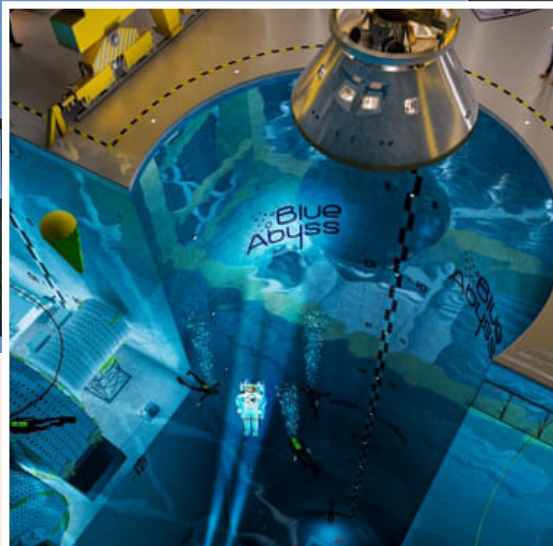
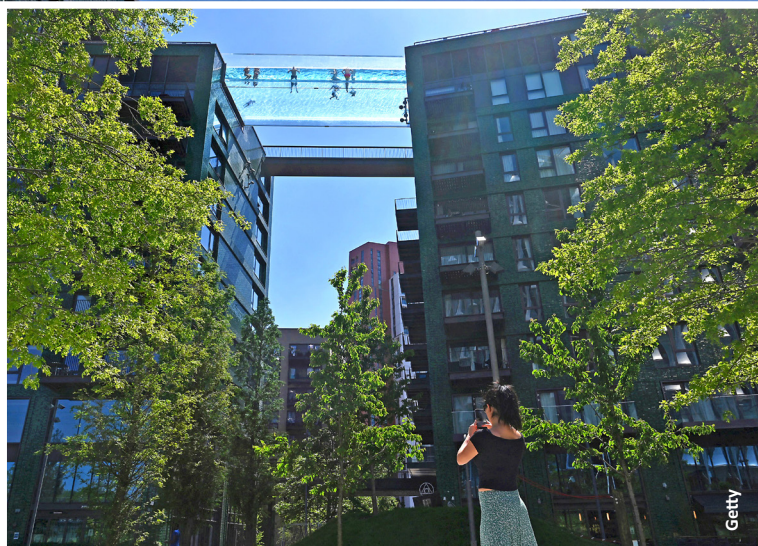


CRAZY BUT TRUE



MAKING A SPLASH!



THE world's first 'floating sky pool' has opened in south London.

The transparent pool is suspended 35 metres above the ground and stretches between two blocks of flats.

Daredevil swimmers can take a plunge while being able to see all the activity happening in the street below. People on the street can look up and watch them swim! Sadly, the pool is only open to people who live in the two blocks.

In other pool news, plans have been announced to build the world's largest, deepest pool in Cornwall.

The pool would be big enough to fill 17 Olympic-size swimming pools and includes a narrow shaft that plunges to a depth of 50 metres.

It would be used to train astronauts, test marine vehicles and stage underwater film scenes.

A company called Blue Abyss has asked for permission to build the pool at a cost of around £150 million.

Questions on: 'Making a splash'

1) Where in the UK are these two pools found (or planned)?

2) What does the word 'transparent' tell you about the first pool?

3) What measures 35 metres?

- ☐ The distance between the ground and the pool
- ☐ The length of the pool
- ☐ The height of the diving board

4) What does the writer think is 'sad'?

Look at the information about the pool planned for Cornwall.

5) Find **a fact** that tells you how big this pool is.

Find a **description** that tells you this is a very big pool.

6) What will this pool be used for? Find **three** activities that might take place in the pool.

7) Which words describe **both** pools accurately?

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> impressive | <input type="checkbox"/> unusual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> transparent | <input type="checkbox"/> deep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> record-breaking | <input type="checkbox"/> public |

8) Why do you think the pool needs a long, deep shaft?
Why might the pool be a good place to train astronauts?

ANIMAL NEWS

**Harry Potter fans, scientists have made a sweet new discovery: a real-life 'chocolate frog'!**

The unusual frog was spotted for the first time back in 2016, in the rainforests of New Guinea ("ginee"). It's been given its fun nickname because of its light cocoa-coloured skin.

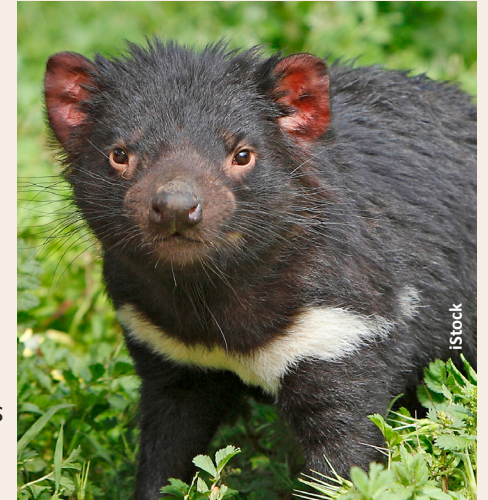
Scientists have now discovered that the chocolate frog is actually related to the Australian green tree frog. They think that millions of years ago the two frogs belonged in the same family, but became different when Australia and New Guinea were separated by water.

LITTLE DEVILS ARE BACK IN OZ

Tasmanian devils have been born in the wild on Australia's mainland for the first time in thousands of years.

The animals are making a comeback after they were wiped out by dingoes (similar to a dog), 3,000 years ago. Twenty-six Tasmanian devils were released into an animal sanctuary in October last year. This spring they welcomed seven babies, called joeys.

Tasmanian devils are marsupials (the same family as kangaroos and koalas) and are famous for making snarls, shrieks and screams as they hunt at night!

**LOST PROPERTY!**

A monkey was found at a railway station near Glasgow, last week.

Staff found the marmoset monkey enjoying a tin of fruit on the platform.

Megan from ScotRail tweeted: "I've dealt with lost phones, handbags and glasses over the years but this is definitely a first."

Thankfully the runaway monkey has now been reunited with its owner.

Questions on: 'Animal news'

1) Match the animal to the correct country.

Tasmanian devil

SCOTLAND

Chocolate frog

AUSTRALIA

Marmoset monkey

NEW GUINEA

2) Why is the monkey the odd one out from this list?

Look at the story 'Little devils are back in Oz'.

3) What caused Tasmanian devils to become extinct on the Australian mainland?

4) Find three animals mentioned in the report that are all **marsupials**.

5) Why do you think these animals are called 'devils'?

Look at the story 'Real-life chocolate frog!'

6) What have scientists recently discovered?

- ☐ A new type of brown frog lives in New Guinea
- ☐ Chocolate frogs are related to Australian green frogs
- ☐ Australian green frogs once lived in New Guinea

7) What caused the two frogs to become so different?

Consider all the news.

8) Which animal would you like to know more about? If you were a news reporter, who would you ask to find out more information?

BIG NEWS

SQUID AND WORMS SENT TO SPACE



LAST Thursday, NASA sent thousands of tiny worms and more than 100 baby squid into space.

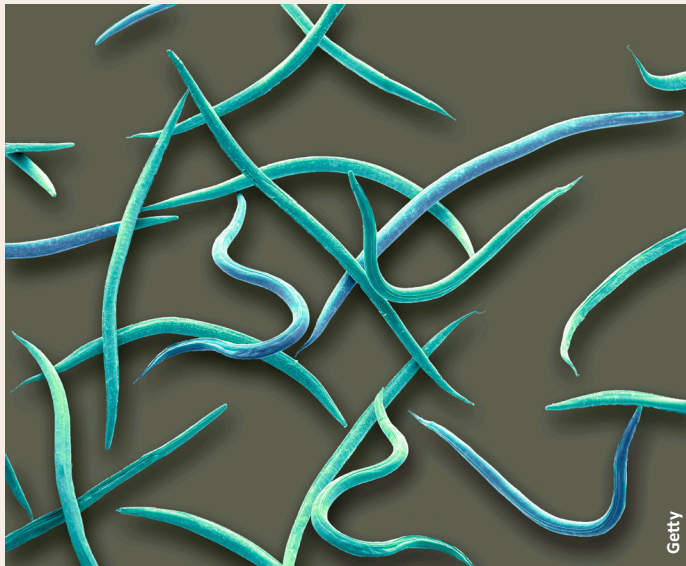
The tiny creatures blasted off from Florida on a rocket made by the company SpaceX. Their destination is the International Space Station.

Despite being such tiny and very different creatures, in some ways both animals are similar to humans.

The worms, which are just one millimetre long, have been sent into space by two British universities for scientific research. Like us, they start to lose their muscle when in space. This is because, without gravity, muscles don't have to work very hard in space and they begin to waste away. Scientists will study the worms closely to try to find out more about how this happens.

The baby bobtail squid have bacteria that lives in them and helps the squid to glow. Humans also have friendly bacteria that live in our gut and help us to digest our food. Scientists will be watching the squid and their friendly bacteria closely, to see if the relationship between the two is affected by space.

It's hoped that the research may help us to learn how we can keep humans healthy on long-term missions into deep space.



Getty



Getty

A baby bobtail squid

Questions on: 'Squid and worms sent to space'

1) Which two types of creature were blasted into space last week?

2) Look at the information of the rocket launch.
Match the question to the correct answer.

When was it?

Florida, USA

Where was it?

International Space Station

Whose rocket was it?

Last Thursday

Where is it going to?

SpaceX

3) Why are the tiny worms a bit like us?
Why are squid a bit like us?

4) Who is doing the research into worms in space?

5) Can you explain why astronauts lose muscle when they are in space?

6) How do bacteria help the squid?

7) Why do you think the bacteria are described as 'friendly'?

8) Which paragraph explains the **aim** of the research?
Can you explain what it is?

SUMMER OF SPORT

SUMMER is here and several huge sporting tournaments that had to be postponed because of the coronavirus are ON! Here are some of the highlights.

EURO 2020



One year later than planned, Europe's biggest football competition kicks off on 11th June. For the first time in its history, matches will be held across 11 European cities. England, Scotland and Wales are all playing. The final takes place on 11th July at Wembley Stadium.

Where you can watch: Matches will be shown live on the BBC and ITV.

THE OLYMPICS



Still called 'Tokyo 2020', The Olympic Games in Japan should finally be going ahead in 2021. We say 'should' because Japan suffered from a high number of coronavirus cases in May. The world's top athletes will show off their skills in 33 sports. Skateboarding, karate and surfing are included for the very first time. The Olympics runs from 23rd July until 8th August and is followed by the Paralympic Games which begins on 24th August.

Where you can watch: The BBC and Eurosport will be covering the Olympics, Channel 4 will be showing the Paralympics.

TOUR DE FRANCE



The world's top cycling race returns on 26th June. The UK's Geraint Thomas will be hoping to repeat his stunning 2018 victory. The gruelling race ends in Paris on 18th July.

Where you can watch: The Tour will be live on ITV4 and Eurosport.

WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS



Wimbledon was cancelled last year for the first time since World War Two, but our top tennis competition is back! Former champion Andy Murray will be aiming for success after battling injury for the past few years. The tournament runs from 28th June – 11th July.

Where you can watch: Matches will be on BBC TV and the iPlayer.

COPA AMÉRICA



Euro 2020 isn't this summer's only top football tournament taking place. The Copa América runs from 13th June – 10th July in Brazil. Ten teams from South America will go for glory. Watch out for international stars Messi, Agüero and Neymar, to name but a few!

Where you can watch: All matches will be live on the BBC iPlayer and the BBC Sport website and app.

THE HUNDRED



A new competition called The Hundred aims to bowl over cricket fans this summer. Each team gets to play just 100 balls, making it a fast and furious version of cricket! Enjoy it from 21st July – 21st August.

Where you can watch: All games will be shown on Sky Sports, with some matches also on the BBC.

Questions on: 'Summer of sport'

1) Fill in the sports.

The tournament	The sport
Euro 2020	
The Hundred	
Wimbledon	
Tour de France	

2) Where is the Euro 2020 final going to be held?

3) Which **three** sports are in the Olympics for the first time this year?

4) Look at the information about The Hundred. Which two **adjectives** have been used to **describe** this version of cricket?

5) In which order do these events start? You will have to look closely at the dates!

- ☐ Euro 2020
- ☐ The Olympics
- ☐ Wimbledon
- ☐ Copa América

6) Look at the information about the Tour de France. What do you think the word *gruelling* might mean?

- ☐ international
- ☐ extremely delayed
- ☐ very challenging
- ☐ requiring lots of high-energy food, like porridge

7) The information for each tournament is structured in the same way. How does each one end?

- ☐ With the dates of the competition
- ☐ With information on where you can watch it
- ☐ With the names of the UK's competitors

8) Which of these competitions are you most likely to watch? Why does this one appeal the most?