

BIG NEWS

VE DAY CELEBRATING IN LOCKDOWN

FRIDAY 8th May marked 75 years since VE Day, when World War Two ended in Europe.

VE Day – or Victory in Europe Day – was the moment when six years of fighting in Europe finally ended. On 8th May 1945, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that Nazi Germany had surrendered.

Celebrations began straight away throughout Britain, with more than one million people partying in the streets. King George VI appeared on the Buckingham Palace balcony with the prime minister. Princess Elizabeth (far left) was there too (now our Queen) – aged only 19.

This year, many street parties, parades and concerts had been planned to mark the 75th anniversary. Sadly, they couldn't go ahead because of the coronavirus, but don't worry, it was still possible to celebrate in lockdown.

The Queen delivered a special television message from Windsor Castle at 9pm – at the exact moment when her father, King George VI, spoke to the nation on the radio, back in 1945.

Many people decorated their homes in red, white and blue, and held 'stay-at-home street parties'.

A two-minute silence took place at 11am. Then, at 3pm, there was The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2. People across the country stood up and raised a glass of their favourite drink while saying the following toast: "To those who gave so much, we thank you."



The Red Arrows
flew over
Buckingham Palace

Questions on: 'Big News'

1) What happened on VE Day?

- ☐ The Second World War ended
- ☐ World War Two ended in Europe
- ☐ UK soldiers landed in France to free the country from German rule

2) Who was the UK prime minister at the end of the Second World War?

- ☐ George VI
- ☐ Sir Winston Churchill
- ☐ Boris Johnson

3) What did the Queen do on VE Day in 1945, and what was her title then?

4) The Queen is 94 now. What did she do on VE Day in 2020?

5) What **two** things usually happen when you give a **toast**?

- 1.
- 2.

6) Find and copy the words that are part of this toast.

7) Look at the planned celebrations. At what time did these things happen?

- _____ – A two-minute silence
- _____ – Toast to the Heroes of WW2
- _____ – Broadcast from the Queen

8) Do you think VE Day should be a sad day, when we remember all the people who have died, or a happy day, when we celebrate the end of the war?

UK NEWS

UK

SUPER SUNNY APRIL

The Met Office (the UK's national weather service) says the UK has just had the sunniest April since records began in 1929! On average, Britain had just over 224 hours of sunshine this April, which beat the 2015 record of 211 hours. The Isle of Wight was the sunniest place in the UK, with 279 hours of sunshine in April. Although the extra sunshine may have cheered us up, it might also sadly be a sign of climate change.



BELPER, DERBYSHIRE

THE CAT WHO LOVES GLOVES

The owner of a cheeky cat who loves pinching gloves is trying to return the gloves to their owner. Vikki Maddocks from Belper said her cat Elmo has stolen at least 14 gardening gloves over the past year. She said he “drops them at my feet and looks at me, really proud”.

MILTON KEYNES

VE DAY STAMP SURPRISE

A 90-year-old woman has been shocked to see herself on a stamp made to celebrate 75 years since the end of World War Two! The stamps all feature old photos from 1945 – the year the war ended in Europe. Bette Williamson can be seen on the VE Day stamp, on the right, behind the US flag. She was just 14 at the time. VE Day – or Victory in Europe Day – is when the war in Europe ended. Describing the historic day, Bette told the BBC: “The atmosphere was electric, you kissed and hugged everyone, it was wonderful. We’re in a similar war spirit now, everyone coming together to help one another. It’s lovely to see.”



Questions on: 'UK News'

Look at the news from the UK.

- 1) Until last month, which year held the record for having the sunniest April?
- 2) Most of us like sunny weather, but why is all this April sunshine not such good news?

Look at the news from Belper, Derbyshire.

- 3) Who is **quoted** in this news story?

- ☐ Elmo's owner
- ☐ A person whose gloves were stolen
- ☐ A cat behaviour expert

- 4) What do you learn **in the quote**? Choose all correct answers.

- ☐ Elmo's face when he gives his owner the gloves
- ☐ How long Elmo has been stealing gloves
- ☐ How the owner feels about Elmo's habit
- ☐ Where the cat puts the gloves down

- 5) Which word has a similar meaning to '**stealing**'?

For bonus points, which word do you think is more **formal**?

Look at the news from Milton Keynes.

- 6) What shocked an old lady called Bette recently?

- 7) Bette says the atmosphere on VE Day "was electric". What do you think she means?

- 8) Why does Bette say that our situation now (dealing with the coronavirus) is a bit like wartime? Do you agree?

ANIMAL NEWS

HELPING HEDGEHOGS

THE British Hedgehog Preservation Society is asking people to think about how we can help hedgehogs while we are all spending more time at home.

Hedgehogs are one of the UK's most familiar and well-loved animals. They are always popping up in children's stories and films. But when did you last actually see one? Sadly, hedgehog numbers are falling quickly.

As more houses and building developments take over green spaces around the UK, hedgehogs are finding it harder and harder to survive. So, why not try these five easy ideas to help our hedgehogs?

- 1.** Make square holes at the bottom of fences or walls (about 13cm). This makes sure hedgehogs can move between gardens and helps to create a hedgehog highway!
- 2.** Create a log pile, which will provide shelter and food for hedgehogs.
- 3.** If you know there is a hedgehog in your garden, offer them meaty cat or dog food in the garden at night. You can create a simple feeding station so the food isn't stolen by cats and foxes!
- 4.** Leave shallow bowls of water in the garden for them to drink.
- 5.** Build a hedgehog home for them to nest in and use as a nursery.

You can find instructions on how to build a hedgehog feeding station or hedgehog home at britishhedgehogs.org.uk.



Questions on: 'Animal News'

1) Complete the name of this animal charity:

B _____
H _____
P _____
S _____

2) Look at the **second** paragraph. What question does the writer ask you?

- ☐ When did you last see a hedgehog?
- ☐ What can you do to help hedgehogs?
- ☐ Did you know that hedgehog numbers are falling?

3) Find **two descriptions** that give the idea that hedgehogs are one of our favourite animals.

- 1.
- 2.

4) What may be causing our hedgehog numbers to fall?

5) Look closely at the tips and put them in the given order!

- ☐ Offer food
- ☐ Build a home
- ☐ Create a log pile
- ☐ Make holes in fences
- ☐ Leave out water

6) It helps hedgehogs if they can travel between everyone's gardens. What name is given to this path?
(Tip, it uses alliteration.)

7) Find and copy the name of the **website** where you can find help with these five tasks.

8) Hedgehogs used to be one of our most popular and well-loved mammals, but now we hardly ever see them. Does this matter? Explain your thoughts.

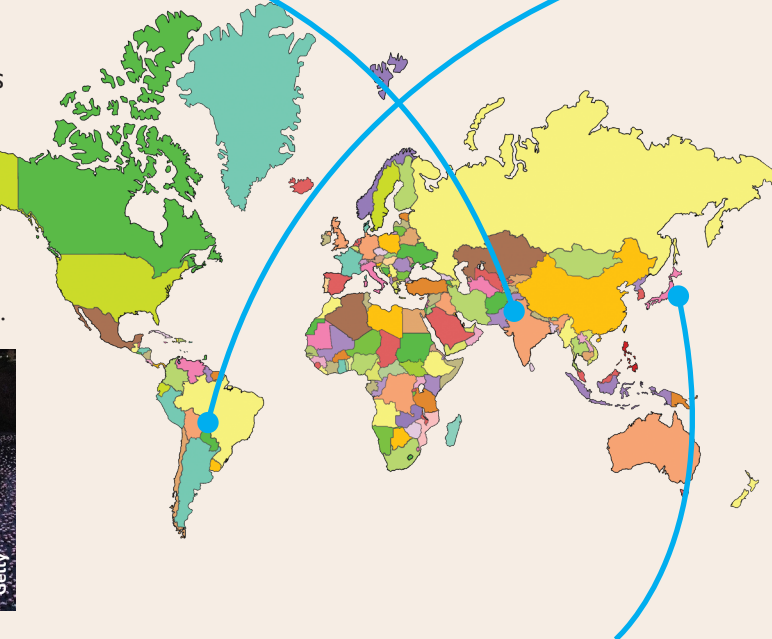
WORLD NEWS

INDIA



FLAMINGO TAKEOVER

India's lockdown has meant that air pollution across the country has dropped dramatically. It is also a lot more peaceful and animals are enjoying the change. The usually polluted city of Mumbai has been overrun by flamingos! It's not unusual for flamingos to be seen in Mumbai, but it is rare for so many to arrive at once.



PARAGUAY



SUPER-SIZED SOUP

A city in Paraguay ("par-a gw-igh"), celebrated May Day by holding the biggest soup kitchen in the country. Volunteers made these giant pots of soup and fed about 7,000 hungry people!



SPACE



SPEEDY SPACE ROCK

A mile-wide asteroid raced past the Earth last week at around 19,000 miles per hour. It was four million miles away from Earth (about 16 times further away than the moon). Experts consider this to be quite close! The space rock orbits the sun every three years, but won't come as close to the Earth again until 2079.

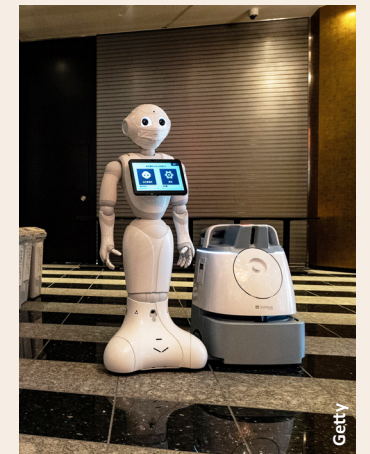


JAPAN



ROBOT GREETERS

In Japan, people who have caught the coronavirus but are only slightly unwell are being put up in hotels. This keeps hospital beds free for people with more severe illnesses. At one hotel in Tokyo, patients are being greeted by a robot called Pepper (picture, left). Another robot, Whiz (picture, right), cleans up the shared areas of the hotel.



Questions on: 'World News'

1) Match the news to the correct place.

Birds enjoy a peaceful city

PARAGUAY

Soup at springtime

SPACE

High-tech help for ill people

INDIA

Asteroid flies past

JAPAN

Look at the news from Paraguay.

2) Look at the map. Paraguay is in which continent?

☐ South America ☐ North America ☐ Africa

3) What information do you find out in the brackets?

- ☐ The volume of soup that was given out
- ☐ How to say the word 'Paraguay'
- ☐ The meaning of the word 'Paraguay'

Look at the news from India.

4) Find **two** reasons why there might be lots more flamingos in Mumbai at the moment.

1.
2.

Look at the news from space.

5) Fill the gaps with the missing numbers.

An asteroid measuring _____ mile across sped past Earth last week, at a speed of _____ miles per hour. It was _____ miles away from Earth, which is _____ times further away than the moon. This asteroid circles the sun every _____ years.

Look at the news from Japan.

6) Who are Pepper and Whiz and what do they both do?

7) Why are some people in Japan with the virus being sent to special hotels?

Consider all the news.

8) Newspapers are often organised into categories. Match the story to a suitable category.

Can you make up a new category for the last story?

Flamingo takeover

TECHNOLOGY

Speedy space rock

ANIMALS

Robot greeters

Super-sized soup

SCIENCE