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**EDUCATION**

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soon...**



**NON-FICTION IN THE CLASSROOM:**  
Practical ways to teach with news stories

**FREE WEBINAR**

with Christine Chen and Lindsay Pickton.  
Monday 5 February at 4pm



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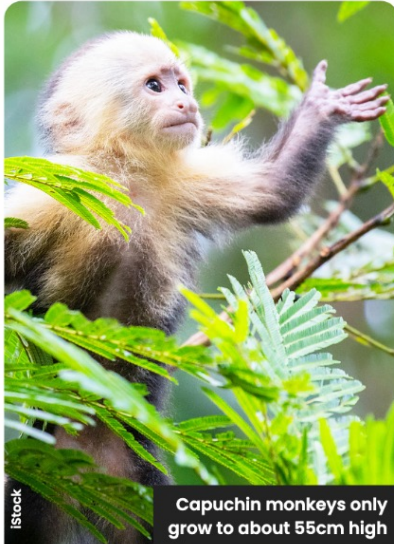
# *Non-fiction in the classroom*

Practical ways to teach with news stories

Christine Chen and Lindsay Pickton  
[www.primaryeducationadvisors.co.uk](http://www.primaryeducationadvisors.co.uk)



# Monkey escapes for love!



A CHEEKY monkey named Charlie has escaped from his island sanctuary in Ireland, setting off in search of a girlfriend.

The capuchin monkey used to live at Rathdrum Monkey Sanctuary, but a couple of weeks ago, while being relocated, he jumped off the boat and ran away.

The sanctuary's owner, Willie Heffernan, has urged locals to keep an eye out for Charlie, who he says is likely to be looking for a mate.

But he warns that the monkey is shy around humans and likely to run or bite if cornered.

As *First News* went to press, Charlie was still on the loose.

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# **PISA**

Programme for International Student Assessment  
2021

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“Data consistently shows that engagement in reading is strongly correlated with reading performance.”

“Whatever pupils’ socio-economic background, making sure that they become engaged with reading from the beginning is one of the most important ways to make a difference to their life chances.”

# *Reading as a Reader*



# *Teaching Children How to Read a Newspaper*

- Leafing through
  - Choose which bits grab your interest
  - Discuss:
    - What was funniest, scariest, fascinating, most important...?
    - What do *you* know more about? What would you like to find out more about?
    - What had you already heard about from TV/radio/social media/adults? Changed your view?
- (Trusting sources – 3<sup>rd</sup> webinar)

# What grabs you?

2 by Safiyah Choudry

## Quick News

Issue 917 FirstNews  
12 - 18 January 2024

### MEET THE TEAM



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Nicky Cox



Editorial Manager  
Hannah Timson



Sub  
Steve Smith



News Editor  
Ian Eddy



Senior Reporter  
Chris Towers



Junior Reporter  
Safiyah Choudry



Digital Assistant/  
Junior Reporter  
Charlie Baker



First News FYI  
News Club  
Executive  
Milly Rusting

### Police investigate Post Office scandal

Police are investigating the Post Office for possible fraud offences that happened during the Horizon IT scandal. The Post Office took more than 700 Post Office branch managers to court between 1999 and 2016 over money it claimed had gone missing, accusing the managers of losing or stealing it. Many of them were sent to jail. A mini-series that aired on ITV last week, *Mr Bates vs the Post Office*, showed how several managers went to court to prove a new software system, Horizon, installed by the Post Office was at fault. They won, and 93 people were declared innocent, but hundreds more are still waiting for justice. Since the TV show, the Metropolitan Police have said they will look at what the Post Office did with the money the managers had to pay back – sometimes tens of thousands of pounds. A formal public enquiry into the scandal and possible cover-up began in 2023. Ex-Post Office boss Paula Vennells said this week she would hand back her CBE honour over the Horizon scandal. The case has been called the biggest failure of justice in UK history.

### Farmers need more support, says WWF



A new report by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) says that farmers need more help with eco-friendly farming methods. Changing to 'regenerative farming' could help tackle climate change and restore wildlife. The report says farmers should be paid more to produce healthy food and protect – and regenerate – the environment. It also warns that, without more funding and Government action, the food system in England could fail. Kate Norgrove from WWF said that farmers wanted to be sure they would be supported if they changed to regenerative farming.

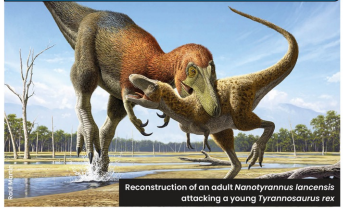
### Say hello to having internet on the Tube!



By the end of this year, passengers using the London Underground will have access to 4G and 5G mobile coverage across most stations. Internet service underground used to be quite limited, but now people will be able to make calls, send texts and browse while travelling. Transport for London says that by the end of 2024, the Tube and Elizabeth line will have continuous 4G and 5G coverage in around 80% of stations.

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

### Scientists say tiny T rex was a different dinosaur, not a baby



Scientists say that what they thought was a baby *Tyrannosaurus rex* (T rex) is actually a separate dinosaur species, named *Nanotyrannus*. These pint-sized predators were fast runners with long arms and a slim snout, unlike their bulkier cousins, T rex. Researchers at the University of Bath studied growth rings in the dinosaur's bones, and found they were nearly full-grown. They also discovered that it relied on

### Ancient rocks could reveal Earth's earliest life

Scientists are looking into unique rock formations in Puna de Atacama, Argentina, hoping they might provide a peek into Earth's earliest life forms 3.5 billion years ago. Dr Brian Hynek, one of the researchers, said: "We think there are the same types of bacteria living there and doing the same biology



The rock formations in Puna de Atacama, Argentina

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## Quick News

Issue 917 FirstNews  
12 - 18 January 2024

## HAVE YOU HEARD?



Go to the First News app for daily news.

### Scabies cases rising due to medicine shortage



Cases of scabies, a rash caused by tiny bugs, are increasing in the UK because there's a shortage of medicine to treat it. Usually, creams kill the bugs quickly, but recent problems with supplies have made it harder for doctors to treat patients. Many in the north of England, particularly, have been affected. Remember, it's always important to tell an adult if you're feeling extra itchy, especially during the winter when cases of scabies are most common.

### Humans understand chicken chatter, says study

Ever wondered what chickens are saying? Scientists at the University of Queensland discovered that we can understand chicken emotions from their clucks! They found that 69% of people who were played recordings of chickens could tell happily from frustrated chickens by their calls. This could lead to better care for chickens, as understanding their calls can help improve their living conditions.



### Gi-ga-miinigoz Mamaandaawiziwin (no, not a typo)

The original Star Wars movie is going to be translated into Ojibwe, a native language used by the Ojibwe people in North America. Auditions for the voice actors will take place this year in Winnipeg, Canada. The famous and iconic line "May the Force be with you", will be heard in Ojibwe for the first time as "Gi-ga-miinigoz Mamaandaawiziwin". The project is a collaboration between Disney, Lucasfilm, the University of Manitoba, and the Dakota Ojibwe Tribal Council, and aims to preserve the language. Ojibwe was chosen because it is the most-spoken indigenous language in Manitoba, Ontario and Minnesota.

### "Kids need more space", says top author



Famous children's author Katherine Rundell believes British children need more space to grow and play. Rundell, who spent part of her childhood in Zimbabwe, says that unlike her own experience, British children have less opportunity for unsupervised play. She believes the lack of freedom might be causing them to grow up too quickly. This comes as the author was awarded the 2023 Waterstones Book of the Year for her children's book *Impossible Creatures*.



### RSPCA charity celebrates 200 years of animal protection

The RSPCA, the world's oldest animal charity, is celebrating 200 years of caring for pets. Over the past decade, it has found a new family for 11 pets every day, changed 400 laws to protect animals and delivered 1.7 million vet treatments. RSPCA chief executive Chris Sherwood said: "This is a real moment of celebration for us but we cannot ignore the challenges ahead. With the threats of climate change, industrial farming on a huge scale, war, wildlife loss, the cost of living crisis and the legacy of the pandemic, all animals face unprecedented [never seen before] challenges." With many animals still in need, the charity is inviting everyone to join its million-strong movement to ensure a safer world for all creatures.

### Medieval graves uncovered in Wales



Archaeologists have uncovered a 1,500-year-old burial ground near an airport in Wales. The unusual site contains around 80 graves, with many of the bodies found in a crouched position. The site also had evidence of animal bones and old glass drinking cups, hinting at past feasts and a wealthy group of inhabitants. Tudor Davies, from the University of Cardiff, says: "The evidence we've got here is that the people have access to very high quality imported goods, that you can only get through trading or exchange networks, with people with a lot of wealth, to bring it here."

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY**  
15 JANUARY  
Honours the life and legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr, who fought for the rights of African Americans in the 1950s and 1960s.

**GLOBAL WORD SEARCH DAY**  
16 JANUARY  
Celebrates the enjoyment and educational benefits of word searches.



# What grabs you?

14 by Chris Towers



## World News

Issue 917 FirstNews  
12 - 18 January 2024

### MEXICO

#### Movie fans mourn legendary Coco star

Tributes have been paid to actor Ana Ofelia Murguía, who passed away over the new year, aged 93. She voiced Mama Coco, the gentle great grandmother of main character Miguel, in the Oscar-winning 2017 Pixar film Coco. In her career she had over 100 roles, starting in film, TV and stage shows and, in 2011, she won a special lifetime achievement award for important figures in Mexican cinema. The National Institute of Fine Arts and Literature said that her "artistic career was vital for the performing arts of Mexico." Last year, when accepting another award, she told the audience: "Acting has been the passion of my life."



### USA

#### Alaska Airlines plane pops open mid-flight

Passengers aboard an Alaska Airlines flight said they survived the "big boom" when a section of the plane came off during the flight, sending cold air surging in. Evan Smith said: "There was a really loud bang, and a whoosh noise, and all the air masks dropped." He said one boy near the gap in the plane had his T-shirt sucked off by the pressure change. The plane, a Boeing 737 Max 8, made an emergency landing and nobody was hurt. The missing section of the plane was found in a teacher's back garden. A phone that fell from the plane was also found - still in airplane mode and working fine!



### FRANCE

#### French schools give uniforms a go

Some schools in France will trial uniforms from September, in a move to tackle inequality and bullying. Until now, French pupils have mostly been able to choose what they wear to class. One uniform has been unveiled for five schools in a region of France near the Alps. Laurent Wauquiez, the president of the region, said each student would receive three polos and two pullovers for free. He added: "The uniform is durable and good for the job." However, critics say uniforms won't solve problems with behaviour. In the past year, France has banned certain items of religious dress from schools.



### JAPAN

#### Woman survives five days in earthquake rubble

Rescuers pulled a woman in her 90s from the rubble of a two-storey building, five days after it collapsed in a major earthquake. Newspaper reporter Shinbun reported that 100 rescuers had been sent to look for her in the town of Suzu. She was alive, but thought to have hypothermia. A woman in her 40s was also rescued. The quake struck the Sea of Japan coast on New Year's Day, toppling buildings in nearby towns and killing over 200 people. As First News went to press, a rescue mission was still ongoing to find more than 100 missing people, but heavy rain and snow was making it hard, because of the possibility of landslides and more building collapses. Japan's military is providing food, water and blankets for survivors who have had to abandon their homes, with around 30,000 staying in government shelters.



### COLOMBIA AND PANAMA

#### Half a million make dangerous jungle crossing

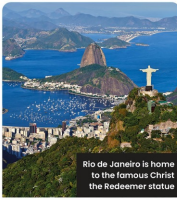
A record 520,000 people crossed a dangerous stretch of jungle between Colombia and Panama called the Darién Gap in 2023. That's more than double the number who made the crossing the year before, agents in Panama say. The Darién Gap is the only path between South America to Central America on land. It marks the start of the journey for migrants (people who want to move to another country) trying to reach the USA, but it involves crossing swamps and steep hills and is home to groups carrying weapons. Those who cross risk kidnap and disease.



### BRAZIL

#### Prisoners let out for Christmas don't come back

Police in the state of Rio de Janeiro have launched a search for hundreds of inmates who didn't come back to prison after being let out for Christmas. Most of the 1765 prisoners who had been let out on Christmas Eve returned by 10pm on 30 December, as they were supposed to, but 250 didn't. In Brazil, some prisoners with records of good behaviour are allowed to go home to their families during important holidays, but the law isn't very popular among the public. Leonardo Rocha, a BBC journalist from Brazil, said: "It happens every year... people are putting pressure on Congress [parliament] to change this law." In 2020, around 1,400 inmates went missing after being let out of jail in São Paulo.



### SPAIN

#### Football fan's joy at release from Iran jail

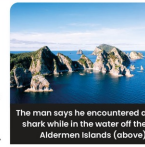
A man who was accused of espionage (spying) in Iran and locked away for 15 months has spoken of his relief to be home. Santiago Sánchez Cogedor, now 42, had been travelling through Iran in 2022 on his way to Qatar to watch Spain play in the World Cup. He was arrested when he took a photo of the grave of Mahsa Amini, who died in Iranian police custody after being accused of breaking Iran's strict dress code for women. "We have no idea how lucky we are to have been born in his country," Cogedor told reporters.



### NEW ZEALAND

#### Shiny watch saves man swept out to sea

An unnamed man who fell into the sea used the reflection from his watch to signal for help from a passing fishing boat. He had gone sailing by himself from New Zealand's North Island but fell overboard and spent nearly 24 hours alone in the water. He tried to swim to a nearby island but was dragged away by the current. Police said he had "a cold night in the ocean" and added: "It's an absolute miracle he's still alive... [the passing fishermen] without a doubt saved this man's life."



### AUSTRALIA

#### Scientists try to spy on animals from space



Scientists have launched a system that will use satellites 650km high up in space to try to track the movements of 1,000 cattle and buffalo. It's designed to help rangers in Australia who say the bulky animals are a serious threat to the environment because they eat huge volumes of grass and destroy important waterways. They also destroy indigenous rock art and trample ceremonial sites. One ranger, Steven Craig, said: "Seeing what these buffalo do to [the] country is devastating." The system, called SpaceCows, could allow rangers to stay one step ahead by fencing off certain areas of land before the animals arrive in the area. It's thought that around 22,000 buffalo roam free in remote regions of northern Australia.

### INDIA

#### North freezes over in severe cold snap

Freezing weather gripped parts of northern India last week with temperatures falling as low as -5°C. Dense icy fog fell over the capital city, Delhi, each night, causing flights and train services to be severely delayed or cancelled altogether. Lakes and waterways froze over, meaning boatmen had to break through it to ferry their passengers, and water supply pipes in certain regions froze too. The Indian Meteorological Society urged people in affected areas to limit their outdoor activities, as the thick fog carried pollution that could harm public health. This comes just weeks after Delhi recorded its warmest December in six decades.



# What grabs you?

28 by Ian Eddy

## Sport

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### KERR OUT FOR THE SEASON

**CHELSEA'S title hopes have taken a huge knock, with the news that star striker Sam Kerr will miss the rest of the season due to injury.**

The Aussie star was at Chelsea's warm weather training camp in Morocco when she injured the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in her knee.

She's the latest in a long line of female players to have been ruled out for months with the same injury, including the Arsenal trio of Beth Mead, Leah Williamson and Vivianne Miedema.

An ACL injury usually means a player will be out for up to nine months, and in extreme cases it can mean the end of an athlete's career. It's common in lots of sports that involve rapid turns, such as basketball and skiing.

Although female footballers are more likely to injure their ACL, experts don't really know why that is. It could be due to a combination of factors, including a woman's



England captain Leah Williamson is training for Arsenal last week. She injured her ACL in April, but still hasn't been able to play first-team football.



Sam Kerr (left) in action in the Champions League. Her contract is up at the end of the season, so it's possible she may never play for the club again.

monthly hormone cycle, different body shapes, not having boots designed specifically for women, and the fact that male professionals will generally have had many more years of coaching, training and physiotherapy. Some also think that the increasing workload in women's football means that players don't get enough recovery time.

**THERE** are four ligaments in the human knee, but the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) is the one that's injured most often in athletes. It joins the thigh bone to the shin and helps to keep the knee joint stable.



### Little inspiring kids across the UK



A peak of 3.7m people watched Littler in the final, the biggest audience ever for a darts match on Sky.

**DARTS coaches say that the 18-year-old darts sensation Luke Littler is making kids all across the UK pick up a set of arrows.**

Littler's surprising run to the final of the PDC World Darts Championship this month stunned the sport, but his performances and his age have given the sport the most publicity it's had in years.

Since you don't need any expensive equipment and can play indoors to escape the British

winter, it seems to be the perfect time for kids to see if they can follow in Littler's footsteps.

Although he lost the final 7-4 to Luke Humphries, Littler still took home £200,000 in prize money, so maybe that's another thing that's spurred the interest!

Littler has also been selected as one of the eight players to compete in this year's Premier League Darts, along with Humphries and five former world champions.

### Pujara at the double

**INDIAN cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara's incredible 243 net out for Saurashtra against Jharkhand in the Ranji Trophy was his 17th double century in first-class cricket.**

It means that there are now only three players in history who've scored more. He could catch up with Patsy Hendren's 22, although it seems unlikely that he'll ever catch up with Wally Hammond (33) or the 37 that legendary Australian star Don Bradman racked up during his extraordinary career.

While Pujara is celebrating, the emotions are completely different at rugby union side Gloucester, who lost their ninth Premiership match in a row. The 17-10 loss to Bath means that Gloucester are having their worst run ever in the competition. Their season started well with two wins, but that must seem a long time ago.

At least Gloucester didn't have too far to travel home



A penalty makes it 9-0 to Lille, but there was more to come.

so they could lick their wounds, so spare a thought for the unfortunate players of Golden Lion. They had to stew for 4,000 miles (6,450km) as they flew back home after a 12-0 posting from Lille in the French Cup. The team are from Martinique in the Caribbean, and were playing in the French Cup because Martinique is an overseas territory of France.

### Braydon's on the ball

**THE FYI presenter takes us through his pick of the week's top football action.**

The third round of the FA Cup often sees the lower-league teams pitched against the Premier League big guns, and every one hopes that there'll be a shock among the results. But last weekend went pretty much to plan in most of the games, with perhaps the biggest shock coming with Maidstone United of the National League South beating League One's Stevenage.

The big-name clash between Arsenal and Liverpool securing a place in the next round with 2-2 win at the Emirates.

Newcastle eased past Sunderland in the Northeast derby and Blackpool forced a replay off Forest with a 2-2 draw, despite leading 2-0 at one stage.



Leeds players look shocked after Patrick Bamford (left) finished in the goal of the round.

There are still eight replays to be played, and the fourth-round draw that was made on Monday evening sees Spurs take on Manchester City, while Chelsea will play Aston Villa in the most eye-catching of the ties.

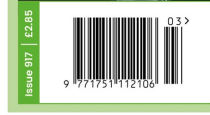
There were no major shocks this year, but it was still a great weekend of FA Cup football to start the year!

**Braydon's Team of the Week:** Maidstone United. A shame they didn't get a home tie against a Premier League team in the next round, but I'm sure they'll be looking forward to the trip to Ipswich.

**Braydon's Player of the Week:** Cameron Dawson, who saved two first-half penalties for Sheffield Wednesday, Bristol!



Top penalty stopper Cameron Dawson



# Discussion points...

24 with Milly Rurling **Your News** Issue 916 FirstNews 5 - 11 January 2023

## WHAT YOU SAID IN 2023

A round-up of our best polls in 2023 and how you voted in them.

**Lots of you don't read for pleasure!**  
Do you read for pleasure?

**We asked 1,890 of you...**  
The results  
591 (31%) of you said YES  
1,299 (69%) of you said NO

**Many of you have been taken in by a fake video or news report. That's why it's so important to use trusted news sources.**

**We asked 2,304 of you...**  
Have you been taken in by a fake video or news report?

**The results**  
981 (43%) of you said YES  
1,323 (57%) of you said NO

**Most of you wouldn't like to swap your teachers for robots, which I'm sure they'll be glad to hear!**

**We asked 2,405 of you...**  
Would you like to be taught by robots, instead of teachers?

**The results**  
1,063 (45%) of you said YES  
1,342 (55%) of you said NO

**The majority of you thought that American XL bullies should not be banned.**

**We asked 3,079 of you...**  
Do you think American XL bully dogs should be banned?

**The results**  
1,025 (33%) of you said YES  
2,054 (67%) of you said NO

**You don't think people should fly less. Perhaps we just need to find more environmentally friendly ways of flying!**

**We asked 1,772 of you...**  
Do you think everyone should fly less?

**The results**  
745 (45%) of you said YES  
927 (55%) of you said NO

**You must love ice cream because lots of you said you wouldn't get rid of ice cream vans to help air pollution.**

**We asked 1,254 of you...**  
Should ice cream vans be banned to help reduce air pollution?

**The results**  
356 (28%) of you said YES  
898 (72%) of you said NO

**A big number of you said you would be happy to receive secondhand gifts at Christmas.**

**We asked 2,423 of you...**  
Would you be happy to get secondhand gifts this Christmas?

25 **Your News** Issue 916 FirstNews 6 - 11 January 2023

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**We asked 2,304 of you...**  
Have you been taken in by a fake video or news report?

**The results**  
981 (43%) of you said YES  
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# WORLD CALLS FOR CALM

## Fighting continues in Middle East

Getty

Smoke rises from a village in Lebanon. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken says a wider war in the Middle East is a "real concern"

**COUNTRIES** have called for calm amid fears that the fighting between Israel and Hamas could grow into a bigger war across the Middle East.

Israel has been at war with Hamas for over three months, since Hamas attacked Israel on 7 October, killing more than 1,200 people and taking hundreds hostage. Hamas is a group that controls Gaza, a territory next to Israel where Palestinians live.

Lebanon is a country just to the north of Israel. It's home to another group called Hezbollah which, like Hamas, is classed as a terrorist group by the UK. Hezbollah has also been fighting with Israel, and it has more weapons and power than Hamas.

On Monday, Hezbollah said one of its commanders, Wissam Tawil, was killed in Lebanon by an Israeli air strike. Israel didn't comment on that, but did say it had hit Hezbollah targets in Lebanon.

Recently, a senior Hamas leader, Saleh al-Aroui, was also killed in Lebanon. Israel was accused of that, too. In response, Lebanon fired rockets

at northern Israel.

This has added to fears that the war might be about to spill over into other countries.

A Lebanon government official, Abdallah Bou Habib, said: "We are very concerned, [the] Lebanese don't want to be dragged... into a regional war." He wants Israel to stop its attacks in Lebanon, but Mark Regev, an Israeli government advisor, said: "There can be no peace in the north while Hezbollah's... army of terror sits on our border."

Several countries have called for calm, including the US, Japan and the United Nations, a peace organisation that all countries are members of. The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, is visiting countries around the Middle East to share his country's plan to cool the situation down.

He said: "The US has a vision for how to get there, a regional approach that delivers lasting security for Israeli and a state for the Palestinian people."

*See daily news on our app.*



lama\_jamous9/instagram

### Gaza girl goes viral

**A GIRL** aged nine has gone viral for her videos showing what life is like for people living in Gaza.

Lama Abu Jamous has more than 650,000 followers on Instagram. In her videos, she talks to people affected by the fighting between Israel and Hamas, which has killed more than 22,000 in Gaza.

She says: "My message to the world is to end the war. We want the bombing to stop."

# National Curriculum

## Year 1

**Listening to and discussing a wide range of poems, stories and non-fiction at a level beyond that at which they can read independently**

Being encouraged to link what they read or hear to their own experiences

Recognising and joining in with predictable phrases

Participate in discussion about what is read to them, taking turns and listening to what others say

## Year 2

**Listening to, discussing and expressing views about a wide range of contemporary and classic poetry, stories and non-fiction at a level beyond that at which they can read independently**

Participate in discussion about books, poems and other works that are read to them and those that they can read for themselves, taking turns and listening to what others say

Explain and discuss their understanding of books, poems and other material, both those that they listen to and those that they read for themselves

# National Curriculum

## Year 3/4

Listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks

Participate in discussion about both books that are read to them and those that they can read for themselves, taking turns and listening to what others say

## Year 5/6

Participate in discussion about books that are read to them and those that they can read for themselves, building on their own and others' ideas and challenging views courteously

# *Teaching Reading*



# Purposeful Reading

Better-informed children

Fueling curiosity

Inspiring debate

## Reading Mileage

You get good at what you practise!



# Active, purposeful reading

## Jigsawing

Creating and debating headlines and sub-headings

Creating true/false and matching questions

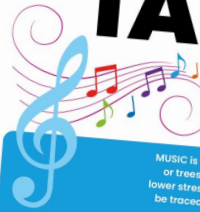
Dramatising characters: freeze frame, hotseat and interview

## Debate...

# Debate...

Identifying and naming facts and opinions

# SHOULD MUSIC BE TAUGHT MORE IN SCHOOLS?



MUSIC is everywhere. It's within all of us, in the way our hearts beat, and it's all around us in nature - just think of bird song or trees rustling in the wind, or the sound of the ocean or rain. Music has been proven to lift moods, improve blood flow, lower stress and raise dopamine (a feel-good chemical in the brain). In fact, it's thought that music-making in humans can be traced back at least 35,000 years! It has so many positives, but it's not always a priority in education. In this report, we look at some of the benefits of music and consider whether it should be taught more in schools.

## THE BENEFITS OF MUSIC

### Music is good for the brain

- It's one of the few things that uses both sides of the brain.
- Music helps lots of children learn how to speak and count, often through song.
- It can help the brain to focus better. Classical music can improve concentration and productivity.
- Music can help you to remember things. Is there a song that reminds you of a certain moment or memory? Lots of people use songs to help them with revision too!
- It can help with problem solving and creative thinking.



### Music brings joy and is great for your wellbeing

- Music has been proven to release endorphins and raise dopamine levels (both feel-good chemicals in the brain).
- It can improve mood and reduce stress levels.
- Listening to our favourite songs is uplifting and motivating and can inspire individuals to pursue their goals and dreams.
- Music can be used as therapy, in meditation and for mindfulness.



### It's a great way to connect with others

- Sharing music brings people together and improves community and connection.
- Performing together and working together is fun and helps people to form friendships. Singing with others can be a great way to do this!
- Music can be used to communicate where words cannot. It breaks down language barriers and allows people who are non-verbal (can't speak) to express themselves. There's a famous saying that "where words fail, music speaks".



### It can be pursued as a career

- The music industry is huge and there are lots of jobs within it.
- Some people think that with the increasing use of artificial intelligence and robots, things like music and creative subjects could become increasingly important.



## MUSIC IN SCHOOLS

### Not always prioritised

Music is part of the National Curriculum in England, which means it has to be taught to young people between the ages of 5 and 14. But this isn't always the case, and lots of children go without being taught music in school, or not being taught music as much as they should. There are a number of reasons why this could happen:

- Not enough teachers are trained in how to teach music or don't feel confident enough to teach it.
- Schools are so busy and there are other subjects that teachers have to prioritise.
- It's expensive to teach music and there isn't enough money put into it.
- The Covid-19 pandemic meant that many people missed out on the opportunity to learn music.

### What has the Government done?

In June 2022, the Government released an important document, *The Power of Music to Change Lives: a national plan for music education*. One of the things it said is that music is important and should be a focus for schools. The Government said it would give schools more money and support to help them teach music.

### Why do some people think music shouldn't be a priority?

Some people say that music shouldn't be taught more in schools. Most of the people campaigning for better music education are those who have been positively impacted in music and would rather learn about other things, like sport or cooking, for example. Other people think music is a waste of time and that schools should focus more on academic subjects like English and maths.

## OVER TO YOU!

Should music be taught more in schools?

Let us know at [first.news/polls](https://www.first.news/polls)

## ORGANISATIONS MAKING CHANGE

### Music for Youth

Music for Youth is a national youth music charity that wants to make sure every young person gets to learn and perform music. It holds its Proms each year at the iconic Royal Albert Hall in London. This year's is on 14-15 November and will bring together 3,000 talented young musicians from across the UK to perform on stage.



The Music for Youth Proms at the Royal Albert Hall

The theme for the 2023 Proms and now a national campaign is A Thank You Note. It celebrates the positive impact music teachers can have and how music unites us all. Ask a parent, guardian or responsible adult to show your thanks by using #ThankYourMusicTeacher online. To buy tickets to the Proms and to find out how to get involved, visit [mfy.org.uk](https://mfy.org.uk).

### ABC of Opera

The Academy of Barmy Composers, also known as ABC of Opera, is an organisation that goes into schools in Wales to teach opera through storytelling workshops. It wants music to be inclusive for everyone and uses opera as a tool to learn about lots of different subjects! The goal is for young people to realise that music can be for anyone. In fact, one child who took part in a workshop suggested that ABC should stand for Any Body Can, because anybody can get involved with music with ABC Opera! Find out more at [tinyurl.com/abcopera](https://tinyurl.com/abcopera).



An ABC of Opera workshop



# CAN GAMING TEACH YOU IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS?

For decades, gaming has become an increasingly popular pastime, now estimated that more than three million people play video games. However, gaming often comes with risks, particularly around games featuring violence, and people who play for long periods can see their health and wellbeing suffer. However, there have been several studies that look at the skills that it can teach young people. We discuss the history of gaming and the skills it can teach.

## THE HISTORY OF GAMING

The first, very simple videogames were created in the 1970s that they became popular in arcades, with a wide variety of games. The popularity of games like Tetris led to the development of home gaming consoles, with Tetris becoming a favourite game at home.



Visitors to Gamescom in Cologne, Germany played Pong, the videogame that was first released in 1972.

The Space Invaders arcade game.

## ISSUES TO CONSIDER

Throughout the years, gaming has had a lot of negative attention in the media. A concern that is often discussed is that many videogames contain violence, with everything from war scenarios to fighting mythical creatures. Brad Bushman, a professor of communication and psychology, says that violent games "teach kids that aggression is a successful way to solve conflicts and get what you want".

However, many studies have looked into the benefits of playing violent videogames and whether they make people, particularly young people, more violent; and the findings have been mixed. A study from 2018 suggested that young gamers were more likely to be aggressive and to have trouble, however, a more recent study from 2021 found no major evidence that violent video games cause violent or aggressive behaviour. It's an area that continues to be studied; meanwhile, many videogames in the UK have ratings to help parents decide which games are appropriate for their children, and also to ensure that young people can't buy games that contain unsuitable content. For example, *Fortnite* has an age rating of 12.

and carers decide which games are appropriate for their children, and also to ensure that young people can't buy games that contain unsuitable content. For example, *Fortnite* has an age rating of 12.

that encourage people to get active or out and about, so it wouldn't be fair to say that all types of gaming have the same risks.

## The News Debate

## THE SKILLS INVOLVED IN GAMING

In recent years, researchers have looked at some of the benefits of gaming and the skills it can help young people to develop. Here are some of the areas that have been highlighted:

### Teamwork

Lots of videogames require teamwork with other players to achieve a goal or mission. Developing teamwork skills can be really beneficial in lots of different jobs. In fact, a study by Brigham Young University found that in the workplace, teams that started playing videogames together produced 20% more work than they had before!



### Decision-making and problem-solving

In a study by Georgia State University, the brains of gamers and non-gamers were scanned while they performed tasks. The people who played videogames were found to make faster and more

accurate decisions. Another study found that gamers were more likely to be able to make quick decisions and keep track of lots of things at once. Gamers also often have to solve puzzles and figure out solutions, which develops problem-solving skills. Professor James Paul Gee says: "Gamers co-author the games they play by the choices they make and how they choose to solve problems, since what they do can affect the course and sometimes the outcome of the game."

### Hand-eye coordination

Videogames often require players to have fast reflexes, for example, if they involve tracking fast-moving objects and reacting quickly. This can improve hand-eye coordination, which is the way your hands and eyesight work together. In fact, surgeons who play videogames are proved to be more accurate at performing surgery!

### Communication and literacy

A survey by the National Literacy Trust found that gaming improves young people's communication skills. A massive 76% of gamers said they talk to



Which videogames do you think they're discussing?

their friends about videogames, which helps them to feel connected to people in real life as well as online, and boosts their mental health. The same study found that 79% of gamers read about gaming, so their literacy is getting a boost, too!

### Managing money

Lots of videogames have their own form of money, such as V-bucks in *Fortnite*, Robux in *Roblox* and Bells in *Animal Crossing*. In some games, this is bought with real money and in others it's earned inside the game. There have been news stories about young people who have accidentally spent a lot of money on videogames, so gamers need to be aware of how much things cost and how they spend their real and online money, which can help to develop important financial skills.



### Coding and development

In games like *Minecraft* (above), gamers can modify the game itself through coding. In a world where technology is progressing so quickly, gaming development and design skills could be a real asset

**YES, GAMING CAN TEACH YOU IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS...**



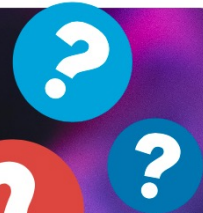
1. The bad reputation gaming has had is very unfair. Studies have shown that playing videogames can help young people to develop all sorts of skills, including teamwork, problem-solving, communication and managing money, which could be really helpful in a future career. Lots of people find gaming fun, too!
2. Gaming can not only teach young people about the real world, but also create fantasy worlds that develop imagination and creative thinking. Plus, it allows people to see things from other points of view, which leads to a world with more empathy and understanding.
3. Most people don't become addicted to gaming. In fact, gaming can help young people to cope with stress and to keep trying until they find a way to succeed. Both of these will help to build resilience and the ability to cope with life's challenges.



**NO, GAMING CAN'T TEACH YOU IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS...**



**QUESTIONS**



Do you enjoy playing videogames? If so, which are your favourites?

What have you learned, at school or at home, about staying safe online?

If videogames didn't exist, how else could these skills be developed?

Do you think any of these skills would help you in your future career?

If you were designing a videogame based on real-life, what would it be about?

When you start playing a videogame, do you find it difficult to stop?

Are you surprised by the number of skills that gaming can help to develop?

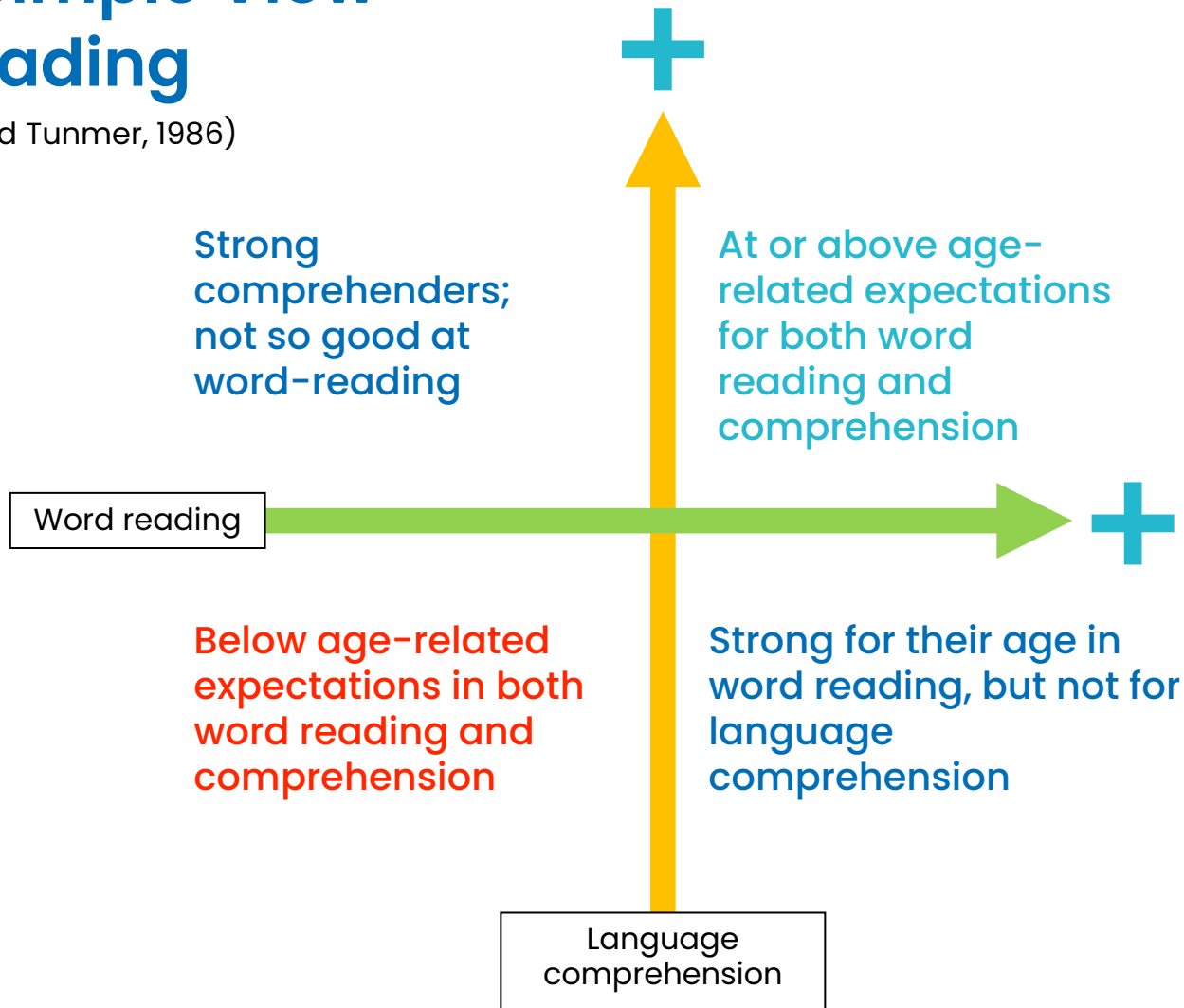
Which of these skills do you think is the most valuable, and why?

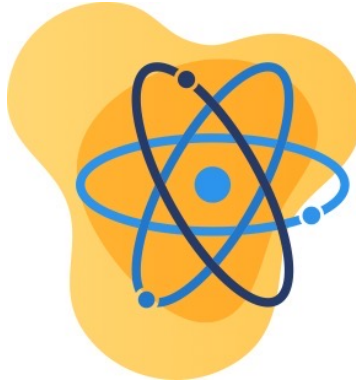
Would you like to play more or less videogames?

If you were designing a videogame based on fantasy, what would it be about?

# The Simple View of Reading

(Gough and Tunmer, 1986)





# Decoding Check:

**urobilin**

**bilirubin**



# A VOLCANIC WORLD

AT the end of December, NASA's Juno spacecraft took some incredible pictures of Jupiter's moon Io, which has more active volcanoes than anywhere else in our solar system.

Experts were thrilled to see the images, as it's the closest that any space probe has come to in more than two decades. Its closest approach took it around 930 miles (1,500 kilometres) from the moon's surface.

But the mission isn't just about some cool pics, and Juno will be sending back a ton of data that should help us to learn more about the hundreds of active volcanoes on Io.

"We are looking for how often they erupt, how bright and hot they are, how the shape of the lava flow changes," said Scott Bolton, the head of the Juno mission.

Scientists hope to find out if the volcanoes are similar to those on Earth, and if there's an ocean of magma (not liquid rock) underneath Io's surface.

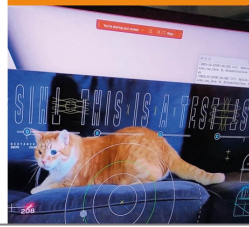
Experts also want to understand how the volcanoes are influenced by Io's orbit around Jupiter. Two of Jupiter's large moons, Europa and Ganymede, push Io into an orbit that takes it large distances away from its planet. This means that the gravity felt on Io changes by a huge amount. These changing forces are "relentlessly squeezing this tortured moon," said Bolton.



One of the pictures of Io taken by Juno on 30 December.

Juno's mission has already been extended until the end of 2025, when it will be sent into the atmosphere of Jupiter and destroyed. The probe has been orbiting Jupiter and its moons ever since July 2016, but the radiation there is

JUST before Christmas, NASA successfully tested its new high-tech deep-space laser communications network – by sending a cat video to Earth from 19 million miles (31m km) away! The fun video shows a ginger tabby called Taters chasing a laser pointer, but the serious purpose of the system is to send data back to Earth 10-100 times faster than radio systems can manage.



This report is from the Science Museum Group

HAVE you ever crossed the English Channel, which separates Britain from continental Europe?

You might have done the trip by boat, train or plane. But over 200 years ago, when the only way of crossing was to sail from one coast to the other, an American scientist and a French inventor made history. Jean-Pierre Blanchard and John Jeffries were the first people to cross the Channel in a balloon on 7 January 1785.

Coming just two years after the first ever balloon flight, the spectacular crossing took the men for about a half hour – faster than a lot of boats of the time. It was a dangerous and unpredictable journey due to the winds, but the pair safely reached France and touched down to achieve this milestone.

An oil painting of the first balloon crossing of the English Channel



# Now we know why wee is yellow

A STUDY published this month has finally revealed why our wee is a yellow colour.

Scientists knew that a yellow substance called urobilin is responsible, but didn't know where it came from. Now, a report in *Nature Microbiology* says that an enzyme called bilirubin reductase is the key. Enzymes help to speed up chemical reactions so that our bodies can produce the substances they need (they're also used in products like some washing powders to help break down food stains).

The process all starts when red

blood cells get to about six months old and start to break down. One of the substances produced is a bright orange pigment called bilirubin. When this gets into our guts, microbes use the bilirubin reductase enzyme to break it down into a colourless substance called urobilinogen, but this then breaks down on its own and produces urobilin, which is yellow.

The work is important because it could help to treat inflammatory bowel disease or a condition called jaundice, which can turn someone's skin yellow if their body can't get rid of bilirubin properly.



istock

"Wow, that is really yellow..."

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- **Fastest Finger First:** Find the word that is similar in meaning to *material/element*.
- **Speed Retrieve:** What can turn people's skin yellow?
- What could we replace 'revealed' with in the first sentence? Why did they choose 'revealed'?



# Speed, comprehension and vocab

- Fastest finger first: find the word that means.../that tells us...
- What other words could work here?  
How does the meaning/viewpoint change?

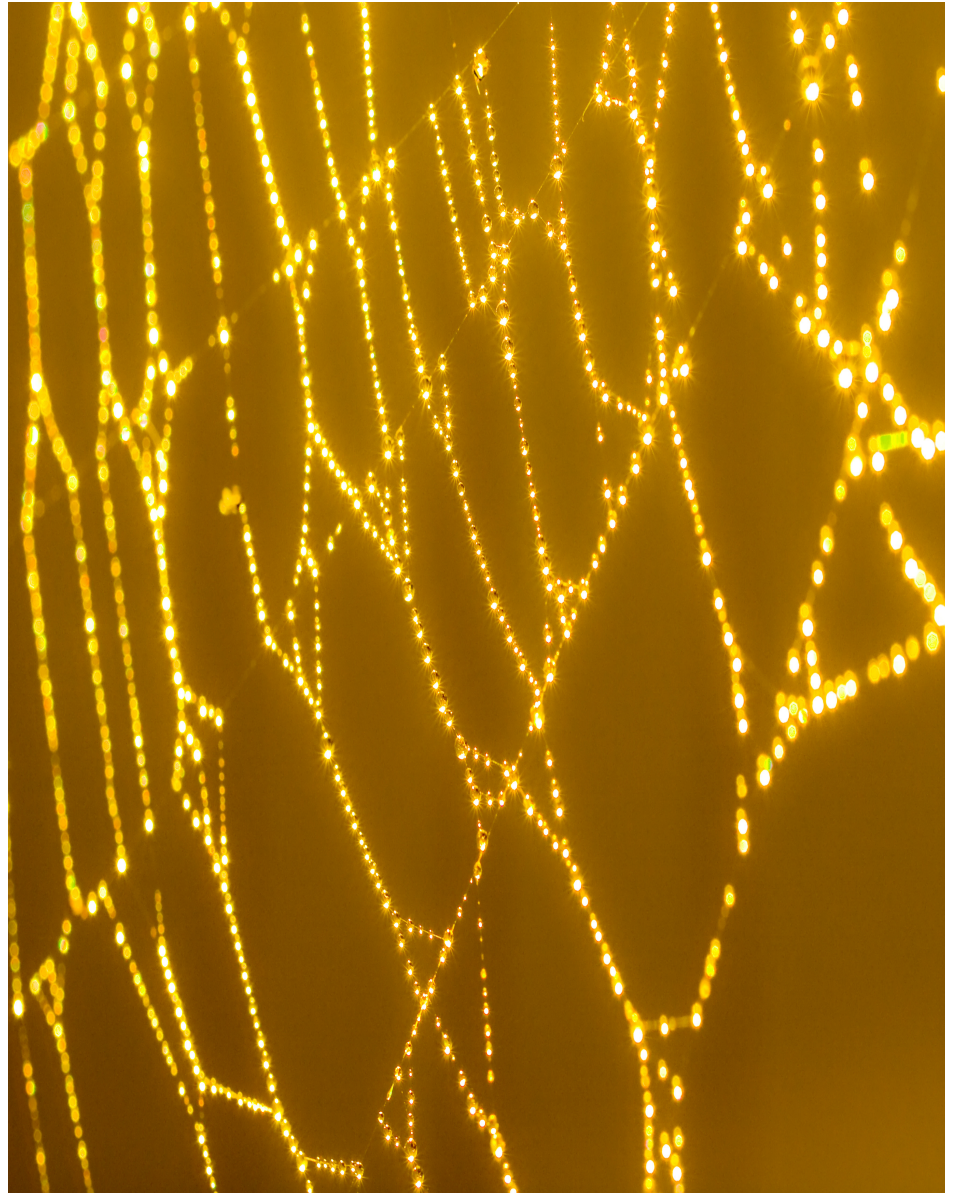
# What's the "Golden Thread"?

## *Viewpoint*

What's it about?

What's the 'slant'  
taken?

Look at the  
language choices...



# What's the Golden Thread?

# A VOLCANIC WORLD

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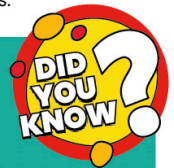
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One of the pictures of Io taken by Juno on 30 December

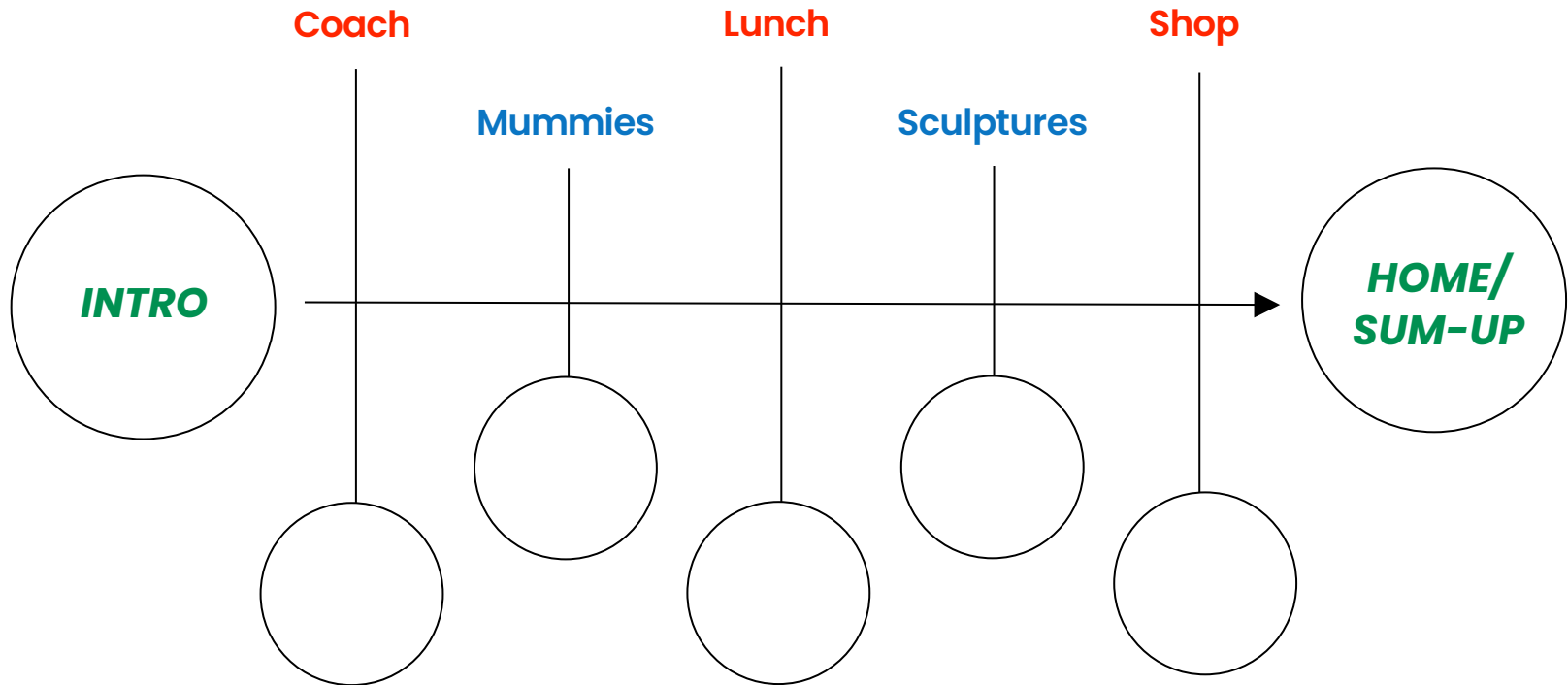
Juno's mission has already been extended until the end of 2025, when it will be sent into the atmosphere of Jupiter and destroyed. The probe has been orbiting Jupiter and its moons ever since July 2016, but the radiation there is some of the most intense in our solar system and has started to badly affect Juno's instruments.

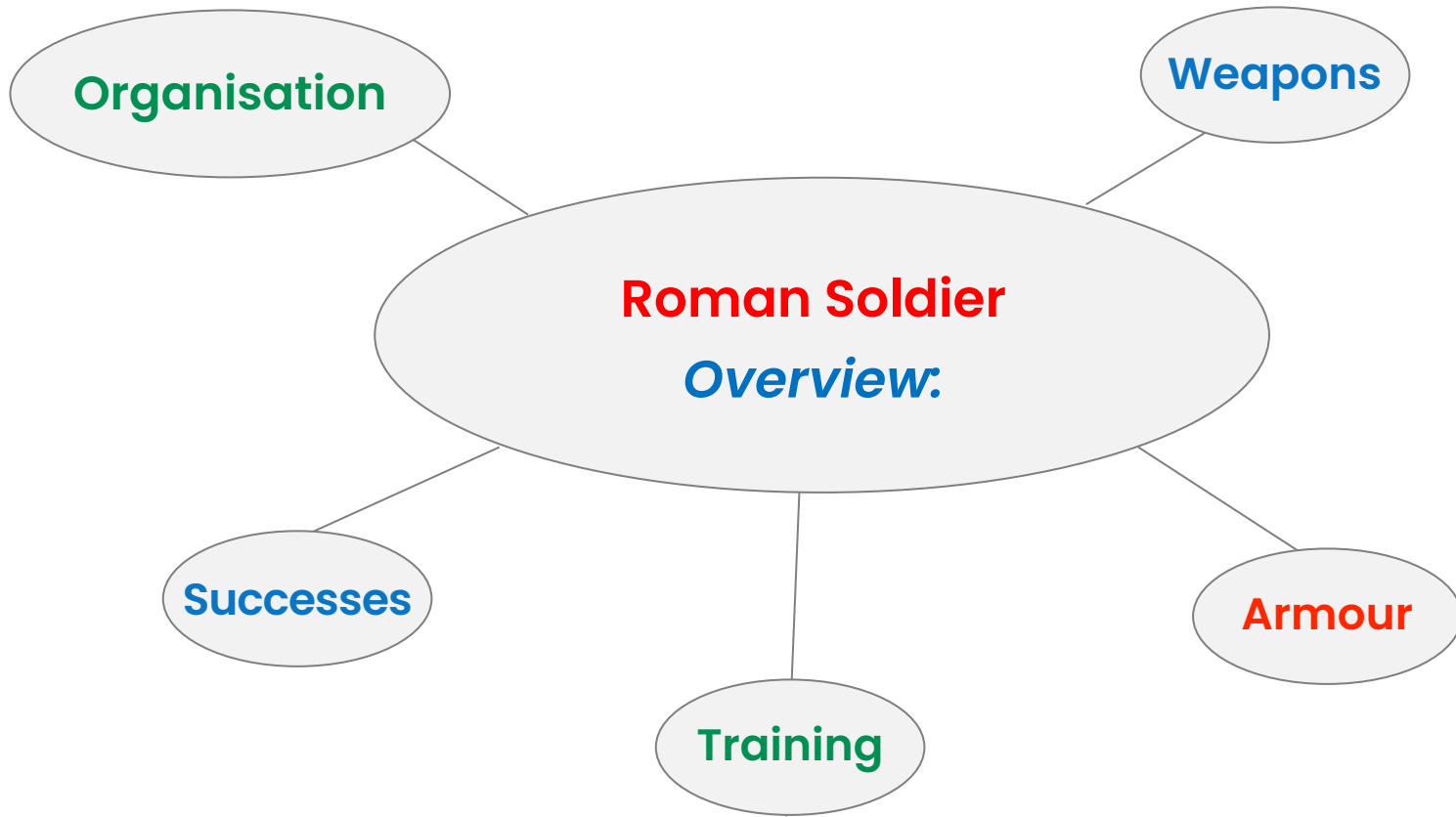
**SIMILAR** to the way that our moon causes the tides on Earth, Jupiter causes strong tidal forces on Io. But Jupiter's gravity is so strong that it makes the solid surface of Io rise up and down by up to 100m (330ft). Even the liquid water on Earth's surface only changes height by 18m (60ft) at the most extreme points.

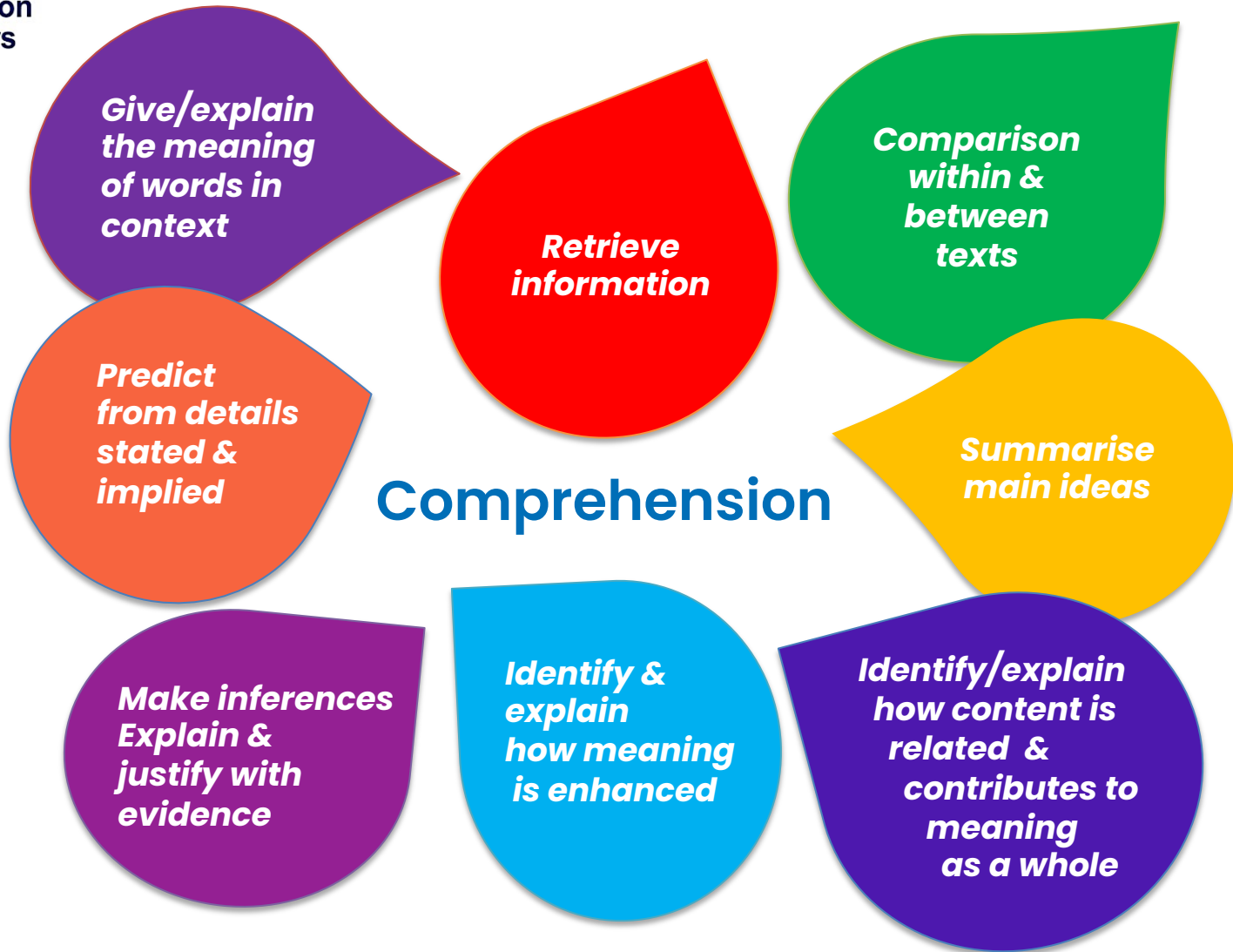


# Recount of *Our trip to the British Museum*

By







Identify/explain  
how content is  
related &  
contributes to  
meaning as a  
whole

THE  
**BIG**  
PICTURE



THIS striking warning by the side of the motorway is one of many that have been put there to make drivers be more careful on the roads around the city of Erzurum in Turkey. The wreck is a real car that was written off in a crash on one of the country's roads. As well as this speed limit warning, similar smashed-up cars have been placed next to signs reminding people of the dangers of driving while drunk or using a phone. Turkey has generally had a poor record on road safety, but it has introduced laws clamping down on drink driving, and it seems like these are helping to save lives.

## SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

### Calls to end GP crisis

The leader of Scotland's doctors has called for ways to get more GPs (local doctors) in the Highlands and rural areas. GP stands for general practitioner, someone who deals with a range of health problems and is usually the first person a patient turns to for help. But an increasing number have been quitting their jobs in rural Scotland. Dr Iain Kennedy, the chair of the BMA (British Medical Association) Scotland, said urgent action was needed to end this crisis. He wants to see higher pay and special plans put in place to boost GP numbers.



The moon-shaped sickle cells compared to the normal disc cells

## EDINBURGH

### Trailblazing new gene therapy

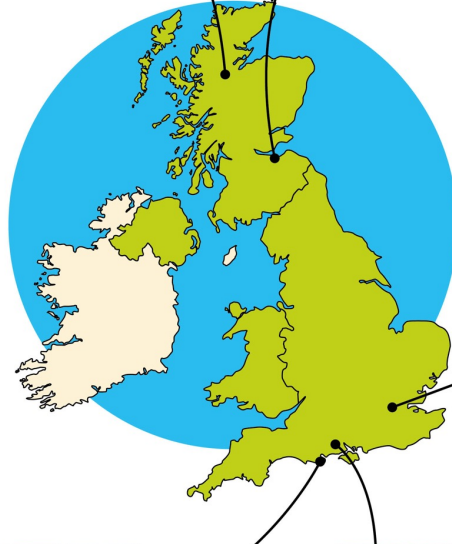
A new treatment for sickle cell disease is being created in the Scottish capital. Sickle cell is a blood disorder passed down through a family where red blood cells are shaped like crescents instead of discs. These can block blood vessels, which can cause serious damage to organs and be life-threatening. Almost 300 babies are born in the UK with the condition each year. The new treatment would allow scientists to edit and disable the faulty genes that cause problems. People will only need one treatment, but it could cost the NHS £1.7m per patient.

## WALES



### Could Wales change its name?

Thousands of people have signed a petition to change the name of Wales to Cymru, the original Welsh language name for the country. The word 'Wales' comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for 'foreigners', but nearly 10,000 people want it only to be referred to as Cymru. The petition says the country has had the name Wales 'imposed' on it and as a result 'hardly anyone has heard of Cymru'. Last year the Brecon Beacons National Park decided to rebrand using its Welsh name Bannau Brycheiniog.



## LONDON

### Panic on the Eye

A man has described his fear of being 'at the eye' of Storm Henk, while he was on the London Eye. David Nock, from Bournemouth, and 11 family members were in a pod on the 135m-high (443ft) wheel as the storm hit, causing an emergency hatch on its roof to be ripped off. After a few minutes of panic, they were able to exit the pod unharmed when it reached ground level. David told the BBC: 'We really were there at the eye of the storm. It was a harrowing experience.'

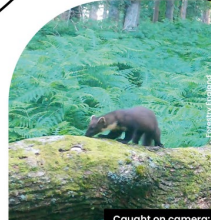


Storm Henk struck one of the tourist attraction's pods

## DORSET

### See a sea monster

The colossal skull of a sea monster is on public display after featuring in a Sir David Attenborough programme. It was unearthed from the Jurassic Coast in Kimmeridge Bay and found to be a plesiosaur, one of the most fearsome predators the planet has ever seen. The 2m-long, 150-million-year-old skull featured in Attenborough and the Giant Sea Monster, shown on the BBC on New Year's Day. Now you can see it for



Caught on camera: a rare pine marten

## NEW FOREST

### Hidden cameras reveal rare creatures

Camera traps have shown that a rare member of the weasel family is breeding again in the New Forest. The pine marten was once widespread across the UK, but has been missing from the New Forest for decades due to habitat loss. A three-year study by Forestry England and Wild New Forest began after people said they'd seen the cat-sized creatures. The New Forest's ancient woodlands provide an ideal habitat for them to nest, breed and set territories, with plenty of food available.

Identify/explain how content is related & contributes to meaning as a whole



# Identify/explain how content is related & contributes to meaning as a whole

## HEALTHY LUNCHBOXES!

AH, lunch... even the most serious kids in class would surely say it's one of the best parts of the school day!

Health experts agree it's one of the most important. The NHS says: "Children require regular meals and snacks to give them the energy and nutrients they need to grow and fight off illness," – so if you take a packed lunch to school, we've cobbled together a few healthy suggestions for you.

Find more great lunchbox ideas on the NHS Better Health website at [www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes](http://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes).



**FirstNews**  
**HEALTHY**  
**EATING**  
**MONTH**

### WHAT'S IN YOUR LUNCHBOX?

We'd love to see! Send a photo, plus your name and age, to us at [newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk) and it may appear in an upcoming issue!

### Cheesy coleslaw pitta



**Ideal for:**  
Very hungry vegetarians!

#### How to make it:

- 1) Finely chop or grate some reduced-fat cheddar.
- 2) Mix it into a reduced-fat coleslaw.
- 3) Split open a wholemeal pitta and fill with the coleslaw.

Use 100% plant-based cheese and coleslaw if you're vegan!

#### Finish your lunchbox with:

Cherry tomatoes, low-fat Greek-style yoghurt and water.

### Salmon and salad bagel



**Ideal for:**  
Famished fish fans!

#### How to make it:

- 1) Cut a wholemeal bagel in half, toast it, then let it cool.
- 2) Drain a small tin or half a large tin of smoked salmon. Mix with a tablespoon of low-fat mayo and pepper.
- 3) Fill the bagel with the salmon mix, lettuce and cucumber.

#### Finish your lunchbox with:

A handful of grapes, a rice cake and semi-skimmed milk.

### Spicy chicken wraps



**Ideal for:**  
Hungry heat-seekers!

#### How to make it:

- 1) Mix a little low-fat mayo with a pinch of curry and chilli powder, then add chopped cooked chicken breast.
- 2) Add the chicken mix to a wholemeal tortilla and sprinkle some salad veggies on top.
- 3) Wrap it up and cut in half.

#### Finish your lunchbox with:

Fruit slices, homemade popcorn and a juice drink.

### Natural World

Issue 908 FirstNews 27 October - 2 November 2023

## SAVING THE WORLD'S FORESTS

**SAVING THE WORLD'S FORESTS**

Forests are essential to maintain a happy and healthy planet. There are home to an whopping 80% of the biodiversity found on land, and 18 billion people depend on them to make a living. Tropical forests also help our climate by sucking the planet to make that our climate sustainable. However, our forests - from the Amazon in South America to the boreal forests in the Arctic - are under threat. More than 1 billion trees are cut down each year to clear space for human activities such as farming and mining. This is a major cause of global warming. In fact, forests are a natural carbon sink, absorbing more CO2 from the atmosphere than they release. When forests are cut down, they release the carbon they have stored up over centuries. This is a major cause of global warming. In fact, forests are a natural carbon sink, absorbing more CO2 from the atmosphere than they release. When forests are cut down, they release the carbon they have stored up over centuries. This is a major cause of global warming.

### ANESHWAR'S ANIMAL OF THE WEEK

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### MONARCH BUTTERFLY

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### ROSEWOOD TREES

**ROSEWOOD TREES**

**ROSEWOOD TREES**

**ROSEWOOD TREES**

### JAGUARS

**JAGUARS**

**JAGUARS**

**JAGUARS**

### ROSEWOOD TREES

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**ROSEWOOD TREES**

### World News

Issue 908 FirstNews 27 October - 2 November 2023

## MEXICO

**Mexico celebrates 'Day of the Dead'**

Mexico celebrates the Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) on October 31 and November 1. The festival is a blend of indigenous Aztec and Catholic traditions. Families create altars for their loved ones who have died, and people visit cemeteries to clean and decorate the graves. The festival is a time for reflection and celebration of life.

## FRANCE

**Couple get engaged while trapped on Eiffel Tower**

A couple got engaged while trapped on the Eiffel Tower in Paris. The couple was stuck on the tower for several hours due to a technical problem. They decided to get engaged during their time on the tower. The Eiffel Tower is a symbol of Paris and France.

## PORTUGAL

**Villagers object to green power mine**

Villagers in Portugal are objecting to a proposed green power mine. The mine is located in a beautiful area and is expected to cause environmental damage. The villagers are concerned about the impact on their community and the environment.

## JAPAN

**Japan calls the shots on tourist photos**

Japan has implemented strict rules on taking photos of tourists. The government wants to protect the privacy of its citizens and prevent the spread of misinformation. The rules apply to both domestic and international tourists.

## INDIA

**Same-sex marriage remains illegal in India**

Same-sex marriage remains illegal in India. The Indian government has rejected calls for legalizing same-sex marriage. The government believes that marriage is a sacred institution and should be reserved for opposite-sex couples.

## INDONESIA

**Kids are unlit in Indonesia**

Children are unlit in Indonesia. The government is working to improve the lives of children in the country. The government is providing education and healthcare to children in need.

## MOROCCO

**Solar-powered car sets its test drive**

A solar-powered car has set its test drive in Morocco. The car is powered by solar energy and is expected to revolutionize the automotive industry. The car is a prototype and is still in the testing phase.

## INDONESIA

**Over £1 million worth of pangolin scales burned**

Over £1 million worth of pangolin scales were burned in Indonesia. The scales were seized from a pangolin poacher. The government is working to protect pangolins from poaching.

### Special Report

Issue 908 FirstNews 27 October - 2 November 2023

## BRAZIL'S GIRLS FIND HOPE THROUGH DANCE

**BRAZIL'S GIRLS FIND HOPE THROUGH DANCE**

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### Merinadanza's event in the Houses of Parliament

**Merinadanza's event in the Houses of Parliament**

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### A dance charity in Brazil is helping girls escape abuse and to change their lives

**A dance charity in Brazil is helping girls escape abuse and to change their lives**

**A dance charity in Brazil is helping girls escape abuse and to change their lives**

### Why is it important to raise awareness?

**Why is it important to raise awareness?**

**Why is it important to raise awareness?**

### What is the charity doing?

**What is the charity doing?**

**What is the charity doing?**

# Knowledge-building

## Comprehension *requires* knowledge

### Reading *builds* knowledge

# *First*News

Comprehension  
development every week  
on subscription!

These stories are from pages 2 and 10 of this week's issue of *First News*.  
 Read the stories, and then try the puzzle. The answers to the clues are all words in the stories.  
 Answer the clue and then underline the word.



**FARMING NEWS**

# Changing crops to save the planet

**A SIX-YEAR experiment in northern China has shown how farmers can grow more crops, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve their soil quality and make more money, just by rotating the crops they grow.**

Crop rotation is where farmers grow different things in the same field year by year. It's been practised for thousands of years, but large farms around the world nowadays often tend to grow just one or two crops.

Many farms in the North China Plain only grow wheat and maize, but growing the same crops slowly reduces soil quality. This means farmers need more fertiliser, but making fertiliser produces harmful climate emissions.

Crop rotation often involves growing legumes (things like peas and beans), as these help to increase levels of nitrogen and nutrients in the soil. However, in this trial, the scientists also planted sweet potatoes, peanuts and soya beans. The results showed that rotating between peanuts, wheat and maize improved the soil health the most.

The scientists say that if this was done across the whole region, China could reduce its CO2 emissions by 106.8m tonnes and farmers could make 20% more money.

**Farmers need more support, says WWF**



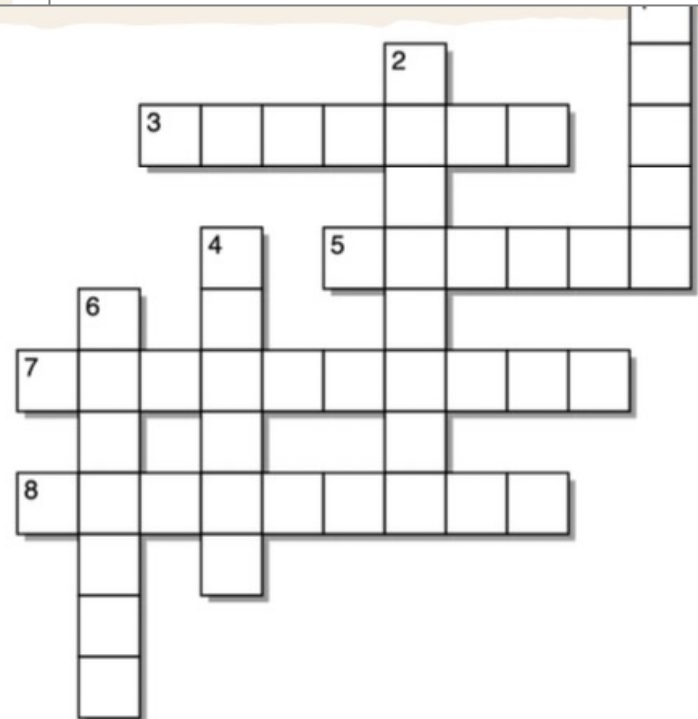
A new report helps to support the restoration of the right support system in both economic and environmental terms.

**ACROSS**

- 3) To give help (verb 7)
- 5) To deal with an issue with determination (verb 6)
- 7) Animal waste or a chemical mixture that is spread on the ground to make plants grow more successfully (noun 10)
- 8) Substances that help plants and animals to grow (plural noun 9)

**DOWN**

- 1) A tall plant that produces sweetcorn (noun 5)
- 2) The circular movement of something (noun 8)
- 4) A period of time that is to come (noun 6)
- 6) Beans or peas (plural noun 7)



# LONDON ZOO ANIMAL COUNT

EVERY year, London Zoo counts all the animals it looks after and the count for 2024 has just been completed.

From penguins and camels to axolotls and flamingos, about 14,000 animals from 300 different species were counted in total.

Some animals were easier to count than others! Thankfully, the ants were counted in colonies instead of individually, and the 74 Humboldt penguins were counted while they ate breakfast, when they weren't moving around as much as usual.

This year, the zoo's two playful Sumatran tiger cubs, Crispin and Zac, were spotted turning the tally board into

their new chew toy!

Dan Simmonds, the zoo's operations manager, said: "The annual count takes quite a few days and the zookeepers

are very busy looking at everything all the time. It's important to get international information around the world."

The information is especially useful as a way to keep track of endangered species around the world.



A London Zoo keeper counting Galápagos tortoises

Four Stories

### Questions on: 'London Zoo animal count'

Look at the story 'London Zoo Animal Count'.

1) Match up the two halves of each sentence.

The ants...	...were counted in total.
The Humboldt penguins...	...were counted in colonies.
14,000 animals and 300 species...	...were spotted chewing on the tally board.
Two Sumatran tiger cubs called Crispin and Zac...	...were counted while they ate breakfast.

2a) Why are some animals more difficult to count than others?  
 2b) Which animals do you think would be the easiest to count and which would be the most difficult?

3) Which of these is not a point that's made by Dan Simmonds?

- The animal count keeps zookeepers busy
- The information is not that important
- Zoos around the world can use the information

4) Explain why it's important to keep track of the numbers of endangered species.

Look at the story 'Monkey escapes to find love'.

5) Think of an adjective that could replace the word 'cheeky' to describe Charlie.

6) Fill in the details on the 'Missing' poster. (You will need to look at the story, the photo and the photo caption.)

## MISSING!

Name: .....

Type of animal: .....

Fur colour: .....

Height: around .....

7) Which of these is Charlie likely to do if he is approached by a human (choose TWO)?

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> run         | <input type="checkbox"/> blow a raspberry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> jump        | <input type="checkbox"/> bite             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> blow a kiss | <input type="checkbox"/> cuddle           |

Look at both stories.

8) For what reasons are some animals kept in zoos and sanctuaries? Do you think it's right or wrong to keep animals in captivity? Explain your reasons.

GAMING NEWS

# TETRIS COMPLETED IT, MATE

A BOY from the US has done what grown-ups failing to do for 40 years – he's finished

Willis Gibson, aged 13, recorded his milestone video on his YouTube channel, Blue Scum, after 38 million times when *First News* went to print.

The legendary game was invented in 1984. To play it, players have to rotate and stack falling blocks fall faster and faster and, if the blocks reach the top of the screen, it's game over.

Until 2021, the furthest anyone had gone (pictured) reached level 157. Although he eventually it has to go so fast that the screen freezes. It's known as the 'kill screen' two years ago, but Willis Gibson has just beaten it.

### Willis's record-breaking game

After 38 minutes of intense button-mashing, Willis set a new record for high score and levels played. Seconds later, it does just that.

As the blocks and music freeze, the boy says: "I'm gonna pass out! I can't feel my back, he lets out a laugh and thinks she's kidding, but decides to wait until she's back.

Willis began playing *Tetris* when he was 10, competing in tournaments, coming third at the 2019 *Tetris* Championships. Celebrating his high score, Willis says: "If you put your mind to it, most likely you will get it if you try hard enough."

Nintendo released *Tetris* on the Game Boy in 1989, and it's one of the biggest-selling video games of all time.



## Look Closer

### GLOSSARY

**2D** – two-dimensional. These are shapes that have length and width. They include rectangles, pentagons and triangles.  
**button-mashing** – pressing buttons really quickly (a technical term for playing video games).

### GAMING NEWS

#### Look at the story 'Tetris Completed It, Mate!'

- 1) What has Willis Gibson managed to do, and how long did it take?
- 2) Explain what the 'kill screen' is, and how it is overcome.
- 3) Describe Willis' attitude towards his achievement.
- 4) Explain how the article's title is effective.

#### Look at the story 'China sets limits on gaming'

- 5) What do the actions of the Chinese government tell you about its attitude towards gaming?
- 6) Summarise how the Chinese government is trying to limit gaming.
- 7) Can you give examples of what 'irrational' gaming might mean?
- 8) Do you think the Chinese government will be successful in its efforts?

#### Look at both stories.

- 9) What are the main similarities and differences between these articles?
- 10) The articles show two very different attitudes towards gaming. What do you think? Is gaming a valuable way to spend your time? Write a paragraph explaining your answer.

## Look Closer

### GLOSSARY

**2D** – two-dimensional. These are shapes that are flat and have length and width. They include rectangles, pentagons and triangles.  
**button-mashing** – pressing buttons really quickly (a technical term for playing video games).

### GAMING NEWS

#### Look at the story 'Tetris? Completed it, mate!'

- 1) What has Willis Gibson managed to do, and how long did it take?

#### Look at the story 'China sets limits on gaming'

- 2) Explain what the 'kill screen' is, and how it is overcome.
- 3) Describe Willis' attitude towards his achievement.

#### Look at both stories.

- 4) Explain how the article's title is effective.

#### Look at the story 'China sets limits on gaming'

- 5) What do the actions of the Chinese government tell you about its attitude towards gaming?

## Look Closer

- 6) Summarise how the Chinese government will try to limit gaming.

- 7) Can you give examples of what might be meant by 'irrational' gaming?

- 8) Do you think the Chinese government will be successful in its efforts?

#### Look at both stories.

- 9) What are the main similarities and differences between these articles?

- 10) The articles show two very different attitudes towards gaming. What do you think? Is gaming a valuable way to spend your time? Write a paragraph explaining your answer.

SCIENCE NEWS

# TO THE MOON... AND BEYOND!

THE best thing about science is that you can't predict it, so there could be all kinds of discoveries, surprises and "Eureka!" moments this year.

But even though we don't know what science has in store for us, there are some events and exciting launches in the diary already, so here are a few for you to keep your eye on in 2024.

● **Phones on the moon and a rover with its own rover!**

Although most of the attention this year will be on NASA's Artemis II mission round the moon (see below), one that's more interesting in many ways is the IM-2 mission that's due to launch to the moon this year. When it lands near Shackleton Crater, close to the moon's south pole, quite a few interesting experiments will start.

One of those is PRIME-1 (Polar Resources Ice-Mining Experiment-1), which will attempt to drill a metre down into the moon's surface, then bring all that rock and soil up so that it can be examined. The idea is to see how much ice and other materials are in there, as a first test to see how easy it'd be for astronauts in the future to use the moon's resources.

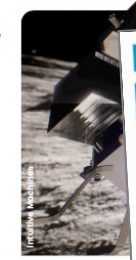
If humans do ever set up bases on the moon, they'll need to be able to communicate with each other, which is why tech company Nokia is sending up a 4G communications network with this mission. A rover called MAPP will then pootle across the moon's surface, testing how good the signal is at various distances from the antennae.

The same will also be done by Micro-Nova (pictured top right), a 'hopper' that's also going along on the mission. It doesn't hop like a rabbit, sadly, but travels in short, controlled bursts of flight. Its main task is to seek out ice in craters that rovers can't access.

Probably our favourite part, though, is that MAPP will have its own tiny rover called AstroAnt, which is about the size of a Matchbox toy car. It will drive around on top of MAPP, collecting data about MAPP's



The Artemis II crew



The tiny AstroAnt rover

temperature. It's the first AstroAnt, but in the future, there could be working in tabs on the performance spacecraft.

● **Another step towards the moon again**

Humans haven't set foot on the moon since 1972, but NASA's Artemis II mission will see four astronauts get pretty close to the moon's surface on the first manned flight aboard NASA's Artemis II. The team will take all of the spacecraft's systems and how they're supposed to work, for Artemis III, which will hop back on the moon's surface.

The only 12 people to have been on the moon were all white men, so NASA is putting a woman and person of color on Artemis III. Artemis II is scheduled to launch in November 2024.

● **The search for alien life**

October should see the launch of Europa Clipper, which will be orbiting Jupiter's icy moon Europa. Mission scientists think Europa is one of the most promising places in our solar system where life could exist. There's a huge ocean underneath the ice.

The Clipper will perform dozens of flybys, passing over pretty much every part of the moon and building up a map of its thickness and temperature, at what else the moon is made of.

Although it won't touch down, Europa Clipper will pass as close as 16 miles (25km) to its closest approach, and it could detect any water vapor or life. Probably not little green men, but maybe little green fish.

● **A mission to a Martian moon**

It's a pretty big year for space exploration, as the Japanese space agency

Article Analysis

GLOSSARY

**Eureka moments** — moments in which there is sudden understanding of a previously incomprehensible problem or concept. Attributed to Ancient Greek mathematician and inventor Archimedes

**hopper** — a vehicle that has both landing and surface mobility. It reuses the landing system to lift back off again and hop over the terrain

**rover** — a vehicle with a heavier structure than a hopper. A rover lands via a spacecraft and is built for exploration and data collection in extraterrestrial environments

**NASA's Europa Clipper** — a radiation-tolerant spacecraft that will carry a suite of scientific instruments to investigate Europa. Developed by NASA, the US government agency responsible for science and technology related to air and space

**treaty** — an international agreement in written form and governed by international law



Science in 2024: 'To the moon... and beyond!'

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Look at the information about the IM-2 mission and answer the following questions:

What is PRIME-1?
Why is Nokia sending up a 4G communications network with this mission?
What is MAPP?
What is AstroAnt?
A2. What is the purpose of NASA's Artemis II mission?
A3. Identify whether the statements about the IM-2 mission are true or false.
Statement
November should see the launch of the IM-2 mission.
The Clipper will be off on its way to Mars.
Many experts think that Europa is one of the most promising places in our solar system where life could exist.
It is believed that Europa could support life.
The Clipper will touch down and collect samples from underneath the ice.

A4. What is the Japanese space agency's name?

A5. Why is this year's British Science Festival important?

Part B: Deduce and infer information

- B1. Why will most of the attention be on the IM-2 mission?
- B2. Why is Micro-Nova needed on the IM-2 mission?
- B3. Why are "little green men" referred to as "little green fish"?
- B4. It is expected that a 10g sample of ice will be collected from the moon. Why is this important?
- B5. As part of their preparation for the IM-2 mission, NASA scientists are studying a global treaty. Why is this important?

Part C: Analyse the writing

- C1. Comment on the techniques used in the text.
- C2. Why is this report accompanied by an artist's impression of the moon?
- C3. This report contains a lot of facts and scientific information. How has the writer used language to engage the readers?

Science in 2024: 'To the moon... and beyond!'

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Look at the information about the IM-2 mission that's due to launch to the moon this year. Answer the following questions:

What is PRIME-1?	.....
Why is Nokia sending up a 4G communications network with this mission?	.....
What is MAPP?	.....
What is AstroAnt?	.....

A2. What is the purpose of NASA's Artemis II mission?

.....

.....

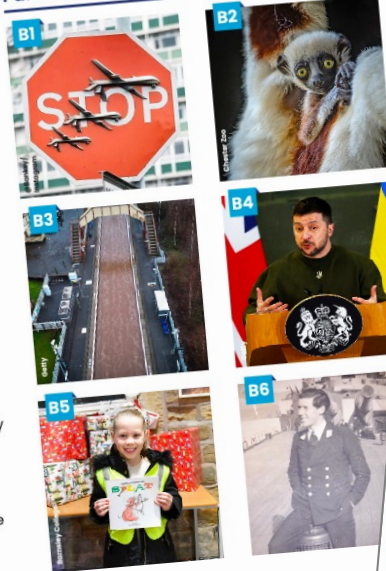
.....

**In The Know Quiz**

**Part A: Words**

- A1 Why is this year going to be 'huge' for British politics?
- A2 What are schoolchildren being invited to do from 8 January to 19 February 2024?
- A3 What is former Olympic, world and European curling champion Eve Muirhead's new job?
- A4 Which popular game is celebrating its 15th birthday in 2024, following hit sales of 300 million in 2023?
- A5 What caused damage to around 100 houses in Stalybridge, UK, on 29th December, 2023?
- A6 What is the current Guinness World Record for the most varieties of cheese on a pizza?
- A7 What is the Japanese space agency JAXA launching in 2024, and when can we expect results?
- A8 What is the name of the campaign to help schools reach zero carbon by 2030, and how many schools have already signed up?
- A9 Where would you find the tallest wind turbine made of wood?
- A10 Which city will officially replace Jakarta as the capital of Indonesia in the summer of 2024, and why?

**Part B: Pictures** What news do these pictures tell us?



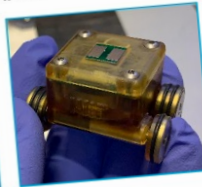
**Part C: Person**

Who is this person, and why is she in the news this week?



**Part D: Object**

What is this object, and why is it in the news?



**Part E: Place**

Where in the world will be celebrating 50 years of independence from the UK on 7 February 2024?



**Part F: Statistics** What news do these numbers tell us this week?

F1 33rd; 64; 32; 22	F2 £5, £10, £20, £50
F3 nine million tonnes; 500 tonnes	F4 2,405; 45%; 55%
F5 eight-minute; 1,000; 5.8km; 2km; 50,000	F6 Five million; 26,000; 52%

**In The Know Quiz**

**Teacher Answers**

**Part A: Words**

- A1 Because at some point in 2024, there will be a general election, which is when adults vote for the party they want to run the country. 'It's election year!', Headlines, page 5
- A2 Take part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch 2024, by spotting visit their playgrounds. 'Big Schools' Birdwatch', Natural World, page 9
- A3 She is 'chef de mission' (the person in charge) for the Team GB squad that's going to the Winter Youth Olympic Games in Gangwon, South Korea, in January 2024. 'Cooking up success', Sport in 2024, page 27
- A4 Mojang Studio's Minecraft: News – Happy birthday, Minecraft! Game Zone, page 13
- A5 A rare 'mini tornado'! People were evacuated, but thankfully, no-one was hurt. 'Stalybridge, UK, News in Pictures', page 7
- A6 1,001. 'Wow!', Headlines, page 5
- A7 Its MMX ('Mars Moon Exploration') mission, which is due to study the Martian moons Phobos and Deimos, then land on Phobos and bring home the first ever sample from it. This sample could help us discover more about our moon, won't arrive back on Earth until 2029. 'To the moon... and beyond!' Science in 2024, page 10
- A8 The campaign is called Let's Go Zero, and more than 2,600 schools have joined so far. 'Can your school save the planet?', Special Report, page 23
- A9 In Sweden. Built by a company called Modvion, it's 150 metres tall, and constructed with layers of glued spruce. 'Tallest wood turbine powers up', Quick News, page 2
- A10 A brand-new city, called Nusantara. The change is part of president Joko Widodo's plan to share money around the country, and reduce Jakarta's population and traffic jams. 'An all-new capital city', World News, page 15

**Part B: Pictures**

- B1 This road sign features the work of street artist Banksy. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of theft and criminal damage, after witnesses filmed the sign being removed by a man using bolt cutters. 'Banksy artwork stolen', Quick News, page 2
- B2 A baby lemur, from the critically endangered species Coquerel's sifaka, has been born at Chester Zoo, much to the excitement of conservationists! Chester, UK, News in Pictures, page 7
- B3 Bowling train station was closed in both directions last week. It is situated on the north bank of the river Clyde, and rain dumped by Storm Gerrit brought the water levels almost to the top of the platform; the same thing happened less than three months ago. The Big Picture, page 11
- B4 Ukraine, which is still defending itself from the Russian invasion that started in 2022, is holding a presidential election in 2024. Most polls show the current president, Volodymyr Zelensky, as most likely to win. Zelensky faces the public vote, World News, page 15
- B5 Year 2 pupil Esther Turner has become a published author, after winning a competition with her story The Smelly Adventures of Splat. 'Wow!', Books, page 18
- B6 John Roberts spoke to First News for this issue's Special Report about the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

He was a sub-lieutenant on HMS Serapls at the time, which was close to Sword beach, one of five chosen for the invasion. '80th anniversary of D-Day landings', Special Report, page 12

**Part C: Person**

Who is this person, and why is she in the news this week? This is Bodhana Sivanandan, an eight-year-old chess sensation from London, who has become the top female player at the 2023 European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship in Croatia. 'Eight-year-old wins chess championship', Quick News, page 2

**Part D: Object**

What is this object, and why is it in the news? This is AstroAnt, a tiny rover that's about the size of a Matchbox toy car. The cute space explorer will be tested for the first time as part of the 2024 IM-2 mission that's due to launch to the moon in 2024. 'To the moon... and beyond!', Science in 2024, page 10

**Part E: Place**

Where in the world will be celebrating 50 years of independence from the UK on 7 February 2024? 'Half a century of independence', World News, page 14

**Part F: Statistics**

What news do these numbers tell us this week?

- F1 33rd; 64; 32; 22 – 2024 will see the Olympic Games take place for the 33rd time, where Team GB will be hoping to improve on the 64 medals they scooped in 2020. There will be 32 different sports will be taking place – including breakdancing, for the first time – and 22 sports will be on show at the Paralympic Games. '2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games', Sport, page 28
- F2 £5, £10, £20, £50 – The denominations of the four banknotes, featuring the face of King Charles III, that will be out at some point during 2024. 'Make a note of Charles', UK events for 2024, page 8
- F3 nine million tonnes; 500 tonnes – According to a recent report from the United Nations, nine million tonnes of electrical items that could be recycled end up in landfill sites around the world every year, including 500 tonnes of Christmas lights from the UK alone. 'Plan to help recycle your electrical junk', Japan, Headlines, page 5
- F4 2,405; 45%; 55% – In 2023, 2,405 readers responded to a First News poll asking, 'Would you like to be taught by robots instead of teachers?' 45% said YES, and 55% said NO. 'What YOU said in 2023', Your News, page 25
- F5 eight-minute; 1,000; 5.8km; 2km; 50,000 – An eight-minute fireworks display in the city of Ras Al Khaimah in the United Arab Emirates broke two Guinness World Records: the 'longest chain of aquatic floating fireworks' (5.8km), and the 'longest straight-line drones display' (2km). The spectacular show was watched by an audience of 50,000 people. 'New Year's Eve firework display breaks records', Quick News, page 2
- F6 Five million; 26,000; 52% – Five million children in England didn't have a check-up with an NHS dentist in 2023, with over 26,000 having to go to hospital to have decaying teeth pulled out. Most high street dentist surgeries are no longer accepting new NHS patients, meaning that overall, just 52% of children were able see an NHS dentist last year. 'Millions of kids miss seeing the dentist', Headlines, page 5





# Teaching Writing

**'Register' – internalising *"the voice"***

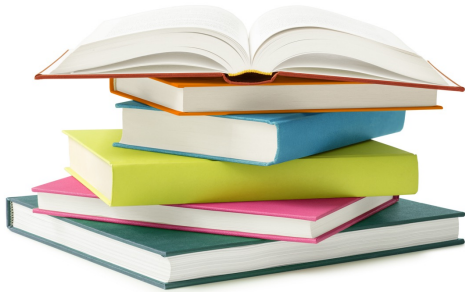
**Grammar**

**The role of the "WAGOLL"**



# Language is acquired through imitation

## What are they imitating?

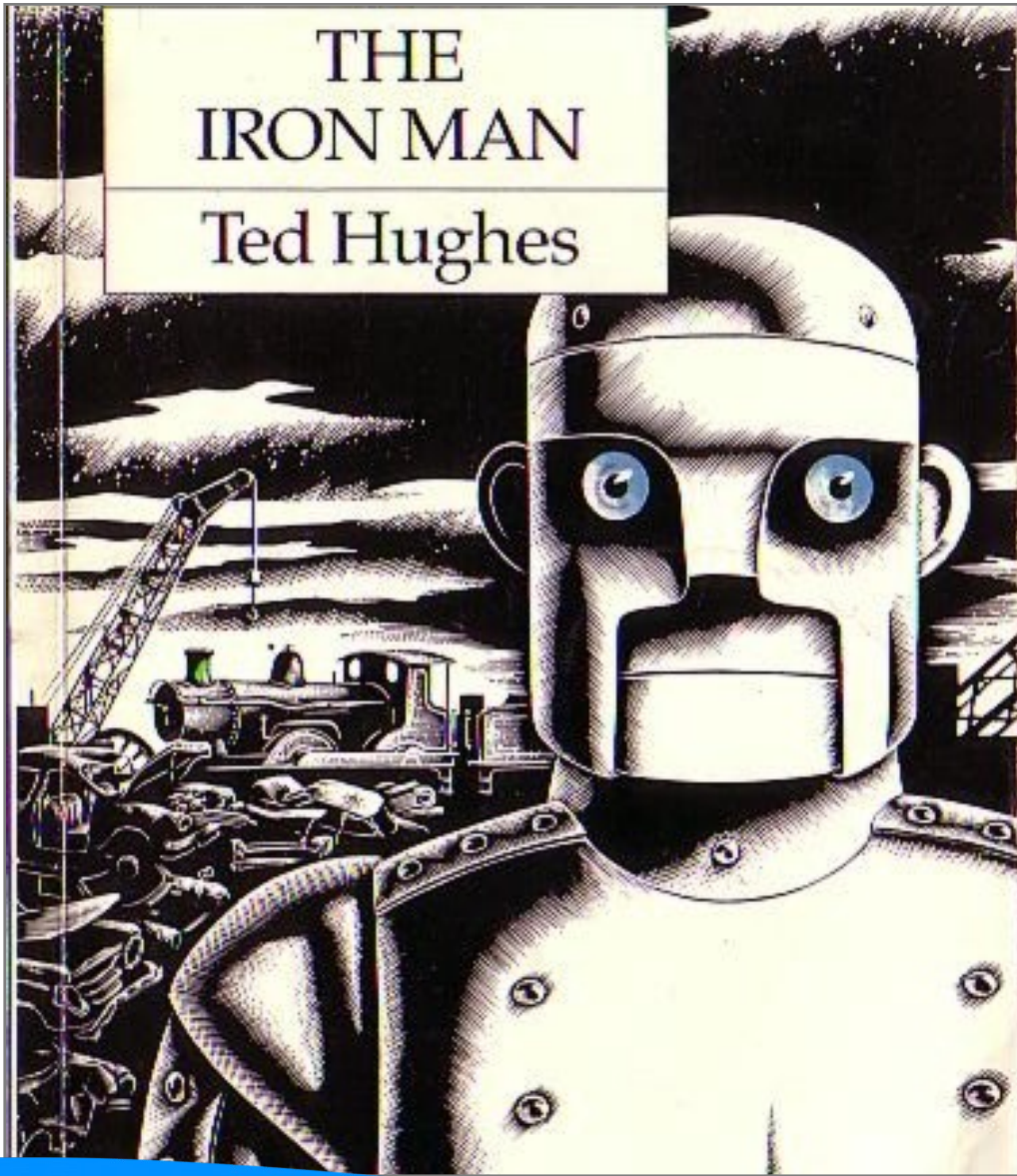


# Journalistic voice

## Re-reading and performing



THE  
IRON MAN  
Ted Hughes



## From *The Iron Man*, Chapter 2

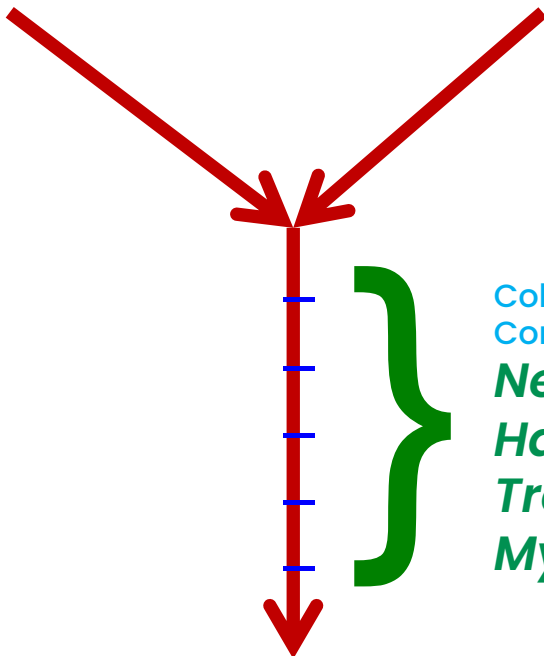
*Next morning all the farmers were shouting with anger. Where were their tractors? Their earth-diggers? Their ploughs? Their harrows? From every farm in the region, all the steel and iron farm machinery had gone. Where to? Who had stolen it all?*

*There was a clue. Here and there lay half a wheel, or half an axle, or half a mudguard, carved with giant toothmarks where it had been bitten off. How had it been bitten off? Steel bitten off?*

Formative assessment

Enjoy & Immerse:  
**News Story Model**

Capture & Organise:  
**The Iron Man chapter 2**



Collaborative  
Composition:  
**News Story:  
Half-eaten  
Tractors  
Mystery**

**Independent news story:  
Iron Man Bursts out from Hill**



# "GAZA STRIP IS MOST DANGEROUS PLACE TO BE A CHILD"

You can read more on this story on our app and at [first.news/IsraelGaza](https://first.news/IsraelGaza).



People celebrate as hostages are released by Hamas

**"The Gaza Strip is the most dangerous place in the world to be a child", says UNICEF boss Catherine Russell.**

The comments came after Israel and Hamas agreed to a four-day truce to allow some hostages to be freed and humanitarian aid, medical supplies and fuel to reach Gaza. The truce was then extended by another two days.

By Tuesday 28 November, the temporary truce had seen 69 hostages in Gaza being released, 51 of whom were women and children held since Hamas attacked Israel on 7 October. A further 17 Thai hostages and one Filipino were also released as part of a separate deal between Hamas and the Egyptian government.

Hamas said that 150 Palestinian women and teenagers would be released from jails in Israel in return.

Further releases could get tricky, as some hostages are

being held by other terrorist groups, not just Hamas.

Talking about children in Gaza, Russell said: "The agreement to release hostages is welcomed but much more needs to be done. More than 5,300 Palestinian children have been reportedly killed in just 48 days – that is over 115 a day, every day, for weeks and weeks. Based on these figures, children account for 40% of the deaths in Gaza. In other words, today, the Gaza Strip is the most dangerous place in the world to be a child."

Although many families are relieved to have their loved ones home, others say they can't celebrate until the war is over and everyone has their freedom back.

Organisations such as UNICEF and Oxfam are calling for an urgent ceasefire (end to the war) so that children can get the help and protection that they desperately need.

## UN to make tax fairer for all

**A HISTORIC vote has been made to allow the United Nations (UN) to create a new global tax system.**

It's hoped the UN will be able to make tax fairer for everyone, particularly poor countries that need the money to develop their economy and tackle climate change. In total, 125 nations voted in favour of the UN having more control over tax. Most of them were low or middle-income countries, including Nigeria, India, South Africa and Kenya.

Another 48 countries, including the US, UK and all EU member states, voted against the plan.

Alex Cobham of the Tax Justice Network said: "This is a historic victory delivered by the countries of the global south, for the benefit of people all around the world."

The current tax system is run by a group of wealthy countries known as the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). The OECD has been blamed for giving wealthy countries an unfair advantage, allowing them to avoid paying enough to make big businesses and rich people in the rest of the world pay their fair share of tax. Because of this, the world misses out on billions in tax every year.

## Outer space particle mystery

**AN international group of astronomers have been shocked to discover the second-most energetic cosmic ray ever detected on Earth.**

The particle had such high energy that creating it would have taken something even more powerful than a supernova, the violent explosion that takes place when a star dies and collapses in on itself.

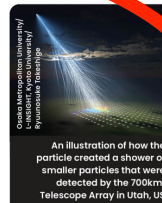
However, tracing the particle's route back shows that it came from an area of space that's pretty much empty, so there shouldn't be anything there that

could have created it.

"That's the mystery of this – what the heck is going on?" said John Matthews, one of the authors of a report of the event in the journal *Science*.

The particle had an energy of around 240 EeV (exa-electronvolts), which is a million times higher than anything we can produce in the biggest particle accelerators on Earth.

The only previous particle with more energy was detected in 1991 and was such a shock to scientists that they nicknamed it the Oh-My-God particle!



An illustration of how the particle created a shower of smaller particles that were detected by the 700km<sup>2</sup> Telescope Array in Utah, US

### EDITOR'S COMMENT

**WORLD leaders are gathering in Dubai for the COP28 climate talks.**

Let's hope they are more than talks and we see some positive action for the planet at the end of it. We've been asking you what you would say to world leaders, which you can read in a pull-out in the middle of this week's *First News*.

We also look at some of the positive things young people are doing for the planet.

And, on p16, we have worked with conservation charity WWF to put together your green charter for businesses. You told us what you'd expect from organisations if you were to work for them one day, and it makes very interesting reading.

Let's hope they are listening – and that world leaders are too!



Nicky Cox MBE

### Monkey the monkey

**A LOVEABLE toy monkey has been reunited with his owner, after making a 600-mile railway journey!**

A three-year-old boy lost Monkey while travelling from Oakham to

Bristol Temple Meads. Thankfully

he was spotted

by staff and sent

back home. But,

it was a long old

journey, involving

several different

train companies.

He was even

gifted a Christmas

jumpster to keep

him warm!



NEWSWEEK

### TikTok prankster Mizzy

**THE social media star has been jailed for 18 weeks, after pranking people and sharing the videos**

without their

permission. A judge

said Bacari-Bronze

O'Garra's (Mizzy's)

videos were "not

funny" and caused

members of the

public "significant

harm and distress".



### DON'T MISS OUT!

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# Outer space particle mystery

**AN international group of astronomers have been shocked to discover the second-most energetic cosmic ray ever detected on Earth.**

The particle had such high energy that creating it would have taken something even more powerful than a supernova, the violent explosion that takes place when a star dies and collapses in on itself.

However, tracing the particle's route back shows that it came from an area of space that's pretty much empty, so there shouldn't be anything there that

could have created it.

"That's the mystery of this – what the heck is going on?" said John Matthews, one of the authors of a report of the event in the journal *Science*.

The particle had an energy of around 240 EeV (exa-electronvolts), which is a million times higher than anything we can produce in the biggest particle accelerators on Earth.

The only previous particle with more energy was detected in 1991 and was such a shock to scientists that they nicknamed it the Oh-My-God particle!



# News story...?

	<b>SIMPLE</b>	<b>PROGRESSIVE (CONTINUOUS)</b>	<b>PERFECT</b>
<b>PAST</b>	Police searched for clues	Police were searching for clues	Police had searched for clues
<b>PRESENT</b>	Police search for clues	Police are searching for clues	Police have searched for clues
<b>FUTURE</b>	Police will search for clues	Police will be searching for clues	Police will have searched for clues

# Second World War: Evacuation

	<b>SIMPLE</b>	<b>PROGRESSIVE (CONTINUOUS)</b>	<b>PERFECT</b>
<b>PAST</b>	Children were evacuated from London	Children were being evacuated from London	Children had been evacuated from London
<b>PRESENT</b>	Children are evacuated from London	Children are being evacuated from London	Children have been evacuated from London
<b>FUTURE</b>	Children will be evacuated from London	Children will be being evacuated from London	Children will have been evacuated from London

# Monkey escapes for love!



A CHEEKY monkey named Charlie has escaped from his island sanctuary in Ireland, setting off in search of a girlfriend.

The capuchin monkey used to live at Rathdrum Monkey Sanctuary, but a couple of weeks ago, while being relocated, he jumped off the boat and ran away.

The sanctuary's owner, Willie Heffernan, has urged locals to keep an eye out for Charlie, who he says is likely to be looking for a mate.

But he warns that the monkey is shy around humans and likely to run or bite if cornered.

As *First News* went to press, Charlie was still on the loose.

## Returning to Charlie...

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# TETRIS? COMPLETED IT, MATE!

A BOY from the US has done what grown-ups have been trying and failing to do for 40 years – he’s finished *Tetris*!

Willis Gibson, aged 13, recorded his moment of glory and posted the video on his YouTube channel, Blue Scuti. It had been seen nearly two million times when *First News* went to press.

The legendary game was invented in 1984 by a Russian engineer. In it, players have to rotate and stack falling 2D blocks to build a wall. The blocks fall faster and faster and, if the wall reaches the top of the screen, it’s game over.

Until 2021, the furthest anyone had got was level 38, but Willis (pictured) reached level 157. Although the game is designed to never end, eventually it has to go so fast that it can’t calculate the score quickly enough and freezes. It’s known as the ‘kill screen’. An AI system reached the kill screen two years ago, but Willis is the first human to do so.

## Willis’s record-breaking game

After 38 minutes of intense button-mashing, in which he breaks world records for high score and levels played, Willis says: “Please crash.” Seconds later, it does just that.

As the blocks and music freeze, the Oklahoma teenager gasps: “Oh my god! I’m gonna pass out! I can’t feel my fingers!” Once he gets his breath back, he lets out a laugh and thinks about calling his mum to tell her the news, but decides to wait until she’s home from work.

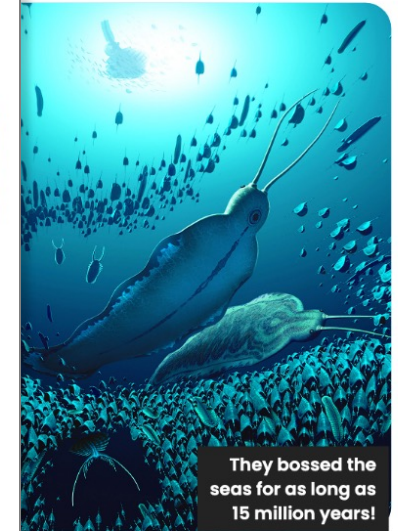
Willis began playing *Tetris* when he was 11 and has competed in tournaments, coming third at the 2023 Classic Tetris World Championship.



If you want to try to match Willis’s incredible feat, the game is free to play at [www.tetris.com](http://www.tetris.com)!



## ‘Terror beast’ fossils found



...of ancient, giant flesh-eating worms  
...n found in Greenland.

...atures lived more than 500 million years  
...have been named *Timorebestia*, which  
...‘terror beasts’. They grew to more than  
...length, which might not sound very large  
...standards but, in its time, it was one of  
...t swimming animals in the world.

...d fins down the sides of their body to help  
...e through the water, long antennae on  
...l, and jaw structures inside their mouth.

...b Vinther, from the University of Bristol,  
...e creatures and said: “*Timorebestia* were  
...their day and would have been close to  
...the food chain.” He said they would have  
...mportant back then as top predators like  
...seals are today.

...ne digestive systems of the worm fossils,  
...rs found the remains of a small spiny sea  
...called *Isoxys*, which was common in the  
...Period, 540-485 million years ago.

...say that the worms may have bossed  
...or about 10-15 million years before other  
...predators took over.



# ***The Classroom Newsroom***

**Roles**

**Deadlines**

**Editing**

# First News School Newspaper Guide

Our new First News School Newspaper Guide is the perfect resource to show students, step by step, how to launch and run a school newspaper.

**Part One: Starting a School Newspaper** is an introduction for teachers and covers curriculum benefits and practicalities. It also considers what to report and introduces students to press ethics.

**Part Two: Junior Journalist Guide** is for pupils. It helps students learn and improve reporting skills, interview techniques, headline tricks and lots more to encourage budding young reporters. Explanation pages unpick different text types found in a newspaper and these are followed by activities for students to practice these ideas and skills.

Complete the form below and we will email you your pupil and teacher packs.

<https://schools.firstnews.co.uk/newspaper-club/>



# First News

SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

STARTING  
A SCHOOL  
NEWSPAPER  
AN INTRODUCTION FOR TEACHERS



The *FirstNews* School Newspaper Club: Part 1

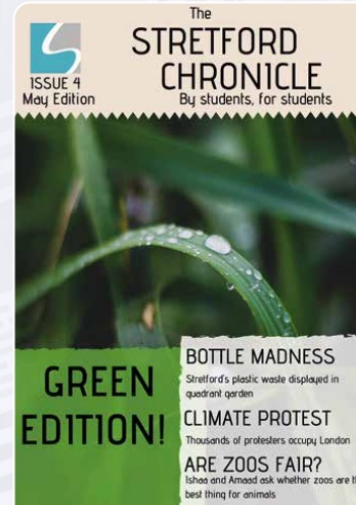
## Contents

1. **The benefits of having a school newspaper**
2. **Practicalities**
3. **Getting a team together**
4. **Choosing a name**
5. **What to report?**
6. **Sections**
7. **Features**
8. **Ethics**
9. **Sources**
10. **Photography and copyright**
11. **Style Guides**
12. **Designing the front page**



The *FirstNews* School Newspaper Club: Part 1

## 13. Case studies



SCHOOL: **STRET福德 HIGH SCHOOL, MANCHESTER**  
NEWSPAPER: **THE STRET福德 CHRONICLE**  
EDITOR: **AISHA, Y10**

### TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEWSPAPER

The *Stretford Chronicle* started in December 2018 and consists of 17 students who all work tirelessly to put together an issue every month. Together we create articles not only addressing events taking place in school, but also issues across the country and the world. We produce digital copies instead of paper copies, and we have campaigned relentlessly and successfully for plastic recycling bins in our school, as we care deeply about the environment.

### WHO WRITES IT?

The *Chronicle* is written entirely by students, who all want to become better writers and find a way to

**Stretford High School, Manchester – The Chronicle**

“The *Chronicle* is written entirely by students who all want to become better writers and find a way to express their opinions.” Aisha, aged 15

express their opinions. Though we have 17 members, there is a core group of 11 writers and reporters who have taken part in putting the issues together since we began. Most of our writers work collaboratively to assemble big feature articles and reviews.

### HOW DO YOU CHOOSE THE STORIES/FEATURES?

At the start of each month we have a spitballing session where we brainstorm ideas, which are either approved or rejected by the student editorial team. A majority of our reporters go around school interviewing both students and teachers alike; others surf the internet for global issues or have a look around our community to see what's new. Sometimes we take suggestions from the headteacher and department heads.

### WHO PUTS IT TOGETHER?

The *Chronicle* is entirely written and designed by students, all of the photography and illustrations are done by students as well. Originally it was produced in Canva by our staff facilitator Mr Lee, but from issue five onwards it has been put together by a student, Matylda.

### WHO READS IT?

Teachers, students and parents receive a copy via email. Extracts of our work have been shared on the school's social media account. Our article on the Gillette sexism controversy was read by Gillette and they commented on how impressed they were and that they “appreciated the support”.

### HOW DOES YOUR EDITORIAL TEAM WORK TOGETHER?

The *Chronicle* news editorial team collaborate very closely on articles. Our reporters often work in pairs or groups to complete articles, editing the same document live on Google Drive, inside or outside of school hours. We proofread as a group to confirm our fellow reporters haven't missed anything important out and to see if parts of their work could

Starting a School Newspaper – An Introduction for teachers 15

## 8. Ethics



Being a journalist is a responsible job. Your pupils will be creating a source of information that (you hope) others will trust and may well use to form opinions and make judgements. Older students may want to consider the relationship between a free press and democracy, and the reasons why the press is called the 'fourth estate'.

Even younger students should discuss the right way and the wrong way of being a journalist, and may want to agree a **Code of Ethics**. This is a set of guidelines that they promise to adhere to, to make sure they are fair and responsible journalists.



Here are five principles you may want to consider and adapt for your age range\*.

### TRUTH AND ACCURACY

At all times, make sure that what you write is honest, accurate and fair. This is the guiding principle of all journalists. Make it clear what is fact and what is opinion.

### IMPARTIALITY

Many stories have two sides and a journalist's job is to be a neutral voice, presenting both sides of the argument wherever possible.

### HUMANITY

Journalists should do no harm. You need to be aware of the impact that words and images can have on the lives of others, particularly those involved in a story.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

Journalists have to take responsibility for the words they have written. If mistakes are made, publish a correction or apologise where necessary. Never pass off someone else's work as your own.

### INDEPENDENCE

Journalists must be independent and not influenced by others. Come to your own judgement, based on the facts. Do not allow yourself to be influenced by other people or groups.



## Writing the perfect headline

A good newspaper headline should look good and sound good. It's a hook that pulls you in to read the rest of the article.

### Rhyme

Rhymes sound appealing and are easy to remember.

**GOOSE ON THE LOOSE**

### Alliteration

Using several words that start with the same sound creates a catchy rhythm.

**CRIMINAL MIND**

### Assonance

Using similar vowel or consonant sounds in words near to each other also creates a pleasing pattern.

### Puns

Puns play on words to humour into the headline. A double-meaning – a great use of space – the story covers light-hearted news.

**OTTERLY**

## The FirstNews School

### 4. Headlines

#### A. Headline hooks

1. Read the headlines below and identify the headline techniques used. Most use more than one technique.
2. Which news reports would you be hooked into reading first?

Headline	Techniques
"BONKERS" BRIDGE	
PURR-FECT POLITICIAN	
WE'RE EATING THE PLANET TO DEATH!	
BACKPACKS TACKLE POLLUTION	
KLOPP ON TOP	
PIGS: PETS OR PORK?	

#### B. Short & snappy

Cross out the unnecessary words from the headlines as short and snappy headlines are more appealing.

**DONALD TRUMP HAS THIS WEEK ON AN OCEANIC**

**THE NEW £20 BANKNOTE HAS BEEN UNVEILED BY**

### 5. Lead paragraphs

The first paragraph of a newspaper article summarises the story in as few words as possible. If someone reads no further, they will still know what the article is about. It also helps the reader decide if they want to read the rest of the article.

Here's an example:

**ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE called on UK authorities in order to combat air pollution**

In order to summarise the key points, journalists often use the 5Ws and 1H to contain the answers to some of the most important questions.

Who?	What?	Where?
Where?	Why?	How?

In the example above, the lead paragraph contains the answers to the 5Ws and 1H.

Who?	Friends of the Earth
What?	Has asked UK authorities to make bus routes greener
Why?	To combat air pollution and climate change

Lead paragraphs rarely contain all the answers to the 5Ws and 1H. It's up to the journalist to decide which are most important.

Let's look at two more examples.

**SAINSBURY'S will not be allowed to open new fireworks this year, to help tackle anti-social behaviour**

Who?	Sainsbury's
What?	Will not be selling fireworks
When?	This year
Why?	To protect people from anti-social behaviour

### 6. Lead paragraphs

#### A. Spot the answers

Which of the six key questions does the lead paragraph answer?

**PRIME Minister Boris Johnson will be in London with the world's leaders for the G7 meeting in Birmingham**

Who?	
What?	
Where?	
When?	
Why?	
How?	

#### B. Write your own lead – part 1

Write a lead paragraph for a newspaper report using the information below. You won't need to include everything - choose the most important and interesting information to summarise.

Who?	Renu Mondal
What?	Became a video of her station work
Where?	India
When?	July 2019
Why?	She is said to be a "divine" woman

Your lead:

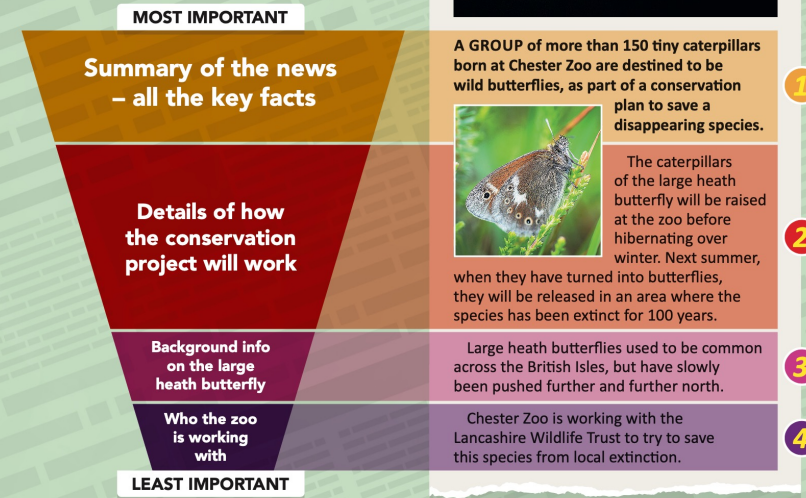
### 9. Tips for writing your own newspaper article

#### Tell people about the important stuff first

Newspaper articles are written so the information is given in order of importance. This style of writing is called **The Inverted Pyramid**.

The Inverted Pyramid style has the most important information in the lead paragraph. Each paragraph that follows provides further details that are also ordered from the most important to the least important.

In fact, if your editor has to cut the last paragraph from your report due to lack of space, the report should still make sense!



### OFF INTO THE WILD!



Chester Zoo

**A GROUP of more than 150 tiny caterpillars born at Chester Zoo are destined to be wild butterflies, as part of a conservation plan to save a disappearing species.**



The caterpillars of the large heath butterfly will be raised at the zoo before hibernating over winter. Next summer, when they have turned into butterflies, they will be released in an area where the species has been extinct for 100 years.

Large heath butterflies used to be common across the British Isles, but have slowly been pushed further and further north.

Chester Zoo is working with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust to try to save this species from local extinction.

1

2

3

4

# *Editing*

## *The secret to great writing*

**Have purpose!**

Don't leave it until the end!

**Who's the audience?**

Read-aloud: does it sound right?

**Every word counts**

**Newsroom specifics:**

Space, word-count, and importance

Deadlines

Who are we informing?

**Thank  
you!**



[hello@primaryeducationadvisors.co.uk](mailto:hello@primaryeducationadvisors.co.uk)

✕ [@EnglishHubUK](https://twitter.com/EnglishHubUK)

## ***Retrieval***

***To get or bring something back from somewhere***

***Find or extract information***

## ***Inference***

***A conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning***

***Figuring out what is not directly said***

# Types of inference

**Evaluative** – character feelings and emotions: *How did X feel when he missed the bus? How did he feel when he'd been tricked?*

**Predictive** – based on prior knowledge linked with comprehension of the text so far *e.g. Sophie left her bike by the railings when she spotted her friend in the park.*

**Bridging** (gap-filling) – linking two pieces of information together; forms a link between ideas clearly stated and those left implicit - draws on life experience/general knowledge *e.g. The fire started to burn uncontrollably. Tom grabbed a bucket of water.*

**Cohesive** – helps the reader to build up a coherent understanding of a text *e.g. pronoun resolution: working out who a pronoun relates to e.g. It was as though it had flung her first at the gate, waited for her to open it, and then lifted and thrown her, bag and all, at the front door.*

# *First*News

Thank you for attending today's session. The next webinar in this series (Critical thinking: building resilience across the curriculum) will take place in the first half of the spring term, and we'd love to see you there, too!

A recording of this webinar, and your certificate of attendance, will be sent to you by email. If you haven't received it after 48 hours, please let us know by emailing [helen.mulley@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:helen.mulley@firstnews.co.uk)

If you would like to have a chat about how *First News* could help in your school, Kate and Daisy are staying online to be available for you; alternatively, please email [roomana.ahmed@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:roomana.ahmed@firstnews.co.uk) to arrange a more convenient time.