



FirstNews Four News Stories

14th - 20th Sept 2012 Issue 327

Resource Explanation

These four news stories are from this week's issue of *First News* but told in a simpler form with additional images to support children's understanding of each story and with further explanations where necessary. They are written for pupils working from Level 1a to 2a.

This week's four stories

This week's simplified stories are:

- We fixed the space station with a toothbrush!
- Red river mystery
- Soggy summer is bad for butterflies
- Marvellous Murray



Science, Page 13



Headlines, Page 2



Headlines, Page 2



Sport News, Page 39

Linked activities

- **Four stories:** questions: A set of discussion questions on each of these four stories to facilitate children's understanding of each article.
- **Four stories:** key facts: Identify which piece of key information the fact given is about - who, when, where, what or why? A set of facts is provided for each of these stories.
- **News puzzle:** a crossword or wordsearch activity with key words from these stories
- **Look Closer:** For more able pupils use this in-depth comprehension for children working at reading levels 3 to 5. This week this activity provides a set of questions about the Headline story *Red river mystery*.



SCIENCE

We fixed the space station with a toothbrush!

TWO astronauts had to use some unusual tools to fix the International Space Station last week.

The International Space Station is a large satellite which flies around the Earth up in space. It is so big that six astronauts can sleep in it! Lots of countries worked together to build it and they use it to learn about living and working in space.

Last week, a part of the space station which helps give it power needed replacing. This meant two astronauts had to go outside the



The International Space Station

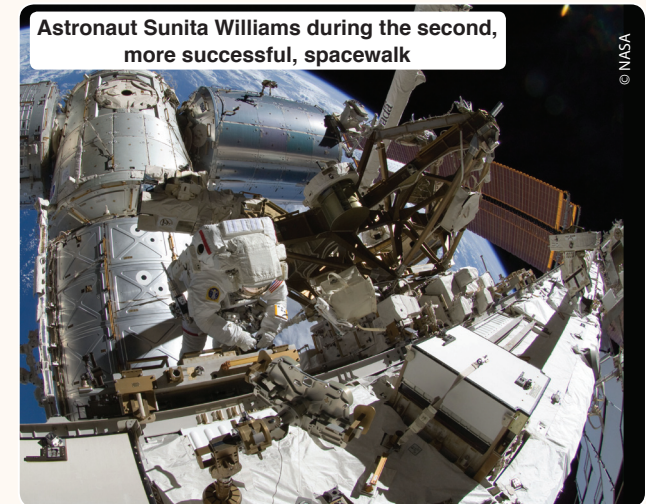
satellite on a 'spacewalk' to fix it. During an amazing eight-hour spacewalk, the astronauts tried hard to

fix the part, but a bolt was stuck and they couldn't do it. They went back inside and spoke to people on Earth to try to think what to do.

As they were up in space, the only things they could use to fix the problem were the things that were already on board. What could they use?

Someone came up with an idea to make a tool using a toothbrush. This was to oil the hole where the bolt goes. They also made a long thin brush using bits of wire to clear out tiny bits of metal.

The two astronauts had to go on another six-hour spacewalk and used their new tools to fix the bolt and replace the broken part.



Astronaut Sunita Williams during the second, more successful, spacewalk

© NASA

After the space station was mended, the controllers on Earth said that the astronauts were due "a slice of awesome pie".



The two astronauts who mended the space station





HEADLINES

Red river mystery

A RIVER in China has surprised local people – it has turned bright red!

No one knows why the Yangtze river in China has suddenly turned a bright red colour. But it isn't the first time this has happened. Last December, the water in another Chinese river turned red because it had been polluted with a strong dye. A dye is used to colour things, like clothes, when they are being made.

People are now trying to find out why the Yangtze river has changed colour. It might be that the colour comes from mud or clay that has been washed in from floods.

Some people who live near the river were so amazed that they have been collecting the strange red water in bottles.

HELP BOX

How do I say Yangtze?
"yang-see"



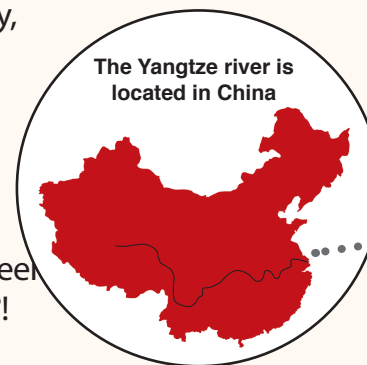
The Yangtze river runs red!



How the river normally looks

the third longest river in the world. Funnily, the second longest river in China is called the Yellow river! This river is yellow all the time and has this name because tiny bits of soil in the water make it look yellow.

Perhaps Chinese rivers are turning the colours of the rainbow? Could pink and green be next... or orange and purple and blue?!



The Yangtze river is located in China





HEADLINES

Soggy summer is bad for butterflies

THIS year's Big Butterfly Count shows that the bad weather has had a big impact on butterfly numbers.

In the summer, people all around the UK took part in the Big Butterfly Count. They had to count how many butterflies they could see in 15 minutes.

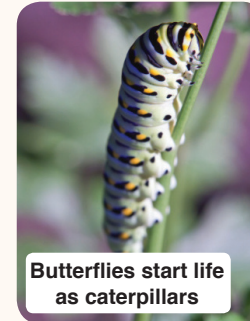
The results of this survey are now in and they show that this year's bad weather has not been good for lots of butterflies.

21 kinds of butterfly were looked at closely.

For 15 of these, fewer butterflies were spotted this year compared to last year:



Red Admiral butterfly



Butterflies start life as caterpillars

- Only half as many Common Blue butterflies were spotted.
- Only a quarter of Red Admirals were spotted.

People think the bad weather is to blame. There was record-breaking rainfall in April and the summer was the wettest it's been for 100 years. Caterpillars found it harder to survive and grow up into butterflies. It also made it difficult for adult butterflies to lay eggs.

But, it wasn't all bad news. Butterflies that feed on grass, like the Meadow Brown, did well this year. The heavy rain meant that grass grew faster than usual. The Marbled White and the Six-spot Burnet moth also had a better year.



Common Blue butterfly



Marbled White butterfly



Six-spot Burnet moth



Meadow Brown butterfly





SPORT NEWS

Marvellous Murray

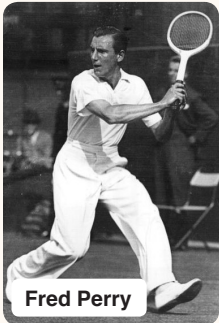
AFTER an amazing five-set match, Andy Murray has beaten Novak Djokovic to win the U.S. Open tennis competition.

Andy Murray finally got to put his hands on (and kiss!) one of the biggest trophies in tennis this week.

There are four big tennis competitions which are called the 'grand slam' trophies.

Andy Murray, the Scottish tennis star, has been in four grand slam finals before now, but had lost every one of them. Murray's victory at the U.S. Open is the first time that he has ever won a grand slam competition. This win comes just weeks after winning the gold medal at the Olympics.

The last British man to win a grand slam was Fred Perry, 76 years ago. UK tennis fans have waited a long time for another champion.



Fred Perry

Many people watching Murray's match were worried that he had lost this competition too. He was in the lead for a long time but let Djokovic come back so that they had two sets each.

In tennis, if players win two sets each, they have to play a fifth set to decide who wins. Murray



Andy kisses his grand slam trophy

managed to win the fifth set and won the competition.

"It is what I have been working towards for the last ten years of my life," Murray said. "It means the world to me."



Andy won gold in the men's singles tournament at the London 2012 Olympics



Andy during the US Open final