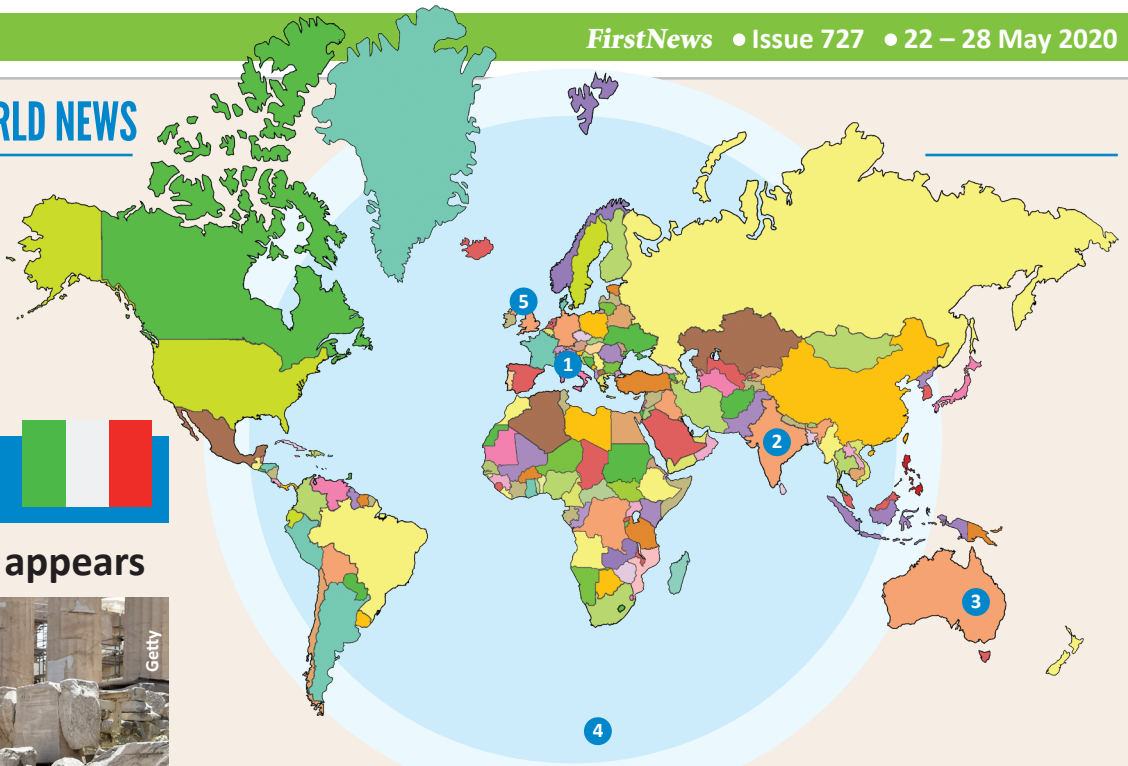




WORLD NEWS



ITALY



● Pantheon pit appears



A sinkhole has opened up outside the Pantheon in Rome, revealing ancient Roman paving stones buried under the city. The sinkhole is almost 1m across and 2.5m deep. Fortunately, lockdown restrictions meant that the usually crowded area outside the Pantheon was empty, so no-one was injured. The paving stones found in the sinkhole are estimated to be from 27-25 BC – around the same time the Pantheon was built.

AUSTRALIA



● Night at the museum

A man from Sydney is due in court after breaking into the Australian Museum to snap selfies with the dinosaur exhibits. The man, who reportedly spent 40 minutes in the museum, was seen on CCTV taking pictures with his head in the mouth of a T-rex skull. He also stole a cowboy hat from the locker of one of the museum's staff members. Police put out a warning to the trespasser on TV news, warning him: "It's not going to be a movie producer knocking on your door. It's going to be NSW Police knocking on your door." The man turned himself in that afternoon.



INDIA



● Kerala's 'coronavirus slayer'

Kerala's health minister, KK Shailaja, has earned a number of new nicknames, including 'Rock star health minister' and 'coronavirus slayer', for her success in stopping the spread of COVID-19 in the state. Kerala is home to 35 million people, yet has seen just 524 cases of COVID-19 and four deaths. Three days after reading about the new virus in China, Shailaja held a meeting to decide Kerala's strategy for stopping the disease. The first case arrived on 27 January from Wuhan. All passengers had their temperature tested, and everyone had to quarantine themselves. Since then, Kerala has been tracking and tracing all spread of the disease.



ANTARCTICA



● Snow goes green

In the slightly warmer parts of ice-covered Antarctica, algae can bloom in the snow, turning it bright green. This algae absorbs greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Researchers from the University of Cambridge have spent two summers creating a map of all the places that this algae appears – and have found that, as the world gets warmer, the green snow is spreading, and could turn the coast of the continent green one day. "This is important in our understanding of land-based life on Antarctica," said Dr Matt Davey, who led the study.

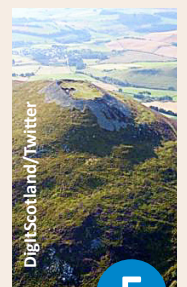


SCOTLAND



● Ancient settlement unearthed

A massive ancient settlement has been discovered by archaeologists on a hill near Rhynie in Aberdeenshire. Researchers from the University of Aberdeenshire believe the settlement was home to roughly 4,000 people living in around 800 huts, making it one of Britain's largest ancient settlements. The archaeologists also found evidence of one larger hut within the settlement, suggesting that an important figure lived in the community.





GLOSSARY	<p>Aberdeenshire – A county in Scotland</p> <p>algae – A type of plant</p> <p>exhibits – Displays</p> <p>Kerala – A state in the southwest of India</p> <p>NSW – New South Wales, a state in the southeast of Australia</p> <p>Pantheon – An ancient Roman temple in Italy</p>	<p>settlement – A place where people lived or settled in a community</p> <p>sinkhole – When the ground collapses, leaving a hole</p> <p>slayer – Killer</p> <p>trespass – To go on someone else’s land or property without permission</p>
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WORLD NEWS

● **Look at the news from Italy.**

1a. Match the word to the correct definition.

sinkhole	An ancient Roman temple in Italy
Pantheon	When the ground collapses, leaving a hole

1b. What did the sinkhole reveal?

1c. Explain why it was fortunate that the sinkhole appeared during lockdown.

● **Look at the news from Scotland.**

2. Find the facts.

Location of settlement:	
Approximate number of huts in the settlement:	
Number of people who could have lived in the settlement:	

3. What have archaeologists found evidence of and what do they think this tells us about the community that lived there?

● **Consider both news stories.**

4. Which of these two historical sites would you most like to visit? Explain your reasons.

● **Look at the news from Antarctica.**

5. What is happening to make the snow turn green? (Top tip: look at the glossary to find out what algae is.)

6. Researchers have found more algae is growing each year in Antarctica. Do you think this is a positive or a negative finding? Explain why.

● **Look at the news from India.**

7a. What does the word ‘slayer’ mean?

7b. Why are people calling the health minister in Kerala the “coronavirus slayer”?

8. What steps did the health minister take to stop the spread of COVID-19 in Kerala? Find two.

● **Look at the news from Australia.**

9. The night-time trespasser handed himself in to police the next afternoon. Imagine you are this man. Give an explanation of your behaviour to the police.

● **Consider all the news stories.**

10. Who would you most like to interview?

- KK Shailaja, Kerala’s health minister
- The scientist in charge of the research from Antarctica
- The archaeologists who discovered the ancient settlement in Scotland
- The man from Australia who broke into the museum

Think of three questions you would like to ask to find out more about their story.

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