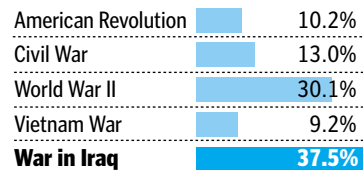


SURVEY SAYS

Last week's survey asked: **Which war do you want to know more about?** More than 425 readers responded:



KidsPost



ENGLAND
3,650 miles
FROM WASHINGTON

This is the 13th in a series of KidsPost Journeys around the world to show readers how children in other countries and cultures live and play. Today we JOURNEY TO ENGLAND.

My name is... Tabby



MIDHURST, England — In her final days at Conifers last spring, Tabby Taylor enjoyed being “head girl” at the private school located about 50 miles from the capital city of London.

She proudly wore a little metal badge identifying her as such on her school uniform. Her job, she said, was “to keep everybody happy” and make sure there was always good communication between students and teachers.

Conifers has about 90 pupils — boys from ages 2 to 8, and girls from 2 to 11. It is in Midhurst, a town of about 5,000 people in the English countryside.

Tabby turned 12 last week. Her name is short for Tabitha, but so many people call her Tabby that, as she very politely explains, “sometimes I don’t realize I should answer when I’m called Tabitha.”

At Conifers, which is just a few miles from her home, school started at 8:45 a.m. One day a week Tabby would arrive 15 minutes early for her music lesson. She plays flute and guitar, and she led the school’s orchestra and the marching band.

After passing exams in English grammar and essay writing, science and math, Tabby headed off to boarding school this month. She’s at Downe House, a school for girls, about 50 miles from her home.

Most children who attend private school in England go off to boarding school at Tabby’s age, so she wasn’t too worried about the change. She will be able to come home every third weekend and on holiday breaks.

Tabby thinks that science is “okay — because I quite like exploding things. It’s always more interesting when you do experiments. I prefer the practical things rather than things like writing.”

Recess in English schools is called break. Conifers, like many private schools, has a tennis court and lots of space for team games

such as rounders (a form of baseball). The grass playing field is frequently wet and muddy because of the rain, and students stack their weatherproof boots outside the door, always ready for wear.

Tabby loves living in the country. One of her favorite times of year is early spring “when everything is green . . . and everything blossoms.”

She also loves summer — school vacation is two months long — when “we play polo.” The fast, exciting stick-and-ball game on horseback is played by her mother, Vanessa, a photographer; her father, David, a businessman; her brother, Jack, 12; and her sister, Jemima, 9.

“I love riding,” Tabby says. She also competes in show-jumping competitions on her pony, Murphy. She was very young when she first rode a horse — “a polo pony that was really calm” — and by the time she was 5 or 6 she was learning to play polo.

If she doesn’t become an actress when she grows up, Tabby says she will be a horse trainer.

— Bridget Byrne



In England, cupcakes are called fairy cakes.

About Tabby

Food: A typical school lunch is roast beef with potatoes and vegetables, followed by yogurt or fruit. Tabby says “I like meat.” When the family went to Argentina, they saw a cow being killed for food. Tabby grimaces a little at the memory but admits “it didn’t really put me off. It’s natural.”

Pets: Tabby loves animals. She has a dog, Maisie, a Norfolk terrier-Jack Russell mix. The family has horses, polo ponies and two cats, Tiger and Scooby.

TV shows: “I like ‘The Simpsons.’ I think they are very funny.”

Music: “I like most modern music. I like Robbie Williams. But I also like the music my dad likes, like Tina Turner.”

Fun fact: The area where Tabby lives was home in the 1880s to H.G. Wells, the author of classic science fiction books “The Time Machine” and “The War of the Worlds.” Wells said it had “always been a happy place for me. I suppose it rained there sometimes, but all my memories are in sunshine.”



About England

Country: England is 50,351 square miles of the 93,788 square miles that make up the United Kingdom, which includes Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Capital: London.

Population: About 60 million people live in the United Kingdom; about 50 million of them are in England.

Geography: Even the biggest cities are surrounded by varied and beautiful countryside. Because England is on an island, no place is very far from the sea. It rains about a third of the time, and it occasionally snows in winter.

History: The seafaring people of the British Isles explored and conquered many parts of the world, which is why English is spoken and understood in so many places, including the United States. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it was said that “the sun never sets

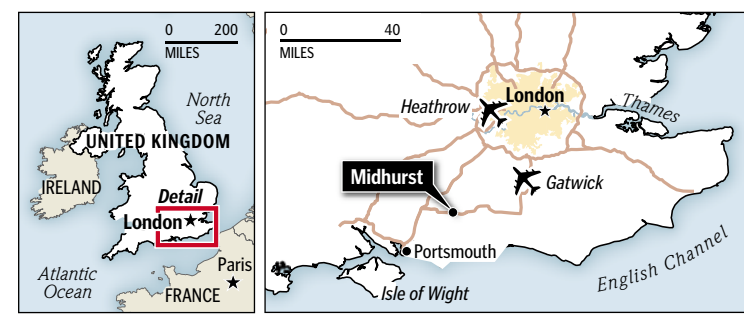


on the British Empire,” because the United Kingdom ruled a quarter of the globe, including Canada, Australia, India and many parts of Africa. Today there is no empire, but it is still a prosperous country.

Religion: The majority of believers are Christian. But many other faiths are represented.

Money: The English use pounds sterling, denoted by the symbol £. All money has an image of Queen Elizabeth II on one side.

School age: Children must attend school from 5 years



BY NATHANIEL VAUGHN KELLO — THE WASHINGTON POST

old until they are 16.

TV and Internet: More than 98 percent of households own a least one TV set, and more than 62 percent have a personal computer.

Famous people:

- Playwright **William Shakespeare**, whose work includes “Romeo and Juliet” and “Hamlet.”
- Queen **Elizabeth II**, who visited the United States this year for the Jamestown anniversary.
- Princes **William and Harry**, her grandsons.
- Actor **Daniel Radcliffe**, who plays that other famous Harry (Potter).



BY DAMIAN DOVARGANES — ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daniel Radcliffe was born in Fulham, an area of west London.

TODAY'S NEWS

Here's an Idea: Put a Kid in Charge

■ While his District classmates were in school yesterday, 10-year-old Ricky Washington was running the city.

The Lafayette Elementary fifth-grader was sworn in as mayor for the day by his father, Eric, chief judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals. Ricky then spent his short time in office meeting with other city officials and serving hot lunches at a senior center.

Ricky was among 43 D.C. students who entered this year’s “10 Who Are 10” contest, sponsored by the Marriott hotel company. Applicants had to make their case for why they should be mayor for a day.

“I knew I had some great ideas for the city,” Ricky told KidsPost.



BY SONNIE MASON

Ricky Washington: mayor for a day.

His ideas included setting up a week of events to stop school bullying — “getting people to be respectful of each other’s differences” — and involving kids in cleaning up the city. “When I go to Rock Creek Park, I see a lot of bottles and trash lying on the ground,” he said.

Ricky met Mayor Adrian M.

Fenty, whose job he took for the day, and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, the city’s representative on Capitol Hill, with whom he discussed efforts to obtain full voting rights for D.C. residents.

Ricky and nine other contest finalists each will receive \$2,500 for college.

Looking ahead, one of Ricky’s teachers said it’s “easy to imagine him becoming mayor of D.C. one day” for real.

But Ricky told KidsPost he’d like to be a lawyer — or an actor.

Scaredy-Cat

■ A cat stuck high up in a tree for a week in Yonkers, New York, was blasted to safety by a high-pressure fire hose Sunday night.

Volunteers held a sheet under the tree and caught the soaked but otherwise unharmed feline as onlookers cheered.

WEATHER



TODAY: Sunny; breezy.

HIGH 78 **LOW** 58

TOMORROW: Cloudy. High 78. Low 60.

ILLUSTRATION BY BRENDAN CLARK, 6, BLURNE

WEATHER TRIVIA

WHAT IS THE SEPTEMBER FULL MOON CALLED? ANSWER: FRUIT OR HARVEST MOON.

SPEAK OUT

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC

Family Dinnertime

This is National Eat Dinner Together Week. With everyone’s busy schedule these days, it’s getting harder and harder to

gather for a family meal.

How often does your family have dinner together? Go to www.kidspost.com and tell us.

■ **My family eats dinner together:**

- A.** Every night of the week
- B.** 5-6 nights each week
- C.** 3-4 nights each week
- D.** 1-2 nights each week
- E.** Never



BY SARAH L. VOISIN — THE WASHINGTON POST