SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS

Rise in YouTuber boxing sparks concerns

YouTubers and other online influencers taking part in boxing matches is a popular new trend, but experts are concerned about their safety. Internet stars with large numbers of fans, like KSI and Jake Paul, are stepping into the ring for fights that are making big money. But critics are worried about the risk of a serious injury. The head of the British Boxing Board of Control, Robert Smith, said: "I am concerned. I don't agree with influencer boxing, and the main reason is that the standards are very, very poor." Some influencers have already been suspended for breaking the rules and, although no-one has been seriously hurt yet, experts say it's a disaster waiting to happen.

Getty

YouTuber KSI has boxed multiple times

Cambodian National Police

YouTube star jailed for faking his own kidnapping

Chen Neng-chuan, a YouTuber from Taiwan known as Goodnight Chicken, has been sentenced to two years in prison in Cambodia for faking his own kidnapping. The online influencer posted a series of videos claiming he had been captured in Sihanoukville, a Cambodian city that has a reputation for kidnappings. One video showed him being 'beaten up' by security guards. In another, he claimed he'd escaped with injuries. However, some doubtful viewers wondered why any kidnappers would have allowed him to keep his filming equipment. An online influencer called Liu Yu heard that people were suspicious and worked out Chen's location from examining the footage. Police then found Chen and a friend in a hotel room, along with lots of props, such as masks. A spokesperson for the local government wasn't amused, saying that Chen had produced "fake content that affects the honour, order and security of the region".

Questions on: Social Media News

Look at both stories.

1. What do KSI, Jake Paul and Goodnight Chicken have in common?

- [ ] They all take part in boxing matches.
- [ ] They are all online influencers.
- [ ] They all faked their own kidnapping.

Look at the story 'Rise in YouTuber boxing sparks concerns'.

2. Why do you think online influencers are taking part in these boxing matches?

3a. Which of these sentences is false?

- [ ] Robert Smith is the head of the British Boxing Board of Control.
- [ ] Robert Smith is concerned about influencer boxing.
- [ ] Robert Smith says the standards in influencer boxing are high.

3b. Correct the sentence to make it true.

4. Experts say influencer boxing is 'a disaster waiting to happen'. What could happen?

Look at the story 'YouTube star jailed for faking his own kidnapping'.

5a. Why did Chen Neng-chuan choose Sihanoukville as the place to fake his kidnapping?
5b. Why weren't the local government amused by the footage he created?

6. Put the steps in the correct order.

- [ ] Liu Yu used the footage to work out Chen's location.
- [ ] Police found Chen and his friend in a hotel room.
- [ ] Viewers became suspicious because Chen still had filming equipment.
- [ ] Chen was sentenced to two years in prison.
- [ ] Chen Neng-chuan posted videos claiming he'd been kidnapped.

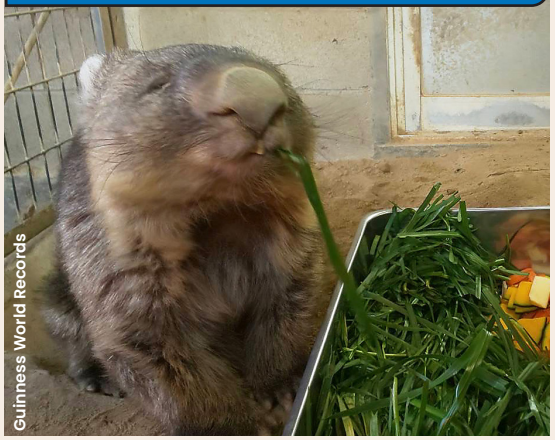
7a. Why do you think Chen Neng-chuan did this?
7b. Do you think his punishment was fair?
Explain why / why not.

Look at both stories.

8. Do you think these online influencers have gone too far in making their content? Explain your reasons.

ANIMAL NEWS

The world's oldest wombat is (at least) 34!


Guinness World Records

Wain, believed to be the world's oldest wombat in captivity, is still going strong at the age of at least 34! Wain was saved from his mother's pouch after a car accident in 1989, and he currently lives at Japan's Satsukiyama Zoo. The average lifespan of wombats in the wild is 5-15 years, and Wain has outlived his two daughters. Experts think he may even be 35 already, as the exact date of his birth is unknown. The zoo's director, Kozo Sejima, believes Wain's chilled lifestyle has contributed to his long life. He said: "He sleeps when he wants to sleep and eats when he wants to eat. He is a miraculous wombat."

Britain's muckiest pup

Dr Beckmann

Obi the mucky pup

Obi, a five-year-old golden retriever, has been crowned Britain's muckiest dog. The playful pooch, who loves splashing in puddles, has won the first ever Mucky Pet Award. Obi's owner, Susan, says: "He gets himself into a right state almost every time he leaves the house!" For his prize, Obi received a £250 voucher, a photoshoot, and cleaning products to help his owners mop up his mess.

Bearcat's great escape

A PALAWAN binturong (also known as a bearcat) who escaped from Dartmoor Zoo was found taking shelter in a woodshed.

The bearcat, called Malu, has now been safely returned to his home at the zoo.

A zoo manager said: "He was found to be calm and in good health" adding that Malu didn't seem to be injured, but the team would continue to monitor him. This wasn't Malu's first escape, although last time he was found inside the zoo grounds before he could get too far.

Questions on: Animal News

Look at all of the stories.

1a. Circle the name of the animal each quote is about.

"He sleeps when he wants to sleep."
Malu / Obi / Wain

"He was found to be calm and in good health."
Malu / Obi / Wain

"He gets himself into a right state almost every time he leaves the house."
Malu / Obi / Wain

1b. Who said each of these things?

2a. Add the name of the animal that's described by each of these adjectives.

- miraculous .....
- playful .....
- calm .....

2b. Think of another adjective to describe each animal.

Look at the story 'The world's oldest wombat is (at least) 34!'

3a. Which of these is not known for sure?

- ☐ Wain was rescued in 1989.
- ☐ Wain has outlived his daughters.
- ☐ Wain is 35 years old.

3b. Explain why this isn't known for sure.

4. What is thought to be the reason Wain has lived so long?

Look at the story 'Britain's muckiest pup'.

5. Find three facts about Obi.

6. Do you think Obi will enjoy his prizes? Explain why / why not.

Look at the story 'Bearcat's great escape'.

7. Where is Malu now?

- ☐ hiding in a woodshed
- ☐ at his home in the zoo
- ☐ somewhere in the zoo's grounds

8. What do you think Malu gets up to when he escapes from the zoo? Let your imagination go wild as you tell the story of the bearcat's adventure!

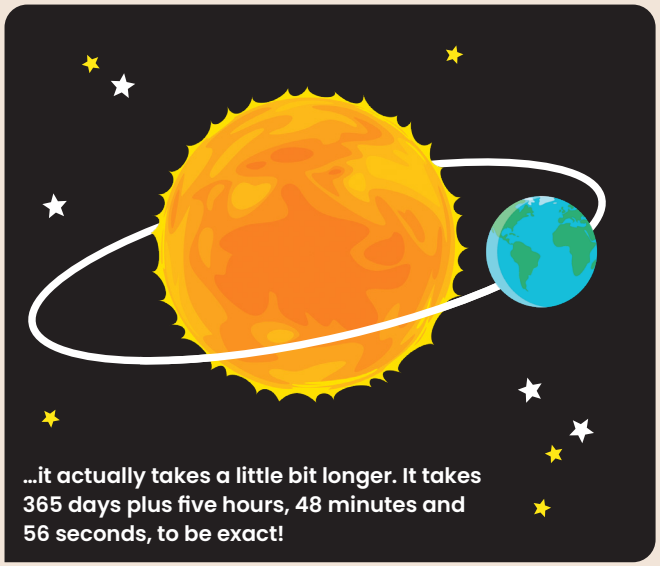
SCIENCE NEWS

ALL ABOUT 29 FEBRUARY

WE'RE approaching the rarest date in our calendar – a date that only occurs once every four years. This Thursday, it's 29 February! That's because 2024 is a leap year... but what's it all about?

What's a leap year?

Let's start with the basics. Normally, a year is 365 days long, because it takes 365 days for the Earth to orbit the sun. Except for one thing...



...it actually takes a little bit longer. It takes 365 days plus five hours, 48 minutes and 56 seconds, to be exact!

If we round that extra time up to six hours, it means that every four years, we've earned an additional 24 hours (because 6 x 4 = 24).

So, to reset ourselves, once every four years we add an extra 24 hours (or one day) to our calendar, making it 366 days long. These years are called leap years, and they keep us in sync with Earth's orbits around the sun.

If we didn't stay in sync, the seasons would drift and, eventually, Christmas in the UK would be in summer!

Why is it called a 'leap' year?

As a year is usually 52 weeks and one day long, if your birthday is on a Monday one year, it will be on a Tuesday the next. Adding a 'leap' day to a year changes things a little, though – suddenly, the year is 52 weeks and two days long. As 2024 is a leap year, if your birthday is after 29 February and it was on Monday last year, this year it will be on Wednesday. It 'leaps' forward a day! Get it?

Do other countries have leap years?

Yes – but we don't all have the same calendar.

Since 1752, Great Britain has tracked its years by the Gregorian calendar.

It's the most popular calendar in the world, and it was set up by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. Roman emperor Julius Caesar first introduced the idea of a leap day, but it was Pope Gregory XIII who decided that 29 February would be the date for it, as February is the shortest month.

The Chinese and Hindu calendars, though, feature leap months, rather than leap days, to stay in sync.

The Ethiopian calendar has 13 months. The thirteenth month has five days in a normal year and six days in a leap year. The Islamic and Hebrew calendars work differently too, but they also have leap years to keep them on track.

What if you're born on 29 February?

Say you were born on 29 February 2012. The only other leap days we've seen since then have been in 2016, 2020 and this year, in 2024.

You'd still be about to turn 12, though! Being born on a leap day doesn't change much, as you can celebrate on 1 March, instead. It just means that when 29 February does come around, your birthday is that extra bit special.

Questions on: Science News

1. What takes 365 days, five hours, 48 minutes and 56 seconds?

2. Explain why each of these sentences is false.

- There will be 365 days in the year 2024.
- February 29 happens every year.
- Because we have leap years, Christmas is sometimes in summer.

3a. What day of the week did your birthday fall on last year, and what day of the week will it fall on this year? (Check a calendar if you need to.)
3b. Does your birthday 'leap' forward by a day this year?

4a. Fill in the name of the calendars.

The ..... calendar has a leap day every four years.

The ..... and ..... calendars have leap months.

The ..... calendar has 13 months.

4b. Find the name of two other calendars that have leap years.

5a. Which of these things was Pope Gregory XIII not responsible for?

- ☐ Setting up the Gregorian calendar
- ☐ The idea of a leap day every four years
- ☐ The idea that 29 February is the extra day.

5b. Who was the person responsible for this?

6a. Why was February chosen as the month to have the extra day?
6b. Do you think February is a good choice, or would a different month be better?

7a. If you were born on 29 February 2016, how old would you be on 29 February this year?
7b. Do you know anyone whose birthday is 29 February?

8. Would you like to have your birthday on 29 February? (Or, if your birthday is that day, do you like it?) Explain your reasons.

TRAVEL NEWS

Yemen

Cruise ships forced to take the long way round

Luxury cruise ships are being forced to avoid the Suez Canal, a handy waterway that connects the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea. This is due to ongoing attacks on ships by the Houthis, a group that controls most of Yemen. The Suez Canal is an important route for trade and tourism. Cruise ships like Cunard's Queen Mary 2 and P&O Cruises' Arcadia have been forced to take a much longer route around Africa. It means that customers have to spend an extra week at sea, with fewer stops at places they'd paid to visit. Cunard said it was "committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing" of its guests and crew.

Red Sea attacks are having big impact on trade and tourism

Getty

Bali is a tourist hotspot

Indonesia

Bali starts charging tourists to visit

Holidaymakers who visit the island of Bali now have to pay a 'tourist tax'. Luckily for the tourists, while the 150,000 rupiah fee might sound a lot, it's not – it's roughly £7.50. Authorities say they've introduced the tax to protect Bali's environment. The Indonesian island is one of the world's most popular holiday destinations, with around five million people visiting last year to explore its tropical forests, mountains, beaches and temples. Most of Bali's tourists come from Australia, followed by India and China. Since last year, Bali has been cracking down on misbehaving tourists. It announced plans to ban tourists from renting motorbikes following several traffic offences by holidaymakers on the island. A Russian man was then deported (expelled) from the island for stripping naked on a sacred mountain.

Questions on: Travel News

Look at the story 'Yemen: Cruise ships forced to take the long way round'.

1. Find two facts about the Suez Canal.

2. Why are cruise ships avoiding the Suez Canal?

- [ ] because tourists wanted to see more of Africa
- [ ] because of attacks by a group called the Houthis
- [ ] because it is full of lots of trade ships

3a. In what ways have tourists been affected?
3b. If you were booked on one of these cruise ships, would you still go? Explain why / why not.

Look at the story 'Indonesia: Bali starts charging tourists to visit'.

4. Which of these sentences is false?

- [ ] Tourists now have to pay 150,000 rupiah to visit Bali.
- [ ] 150,000 rupiah equals around £7.50.
- [ ] 150,000 rupiah is a huge amount of money.

5a. Find four places tourists might like to visit in Bali.
5b. If you went to Bali, which of these places would you most like to visit?

6. Match up the two halves of each sentence.

The tourist tax has been introduced because...	...he stripped naked on a sacred mountain.
Tourists are banned from renting motorbikes because...	...authorities want to protect Bali's environment.
A Russian man was deported because....	...holidaymakers have committed several traffic offences.

7a. Do you think the tourist tax will put people off going to Bali on holiday?
7b. How might the tourist tax be used to help the environment?

Look at both stories.
8a. In what ways can tourism be a good thing and in what ways can it be a bad thing?
8b. Which places in the world would you most like to visit? Explain your reasons.