

WORLD NEWS

JAPAN



PRICEY POKÉMON

An ultra-rare Pokémon card is expected to sell for a whopping £88,000 at auction next week. It is called the Pokémon Super Secret Battle No 1 Trainer card. It was given to the winner of a Pokémon Card tournament in Tokyo, Japan, way back in August 1999! Only seven of them are thought to have been made. It's so rare that the sellers have described it as the "holy grail" for Pokémon collectors.



Heritage Auctions via Twitter

GERMANY



PUNGENT POST

A suspicious smell coming from inside a German post office last week caused a huge panic. Six workers felt sick and were rushed to hospital; the building was evacuated. After a thorough investigation, police and firefighters discovered the smell was not caused by a dangerous gas. It was, in fact, caused by a package of four durian fruits from Thailand! Although it is considered a delicacy in many areas of the world, durian fruit is also notoriously smelly! So smelly, in fact, that it is actually banned in many hotels and across public transport in Asia.



iStock

FRANCE



WOLF SEEN IN NORMANDY

A wolf has been spotted in northern France for the first time in more than 100 years. The animal was caught on CCTV wandering through the town of Londinières in Normandy. A small number of wolves are known to live in France, but much further south, in the Alps. Wolves were hunted to extinction in France, mostly by farmers protecting their animals, but they are now protected in Europe and making a comeback.



iStock

Questions on: 'World News'

1) Find the correct country.

	The country
A wolf has been seen in the northern part of this country.	
A stinky fruit caused a post office panic here.	
The stinky fruit was sent from this country.	
A very rare Pokémon card is being sold here soon.	

Look at the news from Germany.

2) Durian fruit is considered 'a **delicacy**' in many parts of the world. What do you think this means?

3) What evidence tells you that durian fruit must smell really bad?

Look at the news from France.

4) How do people know that a wolf was in Normandy?

5) Tick the questions you can answer by reading this news story.

- Where are wolves in France usually found?
- What do local people think of this sighting?
- Why did wolves become extinct in France?
- How many wolves are thought to live in France?
- Why do experts think the wolf was in the town?
- In which town was the wolf seen?

Look at the news from Japan.

6) What is the name of this Pokémon card?

7) Which **word** is often used in newspaper reports to **emphasise** just how big something is?

8) Can a small piece of rectangular paper ever be worth this much money? Can you explain why someone would pay so much for it?

ANIMAL NEWS

A GOLDEN OLDIE!

THIS is August, the world's oldest golden retriever.

August, also known as Augie, turned 20 in April. That's pretty impressive considering this breed of dog usually lives for about 10-12 years!

Augie was born on 24th April 2000 and lives with her owners Jennifer and Steve in Tennessee, USA.

Despite her age, Augie can still move around well (although she's apparently a bit shaky when she first gets up) and enjoys daily walks around the yard.

Congratulations, Augie. Even at your ripe old age, you've still got gorgeous puppy dog eyes!



GoldHeart Golden Retrievers Rescue via Facebook

PRICEY POOCH

MEET the world's most expensive sheepdog.

Elan Valley Sally is a 19-month-old border collie from Brecon, Wales. The talented and highly trained farm dog has just been bought at an online auction for more than £19,000! Her owner put videos of Elan Valley Sally on YouTube and Facebook so that buyers could see her super skills in action. The average price for a working dog is usually about £2,000.



Wales News Service

LIFELONG FRIENDS

A FRIENDSHIP between a dog and a dolphin has melted hearts all over the world this week.

It looks like something out of a Disney film, doesn't it? Except this unlikely friendship is so much better because it's actually real!

Gunner the dog (another golden retriever) and Delta the dolphin have been friends since Gunner was a puppy. They met at the Dolphin Research Centre in the USA, where Delta lives. After several years apart, the pair met up again recently, and pictures of their touching reunion have been shared and 'liked' by millions!



@_woollyback via Twitter/Dolphin Research Center 2

Questions on: 'Canine capers'

1) What is the name of the three dogs in the news this week?

1:

2:

3:

Look at the story 'A golden oldie!'

2) Can you explain why August is a 'golden oldie'?

3) How do you think you say the name Augie?

"oh-gee"

"or-gee"

"or-jee"

Explain why you think it is said like this.

Look at the story 'Pricey pooch'.

4) How much did Elan Valley Sally sell for and why was she so expensive?

5) How did the dog's owners show her skills to people who might want to buy her?

6) Would you describe Elan Valley Sally as a **pet**?

Look at the story 'Lifelong friends'.

7) Find and copy the phrases or sentences that tell you many people have loved these pictures.

Consider all the stories.

8) Which dog is the 'odd one out' and why?

There are lots of different answers to this question. Explain your own choice.

SCIENCE NEWS

UP, UP AND AWAY

THE race to get tourists into space is hotting up! The latest idea is a luxury flight in a hot air balloon capsule.

The Neptune capsule will have space for eight passengers, plus the crew. It hangs underneath a balloon the size of a football stadium filled with hydrogen.

The plan is for the huge balloon to drift upwards to the edge of space, reaching a height of 30 kilometres above the Earth. There, space tourists will be able to look back at the Earth or out to dark space and the sight of millions of stars.

Because the capsule stays within the Earth's atmosphere, no special suits or training are needed. Anyone can give it a go – as long as you have the cash!

Although the price hasn't been decided yet, the six-hour luxury flight is likely to cost more than £100,000.

One downside (apart from the price) may be the method of landing back on Earth. The balloon drifts back to Earth and splashes down into the sea. Passengers, crew, capsule and balloon are then recovered by ship.

Space Perspective, the company behind the idea, is planning unmanned test flights next year. But it has ambitious plans to operate up to 500 flights from sites across the USA by 2024.

If all goes well, peeking into space could be as easy as flying abroad in a few years' time!



The Neptune capsule



The balloon will drift to the edge of space

Questions on: 'Up, up and away'

1) What is the name of this invention and who is making it?

The _____ capsule by _____
_____.

2) The journalist mentions that there is a race.
A race to do what?

3) The race is “hotting up”. What do you think this means?

4) The Neptune project is at which stage?

- An early idea
- In testing
- Ready to launch
- Launched

5) What will take the capsule up into the atmosphere?

6) How high will the balloon travel, in kilometres?

7) A passenger aeroplane travels at **10km** above the earth.
The International Space Station travels at **400km** above the Earth.

Do you think you could say you've seen space after a trip in this balloon?

8) Imagine you were considering a flight in the Neptune capsule.
Make a list of pros and cons below.

Pros – reasons to give it a go	Cons – reasons not to do it

BIG NEWS

GEMSTONE JACKPOT

A MINE owner in Tanzania has hit the jackpot after discovering the largest tanzanite crystals ever recorded.

The two huge stones, which together weigh more than 15 kilograms, were found in a mine belonging to Saniniu Laizer. Last week, Mr Laizer became a millionaire overnight, by selling the stones to the government for £2.7 million! They are going to be displayed in the country's national museum.

Tanzanite is a precious stone that is rarer than diamond. It is only found in one small area of Tanzania, Africa, near the base of Mount Kilimanjaro. It was discovered in 1967 by a local tribesman. Tanzanite gems are prized for their colours, which vary between blue, violet and purple.

Mr Laizer has plans to help his local community – after having a big party, of course! He told the BBC: “I want to build a shopping mall and a school. I want to build this school near my home. There are many poor people around here who can't afford to take their children to school.”

He also intends to share 10% (one-tenth) of the money with the miners who found the crystals. Mining is difficult work. One of the mine managers explained to *The Guardian* newspaper:

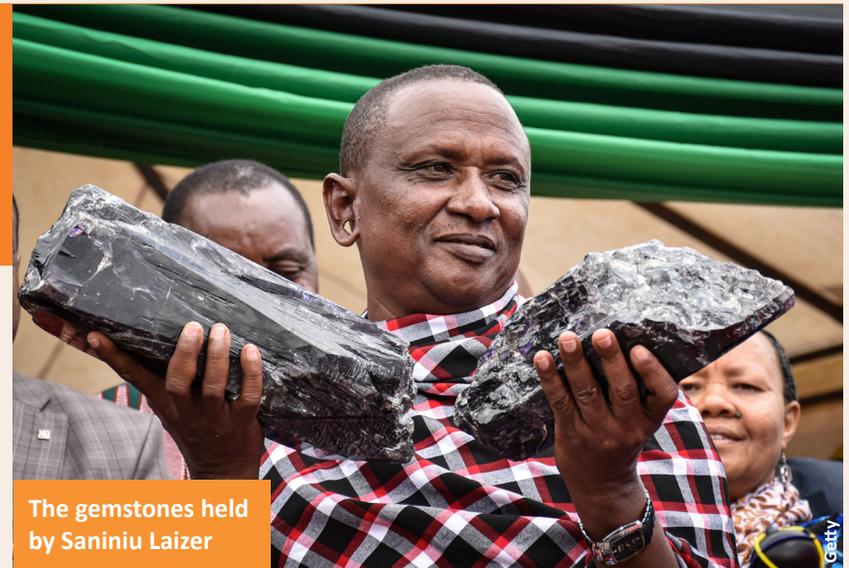
“It's a really challenging experience. It's tough of course, working in this dusty area. We inhale a lot of dust and get sick, but we haven't lost the determination to work. We feel grateful that our boss has finally got these stones. We are planning to have roast meat together when we return to the mining site.”

HOW DO I SAY?

Tanzania – “tan-zan-ee-a”

Tanzanite – “tan-zan-ight”

Kilimanjaro – “kill-ee-man-jar-oh”



The gemstones held by Saniniu Laizer



Cut and polished tanzanite gems

Questions on: 'Gemstone jackpot'

1) Where, exactly, is the only place on Earth that tanzanite can be found?

2) This precious stone was only discovered in 1967. Why do you think it was named 'tanzanite'?

3) Why is this gem so highly prized and so expensive?

4) Fill in the details of the crystals found recently.

Number of stones found:	
Total weight:	
Total value:	

5) Look at the first two paragraphs. Find two phrases (group of words) that show that the stones made Mr Laizer rich **very quickly**.

1:

2:

6) Do you think Mr Laizer found the stones himself? If not, why is he the one that gets the money? Do you think this is fair?

7) What does he plan to do with his money?

1:

2:

3:

8) Which two people are **quoted** in the news report?

1:

2:

Why do you think the journalist included the **second** quote that finished the report?