



BIG NEWS

MORE MOBILES THAN TOILETS



More people in the world have mobile phones than have toilets! This shocking fact has been revealed to mark World Toilet Day on 19th November.

There are seven billion people in the world. Six billion of them have mobile phones. However, only 4.5 billion people have access to toilets.

That leaves 2.5 billion people without proper sanitation. This means they don't have a toilet, can't wash their hands afterwards, and the waste is not removed safely. Many people have to go to the toilet in fields or on the street.

World Toilet Day may sound quite funny, but it is very serious. Millions of people die around the world every year because of dirty water and poor sanitation.

Imagine how you would feel if you didn't have a flushing toilet at school or at home? It's a horrid thought.

WHAT IS A BILLION?

A THOUSAND MILLION: 1,000,000,000



BIG NEWS – MORE MOBILES THAN TOILETS!

1) What special day was on 19th November?

- Wash Your Hands Day
- World Toilet Day
- World Clean Water Day

2) What is the “**shocking fact**” you are told about in this news report?

3) How many people are there on the planet?

4) How many people in the world don't have access to a toilet?
(Look carefully before you answer).

5) Find **three** things which you need in order to have **proper sanitation**.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

6) Why is bad sanitation a very serious problem?

7) Why do you think the writer has included the question in the last paragraph?

8) What **comment** does the writer make about this question?
What do you think?

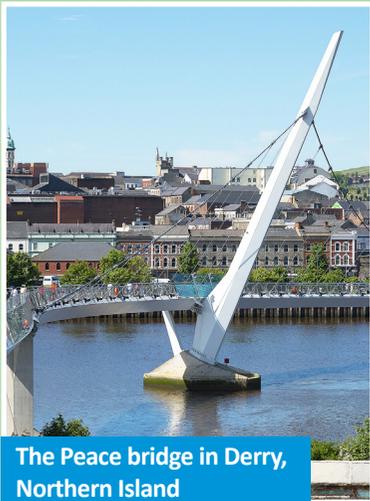


HOME NEWS

NORTHERN IRELAND

Happy place

According to a new survey, Northern Ireland is the friendliest area in the UK. Almost 70% of people from Northern Ireland say 'Hi' to strangers on trains and lifts. Almost half of people say 'Hello' to ten or more strangers each week! Do you?



The Peace bridge in Derry, Northern Island



ABERYSTWYTH

Tornado terror

Twenty caravans were flipped over and trees ripped up when hurricane-force winds hit Clarach, in west Wales. Local people think it may have been a tornado (a spinning cone of wind which moves across the ground and destroys things in its path). Luckily no one was hurt in the rare, extreme weather.



Photo via Twitter/Thomas Scarrott

GREAT BRITAIN

Super surnames

New research has revealed the most common surnames (last names) in Britain. The top ten are: Smith, Jones, Williams, Taylor, Davies, Brown, Wilson, Evans, Thomas and Johnson.

LONDON

Royal renovation

Buckingham Palace is going to get a £369 million makeover. The palace hasn't been redecorated since 1952. A report has said that old pipes and wires in the building mean it is at serious risk of fire and water damage. Work will begin next April.





HOME NEWS

1) Match the headline to the correct UK country. You may need to look at the map to help answer!

England

Happy place

Wales

Royal renovation

Northern
Ireland

Tornado terror

2) What links the **headlines**: 'Tornado terror', 'Super surnames' and 'Royal renovation'? (Think about the choice of words.)

Look at the news from Aberystwyth.

3) What damage has been caused by strong wind in west Wales?

4) What is the name for the **type of wind** which might have caused this damage?

tornado

typhoon

gale

Look at the news from Northern Ireland.

5) What do people do here which makes it "the friendliest area in the UK"?

Look at the news from Great Britain.

6) Which British surnames are the most **common**? Put these five surnames in the right order.

Wilson

Jones

Williams

Brown

Smith

Look at the news from London.

7) What does the word **renovation** mean?

- damaging a building by flooding or burning
- repairing a building so that it is in good condition again
- making a building bigger by adding extra rooms

8) Some people have said that this huge amount of money shouldn't be spent on restoring a palace – it should be spent on something more important. What do you think?



SCIENCE



TONGUE BRUSH

A scientist in America thinks there's a lot we can learn from the incredible way cat tongues work.

Alexis Noel works at a science research centre in America. One day she was sat at home with her pet cat, watching it lick a blanket. She became curious to know how a cat's tongue cleans so well and decided to investigate at work!

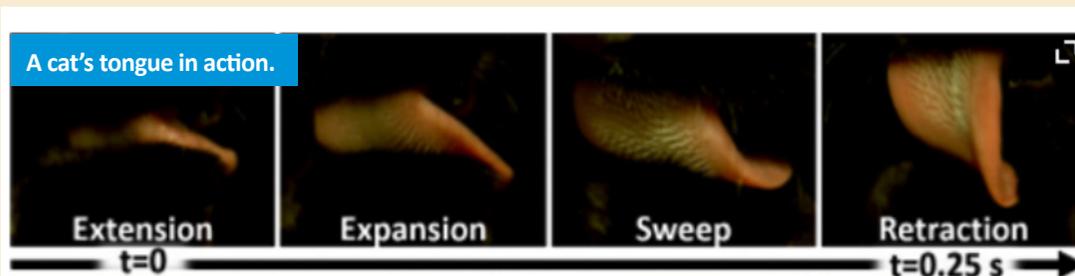
A cat's tongue is covered with tiny 'spines'. If you have ever been licked by a cat you will know that the tongue feels rough because of these spines.

Alexis discovered that the spines are actually more like hooks. As the tongue glides over the fur, the hooks catch on tangles and snags. The snags pull on the hooks which then rotate (turn) to start untangling the fur.

Alexis and her team used special video cameras to zoom in on the cat's tongue and watch it in slow motion. They also made a large 3D model of a cat's tongue.

The team have lots of ideas about how this information could be used to help humans. It might make better hairbrushes but it could even be used to develop soft materials which help robots grip on to surfaces.

First they plan to study lion and tiger tongues to find out more!





SCIENCE – TONGUE BRUSH

1) What made Alexis decide to study cats' tongues?

- She is a cat expert and is slowly studying every part of a cat's body.
- She was inspired when she watched her cat lick a blanket.
- She read a report saying that cats' tongues were the best brushes.

2) Why does a cat's tongue feel rough when it licks you?

3) What did Alexis discover about how the tongue works and why it is a good brush?

4) Can you find the verbs used in the story to explain what happens when a cat licks its fur?

Chose from:

The tongue _____ The snags _____
 The hooks _____ The hooks _____

5) How did the team study the cat's tongue? What equipment did they use?

6) How are the team going to **use** what they learnt? Find **two** ideas for new products.

1. _____
 2. _____

7) What are the team going to do next so that they can learn more?

8) Scientists often learn from nature. Can you think of any other skills which a cat or dog has which could be useful to study?



BIG NEWS



Space junk might stop us from ever living and working in space, says a top UK space expert.

Space junk is the name given to the bits of rubbish that are in orbit (circling) around the Earth. They come from old spacecraft, satellites and rockets which stopped working or were 'thrown away' (left in space to break up and hurtle around the planet!).

Down here we can't see the junk, but all this rubbish might be a serious problem for future space travellers. The bits are travelling so fast that even a tiny piece can cause serious damage.

Back in May, astronaut Tim Peake showed that a chip had been made in a window of the International Space Station by a small bit of paint travelling at 22,000 miles per hour!

There's thought to be around 10 million pieces of space junk whizzing around the Earth. Most of it is extremely tiny but the biggest is an old satellite which is about the size of a double-decker bus!

NASA (the American space agency) tracks thousands of the large objects, but it says it is the small bits of junk – which can't be tracked – which are the most dangerous.



BIG NEWS – SPACE JUNK

1) What is space junk?

- rubbish that we have taken from Earth and dumped in space
- bits of old space rockets and satellites
- the name given to bits of space rock circling around the planet

2) Why do you think space junk might “**stop us from ever living and working in space**”?

3) Can you find two words used in the story which mean “**moving very fast**”?

1. _____

2. _____

4) What object made a chip in the window of the International Space Station?

5) How fast was it travelling?

_____ miles per hour

6) Describe the biggest piece of space junk.

7) Why do you think the smaller bits of space junk could actually be more dangerous than the large pieces?

8) What do you think we can do about all this space junk? What sort of invention could we use to clean up space?