



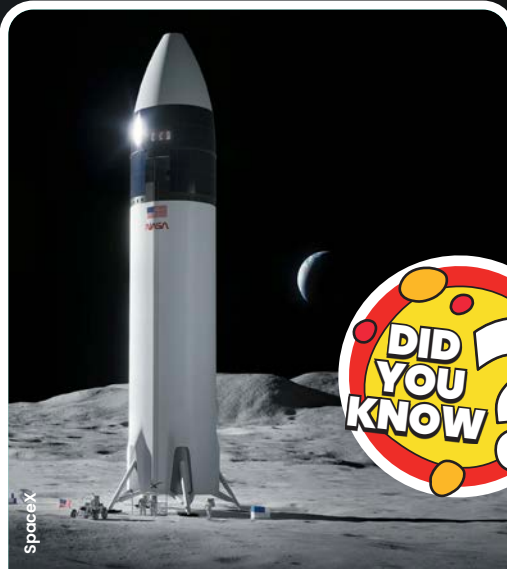
FROM CATWALK TO MOONWALK

THE astronauts who are due to land on the moon on NASA's Artemis III mission should be more comfortable than the original moonwalkers, thanks to this new Prada-designed spacesuit.

The cool design was unveiled by Axiom Space and Prada at the International Astronautical Congress in Milan, Italy, last week.

The two companies said that the Axiom Extravehicular Mobility Unit (AxEMU) will "protect astronauts against the unique challenges of the lunar environment and visually inspire future space exploration".

Spacesuits aren't exactly known for being cosy, so Prada's expertise with materials and sewing techniques was used to make these new suits more flexible and comfortable, which will make astronauts' jobs easier.



NASA'S Artemis III mission is scheduled for the end of 2026 and will be the first time that humans have set foot on the moon since the last Apollo mission in December 1972. The crew is expected to include the first woman and first person of colour to stand on the moon.



The new spacesuit designed by fashion label Prada

Invasive snake is as safe as houses

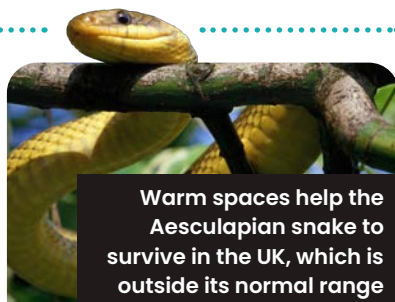
A NON-NATIVE snake species is surviving in the UK because it's learned to take advantage of human spaces, such as lofts, wall spaces and even compost heaps.

The Aesculapian snake is harmless but can grow to 2m long, which is about double the size of the UK's biggest native species, the grass snake.

There are three populations in the UK – one near London Zoo, and two in Wales. One of those is in Bridgend, but it was the one

near the Welsh Mountain Zoo in Colwyn Bay that's been studied by scientists led by Tom Major at Bournemouth University.

They put tracking devices on 21 snakes and found that the males especially liked sheltering in lofts and wall cavities in houses. The females seem to especially like resting in compost heaps. They also use them to lay their eggs in, as well as in piles of wood chippings or vegetation, and even a dung heap at the zoo!



Warm spaces help the Aesculapian snake to survive in the UK, which is outside its normal range

The UK has only **three** native species of snake

The adder is the only venomous one, but only **14** humans have been killed by them in the UK since **1876**, and the last death was in **1975**

But around the world, **110,000** people are killed by snakes every year

Can humans make hurricanes?

IF you read last week's issue, you'll have seen our story about the theories that the recent hurricanes in the US were deliberately created by the government.

If you wondered why on earth anyone would believe such nonsense, two psychologists who specialise in conspiracy theories have explained.

Daniel Jolley and Iwan Dinnick research where these theories come from, and they say they often emerge when people feel unsafe and want to get back a sense of control over their environment.

Studies have shown that those who are more likely to be affected by a hurricane are more likely to believe conspiracies that it was man-made.



Hurricane Milton as it passed over the Gulf of Mexico

The researchers say the big problem is that the more people believe in climate-related conspiracies, the less likely they are to take action on climate change. But as climate change gets worse, the more natural disasters there'll be, so this will only make more people turn to conspiracies in the future.

Exercises that get people to think critically about fake news and conspiracies can reduce these beliefs, but getting enough people to take part in them in the first place isn't very easy.

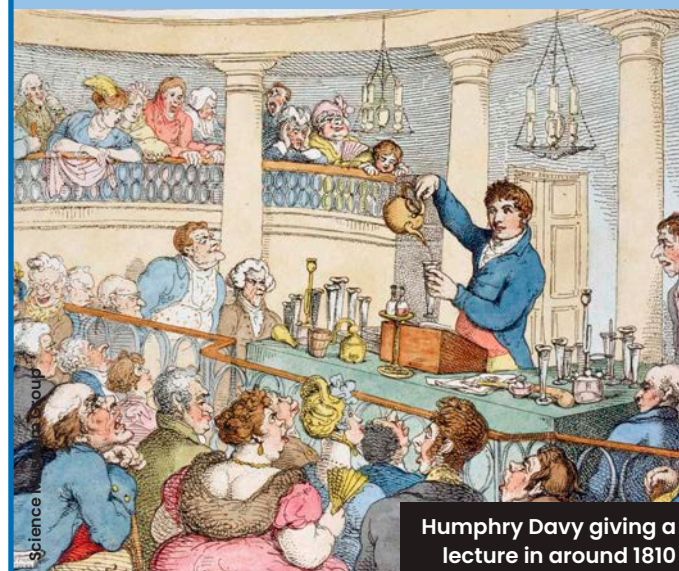
This report is from the Science Museum

SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

AT just 18 years old, Mary Shelley created one of the earliest and most iconic examples of science fiction in her book *Frankenstein*.

Published in 1818, the novel tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, who became obsessed with science and tried to create the perfect being from body parts. Unnamed in the book, the monster is nowadays known by the name of its creator.

While the creature came from Shelley's imagination, she was inspired by the science discoveries of her time. She took inspiration for Victor Frankenstein from Humphry Davy, a famous chemist who had carried out revolutionary experimental work on electricity. Davy's lectures were famous and hundreds of people, including Shelley, would cram into lecture theatres to see him speak and demonstrate experiments.



Humphry Davy giving a lecture in around 1810