

ISSUE #7

ENGAGES  
INFORMS  
INSPIRES

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# NEWS BITES

A MONTHLY NEWSPAPER FOR YOUNG AND HUNGRY MINDS

APRIL 2020

GATHERING INTERESTING NEWS THAT CONNECTS YOUNG READERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



## EARTH DAY 50 April 22 Your Questions Answered

**E**arth Day falls on April 22, and this year marks its 50th anniversary. With issues such as global warming and climate action dominating news headlines, there really is no better time to look and see what all this means. It's so important to know the facts and to dispel the myths around climate change so we can really make a difference. Because if we don't, who will?

This issue of News Bites belongs to:



**HEALTH IS WEALTH**

PAGE 3



**SDG #5**

PAGE 8



**G IS FOR ...**

PAGE 10



When in space, the human body shrinks by up to 3% due to zero gravity.




**TRUE OR FALSE?**



**FIND OUT ON PAGE 17**

# Contents | Editorial

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**H**ello and welcome, News Bites!

We hope you enjoyed last month's issue and our special feature on Elon Musk – what a mind he has, and what cool projects he is leading!

This month, we turn our attention to Earth Day – and its 50th anniversary – which falls on April 22. Never before has it been more important to get active when it comes to helping (and saving) our planet. As the saying goes, we have no Planet B, so unless we act now, our dear Earth will be in grave trouble for future generations.

Of course, to do something real and positive when it comes to climate change, we must first understand what is going on. So, this month, we've gathered questions from all over the world, and asked our team of experts for the answers. By asking we learn, and with knowledge we can act. Now is the time to do so, wouldn't you agree?

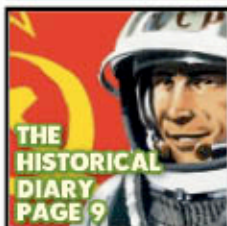
As always, all your favourites are in here. WWW News offers us a peek into the rather wacky election campaign of Count Binface (no joke!) while in Motor Mad we reveal the latest hypercar to hit the streets of Los Angeles.

In our STEAM section, you get to meet your intestines – the organs busy in your body breaking down the food and drink you consume – while in A Better World, we look at the issue of gender equality in today's world and what that means.

Don't forget – if you would like to get in touch with us, maybe send us a book review or some school news, we'd love to hear from you. You can do this by emailing us at [hello@newsbitesmedia.com](mailto:hello@newsbitesmedia.com).

See you next month,

Stephen  
50  
YEARS  
EARTH  
DAY 2020



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## The Big Story | Current Affairs

# PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE!

**H**ealth – it's the greatest possession we'll ever have.

So, as World Health Day falls on April 7, and the world continues to fight the spread of COVID-19, there really is no better time to take a look at all the things we can (and must) do to stay healthy.

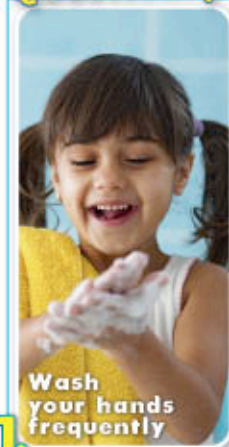
From washing our hands and brushing our teeth, to using sunscreen and visiting the optician, our actions now can affect how healthy we are, not only in the present but also in the future. So, in these troubling times, let's see what we can do to look after our greatest wealth – our health.

Everyone will have heard of the World Health Organisation (WHO) by now. With COVID-19 sweeping across the globe, this organisation is doing all it can to help raise awareness of the disease, educate people on best practice, and reassure everyone that the spread of the coronavirus can be stopped if we all work together.



## The Big Question: What can I do to stay healthy?

One very simple way is to listen to what the experts are saying – especially in relation to COVID-19. Follow the WHO's advice, guidelines and tips, so that you can say you are doing all you can to stop the spread.



### 1. Wash your hands frequently

Wash regularly and wash properly. One of the most vital factors for staying healthy is being clean. Dirt and disease go hand in hand, so it's really important that we take care of our personal hygiene to avoid getting sick or, worse still, making others sick.

**What the WHO says:**  
Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

#### Why?

Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.



### 2. Maintain personal space

As the saying goes, prevention is better than cure! We also need to ensure we are not spreading illness to others. One way of doing this is maintaining personal space, especially in public places.

**What the WHO says:**  
Maintain at least one metre distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

#### Why?

When someone coughs or sneezes they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth, which may contain viruses. If you are too close you might inhale droplets containing COVID-19, if the person coughing or sneezing has the virus.



### 3. Stop the spread

It is not enough to maintain hygiene practice that just benefits you. It is your duty to make sure that the people around you and close to yourself – friends, family and strangers – are protected also. So, keep your hands to yourself and avoid unnecessary contact with others. This includes your loved ones.

**What the WHO says:**  
Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. If you sneeze or cough, cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or with a tissue. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.

#### Why?

Hands touch many surfaces, and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, they can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and make you sick.



### 4. If symptoms appear, seek medical help

Unfortunately, we won't all be able to avoid getting sick, and if you or someone you know happens to contract COVID-19, it may be as a result of someone else's poor hygiene practices, not yours. The most important thing to remember is not to panic.

**What the WHO says:**  
If you get a fever or start coughing and have difficulty breathing, seek medical care early. Do not wait, thinking this might blow over. It may be a common cold and not COVID-19. But it is best that you act immediately.

If you seek medical attention, call the doctor, nurse or clinic in advance. And follow the directions of your local health authority.

#### Why?

National and local authorities will have the most up-to-date information on the situation in your area. Calling in advance will allow your health care provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This will both protect you and help prevent the spread of the virus or infection you may have.

### More WHO tips:

It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared or angry during a crisis like COVID-19. Talking to people you trust – your friends and family – can help.



Limit worry and agitation by lessening the time you and your family spend watching or listening to media coverage about COVID-19. This can become worrying and upsetting.



If you must stay at home, maintain a healthy lifestyle – maintain a proper diet, get enough sleep, and exercise as much as you can.





It is believed there is just one white giraffe left alive in the world after a mother and her calf were killed by poachers in Kenya last month.

Rangers in the north-eastern part of the African country found the carcasses of the two giraffes whose type was already considered to be extremely rare.

The giraffes are white due to a rare condition called leucism, which causes skin cells to lose their pigmentation (colour).

The white giraffes were first spotted in Kenya in 2016, about two months after a sighting in the neighbouring country Tanzania.

## Last white giraffe



They were last seen towards the end of last year.

The Kenya Wildlife Society is investigating the killings and at time of print the poachers had not been identified and no one was sure what their motive was.

The incident happened in Garissa County, where there is a conservancy in a large unfenced area. There are also villages within the conservancy.

Mohammed Ahmednoor, the manager of the Ishaqibini Hirola Community Conservancy, said it was a very sad day for the community and Kenya as a whole.

'We are the only community in the world who are custodians of the white giraffe,' he said. 'Its killing is a blow to the tremendous steps taken by the community to conserve rare and unique species and a wake-up call for continued support to conservation efforts.'

### BITE-SIZE!

40 per cent of the giraffe population has disappeared in the past 30 years due to poaching for their meat and skin. It dropped from 155,000 giraffes in 1985 to 97,000 in 2015. According to the latest figures, the estimated population now stands at 111,000.



## Robbers steal \$14m from airport

Thieves got away with \$14 million during an armed raid at an airport near Santiago, the capital of Chile, last month.

Police were searching for seven men after an armoured truck was robbed at Santiago Airport. The money had been flown into the country only a few hours before the gang struck.



They entered the terminal's warehouse in a vehicle disguised as a yellow and red DHL delivery van.

Once inside, they threatened the guards before making off with the money.

Two guards in the terminal suffered minor injuries.

In a similar incident at the same airport in 2014, \$10m was stolen.



## Xi visits Wuhan



Last month, the leader of China, Xi Jinping, visited Wuhan for the first time since the coronavirus outbreak began in the region.

Many believe it was a sign that China thinks it has won the fight in the pandemic that has claimed thousands of lives in the country and around the world.

Mr Xi landed in Wuhan to meet and 'express his regards' to medical workers, military, volunteers, patients and residents.

Upon arrival he went straight to Huoshenshan hospital and met doctors. The emergency facility was built in response to the outbreak.

Xi had been criticised for not visiting the region earlier but medical officials say

that was not possible due to the high risk of contracting the virus.

It was said that his visit was an attempt to signal the worst has passed. China reported zero new locally transmitted infections on March 19, having been at 2000 in February.

Meanwhile, China's Hubei province has started using a smartphone system called Health Code. It gives individuals a colour which shows their level of risk for infecting others. This has allowed some people to begin travelling freely once again.

### Save-the-Date



**The 500th Anniversary of Raphael**  
April 6

April 6th marks the 500th anniversary of the death of Raphael, one of the world's greatest painters and architects.

Although he lived many hundreds of years ago, during a period known as the Renaissance, his works of art are still marvelled at today.

Raphael was greatly influenced by fellow Italian artists Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. He became most famous for his group



## World News | Current Affairs

**T**he dangers of plastic pollution in our oceans were once again highlighted last month when a new study found that loggerhead turtles mistake plastic for food.

The reptiles could, for example, mistake a plastic bag for a jellyfish snack, which gives off a similar odour.

Researchers believe this explains why turtles are often found entangled in plastic.

Scientists studied the reactions of 15 young loggerhead turtles to different kinds of

### Turtles fooled by plastic

plastic they might encounter in the water.

The turtles ignored clean plastic but were attracted to 'stinky' plastic which had been in the ocean for some time.

Once plastic is released into the ocean, microbes, algae, plants and tiny animals make it their home. This creates food-like odours, which, in turn, attracts birds.

The new study revealed that it also attracts turtles. The researchers piped airborne odours



#### BITE-SIZE!

A recent study found that 99 per cent of seabirds will have ingested plastic waste by 2050 unless drastic action is taken.

into the air above a water tank and used cameras to record the turtles' reactions.

They responded in the same way to odours from plastics as they did to food such as fish and shrimp meal.

When the turtles came up to breathe, they kept their noses out of the water more than three times longer than normal so they could get a good smell.

Plastic debris is rapidly growing in our oceans and poses a huge threat to hundreds of marine species.

### Sausages save the day



**S**ausages are normally associated with breakfasts and barbecues – but they also came in handy for a mountain rescue recently!

Neil, a two-year-old collie, was out for a run in the Scottish Highlands with her owner and her friend when they got into difficulty.

The humans were soon saved by the mountain rescue team. They were suffering from mild hypothermia (dangerously low body temperature) and

had to be airlifted to hospital by helicopter. Unfortunately, the noisy chopper scared Neil, who ran away.

Wondering how to now save the missing dog, the rescue team came up with a rather smart way of luring Neil back to safety. The next day, they returned to the area where she ran away and started cooking!

They put some sausages on a

disposable barbecue where the smell of the sizzling bangers enticed the dog out of hiding.

Having been lured closer by the aroma, a frightened Neil was eventually secured. After a picnic lunch, the rescuers walked her eight kilometres back to the roadside and reunited her with her owner.

### 'Mini-moon' orbiting Earth

**A** new 'mini-moon' has been discovered orbiting Earth.

Named 2020 CD3, it is only the second asteroid known to orbit Earth.

It has been orbiting Earth for the last three years and was

spotted on February 15 using the Catalina Sky Survey (CSS) in Arizona, USA. The CSS helps the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to discover and track near-Earth objects that could be dangerous to our planet.

The 'mini-moon' is expected to drop out of orbit around the Earth in April and return to a heliocentric orbit (an orbit around the sun).

Meanwhile, scientists at the University of New Mexico are trying to figure out how the moon was created in the first place.

They have come up with a theory after studying moon rock samples brought back from space missions.

They believe a giant Mars-sized rock called Theia crashed into the Earth around 4.5 billion years ago. The collision produced enough heat to create oceans of liquid rock, called magma,



and sent other rocks and debris (broken pieces of rock) into orbit around the Earth.

That debris then fused together to form the moon, which began orbiting around the Earth.

of paintings known as the Madonnas, and his fresco (a painting on a wall, completed while the plaster is damp or fresh)

called *The School of Athens*.

In 1514, Raphael was appointed by Pope Leo X as the chief architect of

St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Raphael died on April 6, 1520, aged 37. There was great shock and

disbelief that he should die at such a young age. He was laid to rest in the Pantheon, one of Rome's most magnificent buildings.



Rate how Wacky!



## COUNT BINFACE TO RUN FOR MAYOR

A man who goes by the name of Count Binface – and dresses in a spacesuit with a bin as a helmet – is in the running to be elected the next Mayor of London.

The Count, who has called himself 'a fearless space warrior', says he will 'take out the trash' if successful in his bid for the job.

'London is the greatest city on the planet. I call it the Earth capital,' Binface said. 'As such, it needs people from outside Earth to pay its dues. Mayor of London is a fantastic title in itself and, as someone who already has a title, it suits me down to the ground.' The controversial character said he decided to 'throw his bin in the ring' because he felt that the race for mayor needed some shaking up.

This isn't the first time the bin-headed spaceman has entered politics. Back in 2017, he attempted to run for Prime Minister, operating under the alias Lord Buckethead.

The election to choose the next Mayor of London takes place on May 7. Whether Count Binface will have done enough to convince voters of his merit, time will tell.

It must be said, political experts view his chances as utter rubbish!

### BITE-SIZE!

Humans generally run for election, but that's not always the case. The United States – for some reason – has a wacky history of electing some rather strange candidates to office. And no, we're not talking about President Trump here.

One of the latest candidates to bleed off competitors was Lincoln the goat, in Fair Haven, Vermont. Only last year, Lincoln signed (with her hoof, no less) the paperwork to become Fair Haven's first mayor!

Rate how Wonderful!

## RETURN OF THE RING – PART I

Way back in 1973, American teenager Debra McKenna was devastated after accidentally losing her boyfriend's ring.

Incredibly, almost 50 years later, the piece of jewellery was reunited with Debra after turning up some 10,000km away, in a forest in Finland!

Debra (now aged 63) had lost the ring in a shopping mall in the town of Brunswick, Maine, USA. The ring had been given to her by her then boyfriend (now husband) Shawn when he graduated from high school.

Now, fast forward to 2020, when Marko Saarinen is out exploring a forest with his trusty metal detector, near the town of Kaarina in the south of Finland.



When the device beeped, Marko bent down and dug up an unusual bejewelled blue ring that had a clear inscription of 'SM' – Shawn's initials – and the name of a school. When Marko returned home, he went online and managed to track down Debra to reunite her and Shawn with the long-lost ring.

How the ring ended up in Finland remains a real mystery.

## RETURN OF THE RING – PART II

Rings have a strange habit of turning up in unexpected places after having gone missing. In Issue #4, we ran a story on a woman's ring that turned up some 2,000km away after a period of 27 years. Amazing, right? But what about this for a truly wacky find from 2017 ...

54-year-old Canadian Mary Grams was resigned to the fact that she had lost her engagement ring for good – it had been missing for thirteen years, after all.

So, you can imagine her surprise when her son's wife appeared from the garden and presented her with the 24-carat piece of jewellery wrapped around a misshapen carrot!

As it turned out, Mary had accidentally dropped her ring in the garden where it was trampled upon and buried all those years ago.



Thirteen years later, it seems a carrot, sown by a member of the family, grew down through the ring and, as it grew, wedged Mary's jewellery safely in place. When the carrot was pulled later that year, the ring was revealed!

Mary's daughter-in-law, Colleen, said she was about to feed the carrot to her dog before noticing something strange and shiny.

After the miraculous find, Mary gathered her family together to cut the carrot away and place the ring back on her finger!

'We were giggling and laughing,' Mary told reporters. 'It fits. After that many years, it fits!'

Rate how Weird!



## NO HIDING FROM GOOGLE!

Google Maps is a really handy app for getting you to where you need to go. It gives directions, works out distances and travel times – it even has images of the places you're travelling to or visiting.

When a German romantic recently proposed to his girlfriend he was more than a bit surprised to find out Google Maps had snapped his romantic plan and posted it online for the world to see.

Part-time farmer Steffen Schwarz wanted to do something special when the time came to ask for his girlfriend's hand in marriage.

After much thought, he decided to spell out the words 'Wilst du mich heiraten?' ('Will you marry me?') in a field of corn he worked in. He then asked his girlfriend to fly a drone (with a camera attached) over the field so his romantic message could be revealed.

Mr Schwarz had no idea that his romantic masterplan had gone global until his aunt (in Canada – some 7,000km away) sent him a screenshot of his 'corny' proposal.

In case you're wondering, his girlfriend said 'Yes'. Yay!

### BITE-SIZE!

Google Maps is an online mapping service developed by Google. It offers satellite imagery, aerial photography, street maps, 360° interactive panoramic views of streets, real-time traffic conditions, and route planning for travelling by foot, car, bicycle or public transportation.



## Picture This! | Current Affairs



A cured COVID-19 patient gives the thumbs up to medical workers as he is discharged from Chongqing Public Health Centre on March 15, 2020, in Chongqing, China. The man was the last COVID-19 patient discharged from the medical institution in Chongqing. (Photo by Zhou Yi/China News Service via Getty Images)



Volunteers wash and sanitise Wat Hong Rattanaram, an ancient Thai Buddhist temple in Bangkok, Thailand. Bangkok has created a sanitisation schedule for temples and shrines within the city, amid the coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak. (Photo by Lauren DeCicca/Getty Images)

## The SDGs | A Better World



It's all about Girl Power this month as we take a look at SDG#5. The fifth United Nations Sustainable Development Goal is focussed on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls across the world.

What does this mean? Gender equality means that no matter what gender you are, you get equal access to resources and opportunities. It means that men and boys don't receive different or better treatment just because they are male. It means that women and girls don't receive different or worse treatment just because they are female.

Empowerment is about helping women and girls to become stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their lives and claiming their rights.

### HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE THIS?

#### PUT WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND GIVE THEM DECISION-MAKING ROLES

To achieve gender equality, women need to be in positions where they are listened to and where they have a say. Data shows that women are underrepresented at all levels of political leadership with parliaments on average having only 24% of female members.

When governments make laws for gender quotas, this results in more women being elected to both local and national parliaments. A gender quota is when there is a rule about how many women and men should be involved. When women are given the opportunity to take up roles where they can make decisions and bring about changes, there is a much better chance of gender equality becoming a reality.

#### ENABLE MORE WOMEN TO TAKE UP WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME

Lack of resources and being unable to have financial independence are two of the things that hold women back and prevent them from receiving equal treatment with men. Women, especially in developing countries, need to be encouraged and provided with support to enable them to work outside the home.

More women are needed in management positions. Although women make up 39% of the global workforce, they only hold 27% of managerial jobs in the world. This number is increasing in the developed world, but not in less developed regions.

## SDG #5

#### BITE-SIZE!

Globally, roughly 28 girls every minute are married while under-age. This means that every year there are around 15 million early marriages with young women being married before they are 18 years of age.

#### INVEST IN WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURIAL IDEAS

Throughout the western world the number of female entrepreneurs is rising rapidly. In the developing world, women need support for their business ideas and this means making funds available to them so that they can grow their businesses. It also means making sure there is someone who will listen to them and give them support when things get tough.

#### BITE-SIZE!

In most countries, women are paid only 60-75% of what men are paid for the same work.

#### TAKE ACTION AGAINST UNPAID LABOUR

Studies from more than 90 countries show that women spend, on average, three times more hours EVERY DAY on unpaid housework than men do. This limits the amount of time women can spend on paid work, education and leisure activities, and so prevents them from becoming independent.

Do you think gender equality and female empowerment is an issue in your country? Are women and girls treated less favourably than men? What action would you take to bring about gender equality?

#### INCREASE RESOURCES

Building more schools, increasing the numbers of qualified teachers, and providing more scholarships for those from disadvantaged backgrounds are all necessary actions to achieve SDG #5. Teachers are crucial for reaching these targets, so this is an urgent need.

How do you feel about education? Can you imagine what it's like not having a school to go to? How would you feel if you had to go to work when you should still be in school? How important is education to you and your friends? Email us here at News Bites and have your say.

# Gender Equality

## WISE WORDS SERIES #7

Each month our WISE WORDS series will bring you an inspiring and thought-provoking quote. When you finish reading this issue of News Bites, why not copy this quote out to create your very own book of wise words?

*Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind.*

Dr Seuss



# Historical Diary | April 12, 1961

**S**ince earliest times, people have looked up into the night sky and dreamed about flying to the stars. On April 12, 1961, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin wrote his name into the history books when he became the first person to fly into outer space.

## Young Yuri

Yuri Gagarin was born in the village of Klushino, almost 200km from Moscow, on March 9, 1934. Klushino is now in Russia, which was then part of the Soviet Union. He was the third of four children, and his elder sister helped raise him while his parents worked.

## Promising Pupil

Yuri was smart and hard-working in school, though he also got up to mischief like the other children. His mathematics and science teacher had been a pilot in the Soviet Air Force during the war, which impressed young Gagarin.

## Joins the Army

At the age of 16 he became an apprentice in a steel plant. He later went to a technical school where he studied tractors. On weekends he learned to fly light airplanes. In 1955 he joined the Soviet Air Force, and by 1959 he was a Senior Lieutenant.

## Chosen for Space

In 1960, Gagarin was selected with 19 others for the Soviet space programme. He was tested by experiments designed to check his physical and mental strength, and then trained for the upcoming flight. Out of the twenty originally selected, Yuri was chosen to take the first flight in outer space.

## Blast Off

On April 12, 1961, at 9:07 a.m. Moscow time, the Vostok 1 spacecraft, with Yuri on board, blasted off from the launch site. The spacecraft had very few onboard controls, with the work being done either automatically or from the ground. Over the next 108 minutes, Vostok 1 travelled around the Earth once, reaching a maximum height of 327km.

## Back to Earth

Yuri re-entered Earth's atmosphere and managed to remain conscious as he experienced forces eight times the pull of gravity during his descent. Vostok 1 had no engines to slow its re-entry and no way to land safely. About 6km above the ground, Yuri ejected from the spacecraft. His parachute opened almost immediately and ten minutes later he landed safely.

## Safely Home

A farmer and her daughter saw a figure in a bright orange suit landing by parachute. 'When they saw me in my spacesuit and the parachute dragging alongside as I walked, they started to back away in fear,' Gagarin later said. He also said he told them, 'Don't be afraid, I am a Soviet like you, who has descended from space and I must find a telephone to call Moscow!'



# The first human in space April 12, 1961

## BITE-SIZE!

On October 4, 1957, the Soviets launched the first man-made satellite, Sputnik 1, into space.

## BITE-SIZE!

On March 27, 1968, Yuri Gagarin was killed while test-piloting a MiG-15 jet fighter aircraft. His body was cremated, and his ashes are buried in the walls of the Kremlin in Moscow's Red Square.

## BITE-SIZE!

Two schoolgirls who witnessed the Vostok 1 capsule landing by parachute described the scene: 'It was a huge ball, about two or three metres high. It fell, then it bounced and then it fell again. There was a huge hole where it hit the first time.'

## BITE-SIZE!

Vostok 1 landed around 25km from the city of Engels. This was 200km west of the intended landing site near the city of Balkonur.

## BITE-SIZE!

Gagarin kept physically fit throughout his life. He was a good ice hockey goalkeeper and a basketball coach.



## DEAD FAMOUS APRIL BIRTHDAYS

**Leonardo da Vinci**  
Artist, Engineer, Inventor, Designer  
April 15, 1452



Leonardo da Vinci was born on April 15, 1452, in Northwest Italy. Leonardo's artistic genius was evident from a very young age. By 14, he became apprentice to Andrea del Verrocchio, the leading artist in Florence at the time. He went on to produce some of the most famous masterpieces ever, including the painting *Mona Lisa* and the mural *The Last Supper*. Leonardo died on May 2, 1519, aged 67.

Born 548 years ago

**Hans Christian Andersen**  
Writer  
April 2, 1805



Hans Christian Andersen, or H.C. Andersen as he is called in his native Denmark, was a famous writer in the 19th century. He is best known for his children's fairytales – stories that included classics such as *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Little Match Girl* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*, while Disney's *Frozen* is based on his story *The Snow Queen*. Hans died on August 4, 1875, aged 70, but was already regarded as a 'national treasure'.

Born 215 years ago

**I.M. Pei**  
Architect  
April 26, 1917



I.M. Pei was born in Guangzhou, China, but grew up in Hong Kong and Shanghai. At the age of 18, he moved to the United States to study architecture. From there, I.M. excelled and went on to design many famous buildings in the US. Perhaps his most famous work is the renovation of the Louvre Museum in Paris, France, where his famous pyramid-shaped structure can be seen. I.M. Pei died on May 16, 2019, aged 102!

Born 103 years ago

**Jackie Chan**  
Marital artist, actor  
April 7, 1954



Chan Kong-sang, more commonly known as Jackie Chan, is a Hong Kongese martial artist, actor, film director, producer and stuntman. Having trained in Kung Fu and Hapkido, Jackie shot to fame with his hilariously timed (and truly amazing) stunts, flips, kicks and rolls! Having appeared in over 150 films, Jackie recently announced his retirement from action movies. He is also a trained opera singer and was named one of the world's top 10 most charitable celebrities.

Born 65 years ago



# G is for ... GREECE



**OFFICIAL NAME:**  
Hellenic Republic  
**POPULATION:** 11,142,461  
**CAPITAL:** Athens  
**AREA:** 131,940km<sup>2</sup>  
**MAJOR MOUNTAIN RANGES:**  
Olympus, Rhodope, Pindus  
**MAJOR RIVERS:** Maritsa,  
Struma, Vardar, Heilacmon  
**LANGUAGE:** Greek  
**MONEY:** Euro



## Location

Greece is a country in Southern Europe. It is bordered to the north by the Republic of Macedonia, Albania and Bulgaria. To the east is Turkey and the Aegean Sea. The Libyan Sea lies to the south, and to the west is the Ionian Sea, which separates Greece from Italy.

## The Land

Most of Greece is a peninsula (land jutting out into the sea or a lake) which is part of mainland Europe. The land is very mountainous and is not good for farming. One fifth of Greece is made up of over 2,000 islands and people live on around 170 of these.

## Made in Greece

Feta cheese and Greek yogurt have become very popular around the world in the past few years. Greece is one of the world's top-producing nations of sea sponges, marble, and olive oil.

## Tourism

Tourism is a huge industry in Greece and creates jobs for many Greeks. Many people visit Greece because of the culture and buildings associated with Ancient Greece – there are 18 UNESCO World Heritage Sites open to visitors. These include the Parthenon, a temple built on top of the Acropolis – a rocky hill overlooking the city of Athens – which is one of the most famous Greek tourist attractions.

## Ancient Greece

Ancient Greece refers to the time between 750 BCE and 30 BCE. It was not a single country like modern Greece but was made up of about 1,500 different city states. Each one had its own laws and army, and they often fought wars against each other. Athens was the largest city state.

This period in Greece's history had a profound effect on western civilisation. Some of the world's greatest thinkers lived during this time, such as Homer, Socrates, Aristotle and Hippocrates. Athens was also home to the world's first democratic system of government.

## GREECE BITE-SIZE!

Greece has more museums than any other country in the world.

Football is the national sport of Greece.

In Greece, most young people live with their families until they marry, and grandparents usually live with their children's family until they die.

The first Olympic Games took place in Olympia in Greece in 776 BCE. The first modern Olympics were held in Athens in 1896.



Greek is one of the oldest languages in Europe and has been written for over 3,400 years.

Greece, in the Mediterranean Sea, is the largest of the Greek Islands.

Four out of ten Greeks live in Athens.

Melbourne in Australia is the city with the largest Greek population outside Greece.

Greeks don't call their country Greece – they refer to it as Hellas or Hellenade.



The Parthenon



The Acropolis



Holy Trinity Monastery on Meteora Rocks



The ancient Herodion theatre

# EARTH DAY 50

## Your Questions Answered

**E**arth Day is coming, and we can't wait! It's the perfect time to remind ourselves of how important it is to help the planet.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Its mission is to teach and inspire people – young and old – to think about environmental issues and what we can do to help.

**BITE-SIZE!**

World Earth Day has its very own flag, designed by John McConnell, the founder of Earth Day. The flag features an image of the earth as seen from Apollo 17 on a blue background.

Right now, global warming is one of the biggest challenges facing our planet. So, to help you understand what this means and how it affects everyone, we asked children from all over the world to ask their own Earth Day questions.

Our team of experts answered them so everyone can learn.

But, before we begin, let's talk about what the term 'climate change' means.

**BITE-SIZE!**

The Earth Day movement started in 1970 when 20 million people, young and old, took to the streets across America to protest for a healthy, sustainable environment. This year, more than one billion people across 192 countries will take part in Earth Day!

## CLIMATE CHANGE

The term 'climate change' describes the changes that the Earth's climate goes through over thousands and millions of years – the warming up of the planet being one example, the many ice ages another.

By contrast, the term 'global warming' refers to the recent increase in Earth's temperatures – man-made as opposed to natural. In fact, Earth's temperature has increased by about 1°C since humans began manufacturing and burning fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) over 200 years ago.

Burning fossil fuels releases dangerous gases into the atmosphere, mainly through smoke. These gases act like an invisible blanket high up in the atmosphere that traps the heat from the sun. This then causes the planet to warm up more.



A rise of 1°C in temperature might not sound like much – it's hardly enough to make you take off your jumper – but that same one degree can have a huge impact on people, plants and animals around the world.

There is no escaping the fact – we are emitting (sending up) way more harmful gases into the Earth's atmosphere than ever before and this, in turn, is causing the Earth's climate to change at a rate never seen before.

So, with this worrying news, it is normal to have many questions and concerns.

Check out our questions and answers – hopefully you will learn what you need to know about saving the planet, and realise that we (you and I) have the power to do something about this before it's too late.



## Is warmer weather not a good thing?

Amy, Malaysia

Unfortunately, Amy, rising temperatures don't just mean we'll get nicer weather. The changing climate will actually make our weather become more extreme and more unpredictable. As temperatures rise, some places will get wetter, while other places will get hotter. This will affect crops, wildlife and humans.



## Countries Leading the change



The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is an independent monitoring tool of countries' climate protection performance. Its aims are to highlight how each ranked nation is doing regarding climate change and to compare the efforts and progress made by individual countries. Here are the CCPI's top 15 ranked countries (marked out of 100). Is yours on the list? You will notice that the top 3 rankings are empty. This is because no country has done enough to score 76 or above.

**Country:** Sweden  
**Continent:** Europe  
**Rank:** 4  
**Score:** 75.77

**Country:** Denmark  
**Continent:** Europe  
**Rank:** 5  
**Score:** 71.34

**Country:** Morocco  
**Continent:** Africa  
**Rank:** 6  
**Score:** 70.63

## Do sea creatures feel the seas warming?

Aksel, Norway

That's a tricky question, Aksel.

Because we can't talk to animals, I guess we'll never know for sure. What we do know is sea creatures are beginning to alter their regular migration routes. Scientists believe this is because of changing water temperatures.



If you are wondering what affect this could have on the planet or on other animals, consider this:

Most sea mammals depend on shoals of fish for food, following them to different places at different times of the year. If these shoals begin to travel to new areas, and at different times of the year, this could have a very negative impact on the other fish and sea life that depend on them to survive.



## I live beside the sea. Is my home in danger of being flooded?

Jevin, Hong Kong

Hi Jevin, another good question I'm sure many people like you will ask. What we know is that average sea levels are expected to rise about 1.5m before the end of the century (80 years' time) if climate change continues as it is.



As the ice in, say Greenland or the Antarctic, continues to melt, sea levels will continue to rise. This will have an impact on many countries across the world, especially low-lying ones such as Hong Kong, Singapore, the Netherlands (Europe) and the Gambia (Africa). Even today, you may notice increases in flooding.

Whether your home will be flooded or not, I cannot say, but countries and governments are very aware of the problem of rising sea levels, so hopefully, by the time you have your own home, solutions will have been found to combat rising sea levels and extreme flooding.



## Has the coronavirus COVID-19 got anything to do with climate change?

EARTH DAY 50

Li, China

Hi, Li. Viruses like COVID-19 are usually spread through direct human contact – coughing, sneezing and touching. So, staying at home when you are sick and washing your hands when you are out and about is always a good idea.

As for your question, climate change is not to blame for the outbreak of a disease such as the latest coronavirus.

Nevertheless, some scientists believe climate change has caused a rise in other illnesses such as Lyme disease. This is an infectious disease caused by a bacteria commonly spread by ticks (small parasites that feed on the blood of animals).



As milder winters allow more ticks to survive, people can find themselves getting bitten all year round, and not just in the warmer summer months.



## Are all greenhouse gases bad?

Sadie, USA

A good question, Sadie, and one that is rarely asked.

The answer is no, and here's why:

Greenhouse gases have been present in the atmosphere since time began, and these gases have helped make our planet habitable for humans, animals and all other forms of life.



If there were no greenhouse gases on Earth, the sun's heat would escape before warming the planet. As we have said many times, it is when the temperatures begin to increase that the real trouble starts.

### BITE-SIZE!

Some people argue that climate change just happens naturally, and that humans are not responsible for such changes. Approximately 90% of Scientists disagree with them. Evidence shows that the current change in our climate is caused by humans.

 Country: <b>United Kingdom</b> Continent: Europe Rank: 7 Score: 69.20	 Country: <b>Lithuania</b> Continent: Europe Rank: 8 Score: 66.22	 Country: <b>India</b> Continent: Asia Rank: 9 Score: 66.02	 Country: <b>Finland</b> Continent: Europe Rank: 10 Score: 63.25	 Country: <b>Chile</b> Continent: South America Rank: 11 Score: 62.88	 Country: <b>Norway</b> Continent: Europe Rank: 12 Score: 61.14
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## Is climate change making it harder to grow food?

Onyango, Kenya

If we think of a cup of tea, for example – everyone loves tea – we probably don't think about all the factors needed for the growing of the actual plant.

Tea leaves need a very specific amount of rain to grow. In Kenya, climate change is making rainfall less predictable and farmers are facing longer and harsher droughts, often followed by too much rain. This can destroy their tea farms.

Many other crops have been affected by such changes in weather, and not just in Africa. Rice is another example of a popular food crop that is sensitive to climate change.

Unfortunately, Onyango, many farming communities (especially in hot countries such as Kenya), are facing higher temperatures, increased rainfall, floods and droughts. And, again, experts blame climate change for much of this.

## Can I make a real difference on my own?

Dennis, United Kingdom

Every little helps, Dennis. Small changes in your own home, such as turning off lights, can make a difference. Switching to energy-saving lightbulbs, walking instead of using the car, turning off electrical appliances on standby when not using them, recycling, eating less meat and reducing your food waste ... the list goes on!

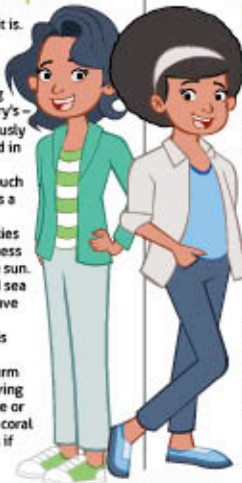


## Is global warming destroying the world's coral reefs?

Stef, Australia

Sadly, Stef, yes it is.

Many of the world's coral reefs – including your own country's – have been seriously damaged or died in the last twenty years, which is such a shame. Coral is a living marine creature that relies on algae to harness energy from the sun. Sadly, increased sea temperatures have caused coral bleaching. This is when the sea becomes too warm and the algae living in the coral leave or die, causing the coral to turn white, as if bleached.



## How bad (or good) is Singapore compared to the rest of the world?

Betty, Singapore

Hi, Betty. More bad news, I'm afraid. According to latest figures, Singapore's greenhouse gas emissions (carbon footprint) are quite high. In 2018, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita (per person) were measured at 9.65 metric tonnes. This is over double what top-ranked country Sweden's is – 4.48. That said, there are worse offenders out there. Australia has an average per capita footprint of 17 tonnes, followed by the US at 16.2 tonnes, and Canada at 15.6 tonnes.

## Is the Amazon in real danger?

Pablo, Brazil

As you well know, Pablo, the Amazon is the world's largest tropical rainforest.

To give our News Bites readers an idea of just how big it is, consider this: the size (area) of Malaysia is around 330,000km<sup>2</sup>, while the Amazon measures over 16 times bigger, at 5,500,000km<sup>2</sup>!

The fires from last year damaged huge parts of the Amazon – that is plain to see. And, although some of these fires were started by humans, many of them raged for weeks and months because of the extreme dry and hot conditions. Again, many scientists believe that these drier and hotter conditions are a result of man-made climate change.

Of course, the cutting down of trees (deforestation) doesn't help the cause of the Amazon either. We can only hope that the right things are being done to protect this very special place, now and for the future. After all, it provides our planet with 6% of the oxygen we need to stay alive!



Country: Luxembourg  
Continent: Europe  
Rank: 15  
Score: 60.91

Country: Malta  
Continent: Europe  
Rank: 24  
Score: 60.78

Country: Latvia  
Continent: Europe  
Rank: 35  
Score: 60.75

Country: Switzerland  
Continent: Europe  
Rank: 16  
Score: 60.61

Country: Ukraine  
Continent: Europe  
Rank: 17  
Score: 60.60

Country: France  
Continent: Europe  
Rank: 18  
Score: 57.90

## Is climate change an adult problem?

Elsa, Sweden



Climate change is the result of decisions made over many years, long before today's adults were even born! Adults are the decision makers, but you don't have to be an adult to take decisive action!

As a human on Planet Earth, regardless of age, gender or wealth, you can help bring about a clean and green planet.

As a consumer (someone who buys things) and a member of the community where you live, you have a lot of power to change things with your actions, even if you are only 11. Don't underestimate it.

Be loud and be proud to be a climate change activist. When your voice and your actions are joined with millions of others around the world (adults and children), a movement can be created where great change can be made.

## Do cows cause climate change?

Jean-Baptiste, France



Believe it or not, JB, cows do have a sizeable effect on climate change.

When cows eat a gas called methane builds up in their digestive system. It is released when they burp and, well ... break wind!

This might sound funny, but if you consider that almost 1.5 billion cows worldwide regularly release methane into the atmosphere, it's a serious problem.

Although there is no malice in the actions of the cattle, this greenhouse gas still contributes to climate change ... and in a big way!

## Does eating lots of avocados cause climate change?

Juan, Mexico

Two answers. If you are eating avocados from your garden, then no.

If you are eating avocados (or any other food for that matter) from another part of the world, then yes. Why? Ask yourself, how did this get here?

Anything that has to be flown to its destination leaves a very large carbon footprint. To help combat this, consumers are encouraged to 'shop local' and eat foods grown in your area, or native to your country. Not only does this cut down on emissions, it is also a great way to support your local farmers and food producers. Reducing your food's air miles definitely helps the environment. I'm not sure if (or you for that matter) could stomach cabbage guacamole though!



### BITE-SIZE!

Although the USA is home to just 4.4% of the world's population, it is one of the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases. This places it as the lowest ranked country (61) in the COPC.

## My Earth Day Word Box



### Carbon Footprint

The term 'carbon footprint' relates to the amount of greenhouse gases (carbon being the main one) created by an action, such as the burning of coal to run a factory, or the use of fuel to power a plane journey from America to Hong Kong. The bigger the carbon footprint, the worse it is for the environment.

Many companies and people are now trying to become carbon neutral, or have a net-zero carbon footprint. This means they are doing everything they can to reduce the carbon emissions resulting from their actions. In some cases it can mean removing all carbon emissions! What carbon footprint are you leaving on the Earth?



### Greenhouse Effect

When the sun passes through the atmosphere, greenhouse gases absorb the sun's radiation (heat) and prevent it from leaving the atmosphere. This causes the planet to heat up, just as a greenhouse does when the sun shines in through its glass panels.



### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

These are the dangerous gases produced by human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels, farming and manufacturing. The main greenhouse gases include Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>).



### Fossil Fuels

These are natural resources such as coal, oil and gas, that are formed from the remains of organisms that have been fossilized over millions of years.



### Methane

A gas produced by cows when they eat.



### Single-Use Plastics

Plastics that can only be used once and cannot be recycled.

## Motor Mad | STEAM



# Let it Czing!

## LA's newest hypercar

**CZINGER**

### MAKER

Czinger

### MODEL

21C

### FUEL

Hybrid – electric and petrol. The 21C is powered by two electric motors driving the front wheels and a supercharged V8 petrol engine powering the rear.

### TOP SPEED

430km/h

### HORSEPOWER

1,250hp

### MATERIALS & STYLE

The 21C, with its deep but short bonnet and its almost flat roof, resembles a cross between a Lamborghini and a Koenigsegg. A huge rear spoiler gives it a real Formula 1 look too.

The Czinger 21C will be made almost entirely from carbon fibre, making it ultra-lightweight and more environmentally friendly.

The 21C braking system is also astonishing. The car will be able to accelerate to 300km/h before returning to zero in less than 15 seconds. This would take a normal family sedan a lot longer!

### UNIQUE FEATURES I

The 21C will be one of the fastest cars in the world. Czinger says it will hit 100km/h from a standing start in just 1.9 seconds.

### UNIQUE FEATURES II

The driver's seat of the 21C will be located in the centre of the car, as will the rear passenger seat. Czinger says this is to make sure weight is distributed evenly throughout the car. This lets it reach faster speeds and handle corners more easily.

### UNIQUE FEATURES III

The 21C is very much a limited edition, with just 80 road and track versions being built.

### PRICE

€1.5 million



### BITE-SIZE!

The 21C was to be unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show in Switzerland last month. However, due to the coronavirus outbreak, the event was cancelled.

## Behind the Badge #7



### BITE-SIZE!

The famous Mitsubishi logo is based on three water chestnuts!



## Mitsubishi

**Founded:** 1870

**Founder:** Iwasaki Yatarō

**Country:** Japan

**First car produced:** Model A (1917)

**Top-selling Models:** Outlander, Lancer

### BITE-SIZE!

Martial arts expert and Hollywood superstar Jackie Chan is a massive fan of this Japanese car manufacturer – so much so that only Mitsubishi cars appear in any of his movies!

### BITE-SIZE!

The Mitsubishi company was originally founded as a shipping company by Iwasaki Yatarō.

### BITE-SIZE!

In 1992, an electric car from Mitsubishi became the first in the world to travel 2,000 kilometres in less than 24 hours!

## ALL IN THE NAME



**M**ercedes cars are named after a 12-year-old girl. Mercedes Jellinek was the daughter of Emilie Jellinek, who was the businesswoman behind the world's first modern car, in 1900. He named it the Mercedes 35hp after his daughter. The name was kept when the company merged with that of Karl Benz. The Mercedes-Benz was born. Although Mercedes Jellinek died in 1929, at the age of 39, her name lives on through these luxury cars.

## Puzzle Time

### 123456789 Sudoku Time

See if you can fill in the missing squares in this number puzzle called Sudoku. Each of the 9 boxes must contain the numbers 1-9. When you fill them in correctly, you will then see that each line going across and each line going down also contains the numbers 1-9. Take your time and good luck. [Tip: Use a pencil when starting out]

7	4		8			1		
		2			7		5	
5	1				9			7
		1	4			6		
		4	6		8			1
6				5			8	
	6	8			4			7
		5	7			9		
2		9				3	5	

## COUNTDOWN

The object of this game is to come up with the countdown number (329) by using some or all of the numbers given. However, you can only use a number once. However, you can +, x or ÷ as often as you like. The first person to get to 329 is the winner. Write down how you got there. And remember, there is almost always more than one way to solve it.

# 329

1 3 5  
7 9 15

## Go figure!

161  
616  
161  
616



ERGRO



- Can you circle exactly four of these numbers so that the total comes to twelve?
- I have six daughters and each one has a brother. How many children do I have altogether?
- Put three letters in front of ERGRO and the same three letters behind it to form a common English word.

## Word Wheel

See how many words (3 letters or more) you can make from this month's word wheel. All words must contain the middle letter E but you can use each letter only once. This month's 9-letter word clue: Everythere, but needs our care!



1-5 words: Not bad  
6-10 words: Pretty good  
11- 20 words: Excellent  
20+ words: WOW!

## Wordsearch Earth Day Special

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, here's a wordsearch filled with earthy words. Let's see if you can find all 21. We've listed 20 words but, like last month, we've included a secret one for you to find. If you need a clue, then here you go: We need to \_\_\_\_\_ our planet!

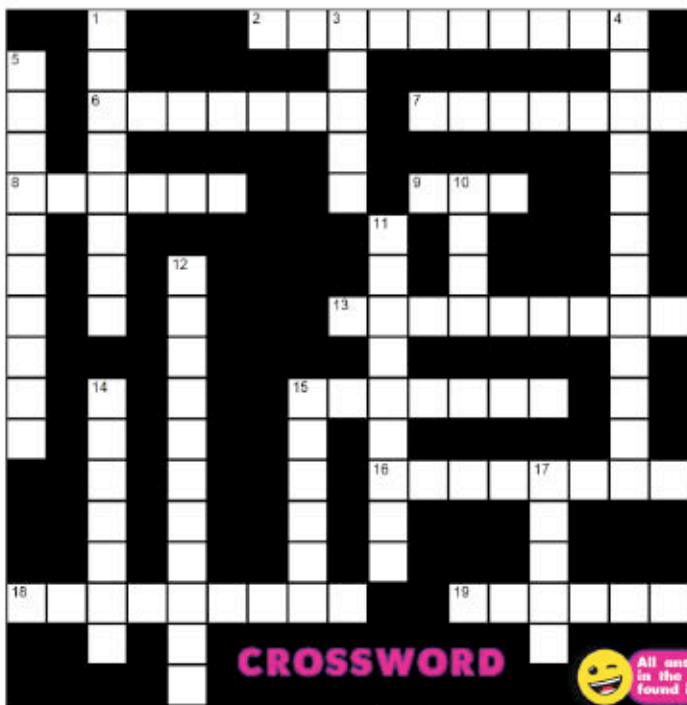
- Action
- Carbon
- Change
- Climate
- Earth
- Emergency
- Emissions
- Fossil fuels
- Gases
- Help
- Planet
- Pollution
- Protests
- Rainforest
- Recycle
- Renewable
- Sea levels
- Sustainable
- Global Warming
- Ozone Layer

G L O B A L W A R M I N G L E M D  
R A I N F O R E S T T A C T I O N  
S K P O L L U T I O N T A D W P W  
E Y D V P Q S S E G N M C U O C P  
A O R D H E E U M M I X R J X J Y  
L R S T T M L S G L R T R T N K D  
E R R O B F Q T C R E C Y C L E F  
V A R E N E W A B L E O N E R E O  
E P Z F L B W I Z B M Z L T A M S  
L C H A N G E N G B I O U G E S  
S C L O A W Y A H A S I N O R A R I  
C A I L P S D B H D S E A P S G L  
U R G P A T H L P A I L V E E E F  
X B T H U S H E A Y O A U S N U  
X O S G K G X E H K N Y U H T C E  
T N P L A N E T L X S E A L I Y L  
Z O Z F I W E C I P P R F X G I S





## Puzzle Time



## CROSSWORD

## Across

2 Actor and martial artist Chan Kong-sang is more commonly known as \_\_\_\_\_ (6,4)

6 Carbon \_\_\_\_\_ CO<sub>2</sub> (7)

7 A gas produced by cows when they eat (7)

8 The thin outside layer of your insectines is called \_\_\_\_\_ (6)

9 The name mosquito comes from the Spanish for 'little \_\_\_\_\_' (3)

13 Sputnik 1, the world's first man-made \_\_\_\_\_ (9)

15 Yuri \_\_\_\_\_, the first person to fly into outer space (7)

16 Willst du mich \_\_\_\_\_? German for 'Will you marry me?' (8)

18 Land jutting out into the sea or a lake (9)

19 WHO – World \_\_\_\_\_ Organisation (6)

## Down

1 A famous Danish writer of the 19th century. H.C. \_\_\_\_\_ (8)

3 The largest of the Greek islands (5)

4 A tiny object or machine that is one thousand million times smaller than a metre (12)

5 Iwasaki Yatarō founded this Japanese car brand in 1870 (10)

10 An infectious disease caused by a bacteria commonly spread by ticks (4)

11 Famous architect I.M. Pei was born in this Chinese city (9)

12 CCPI – Climate Change \_\_\_\_\_ Index (11)

14 A town in the south of Finland (7)

15 \_\_\_\_\_ warming' refers to the recent increase in Earth's temperatures (6)

17 Coral relies on \_\_\_\_\_ to harness energy from the sun (5)



All answers to the clues in the crossword can be found in this month's issue!

### TRUE OR FALSE

Octopuses have blue blood.

TRUE

FALSE

Yawning makes you sleepy.

TRUE

FALSE

Cockroaches can hold their breath for up to 40 minutes.

TRUE

FALSE

When in space, the human body can shrink by up to 3% due to zero gravity.

TRUE

FALSE

Bald eagles are the only bald-headed bird in the world.

TRUE

FALSE

### CRACK THE QUOTE!

Welcome, Code Crackers!

As always, each answer to the 'times tables' sums to the right corresponds to a letter in the grid provided below. Your answer this month should reveal a thought-provoking quote from teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
25	63	72	45	24	64	81	14	28	39	10	55	30
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
68	50	21	66	18	52	36	52	70	99	35	27	84

7x2	3x12	4x6	5x7	5x3	8x3	8x9	4x9	3x10	5x11	7x5	4x8	18x3	4x8	8x3	5x7	2x7	8x5				
9x7	5x9	9x3	5x3	11x5	8x3	25x1	3x12	7x9	12x5	5x8	1x5	5x10	5x9	8x5	6x5	11x5	7x12	9x11			
5x8	2x9	9x5	5x5	25x1	5x9	1x5	10x7	7x2	5x8	5x5	5x8	2x7	12x3	8x5	4x8	8x8	9x4	5x5	8x5	12x4	5x5
5x12	25x2	12x5	8x4	8x8	5x10	13x5	4x8	4x7	11x5	5x5	5x11	3x8	13x9	4x6	3x25	2x7	2x10	5x10	5x12	5x12	3x12
25x2	9x5	4x8	2x4	5x5	9x11	6x4	5x2	5x7	10x4	8x6	5x5	5x9	9x8	10x5	5x5	2x11	12x4	2x7			

### The Answers



**H**ello there! We are your small and large intestines. We're a bit like siblings – we have similar jobs to do in the body – but we look very different. Sometimes people call us the bowels. We are part of your digestive system (the organs your body uses to break down the food and drink you consume).

You might not believe it, but the small intestine (that's me) is actually the longer of the two. I am a purplish tube about 6 metres in length (in an adult). The large intestine is a reddish-brown colour and is much shorter, measuring about 1 metre long. The large intestine is called large because it is much wider.

Our walls are made of layers. The thin outside layer is called serosa. Inside this is a thick layer made up of rings of muscles. The muscles work together to squeeze the food slowly along. This movement is called peristalsis. Mucosa is the name given to the inner layer, which is quite thin.

Food goes into the stomach where it is broken down by acid and enzymes (proteins that speed up chemical reactions). It then passes to me, the small intestine, where it moves easily as a liquid substance. I continue to break the food down so that all the nutrients from it can be absorbed by the body.

Each month, here at Science Matters, we introduce you to one of your organs – the vital kind! As you can imagine, they have very important jobs to do. They help keep you fit, healthy and alive, so isn't it only right that you get to know them?

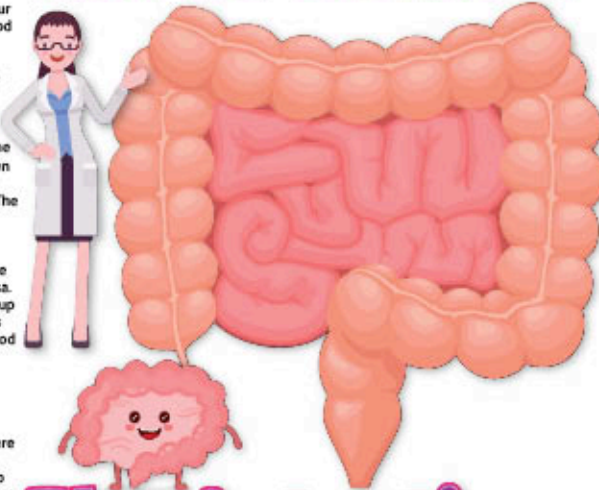
As your food reaches the end of me, it goes through a valve linked to the large intestine. This valve is a ring of muscle that stops the food from going back into me.

Inside the large intestine you have your colon. Here, water is absorbed so that the waste becomes more solid. Different types of bacteria live in the colon. Some of them produce important things like Vitamin K and amino acids, which are absorbed into the body.

Anything that remains in your large intestine at this stage is considered waste and is passed out of your body.

To keep us healthy you need to drink lots of water and keep active. You should also have a healthy diet with lots of fresh vegetables, fruit and fibre. If you keep us healthy, we'll make sure you don't have too many tummy aches and pains! Deal?

## MEET THE ORGANS #7



# The Intestines

### SCIENCE NEWS BITE-SIZE!

#### NANO PARTICLES TO KEEP YOU HEALTHY

Scientists have created a new type of nanoparticle that can help prevent heart attacks by cleaning the inside of your body. A nanoparticle is a tiny object or machine that is 1,000,000,000 (one thousand million) times smaller than a metre – so small that you need special microscopes to see them. The new nanoparticle, created by Bryan Smith at Michigan State University, can eat microscopic dirt and plaque found inside your veins and arteries. This cleans them out so that blood can flow more smoothly through your body.

#### SPACE EXPLOSION

Astronomers have witnessed the biggest ever explosion in space. The massive blast happened in the Ophiuchus cluster, a nearby galaxy supercluster some 390 million light years away from Earth. Experts believe the explosion began as a black hole and described it as looking like a volcano erupting. Generally, black holes are quiet and uneventful, but when debris drifts into them – often a meteor or asteroid – this can cause an explosion. "We've seen outbursts in the centres of galaxies before but this one is really, really massive," said Australian astrophysicist, Professor Melanie Johnston-Hollitt.

#### THE PHYSICS OF FRIED RICE

If you ever watch a chef cooking fried rice, you will notice that he or she constantly (and skilfully) flips, tosses and moves the rice around. This movement allows the chef to cook the rice over super-hot temperatures of up to 1,200°C without burning it. To back this up scientifically, two scientists based in the US, Hungtang Ko and David L. Hu, just published a paper called 'The Physics of Tossing Fried Rice'. Their research found that most chefs use the same circular motion – turning the rice three times a second – to keep it in the air rather than in direct contact with the pan or wok.

## Animal Kingdom | STEAM

NEWS BITES' TOP 10 DEADLIEST #7

## MOSQUITO

**H**ello, readers! I'm a mosquito. You may recognise me – I'm the pest that usually lands on your arm, head, neck – I'm not fussy – and gives you a little jab so I can suck your blood. Delightful!

I am a flying insect, with two wings, three pairs of legs and two long antennae. I am also quite small – I'm 5mm long and the largest of my species will rarely reach 8 or 9mm. Speaking of species, there are about 3,500 species of us scattered all over the world.

I happen to live in Malaysia, as I love tropical climates the most – the hotter, the better. Keep an eye out for me and my friends, as we love to hover in swarms over wet and marshy places. Pools of still water are my fave!

My proboscis is the needle-like part of my mouth that I use for puncturing the skin. It's a bit like having my very own straw too, as I use it for sucking the blood from your veins. Why? I am a female and I need the protein from the blood to help me produce eggs.



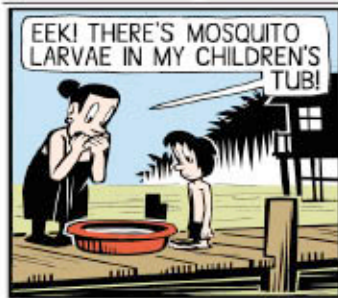
It's funny – humans think they've been bitten by a mosquito, but I don't bite at all. In fact, I don't even have teeth. And it is only the females like me that attack. If humans are in short supply, or have those pesky nets and door-screens up, I will feed on a range of birds and mammals. Male mosquitos only feed on nectar from plants – the harmless fellows!

I know what you're thinking: 'How can an insect that is less than 10mm long be so deadly?' Well, it's because I am a vector. This means that if I have been recently feeding on an animal or person infected with a virus or parasite, I can pass this on to the next person or animal I feed off. In this way I inject the infection into the victim.

The worst part in all this (for you!) is that I carry some of the deadliest infections in the world, including malaria, yellow fever, West Nile virus, chikungunya fever, dengue fever and Zika virus. You can check these out but believe me they are serious diseases!

I'm not the most pleasant of creatures, I agree. But then again, I wouldn't be #7 on your list if I was, would I? Now, I'll buzz off and let you get back to your News Bites.

## THE LIFE CYCLE OF A MOSQUITO



## Tech Talk | STEAM

### CONSTANTINOPLE

Byzantium was an ancient Greek city founded about 660 BCE. It was renamed Constantinople in CE 330 and was the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire. Today it is called Istanbul and is in Turkey.

### BUILDING BEGINS

Justinian I became the Eastern Roman Emperor in CE 527. He decided to build a large Christian church in Constantinople. Construction work, which began on February 23, 532, was completed in five years and the church was opened with a ceremony on December 27, 537. Emperor Justinian entered the church and said, 'My Lord, thank you for giving me the chance to create such a worshipping place.' The huge church was called Hagia Sophia and it still stands in Istanbul today.

### FAMOUS FEAT OF ENGINEERING #7

# Hagia Sophia

### SPECIAL MATERIALS

Hagia Sophia has two levels, and a huge domed ceiling, over 55metres above the ground. White, pink and yellow marble was brought from all over the Empire and from North Africa. Gold, silver, glass, terra cotta and colourful stones were used to make beautiful mosaics on the walls.

### FROM CHURCH TO MOSQUE

Hagia Sophia remained a Christian cathedral until 1453. In that year, Fatih Sultan Mehmed conquered Constantinople and he converted Hagia Sophia into a mosque – a Muslim place of worship.

As well as changes to the inside of the church, four 60m tall minarets were added to the mosque over the following years. These minarets help to make the building look so impressive. Hagia Sophia remained as a mosque until 1931.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was the founder of the Republic of Turkey. He was Turkey's first President from 1923 until he died in 1938. On his orders Hagia Sofia was converted into a museum which opened on February 1, 1935.

### BITE-SIZE!



Hagia Sophia means Church of the Holy Wisdom.

### BITE-SIZE!

# 1000

When it was built, it was the largest building in the world. It remained the largest cathedral in the world for over 1,000 years.

### BITE-SIZE!

There are forty windows in the nave (the main area where people sit) and Hagia Sophia has become famous for the light that reflects all around it.



### BITE-SIZE!



When the Republic of Turkey was founded in 1923, the capital was moved to Ankara. Constantinople was renamed Istanbul in 1930.



### News Bites FREE Apps Guide

Each month, the tech team at News Bites pick their top free app! Check it out!

### LOOPER!

This month's App of the Month is one that puts your sense of rhythm and timing to the test. Each time you tap, a colourful new beat begins. Get your timing wrong and the beat can crash and burn. Get it right and enjoy the rhythm, man! The makers say Looper is a music puzzle game like no other. Download it and see for yourself!



The brilliantly named French company FastEESH has launched a toothbrush that fully cleans your teeth in just ten seconds.

The Y-brush looks more like a gunshield with a handle than a toothbrush, but is a very clever gizmo. The mouthguard is packed full of tiny nylon bristles and the handle vibrates when you turn it on. This vibration rapidly moves the bristles over your teeth to clean them, top and bottom, in super-quick time! Now, that's something to smile about!

## The 10-Second Toothbrush





## Sportsbag | Sport

## Hit it!

Many sports involve hitting something ... and we're not just talking about boxing here!

So, seeing that we have very little sport to watch this month, why not spend your time trying to figure out what sport (from the list provided) each ball or object shown belongs to?

**BOWLING**  
**AMERICAN FOOTBALL**  
**BASKETBALL**  
**BADMINTON**  
**POOL**  
**GOLF**  
**BASEBALL**  
**ICE HOCKEY**  
**SOCCER**  
**CRICKET**  
**VOLLEYBALL**  
**TENNIS**



## Australia win fifth T20 World Cup

International Women's Day was marked in style at the T20 World Cup as Australia beat India to win the competition for a record-extending fifth time.

A crowd of 86,174 watched Australia's 85-run victory at Melbourne Cricket Ground, which is the largest attendance for a women's cricket match.



Australia won the toss and elected to bat, with openers Alyssa Healy and Beth Mooney combining for a first-wicket partnership of 115.

## BITE-SIZE!

This year's men's T20 World Cup also takes place in Australia. It begins on October 18 with the final fixed for Melbourne Cricket Ground on November 15.

The tournament hosts finished on 184-4 and their bowlers put them on course for victory by taking four early wickets as India's batsmen floundered.

## Singapore continue cricket rise

Singapore has risen to No 20 in the T20 cricket world rankings after winning the Asian Cricket Council eastern region tournament.

They defeated Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong in the five-team tournament to finish top of the table. Their game against Nepal was abandoned due to rain.



Singapore has risen an incredible 50 places in the world rankings over the last 20 years.

Singapore and Hong Kong qualified for a round-robin tournament in Malaysia in August, where they will compete against the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait for a place at the Asia Cup.

## WILDER-FURY III



Tyson Fury and Deontay Wilder have confirmed they will fight for a third time in Las Vegas on July 18.

Fury beat Wilder in February to become the WBC world heavyweight boxing champion. Their first fight ended in a draw.

It ended Wilder's five-year reign as world champion but he had a rematch clause in his contract, meaning he could fight Fury immediately if he lost.

Wilder exercised that right for a rematch and they will return to Las Vegas in three months' time.

Meanwhile, IBF, WBA and WBO heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua will put his titles on the line against Bulgaria's Kubrat Pulev at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on June 20.

## Record Rugby World Cup figures



The 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan was the most watched rugby event ever – with more than 857 million people tuning in.

Last year's tournament was the first to be played in Asia and it sparked huge interest in countries such as Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and Vietnam. Viewing figures in those countries combined increased from one million to 20.5m.

South Africa's triumph against England in the World Cup final was watched by 44.9m people, an 83 per cent increase on live television figures compared to the 2015 final.

Elsewhere, a number of Six Nations matches were postponed due to the coronavirus. The remaining fixtures are likely to be rescheduled for October or November.

## The Hong Kong men's fencing team has made history by qualifying for this summer's Olympic Games.

They finished third at the Cairo leg of the World Cup series, which was the final round of qualification for Tokyo 2020.

Having beaten South Korea in the quarter-finals, Hong Kong missed out on a place in the final after defeat to the USA.

However, they recovered to claim bronze thanks to a dramatic 55-54 win over France, who are ranked No 2 in the world, and booked their tickets to Tokyo.

They were first represented in fencing at the 1972 Games in Munich, where two fencers competed in individual events.

With a team place now secured, Hong Kong can also send three fencers to the individual foil event in Tokyo.

## Hong Kong fencers qualify for Olympics



It will be the first time a Hong Kong fencing team will compete at the Olympics.

They were first represented in fencing at the 1972 Games in Munich, where two fencers competed in individual events.

With a team place now secured, Hong Kong can also send three fencers to the individual foil event in Tokyo.



## BITE-SIZE!

Cristiano's full name is Cristiano Ronaldo dos Santos Aveiro. He was named after US president Ronald Reagan, who was his father's favourite actor.

## BITE-SIZE!

Cristiano says close friend Albert Fertau played a major part in his success. Fertau reportedly passed up a goal chance during a youth match so Ronaldo could score and be accepted into the Sporting Clube de Portugal academy.

## BITE-SIZE!

Cristiano was born on February 5, 1985, in Madeira – a small island off the western coast of Portugal.

**C**ristiano Ronaldo has enjoyed many great days during his glittering career but his 1,000th appearance as a professional footballer was a rather low-key affair.

The Juventus star reached the impressive milestone against Serie A title rivals Inter Milan on March 8, but due to the coronavirus there was nobody there to witness it – the game at the Allianz Stadium was played behind closed doors.

Ronaldo was also looking to score for a record-breaking 12th consecutive Serie A match, but on the evening he was unable to add that to his list of career achievements.

Given he has won six league titles, five Champions Leagues, a European Championship and five Ballon d'Ors, we're sure he'll get over it!

While Ronaldo may have missed out on that record, the 35-year-old has set many during his incredible career that may never be broken.



# CR7

## A living legend

Ronaldo has won 164 caps for his country and scored 99 goals, which is head and shoulders above other Portugal internationals.

Retired midfielder Luis Figo is the second in terms of appearances with 127, while former striker Pauleta is behind Ronaldo in the goalscoring charts with 47 goals.

We mentioned already that some of his records may never be broken – well, we think this one will never be bettered!



Ronaldo was made captain in 2008 and, eight years later, led Portugal to victory at Euro 2016, their first major tournament success.

## BITE-SIZE FOOTBALL NEWS

### Boca reign in Argentina

**B**oca Juniors were crowned Primera Division champions for the third time in four years after victory over a team managed by one of their legendary players.

Boca went into the final day of the season needing a win against Gimnasia, who are managed by Argentina great and World Cup winner Diego Maradona.

They also needed their Buenos Aires rivals River Plate to drop points in order to secure the title.

Boca striker Carlos Tevez kissed Maradona for luck before the match and it worked. His second-half goal clinched a 1-0 win for Boca which, coupled with River Plate's 1-1 draw with Atletico Tucuman, saw them regain the title.

Former Italy midfielder Daniele De Rossi was also part of the team, having moved from Serie A side AS Roma last season. This league title becomes the World Cup winner's first ever, having finished as a runner-up on eight occasions with AS Roma during his glittering 20-year career.



### Inter Miami make MLS debut

**T**he 2020 Major League Soccer season is under way and there is a new team in town.

Inter Miami's inclusion brought the number of teams competing in the league up to 26.

The team is part-owned by David Beckham (pictured above), the former England, Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder who spent five years as an MLS player with LA Galaxy.

Inter Miami played their first competitive game away to Los Angeles FC on March 1, which ended in a 1-0 defeat.

The MLS plans to expand even further in the coming years. Austin FC and Charlotte will join in 2021, with Sacramento Republic and St Louis following in 2022 to take the number of teams to 30.



### Liverpool's unbeaten run ended

**L**iverpool's attempts to go the entire Premier League season unbeaten were emphatically ended by Watford.

The Reds were thumped 3-0 by the relegation-threatened side at Vicarage Road, bringing an end to their 44-game unbeaten run in the Premier League.

It meant Liverpool failed to secure an English league record 19th win in a row, and it was also good news for Arsenal fans.

The Gunners hold the record for the longest unbeaten run in the Premier League, going an incredible 49 games without defeat which included the entire 2003/04 season.



### Champions League

Ronaldo has shone on the European stage, winning an impressive five Champions Leagues. Juventus will hope he can win a sixth as they attempt to lift the trophy for the first time since 1996.

He won his first Champions League with Manchester United in 2008 and another four with Real Madrid in the space of five years.

Other players have won more Champions Leagues, or European Cups as they were previously known, but Ronaldo stands alone in the goalscoring stakes.

His 17 CL goals scored for Madrid in the 2013-14 season is a record. He scored four goals in finals, which is more than any other player, and he's the only player to score in 11 consecutive Champions League games!



### La Liga

Ronaldo became the world's most expensive player when he joined Real Madrid for €80m in 2009 and enjoyed huge success.

He certainly justified his price tag. During his time at the Bernabeu, Ronaldo helped his team win four Champions Leagues, two La Ligas, two UEFA Super Cups and four FIFA Club World Cups, and his goalscoring record was truly incredible.

Ronaldo was the first player to score against every team in a La Liga season and is the only player to score over 50 goals in six consecutive seasons!



### How Ronaldo became a Red

Cristiano Ronaldo was promoted to the Sporting Clube de Portugal first team at the age of 16. Soon major clubs around Europe became aware of his talents.

Arsenal and Liverpool were both interested in the forward, who actually visited Arsenal's training ground and met then-manager Arsène Wenger. Yet he ended up becoming a key player for one of their Premier League rivals, Manchester United.

Spurring played Manchester United in a pre-season friendly in 2003 and an awesome performance from Ronaldo inspired his team to a 3-1 win. The United players urged their manager, Alex Ferguson, to buy the youngster, and that's exactly what he did!

The initial plan was for United to loan Ronaldo back to Sporting for a season, but such was the teenager's talent, they wisely chose to hold on to him.



### BITE-SIZE!

Cristiano has won the Ballon d'Or (Golden Ball) five times – 2008, 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2017. The annual award, presented by France Football, recognises the best footballer in the world for that season. Rival Barcelona player Lionel Messi now holds the record for the most Ballon d'Ors (6) having won the 2019 award.

### BITE-SIZE!

Cristiano has donated millions to charity and is heavily involved with UNICEF and Save the Children – a charity that seeks to improve the lives of children through better education, health care, and economic opportunities.



### Mourinho: CL qualification difficult

José Mourinho admits Tottenham Hotspur could miss out on qualification for next season's Champions League.

Spurs, who reached last season's final, were thumped 4-0 on aggregate by RB Leipzig at the last-16 stage.

Mourinho has had to deal with a lengthy injury list since replacing Mauricio Pochettino as manager, including key players such as Harry Kane and Heung-Min Son.

They need to finish in the top four in the Premier League to qualify for next season's Champions League but Mourinho isn't optimistic.

'With the squad we've got at the moment, it is going to be very difficult,' he said.



### USA claim further silverware

The United States have won the SheBelieves Cup for the third time in five years.

They lifted the Women's World Cup for a record fourth time last summer and continued their dominance here with three wins from three.

The USA opened with a 2-0 win over defending champions England and required a late Julie Estz goal (a header) to defeat Spain 1-0 in their second match.

England's loss to Spain meant the USA were crowned champions before even playing their final match, but they still signed off in style with a 3-1 victory against Japan in Texas.



### Euro 2020 postponed

In football, the Asian World Cup qualifying matches in March and June were postponed, while the knockout stages of the Asian Champions League have been moved to September.

Big tournaments in Europe have also been affected. This summer's European Championships (Euro 2020) have been pushed back 12 months to 2021 to allow the continent's domestic leagues, as well as the Champions and Europa Leagues, to be completed. UEFA also announced that the 2021 Women's European Championship in England will be rescheduled.

A number of test events for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo had to be cancelled over the last month or so, while the torch-lighting ceremony was held without spectators. As things stand the Olympics will still go ahead this summer.

# World Sport

# ON HOLD

9

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic has placed the sporting world on hold for the coming weeks and months with all major sporting events from around the world being either postponed until a later date, or cancelled.

From the 2022 Asia World Cup qualifiers to Europe's UEFA Euro 2020, football fans will join cycling, basketball, motorsport, tennis and every other kind of sports fan as the world goes into shutdown in a bid to stem the spread of the coronavirus disease.

What sporting event will you miss the most?

**FORMULA ONE  
(MOTORSPORT)**



**POSTPONED**

**THE MASTERS  
(GOLF)**



**CANCELLED**

**SIX-NATIONS  
(RUGBY)**



**POSTPONED**

