

## UK NEWS

## SCOTLAND

## OCEAN PROTECTION

A huge area of sea off the northwest coast of Scotland is to become a protected zone. It will be the largest Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Europe. MPAs are set up to look after the sea habitats and wildlife living there, just like nature reserves and national parks on land.



Getty

## UK

## HELP OUR HEDGEHOGS!

A wildlife charity is asking us to make our gardens more hedgehog-friendly, ready for their winter hibernation.

According to the Wildlife Trusts, hedgehog numbers have dropped by 30% (almost one-third) in the last ten years. But there are things you can do to help! First, create a hole 13cm wide in your fence so hedgehogs can get into your garden. (Perhaps ask an adult first!) Leave out meaty pet food and water to help get the snufflers fit and healthy, ready for their long winter sleep. Finally, create a log pile, compost heap or bramble patch for them to snuggle up in!

Hedgehogs usually hibernate between November and the middle of March.



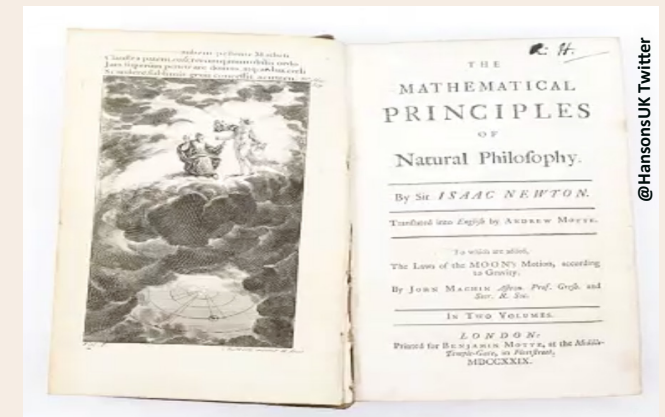
iStock

## WALES

## RARE SCIENCE BOOK SELLS FOR £22K

A book by Sir Isaac Newton has sold for £22,000. Isaac Newton is best known for discovering the laws of gravity (the force that causes things to fall). He explained all about it in *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy* (have a go at saying it!) It is considered to be one of the most important works of science ever written.

This early copy was discovered on a bookshelf in Wales by someone having a clear-out during lockdown. It is almost 300 years old. The person who was asked to sell the book said he “almost fell off his chair” when he realised what he’d been sent!



@HansonsUK Twitter

## Questions on: 'UK News'

1) **Quick quiz.** Match the question to the correct answer.

Where has a large area of sea just been protected?

gravity

What force was discovered by Sir Isaac Newton?

Wales

What is the word for an animal's long winter sleep?

Scotland

Where was a valuable book discovered during lockdown?

hibernation

### Look at the news from Scotland.

2) Find a word in the story that has been used instead of the word 'area'.

3) Why do you think it is important to protect large areas of the sea?

### Look at the news from Wales.

4) What does the letter 'K' stand for in the headline?

pounds     thousand     hundred

5) What does the journalist suggest you should try to say?

- The title of the book
- The name of a law
- The price the book sold for

6) What tells you that this is a very rare and special book? Find the sentences.

### Look at the news from the UK.

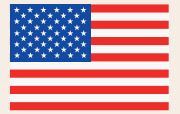
7) Find **three** things you can do to make a garden lovely for hibernating hedgehogs!

8) Many children in the UK live in flats and don't have a garden. Do you think it's fair to include this article in a children's newspaper?

Explain your reasons.



## NEWS FROM THE USA



## COVID CLAIM

US president Donald Trump has again been accused of spreading misinformation, after saying he is now “immune” from the coronavirus (meaning he has protection from the disease).

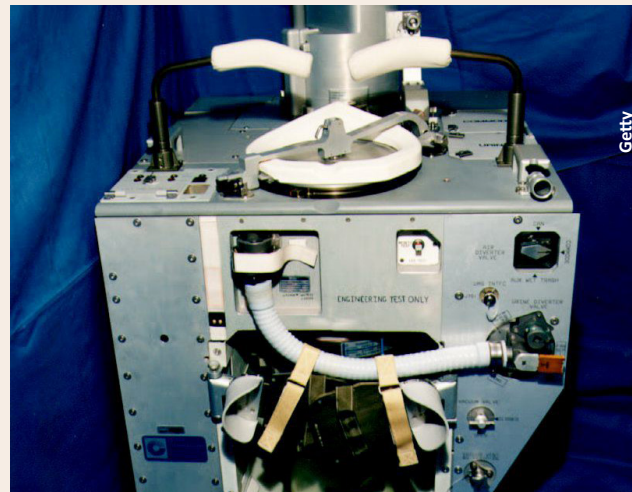
You may have heard that Donald Trump has recently been ill with the coronavirus. Since he left hospital he has claimed several times that he is now immune. In fact, several people are known to have caught the virus twice.

The president has also said, incorrectly, that the virus is less deadly than the flu and that the virus will disappear one day “like a miracle”.

Although he has only just recovered from his illness, Trump has already been to a large gathering of supporters where few people were wearing masks.



## TOILET TESTING



NASA is getting ready to test out their new \$23 million space loo! The titanium toilet is packed in a cargo ship, waiting to be sent to the International Space Station.

Without gravity – the force that makes things fall – going to the loo in space can be, um, rather tricky. The new toilet has been made to be better suited for women than the old one (above). The seat has also been tilted and made taller, which should provide a better position for going for a poo. One of the NASA experts on the project said: “Cleaning up a mess is a big deal. We don’t want any misses or escapes!”

## SIZEABLE SNAKE

Two python hunters in Florida, USA, have managed to capture a Burmese python measuring 18 feet 9 inches long (5.72 metres) – a new record! The pythons are not native to Florida, so people are paid to remove them to help native wildlife.



## GLOSSARY

**misinformation** – Incorrect information, often intended to mislead

**titanium** – A metal that is both lightweight and strong

**COVID** – (COVID-19) the name for the illness caused by the coronavirus

## Questions on: 'News from the USA'

1) Which topics are in the news from America?

- |                                  |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Space   | <input type="checkbox"/> Film    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sport   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leaders | <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals |

2) What is similar about all the **headlines**?  
Can you think of **two** similarities?

**Look at the story 'COVID claim'.**

3) Why was Donald Trump in hospital recently?

4) Once you've had coronavirus you are immune to the disease.  
Is this a fact?

5) What **word** is used for information that is incorrect and may be misleading?

**Look at the story 'Toilet testing'.**

6) American units:

● The **currency (money)** in America is dollars.  
What is the **symbol** for the dollar?

£           €           \$

● Americans do not use metres and centimetres for most **measurements**. What units do they use?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

7) Why do you think titanium is a useful material for space kit?  
(Look at the glossary for help.)

8) This is a light-hearted news story. Find the parts of the story that make you smile.

**The funny bits:**

**Who said them?**



## FRONT PAGE

# GIANT REFUGEE PUPPET ON TREK TO UK

**A GIANT puppet of a refugee child is set to travel nearly 5,000 miles from the border of Syria to the UK.**

The 3.5-metre puppet shows the character of a nine-year-old girl called Little Amal, who is in search of her mother.

Little Amal will begin her epic journey in April. She will travel through Turkey, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and France in order to get to Britain.

The theatre group behind the project hopes Little Amal will make us think about the millions of children around the world who have lost their homes and had to leave their country. They often have to make long, dangerous journeys to find safety. COVID-19 now puts them at more risk than ever.

Little Amal will enter the UK at Folkestone, and celebrate her tenth birthday in London. Finally, she will head north and end her journey at the Manchester International Festival next July.

Little Amal is operated by three people: one inside on stilts and two people outside moving her arms. A small computer operates her eyes.

The puppet has been made by the people who created the amazing horse puppets for the play of Michael Morpurgo's *War Horse*.

The director Stephen Daldry is part of the team. He said the project will be a travelling festival of art and hope. He explained: "Little Amal's story highlights the challenges that refugee children face. But she is also a figure of great hope."



## Questions on: 'Giant refugee puppet on trek to UK'

1) A puppet is about to go on a long journey across Europe. Complete the details about the journey.

	Place?	When?
Start		
End		

2) What do you know about the character of Little Amal?

- She is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- She is \_\_\_\_ years old.
- She is searching for her \_\_\_\_\_.

3) What is a 'refugee'?

- A person who has had to move out of their house
- A person who has had to leave their country because of danger
- A person who has had to go on a long, dangerous journey

4) Which countries will the puppet travel **through**? Choose carefully!

- |                                 |                                  |                                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey | <input type="checkbox"/> America | <input type="checkbox"/> Germany     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Syria  | <input type="checkbox"/> Greece  | <input type="checkbox"/> Switzerland |

5) What will Little Amal celebrate in London?

6) How is Little Amal controlled? Complete the sentences.

One person .....

Two people .....

A computer .....

7) What other famous puppets have been made by the people who created Little Amal?

8) This is an art project that wants to make people think. What do you think is the **main message**?



## NEWS IN NUMBERS

200



**200** is the number of people who have flocked to see a bearded vulture that has been spotted in Lincolnshire. The bone-eating bird is usually found high in the mountains of other European countries. For some reason this one spent the summer roosting in the Peak District! The bearded vulture has a wingspan of a staggering 2.5 metres. A scientific study of one of its feathers shows the bird hatched in the French Alps last year!

134



**134** centimetres is the length of Maci Currin's legs! The American teenager now has a Guinness World Record for being the woman with the world's longest legs. Seventeen-year old Maci is 208cm tall (6 foot 10 inches). Her legs make up almost two-thirds of her height! Maci is proud of her super-long legs. She says that people who have unusual physical qualities should "embrace it – don't hide it".

81,000



**81,000** is the number of fans duck, Ben Afquack, has on social media. With this huge number of followers, the duck and his owner, Derek Johnson, have bagged a Guinness World Record. They now share the record for 'Most followers on Instagram for a duck'.

Duck fans can watch Afquack playing bongos, working out at the gym (see picture above) and generally leading a quacking life.

## Questions on: 'News in Numbers'

1) What is measured by these numbers? Match the options correctly.

200

Fans

134

People

81,000

Centimetres

2) What links the stories about the American teenager and the duck?

3) There are all sorts of numbers in this News in Numbers selection. Pick out **three** other number facts.

**Look at the news about the duck.**

4) What kinds of things can fans watch Ben Afquack doing?

5) Look at the last paragraph. What **pun** (play on words) has the writer made?

**Look at the news about the vulture.**

6) Which facts do you find out from the news report?

- The bird's usual diet
- The age of the bird
- The wingspan of the bird
- Where these birds are usually found
- The sex of the bird (male/female)
- The species (type) of bird

7) What information have scientists worked out by studying one feather?

**Look at the news about Maci Currin.**

8) This is a funny world record, but Maci has an important message to tell people. What is it? Do you think she is doing the right thing?