

UK NEWS



Scottish Canals

POLMONT, SCOTLAND



Fish rescue

Thousands of fish had to be rescued after the Union Canal near Polmont in Scotland burst its banks. Torrential rain and thunderstorms washed away the embankment, leaving freshwater fish, including pike, eel, three-spined stickleback and brown trout, flapping about in pools of water downstream. Thankfully, more than 11,000 fish have been returned to their home.

LONDON, ENGLAND



Mind the gap

London's historic Tower Bridge was closed to cars and other traffic for 24 hours when the two halves of the bridge got stuck in different positions! Pedestrians and motorists had to find another way to cross the River Thames while mechanics fixed the faulty arms of the bridge, which are designed to rise up to let large boats through.



Thames RIB Experience / Shutterstock



Ardoyne Youth Club / Twitter

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND



Beacons of positivity

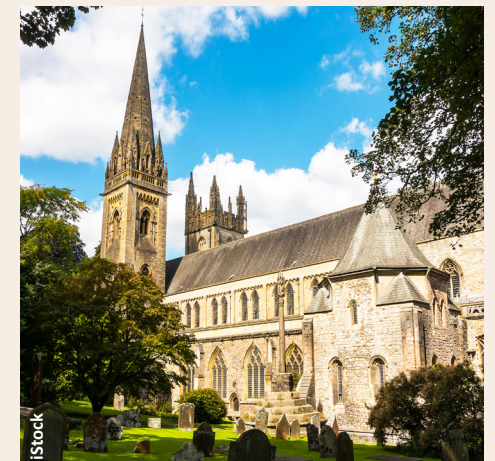
Young people from the Ardoyne Youth Club in North Belfast have been spreading positivity in their community by taking part in five days of volunteering. They picked up litter and cleaned up graffiti, before moving on to weeding their school's nature garden. Later, they helped to prepare meals for local homeless people who are sleeping rough.

CARDIFF, WALES



Ding-dong goes wrong

A bell-ringer carrying out maintenance at Llandaff Cathedral suffered a broken arm when the rope he was pulling suddenly yanked him up 30 metres (100 feet) in the air! Emergency services were unable to take the man down the steep and narrow spiral staircase, so, firefighters had to rescue him through the roof and out onto the fire engine instead!



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Questions on: 'UK News'

1) Match the **topic** news story to the **country** where it happened.

An accident happened when a church bell was being mended.

Scotland

Young people helped out in their community.

Wales

A famous bridge broke.

England

When a canal flooded, thousands of fish needed rescuing.

Northern Ireland

2) Match the number to what it is describing and to the news story it appears in.

Number

Noun

News story's headline

30

hours

Fish rescue

Five

days

Mind the gap

11,000

metres

Beacons of positivity

24

fish

Ding-dong goes wrong

Look at the story 'Fish rescue'.

3) What caused the canal to burst its banks?

4) Are you surprised by the number of fish that needed to be rescued? Explain your reasons.

Look at the story 'Mind the gap'.

5) Why do you think Tower Bridge's arms had been opened?

6) **Motorists** and **pedestrians** had their journeys disrupted when the bridge got stuck. What do these two words mean?

Look at the story 'Beacons of positivity'.

7) List **three** things the young people did for their community.

Look at the story 'Ding-dong goes wrong'.

8) When someone breaks their arm, it doesn't usually make the news. Why did it this time?

WORLD NEWS



YEMEN



People fear hunger more than coronavirus

A new report has found that the people of Yemen are more worried about going hungry than getting COVID-19, as coronavirus sweeps their country. War in Yemen has caused food prices to go up, and now there is famine. More than half (62%) of Yemenis said in the report that they cannot afford to buy food and water, while many are having to make their children go to work or beg. UNICEF says that almost half of all children under five in Yemen will be malnourished (not get enough food) by the end of the year if they don't get help now.

USA



California blazes rage

Wildfires sparked by lightning in California have destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to flee. At least six people have died, after more than 500 blazes spread across one million acres of land. One of those fires is the second largest the state has ever seen. NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy reported that he could see the smoke from the International Space Station.



AUSTRALIA



Blizzard of Oz

A freak blast of cold air from the Antarctic brought snow to parts of Australia for the first time in 15 years. Temperatures dropped sharply in New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, as the "Antarctic blob" (a weather system) also brought icy winds, thunder and hail.

KENYA



Ugly veg saves lives

Every day, 83 tonnes of veggies grown on Kenyan farms are thrown away because they're 'ugly', but now the edible but slightly unsightly food is being put to good use in children's school dinners. Three years ago, the UN World Food Programme started a project to change the destination of these funny-shaped or oddly-sized vegetables from landfill to lunch. They were sent to a school meals programme at three schools on the outskirts of Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. The lunches were a hit with pupils, some of whom otherwise wouldn't eat a hot meal all day. The project will now be extended to get these cheap vegetables to more schools, while also tackling the big problem of food waste.



Questions on: 'World news'

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

People are scared of going hungry.

Kenya

Snow has been seen in parts of this country for the first time in many years.

Yemen

Odd-shaped vegetables are being used to feed hungry schoolchildren.

USA

Wildfires are wreaking havoc.

Australia

Look at the story from Yemen.

2) People in Yemen are having a terrible time. Explain why they need help from the rest of the world.

Look at the story from the USA.

3) What caused the wildfires to start?

4) Why is what **Chris Cassidy** said reported in the story?

Look at the story from Australia.

5) As well as snow, what other types of weather did the cold Antarctic air bring to parts of Australia?

Look at the story from Kenya.

6) In this news report, the writer has used the phrase: **“edible but slightly unsightly food”**.

Match each **word** to its **definition**.

Word

Definition

edible

a little bit, but not much

slightly

can be eaten

unsightly

unpleasant to look at; ugly

7) What **two** problems has the project solved?

8) What is your **opinion** on 'ugly' vegetables?

- Would you eat funny-shaped or oddly-sized vegetables?
- Should these so called 'ugly' veggies be sold along with the 'normal-sized' and shaped ones?

BIG NEWS

MEET HAVOC THE PANGOLIN DETECTOR

PANGOLINS are endangered animals, but a clever dog called Havoc is now trained to sniff them out to help protect the species.

Pangolins are said to bring good luck, but they are not lucky themselves. They are the most trafficked animal in the world. Every year, hundreds of thousands are hunted and taken from Africa to Asia for their scales, which are used in Chinese medicine and for their meat, which is prized as a treat.

Havoc has been trained as a working dog in Africa since he was a puppy. He is a breed of dog called the Belgian Malinois. This type of dog is a master of tracking (sniffing out) people and animals.

Hopefully, Havoc will now bring good luck to pangolins – he is the first ever Belgian Malinois to be able to detect pangolins that have been poached (illegally stolen)!



Havoc with his human helpers



This tired pangolin was saved from poachers

DID YOU KNOW?

- Pangolins are the only mammals to be completely covered in scales.
- They have long, sticky tongues – which can be longer than their bodies – for catching ants and termites.
- Pangolin scales are made of keratin. Finger and toe nails, hair, horns, wool and feathers are all made of this material.

Questions on: 'Meet Havoc the pangolin detector'

- 1) Which breed (type) of dog is Havoc?
- 2) The headline reads: "Meet Havoc the pangolin detector". Why does the headline call Havoc a 'detector'?
- 3) Why are Belgian Malinoises perfect detector dogs?
- 4) What is Havoc the first ever Belgian Malinois to be able to do?
- 5) What unlucky record do pangolins have?
- 6) How many pangolins are trafficked to Asia every year?
- 7) What are the **two reasons** people want to illegally buy pangolins?
- 8) How would you try to persuade people that pangolin scales are not a useful ingredient as a medicine?

ANIMAL NEWS

LOST SPECIES FOUND!



An armadillo

A “lost” species of elephant shrew – the Somali elephant shrew – has been rediscovered in Africa, after 50 years without being seen!

It was found during a scientific expedition to Djibouti, a country on the Horn of Africa (in northeast Africa and so-called as this region looks like a rhino’s horn).

The scientists caught the Somali elephant shrew in a trap using a mixture of food, including peanut butter and oatmeal, as bait. In total, 12 elephant shrews were seen and recorded in different sites around the country.

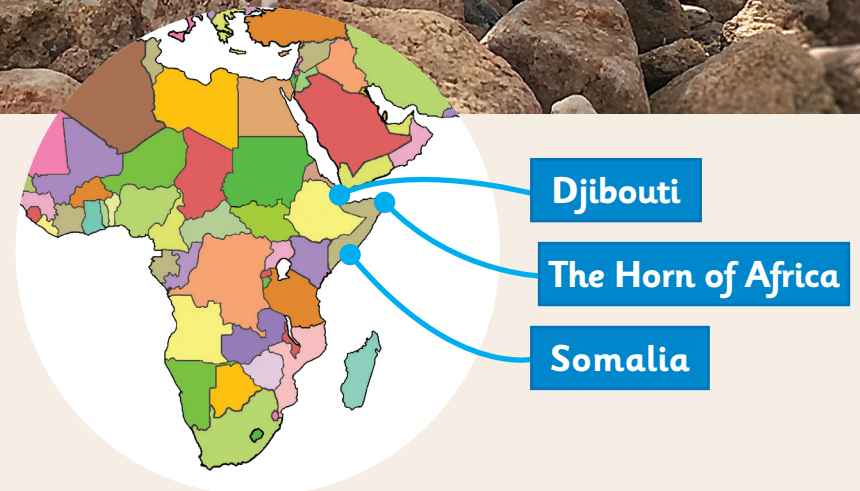
Elephant shrews are tiny mammals that can fit into the palm of your hand. They use their trunks to feed on insects.

The creatures were named Somali elephant shrews, or Somali sengis, because experts had thought that they *only* came from Somalia, one of the other countries on the Horn of Africa. This is not the only confusion with their name – these animals aren’t actually shrews! The tiny mammals have their own family group and their closest animal relatives are armadillos, manatees and elephants.

Kelsey Neam, a scientist from Global Wildlife Conservation, said: “Now that we know it survives, scientists and conservationists will be able to ensure it never disappears again.”



Steven Herrings, Duke University Lemur Center



Questions on: 'Lost species found!'

1) The elephant shrew has been rediscovered. What does '**rediscovered**' mean?

2) How long ago was the Somali elephant shrew last spotted?

3a) What type of animal are they?

- amphibian
- mammal
- reptile

3b) Describe an elephant shrew.

4) In what **country** in which **continent** did the scientific expedition take place?

5) What did scientists use as bait in the traps?

6) How many Somali elephant shrews were spotted in total during the expedition?

7a) What **other** name are the Somali elephant shrews known by?

7b) Why is Somali elephant shrew a confusing name for these animals?

8a) Who is Kelsey Neam?

8b) What questions could you ask her to find out more about this scientific expedition and the Somali sengis?