

UK NEWS

SCOTLAND

● Brrrilliant idea!

A MOUNTAIN road became a temporary ski slope in Scotland over the holidays. The road in the Cairngorms was closed after heavy snowfall, making it a perfect ski slope for some pupils from the nearby Alpine Training Centre!



UK



● Dogs are for life, not just for lockdown

HUNDREDS of puppies bought during the first lockdown are now being given to rescue centres.

It's thought the dogs were bought by people who started working from home and liked the idea of having a puppy. They didn't realise how much time and effort it takes to look after a dog.

Since October, the Dogs Trust charity has had more than 1,800 calls from people who want to give up dogs under one year old. Getting a dog is a 10 to 15-year commitment.

WALES

● Solar-powered hospital

MORRISTON Hospital will soon be getting a quarter of its power from a nearby solar farm.

The hospital spends almost £7 million a year on electricity, gas and water. The solar farm will cost more than £5 million, but will save the hospital £1.5 million a year.

It will also help to save the planet by making a lot less carbon dioxide than electricity made by burning fossil fuels. Carbon dioxide is the main gas causing global warming.



Questions on: UK News

Look at the news from the UK.

- 1) Why did many people choose to get puppies last year?
- 2) Isn't this good news? What's the problem?
- 3) What is the **information source** for this news report?

Look at the news from Scotland.

- 4) What are 'the Cairngorms'?

- outdoor activity centres
- a family who like skiing
- a mountain range

- 5) How has the writer changed the word 'brilliant' in the headline? Why was the word been changed in this way?

Look at the news from Wales.

- 6) Which **two** things will this new solar farm 'save' or 'help to save'?
- 7) Find the numbers.

- The hospital spends almost **£_____ million** a year on electricity, gas and water.
- The solar farm will cost more than **£_____ million**.
- The solar farm will save the hospital **£_____ million** each year.

- 8) Do you think the hospital has made the right decision spending so much money on the solar farm? **Explain your reasons.**

WORLD NEWS

MEXICO



● Hold your breath

In Mexico, a Danish swimmer has broken a world record by swimming 202 metres underwater with a single breath. Stig Severinsen said he wants to inspire people to protect the oceans and undersea life.



iStock

RUSSIA



● Female train drivers



Getty

The Moscow Metro has hired its first female train drivers. Until September last year, the job was on a list of jobs described as “harmful to women’s health”. Although the list is getting smaller, there are still some jobs in Russia that only men are allowed to do.

AUSTRALIA



● 120-year-old chocolate!

A tin of Victorian chocolates has been found at the National Library of Australia.

The chocolates belonged to a poet and writer called Banjo Paterson. They were found hidden in some of his papers.

The tins were sent to soldiers who fought in the Boer War, in South Africa, around 1900. It was a gift to the troops from Queen Victoria.

Jennifer Todd, from the library, said: “There was quite an interesting smell when they were unwrapped.” We bet there was!

National Library
of Australia

Questions on: World News

1) Match the country to the correct news topic.

AUSTRALIA

Swimming record

RUSSIA

Very old treats

MEXICO

Jobs for women

Look at the news from Mexico.

2) Stig Severinsen is from Denmark. Why is this news from Mexico?

3) Stig swam 202 metres. What makes this swim so **remarkable**?

Look at the news from Russia.

4) Why weren't women allowed to drive trains until September last year?

Look at the news from Australia.

5) ● Who was Banjo Paterson?
● Who is Jennifer Todd?

6) Who originally **gave** these tins of chocolates and who **received** them?

7) Find two **facts** about the Boer War.

1: _____

2: _____

Think about all the stories

8) Which story do you think might feature on **TV** news? What would you want to see in the video report?

BIG NEWS

HORSE VS WI-FI



IN one area of Germany, it's quicker to send photos on a horse than over the internet!

Klaus-Peter Kappest is a photographer from Germany who was sick of his slow internet.

He lives in a rural part of Germany and his internet speed is ten times slower than in Berlin, the capital city.

Klaus-Peter joked to a friend that it would be faster to send his photos on a horse, than over the internet. They decided to try it!

Klaus-Peter put 800 photos on a DVD and asked a local rider to take it to the printer on his horse. At the same time, he began sending the pictures to the printer over the internet.

The teenage rider took 104 minutes to deliver the DVD to the printer, just over six miles away. But it took more than five hours to upload the pictures over the internet!

It was a fun stunt, but it had results. The company that provides Klaus-Peter's broadband was so embarrassed by the story, that it has promised to upgrade the village to super-fast broadband!

Questions on: 'Horse vs Wi-Fi'

- 1) What does Klaus-Peter Kappest do?
- 2) Which word describes Klaus-Peter at the start of this story?

- amused
- frustrated
- satisfied
- thoughtful

- 3) What was making him feel this way?
- 4) What does the word **rural** tell you about where Klaus-Peter lives?

- It is in the countryside.
- It is in a built-up area.
- He lives on a farm.

- 5) Fill in the gaps to complete the details of the test.

Klaus-Peter put _____ photo _____ on a DVD.

He asked a teenage _____ to carry it to the _____, on a horse.

At the _____ time, he sent the files to the printer over the _____.

Choose from:

- printer ● rider ● same ● internet ● files ● 800

- 6) What were the results of the test? Complete the sentences.

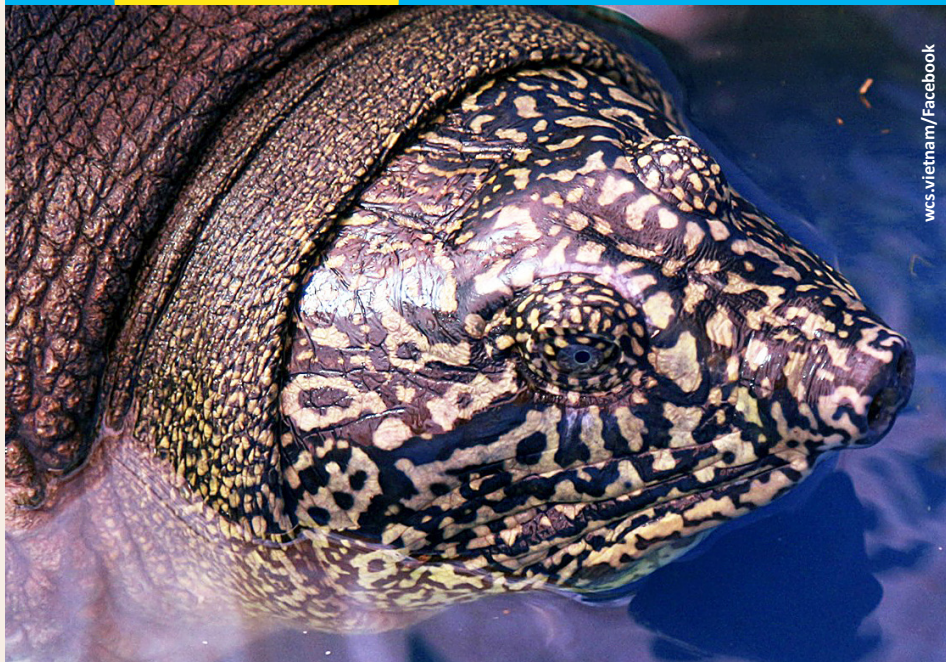
It took the horse: _____

It took the internet: _____

- 7) Who was embarrassed by this test?
- 8) Look at the first sentence of this report. Why is this story so hard to believe, at first?

BIG NEWS

HOPE FOR RARE TURTLE



wcs.vietnam/facebook

A FEMALE turtle has been discovered in Vietnam, who might just save her species from extinction!

This is a female Swinhoe's softshell turtle. It is on the brink of extinction.

The only known male lives at Suzhou Zoo in China. There were no known female turtles until this one was discovered in Dong Mo Lake, Vietnam, last year.

Tests have just confirmed that the turtle is definitely a Swinhoe's softshell turtle.

She weighs 86kg (13 stone) – that's the same as an adult man!

There are now plans to bring the two turtles together. Scientists hope they will breed and save the turtle from becoming extinct.

Andrew Walde, from a turtle charity, said: "This is the best news of the year, and quite possibly the last decade, for turtle conservation!"

Questions on: 'Hope for rare turtle'

1) Where exactly was this turtle found?

Name of lake: _____

Country: _____

2) This turtle is on the **"brink of extinction"**.
What does this mean?

3) Where does the only known male turtle live?

4) Why does the writer have to keep putting the word 'known' into sentences? For example:

"The only known male lives at Suzhou Zoo in China."

5) Look at the first sentence. Can you explain what the word **'species'** means ("spee-shees")?

6) The picture only shows a close-up. How do you know this is a very big turtle?

7) Who is Andrew Walde?

8) Look at what Andrew says. Which option do you think explains how he feels?

- Very pleased
- Extremely excited
- Mildly concerned
- Very thankful

Do you feel the same?