



Griffin Gazette



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Knock-Offs Dominate Lego Sales: An Investigative Report

by Denis Filippenkov, Gabe Wong, Ayumu Funabashi and Owen Popper

Have you ever wondered about LEGO and LEGO knock-offs? Well, this article will make you aware of the non-LEGO sets being produced in the world.

All of these different knock-off brands are being manufactured in Asia, specifically in China. The main knock-off brand in the world is Lepin, but there are others. These companies rip-off LEGO's design for sets and even rip off LEGO's logo. As you can see with the pictures, Lepin uses the same colors and design as LEGO.

Another brand that makes knock-offs is LERO, and it makes the worst ever knock-offs, including its most recent LEGO Ninjago Movie remakes.

These brands' knock-off minifigures are made of cheaper plastic. Also the minifigure detail for the most part is a lot worse. The fake LEGOs have worse detailed than actual genuine LEGO. Also with knock-offs some of the proportions are slightly off. In contrast, LEGO has lots of detail and takes care in designing its products.

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Ask the Griffin!

Do you have a question for the Griffin? Drop it anonymously in the box in the S.S.O.

Dear Griffin,

Awhile ago I was playing a game with some friends. Everything was fine until my friend tried to kick out another person from the game. I stood up for the person that was going to get kicked out. My friend was taking it seriously and was hurt because I wasn't on their side. When I tried talking to them, they spoke to me in a mean way. Now we aren't the best of friends. And now all of my friend's friends aren't being really nice to me. What should I do?

Sincerely,

Got Betrayed

Dear Got Betrayed,

I am very sorry to hear what happened to you. Your friend might have misunderstood what you did. After you give them some space and time, you might want to consider talking to your friend about what happened and straighten it out. Give your friend a chance. If your friend continues being mean to you, your friend might not be a true friend you would want to be with, but the choice is for you to make. However, there are many other friends you can make here at Gateway. Just remember, standing up for people is good so you shouldn't feel bad about what you did. And maybe your friend will learn from that, too.

Sincerely,

The Griffin

Dear Griffin,

My best friend is not hanging out with me anymore and she dyed her hair pink and has a boyfriend that's a jock. Also after she came back from summer camp, she didn't text me. I have new friends now, but I miss her!! And we used to be best friends. What should I do?????? ;(

Sincerely,

Via

Dear Via,

Try meeting more people, give your friend some space, and after a while maybe you should invite her to dinner and you can talk out your differences. I hope this was helpful!

Sincerely,

The Griffin

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LEGO Knock-Offs, cont.

Another difference between Lepin and LEGO is

weight. While Lepin is only slightly lighter, there is still a difference. This is because Lepin is made more cheaply from cheaper plastic. That's why the sets themselves end up being cheaper.

Also, LEGO and Lepin have had many lawsuits, the most recent one being in June 2017. "We would like to confirm that the LEGO Group have recently filed civil actions in China against the manufacturer and distributor of Lepin branded construction toys," said the LEGO Community Engagement Team (LCE) in an article posted back in September 2016 by Brickset, a LEGO news outlet. In fact, LEGO is actively trying to remove Lepin from being sold on places like eBay.

In conclusion, we can say that a knock-off brand called Bela hasn't been a

major problem since in November 2017 when LEGO won its first case against them in the Beijing Higher

Court. The court decided that the manufacturers should stop copying LEGO's packaging design, as well as cloning their logos, which violates copyright infringement, especially against LEGO's many licenses, such as Marvel, Star Wars, Minecraft, and more.

The next time you go to a store, don't look for Lepin sets since they are cheaper and can break apart because of their

cheap plastic. Instead, if you want cheaper LEGOs, look for clearances or used sets from Bricklink instead. There are a lot of clearances in the holiday season especially. Lepin may be cheaper, but still, it is a threat to LEGO's community, as people are still producing more knock-offs.



Sources:

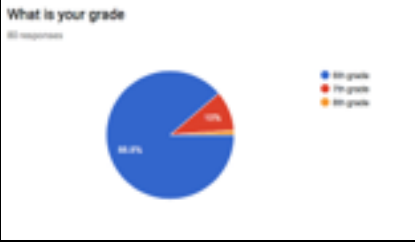
- <https://www.lego.com/en-gb/about-us/news-room/2017/december/lego-group-wins-case-against-bela>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZ2eX9vUcUQ>



Comic by Milo Murgia & Annika Jenkins.

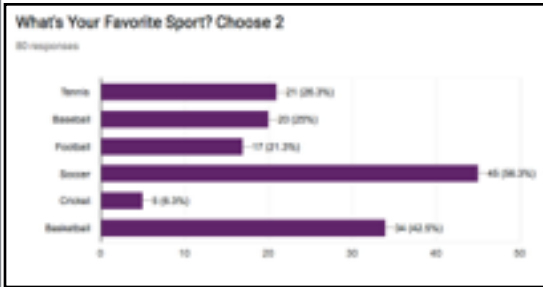
Who Are You?

By Damysha Rashid, Lamees Shaikh, Najeeba Shaikh



As you can see from our chart, most sixth

graders have answered our poll questions. 88% of sixth graders have done our poll and 10% of seventh graders, so give them a round of applause. In contrast, we have information from only one eighth grader.



From our Poll we learned that most people love soccer; therefore, we

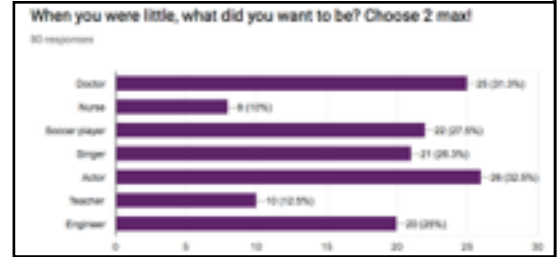
can conclude that most people play soccer as a sport or just love to play soccer for fun. At the same time, we know that only 5 out of the 80 people like cricket.



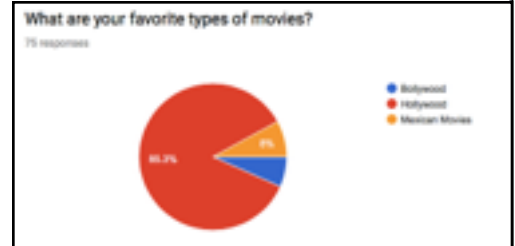
We all have a bestfriend that can describe us. And for most, they must find

humor in us. That's why 33.8% of people think they're best friends love them for being funny. There other characteristics also.

From our results, we all learned that 32.5% people that took our survey wanted to be an actor/actress when they were younger. Coming in second place was a dream to become a doctor. Maybe they just wanted to make a change to our society.



Considering we're in America, it actually makes sense that most people are interested in Hollywood movies rather than foreign movies. But there might be a possibility that some people haven't seen movies from foreign countries.



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Ask the Griffin, Cont.

Dear Griffin,

I'm having trouble with gossip. One of my friends will start talking about another one of my friends and I don't know what to do. Do you have any advice? Thanks.

From,

Troubled With Gossip

Dear Trouble With Gossip,

I can see that you are kind of caught in the middle. It's pretty hard getting caught in the middle with your

friends. You should stand up for your friend that is being gossiped about. Just tell your friend that you don't like it when your friend talks like that about your other friend. Tell your friend the person they're gossiping about is your friend and tell your friend that you don't want to hear that type of thing about your other friend. You shouldn't feel ashamed of yourself if you stand up for friends because that's what friends are there for. Hopefully that solved your problem. Remember, the choice is yours!

Sincerely,
The Griffin

Favorite Types Of Foods

80 responses



The chart above is different. People really like Mexican food. After that comes Chinese. Next place goes to American food like pasta. Last but not least is Italian food like pizza. People have different interests and tastes.

Who Are You? (cont.)

Favorite Youtuber

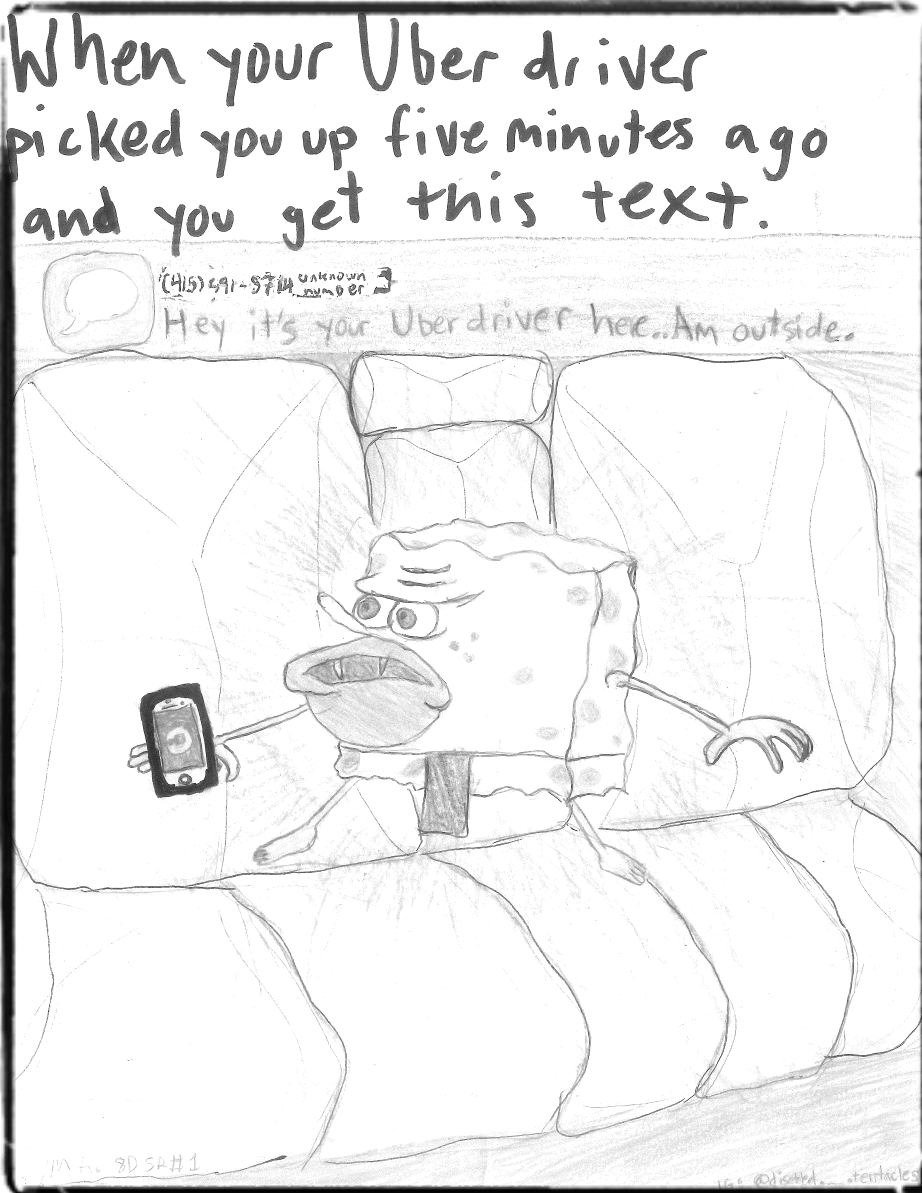
80 responses



As for our favorite YouTubers, you can see that 41.3% voted none of the above. But Logan Paul was second. 12 out of 80 people voted for Logan Paul. 3rd is Liza Koshy. 10% of people voted for her. On number 4 is Miranda Sings, and she got 8.8% of votes. Next up is Jake Paul, and he got 7.5% of the votes. On number 6 we have a tie between iiSuperwomanii and Reaction Time. Lastly, we surprisingly have the Youtuber with the most subscribers, Pewdiepie. He very surprisingly got only 5% of the votes.

The best advice given to people was mostly "Be Yourself," which is given to people personally a lot. Now we have a tie for the "Who

And the art contest winner is...



Kelvyn Ancco for his Sponge-Bob inspired artwork!

What is the best advice you've ever been given?

80 responses



Are You?" poll between "Try your hardest" and "Be a leader not a follower." We actually have another tie which is between "Work hard" and "Follow your dreams." Next in line is "Positive Vibes Only" and finally we have in last place "Dream and achieve."

These were all the polls and answers in our "Who Are You?" poll.

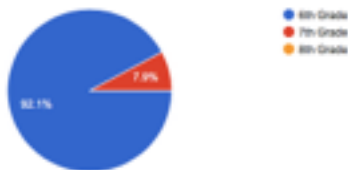
Poll Results!

by
Razane Aizi, Olivia Bostwick, & Vicky Tan

You might remember filling out this poll so here are the results!

What grade are you in?

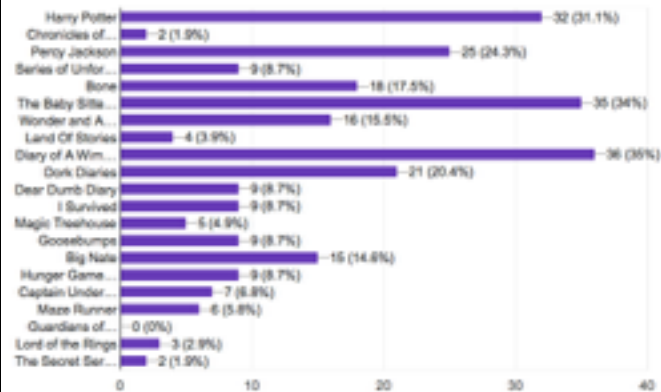
76 responses



Based on this pie chart, 92.1% of the people that filled out this question are 6th graders and 7.9% of the people that filled this out are 7th graders.

What's your favorite book series?(Choose 3 at the most)

103 responses



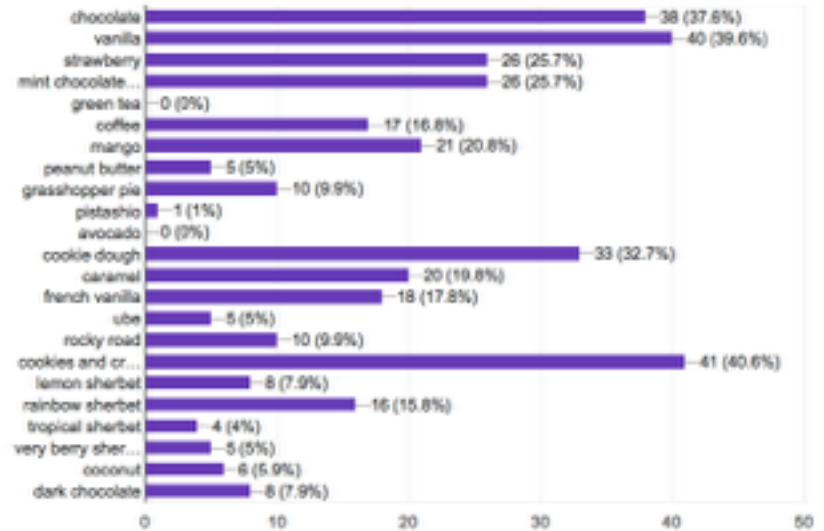
According to our results Diary of a Wimpy Kid is the most popular book at Gateway, closely followed by Baby Sitters Club and Harry Potter.

The most popular ice cream flavor is cookies and cream. Coming next are vanilla and then chocolate. There were 101 responses for this question.

The favorite animal from these options is

Favorite ice cream flavor?(Choose 3 at the most)

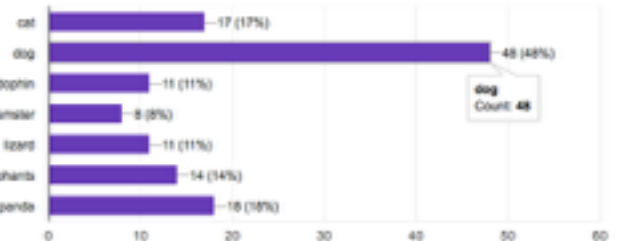
101 responses



the dog. The second most favorite animal is

What's your favorite animal (Choose 1)

100 responses

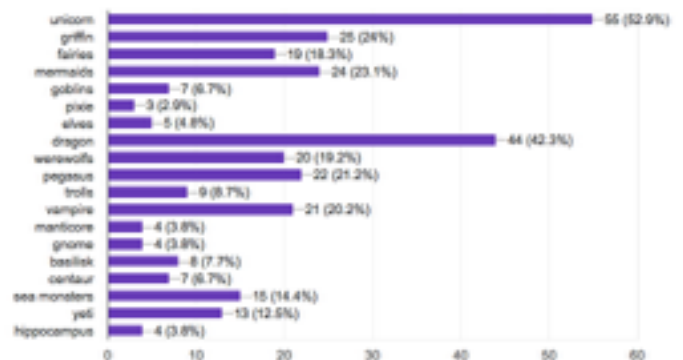


the panda. Coming in third is the cat.

There were 104 responses to this question. The favorite mythical animal is the unicorn! The second favorite mythical animal is the dragon.

What is your favorite mythical creature? (choose up to 3)

104 responses



Top Seven Movies of 2017

According to Milo Murgia & Patrick Bailey

#7 *Dunkirk*.

This movie has lots of deaths of course. The movie is about the



evacuation of Allied soldiers from Belgium, Great Britain and France as they

were surrounded by the German army in World War II.

Rotten Tomatoes score: 92%
Our score: 80.5/100

#6 *The Lego Batman Movie*

The Lego Batman Movie is about Joker trying to be Batman's worst enemy so he tries to destroy the world. Batman tries to do it by himself and fails, but then he has a big team to Stop Joker.

Rotten Tomatoes score: 91%
Our score: 82/100

#5 *You Can't Save the World Alone.*

I thought this movie was ok. This is about the world falling apart because of Superman's death, (*Watch Batman vs. Superman*) and Batman bringing the league together. I thought Wonder Woman and Superman stole the show. A character I loved was the Flash. For all you CW Flash

fans that were annoyed like me, he did an amazing job. Rotten Tomatoes score: 41%
Our score: 83/100

#4 *It*

This movie was great. I thought they tried too hard on C.G.I. and some scenes I could tell it was fake, but other than that, the jump scares were timed right and the acting was good. The movie is about a sorta gang called the "losers" club who fight off a killer clown named Pennywise. The movie ends unfinished, but that's because a part 2 of the movie is coming out next year.

Rotten Tomatoes score: 85%
Our score: 90/100



#3 *Thor Ragnarok*

When I watched *Thor Ragnarok* I thought it was awesome! It made up for all the bad Thor movies in the past years. This movie was about Thor going to fight his sister because Loki screwed up.

Rotten Tomatoes score: 92%
Our score: 92/100

#2

I thought *Wonder Woman* was nearly a perfect film, but it had its flaws. One of the flaws was that it was practically just the *Captain America*

story. The second was I thought in some scenes it was too quiet. The story is about Diana, a.k.a. Wonder Woman, growing up on a hidden island built by the gods. A WW I spy for Britain crashes in their sea while being chased by the Germans. She goes to stop the war thinking it was Ares and..... Well, you'll have to find out. Rotten Tomatoes score: 92%
Our score: 92/100

#1 *Spider-Man Homecoming*

This movie was amazing, I know people are going to disagree with this as number one, but I thought this movie had great characters and an amazing cast. The movie is about Peter after *Civil War* trying to find his identity. He wants to join the Avengers and is rejected. He then spies on a group of villains and that's when everything turns around but gets ruined.

Rotten Tomatoes score: 92/100
Our score: 96/100



Advisory Clubs

by Danait Fesehaye & Izzy Kishimoto

Still trying to choose your next advisory club? Check out here what some clubs did this semester to help decide.



Student Council Club with Ms. Colen: Student Council is taking a vote on an important matters, discussing their personal opinions on different activities and planning dances.



Workout Club with Ms. Dougherty:

They are doing abdominal workouts and push ups. Before they did any workouts, they stretch. They also do squats. Fun fact: squats

help you with your quadricep muscles.



Guitar Club with Ms. Pennewell and Mr. Angelo: Students are learning how to play some sweet tunes.

Book Club with Mr. Juarez:

They are talking about a book that they read.



Step Club with Towns:

In Step Club they're working on a routine.



Garden Club with Ms. Chelsea: They are working on making the garden great again.

Griffin Gazette with Ms. Herko:

Students are working on the newspaper for this semester.

