

ANIMAL NEWS



Vets are warning that warm weather in the UK has led to an increase of blue-green algae ("al-gee") in ponds and lakes, which can be dangerous for dogs.

It is actually caused by a bacteria, not algae (which is a type of plant). The bacteria grows quickly in warm, sunny weather. It looks like a greenish-brown sludge on the surface of the water.

If the infected water is drunk by a dog, accidentally swallowed while swimming or even just licked off a dog's coat after paddling, it can cause serious illness and even death.

Pet owners have been advised to watch out for warning notices and keep dogs on a lead near water.

KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR SNAKE NESTS!



THIS month, the UK's largest snake will be looking for places to build a nest and lay its eggs.

Grass snakes can be found throughout the UK. They are our only snake that lays eggs instead of giving birth to live young.

Wildlife charity Froglife is asking gardeners to look out for eggs that may be hidden in compost heaps and piles of rotting vegetation when they tidy their gardens.

TYRANNOSAURS USED TO LIVE IN THE ARCTIC



New research has found that the famous dinos may have lived and laid their eggs in the cold Arctic region all year round.

It was previously thought that the creatures moved to warmer parts of the world in winter.

A team of scientists studied teeth and bone fossils found in northern Alaska. It is the furthest north that dinosaur fossils have ever been found.

The surprising discovery is making scientists wonder if dinosaurs were in fact warm-blooded!

Questions on: 'Animal news'

1) What is included in Animal News this week?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a funny pet story | <input type="checkbox"/> a warning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> scientific research | <input type="checkbox"/> a poorly animal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> information from a zoo | <input type="checkbox"/> something to watch out for |

Look at the story 'Water warning'.

2) What is blue-green algae?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a bacteria | <input type="checkbox"/> a plant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a virus | <input type="checkbox"/> pollution |

3) How is the algae **described** by the writer? Find the words.

4) Who is giving advice to dog owners and what is the advice?

Who: _____

The advice: _____

Look at the story about grass snakes.

5) In which part of the garden are you most likely to find a grass snake nest (if you are incredibly lucky)?

6) Find three facts that you could put in a fact file about grass snakes.

Look at the story about dinosaurs.

7) Fossils from which **group** of dinosaurs have been discovered in the Arctic?

8) This research has caused scientist to update what they know about dinosaurs.

What **new knowledge** has come from the research?

What **question** is now being asked because of the research?

BIG INTERVIEW



“I WAS QUITE
CHEEKY
TO TEACHERS!”

THIS week we caught up with the best-selling author David Walliams to talk about his brilliant new book *Megamonster*.

● **What can you tell us about your new book? Is it scary?**

My son, who's eight, came up with the title! He kept on saying: “Wouldn't it be great if there was a monster called a Megamonster that was made up of lots of different monsters?” And I thought it was a really good idea.

I had this other idea about a girl hero who was fighting an evil teacher using homemade gadgets and I thought maybe these two ideas could go together.

So it's about a girl called Larker who is sent to the Cruel School, where badly behaved children are sent by teachers. There's no way of getting out, it's on a volcanic island surrounded by sharks and if you get sent there you are there for life! Larker discovers the students are being turned into monsters and she has to fight back using her wits.

It's meant to be exciting... maybe a little scary in parts, but ultimately I wanted it to be funny, too.

● **Was it a lot of fun writing about a school that isn't set in reality?**

It is fun to do that! It took longer because everything has to be different. I didn't want a bell to ring for the end of a lesson, that's too ordinary, so there is this

albatross that is chained to the roof and it squawks every time it's the end of the lesson – things like that.

● **Reading for pleasure can be really hard for some people!**

Some kids don't like reading very much and when I go around schools I always ask: “Who thinks books are boring?” And there are always hands up! So I think: ‘Right, I'm gonna get you to read! I'm gonna write a book that won't feel like work. It will just feel like fun.’

So I try to make it as fun as playing a computer game, watching a movie, playing a game of football, whatever those kids prefer to do.

● **Naughty children feature a lot in your books. Were you naughty at school?**

I think Larker in this book is a hero, even though she's kind of cheeky. She's been in trouble at her previous school for being cheeky to the teachers, but she's basically a really good person. I was quite cheeky to the teachers because I liked making jokes! As a kid, you forget that teachers have feelings and are human beings as well.

● **What would a ten-year-old David Walliams have said if you had told him that he would grow up to be a best-selling author?**

I would have said: ‘Oh no, I don't really want to do that! I want to be a famous actor... a spy or a detective’, something like that!

Questions on: 'Big interview'

1) What is the title of David Walliams new book?
Who came up with the title?

2) Can you spot **three characters** you will find in the book?

3) Which words does David Walliams use to describe his book?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> spooky | <input type="checkbox"/> mysterious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> scary | <input type="checkbox"/> exciting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> funny | |

4) What do you know about the Cruel School? True or false?

True False

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | It's found on a volcanic island. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Naughty children are sent there. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The headteacher is turning into a monster. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | It is surrounded by wild seas. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Larker is the headteacher of the school. |

5) When children tell David Walliams they think books are boring, what is his **reaction**?

6) If a young David Walliams had been told he would be a famous writer one day, he would have felt...

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> thrilled | <input type="checkbox"/> disappointed | <input type="checkbox"/> amused | <input type="checkbox"/> angry |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|

Why would he have felt this way?

7) This interview has five sections.
In what **order** are the topics discussed?

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Naughty children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Kids that don't like reading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Writing about imaginary places |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | An imaginary question |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | The plot of his new book |

8) David Walliams has written lots of great books you may have come across, including *Gangsta Granny* and *The World's Worst Children*.

Can you come up with **three questions** you would like to ask him?

SCIENCE NEWS

PREHISTORIC SHARK ATTACK



A great white shark



The excavated grave of Tsukumo 24



Part of the leg bone showing teeth marks

J. Alyssa White, courtesy of the Laboratory of Physical Anthropology, Kyoto University

Don't forget, shark attacks are extremely rare. Humans kill about 100 million sharks every year.

The world's oldest known shark attack victim has been discovered in Japan.

The 3,000-year-old skeleton was discovered in a pre-historic burial ground. Scientists from across the world have been looking at bodies from the site to learn how hunter-gatherers died. One skeleton was particular puzzling. A hand and leg were missing and many of the bones were covered in sharp cuts.

To help them work out what had happened, they used a 3D model to map out the hundreds of injuries on the man's body. The scientists were able to rule out death from a fight with another human, because of the position and the number of injuries.

The curious cut marks on the bones were sharp-edged and curved. They looked a lot like bite marks from a shark, so the team called in experts at the Florida Museum of Natural History. They compared the marks to wounds from other shark attacks and were able to confirm the cuts were made by shark teeth. The experts were even able to say that the attacker was either a tiger shark or a great white shark!

The poor victim was a young or middle-aged man who may have been out fishing when he was attacked. He probably died in the water from his injuries, but his ancient friends recovered his body and laid him to rest in the Tsukumo burial ground.

Questions on: 'Prehistoric shark attack'

1) Find the key facts about this skeleton.

Location: _____

When it died: _____

Sex: _____

Age: _____

How it died: _____

2) Why did this skeleton **puzzle** the scientists?

3) What did the scientists do to solve the mystery?
Explain the steps taken.

4) What made the scientists decide the man hadn't died in a fight with another person?

5) Find three **adjectives** used to **describe** the cut marks on the bones.

6) What happened to the man after his death?

7) Look at the information in the orange box. Why do you think the journalist chose to add these two sentences?

8) What do you learn from this story about the people who lived in Japan 3,000 years ago?

UK NEWS

ISLE OF WIGHT

● **Marmalade champion**

A NINE-year-old schoolgirl from the Isle of Wight has scooped a world marmalade award. Flora Rider beat 3,000 other people from across the globe for her Seville orange and orange blossom spread. She is the youngest ever winner.

Flora's marmalade recipe will now go on sale and some of the money made will go to charity.

Marmalade is a jam made from oranges or other citrus fruits.

IPSWICH

● **Marvel lends *Black Panther* costumes**

Three costumes from the film *Black Panther* have been loaned to Ipswich Museum for a new exhibition. It's the first time Marvel has allowed the pieces to go on display in the UK.

The Power of Stories exhibition is all about different forms of storytelling involving the black community.

Visitors will get to see the costumes worn by the characters T'Challa – the Black Panther – Shuri and Okoye. Black actors played almost all the characters in the film.



COLCHESTER

● **Folding feat**

A British teenager spent nine-and-a-half hours making 1,000 origami cranes (a type of bird) to raise money for charity.

Evelyne Chia, 15, folded the birds non-stop, without even stopping to go to the loo! Not only did she smash the world record of 12 hours, she raised more than £2,000 for NHS Charities Together.

Evelyne said: "There is an ancient Japanese legend which says if you fold 1,000 [cranes] you can make a wish to the gods and it will come true."

Questions on: 'Home news'

1) Match the character in the news to the correct **headline**.

Evelyne Chia

'Marvel lends Black Panther costumes'

T'Challa

'Marmalade champion'

Flora Rider

'Folding feat'

Look at the news from the Isle of Wight.

2) Find two ingredients in Flora's marmalade.

3) Look at the first sentence. Which word could replace the word scooped?

☐ spooned

☐ win

☐ won

☐ ladle

Look at the news from Ipswich.

4) Find **two** facts about the film *Black Panther* from the news report.

5) Why are these costumes coming to the UK for the first time?

Look at the news from Colchester.

6) Has anyone ever made 1,000 origami cranes before?
How do you know?

7) What do you think Evelyne might have wished for, based on what you have read about her challenge?

Consider all the news.

8) All these stories are about different forms of **creativity**.
Would you like to learn how to create:

- origami
- marmalade
- great stories
- great costumes

Explain your choice!