WORLD NEWS

JAPAN



Asteroid rocks land on Earth

A Japanese spacecraft has safely returned a capsule to Earth after collecting rock samples from an asteroid.

The spacecraft landed on the Ryugu asteroid in July last year. It spent more than a year on the surface, collecting information.

Last week, it took off from the asteroid and released a capsule containing the rocks it had collected. The small, but very precious, container landed safely in Australia on Sunday.

Asteroids are ancient lumps of space rock that circle around the sun.





INDIA



Clay cup comeback

Tea at India's railway stations is to be served in clay cups, once again! The change will help to get rid of plastic waste.

The clay cups are known as kulhads. They are unpainted, unglazed and have no handles.

This is how tea used to be served on the railways. Many people swear tea tastes better in a kulhad!

Not only will the plan get rid of throwaway plastic, it's hoped it will give jobs to thousands of potters.

Some 23 million people travel on India's trains every day — that's a lot of pots!



KOALA STAR



What do you put on the top of your Christmas tree? A star, an angel, a fairy? How about a koala?

Well, a lady in Australia got a shock when she discovered a koala had wandered into her home and made itself at home on her Christmas tree.

Amanda McCormick called a wildlife rescue group, who thought it was a prank at first! The young, female koala is thought to have been in the house for three hours.

The bear was happily released back into the wild after having its Christmas wish!



Questions on: World News

1	Where	in	the	wor	ld?
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Headline	Country
'Clay cup comeback'	
'Koala star'	
'Asteroid rocks land on Earth'	

Look at the news from India.

- 2) What is the Indian name for these simple clay cups?
- 3) Find **all words** that tell you the clay cups have been **used before**.
- 4a) What is the **main** reason for switching to clay tea cups?
- 4b) What is another benefit?

Look at the news from Japan.

5) What is an asteroid?

	A lump of space rock that orbits (circles) the sur
	A lump of space rock that has fallen to Earth
	Anything that circles around a planet

6) What happened at these times?

Last July	
Last week	
Sunday	

7) What was the spacecraft not doing on the asteroid?

Collecting samples
Collecting information
Collecting stamps

8) Which category would you choose for each news story?

Choose from:

History Science Art

Christmas News Travel Environment

BIG NEWS

THE PROTECTIVE POWER OF POO! • • • •











A new study has discovered that the bees carefully collect animal poo and place it around the entrances of their nests. The reason for this strange behaviour is to discourage attacks from giant hornets.

Giant hornets are known to launch group attacks on honey bee homes. They will kill thousands of bees before taking over their nests.

The research showed that if the honey bees are visited by a giant hornet, they will collect small balls of animal dung and pop them around the entrance to their nests. The hope is the smelly dung balls will stop the hornets from coming back to attack.

And it works! The hornets were less likely to land on nest entrances with large numbers of poop balls outside.

The clever bees have other tactics against predators like hornets. They also hiss at them and work together to surround them with a ball of bees until they overheat!

Questions on: 'The protective power of poo!'

1	This	article	ic	ahout	which	two	inse	ctsi
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Bumblebees	Wasps

- Western honey bees Giant hornets
 - Asian honey bees Hoverflies

2) Which bee behaviour has been studied by the experts?

- nest building
- defence
- feeding

3) What causes the bees to start collecting poo balls?

4) Can you find **two other words** used to avoid repeating the word '**poo**'? Look carefully!

5) Which option correctly explains the results of the bees' actions?

Hornet attacks no longer happen.

- Hornet attacks are less likely to happen.
- Hornet attacks happen rarely.
- 6) Look at the last paragraph. Which word means:

actions that try to get a certain result

7) What else do the honey bees do to try to protect themselves from hornets?

1: _____

2: _____

8) Why do you think the poo decorations put off the hornets? You aren't told the answer, give your own ideas.

CHRISTMAS NEWS



The house from the film *Home Alone* has been remade in gingerbread!

Michelle Wibowo, a cake artist, created the amazing sculpture to celebrate the film's 30th birthday (if films can have birthdays).

The edible scene includes tiny details such as Kevin's treehouse, the baddies and 14 pizza boxes!

A recent poll (vote) crowned *Home Alone* as the UK's favourite Christmas film. Do you agree?



A rubbish tip in Grimsby, Lincolnshire, has been turned into a bit of a visitor attraction.

Workers at the tip created a winter wonderland using old tyres, traffic cones and other bits and bobs they could find. Festive fun and great recycling!

SANTAS ON THE SEA

More than 150 Australian Santas have taken to the sea on jet skis. The Santas hit the waves to raise money for a charity that gives toys to children in foster care.

As well as raising more than £5,000, the Santas also believe they've beaten the current record of 129 jet ski Santas!

Australian children have just started their summer holidays.
Many Aussies spend Christmas on the beach!







Questions on: Christmas News

Look at the story 'Santas on the sea'.

1) Find the word that fills the gap. Choose from:

£5,000 jet skis Australia 150 toys

More than _____ Santas on _____ have taken
to the sea in _____. They have raised more than
_____ , which will help to buy _____ for children
in care.

2) What do you think is the main subject of the last paragraph?

summer
Christmas
children

Look at the story 'Day trip to the tip'.

3) Find two reasons why the writer likes this rubbish tip.

4) What **links** the stories 'Day trip to the tip' and 'Incredible and edible!'?

Look at the story 'Incredible and edible!'

- 5) How old is the film Home Alone?
- 6) What material is this house mostly made out of?
- 7) What does the writer wonder about in the brackets? How would you answer?
- 8) What is your all-time favourite festive film?

BIG NEWS

AMAZING ALBATROSS LAYS EGG AT 69



WISDOM the albatross, the world's oldest known wild bird, has laid an egg at the age of 69.

The Laysan albatross was first fitted with a leg band in 1956.

Albatrosses have the largest wingspan of any bird. They spend most of the year at sea, gliding on the ocean winds and feeding on squid.

Wisdom has flown more than three million miles in her lifetime — that's the same as eight return trips to the moon!

Every year, Wisdom returns to Midway Atoll in the Pacific Ocean to meet up with her partner. This remarkable mother has raised well over 30 chicks so far and shows no signs of stopping!

The birds face many threats, the main one being the plastic that ends up in the Pacific — and often birds' stomachs.



Questions on: 'Amazing albatross lays egg at 69'

- 1) What type of bird is Wisdom?
 - Herring
 - Gull
 - Laysan albatross
 - Northern gannet
- 2) Look closely.
- What do the birds **glide** on?
- What do the birds **feed** on?
- 3) Find the numbers.

Wisdom is _____ years old.

She has flown over _____ million miles.

She had a leg band fitted in _____.

She has raised over _____ chicks.

- 4) Describe a year in the life of Wisdom the albatross.
- 5) How does the journalist help you understand just how far 3 million miles is?
- 6) Find two words the journalist uses to describe Wisdom.
- 7) Albatrosses are amazing birds. What can we do to look after them?
- 8) Is Wisdom the oldest bird alive? Explain your answer.