

These stories are from the Animal News section of *First News*. Read the articles and then try the puzzle. To help you we have underlined the answers in the stories, but you will need to match the correct word with each clue!



## ANIMAL NEWS

# FLIPPING COOL

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DRAGONFLIES can perform backflips to help them turn the right way up when they are blown off balance.

CGI technology and high-speed cameras used to study dragonflies have found that the insects perform a backflip if they get caught upside down. This move helps them turn the right way up and is known as 'pitching'. Researchers found the insects can also perform the move while they are asleep!

The findings add to current knowledge about insects and the ways in which they fly and move.

The full study has been published in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.



Mike Symes

A **RECORD** number of beavers are due to be released by The Wildlife Trusts this year, making 2021 a brilliant year for beavers.

This week, the first beaver family was released in Dorset, with more animals planned to be released in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Montgomeryshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The massive reintroduction plans have been developed by The Wildlife Trusts, who first reintroduced beavers to the UK 20 years ago as part of a trial project in Kent.

Beavers are native to Britain but were driven to extinction in the 16th century, mainly for

their fur and meat. Experts agree that bringing them back will have huge benefits for the environment and other wildlife, as well as humans.

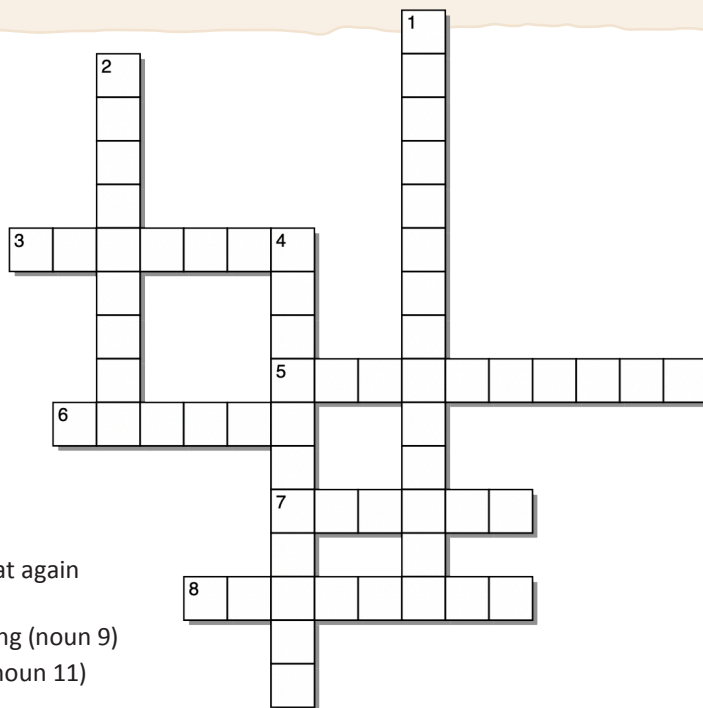
Craig Bennett, chief executive of The Wildlife Trusts, said: "Beavers help stop flooding downstream and filter out impurities – they also create new homes for otters, water voles and kingfishers. What's more, people love seeing them, and their presence boosts tourism in the countryside."

### ACROSS

- 3) An even distribution of weight enabling someone or something to remain upright and steady (noun 7)
- 5) Anything not pure and clean in the water (such as chemicals used on farms) (plural noun 10)
- 6) An animal that has thick brown fur, webbed hind feet and a broad flat tail. It cuts down trees with its teeth and builds dams and houses of sticks and mud in water (noun 6)
- 7) A kind of animal (or plant) that originally grew or lived in a particular place (adjective 6)
- 8) Existence; the beavers being in the area (noun 8)

### DOWN

- 1) Putting a species of animal (or plant) back into its original habitat again (noun 14)
- 2) Understanding and skill gained by experience of doing something (noun 9)
- 4) The natural world; the surroundings in which the beavers live (noun 11)



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