

WORLD NEWS

RUSSIA



ARCTIC OIL SPILL

An emergency has been declared in Russia after 20,000 (twenty thousand) tonnes of oil spilled into the Ambarnaya River. The spill occurred when a tank full of diesel fuel collapsed.

The oil company has agreed to pay for the clean-up, which could cost £115 million.

This area is inside the Arctic Circle (the cold area around the North Pole). The ground is usually frozen all year round, but climate change is causing it to warm up. A report has warned that the softer ground can't support such heavy loads. Experts are wondering if this is why the tank collapsed.



INDONESIA



FELL DOWN THE WELL

A British man has been rescued after falling down a well. Jacob Roberts was fleeing from a dog when he fell down a well, four metres deep. After six days trapped in the pit, a farmer who was going to feed his cows heard Jacob's cries for help. Police pulled Jacob out of the pit, and took him to a local hospital where he is now recovering with a broken leg.



JAPAN



COOLEST GRANDMA EVER

Ninety-year-old Hamako Mori lives with her family near Tokyo, Japan. The 'Gaming Grandma', as she is known, now has a Guinness World Record for being the world's oldest gaming YouTuber! Hamako spends more than three hours every day playing computer games. Each month, she posts about three or four videos to her YouTube channel, filmed by her grandson. She got into gaming 39 years ago. Hamako said: "It looked so much fun, and I thought it's not fair if only children played it!"



Questions on: 'World News'

1) Match the news topic to the correct country.

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| An accident | JAPAN |
| A world record | RUSSIA |
| Pollution | INDONESIA |

Look at the news from Russia.

2) Where is the Ambarnaya River? Provide as much detail as possible.

3) How has the ground in this area changed recently?

The change:

The reason for the change:

4) Why might this change have caused the oil spill?

Look at the news from Indonesia.

5) These **verbs** explain what happened to the man. Can you put them in the correct order?

- trapped chased rescued fell injured

Look at the news from Japan.

6) What do you know about Hamako Mori? Choose all correct answers.

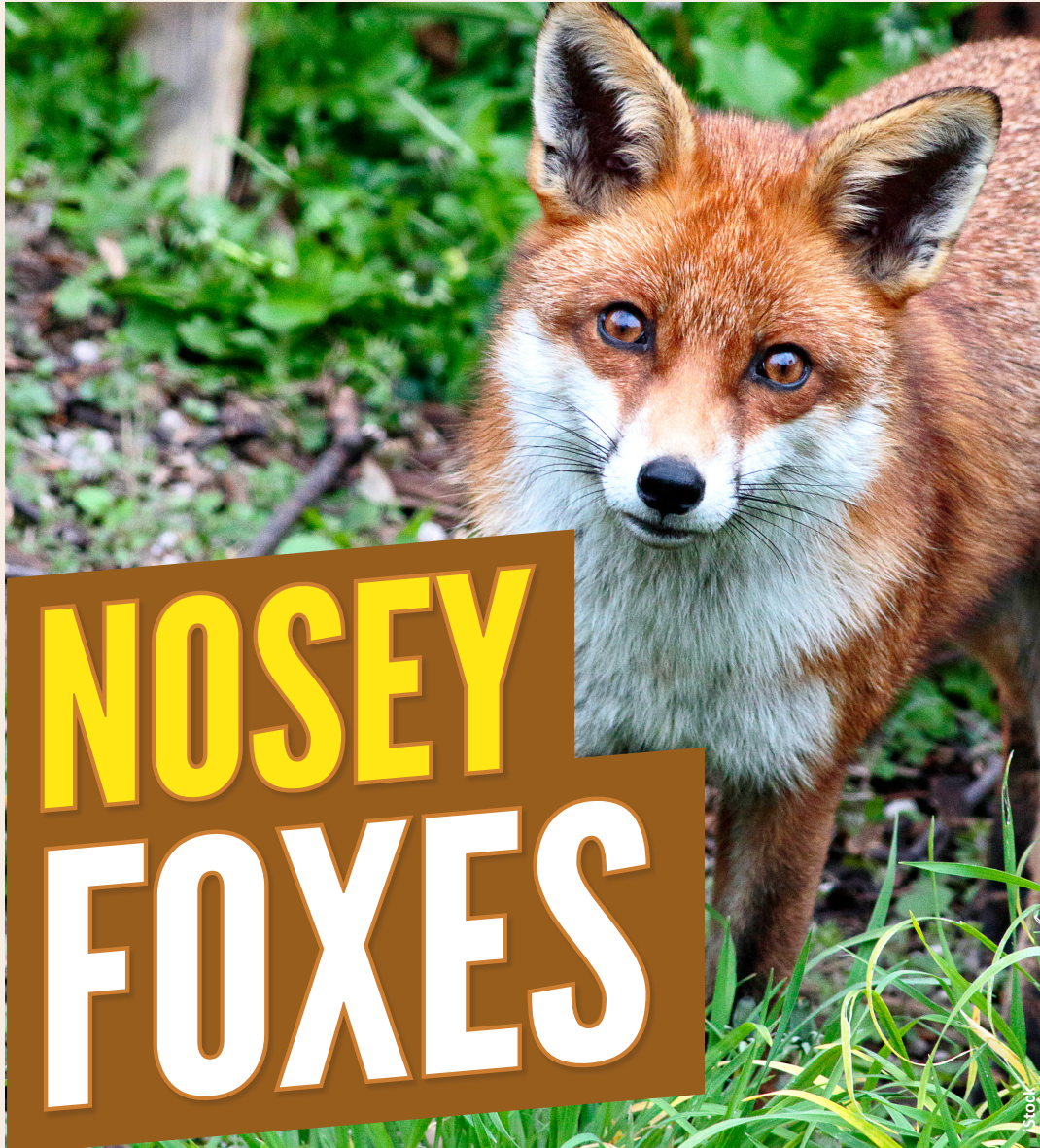
- Age Number of grandchildren Where she lives
 Favourite game Her world record Nickname

7) How do you know that this granny is a serious and dedicated gamer?

Consider all the news.

8) Which story do you think the newspaper should investigate further? Think of **three questions** the journalist should ask to make an interesting news report.

ANIMAL NEWS

**FOXES living in cities or towns are changing and becoming more like domestic dogs.**

Researchers from the University of Glasgow have been studying the differences between urban foxes and rural foxes.

As part of the study, they looked at the skulls of thousands of foxes from London and from the countryside, to see if they could spot any differences.

They discovered that foxes living in more built-up areas have smaller brains and different-shaped snouts (noses).

Foxes are in the same animal family as dogs and wolves. Unlike many creatures, foxes have flourished in our towns and cities. They eat almost anything, including beetles, worms, birds, small mammals and fruit.

But in urban areas, foxes scavenge most of their food from our rubbish bins! The experts think the different shaped snout might make it easier for city foxes to get food out of bins. And because they hunt less, they may not need to be such quick thinkers. This may explain why they have smaller brains.

The foxes are adapting to living close to humans, just as wild dogs once did.

GLOSSARY

domestic – Animals kept and bred by humans, so pet dogs, rather than wild dogs

urban – A built-up area, such as a town or city

rural – The countryside

Questions on: 'Nosey foxes'

1) Foxes belong to which group of animals?

- Dogs and wolves
- Cats and lions
- Rats, squirrels and beavers

2) Are foxes:

- Carnivores?
- Vegetarians?
- Or omnivores (eat meat and plants)?

3) **Urban** and **rural** are opposites. What do they mean?

Urban:

Rural:

4) Where do urban foxes get a lot of their food?

5) What did the experts study in order to find differences between urban and rural foxes?

6) What two differences did they discover?

Difference 1:

Difference 2:

7) Can you explain why the urban foxes may have changed in these two ways?

8) In stories, foxes are famous for being **cunning**.
cunning – being clever at getting what you want

Urban foxes have learned to get their food from our bins.
 Do you think this proves they are cunning or lazy?

BIG NEWS

WORLDWIDE PROTESTS

PROTESTS against racism have been taking place all over the world, following the death of George Floyd in the USA.

George Floyd was a black American man who died while being held down by a white police officer. The officer was filmed kneeling on Mr Floyd's neck for several minutes and has since been charged with murder.

People all over America immediately took to the streets to protest against police violence and racism. The protests have now spread around the world, united by the words 'Black lives matter'.

In the past week, tens of thousands of people have taken part in protests in the UK.

Although the vast majority of protesters have been peaceful, some have been accused of taking things too far. In Bristol, the statue of a slave trader, Edward Colston, was pulled down by the protesters.

Edward Colston was once the city's MP, but he made his money from trading slaves. In the 1600s, Colston's ships took about 80,000 men, women and children from Africa to America. They were sold as slaves.

He gave a lot of money to churches, hospitals and schools in Bristol. His statue has stood in the city centre since 1895, but many people have been unhappy that he is still honoured in this way. The Mayor of Bristol said the Edward Colston statue was an "insult" to black people. The statue was thrown into Bristol Harbour.



Protesters hurl Edward Colston's statue into Bristol Harbour



Questions on: 'Worldwide protests'

- 1) In which country did George Floyd die?
- 2) What makes his death shocking?
- 3) Which **three words** have been used by all the protesters to explain why they are out on the streets?
- 4) Why do you think the protests have spread around the world, including the UK?
- 5) What happened in Bristol that upset some people, but pleased many others?
- 6) Find three facts about Edward Colston.
- 7) What is the **opinion** of the mayor of Bristol?
- 8) Do you think it was okay for the protesters in Bristol to throw the statue into the water, or not? Explain your thoughts.

1:

2:

3:

BIG NEWS

BACK TO SCHOOL PLANS SCRAPPED

WE know that many of you are desperate to return to school, but, sadly, primary schools in England are not going to open to all pupils until September at the earliest.

The Government had wanted all schools to reopen for four weeks before the summer holiday. On Tuesday, it admitted that this is not going to happen.

Years R, 1 and 6 are already allowed back. The children of keyworkers have also been in school. But children can only be taught in groups of 15 at most because of the need to keep two metres apart. Schools have said that it's just not possible to teach large numbers of pupils and stick to this limit.

Around the UK:

■ Wales

At the moment, the Welsh Government is planning for children to go back to school on 29th June. But only one third of pupils will be in school at any one time.

■ Scotland

Schools will reopen on 15th August – so term will start one week early – but pupils won't be in school full time. Children will have a mix of time in school and home learning.

■ Northern Ireland

Schools will begin to reopen in August. By September, all year groups will have some time in school and some home learning.

There is still a lot of uncertainty about whether young people spread the coronavirus as much as older people, so scientists, teachers and parents have lots of different opinions about whether schools should return. But, as you can see, school life won't be back to normal any time soon.



Questions on: 'Back to school plans scrapped'

1) What decision did the Government make last Tuesday?

- English primary schools won't reopen before the summer holidays.
- Year R, 1 and 6 can go back soon.
- Schools will definitely reopen in September.

2) Look at the first paragraph. What does the journalist say the newspaper "knows"?

3) Do you agree with this opinion? Do you think the writer is correct?

4) Which children are being taught in school at the moment? Name all the groups.

5) Which **two** rules are stopping schools teaching large numbers of children?

1:

2:

6) Match the place to the correct plan.

| UK nation | The plan |
|-------------------------|--|
| Wales | Schools won't reopen before the summer holidays. Plan for September not yet known. |
| England | From 15th August, all children will have a mix of school and home learning. |
| Northern Ireland | All children will have some time in school from 29th June. |
| Scotland | From September, all children will have a mix of school and home learning. |

7) Why are there so many different opinions about when and how schools should reopen?

8) Now you know the latest info from our governments, when do you think you will next be in school? What do you think learning will be like for you?