

## WORLD NEWS

## CHINA

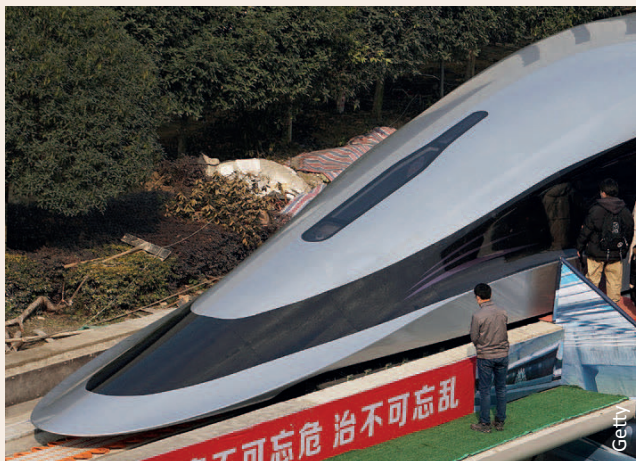


## TREMENDOUS TRAIN

**HOLD** on to your hats, folks as a seriously speedy bullet train is being developed in China.

The new locomotive has been unveiled in Chengdu. It is said to reach a top speed of 385 miles per hour! It's so fast you could travel from London to Edinburgh in just over an hour (a journey that normally takes over five hours!).

A bullet train uses magnets to prevent the train rubbing on the tracks. In fact, it hovers! This enables the train to travel at such high speeds. The first bullet train was developed in Japan in 1964.



## PAKISTAN-CHINA



## K2 CONQUERED!

**NIRMAL** Purja and his team have become the first mountaineers to climb to the top of K2 in winter.

K2 is the second highest mountain in the world, after Mount Everest. It is known as the 'savage mountain' and no-one has ever climbed it in the winter before. Until now.

Nirmal Purja said he wanted to make "the impossible possible" and succeeded by reaching the summit on 16h January.

He added: "What a journey! I'm humbled to say that, as a team, we have summited the magnificent K2 in extreme winter conditions.. We are honoured to be sharing this moment."



## USA



## BITCOIN BLUNDER

**A MAN** is about to lose a quarter of a million dollars because he can't remember his password!

Stefan Thomas was given 7,002 bitcoins about ten years ago. At the time they were only worth a few dollars each. They are now worth nearly \$250 million.

Bitcoin is a type of digital money. The 'coins' are kept in a digital wallet called an Iron Key, which needs a password to open it.

Unfortunately for Stefan, he has forgotten his password and Iron Key wallets only allow you ten tries before you are locked out forever. Stefan has already had eight goes!

He has two chances left, but has little hope that he will remember.



## Questions on: 'World News'

1) Choose the subjects in the news around the world this week.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> cars       | <input type="checkbox"/> digital money |
| <input type="checkbox"/> oceans     | <input type="checkbox"/> computers     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a mountain | <input type="checkbox"/> trains        |

2) What is similar about the way the **headlines** have been written?

### Look at the news from China.

3) How does a bullet train work?

4) How does the journalist help you to understand the speed of this train?

### Look at the news about the K2 climb.

5) Find two facts about K2.

6) Why do you think there are two countries in the heading of this story?

### Look at the news from the USA.

7) Find the numbers.

\_\_\_\_\_ years ago a man was given \_\_\_\_\_ bitcoins.

He has already tried \_\_\_\_\_ different passwords to access the money, and has \_\_\_\_\_ tries left.

If he gets it wrong, he says goodbye to \$\_\_\_\_\_!

8) Would you describe this story as a **comedy** or a **tragedy**? Explain your choice!

## SCIENCE NEWS

# ELECTRIFYING ATTACKS!

## **ELECTRIC eels that hunt in gangs? Sounds pretty terrifying!**

Luckily for us, their prey are tiny fish called tetras.

Scientists working in the Amazon basin, Brazil, have discovered that electric eels work together and hunt in groups.

The experts discovered a small lake near the river, filled with more than 100 adult electric eels. This itself was surprising, as electric eels were thought to prefer being alone. Many of them were over 120 centimetres long!

But what the team spotted next was even more startling. The eels formed a large circle to herd thousands of small fish called tetras into tightly-packed balls.

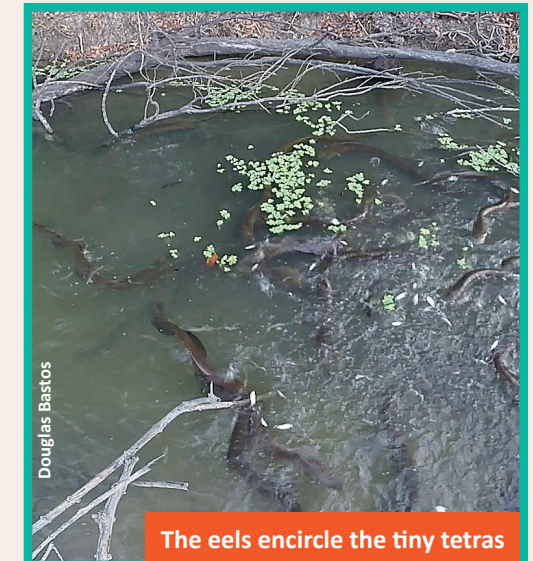
Once they had done that, groups of eels split off to form hunting parties. These smaller groups then surrounded the little balls of fish and fired out electric shocks, all at the same time.

The shocks sent the tetras flying out of the water. When they splashed back down, the tiny fish were stunned and unable to move. Dinner time for the eels!

The hunting packs were seen at dusk and dawn. Each hunt lasted about an hour and involved between five and seven attacks.

The rest of the time the eels lay almost completely still, just occasionally rising to the surface to breathe.

The lead scientist said the hunting behaviour was “an extraordinary discovery” that had never been seen before.



## Questions on: 'Electrifying News'

1) What is the new discovery that has been made about eels?

- Eels can give out electric shocks.
- Eels are found in the Amazon.
- Eels hunt in groups.

2) Why were the scientists surprised to find adult eels grouped together in a lake?

3) True or false?

**T** **F**

- The research took place in Bolivia.
- The eels were hunting fish called tetras.
- A scientist said this was “an extraordinary discovery”.
- The eels prefer to hunt early in the morning.

4) Which word has a similar meaning to 'startling'?

- annoying     thrilling
- surprising     threatening

5) Why do the eels form circles?

6) How do the electric shocks affect the tetra fish?

1. ....

2. ....

7) Which sentence correctly describes the eels' day?

- The eels hunt regularly throughout the day.
- The eels spend most of time laying still and hunt in short bursts.
- The eels spend half their time hunting, half lying still.

8) How does this research prove that eels can **work together**? Explain the evidence.

## BIG NEWS

# THE YUCK FACTOR

## INSECTS could be creeping onto your dinner plate soon!

These are dried yellow mealworms, the larvae of the mealworm beetle. Last week they were passed as being safe to eat in Europe.

It's the first step towards getting the insects approved as an ingredient. Soon, they may be turning up in foods such as snack bars, smoothies, pasta and burgers!

When dried, the maggot-like insect is said to taste a lot like peanuts.

It's thought that insect farming will grow hugely in the next few years. That's because creepy-crawlies are a good source of protein, fibre and fat, which we need in our diets.

Plus, farming insects is less harmful to the environment than farming animals such as cows and sheep, or fishing.

In some parts of the world eating insects is common. Around two billion people around the world already eat about 2,000 different kinds of insect!

But it's thought people in the UK and Europe might need to get over what is described as the 'yuck' factor first.

However, *First News* readers have given the idea a thumbs-up. We asked: "Would you eat insects if it helped to save the planet?" More than 500 of you took part and over half (57%) said you'd be happy to eat insects as part of your diet. Would you?



## Questions on: 'The yuck factor'

1) Why is the subject of eating insects in the news?

- It's been discovered that millions of people eat insects.
- It's been decided (in Europe) that they are safe to eat.
- The first mealworm biscuits have just gone on sale in Europe.

2) Some people find the thought of eating insects disgusting. What is this called in the report?

3) Can mealworms be used as an ingredient in foods in Europe? Find the sentence that gives you the answer.

4) What are dried mealworms said to taste like?

- chicken
- peanuts
- mushrooms
- bran flakes

5) Can you find **two reasons** why insect farming may become more popular?

6) "First News readers have given the idea a thumbs-up". What does this mean?

7) 57% of children said they would eat insects. Choose an option below to complete the sentence.

This is

- a quarter
- just under half
- over half
- almost all

of the children.

8) Would you be willing to eat insects if they were ground up and hidden in food? Is eating insects any different to eating meat?

## ANIMAL NEWS

## GOODBYE QUEEN

**ONE** of the Tower of London's beloved ravens is believed to have died.

Keepers say 'queen' raven Merlina went missing just before Christmas and has not been seen since. She is thought to have passed away.

There is a legend that if the ravens ever leave the tower, the kingdom will fall. Thankfully there are still six ravens left at the Tower.



## MONKEYS GO FOR RICHES

**THIEVING** monkeys living at Uluwatu Temple in Indonesia can recognise expensive belongings!

The monkeys at the ancient Hindu site are well-known for pinching possessions from tourists. They refuse to give them back until they are given food!

Scientists spent 273 days filming the macaques ("ma-cacks"). They discovered the naughty monkeys prefer to steal expensive items, like mobile phones and wallets. They know they can demand more food for them!



## INFECTED GORILLAS

**GORILLAS** at a zoo in California, USA, have tested positive for the coronavirus.

Keepers at the zoo decided to test the poo of the gorilla troop after noticing that two of the gorillas were coughing.

Experts think that the rest of the animals in the troop may have the virus but aren't showing any symptoms.

"Aside from some coughing, the gorillas are doing well," said Lisa Peterson, the director of the park. "We are hopeful for a full recovery."

This is thought to be the first case of a zoo primate (monkey or ape) catching the virus.



## Questions on: 'Animal News'

1) Where do the animals live? Match the animal to the correct place

Ravens

Uluwatu Temple

Gorillas

The Tower of London

Monkeys

A zoo in California

### Look at the news from London.

- 2) Why are ravens 'beloved' birds at the Tower of London?
- 3) One has died. Does the Queen need to worry yet?

### Look at the news from California.

4) **Why** did zookeepers decide to test the gorillas for the coronavirus?

**How** did zookeepers test the gorillas?

5) Who do you think is mostly likely to have given the virus to the gorillas? You aren't told the answer, say what you think.

### Look at the news from Indonesia.

- 6) Find **two facts** about the Uluwatu Temple.
- 7) Why do the monkeys steal things from tourists?
- 8) What does the new research tell you about the monkeys? Choose carefully and use your own opinions – there isn't always a wrong or a right!

The monkeys are...

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> acrobatic | <input type="checkbox"/> greedy        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clever    | <input type="checkbox"/> able to learn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> naughty   | <input type="checkbox"/> criminals     |

Explain your choices.