

CRAZY BUT TRUE

Bad week for Chinese beer

TSINGTAO (pronounced Chingdow) is one of the biggest beer brands in China, but its popularity has gone down the toilet lately.

That's since a video went viral of a man in one of its factories climbing one of the big tanks used to make the beer and weeing into it! The company quickly sealed off the spoiled batch and contacted the police. They say the man didn't work for them. Customers in other countries are still a bit put off, though, with restaurant owners in South Korea asking for refunds on their orders of Tsingtao, because diners are choosing other drinks with their meals.



Getty

Whales wear seaweed hats!

WHALES around the world have been seen throwing seaweed onto their heads and rolling around in it. This unusual behaviour is called 'kelping', and scientists have discovered that it serves many different purposes. The seaweed acts as a body scrub and, when the whales bite on it, it also becomes a makeshift toothbrush to clean those hard-to-reach areas of their mouths. The whales also just like the feeling of the seaweed on their heads, so they do it just for fun! Whales have also been captured on video sharing patches of seaweed with each other. Researcher Dr Olaf Meynecke, said: "It was clear that this kind of interaction with the seaweed was a positive one for the whales and that they shared the experience with others."



A whale with seaweed on its head

WA Western Whale Watch Australia

Questions on: Crazy But True

Look at both stories.

1) Circle the correct word in each sentence.

Whales love rolling around in **wee** / **seaweed**.

A video of a man **kelping** / **weeing** into a tank of beer.

Tsingtao sales went down because of the **wee** / **seaweed**.

Researchers filmed whales **kelping** / **weeing** together.

Look at the story 'Bad week for Chinese beer'.

2a) Think of an alternative to the phrase: 'its popularity has gone down the toilet'.

2b) Why has the journalist chosen to use this phrase?

3) After the video went viral, which two things did the company that makes Tsingtao do?

- ☐ Sealed off the spoiled batch of beer
- ☐ Started selling wine instead
- ☐ Contacted the police
- ☐ Arrested the man
- ☐ Drank all of the beer
- ☐ Gave everyone a refund

4) Why are restaurant owners in South Korea asking for refunds on their orders of Tsingtao?

Look at the story 'Whales wear seaweed hats'.

5) Find **three** reasons why whales may take part in 'kelping'.

6) What evidence is there to prove that whales share seaweed?

7) Which of these sentences sums up the quote from Dr Olaf Meynecke?

- ☐ Whales love kelping and fight over seaweed.
- ☐ Whales love kelping and they do it together.
- ☐ Whales love kelping and share seaweed with researchers.

8) What's the funniest thing you've seen an animal do, either in real life or in a video? Explain why it was so funny.

WORLD NEWS



JAPAN

Anger at fare-dodging YouTuber

A YouTuber called Fidas, who has 2.4 million subscribers, has apologised after releasing a video which shows him dodging train fares in Japan. The video, that was called *I Travelled Across Japan For Free*, showed him hiding in train toilets and pretending to be sick when a conductor asked to see his ticket. He also pretended to be a guest at a five-star hotel so he could walk away without paying for breakfast. Some angry viewers want Fidas to be arrested for his sneaky pranks, as they say he is making fun of stealing and disrespecting Japan, where trust and good manners are very important. The 27-year-old from Cyprus, who has now deleted the video, responded by saying: "I apologise to the Japanese people if we made them feel bad, that was not our goal!" One upset user commented: "I am really disgusted by people like you guys who take advantage of the kindness and politeness of the Japanese people."



USA

California hits the brakes on self-driving cars

Since June last year, self-driving taxis created by the car company Cruise have been buzzing passengers around the streets of San Francisco. Now, though, the state of California has suspended Cruise's driverless testing licence over safety fears. In August, a Cruise car crashed into an emergency vehicle, and in September, city officials say another one blocked an ambulance. In a separate incident, a pedestrian was knocked into the path of a Cruise car, which stopped on top of her – luckily, she survived. Cruise is also testing its taxis in other states, but they're only being allowed to go out on US roads with a human driver behind the wheel for now. Bosses at Cruise say: "The most important thing for us is to take steps to rebuild public trust."



A self-driving taxi

Questions on: World News

Look at both stories.

1a) Match up the quote to the person who said it.

"I apologise to the Japanese people"

"I am really disgusted by people like you guys"

"The most important thing for us is to take steps to rebuild public trust"

at car company, Cruise

Fidias

A YouTube user

1b) How are the people who said each of these things feeling?

Look at the story 'Anger at fare-dodging YouTuber'.

2) Which of these are ways that Fidias avoided paying for things?

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ releasing a video | ☐ pretending to be sick |
| ☐ hiding in train toilets | ☐ pretending to be a hotel guest |
| ☐ deleting a video | ☐ being arrested |

3) Find two reasons why viewers are angry about the pranks.

4) How do you feel about these pranks? Choose three **adjectives** that you'd use to describe them.

Look at the story 'California hits the brakes on self-driving cars'

5a) In the headline, choose a word or phrase that could replace 'hits the brakes.'

5b) Why has the journalist chosen to use this phrase?

6) Why have self-driving taxis been suspended in California?

7a) Fill in the missing nouns.

Cruise cars have crashed into an _____,
blocked an _____ and run over
a _____.

7b) How have these incidents changed the way self-driving taxis are being tested in other states?

8) Has reading this article changed your view of self-driving cars? Would you be happy to ride in a self-driving taxi? Explain your reasons.

SPORT NEWS

ALL BLACKS SEEING RED AND FEELING BLUE

SOUTH Africa have won a record fourth Rugby World Cup, as New Zealand's team, the All Blacks, became the first team to have a man sent off in the final.

Although New Zealand's Beauden Barrett became the first player to score a try in two Rugby World Cup finals, four penalties by Handre Pollard saw South Africa win the match 12–11. It means that South Africa's team, known as the Springboks, won all three of their matches in the knockout stage by a single point.

South Africa were already 9–3 ahead when New Zealand's captain Sam Cane was shown a red card for a high tackle in the 27th minute, so the odds were always against the All Blacks after that.

The Springboks have now won four of the eight tournaments that they've taken part in, and they've won all four finals that they've reached. They're the first team to win the title four times, ahead of New Zealand (who have won three times) and Australia (who have won two times). It seems hard to believe, but Barrett's try was the first that they've conceded in four finals!

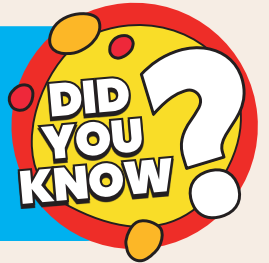
Although the whole South Africa team deserve some credit, Pieter-Steph du Toit was an absolute rock that New Zealand couldn't get past. He made 28 tackles, which is the most in any game in this tournament, and ten more than the previous best in a final.

South Africa's team captain Siya Kolisi said: "We have the privilege to be able to do what we love and inspire people in life, not just sportspeople. I couldn't even dream I could be here today."



One of du Toit's many tackles in the final takes Jordie Barrett down. Jordie's brothers Scott and Beauden were also playing, making them the first set of three siblings to play in a Rugby World Cup final

SOUTH Africa have managed to win four Rugby World Cup finals even though they've only scored two tries across those four games – both came in the 2019 final when they beat England 32–12.



Springboks captain Siya Kolisi lifts the trophy

Questions on: Sport News

1a) Looking at the headline, what do each of these phrases mean?

All Blacks

seeing red

feeling blue

1b) Why were the All Blacks 'seeing red' and 'feeling blue'?

2) Match up the beginning to the end of each sentence.

Beauden Barrett has scored...

...a red card.

Handre Pollard scored...

...a try in two Rugby World Cup finals.

The Springboks have won...

...four penalties in the final.

Sam Cane was shown...

...all four finals they've reached.

3a) What is the meaning of the phrase 'the odds were stacked against them'?

- ☐ They were unlikely to succeed because all the even-numbered players were sent off.
- ☐ They were unlikely to succeed because they were not in a good position.
- ☐ They were unlikely to succeed because the other team all piled on top of them.

3b) In what ways were 'the odds stacked against' the New Zealand team?

4) Why is Pieter-Steph du Toit described as 'a rock'?

5a) Fill in the missing numbers.

Australia have won the Rugby World Cup times.

South Africa have only scored tries in four Rugby World Cup finals.

New Zealand have won the Rugby World Cup times.

Pieter-Steph du Toit made tackles in the final.

In the 2019 final, South Africa beat England 32-.....

5b) Which of these facts do you think is the most impressive and why?

6) Looking at the photo of du Toit tackling Jordie Barrett, and its caption, what have the Barrett brothers become the first to do?

7) Which of these does Siya Kolisi describe as 'a privilege' for the team (select two)?

- ☐ beating the All Blacks
- ☐ doing what they love
- ☐ winning the trophy
- ☐ inspiring people

8a. Look at the photo of Siya Kolisi lifting the trophy. Describe how he might be feeling.

8b. If you could win a trophy for doing something you love, what would it be, and why?

NORDIC NEWS



SWEDEN

Dictionary completed after 140 years

The official dictionary of the Swedish language has finally been completed, 140 years after work on it began in 1883! The Swedish Academy Dictionary is Sweden's version of the Oxford English Dictionary. It contains 33,111 pages across 39 separate volumes (books).



Färdiga! (That's 'finished' in Swedish!)

Now, the team who completed it need to go back to add in 10,000 words that have entered the language since the work began – like adding 'app' to the volume for the letter 'A', which was first printed in 1893. The dictionary's editor, Christian Mattsson, said it took so long to complete because "it's a very complicated work. This is a very detailed analysis and description of the Swedish language starting from the 16th century up to today's date."



FINLAND

Happiest country picks happiest person!

Finland has been named the happiest country in the world for the past six years running, in the World Happiness Report. Now the country has held a vote to pick its most positive person... and the winner is Ella Kanninen, a writer and TV host. She said: "I'm just extremely happy to be alive! I think every day is a possibility for an adventure." She said she was grateful that the Finnish people chose her, and pointed to Finland's connection with nature and love of simple things as the reason the country is so happy. She added: "There are many negative stories in the world at the moment, but we can bring some light and moments of happiness into people's lives, by greeting somebody with a smile or helping each other."

The world's happiest countries

Nordic countries took the top three spots in the World Happiness Report 2023, with Denmark and Iceland taking second and third spots behind Finland. The UK came in at number 19.



ellakanninen /
Instagram

Ella is ecstatic!

Questions on: Nordic News

Look at both stories.

1a) Sweden and Finland are both in the Nordic region. Which two of these countries are also in this region?

- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Australia
- ☐ Canada
- ☐ Iceland
- ☐ Spain

1b) What do you imagine when you think about Nordic countries?

Look at the story 'Sweden: Dictionary completed after 140 years'.

2) Which of these sentences is false?

- ☐ The Swedish Academy Dictionary has 10,000 words.
- ☐ The Swedish Academy Dictionary has 33,111 pages.
- ☐ The Swedish Academy Dictionary is split into 39 volumes.

3a) Why wasn't the word 'app' originally included in the dictionary?

3b) What other words might be in the list of 10,000 words that now need to be included?

4a) Why did the dictionary take so long to complete?

4b) Do you think dictionaries are still useful now that we have the internet?

Look at the story 'Finland: Happiest country picks happiest person'.

5) Why could Ella be described as the happiest person in the world?

6a) Find two reasons why Ella thinks people in Finland are so happy.

6b) Where did the UK come in the World Happiness Report 2023?

7) How does Ella suggest we can all spread some happiness?

8) What are the top three things in your life that make you feel happy? Explain why you chose each one.