

## BIG NEWS

# SUPER RAT!

**A BRAVE rat has been given a very special award for sniffing out landmines in Cambodia.**

Magawa has sniffed out more than 65 landmines and dangerous explosives in Cambodia, a country in Southeast Asia.

The rodent was trained by the charity APOPO to recognise the smell of explosives and then alert humans.

Magawa is an African giant pouched rat. He is much larger than your average pet rat, but still light enough that he would never set off a landmine by walking over it.

The charity says Magawa can check an area the size of a tennis court in 30 minutes, which would take a person with a metal detector between one and four days.

In fact, Magawa has managed to help clear land equal to 20 football pitches, making it safe for local people.

This week, the UK vet charity PDSA presented its Gold Medal to the hero rat for his life-saving bravery and devotion to duty.

## WHAT IS A LANDMINE?

A landmine is an explosive buried just under the surface of the ground, which explodes when stepped on. They were banned in 1997, but sadly many remain hidden in old war zones and are a terrible hazard to humans and wildlife.



## Questions on: 'Super rat!'

1) Why is Magawa the rat in the news this week?

- He helps to clear landmines and saves lives.
- He has just been awarded a medal.
- He has just sniffed out his 100th landmine.

2) In which country does he work?

- Cambodia
- Angola
- Iran

3) In order to do this job successfully, an animal has to be trained to do two things. What are they?

- 1. ....
- 2. ....

4) Why is Magawa better at this job than a human?

5) The journalist makes lots of comparisons to help you understand the size of things. What are these things **compared** to?

	This is compared to...
The size of Magawa	
The area he can check in 30 minutes	
The total area of land he has made safe	

6) Why is it important that Magawa is quite light (doesn't weigh much)?

7) In which **order** do you find out these facts?

- The number of mines the rat has found
- Who gave Magawa the medal
- Who trained Magawa
- What type of rat he is

8) Sadly, many horrible types of explosives are used in war. Why do you think landmines have been banned?

## NEWS IN PICTURES

## DONJA LOKOŠNICA, SERBIA

**Paprika peppers hang to dry in a village in Serbia.**

The village of Donja Lokošnica is nicknamed the “paprika capital of the world”. Almost all of the 1,000 villagers are involved in growing the peppers that paprika is made from. Each string of peppers is handmade in the traditional way and dried using only the sun and fresh air. Paprika is a mild, red spice and one of the most popular crisp flavours in Europe.

## BLACK MOUNTAINS, WALES

**Bracken spells out an important message on a mountainside in Wales.**

The charity Stump up For Trees is clearing bracken to get ready for a huge tree planting project. Millions of trees will be planted on the hills over the coming years. Keith Powell, the founder of the charity, said: “Tree planting is now recognised as one of the best ways to tackle this global [climate] crisis.”

The cut bracken spells the words ‘Daw eto ddail ar fryn’, which is Welsh for ‘There will be leaves on the mountain again’.

## ARCTIC OCEAN

**British teenager Mya-Rose Craig protests about climate change on the edge of the Arctic ice.**

Eighteen-year-old Mya-Rose is worried that the Arctic ice could disappear because of global warming by the time she’s in her 30s. She said: “I’m here to demand that our leaders come together... to protect this fragile place. There is still time to turn things around.”

Mya-Rose was visiting the Arctic Circle with Greenpeace, the environmental action group.

## Questions on: 'News in Pictures'

1) Match the place to the correct news story.

SERBIA

A lot of spice is made in a village here.

ARCTIC

A lot of trees will soon be planted here.

WALES

A teenager wants action on climate change here.

**Look at the news from Serbia.**

2) Find two facts about paprika.

1. ....

2. ....

3) Why is this village called the 'paprika capital of the world'?

**Look at the news from Wales.**

**Daw eto ddail ar fryn**

4) What does this mean in English?

5) Look closely at the photo. What else has been spelled out in bracken?

- The name of the mountain
- The name of the person who said 'Daw eto ddail ar fryn'
- The name of the charity

**Look at the news from the Arctic.**

6) What is Mya-Rose worried about?

7) What is the link between this news report and the news from Wales?

8) Stories on the News in Pictures page don't have headlines. Can you think of a good headline for one of these news reports?

**DON'T FORGET:**

The headline is the title of the news report. It is written to grab the reader's attention.

## UK NEWS

## LONDON

## TEACHER UP FOR TOP PRIZE

A maths teacher from London has reached the final shortlist for the 2020 Global Teacher Prize. There are ten finalists. Dr Jamie Frost's teaching website helped millions of pupils around the world during lockdown. The winner will get a prize of \$1 million (£780,000 – seven hundred and eighty thousand pounds)!



## VALE OF GLAMORGAN

## HIBERNATION WORRIES

A tortoise sanctuary in Wales is worried that tortoises won't be brought in to hibernate because of the new coronavirus lockdowns. Tortoises are cold-blooded animals. In the winter, their bodies slow down and they hibernate until the weather warms up again. Every year, more than 200 pet tortoises are brought to the International Tortoise Association's sanctuary in Sully, Wales, to hibernate. It's a bit like a hibernation hotel! The pets are kept in a safe, secure place, where the temperature is carefully controlled. It's very important that a hibernating tortoise does not get too hot, or too cold.



## AYRSHIRE

## LOST AT SEA!

A fisherman off the coast of Ayrshire got a surprise this week when a cockatiel landed on his boat, ten miles out to sea! The man called the Scottish SPCA charity, which rescued the bird. Sheena MacTaggart from the charity said: "Thank goodness the boat was there so the bird found somewhere to rest. We have named him Heihei after the bird in the film *Moana*, who stows away on her boat. We thought it was very fitting!" If you recognise Heihei or know who he belongs to, you can contact the Scottish SPCA's helpline on 03000 999 999.



## Questions on: 'UK News'

1) Match the headline to the correct part of the UK.

SCOTLAND

Hibernation worries

ENGLAND

Lost at sea!

WALES

Teacher up for top prize

2) Which two stories are related to the coronavirus lockdown? Explain why.

**Look at the news from London.**

3) Why has Dr Frost been nominated for the top teaching prize?

4) What is a 'shortlist'?

- A group of people chosen from a larger selection
- A small number of options written as a bulletpoint list
- Everyone who has been nominated for a prize

**Look at the news from Ayrshire.**

5) Can you explain why the fisherman was so surprised when this bird landed on his boat?

6) Why did the charity decide to call the bird Heihei?

**Look at the news from the Vale of Glamorgan.**

7) Why do you think people bring their tortoises to this centre to hibernate? Choose all correct options.

- The people there are tortoise experts.
- It's cheaper than keeping your tortoise at home.
- The space is safe and secure.
- It's not safe for a tortoise to hibernate at home.
- The temperature of the tortoises is carefully controlled.

8) Why do you think that temperature is important for a hibernating tortoise? You aren't told the answer; say what you think.

## SCIENCE NEWS

# TINY TURBINE CAN POWER PHONES

**SCIENTISTS in China have created a tiny wind turbine that can capture the wind energy we create when we walk.**

The dinky device is called a nanogenerator. It is made of two plastic strips in a tube. The strips flap together in flowing air and become charged up.

The electricity made by these tiny movements is captured and stored by the device, and can be used to power gadgets.

The tiny generator was invented by experts at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

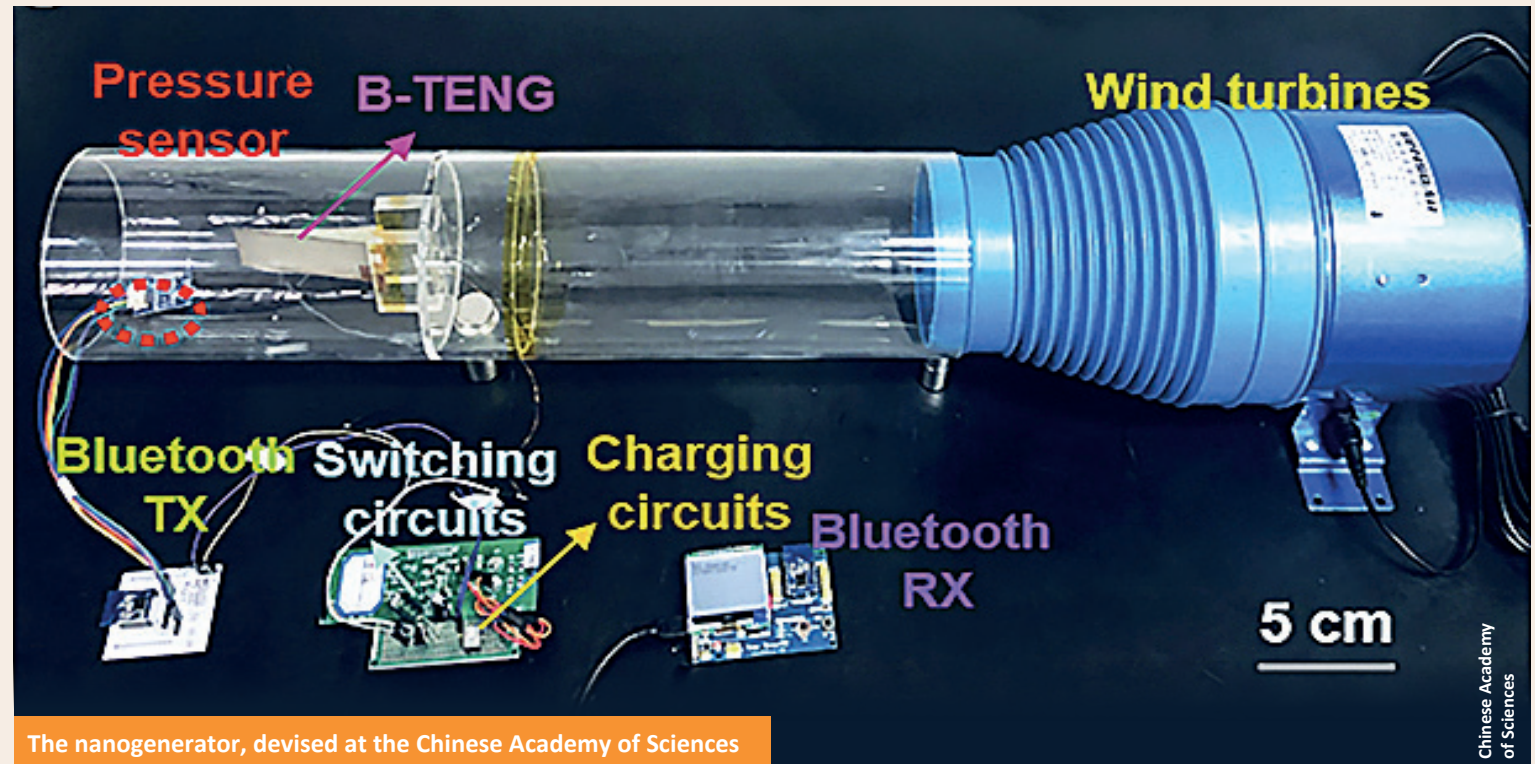
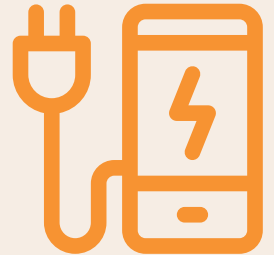
Dr Ya Yang from the academy says the invention can make electricity from a person simply swinging their arm. A gentle breeze is also enough to power the device. The faster the airflow, the more power is generated, so a bike ride or jog will produce more power than a quick walk.

The device has already powered 100 LEDs (low-energy lights).

At the moment, the wind turbine is the size of a coin, but scientists hope to make it even smaller so it can be

attached to a mobile and other portable gadgets.

Dr Yang and his team are working on a much larger version. They think that it could replace traditional wind turbines as another way of harnessing the green energy in our breezes and gales.



The nanogenerator, devised at the Chinese Academy of Sciences

## Questions on: 'Tiny turbine can power phones'

1) Who is the person leading the team that has come up with this invention, and where does he work?

2) What is inside the tube?

3) This is a nanogenerator. What does 'nano' mean here?

- Extremely small
- A millionth
- Digital

4) These steps explain how the device works. Can you put them in the correct order?

- This movement causes the strips to charge up
- The electricity is stored for later use
- Strips in the tube flap
- A person moves along

5) Find three examples of human movement that can power this nanogenerator. Can you put them in the order of smallest to biggest?

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

6) A turbine is a machine with a part that turns in order to make electricity. Why is this new invention not actually a turbine?

7) Look at the last paragraph. What does the journalist mean by "green energy"?

8) This invention is at a very early stage. Do you think it will ever be developed and used to power gadgets? Explain your opinion.