your views at toinie175@gmail.com / timesnie175@gmail.com

Too much sitting causing STIFF MUSCLES?

Prolonged sitting at home, courtesy online learning, during this lockdown period can cause muscles to stiffen up. Here are some easy tips to reduce muscle stiffness...

HERE'S WHAT TO DO

STRETCH: It is no brainer that flexibility tends to include the range of motion in one's joints. It is the ability to move your joints effectively. Being flexible can help you keep injuries at bay. Stretching on a daily basis is good for your health. Stretching everyday can help you make sure that the muscles present on each side of your joint have an equal pull to allow your joints to move freely without difficulties. Stretching can strengthen your joints and help you reduce stiffness, says Dr



Gautam Zaveri, spine surgeon, Zen Multispeciality Hospital, Chembur.

TRAIN: Walking and yoga can do the trick. In yoga, cat and cow pose and cobra stretch can be helpful. Pilates can help your muscles become flexible. It involves slow and controlled ex-

ercises for your whole body. The static holds and dynamic stretching can improve flexibility. Avoid going overboard and stop immediately if you encounter pain.

EAT HEALTHY: An appropriate balanced diet can help your muscles. We are what we consume. Including good-quality

protein post-exercise, as part of a balanced diet, is a good move. When collagen, which is made from the building blocks of protein, is combined with Vitamin C, it may help to decrease joint pain, supporting tendons and aiding recovery and reducing muscle soreness.

TAKE A WARM BATH: While a warm bath or shower may have more of a psychological benefit, it is worth a try. In this summer season, most of us take cold shower baths. One of the things that you have to overcome in stretching and increasing flexibility is the muscles' natural protective response. So if you can relax the muscles via a warm shower, you could potentially get more out of your stretches because you are starting with nice, warm, relaxed muscles.

Change in washing habits can minimise marine pollution: Study

Marine pollution can be reduced by bringing small changes in one's laundry habits, according to a new study. "Every time you wash your clothes, thousands of tiny microfibres from the fabric are released into rivers, the sea, and the ocean, causing marine pollution," the study said. Researchers' analysis revealed that an average of 114 mg of microfibres were released per kilogram of fabric in each wash

ENVIRONMENT

load during a standard washing cycle. The researchers achieved a 30 per cent reduction in the number of microfibres released when they performed a 30-minute, 15 degrees C wash cycle, in comparison to a standard 85-minute 40 degrees C cycle, based on typical domestic laundering. If households changed to cooler, faster washes, they would potentially save 3,813 tons of microfibres being released into marine ecosystems in Europe, the study said.



OTHER KEY FINDINGS

Since larger wash loads led to a decrease in the release of microfibres, due to a lower ratio of water to the fabric, consumers shouldn't over-fill their washing machines, the study said. The wash tub should be three-quarters full, it said
New clothes release more microfibres than older clothes, it added

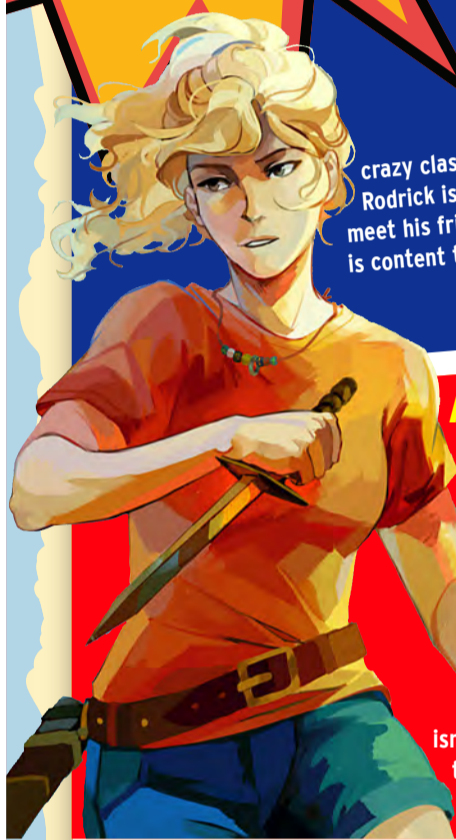
BACK TO THIEVERY: ALLADIN

Stealing has become a regular job for me now, unless I am in Agrabah. The corona chapter is far from over. Now it has turned into a scarier demon. Sometimes, I think of Genie who had given me three wishes. But Genie, though he is my friend and can do anything, says that he can't make a virus vanish; besides not being able to make someone love another person, or bring back the dead. I told him 'great sorcerers and magicians can take you under control but you cannot control a virus?'. We have not spoken since.

CHIRANJEEV CHABBI, class VIII, Pratibha International School

Tiny Tales Entries

PART 2



Dear diary, I MISS ROWLEY, GREG HEFFLEY

It's been 2 months of lockdown now, and I feel lonely as I cannot talk to my best friend Rowley. I am so lonely these days that I would be happy to even meet my crazy classmate Fregley. However, my elder brother, Rodrick is chilling out these days. Although he cannot meet his friends or go out to perform with his band, he is content to be in his room and plays video games.

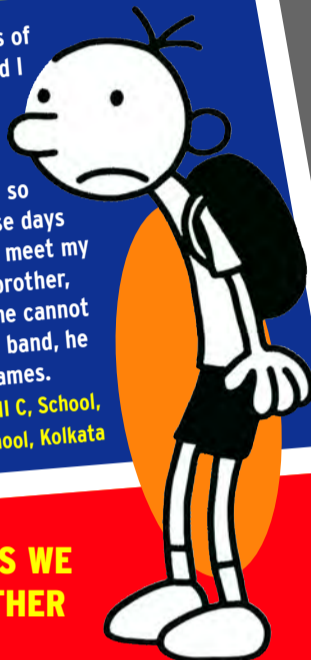
RUPSA KARMAKAR, class VIII C, School, Calcutta Girls High School, Kolkata

ANNABETH CHASE SAYS WE HAVE TO FIGHT TOGETHER

Dear diary,

Today morning, I woke up to find the world at rest. It was deadly quiet and I heard only the sound of the birds chirping at Camp Half-Blood. Usually, by this time, we can hear Clarisse yelling at her siblings or some sword fighting going on in the arena. But in the past few weeks, we haven't heard anything. This is due to the virus which has taken the world by storm. This isn't something we can fix with Daedalus' laptop or with a sword fight. We, the world, have to fight this together, as one team.

MANJARI PARUCHURI, class IX, Delhi School of Excellence-Attapur, Hyderabad

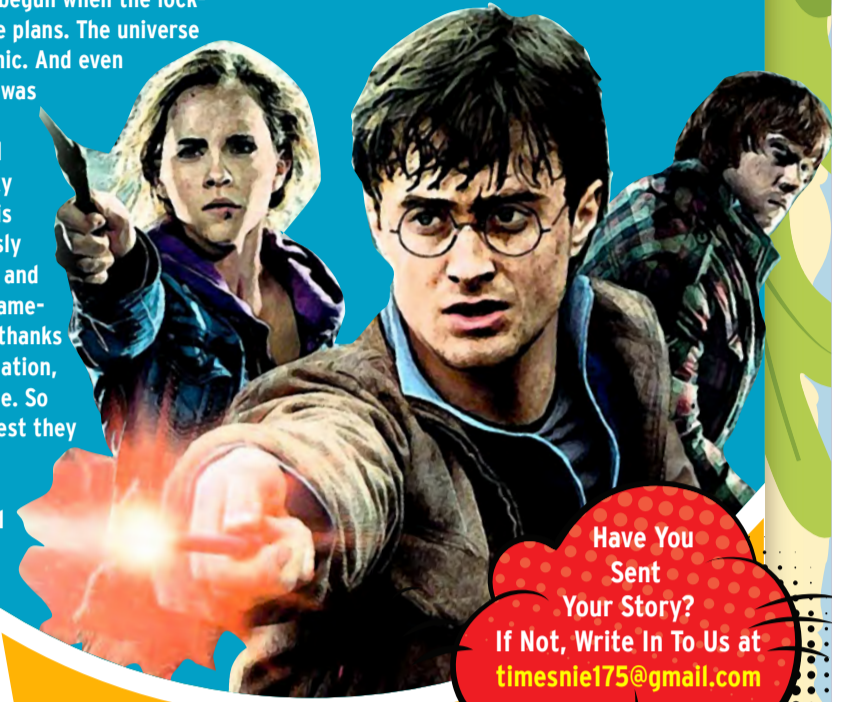


HARRY GOT STUCK AT HOGWARTS

Third-year at Hogwarts just got over and the holidays had begun when the lockdown froze all the plans. The universe was facing a rare pandemic. And even the famous Harry Potter was getting bored. He really wanted to go outside and relax in the cold and flaky Hogwarts ground with his best friends - Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger and meet the Hogwarts game-keeper, Hagrid. But thanks to the current situation, none was possible. So each did the best they could. Ron helped Hagrid

take care of the Hogwarts animals, Hermione spent hours studying in the Gryffindor common room and Harry spent his time talking to Hedwig, or polishing his Firebolt.

AHMAD IMRAN PATEL, class VII, Delhi Public School



Have You Sent Your Story? If Not, Write In To Us at timesnie175@gmail.com

BIRBAL ABIDES BY SOCIAL DISTANCING

One day Share Khan - brother-in-law of Akbar went to Hasan's for a haircut. In the next two days, Akbar became ill, followed by his wife. Birbal was out in the neighbouring kingdom for work. When Birbal reached Delhi, 50+ courtiers were sick along with Akbar. Birbal asked the *valdyas* to check the infected people.



He realised that all people have common symptoms. Birbal knew it is a type of virus, and social distancing was only solution to curb it. He sent guards wearing masks to Akbar to explain the situation. Birbal directed Akbar to control the virus. He started running the 'darbar' while the courtiers stood in the balcony; and supplied free food to the needy. After few weeks, all is well.

SAANVI SAIKAR, class I, DPS Panvel

WE MADE MOTHER'S DAY SUPER SPECIAL FOR MARMEE: JO MARCH

Dear diary,

This lockdown, Meg and I have been off work, Amy is having online classes and Marmee (mom) has been taking great care of us. So, when we realised that there were no plays, no events, no movies to attend on Mother's Day, we planned a day off for Marmee. At the break of dawn, I recited a poem to Marmee, Meg presented a scarf to her which she had sewn herself, Amy made drawings and Beth played a tune on her piano. Then, we finished the household chores ourselves and organised a grand lunch. We made salads, sandwiches, burgers. For the evening, we prepared cream and muffins. It was quite late by the time we finished as we'd been cooking our favourite foods. Marmee said that this was the best meal she ever had.

P V DHARSHINI, Class VII, SBOA School And Junior College, Chennai



I HAD A GREAT TIME WITH MS HONEY: MATILDA

Dear diary,

Today is the last day of the lockdown and I want to share with you my experience through it. I have been living my life with immense faith and gratitude as I was really clueless about the future. But thankfully, I had been adopted by Miss Honey, who is now my de-facto mom. We ended up having a great time together. I think it was the best time we both ever



had. I helped her sweep the floor, wash the utensils and performed other household chores with my kinetic powers. We painted droll pictures, cracked funny jokes and cooked every meal together. After supper, we used to read books and sleep. Once we even had a night out in the backyard of our garden and found never-seen-before constellations. We tried making home-made ice cream and after trying several times, BOOM! Wow, we were speechless - it was that awesome.

I will always remember this lockdown!
VANSHIKA, class V, DPS, Sector 45, Gurgaon

Test yourself

Quiz time

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- Q.1) For which novel did Salman Rushdie win the 1981 Booker Prize?**
A. East, West
B. Midnight's Children
C. The Moor's Last Sigh
D. The Satanic Verses
- Q.2) Which crime writer created the character Detective Inspector Jack Frost?**
A. RD Wakefield
B. RD Waterfield
C. RD Wingfield
- Q.3) In 1955, poet Philip Larkin became a librarian at which university?**
A. Cambridge
B. Hull C. Leicester
D. Oxford
- Q.4) Which author wrote these novels: 'Quite Ugly One Morning' and 'Be My Enemy'?**
A. Christopher Brookmyre
B. Iain Banks
C. Ian Rankin
D. Irvine Welsh



ANSWERS

1. B) Midnight's Children 2. C) RD Wingfield 3. B) Hull 4. A) Christopher Brookmyre

KNOWLEDGE BANK (GEMSTONE)

Taaffeite

Taaffeite is a unique mineral, named after its discoverer, Richard Taaffe (1898-1967). Taaffe found the first sample - a cut and polished gem - in October 1945 - in a jeweller's shop in Dublin, Ireland. Taaffeite is the only gemstone to have been initially identified from a faceted stone. It remains till date one of the rarest gemstone minerals in the world.

- SRINJOY TALUKDAR, class VII, Calcutta Boys' School



BEST OUT OF WASTE

pallavi.shankar@timesgroup.com

Do you have overripe bananas that you are considering doing away with? Don't discard them. These overripe fruits can be put to great use for making some interesting things. Here are some ideas:

Puree banana in ice creams and shakes

Bananas cannot be consumed directly when they become mushy. But puree them and add to your mango shake (instead of sugar) and you will have a thick, frothy and nutritious fruit beverage. Alternatively, mash banana and add to ice cream along with other ingredients that you usually do and you will get delicious banana-flavoured home-made ice cream.



Banana hair mask

This fruit is great for dry hair. Mash one overripe banana in a bowl. Add some olive or coconut oil to it and apply on hair for 15-20 minutes. Shampoo as usual - your mane will be less frizzy and more tamed and smooth post this banana hair treatment.



Must try recipe

Here comes June with its full wave of sweltering and sultry heat, but worry not kiddos! Hands-down to these cool recipes, which will surely beat the heat. So, put on your chef's hat, wear your stain-free aprons, wash your hands, and let's get started.

Topping the list is delicious White Pasta Salad

Ingredients:

- > 1 bowl - boiled pasta
- > Some veggies - chopped bell peppers, capsicum, sweet corn, broccoli, cherry tomatoes, green onions, mint leaves (to garnish)
- > Mayonnaise/home-made creamy dips
- > 1/4 teaspoon salt and black pepper
- > Lime juice
- > Just take 1 tablespoon of cooking oil in a saucepan and add water to it. Add pasta (fusilli, penne, macaroni, the list is endless). Once it softens, just drain off all the water and let the pasta cool down. Meanwhile, add two tablespoons cooking oil in a pan. Add finely chopped onions and cherry tomatoes. Next, add all your colourful veggies like chopped bell peppers, capsicum, broccoli and some sweet corns. Sprinkle a pinch of salt. Toss them upon slow heat for 4-5 minutes.



Marinate: Make sure the pasta is at room temperature. Take a dollop of mayonnaise or any other home-made creamy dip and add it to pasta. Next, add half a teaspoon of lime juice. Now, add all the cooked veggies. Mix and keep it in the refrigerator for minimum twenty minutes or until the pasta is soaked properly in mayonnaise and lime juice.

Presentation: Put the marinated pasta in your favourite bowl. Finally, garnish it with mint leaves.

- By SIMPY DADIALA, Teacher, DPS, Vasant Vihar, Delhi

6 WORDS THAT ONCE MEANT SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT

Awful: In the 1300s, it originally meant 'inspiring wonder' and was a short version of 'full of awe'. But now the word has purely negative connotations.

Silly: In its earliest uses, it referred to things worthy or blessed; from there it came to refer to the weak and vulnerable, and more recently to those who are foolish.



Cute: 'Cute' was derived from the word 'acute', which originally meant shrewd or sly. But that was in the 18th century. Over a hundred years later, American slang shortened and transformed 'acute' to 'cute', even changing its meaning to 'pretty' or 'dainty'.

Doom: It originally meant a law, judgement or decree. Current meaning: Fated death or destruction.

Myriad: If you had a myriad of things 600 years ago, it meant that you specifically had 10,000 of them - not just a lot.

Quell: Quelling something or someone used to mean 'killing it', not just subduing it!