



# TOOTHY TOAD DISCOVERED!

ZSL

**SCIENTISTS have discovered a new species of toad in Vietnam that has teeth and unusual colour markings!**

Researchers from ZSL accidentally discovered the Mount Po Ma Lung toothed toad (*Oreolalax adelphos*) after searching for a different species of amphibian.

This special toad has tiny teeth on the roof of its mouth and unusual spots on its skin.

However, its habitat is threatened by people cutting down trees for wood and planting crops for cardamom production. So, scientists hope its discovery will help preserve the area.



## Camels boost desert farming



**CAMELS are becoming agriculture's secret weapon against climate change, experts say.**

These tough animals can survive in hot, dry places where other farm animals cannot.

They provide milk, meat and transport for people living in deserts and mountains.

Camels are quite unique because they can eat plants other animals won't touch, like cactuses, and go for long periods without water.

This makes them perfect for farming in areas hit hard by global warming.

The United Nations has named 2024 the 'Year of Camels and Their Relatives', which include llamas and alpacas.

## Scientists reveal nature's 'darkspots'

**SCIENTISTS have identified 33 places around the world where they think thousands of unknown plants are hiding.**

These 'darkspots' exist in countries such as Madagascar, Brazil and Vietnam.

Researchers from Kew Gardens say there could be 100,000 plant species we haven't discovered yet – many in these 33 areas.

They worry that many of these plants might be in danger of dying out before we know about them.

The team hopes the new findings will help botanists focus on the right areas to find new plants quickly.

They say these unknown species could be important for making new medicines or fuels in the future.

The study was published in the journal *New Phytologist*.



ANEESHWAR Kunchala is a nine-year-old wildlife campaigner and officially the world's youngest newspaper columnist! He shot to fame as a finalist on *Britain's Got Talent*. Now, he's presenting the documentary *Save Our Wildlife* from Sky Kids and Sky Zero. You can watch it at [first.news/climatecrisis](https://first.news/climatecrisis).

Aneeshwar's Animal of the Week is the...

## HAMMERHEAD SHARK



### HABITAT:

Temperate and tropical waters worldwide.

### FUN FACTS:

- They have 360-degree vision, thanks to their far-apart eyes that can rotate.
- Unlike many fish, hammerheads don't lay eggs. Instead, females give birth to live young.

### SPECIAL SUPERPOWER:

This shark's name comes from its unusually shaped head, which it uses to pin its favourite snack – stingrays – to the ocean floor.

### CONSERVATION STATUS:

There are many species of hammerhead sharks whose populations are decreasing, says the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Aneeshwar's  
hammerhead art

We're asking you to send in photos of your own drawings or paintings of wildlife to add to an online gallery. Ask a parent, guardian or teacher to send in your photos by emailing them to [yournews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:yournews@firstnews.co.uk).