

## WORLD NEWS

## THE NETHERLANDS



## ● Heat riots

**The hottest week on record in The Netherlands made Dutch people really hot under the collar last week.**

Rioters took to the city streets of The Hague and threw eggs, stones and fireworks at police. They were protesting at not being able to use fire hydrants in the street to cool off. The hydrants are water points in the street for fire engines to use in an emergency. So the water authorities took action to try to stop them being used by people just to cool down in the hot weather. Calm was restored as temperatures cooled, but heatwave clashes between rioters and police have continued in cities across the country.

## AUSTRALIA



## ● Hero husband

**A man saved his wife's life during a shark attack by punching it on the nose!**

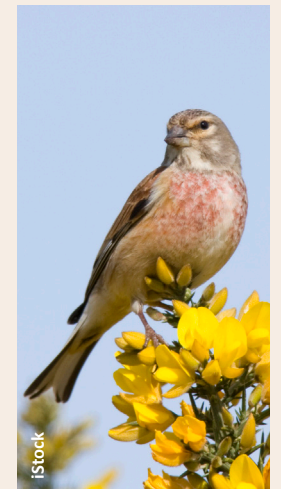
Chantelle Doyle was surfing off Shelly Beach in Australia when a great white shark bit her leg. Her husband Mark bravely leapt on the animal's back and kept on hitting the shark until it let go. Chantelle was flown to hospital, where she had surgery on her injuries. There have been six fatal shark attacks in Australia so far this year, but, remember, shark attacks are very rare.

## SPAIN

## ● What a racket

**A gang of poachers has been arrested by police near Barcelona for illegally selling songbirds.**

More than 260 birds were found in the raid. All were birds prized for their singing ability and included goldfinches, chaffinches, greenfinches, linnets and bramblings. The birds were trapped, caged and kept in terrible conditions in cages, before being sold. It's thought the gang have sold thousands of songbirds in secret markets over the last two years. The poachers now face up to three years in jail for their crimes.



## Questions on: 'World News'

1. Match the story to the country where it took place.

Wild birds trapped and sold by poachers

Netherlands

Woman rescued from shark attack by her husband

Spain

Hot weather leads people to riot in the streets.

Australia

Look at the story 'Heat riots'.

2. The writer says the hot weather made people 'hot under the collar'. This phrase means it made people...

☐ relaxed

☐ angry

☐ happy

3a. What are fire hydrants?

3b. What did people do when they weren't allowed to use the fire hydrants to cool down in the hot weather?

4. What are your opinions about this story?

Do you think people should have been allowed to use these water taps to cool down in the city?

Explain the **reason** for your **opinion**.

Look at the story 'Hero husband'.

5. What was Chantelle doing when she was attacked by a shark?

6. How did Chantelle's husband rescue her?

Look at the story 'What a racket'.

7a. Name some of the types of birds that were trapped to be sold.

7b. The writer says these birds are 'prized'. What is special about them?

8. Find these **numbers**.

- The police found more than \_\_\_\_ captured birds in this raid.
- The gang have sold \_\_\_\_ of songbirds in the last \_\_\_\_ years.
- The poachers could be given a punishment of \_\_\_\_ years in jail.



## NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

## AYRSHIRE



## ● Swan rescue

A nine-year-old girl who was blown out to sea while riding an inflatable swan was rescued by a teenage paddleboarder. Coastguards praised the teenager for his quick thinking, saying his actions had avoided “a tragic ending” for the girl. The teen managed to get the girl onto his paddleboard, but he was then unable to get back to the shore, as it was so windy. Luckily, they were both rescued by Troon Lifeboat and safely reunited with their families.

## CAITHNESS

## ● Robot clean-up

Scientists are planning to use robots to help them clean up and scrap the Dounreay nuclear power station at Thurso in northern Scotland. The site is being taken out of use after 60 years. But it still has lots of areas that aren’t safe for humans to work in. So a group of scientists have created a small robot to do the dangerous work of removing the deadly radioactive waste and dismantling the power station. The vehicle has sensors, cameras and a controllable “arm”.



## SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS



## ● Golden success

A pair of golden eagles have successfully reared a chick in their nest in the Scottish Highlands, for the first time in 40 years! The nest – known as an eyrie – was made for the pair as part of a ‘rewilding’ project, which aims to return animals to areas where they once lived. The false nest was built on an old nest site five years ago, using branches of local pine and birch trees. Doug Gilbert, who manages the estate where the nest is sited, has been checking it every year. The delighted manager said that it is a “rewilding success beyond our wildest dreams”.

## Questions on: 'News from Scotland'

1. In which **country** did all these news stories take place?
2. Can you work out the story from these clues? Match the story to the headline.

This story is about the successful rearing of a golden eagle chick in the wild

Swan rescue

This story is about the rescue of a girl who had been blown out to sea on an inflatable

Robot clean up

This story is about robots being used to clear up a nuclear power station

Golden success

### Look at the story 'Swan rescue'.

3. Why did the nine-year-old girl need rescuing?
4. There were **two parts** to her rescue. Can you explain both?

### Look at the story 'Robot clean-up'.

5. What type of power station is Dounreay in northern Scotland?

- ☐ Solar
- ☐ Coal
- ☐ Nuclear

6. The power station is old and being pulled down. Why can't humans do this? Why is a special robot needed?

### Look at the story 'Golden success'.

7. These words are all used in this story. Match the word to its definition.

Bringing back wild animals to areas where they once lived

Reared

When young animals are brought up, fed and looked after until fully grown

Eyrie

The name for a golden eagle's nest

Rewilding

8. Who is Doug Gilbert, and why is he so happy?



## BIG NEWS

# GREENLAND ICE SHRINKS



**DID you know that Greenland, a giant island in the Arctic, has the second-largest ice sheet in the world?**

An ice sheet is a large area of thick ice that flows slowly over the ground. The massive ice sheet covering most of Greenland is three thousand metres thick at its deepest.

As they are so large, ice sheets remain frozen from one year to the next. Each summer some of the ice will melt in the warmer weather, but in winter, snow and cold weather that refreezes water then rebuilds the ice sheet to its original size.

But now, scientists think this pattern of Greenland's ice sheet shrinking slightly in the summer and then growing again in the winter isn't happening. The Arctic has been warming up quickly in the last thirty years and Greenland's ice sheet is now shrinking in size every year.

This is bad news for the rest of us too, because the melting ice sheets in Greenland and the Arctic are leading to rising sea levels across the rest of the world.



## Questions on: 'Greenland ice shrinks'

1. What is Greenland and where will you find it?
2. Greenland has the second largest **what** in the world?

- ☐ Mountain
  - ☐ Volcano
  - ☐ Ice sheet
3. What is an ice sheet?

What **normally** happens to an ice sheet in:

  - 4a. Summer?
  - 4b. Winter?
5. Scientists have discovered that Greenland's ice sheet is now shrinking. What does 'shrinking' mean?
6. What has happened to temperatures in the Arctic in the past thirty years?
7. How does this help to explain why Greenland's ice sheet is now shrinking?
8. Why is this bad news for everyone?

## BIG NEWS

# WET YOUR PLANTS!



**Plant pots that work as urinals (toilets) are popping up across Amsterdam, to stop people from weeing in the street at night.**

The city of Amsterdam in The Netherlands doesn't want to put ugly urinals in the street or to threaten people with paying fines to stop them weeing.

Instead, Amsterdam is trying to make weeing outdoors better for both humans and the environment by investing money in 12 GreenPee urinals. These unusual structures look a bit like big plant pots because they have plants growing in them!

Each GreenPee urinal can store up to 200 wees in a special container that is filled with hemp fibres. These fibres have an important job. They soak up the pong of the wee, so the GreenPee urinals don't smell!

Once full of wee, the container can be removed and the mixture of wee and hemp fibres can be used as an organic fertiliser in parks and on farms, as it improves the soil and helps plants to grow.

'Wee' think that it sounds like a great idea!



## Questions on: 'Wet your plants'

1. What is a urinal?
2. Which city is introducing GreenPee urinals?
3. How many wees can a GreenPee hold?
4. Why are the urinals called GreenPees? Find the correct explanation from these statements.

- ☐ Because they are the colour of green peas
  - ☐ They are more environmentally friendly than normal toilets
  - ☐ They have been put in streets in Amsterdam in The Netherlands
5. Why will GreenPee urinals look better on the streets than normal toilets?
6. What important job do **hemp fibres** do to make these toilets work?
7. How will parks and farms be helped by the GreenPees?
8. The writer of this news report has had a **bit of fun** with the words they have chosen for the **headline** and the **last line** of the report.

- Can you find the headline and last line?
  - What is funny about what the writer has written?