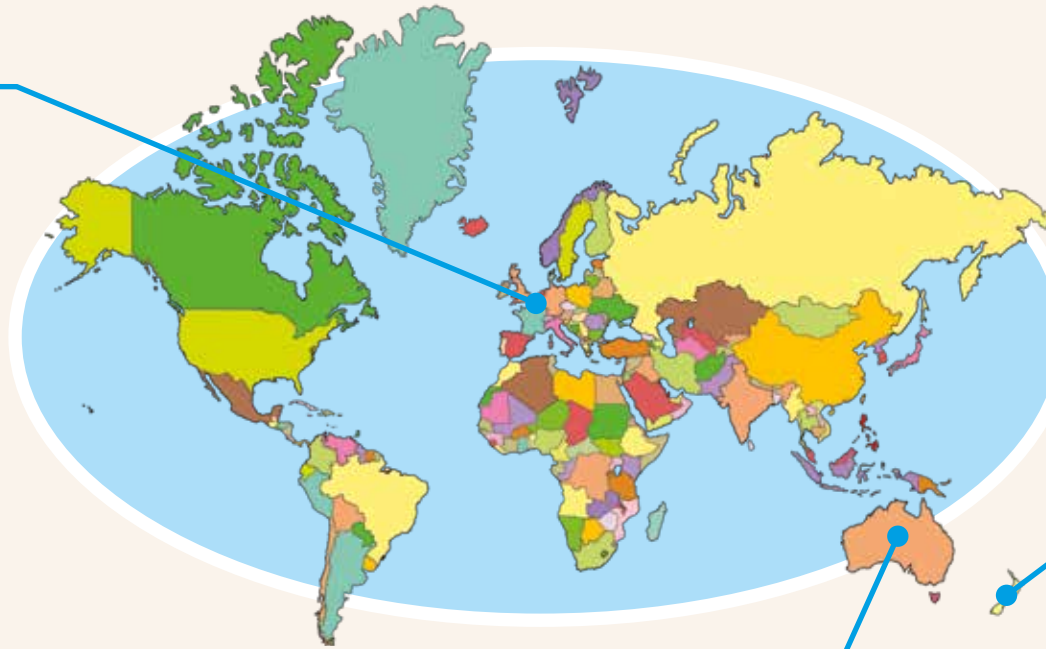


WORLD NEWS

NETHERLANDS

LOST CARGO

Huge containers packed with TVs, clothing and furniture have washed up on beaches in the Netherlands. Treasure hunters have been having a field day! The cargo came from the MSC Zoe, one of the world's largest container ships. Over two hundred boxes fell off the ship in German waters. Dutch soldiers had to be called in to help clean up the mess, as some of the boxes contained harmful chemicals. An investigation is now underway to find out what caused the massive spill.



AUSTRALIA

JELLYFISH TROUBLE

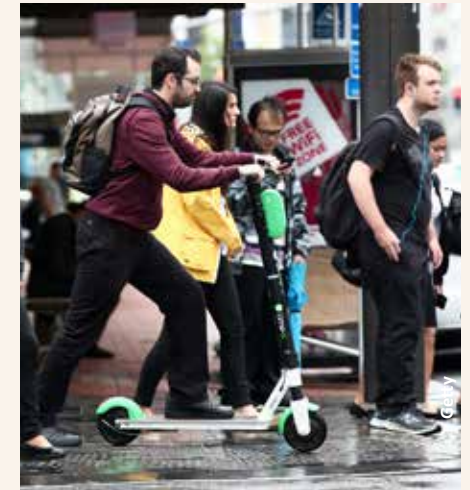
More than 3,500 people have been stung by bluebottle jellyfish in Queensland. The creatures are thought to have washed ashore due to strong winds in the area. Several beaches had to be closed to avoid further trouble. Jeremy Sturges, a life saving officer, said: "I have never seen anything like this – ever." Bluebottle jellyfish are often seen in Australia in summer, but not in such huge numbers. Their stings are said to be painful but rarely deadly.



NEW ZEALAND

SCOOTER INJURIES

Hundreds of injuries have been caused by electronic scooters in New Zealand. The scooters were introduced last October and can be hired by people to help them zip around town. e-scooter riders do not have to wear helmets and they are allowed to ride on pavements. The vehicles can reach speeds of 16 miles per hour.



Questions on: World News

1) Where in the world? Which countries are these stories from?

The story	The country
Scooter injuries	
Jellyfish trouble	
Lost cargo	

Look at the news from the Netherlands.

2) What has been turning up on beaches in the Netherlands?

3) Where did this cargo come from?

4) What do you think “**having a field day**” means?

- spending a lot of time being busy in a field
- being busy doing something you enjoy
- cleaning pollution from natural areas

Look at the news from Australia.

5) Would you be worried about the bluebottle jellyfish if you lived in Queensland?

Look at the news from New Zealand.

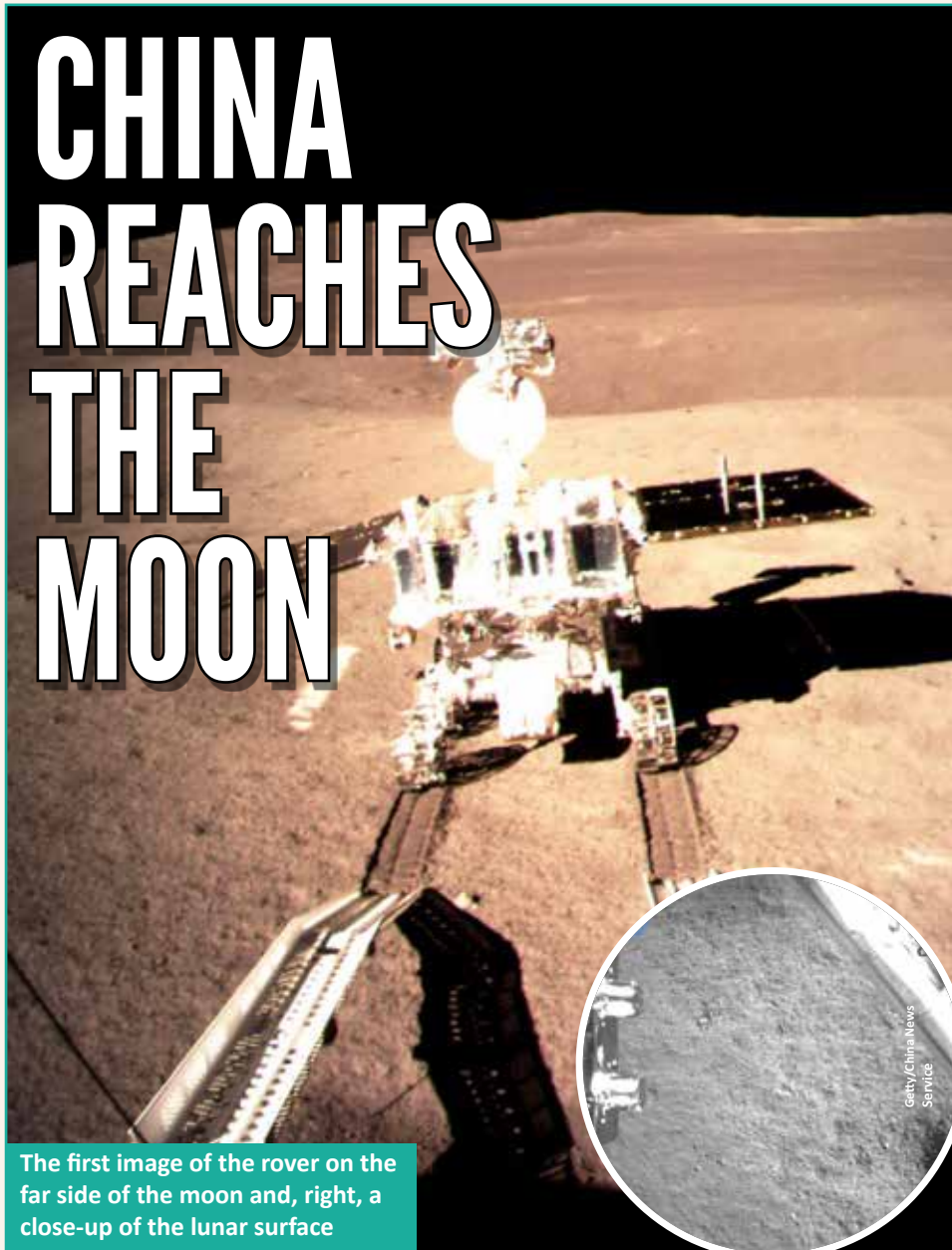
6) Why have electronic scooters been introduced to towns in New Zealand?

7) Why do you think there have been so many injuries?

Consider all the news reports.

8) What links the stories from the Netherlands and Australia? What links the stories from Australia and New Zealand?

SCIENCE



CHINA REACHES THE MOON

The first image of the rover on the far side of the moon and, right, a close-up of the lunar surface

CHINA has successfully landed a spacecraft on the far side of the moon.

The Chang'e-4 (“chang ee” 4) spacecraft touched down on the lunar surface on 3rd January. This is the first time a spacecraft has ever landed on the side of the moon we can't see.

Did you know, the same side of the moon always faces the Earth? This is why we always see the same patterns on the moon's surface. They look a bit like a face, which we sometimes call ‘the man in the moon’. All the missions to the moon have landed on this side, so far.

The Chinese spacecraft has landed on the other side of the moon. It is sometimes called the “dark side” but this isn't correct. The other side of the moon does get sunlight, it's just that we can't see it.

Chang'e-4 is a robotic spacecraft and doesn't have astronauts on board. It will study the rocks on the moon's surface and carry out experiments. It is hoped this research will help us to understand how the moon was formed.

Watch out for the super blood moon!

On the subject of the moon, an amazing super blood moon will appear between 20th and 21st January. A blood moon is the name we give to a total lunar eclipse. This is when the Earth moves between the sun and the moon. Our planet makes a shadow on the moon, making it glow red. The eclipse in January will be even bigger than normal, making it a *super* blood moon!

Questions on: 'China reaches the moon'

1) What 'first' has been achieved by China?

- It has landed a spacecraft on the far side of the moon.
- A Chinese astronaut has walked on the far side of the moon.
- It has brought space rock back from the moon.

2) The spacecraft is named after the Chinese goddess of the moon. What is it?

3) What **fact** does the writer ask if you know?

- The same side of the moon always faces the Earth.
- All missions to the moon have landed on the same side.
- There is a super blood moon coming up.

4) What name is the other side of the moon sometimes called?

5) Why isn't this a very good name?

6) What is Chang'e-4 going to do on the moon, and why is this helpful?

7) What word means 'to do with the moon'?

eclipse

robotic

lunar

8) What is a **super blood moon**? Can you explain it to someone who doesn't know?

BIG NEWS

SAY HELLO TO HYDROGEN TRAINS!



The world's first hydrogen train began picking up passengers in Germany back in September 2018

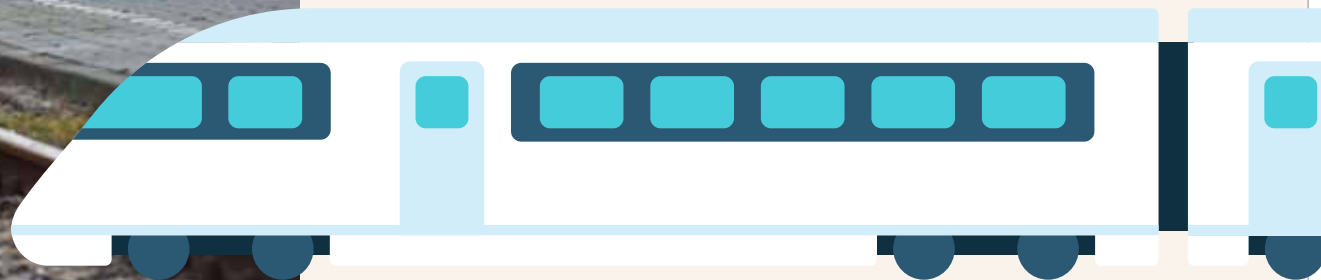
ALL aboard! Trains powered by hydrogen gas will be in use throughout the UK from 2021.

New trains that run on hydrogen will be better for the environment than our current trains that are powered by diesel. When diesel is used as a fuel it produces harmful pollution. Amazingly, when hydrogen is used as a fuel it produces only water! The trains are almost silent, too.

These new trains are being built by a French company and some are already in use in Germany.

Until now UK railways have been replacing dirty old diesel trains with electric ones. But using hydrogen locomotives is an even better idea because rail companies won't need to spend money building expensive overhead power lines.

The government minister in charge of the railways says that hydrogen trains are “an exciting innovation” that will make rail travel “cleaner and greener”.



Questions on: 'Say hello to hydrogen trains!'

1) What new fuel will these trains use?

diesel

hydrogen

oxygen

2) Why are these trains better for the environment than diesel trains?

3) Fill the gaps with the correct **country**.

The trains are being built by a company from _____.

In 2021 the trains will be introduced to _____.

They are already in use in _____.

4) Find another **interesting** fact about these trains.

5) If a train company wants to change from diesel to electric trains, what does it need to **build**?

6) “dirty old diesel trains”

What do the two **adjectives** (describing words) chosen by the writer tell you about diesel trains?

7) Who said that the trains are “an exciting innovation”?

8) What else has this person said about the trains? Find the **exact words**.

CRAZY BUT TRUE

FANTASTIC MR FOX



A FAMILY in London got rather a surprise when they came downstairs for breakfast one morning.

That's because a cheeky fox had managed to get into the Fryers' kitchen and fall asleep on top of the microwave!

The pesky visitor is thought to have got in through the cat flap, leaving a trail of mud behind him. He smashed a few plant pots, before getting cosy for the night.

Sadly, the unusual intruder wasn't feeling so fantastic after his stay, so the family rang the RSPCA to see if they could help.

Inspector Phil Norman came to the rescue and took him to Putney Animal Hospital, where he was given a full inspection. After a little bit of loving, the charity found nothing wrong with the fox and he was able to be released back into the area where he was found.



Questions on: 'Fantastic Mr Fox'

1) What is the name of the family in London?

2) How did the fox get into the house?

3) What did the fox do in the house? Match the options.

Slept

through the cat flap

Entered

plant pots

Smashed

the floor

Muddied

on the microwave

4) What does the adjective 'pesky' tell you about the fox?

- It caused trouble.
- It came in without permission.
- It was a bit stinky.

5) Can you find another **two-word** description for the fox used by the writer?

6) What did the family do when they found the fox?

7) Here are some notes the fox might have made about what it did. Can you put the events in the correct order?

- Made a bit of a mess.
- Free at last!
- Tired – fell asleep on a big grey box.
- I snuck in through the cat flap.
- Taken to a place where people prodded and poked me.
- Man picked me up – horrid!

8) How do you think the family felt when they saw the state of their kitchen and saw the fox?