

ANIMAL NEWS

TURTLE BOOST

Thousands of green turtles off the coast of Raine Island, Australia, waiting to go on land to nest

Great Barrier Reef Foundation and Queensland Government



SCIENTISTS in Australia have discovered that the world's largest colony of green turtles is twice as big as they thought.

The turtles were filmed off the coast of Raine Island, Australia, using drones. This protected, coral island is on the edge of the Great Barrier Reef.

Experts already knew the island was the largest green turtle nesting area in the world. But when they used drones to film the turtles waiting to nest, they were very surprised by what they saw.

The video showed more than 64,000 green turtles waiting offshore. This is double the number of turtles the scientists expected to spot!

Using drones turned out to be a fast and accurate way of counting the turtles. Previously, the experts painted a white stripe on the shell of turtles who were on the beach and then counted them using a small boat. This was not very easy, especially as the paint washed off after a few days!

The high-tech turtle count is part of a multi-million pound project to protect and improve this hugely important nesting site.

GLOSSARY

drones – Small remote-controlled gadgets that can hover like helicopters

Great Barrier Reef – The world's largest coral reef, home to a huge variety of sea creatures. It is one of the world's greatest natural wonders

green turtles – One of the largest species (kind) of sea turtle, and the only vegetarian one

Questions on: 'Turtle boost'

1) What kind of turtles have been counted in the water around Raine Island?

- Green
- Loggerhead
- Leatherback

2) Raine Island is part of which 'natural wonder'?

3) What other facts do you know about Raine Island?

4) What gadget have the experts used to count the turtles?

5) How did the experts count the turtles before?

6) Complete the results of the turtle count.

More than _____ turtles were counted,
which was _____ the expected number.

7) Find the adjectives used in the report.

_____, _____ island
_____ and _____ way of counting
_____ turtle count

8) Using this gadget turned out to be a great way of counting turtles. Can you explain why it was so helpful?

WORLD NEWS

AUSTRIA



A BIG STINKING FINE

A man from Vienna has been fined 500 euros (£453) for deliberately breaking wind in front of the police. The Austrian man let out a particularly loud toot as police officers walked up to him to check his identity. One officer explained: "Of course, nobody is put on the spot if one slips out by accident." But in this case, the police say the man lifted his bottom off the bench and let out gas on purpose. The troublesome tooter hasn't yet paid the big stinking fine and is expected to challenge it in court.

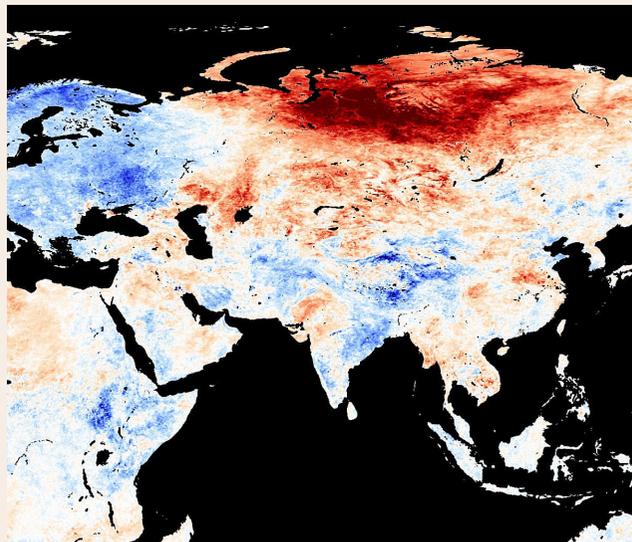


RUSSIA



SIBERIAN HEATWAVE

Throughout May, temperatures in Siberia were 10°C higher than normal. Experts have said it is "an alarming sign" of global warming. Other parts of Russia have also seen record temperatures. Khatanga is one of the most northern towns in Russia. It is usually about 0°C during the spring. On 22nd May, it was 25°C – double the previous record. The Arctic is warming twice as fast as the rest of the Earth.



ECUADOR



SUPER DAD, DIEGO!

Diego, a giant Galápagos tortoise, is finally retiring. At the age of 100, he is being allowed to stop work and will spend the rest of his life in the wild, on the island where he was born. What has Diego been doing for decades? Saving his species by making babies! About 50 years ago, there were only two male tortoises of his kind left. The tortoise was on the edge of extinction. A breeding program was set up and Diego got to work. It has been a huge success and there are now around 2,000 of these giant tortoises in the world. Diego is thought to be the father of almost half of them! He certainly deserves a rest!



Questions on: 'World News'

1) Match the news clue to the correct headline.

An unusual crime

Super dad, Diego!

Unusually hot weather

A big stinking fine

An unusual (and very successful) father

Siberian heatwave

Look at the news from Russia.

2) Which part of Russia was 10°C warmer than normal during May?

- Khatanga
- Siberia
- Volga

3) What **comment** have experts made about this heatwave?

Look at the news from Ecuador.

4) Who is Diego?

5) How has Diego 'saved his species'?

(A species is one kind of animal or plant.)

6) Find the numbers.

Diego is _____ years old.

_____ years ago there were only _____ male tortoises (of Diego's kind).

There are now _____ of these tortoises.

Look at the news from Austria.

7) The word 'fart' is an informal word that some people consider to be rude. Can you find three **words or descriptions** that the writer has used to avoid saying fart or farted?

- 1:
- 2:
- 3:

8) Do you think the police were right to fine the man for this act, or not? Explain your opinion and your reasons!

UK NEWS

SOMERSET

HUGE CIRCLE OF PITS

A huge, ancient structure has been discovered near Stonehenge. The massive circle of deep pits is 4,500 years old and surrounds another ancient settlement called Durrington Walls. Each pit was once ten metres wide and five metres deep. The whole circle is more than a mile wide. It's not known why the pits were created, but they are thought to mark a boundary around an important site – either welcoming people, or warning people. One expert said the discovery was “a whole new chapter in the story of Stonehenge”.



SCOTLAND

HARES AND SEALS PROTECTED

Great animal protection news from Scotland this week. Hares are now a protected species in the country and Scottish salmon farmers are to be banned from shooting seals – which they say they do to protect their fisheries.



TELFORD

ELTON LOVES SCHOOL'S SONG

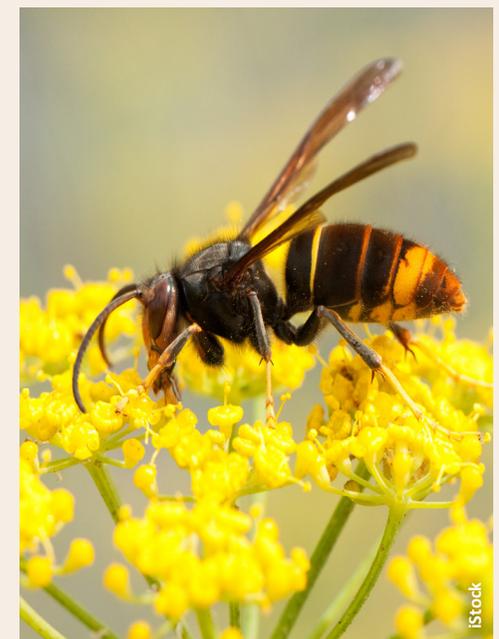
When children at Telford Priory School recorded a version of an Elton John song, they never imagined they would get a message from the pop star saying how much he loved it! The students recorded *I'm Still Standing* during lockdown, using Zoom. After watching it online, Sir Elton sent teacher Ben Millington an email, saying how impressed he was by their performance.



UK

WATCH OUT BEES!

Beekeepers in the UK are being urged to look out for the Asian hornet, a large hornet that eats bees. The insect has slowly been spreading across Europe for the last 20 years. Experts fear that it could soon arrive in the UK and threaten bee colonies.



Questions on: 'UK News'

1) There is good news and bad news for animals this week.

Find one example of good news.

.....

Find one example of bad news.

.....

Look at the news from Telford.

2) Which song was recorded by children from Telford Priory School, and who is it by?

The song:

The artist:

3) What did Elton John think of the song? Find two opinions that have been reported.

1:

2:

Look at the news from the UK.

4) Which word means 'to encourage someone strongly to do something'?

Look at the news from Somerset.

5) What is a **pit**?

- A large stone
- A large hole in the ground
- An ancient settlement

6) Find the facts about this ancient structure.

Age:

Size of each pit:

Size of the circle:

What is in the middle of the circle?

7) Look at this sentence:

The experts have no idea why ancient people dug these pits.

Do you agree, or not? Explain your thoughts.

8) Imagine you work at *First News*. You have just been told there isn't space for all four UK News stories this week. Which story would you leave out? Explain your choice.

BIG NEWS

STOP PLASTIC POLLUTION!

THIS July, the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) wants us all to take part in a challenge to use less plastic.

The plastic pollution problem

Every year, the MCS charity gathers information on what is polluting UK beaches. During last year's Big Beach Clean, about 143 pieces of plastic were found on every 100 metres of beach that was surveyed.

We all know that plastic pollution is terrible for our wildlife. Seabirds get tangled in the plastic on our beaches. Animals like turtles, dolphins and whales confuse plastic for food. Scientists have estimated that by 2050 there could be more plastic in the sea than fish. Although plastic can be a very useful material, it's time to change our 'throwaway' habits.

How can you help?

It can seem overwhelming to tackle a problem this big. Our lives are filled with so many plastic products, it's hard to know where to start.

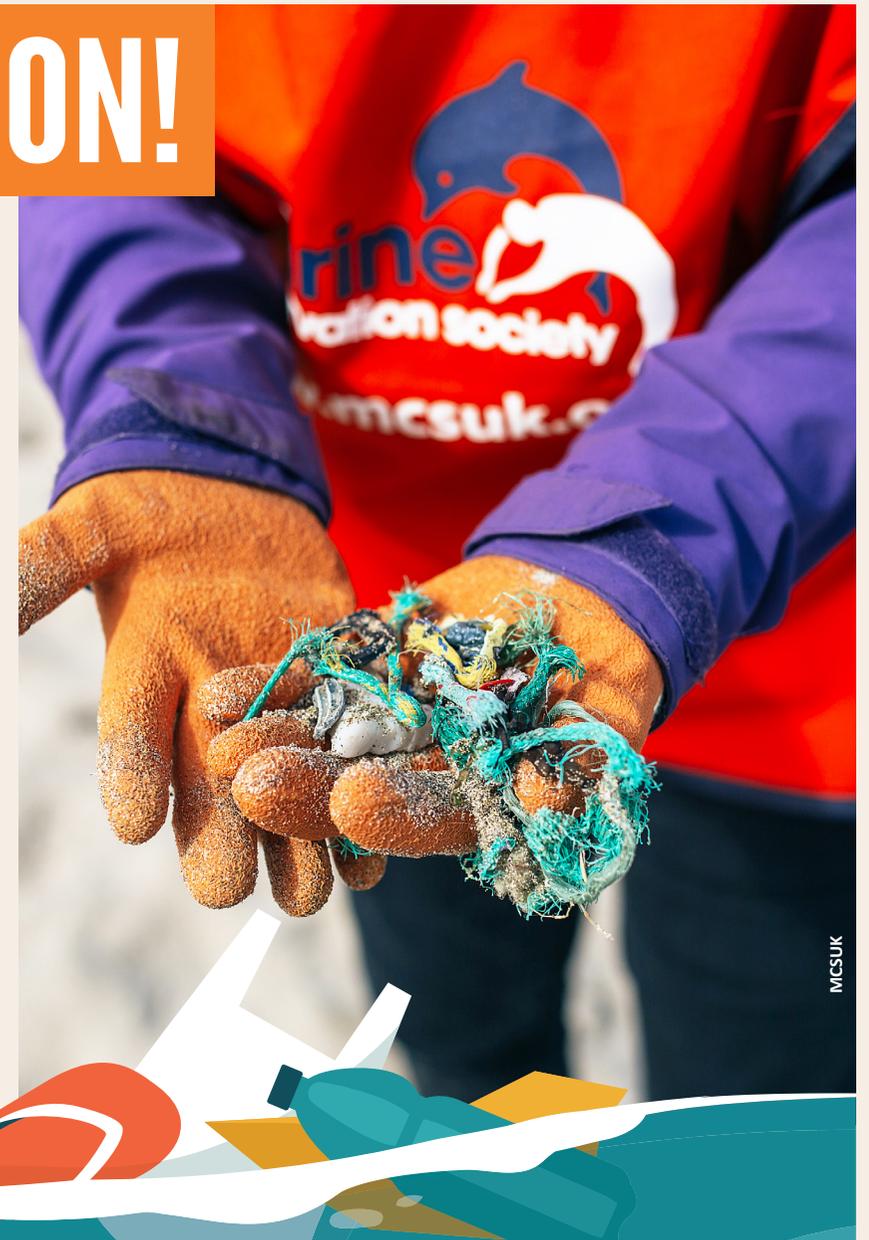
So, for July's big plastic challenge, the charity is asking us all to think of one type of single-use plastic that we use, and cut it out completely. What could you cut out? Here are a few suggestions.

- Swap liquid soap that comes in bottles for bars of soap that come in cardboard packets.
- Only buy loose fruit and veg. You might need to find a local market!
- Don't use one single plastic bag in July – always have a small fold-up bag with you.
- Re-use yoghurt pots as plant pots and grow some seeds.
- Go without crisps for a month. Seriously. Could you do it?

Find out more

You can find lots more details and ideas at:

www.mcsuk.org/campaigns/plastic-challenge-home



Questions on: 'Stop plastic pollution'

- 1) What is the name of the charity organising the Plastic Challenge?
- 2) What was found out during last year's Big Beach Clean?
- 3) In which order do the **sub-headings** appear?
 - Find out more
 - The plastic pollution problem
 - How can you help?
- 4) What does the journalist say "we all know"?
- 5) Find three examples of single-use plastics.

1:

2:

3:
- 6) The writer says that the problem of plastic pollution can seem '**overwhelming**'. What do you think this means?

- 7) Which of the suggestions do you think you could try, realistically?
- 8) What could you choose or use instead of these single-use plastic items?

	A choice that doesn't include single-use plastic
A plastic shopping bag	
Handwash in a plastic bottle	
A bag of lemons in a plastic net	
A drink in a plastic bottle	