WORLD NEWS

MADE TO SMILE

Workers at an office in Beijing, the capital of China, have to smile to get inside!

Cameras by the door have been programmed to recognise smiling faces. Workers have to smile into the cameras in order for the front doors to open. They also have to show their happy face if they want to print documents or book a meeting room.

The company says the forced smiling creates "a positive and lively atmosphere". It added, "People are just too shy to smile, but once they get used to smiles in the office,

they just keep their smiles without the system."



PERU

Reweaving a 500-year-old bridge

A 500-year-old rope bridge in Peru has been mended using entirely traditional techniques.

The Q'eswachaka hanging bridge connects communities across the Apurimac River. The rope bridge has been used by local people for hundreds of years, but during the coronavirus pandemic it wasn't maintained and began to fall apart.

Now, workers have woven the bridge back into shape. They had to balance on large ropes stretched over the river. The local governor has said the mended bridge shows "we are coming out of this [pandemic], little by little".



BALLOONING SPIDERS



FLOODS in Australia have caused spiders to create vast webs over the landscape.

People – and spiders – have been fleeing to higher ground in the state of Victoria, due to recent heavy rains.

The spiders make their escape by climbing up to the top of bushes and throwing out streams of spider silk. It is called "ballooning". The wind catches the threads and lifts the spiders to safety.

In their millions, the threads combine to create a fine layer of silk over the plants that is both delicate and beautiful. A truly natural work of art.

Questions on: 'World news'

1) Match the topic in the news to the correct country.

Office workers

PERU

Spiders

CHINA

An ancient bridge

AUSTRALIA

Look at the news from Peru.

2) What **verb** has been used in the story to explain how the bridge has been mended?

weaving

plaiting

sewing

stringing

3) Can you explain why this bridge is important to the local people? Think of two reasons.

Look at the news from Australia.

4) Match the word used in the story to a word with a similar meaning (a synonym).

vast escaping

fleeing strands

delicate huge

threads fragile

5) How have these huge sheets of silk been created? Explain step by step.

Look at the news from China.

- 6) Workers in this office have to smile at a camera if they want to do three things. What are they?
- 7) The company thinks that making people smile will create a happy atmosphere and make people smile more. Do you think this will work? Explain your opinion.

Consider all the news.

8) Which photograph is the **least** useful? Explain why.

BIG NEWS

BIRDS PLANT TREES!



A study has found that jays and thrushes have helped to plant more than half the trees in two new woodlands.

Experts studied what happened to two fields next to a nature reserve in Cambridgeshire. One field had been used to grow barley, but has been left untouched since 1961. The other was a grass field that was left to 'rewild' in 1996.

After 24 years, the grass field has grown into a young woodland, with 132 trees per hectare. After 59 years, the barley field has grown into a mature woodland, with 390 trees per hectare. More than half the trees in both woods are oaks.

The woods were able to grow so quickly thanks to the work of thrushes, who eat berries, and jays, who bury acorns!

The thrushes spread the seeds of shrubs, like brambles and hawthorn — they eat the blackberries and the seeds pass out the other end! This 'scrub' of low brambles and bushes was an important first step in the creation of the woodlands.

The spiky bushes protected the new-born oaks that grew from the forgotten acorns buried by the jays, and prevented them from being eaten by deer and other grazers. The seedlings were able to grow into young trees.



In fact, jays — with a bit of help from grey squirrels — are thought to have planted half of the oak trees in the two new woods.

The scientist who led the study said: "The jays and the thrushes basically engineered these new woodlands."

The study shows the benefit of creating woodland the natural way: it doesn't require diggers, saplings to be bought, or the use of plastic tree guards.

Questions on: 'Birds plant trees!'

1) What happened to the two fields in 1961 and 1996?

They were sold to a nature reserve.

They were left untouched by humans.

They were planted with seeds and acorns.

2) Complete the details about the barley field. Choose from:

Half

59

oak

mature

390

The barley field was left for _____ years. It is now

a _____ woodland, with ____ trees per hectare.

____ of the trees there are ____ trees.

- 3a) Which bird helped to plant the trees?
- 3b) Which bird helped to protect the trees?

4) Is it correct to say the jays **planted** the trees? Use your own knowledge to explain what the birds were really doing.

- 5) What is scrub?
- 6) Why is the scrub such an important step in the growth of a woodland?
- 7) The UK Government aims to plant millions of trees every year. Can you find **three** benefits of growing woodland this natural way?
- 8) This way of making woodland only works if the land is close to existing woods and wild areas. Why is this important?

FRONT PAGE



Footballers have been taking a stand against the unhealthy drinks being promoted during the Euro 2020 championship.

Cristiano Ronaldo — captain of Portugal and one of the world's most famous footballers – made the first move when he pushed away two bottles of Coke while he was talking after a match. The bottles had been carefully placed so that they would appear in front of him while he spoke to the TV cameras.

He then held up a bottle of water, and said "aqua" (Portuguese for water). Ronaldo is famed for looking after his health.

The next day, France star Paul Pogba moved a bottle of beer away while he was being interviewed. Pogba is a Muslim and, for religious reasons, doesn't drink alcohol. (The beer didn't contain alcohol, but that wasn't obvious.)

An Italian footballer also replaced the Coke bottle on his table with water.

UEFA, who run the tournament, were upset by the players' actions. They warned that teams could be fined if their players moved drinks provided by the sponsors.

Some of the world's biggest companies — such as Coca-Cola and Adidas — have spent millions of pounds to have their products shown during Euro 2020.

It's a tricky problem to solve, as some players don't want to promote unhealthy foods, but this cash helps to fund the sport. Not only does it help to pay for the sporting event, some of it is used to pay for local sport activities, which you might take part in. Adverts for unhealthy food and drinks are banned in the UK during children's TV programmes. So, should it be allowed during major sporting events, when many children will be watching?

Questions on: 'Booted out!'

1) Footballers from which **three countries** have moved drinks while being interviewed?

FRANCE

ENGLAND

GERMANY

ITALY

SPAIN

PORTUGAL

2) Look at the first paragraph.

Find **two** descriptions that explain who Cristiano Ronaldo is, if you don't know.

- 3) What does Ronaldo think that people should drink? Find the word in English and Portuguese!
- 4) Why wouldn't Paul Pogba want to have a bottle of beer advertised in front of him?

- 5) Why have the footballers upset UEFA, who manage the competition?
- **6)** Coca-Cola have **sponsored** the competition.
- What has it given?
- What does it get in return?
- 7) People have different opinions about having sponsors in sport. Why are sponsors important to sport? Why do they sometimes cause a problem?
- 8) Look at the last paragraph.

What do you think?

Is it OK for the makers of unhealthy food to sponsor big sport competitions?

UK NEWS



CUMBRIA

Runner breaks peak record

A runner has broken a new record by running 325 miles between all 214 peaks in the Lake District in less than six days!

The course includes England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike.

Sabrina Verjee managed to complete the impressive challenge in five days, 23 hours and 49 minutes.

Sabrina said she only stopped for food, repairs and rest. She hopes that her feat will have inspired others, especially girls and women.

PORTSMOUTH

Fancy travelling on a flying ferry?

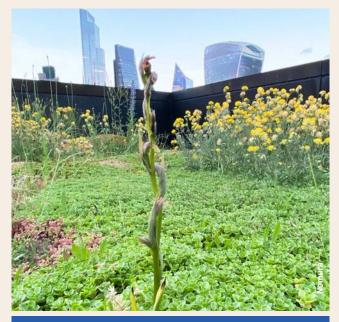
Flying ferries could soon be taking people from Portsmouth to France.

Brittany Ferries is looking at introducing electric seagliders — part ship, part plane!

The ships start off on the water, then ride slightly above it for most of the journey, speeding along on a cushion of air. They are being developed in America and should be ready by 2028.

Being six times faster than normal ferries, they would cross the English Channel in just 40 minutes!





LONDON

Orchid found on London rooftop

An orchid believed to be extinct in the UK has been discovered on the top of a bank in London!

The small-flowered tongue orchid is growing in a roof garden, on the 11th floor. Fifteen of the rare plants have been spotted on the rooftop. It was last seen in Cornwall in 2009.

It's not known exactly how the orchid ended up in the garden, but Mark Patterson, who manages the garden, says seeds could have been carried by the wind from abroad.

Questions on: 'UK news'

Look at the news from Portsmouth.

1) Complete the fact file about this new vehicle.

Company:	
Type of vehicle:	
Power:	
Journey:	
Number of years until launch:	

2) Would you describe a seaglider as a ship or a plane?

Look at the news from London.

3) Which orchid has been recently discovered?

early purple orchid
bee orchid
small-flowered tongue orchid

4) Where has the flower been discovered?

In a roof garden, on top of a bank
In a wild flower garden in a park
In a roof garden in Cornwall

5) Can you think of **two** reasons why this is such a surprising discovery?

Look at the news from Cumbria.

- 6) What is Scafell Pike and where is it found?
- 7) Find the numbers about Sabrina's incredible running feat.

She ran ____ miles.

She climbed ____ peaks.

She took less than ___ days.

Consider all the news.

8) Which story do you think could be made into an interesting TV programme? What would you want to learn about in the programme?