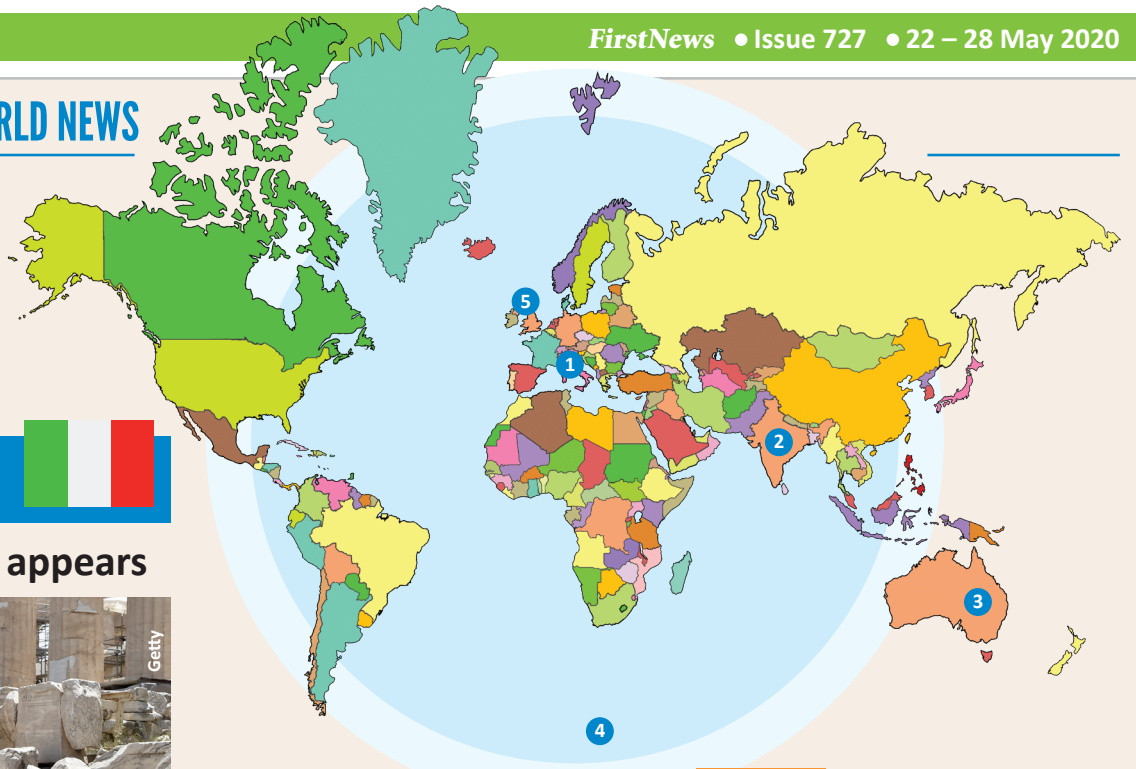




WORLD NEWS



ITALY



● Pantheon pit appears



A sinkhole has opened up outside the Pantheon in Rome, revealing ancient Roman paving stones buried under the city. The sinkhole is almost 1m across and 2.5m deep. Fortunately, lockdown restrictions meant that the usually crowded area outside the Pantheon was empty, so no-one was injured. The paving stones found in the sinkhole are estimated to be from 27-25 BC – around the same time the Pantheon was built.

AUSTRALIA



● Night at the museum

A man from Sydney is due in court after breaking into the Australian Museum to snap selfies with the dinosaur exhibits. The man, who reportedly spent 40 minutes in the museum, was seen on CCTV taking pictures with his head in the mouth of a T-rex skull. He also stole a cowboy hat from the locker of one of the museum's staff members. Police put out a warning to the trespasser on TV news, warning him: "It's not going to be a movie producer knocking on your door. It's going to be NSW Police knocking on your door." The man turned himself in that afternoon.



INDIA



● Kerala's 'coronavirus slayer'

Kerala's health minister, KK Shailaja, has earned a number of new nicknames, including 'Rock star health minister' and 'coronavirus slayer', for her success in stopping the spread of COVID-19 in the state. Kerala is home to 35 million people, yet has seen just 524 cases of COVID-19 and four deaths. Three days after reading about the new virus in China, Shailaja held a meeting to decide Kerala's strategy for stopping the disease. The first case arrived on 27 January from Wuhan. All passengers had their temperature tested, and everyone had to quarantine themselves. Since then, Kerala has been tracking and tracing all spread of the disease.



ANTARCTICA



● Snow goes green

In the slightly warmer parts of ice-covered Antarctica, algae can bloom in the snow, turning it bright green. This algae absorbs greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Researchers from the University of Cambridge have spent two summers creating a map of all the places that this algae appears – and have found that, as the world gets warmer, the green snow is spreading, and could turn the coast of the continent green one day. "This is important in our understanding of land-based life on Antarctica," said Dr Matt Davey, who led the study.

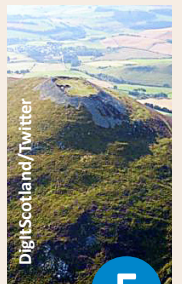


SCOTLAND



● Ancient settlement unearthed

A massive ancient settlement has been discovered by archaeologists on a hill near Rhynie in Aberdeenshire. Researchers from the University of Aberdeenshire believe the settlement was home to roughly 4,000 people living in around 800 huts, making it one of Britain's largest ancient settlements. The archaeologists also found evidence of one larger hut within the settlement, suggesting that an important figure lived in the community.





GLOSSARY	<p>Aberdeenshire – A county in Scotland</p> <p>algae – A type of plant</p> <p>exhibits – Displays</p> <p>Kerala – A state in the southwest of India</p> <p>NSW – New South Wales, a state in the southeast of Australia</p> <p>Pantheon – An ancient Roman temple in Italy</p>	<p>settlement – A place where people lived or settled in a community</p> <p>sinkhole – When the ground collapses, leaving a hole</p> <p>slayer – Killer</p> <p>trespass – To go on someone else’s land or property without permission</p>
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WORLD NEWS

● **Look at the news from Italy.**

1a. Match the word to the correct definition.

sinkhole	An ancient Roman temple in Italy
Pantheon	When the ground collapses, leaving a hole

1b. What did the sinkhole reveal?

1c. Explain why it was fortunate that the sinkhole appeared during lockdown.

● **Look at the news from Scotland.**

2. Find the facts.

Location of settlement:	
Approximate number of huts in the settlement:	
Number of people who could have lived in the settlement:	

3. What have archaeologists found evidence of and what do they think this tells us about the community that lived there?

● **Consider both news stories.**

4. Which of these two historical sites would you most like to visit? Explain your reasons.

● **Look at the news from Antarctica.**

5. What is happening to make the snow turn green? (Top tip: look at the glossary to find out what algae is.)

6. Researchers have found more algae is growing each year in Antarctica. Do you think this is a positive or a negative finding? Explain why.

● **Look at the news from India.**

7a. What does the word ‘slayer’ mean?

7b. Why are people calling the health minister in Kerala the “coronavirus slayer”?

8. What steps did the health minister take to stop the spread of COVID-19 in Kerala? Find two.

● **Look at the news from Australia.**


9. The night-time trespasser handed himself in to police the next afternoon. Imagine you are this man. Give an explanation of your behaviour to the police.

● **Consider all the news stories.**

10. Who would you most like to interview?

- KK Shailaja, Kerala’s health minister
- The scientist in charge of the research from Antarctica
- The archaeologists who discovered the ancient settlement in Scotland
- The man from Australia who broke into the museum

Think of three questions you would like to ask to find out more about their story.

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TEACHER ANSWERS

AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS: News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE: The teacher answers are intended to provide a quick reference guide. Suggestions are given for the 'Expected response' or starting point that pupils could give. The 'Development' then gives more in-depth ideas that students can work towards as they develop their reading comprehension skills.

For a list of the reading skills used, please email schools@firstnews.co.uk.

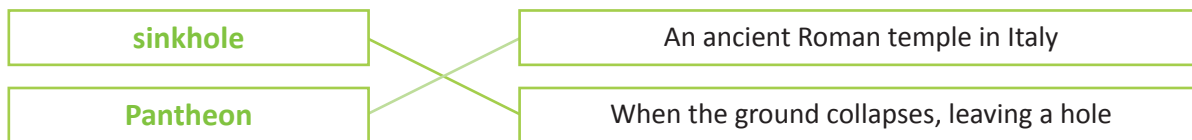
WORLD NEWS

● Look at the news from Italy.

1a. Match the word to the correct definition.

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected responses



1b. What did the sinkhole reveal?

- Roman paving stones

1c. Explain why it was fortunate that the sinkhole appeared during lockdown

- It was fortunate this happened during lockdown because there weren't many people around. There are normally lots of people there, but because everyone was at home fortunately no-one was injured by the ground collapsing.

● Look at the news from Scotland.

2. Find the facts.

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected response

Location of settlement:	A hill near Rhynie in Aberdeenshire
Approximate number of huts in the settlement:	800
Number of people who could have lived in the settlement:	4,000

3. What have archaeologists found evidence of and what do they think this tells us about the community that lived there?

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected response

- One of the 800 huts was much larger than the rest. The archaeologists think that an important person in the community lived in this one.

● Consider both news stories.

4. Which of these two historical sites would you most like to visit? Explain your reasons.

READING SKILL – Develop personal ideas from reading news stories (NC 6, 7 & 8)

Personal response with justification

For example:

- I'd like to visit the ancient settlement discovered on top of the hill in Scotland. I'd like to find the outline of the huts and look at the amazing views and imagine why they chose to live on the top of that hill and what life was like for them.

● Look at the news from Antarctica.

5. What is happening to make the snow turn green? (Top tip: look at the glossary to find out what algae is.)

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected response

- Algae (a plant) is growing on it.

Developed response

- A plant that can grow in water or damp surfaces is growing on the snow in warmer areas of Antarctica.

6. Researchers have found more algae is growing each year in Antarctica. Do you think this is a positive or a negative finding? Explain why.

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence (NC 2c & 8)

Infer information based on own knowledge (NC 6, 7 & 8)

Expected response

- The growth of algae spreading shows that the world is becoming warmer, which is not positive.

Development

- However, growth of algae helps the researchers to learn about land-based living things in the area, which is important.
- Also, the algae absorbs greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, which is a positive finding.

● Look at the news from India.

7a. What does the word ‘slayer’ mean?

READING SKILL – Understand vocabulary in context (NC 2a)

Expected response

- Killer

7b. Why are people calling the health minister in Kerala the “coronavirus slayer”?

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence (NC 2c & 8)

Expected response

- The health minister in Kerala has been given the nickname “coronavirus slayer” because she is killing the virus in the area. She has stopped the virus spreading in her state in India.

Development

- Kerala has 35 million people living there, but they’ve only had 524 cases of COVID-19 and four deaths due to the actions of the health minister.

8. What steps did the health minister take to stop the spread of COVID-19 in Kerala? Find two.

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence (NC 2c & 8)

Expected response – two of the following:

- As soon as she heard about the new virus, she held a meeting straight away to make a plan.
- When the first case arrived on a plane from China, all passengers had their temperatures checked.
- Everyone quarantined themselves.
- Since then, Kerala has tested, tracked and traced the spread of the virus.

● Look at the news from Australia.

9. The night-time trespasser handed himself in to police the next afternoon. Imagine you are this man. Give an explanation of your behaviour to the police.

READING SKILL – Infer information WRITING SKILL – A creative response to a situation in a news story

Personal response with justification. For example:

- I have no excuse for illegally entering the museum. I didn’t mean to cause any damage during my visit. I’m the biggest fan of the Night at the Museum films. Putting my head in the T-rex’s mouth was a highlight of my life, and wearing a cowboy hat seemed to crown the moment. I’m afraid I got a bit carried away. I regret my night-time visit and I shouldn’t have taken the hat.

● Consider all the news stories.

10. Who would you most like to interview?

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- The man from Australia who broke into the museum

Think of three questions you would like to ask to find out more about their story.

READING SKILL – Develop personal ideas from news stories (NC 6, 7 & 8) WRITING SKILL – Ask questions to help understanding

Personal response with three appropriate questions. For example:

- I would like to interview KK Shailaja, Kerala’s health minister. My questions would be: What was the trickiest part of coming up with your plan? How did you make sure all the 35 million people living in Kerala knew what to do and why? Do you have any advice for the UK Government?