

UK NEWS

WALES

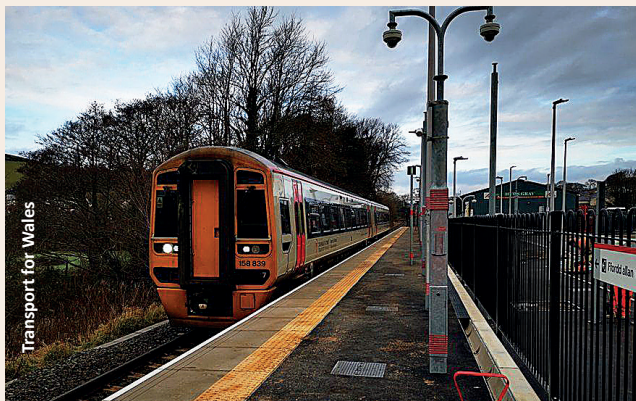
THE TRACK IS BACK!

A VILLAGE in Wales has welcomed its first train in 56 years.

A new station has just opened at Bow Street in Ceredigion. It means locals can catch a train for the first time since 1965.

Thousands of British stations were closed in the 1960s because people were choosing to travel by car instead of train. Now, we need to travel in more environmentally friendly ways to tackle climate change.

Once lockdown ends, it's hoped thousands of journeys will be made from the station, which is great news for the environment.



Transport for Wales

SUFFOLK

ART WITH A HEART



SINGER Ed Sheeran has donated one of his own paintings to raise money for charity.

The painting is called *Splash Planet*. It is being sold to raise money for Cancer Campaign in Suffolk, Ed's home county.

The charity said: "We are a small local charity and are so excited and grateful to Ed for showing his support for our work in making this terrific gift".

The artwork appeared on the cover of Ed's single *Afterglow*.

KENT

WHEELY COOL GIFT

AN 80-year-old paper 'boy' has been given an electric bike to help him on his round.

George Bailey delivers papers around the village of Headcorn in Kent. He has to be one of Britain's oldest paperboys!

Recently, George was considering retiring (stopping work) from his 2.5-mile paper round. But two British cycling companies – Raleigh and Evans Cycles – teamed up to give him a brand new e-bike. An e-bike has an electric motor that gives you a boost up hills!

George is thrilled and says he might carry on with his paper round now until he's 90!



Ciaran McCrickards/PA Wire

Questions on: 'UK News'

1) Find the place.

- In _____, Ed Sheeran has donated a painting to charity.
- George Bailey has been given an e-bike in _____.
- In _____, a new train station has just opened.

Look at the news from Wales.

- 2) In which year did Bow Street station close?
- 3) a. How did transport change in the 1960s?
b. How does transport need to change now?

Look at the news from Suffolk.

- 4) Find the words that tell you Ed Sheeran is from Suffolk.
- 5) Where might people have seen this painting before?
- 6) Find **two words** that explain how the charity feels about being given this painting.

Look at the news from Kent.

7) Find the details about George Bailey.

His age:

His job:

His new gift:

8) Which two words has the writer combined to make a joke (a pun) in the headline?

For bonus points, look at the other two headlines. What common headline technique (style) can you spot in both?

ANIMAL NEWS

BEAVER BOOM



A RECORD number of beavers will be released by The Wildlife Trusts in 2021.

The charity plans to release around 20 animals this year. This week, the first beaver family was released in Dorset. More will follow in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Montgomeryshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Beavers are native to Britain but were hunted to extinction about 500 years ago, for their thick fur and meat.

Craig Bennett from The Wildlife Trusts said: "Beavers help stop flooding downstream... They also create new homes for otters, water voles and kingfishers. What's more, people love seeing them!"

FLIPPING FLIES

DRAGONFLIES perform backflips when they are blown off balance.

Scientists used high-speed cameras to study the movement of dragonflies in extreme detail.

They saw that if the insects are caught upside down they perform a backflip to turn the right way up. The movement is known as 'pitching'. The insects can even perform the move while they are asleep!



LOVEABLE LARRY



LARRY the cat is celebrating ten years at 10 Downing Street, the prime minister's house in London.

Larry is 'Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office'. He moved in to Number 10 after being adopted from Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. He has now served three prime ministers – David Cameron, Theresa May and Boris Johnson. Go Larry!

Questions on: 'Animal News'

1) Why is 'Loveable Larry' the odd one out in this collection of animal news?

2) The title of a newspaper report is called the **headline**. What is similar about the way all three headlines have been written? Find **two** similarities.

Look at the news about dragonflies.

3) What high-tech piece of kit was used by scientists to study dragonflies?

4) Can you explain what 'pitching' is here?

Look at the news from London.

5) What is Larry's fantastic job title?

6) Why is '**ten**' the theme of this news report?

Look at the news about beavers.

7) Find the numbers.

Beavers were hunted to extinction in the UK about _____ years ago. This year, The Wildlife Trusts plans to release around _____ beavers in _____ parts of the UK.

8) How would you **persuade** someone that it's a good idea to bring beavers back? What points would you make to argue your case?

WINTRY NEWS

ICY DARCY



THE fountains in Trafalgar Square froze in last week's cold weather.

Storm Darcy brought heavy snow and freezing temperatures to many parts of the UK.

Braemar in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, recorded a temperature of -22.9°C ! That's the coldest temperature the UK has seen for 26 years. A food freezer is usually about -18°C , so that is mighty cold!

TEXAS FREEZES



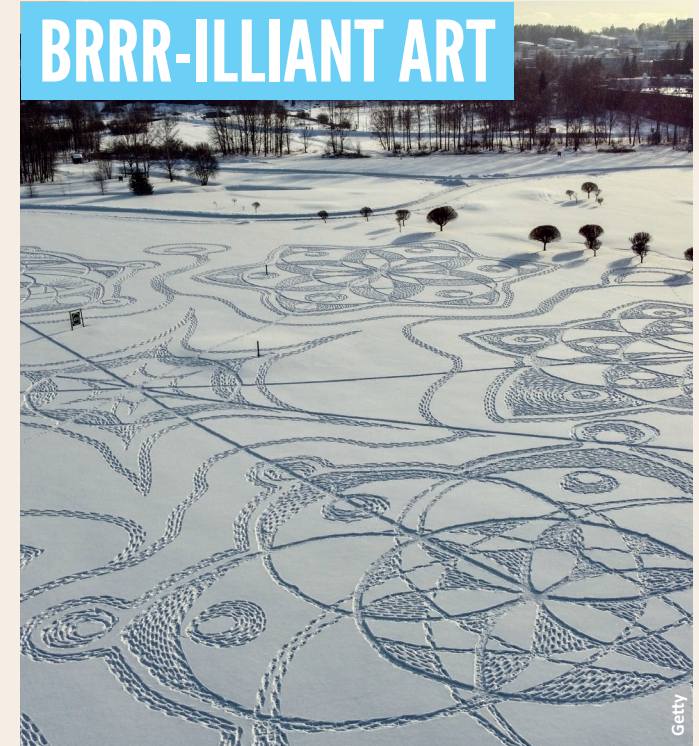
OVER in the USA, Texans are also feeling pretty chilly this month.

Texas is in the south of the country and is better known for heat and tornados!

Some parts of Texas hit -18°C last weekend and, for the first time ever, all parts of the vast state are under a winter storm warning.

Icy roads have led to huge car crashes, and some areas have had power cuts. President Joe Biden has declared an emergency in the state.

BRRR-ILLIANT ART



THIS amazing artwork in Finland has been created entirely from footprints in the snow.

A team of volunteers stomped their way through the white stuff to create the super cool snowflake design.

They used just snowshoes and lengths of rope to make the pattern. The whole thing took two days to complete. It measures an impressive 160 metres across.

Janne Pyykkö was the artist who came up with the idea for the frozen fun.

Questions on: 'Wintry News'

1) Match the headline to the correct country.

Brrr-illiant art

UK

Icy Darcy

USA

Texas freezes

Finland

Look at the news from the UK.

2) Why is Braemar, Scotland, in the news?

Look at the news from Texas.

3) What links a food freezer and parts of Texas?

4) Texas has hit the headlines because of a cold snap. What weather conditions is it usually famous for?

1.

2.

5) What does the word 'vast' tell you about the state of Texas?

6) What problems has the icy weather caused?

Look at the news from Finland.

7) Imagine you were the designer who planned this project. Make a list of everything you need to complete the design.

Look at all the news.

8) Imagine you work at *First News*. You've been told there is only space for one photograph on this page. Which photograph would you choose to keep? Explain your choice.

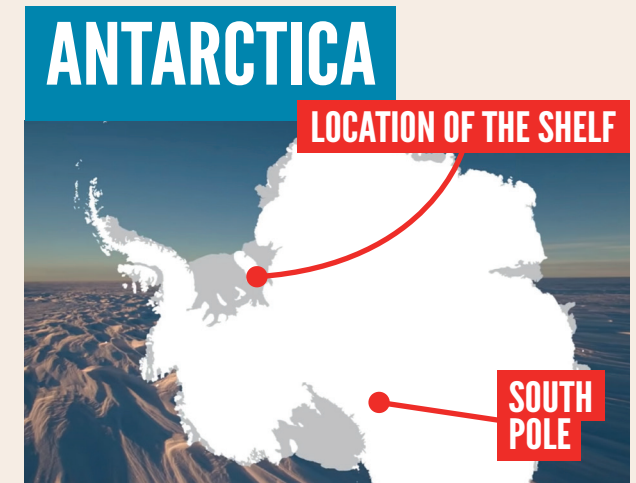
BIG NEWS

LIFE BELOW THE ICE



The hole that scientists drilled through the ice

British Antarctic Survey



ANTARCTICA

LOCATION OF THE SHELF

SOUTH POLE

SURPRISED scientists have discovered sea life living 900 metres under the ice of the Antarctic.

The discovery of 16 sponges and 22 unidentified animals was made by scientists from the British Antarctic Survey, by accident.

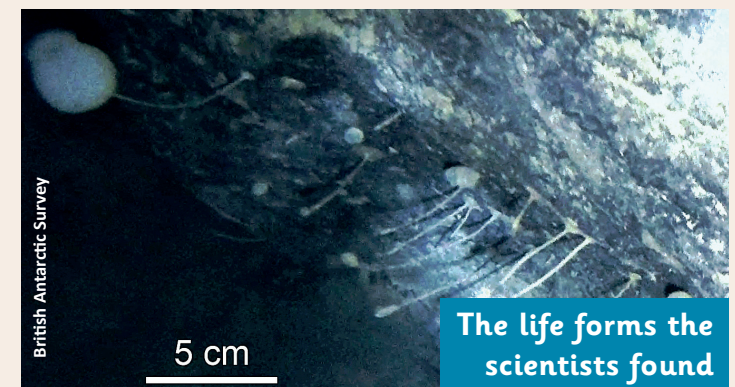
The experts had drilled through almost a kilometre of ice in a massive floating ice shelf to the west of Antarctica. They were collecting samples of mud from the sea floor.

They sent a camera down to take a look at what was going on and discovered the marine life

attached to a large boulder. Some of them are unknown species (kinds of life).

Huw Griffiths is one of the scientists from BAS who made the discovery. He explained: “We never expected these kind of animals... to be found this far from a source of food or daylight. We don’t know how they’re coping with these extreme conditions.”

“There’s all sorts of reasons they shouldn’t be there,” he added.



British Antarctic Survey

5 cm

The life forms the scientists found

Questions on: 'Life below the ice'

1) What do you find out from the first paragraph, in dark (bold) text?

- A summary of the news
- A quote from scientists
- Details of what life was discovered

2) What does **BAS** stand for?

B:

A:

S:

3) What do you think an **ice shelf** is? You aren't told the answer, give your own opinion.

4) Complete the sentence explaining exactly where the discovery was made.

Choose from:

Antarctica

boulder

ice shelf

sea bed

The life forms were found on a _____ on the _____, off the coast of _____, underneath a floating _____ 900 metres thick.

5) Why were the scientists drilling through the ice shelf?

6) What life forms were found?

7) How do you know that scientists were shocked by this discovery? Find the words.

8) Why is it surprising to find life so deep under the ice? What sort of conditions do they have to put up with?