

## Test your knowledge of the news headlines from May 28-June 3 2006.

1. More than 5,000 people were killed in an earthquake that struck:
  - a. Fiji.
  - b. Indonesia.
  - c. Japan.
2. A U.S. Senate panel is set to hold hearings on the November 2005 deaths of 24 Iraqi civilians because:
  - a. they may have been killed by U.S. Marines.
  - b. of the possible involvement of U.S. civilian contractors.
  - c. of allegations of careless handling of military ordinance.
3. Barry Bonds surpassed Babe Ruth's career home-run record when he hit home run number:
  - a. 689.
  - b. 722.
  - c. 715.
4. Shiloh Nouvel is the name of a new:
  - a. celebrity baby.
  - b. Cirque du Soleil production.
  - c. soft drink.
5. The Supreme Court voted 5 to 4 to limit the free-speech rights of:
  - a. immigrants.
  - b. government employees.
  - c. Olympic athletes.
6. According to a recent study, global warming may worsen:
  - a. insomnia.
  - b. poison ivy.
  - c. water shortages.
7. The Romanian government is giving its Transylvania region's Bran Castle, also known as Dracula's Castle, to:
  - a. Bram Stoker's heirs.
  - b. a museum foundation.
  - c. its former owner.
8. President Bush nominated as his new Treasury Secretary a man who made his career:
  - a. on Wall Street.
  - b. in the legal profession.
  - c. in the military.
9. A recent comprehensive United Nations report shows a slight decrease worldwide in:
  - a. infant mortality rates.
  - b. the spread of AIDS.
  - c. global warming.
10. Hugh Jackman and Halle Berry star together in the current hit movie:
  - a. *The Da Vinci Code*.
  - b. *Over the Hedge*.
  - c. *X-Men: The Last Stand*.

# Answers

1. **b.** The town of Bantul, which is south of Yogyakarta on the island of Java in Indonesia, was hit hardest by the May 27 earthquake. More than 15,000 people were injured and 100,000 were displaced from their homes. The powerful quake coincided with increased volcanic activity on Mount Merapi. Emergency teams gathered to cope with Merapi's expected eruption were able to respond fairly quickly to the earthquake in Bantul.
2. **a.** The Senate decided to investigate the deaths of two dozen Iraqi civilians that took place on November 19 in a farm town called Haditha. The victims included women and young children. At first the military said the people were killed by a roadside bomb, then later that the Iraqis died in cross-fire. The Senate panel will look into whether the citizens were in fact murdered by U.S. marines and whether a cover-up followed the inquiry.
3. **c.** In a game played before his home crowd in San Francisco, Bonds hit the ball over the center field fence for his 715th home run. The ball had been pitched to him by Colorado Rockies pitcher Byung-Hyun Kim. Bonds is still in second place for total career homers, behind Hank Aaron with 755. Despite his achievement, Bonds is not universally popular, both because of his personality and allegations of steroid use.
4. **a.** Shiloh Nouvel is the name Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt gave to their new daughter. Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt was born on May 27 in Namibia. The government of Namibia has cooperated closely with "Brangelina" in providing tight security and privacy protection. Police have arrested photographers and confiscated film, while the government has refused visas to any foreign journalists not pre-approved by the new parents. Pitt and Jolie donated \$300,000 to Namibia for infant healthcare.
5. **b.** The Supreme Court decided that the Constitution does not necessarily protect the rights of government employees to speak freely while on the job. The ruling involved a case in which a deputy Los Angeles district attorney claimed he had been denied a promotion for challenging the legitimacy of a particular search warrant. Los Angeles County argued that Civil Service laws adequately protect employees who think they've been treated unfairly. Majority justices included Kennedy, Alito, Roberts, Scalia and Thomas.
6. **b.** According to a study conducted at Duke University, poison ivy vines grow faster and bigger as carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere rise. The scientists conducted the study in a forest near the university, where they increased carbon dioxide to the level it's expected to hit in 2050. Under those conditions, poison ivy not only grew faster and larger, it also produced more of the chemical urushiol, which causes uncomfortable rashes on human skin.
7. **c.** The tourist site made popular by *Bram Stoker's Count Dracula* stories will be returned to the grandson of its former owner. In 1948, the castle was seized from the late Queen Marie by the communist government. Marie had bequeathed it to her daughter, Princess Ileana, who in turn left it to her son Dominic van Hapsburg, who is an architect in New York. The medieval fortress never actually belonged to Prince Vlad the Impaler, the historical figure who inspired Stoker's novel, but it has appeared in many Dracula movies.
8. **a.** Nominee Henry M. Paulson is chairman and CEO of Goldman Sachs, one of Wall Street's largest firms. Paulson will replace John W. Snow, a former railroad man, who announced his resignation after three years at the post. Mr. Paulson is also an avid environmentalist who serves as chairman of the board of the Nature Conservancy. As such, he doesn't fit the mold of most Bush cabinet appointees. Mr. Bush has been a staunch opponent of the Kyoto Protocol, which is strongly supported by the Nature Conservancy.
9. **b.** The lengthy report found reason for optimism in the slowing spread of AIDS globally. Despite this glimmer of hope, the number of new infections continues to rise in certain countries. Last year, 4.1 million people were newly infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and 2.8 million people died from the disease. Since it was first diagnosed in 1981, AIDS has killed about 25 million people. The total number of people living with AIDS has risen, due to more successful treatments and to population growth.
10. **c.** Jackman plays Wolverine and Berry appears as Storm in *X-Men: The Last Stand*, a hit over the Memorial Day weekend. Wolverine and Storm are two of the mutants who must face former teammate Jean Grey (Famke Janssen), who is possessed with the cosmic power of the Dark Phoenix, as well as the malevolent Brotherhood led by Magneto (Ian McKellan). The film's holiday weekend take of \$120.1 million helped pull Hollywood out of a ticket slump.