

INTERESTING NUMBERS

LOOOOONGEST LEGS



An American teenager has a Guinness World Record for being the woman with the world's longest legs. Seventeen-year-old Maci Currin, from Texas, is 6ft 10in (2.08m) tall, while her legs measure more than 52in (1.34m) each. Maci thinks that people who have unusual physical qualities should "embrace it – don't hide it".

RARE BOOK SALE



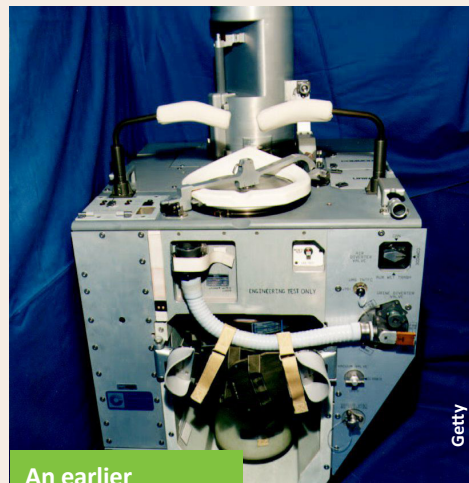
A first edition book by Sir Isaac Newton has sold for £22,000. Isaac Newton is best known for describing the laws of motion and helping our understanding of how gravity works. He explains this in *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*, the book that sold at auction. The copy of the book was almost 300 years old!

ITALY



● Cursed Canadian

A Canadian tourist has sent back artefacts that she stole from the ancient city of Pompeii in 2005. She sent them to an Italian travel agent, along with a letter claiming that the relics were "cursed" and had brought years of bad luck. Pompeii was destroyed in the year AD79, by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The tourist said that the artefacts had "so much negative energy linked to that land of destruction" and begged for them to be taken back by the city.



An earlier NASA space toilet, developed in 1993

POTTY TRAINING

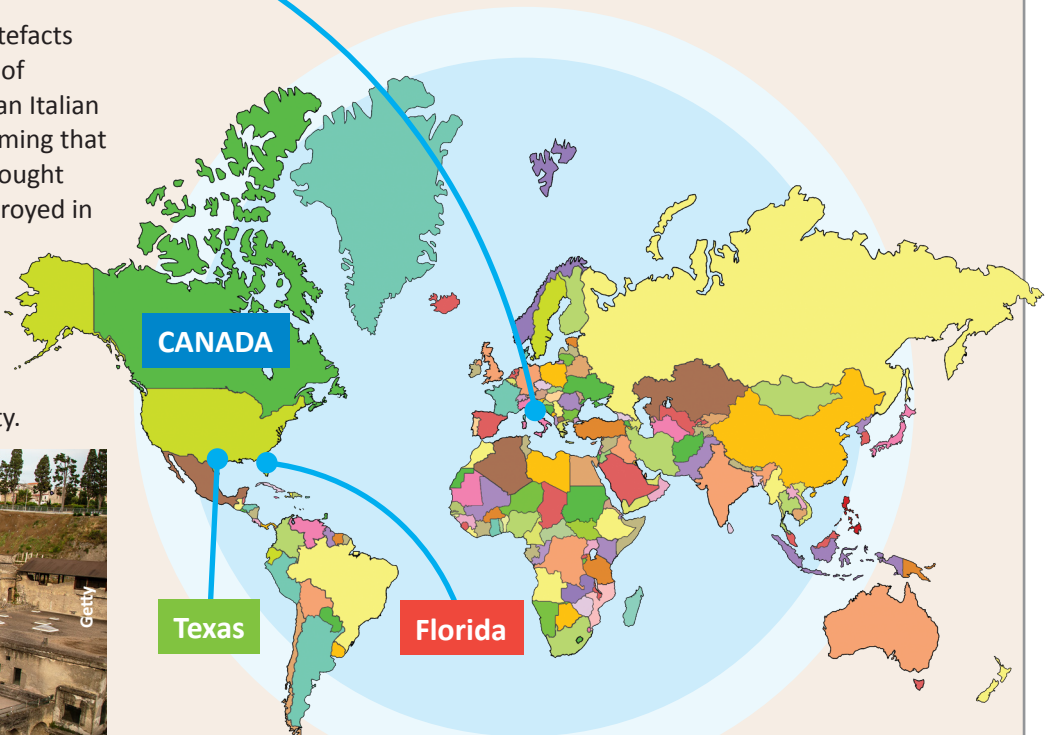


NASA is getting ready to test out its new \$23m (£17.3m) titanium space toilet. It's packed in a cargo ship that will head to the International Space Station so astronauts can test it. The new toilet has been made to be better suited for women, unlike the old one. Plus the seat has been tilted and made taller, which should provide a better position for going for a poo. Project manager Melissa McKinley said: "Cleaning up a mess is a big deal. We don't want any misses or escapes!"

SIZEABLE SNAKE



Two hunters in Florida, USA, caught a Burmese python measuring 18ft 9in (5.71m) long, a new Florida record. Pythons aren't native to Florida, so people are paid to remove them to help native wildlife.



Interesting numbers – in the news this week



GLOSSARY

edition – A version of something
NASA – The National Aeronautics and Space Administration
titanium – A light, strong metal

Guinness World Records – A famous book of record-breaking facts and achievements
tourist – A person who is visiting a place on holiday

eruption – An explosion
artefacts – Special objects
reclaimed – To get something back

■ Consider all the articles

1. Match the number to the headline of the article in which it is found:

£22,000

Sizeable snake

£17.3 million

Rare book sale

1.34m

Potty training

5.71m

Looooongest legs

15 years

Cursed Canadian

2a. What links these five articles?

☐

The events all took place on the same continent

☐

They all contain interesting numbers and statistics

☐

The stories are all sporting achievements

☐

Unusually, the same person features in all the stories

2b. Explain how this link makes these articles surprising and newsworthy.

■ Look at the article: 'Rare book sale'

3. Complete the fact file about the rare book in the article:

Title of the book:	
Author:	
What is the book about?	
How much did the book sell for?	
How old is the book?	

4a. What is so special about this book?

4b. Where do you think an important book like this belongs? Explain why.

■ Look at the article: 'Potty training'

5. List the improvements made for the International Space Station's new toilet.

6. The toilet has cost £17.3 million. Why do you think it has cost so much money?

■ Look at the article: 'Cursed Canadian'

7. Find the dates.

The year Pompeii was destroyed when Mount Vesuvius erupted.

The year the tourist stole the artefacts from Pompeii.

The year the tourist returned the artefacts to Italy.

8. Find the six-letter word the journalist uses that also means 'artefacts'.

■ Look at the article: 'Sizeable snake'

9. Why are people paid to catch pythons in Florida?

■ Look at the article: 'Looooongest legs'

10a. The article states that Maci Currin (the teenager who holds the world record for the woman with the longest legs) thinks that people who have unusual physical qualities should **"embrace it, don't hide it"**. What do you think this means?

10b. Do you agree with Maci? Explain your ideas.

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TEACHER ANSWERS

AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS: News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

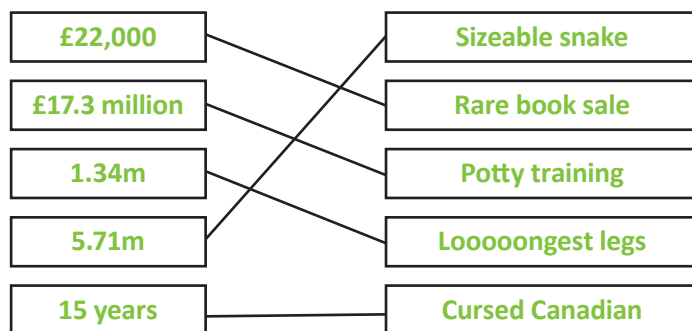
TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE: The teacher answers are intended to provide a quick reference guide. Suggestions are given for the 'Expected response' or starting point that pupils could give. The 'Development' then gives more in-depth ideas that students can work towards as they develop their reading comprehension skills.

For a list of the reading skills used, please email schools@firstnews.co.uk.

 **Consider all the articles****1. Match the number to the headline of the article in which it is found:**

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC2a)

Expected response:

**2a. What links these five articles?**

READING SKILL – Make comparisons between texts (NC 1e & 1f)

Expected response:

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The events all took place on the same continent

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The stories are all sporting achievements

☐

Unusually, the same person features in all the stories

2b. Explain how this link makes these articles surprising and newsworthy.

READING SKILL – Make comparisons between texts (NC 1e & 1f)

Starting point

- All the stories contain bigger than expected numbers.

Developed answer

- For example, the new toilet cost £17.3 million pounds and the rare book sold for £22,000. This far exceeds the amount a usual toilet and book would cost.

 **Look at the article: 'Rare book sale'****3. Complete the fact file about the rare book in the article:**

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC2a)

Title of the book:	Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy
Author:	Sir Isaac Newton
What is the book about?	Laws of motion and how gravity works
How much did the book sell for?	£22,000
How old is the book?	300 years old

4a. What is so special about this book?

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence from text (NC 2c & 8)

– Infer information based on own knowledge (non-text based inference) (NC 6, 7 & 8)

Expected response:

- It is written by Sir Issac Newton, a very famous and significant scientist.
- This copy of one his books is more than 300 years old.

4b. Where do you think an important book like this belongs? Explain why.

READING SKILL – Develop personal ideas from reading news stories (NC 6, 7 & 8)

Starting point

- Maybe with the author's family/living relatives, a library, a museum or a university.

Development – a reason, such as:

- Somewhere very safe where it will be protected and looked after, but also where people could see it, such as a museum, as it is an important part of history.

■ Look at the article: 'Potty training'

5. List the improvements made for the International Space Station's new toilet.

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC2a)

Expected response:

- Better suited to women.
- Tilted seat.
- Taller.
- Better position to poo.

6. The toilet has cost £17.3 million. Why do you think it has cost so much money?

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence from text (NC 2c & 8)

– Infer information based on own knowledge (non-text based inference) (NC 6, 7 & 8)

Starting point

- It is a unique toilet especially designed for the ISS and it is made of titanium.

Development

- Lots of engineers will have been involved in improving the ISS toilet design to make specific improvements, such as working better for women and making it a better pooing position to avoid accidents. Project manager, Melissa McKinley, tells us that accidents are a big deal to clear up on the ISS.
- The project team will have wanted to perfect the design by trying and testing it before they sent the actual new toilet to be fitted in the ISS, which will be an expensive process.

■ Look at the article: 'Cursed Canadian'

7. Find the dates.

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC2a)

Expected response:

- The year Pompeii was destroyed when Mount Vesuvius erupted. **AD79**
- The year the tourist stole the artefacts from Pompeii. **2005**
- The year the tourist returned the artefacts to Italy. **2020**

8. Find the six-letter word the journalist uses that also means 'artefacts'.

READING SKILL – Understand vocabulary in context (NC2a)

Expected response:

- Relics.

■ Look at the article: 'Sizeable snake'

9. Why are people paid to catch pythons in Florida?

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence from text (NC 2c & 8)

– Infer information based on own knowledge (non-text based inference) (NC 6, 7 & 8)

Starting point

- To help native wildlife.

Development

- Burmese pythons are not a native species in Florida. They must have been introduced to the area at some point in the past. The pythons are doing very well in the wild, so people are paid to catch them and remove them so they don't cause problems for the local, native wildlife.

■ Look at the article: 'Looooongest legs'

10a. The article states that Maci Currin (the teenager who holds the world record for the woman with the longest legs) thinks that people who have unusual physical qualities should “embrace it, don’t hide it”.

What do you think this means?

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence from text (NC 2c & 8)

Starting point

- You should be proud of your body and not ashamed of it, whatever it is like.

Development

- Differences should be celebrated.

10b. Do you agree with Maci? Explain your ideas.

READING SKILL – Develop opinions and provide justification of viewpoints (NC 6, 7 & 8)

Pupils own responses, such as...

- I completely agree with Maci and think she is really inspiring.