

The background of the image is a photograph of a park or schoolyard. A large, mature tree with dense foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and brown dominates the right side of the frame. To the left, a dark-colored playground structure with slides and climbing equipment is visible. Several children in blue and white uniforms are playing on the equipment. The sky is blue with some light clouds. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

THE TREEHOUSE PAPERS

ISSUE 1 2023

The Treehouse Papers Issue 1 (2023) has been devised by students in the Year 6 Writers' Studio. Chief Editors, **Lisa Mussett** and **Evelyn Hammond** have been leading a team of students, under the guidance and supervision of Miss Candelori.

The team includes **Raphaella Abreu, Madi Chamley, Oscar Choo, Pixie Hanson, Maeve Ryan, Sienna Patruno, Ava Stocks** and **David White**. Once per week these 10 students gather for a Writers' Studio lesson and collaborate their ideas for articles to be included in The Treehouse Papers.

This issue, other Year 6 students were given the opportunity to submit a self-written article on any of the categories. The following students provided an article for Issue 1- *Andy Clothier, Hadley Morgan, Gabi Von Sperl, Mariella Vlahakis and Eli Winn*. We thank them for their contribution.

We hope you enjoy reading The Treehouse Papers Issue 1.

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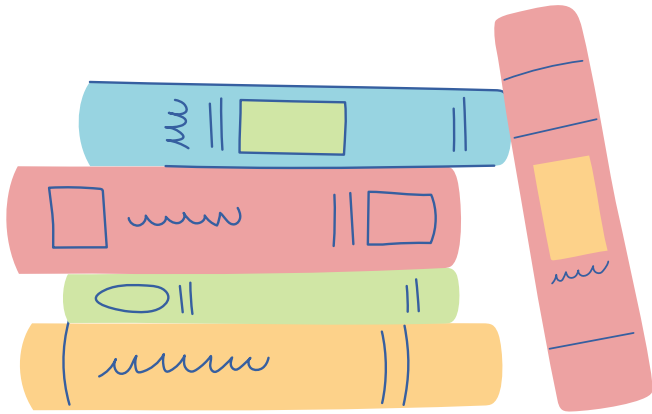
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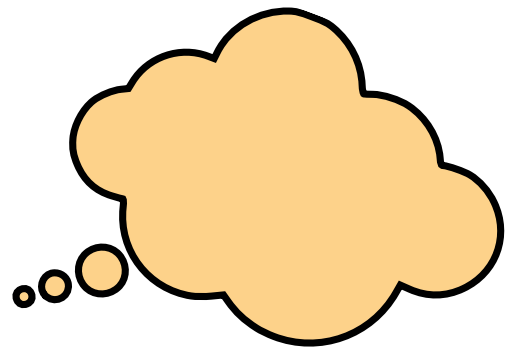
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Have
FUN!



Short Stories



INTO THE DESERT

BY AVA STOCKS

I'm only sleeping for an hour until I hear a strange noise. I don't have any siblings, and Dad is working a night shift at the bar. It sounds like a dog or a wolf howling, but it's quiet and close. We don't have a dog, and there aren't any wolves around here, so what could it be? For a moment I think it's just the wind, but the wind doesn't sound this intense. The screeching sends a shudder through my shoulders. It seems to be shaking in a cycle; small vibrations, very noticeable vibrations, vigorous shaking, and repeat. It's doing this on purpose. The shaking had its own thoughts, its own brain.

When Dad woke me up in the morning, the shaking wasn't gone. I thought maybe it was a dream, or I was hallucinating, but this was very much real. The shaking was so intense it knocked most of my K-Pop posters onto my bed, my Red Velvet poster even landing on my face in my sleep. We both stared around the room for a minute. Dad looks down, noticing the shaking. I reach to my nightstand, and grab my phone; no earthquake warnings. A few other families are trying to figure out what is going on outside. Nobody can come to a conclusion, so the fussing ends and they head back inside.

After spending all morning thinking about the shaking, and the shaking spends all morning thinking about how it can be most annoying. Dad goes back to bed at eight – he was tired from the night shift. I hate when he has night shifts. It doesn't make much of a difference but it still feels lonely. As soon as I head out the door, I scream.

"Layla! Don't move!" says my neighbor, Sara. I don't. I can't. I wobble a little over the edge of the blue void and stare into it. I wasn't breathing, so I exhale sharply. I hear Dad stomp down the stairs and to the entryway. Sara's already trying to stop him, but it's too late. He swings open the door and knocks me into the – what is it? – the thing.

This is the complete opposite of Narnia. Instead of being cold and icy, it's hot and arid. I've been transported to a desert. But no ordinary desert. Instead of green cacti, they're pinky-orange with fuzzy hair instead of spikes. Camels are replaced with bird-like creatures of all colours. The sand is normal, at least. There is no sign of human civilization. I'm stuck here.

After a mental breakdown and a half, I decide to travel. I walk towards a flat plane in hopes of people (it seems like a good spot for a village). But to no avail. Just more birds and cacti. One of the birds gets down on the ground next to me, and I wrap my leg over him like a horse. He was probably laying down to sleep, but this works too. The bird waddles on sleepily and I give him a jab in the stomach with my feet. With a flap of his wings he takes off into the sky. Horses can't do this! I have a nice aerial view of the area. No humans. You know what? This is my chance to become independent. I can do this myself.

I scour the desert a little more, in case there is somebody here. Of course, there's nobody around, so I park the bird on the top of a sand dune.

"Okay, so, how do I get back?" I mumble. "I should start at the beginning." I start thinking about everything that happened that morning. Rumbling, Sara, blue thing, desert, bird. Rumbling, blue thing. The rumbling has to have been from the portal. Sara, portal, desert. Did Sara have anything to do with this? No, she looked just as terrified as me. Portal, desert. The portal took me here, so this place must be special. Is it magical? Godly? Portal. Where did it come from? Why did it take me here?

I realise I'm only creating more questions than answers. The bird (who I decided to name Henry, for no particular reason) is sleeping beside me. He was definitely trying to sleep before. How do I get out of here?

After a while (not sure how long because I do not have any way of telling time), I settle on a few options.

1. Fly as high as I can on Henry.
2. Sleep and hope I'm in a dream.
3. Try to survive and live here forever.
4. Continue trying to find people to help me.
5. Die.



My best bets would be to fly, sleep, or die. And I don't really want to die. I am getting pretty tired, so I should try sleeping first. I curl up next to Henry and close my eyes until I fall asleep. When I wake up, I am not in my bed. I remain next to my backpack, Henry, and my notebook, not my pillow, cat, and bird stuffie. I'm glad that Henry's still here, he's kind of my only hope right now. I think he's enjoying the company, because he nestled his head in my neck during our nap. I gently sit up so I don't wake Henry, and take out my recess from my school bag and wait for Henry to wake up.

When he does, I pat his back and give him a chunk of my apple. He seems to like it! I don't want to put him to work immediately, so I give him some pets, and we take off into the sky. The dune gives us a head start, but I still don't make it far. Henry started to breathe heavily, and so did I. Oxygen is very limited in this place. I give Henry a break, and we walk back to the top of the dune. I pick up my notebook and look at my list. Next on the list – oh.

5. Die.

Is this really my only option? This is it? I look at the list, to Henry, to the surrounding land, and at my hands. I can't do it. I can't leave Henry. I've only known him for a short while, but he's my best friend. Wow, I'm best friends with an orange and purple bird. It's true, though. Henry is so innocent, so lonely, so troubled. I can tell. Besides Henry, I also have my dad. I love my dad. If I give up now, I won't ever see him again. I won't see my cat, I won't see my bird stuffie, I won't see anything. I sit back down, and Henry follows. Henry looks over my shoulder as I write.

Look for my dad (he could have followed me in).

Look for a portal back.

Actually die this time.

Looking for a portal, people, and my dad goes hand-in-hand, so it's best to travel. Sorry, Henry, I'm using you again. I just let Henry wander around on land, that's probably the way to go. Henry was so quick to approach me, and he might do the same for someone else, too. I don't fly this time, because flying seems to hurt Henry. Somewhere along the way, I start humming Everybody Wants To Rule The World and Henry tries to join in with his bluuugh's. It's adorable. I can't leave him behind! He'll be heartbroken.

"Help me make the most of freedom and of pleasure, nothing ever lasts forever. Everybody wants to rule the world," I half sing, half mumble. Henry joins in too, and I chuckle a bit. Henry's beautiful singing is interrupted by a blood curdling rumble. Henry starts running as fast as he can. I can't stop him. He's mesmerised by the rumble. It takes me a while to realise he's not running away, he's running towards. That's when I see it. The way out. I don't even need to direct Henry. He jumps straight in. I fall down onto my doorstep, and so does Henry.

"Layla!"

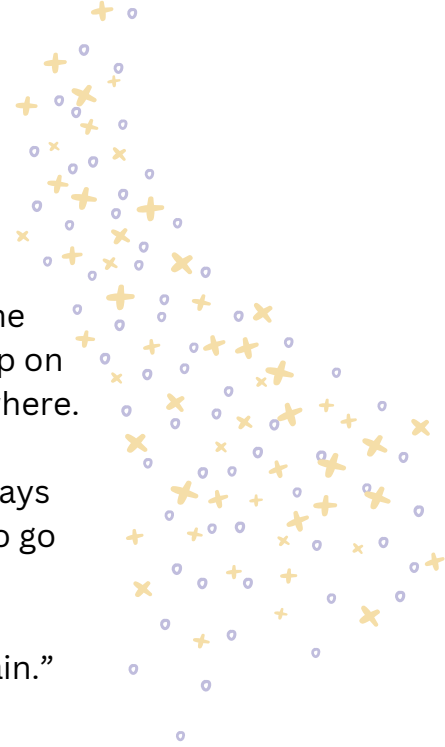
"Dad!"

"Henry!"

"Bluu!"



The Magician



The rough, callous wood of the wand dug into Terrence's palm as he struggled to channel his energy into the spell. He could feel his grip on the spell releasing and fade away. He groaned. He was getting nowhere. "Try again." his master demanded.

He spun around angrily. "Are you kidding? I've tried for days and days and you want me to try again? Without a break? Do you want me to go insane?"

The old, blue-cloaked man furrowed his eyebrows.

"Yes. It is that simple. You have not yet mastered the spell. Try again."

Terrence sighed and started to struggle all over again.

The castle he lived in was tall, slim, and towered over clouds, painted a dark purple. The windows were circular and dark shadows cast over them ominously.

Terrence was a magician. Not the fake-magic-card-trick showstoppers that swarmed all over popular places, but the kind that could make actual magic. Of course, he was progressing to a good state of nowhere.

He was working on one spell that had got him stumped. It wasn't even that harder spell!! Just another reason why he didn't even deserve to be a magician. He would've preferred to have taken in his mother's role of being a vampire. He wasn't actually entirely sure how he had come along. A vampire and a magician can't have children, which immediately eliminates having a relationship at all. That's why he was sure that his parents landed in jail. Obviously, Terrence had other family members around the place, but they were all too stuck-up to accept a terrible, adolescent magician, or they were jailed for a whole other reason.

Terrence sighed. He hated his master; he hated being alone and he hated being a terrible magician. He rose from his sitting position from where he was staring out his clouded window and strode down the staircase to the basement of the castle. It took a good 25 minutes to get down all the staircases. Terrence practically lived in the basement. It was his home. Dusted in a thick coat of spiderwebs and stacked top to bottom with big wooden crates. His master had said never to open them though. They were too important.

Terrence scoffed.

He had enough of trying to be perfect for someone he didn't even like.



So, digging out a crowbar from the mysterious corners, he juttied the end of it into the lid's crack in a crate near him and pushed it open with curiosity. Inside was a small, velvet box with the engraved: 'wish thrice' He picked the box up with shaking fingers and slowly creaked open the clasped lid. Inside was a small vial with rich red liquid sloshing around inside. On the vial it stated clearly: '1 wish left'.

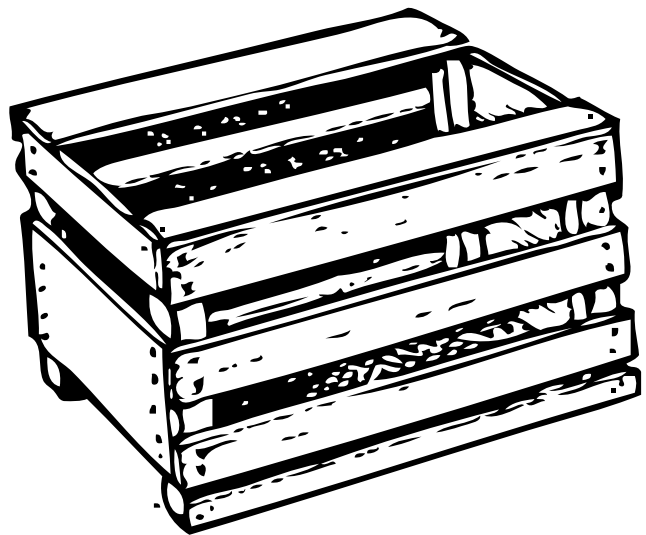
Terrence sighed, tipping the contents of the bottle around and around inside. He contemplated on what in the world he was going to do, when he decided to take the big risk, and popped open the cork. He brushed his cocoa hair from his eyes and crossed his fingers as he lifted the bottle up to his mouth, shaking uncontrollably. The liquid slid around his mouth and burned his throat with a painful spasm. He swallowed, fast, and held his head in his two hands before a soft, honey-like voice called out in his mind,

"And your final wish?"

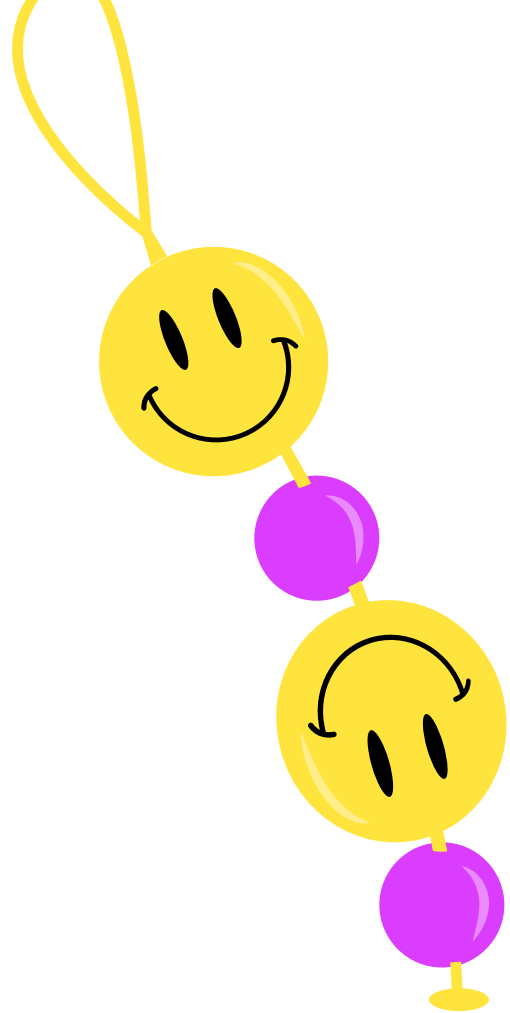
Terrence coughed and calmed his nerves. Something about the voice soothed him.

"And your final wish?" The voice repeated and Terrence clicked his tongue. What should he wish for? Parents? A good master? Skill in magic?

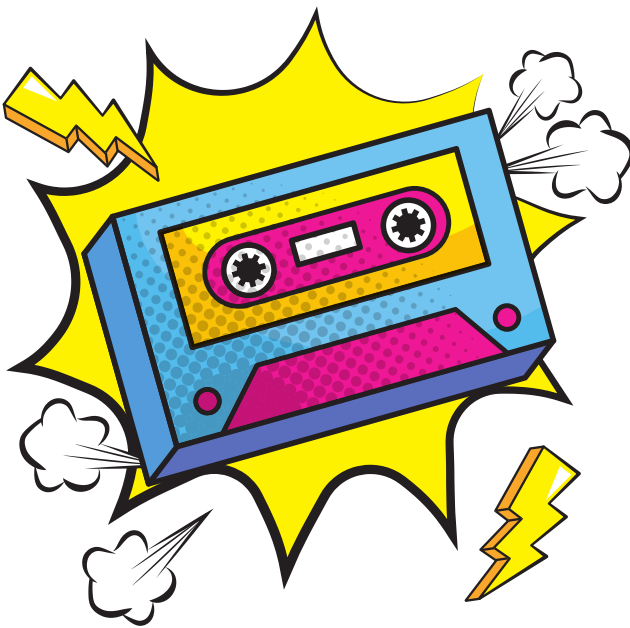
He sighed again and said aloud, and thought it in his head, "I wish for freedom of magic." He murmured. The prickling burn started to sizzle, and the voice faded away from his mind to his disappointment. He's body felt like it was letting a force out of his body as he put the vial back in the crate. He scrunched his eyebrows as he waved his wand, seeing if the potion would work. He channelled everything into the wand, and nothing happened. He let out a laugh and felt a rush of joy as he chuckled giddily. He was finally free.



By Evelyn Hammond



Pop Culture



Jenna Ortega

By Lisa Mussett

Jenna Marie Ortega was born on the 27 of September in 2002, the fourth of six children. As she began acting at an incredibly young age, she has not lived a normal childhood. She regrets missing key teenage events (such as prom and graduation), so much, that in 2022, she almost quit acting to become a soccer player! Luckily, not long after, she got an offer to play Wednesday Addams, and couldn't refuse.



Clipart of Jenna as Wednesday Addams

Jenna has been a part of many very successful movies and series you know and love, such as Wednesday (for older students), Harley Diaz in Stuck in the Middle, Mary Ann in Little Rascals and Darcy in Richie Rich. These are just some of the many examples.

She has been nominated for several awards these past few years. You may have seen her receive the Nickelodeon Kids Choice Award for Favourite Female TV Star playing Wednesday. She also won an Imagen Award (an award for Latinos in entertainment) for Stuck in the Middle.

Jenna has an amazing talent; she can keep her eyes open for an extensive period of time! When she was filming as Wednesday Addams, she showed the director, Tim Burton this stunt and ended up keeping her eyes open for all eight 50 minute episodes of Wednesday!



Clipart of Thing from the Netflix series Wednesday

To conclude, Jenna Ortega is an amazing actor and we all hope to see her in the future of movies (Let's all hope she doesn't quit acting for soccer!) She has recieved amazing awards and achieved amazing things.

Nintendo Switch Beginners Guide

Essential Kit

When you buy a Nintendo Switch you get two Joy Con controllers, a charging dock, and a small screen. Most games, such as Skywalker Saga, require two JoyCons per player. You can purchase extra JoyCons where you bought the Nintendo Switch. The Nintendo Switch and OLED Nintendo Switches include the basics, but many games require more. Most notably, Nintendo Switch Sports, that requires straps and there is a whole range of accessories.



The basic kit includes a small screen, joycons (two are included), joycon holder and a charging dock.

By Andy Clothier



TAYLOR SWIFT

A REVOLUTIONARY ICON AND AN EVERLASTING IMPACT ON THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

Taylor Swift is an American singer-songwriter who rose to fame in the early 2000s. Known for her pop-infused country music roots, in addition to her music career, Swift is also an advocate for various causes, including gender equality and LGBTQIA+ rights.

At the age of 16, Swift released her first single, "Tim McGraw," which skyrocketed her to fame. Her debut album, "Taylor Swift," followed shortly after she cemented her status as a rising star. Swift's music evolved over the years, and she embraced more of a pop sound in her later albums, starting with "Red" in 2012. Her most recent album, "Midnights", was released and is the tenth album Taylor has published.



By Raphaela Abreu

Taylor's greatest strength is her ability to connect with her audience through personal lyrics. Her songs often deal with topics such as love, heartbreak, and relationships, and her fans have grown up with her over the years. This connection has resulted in a dedicated fanbase.

In conclusion, Taylor Swift is a multi-talented artist who has made an incredible impact on the music industry and beyond. Her music resonates with people on a personal level, and she has used her platform to become an advocate for various causes. Despite the challenges she has faced, she continues to be an inspiration to her fans and a role model for many around the world.

The 2023 Met Gala

DISCLAIMER: Some media mentioned in this article is not suitable for Junior School students.

The Met Gala

By Ava Stocks

The Met Gala is an annual fashion event hosted by Vogue since 1948. To attend, celebrities, if invited, need to pay 52,000 Australian dollars. The 2023 Met Gala included Doja Cat, Rhianna, A\$AP Rocky, Cardi B, Jenna Ortega, and the most notable, Jared Leto. The Met Gala this year did not include any influencers, because of complaints from actual celebrities. This year's Met Gala's theme was, 'In honour of Karl'. Karl Lagerfeld was a German fashion designer who died in 2019. Karl is best known for his work in Chloé, Balmain, Chanel, and Fendi. Karl Lagerfeld is a designer who deserves to be remembered for his efforts in the evolution of fashion.

Notable Looks



Jared Leto (wearing Chanel)

Jared Leto is an American actor best known for his recent role in Morbius. Leto worked with Chanel to show up to the Met Gala in a giant cat suit. Jared Leto was inspired by Karl Lagerfeld's beloved cat, Choupette.



Doja Cat (wearing a custom piece)

Doja Cat is a singer/songwriter. Doja Cat was inspired by Karl's love of cats. She used prosthetics and makeup to make her face look more cat-like. Most uniquely, for the whole night, she only spoke in meows.

Notable Looks



Rihanna (wearing Valentino)

Rihanna is a Barbadian singer/songwriter. Rihanna has a record of mind-blowing outfits for all of her fashion events she attends. It was no surprise that Rihanna once again left her mark on this Met Gala too.



Cardi B (wearing Chenpeng Studio)

Cardi B is an American rapper. She rocked up to her first Met Gala wearing a custom dress by Chenpeng Studio. Cardi B was one of the few who were not wearing a specific designer brand. It's safe to say Cardi B was creative.



Jenna Ortega (wearing Thom Browne)

Jenna Ortega is an actress known best for her role as Wednesday Addams in *Wednesday*. Jenna wore a black tweed ensemble with chain and pearl accents and platform heels.



Jennifer Lopez (wearing Ralph Lauren)

Jennifer Lopez (or J Lo for short) is an actress, singer, dancer, and songwriter. Jennifer won the Met Gala this year with her pink silk skirt and velvet top designed by Ralph Lauren. J Lo topped it off with a black mesh headpiece.



Environment and Animals



4 Reasons To Become An Environmental Odyssey

By Sienna Patruno

What are the benefits of being outdoors?

It Improves Your Mental Wellbeing:

Being outdoors greatly improves your mental wellbeing as well as improving mood and self-esteem. Taking some time off your everyday life to be around nature makes you feel more relaxed and can reduce stress and anger, so next time you need a brain break, take a short walk in the park or even sit in your garden.

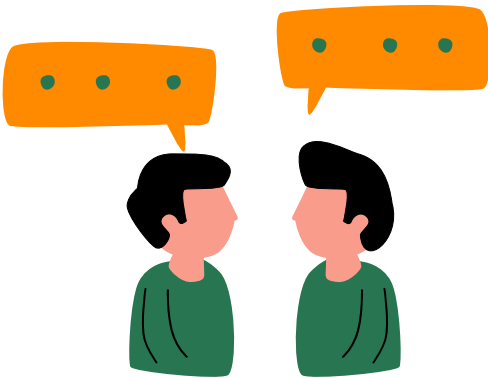
Your mind will be thankful.



A calm and relaxed mind.

Fields Of Friends:

Spending some time in a dog park or pool can help you make friends and improve social skills. This is simply because you are spending time amongst others. Going out with friends or family can tighten the bond between you and your loved ones as well as allowing new opportunity's to try new things and learn more about each other.



People having a conversation.

Physically Focused:

Being outside is scientifically proven to reduce blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension, and stress hormones! As well as that, being outside gives your body a boost of Vitamin D which is essential for healthy bone growth. It also regulates your immune system and can battle the blues. So, what are you waiting for? Go and soak up some sun!



Healthy heart.

Clear Headed Camping:

Unplugging from the stress of life is something that we all need to do, and the perfect way to do it is camping! The camping experience will certainly provide you with a lot more peace and quiet than a town or city. Being in the great outdoors for the night can actually help you sleep better and more effectively and is even said to improve memory.



Camping Tent.

A Big Monkey - Gigantopithecus

The name Gigantopithecus is definitely too long so I am going to nickname it Big Monkey (way better). Big Monkey is the not actually a monkey, it's an ape (a **very big** ape).

When and where?

Big Monkey lived during the Pleistocene Epoch (2.6 million to 11,700 years ago) in Southern China.

Diet

Gigantopithecus is purely vegetarian. It eats all types of plants such as fruits, leaves, growing parts of stems and roots.

How big was it?

Big Monkey was 3 metres tall. It's weight was 200kg to 300kg, that weighs as much as 100 bowling balls!

Predators

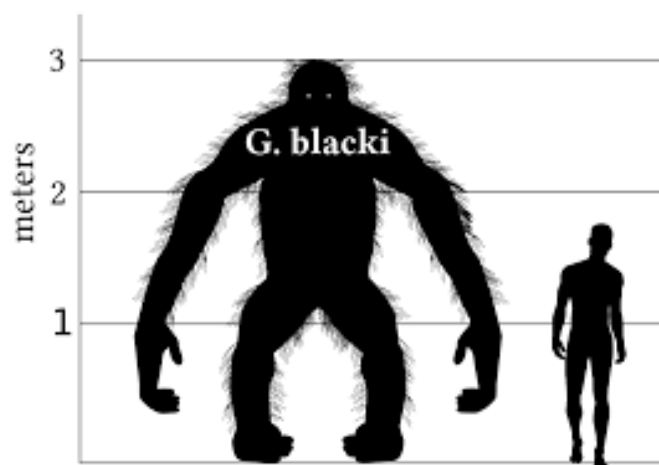
it lived all side the apex predators like tigers leopards and black bears.

How did it become extinct?

Big Monkey sadly became extinct. It has been extinct for about 100,000 years now. It died at the beginning of the last of the Pleistocene ice ages because 'in the changed climate its size had become a fatal handicap' a new study suggests.



This is what people think Big Monkey looked like.



This is it's size compared to a grown human.

By Oscar Choo

Ili Pika

By David White

The Ochotona Ilensis, AKA Ili Pika (pronounced EE-lee PEE-ka) is an endangered animal many don't know about. It is a species of mammal in the family Ochotonidae, mainly located in northwest China. It is commonly compared to a teddy bear because of its big ears and cute face, and a magic rabbit because of its rabbit-like features such as its legs and how it moves.

Habitat

The Ili Pika makes its home on bare rocks in the Tianshan mountain range in North-western China. They are mostly found at elevations over 4,100 metres, and live solitary lives. They live in gaps and crags in the rocks and venture out to find food.

Diet

Ili Pikas are herbivores, meaning they only eat plants. This means they live only on weeds and flowers that grow in its rocky mountain home. They like to save up food in the summer to prepare for winter, which is when all the plants would shrivel up leaving it hard to survive for these animals.

Fun Facts

- The Ili Pika may have inspired everybody's favourite Pokémon, Pikachu!
- There are less than 1,000 Ili Pikas left in the wild, meaning they are rarer than pandas!
- There are many different types of pikas but the Ili Pika is the rarest variety.



This is what an Ili Pika looks like in its natural habitat.



This is an Ili Pika next to Pikachu. See the resemblance?

LEOPARDS

By Madi Chamley

What is a leopard?

The name leopard comes from the word Leopardus, which is a combination of old French and Latin. They named it a leopard based on Leon meaning lion and pardus meaning spotted. These animals are most closely related to a panther, the main difference between these 2 big cats is the fact that the majority of panthers are a dark brown to black colour. Although you may think that panthers don't have spots, this is never the case. Black panthers still have spots and rosettes they are just a bit harder to see due to their darker fur. Leopards are incredibly athletic and have been known to be able to run 58 km/h at maximum speed. these speedy animals also specialise in their remarkable climbing abilities, they use this skill to drag their prey, sometimes heavier than themselves, up a favourite tree which can vary up to 15 metres high!



Fun Fact!

Leopards are the only wildcat that can live in both cold and warm climates!

Leopards appear to have a faded yellow fur on their back and a second layer of white fleece rests underneath the tanned coat. Their famous black spots blanket their body, these dots are also known as rosettes because they are a similar shape to a rose. The middle of the rosettes is a darker shade of tan to the rest of the body and as you near the head and paws you can see they get smaller and begin to become fully black. Rosettes help them camouflage themselves in their environment, and the size and spacing of the spots can range depending on which type of leopard it is. There are 9 subspecies of leopards, and these are all the smallest of all the wild cats. The females only weigh 46-132pounds while the males can weigh up to 80-165 pounds. that can live in both cold and warm climates!



LEOPARDS

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Rosets help them camouflage themselves in their environment, and the size and spacing of the spots can range depending on which type of leopard it is. There are 9 subspecies of leopards, and these are all the smallest of all the wild cats. The females only weigh 46-132pounds while the males can weigh up to 80-165 pounds.

Where do leopards live?

Leopards live in many countries such as a large part of Africa, sections of the middle east, and most of Asia including China, India and towards the east of Russia. These amazing species also live in several different environments and climates ranging from hot, humid, t-shirt soaking forests up to 70 degrees Celsius to minus 30 degrees Celsius climates high up in the Himalayas.

Fun fact!

Leopards are carnivores who can eat over 9 different species of animals. Some of them are birds, lizards and porcupines!

Whales

Whales are one of the most fascinating marine animals there is. Whales were first discovered 34 millennials ago. Some of the breeds of whale include Sperm Whales, Beluga Whales, Humpback Whales, and Blue Whales. A common mistake people make about whales is the Orcas (Orcinus Orca) or Killer Whales, are not whales, they are the largest member of the dolphin family. The name 'Killer Whale' comes from the term used back in the good Ol' days Killer of Whales.

Life Savers

Did you know that many years ago, a prehistoric whale named the Squalodon was one of the only predators that could battle the Megalodon and be the one that survived.

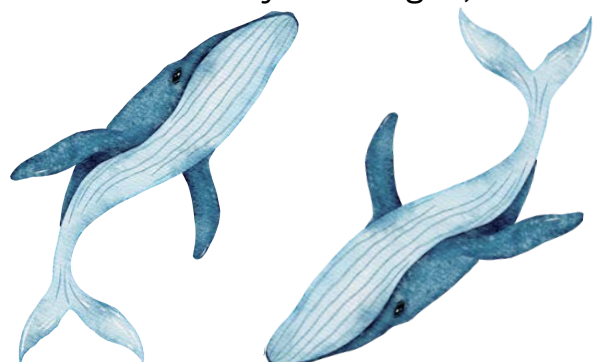
How long would you survive?

The whale inspired intrusive thought that burdens us all..... How long would you survive if you were swallowed by a whale. The sensation of being swallowed by a whale is so rare because their throat is so small. So, hypothetically speaking how long would you survive on the rare occasion that you were swallowed by a whale. There are three options;

1. Being shredded by their teeth
2. Suffocating in their stomach
3. Crushed by their tongue

Pick which one you would like to read about!

1. Picture this. You are just happily swimming until a whale comes up and swallows you whole. You are scared by the massive teeth coming at you. They chomp at you, shredding you apart.
2. Say you did survive the teeth and were digested and put into the stomach, you would technically be burnt by all the stomach acids. If you avoided this, you would suffocate from the lack of airflow.
3. If you did survive the stomach, you would be crushed by the tongue, when the whale is swallowing new food.

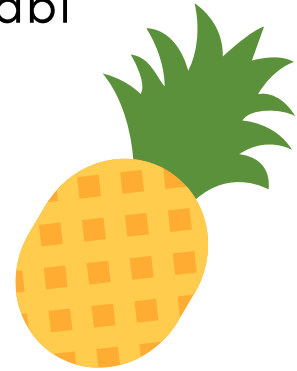


Fun Facts

By Hadley and Gabi

DID YOU KNOW?

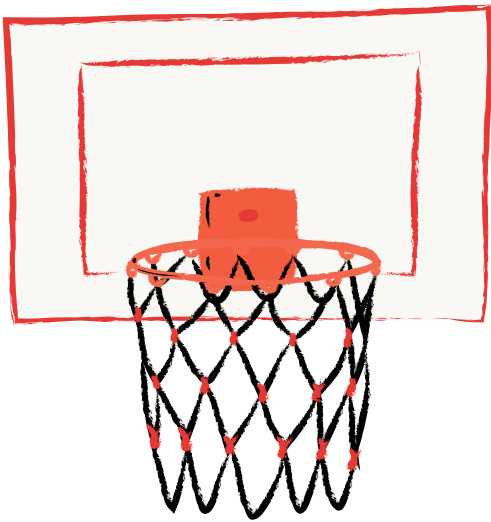
- Strange but true, there are 12 times more trees on Earth than stars in the milky way.
- Pineapples take 2 years to grow! A long time I know!
- Around 27 000 trees are cut down each day!
- Humans only use 1% of available water.
- Every ant combined weighs more than every human combined!
- Otters hold hands while they're sleeping, so they don't float away!
- The world's deadliest animal is a Mosquito, as they carry many diseases. Isn't that cool!
- Koalas can sleep up to 22 hours a day!
- Cockroaches can live for weeks after having their heads cut off!
- Giraffes can use their butts as pillows.
- Sloths only go to the toilet every 5-7 days.
- Bamboo can grow up to 35 inches a day.
- There are many flamingo species like the American flamingo, Greater flamingo, Lesser flamingo, James' flamingo, Chilean flamingo and Andian flamingo.





Sport





Basketball

by Evelyn Hammond

We all know about the wonderful sport of Basketball. But does anyone really know how it originated? Basketball is really a magical sport, and this article will tell you all about it.

Where did it originate?

Basketball originated in Springfield, Massachusetts. It was the frosty winter of 1891 when a 30-year-old PE teacher from the International YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) Training School invented an indoor sport that could be played between football and baseball seasons. Basket ball, (originally spelt with two words) was created.

The man behind the operation.

The famous PE teacher, Dr. James Naismith, created the wonderful game we all play now. Naismith was born in 1861 in Almonte. His parents sadly died from typhoid fever when he was still just a child.

Later on, he went to work at the International YMCA Training School (Or Springfield College, presently) and got assigned to teach a rowdy group of high school boys. He wanted to create a game to tire out the boys and give them a fun game to play. Enter basketball. This game ended up becoming famous worldwide and Dr. James Naismith became a star.

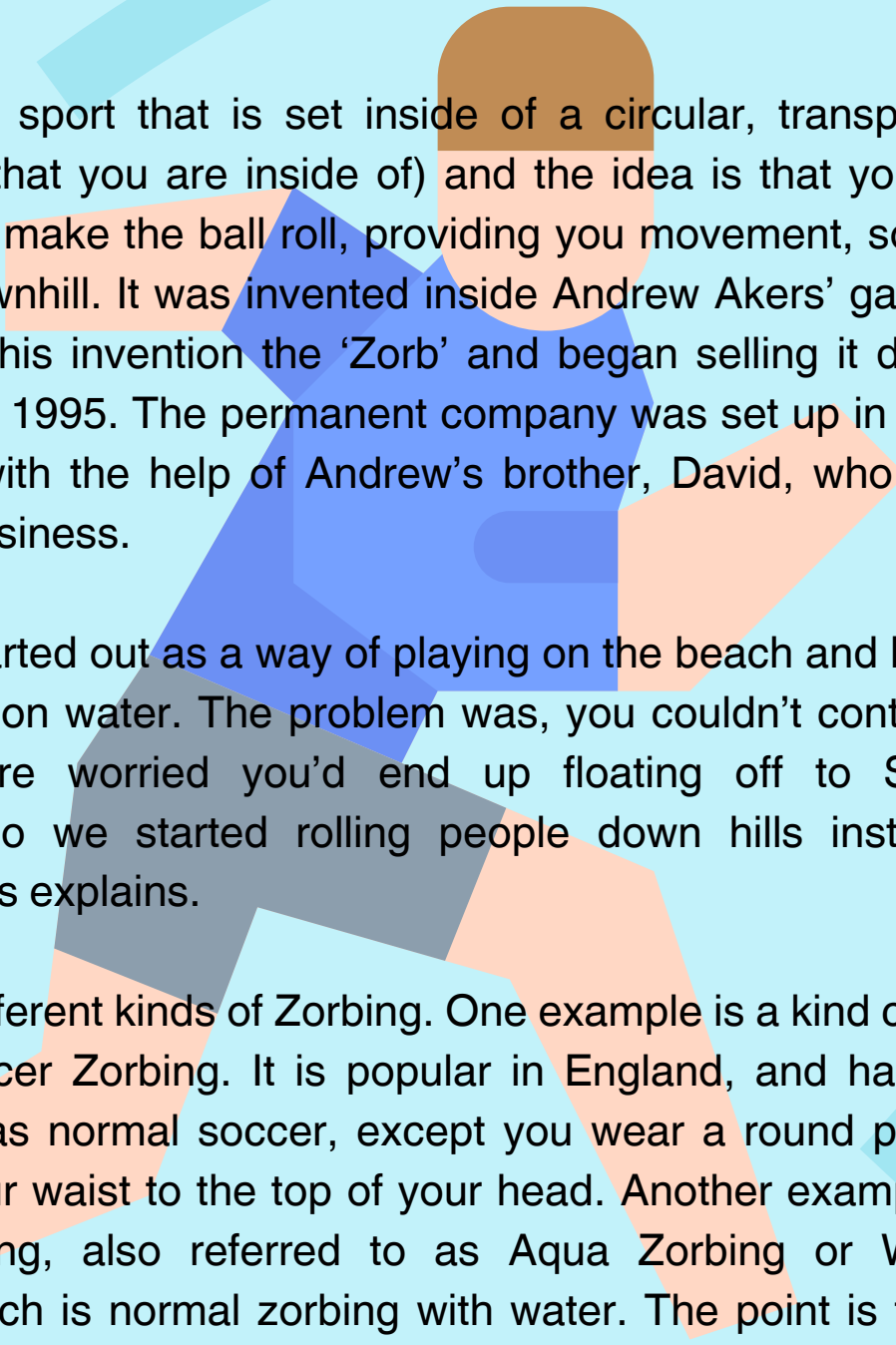
Basketball today.

Basketball has now adapted to an amazing sport that everyone knows the name of. The NBA (National Basketball Association) and the NBL (National Basketball League) are the two most famous basketball leagues in the world. You need to have almost a lifetime of training to be able to qualify. Although, anyone could get there if they try hard enough! Basketball is seen in schools, extra-curricular things, and more!



Zorbing

By Maeve Ryan

A stylized illustration of a person with brown hair, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and grey shorts, inside a large, transparent, circular plastic ball. The person is in a crouched position, ready to roll. The background is light blue with abstract, curved shapes in shades of blue and orange.

Zorbing is a sport that is set inside of a circular, transparent plastic ball (that you are inside of) and the idea is that you are supposed to make the ball roll, providing you movement, so you can race downhill. It was invented inside Andrew Akers' garage, who named his invention the 'Zorb' and began selling it during December in 1995. The permanent company was set up in 1997 in Rotorua with the help of Andrew's brother, David, who then joined the business.

"The idea started out as a way of playing on the beach and being able to walk on water. The problem was, you couldn't control it, and we were worried you'd end up floating off to South America... so we started rolling people down hills instead," Andrew Akers explains.

There are different kinds of Zorbing. One example is a kind called Football/Soccer Zorbing. It is popular in England, and has the same rules as normal soccer, except you wear a round plastic ball from your waist to the top of your head. Another example is Water Zorbing, also referred to as Aqua Zorbing or Water Walking, which is normal zorbing with water. The point is to be able to run on top of the water, however, there have been multiple reports saying that this is the most dangerous kind of zorbing. It is recommended to be inside of the Zorb for no more than 5-7 minutes because the closed air pockets blocking the water is also able to block oxygen. Despite this, zorbing is a popular sport and is highly recommended, so try it out today!

FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

by Eli Winn

This year's FIFA Women's World Cup is hosted by Australia and New Zealand. It's the first time two countries will co-host the tournament. The Australian Women's Soccer Team, the Matildas, are in for a good chance to do very well. Tickets are selling quickly, as I just recently bought tickets to four games myself.

The games are played all over Australia and New Zealand. It starts on 20 July and runs for 32 days, ending on 20 August.

The way the World Cup works is that there are group matches, each group consisting of 4 teams, where each team vs other countries and at the end the top two teams make it to the round of 16. The round of 16 is a knockout round and after there's the quarter final, then semi-final and then the final, the big decider.

The Matilda's group matches are on 20 July vs Republic of Ireland, 27 July vs Nigeria and 31 July vs Canada. Be sure to try and watch and support them!

Fun Facts

- Sam Kerr is the first female soccer player to be on a FIFA cover.
- The Matildas are currently ranked 4th in the world.
- This is the first time for Australia to host the Women's World Cup.
- There is a documentary called "Matildas; The World at our Feet" and it's streaming on Disney +.





Opinion

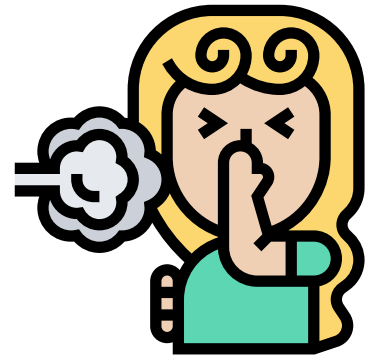


Smoking Should be Banned for Everyone

by Lisa Mussett

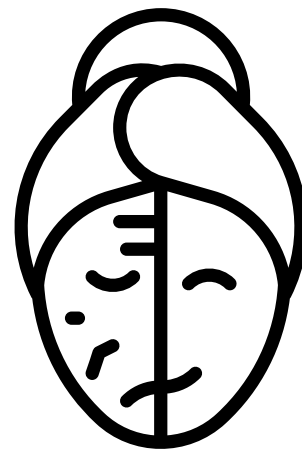
Cigarettes have over 7000 chemicals including Arsenic, Tar, Nicotine, and Carbon monoxide! Why do people choose to inhale these poisons? It is imperative we ban smoking for everyone because it damages your body, it harms your loved ones and it makes you look much older.

Firstly, smoking should be banned because it damages your body. According to the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, smoking increases your risk of carrying diseases. Some smokers end up having their limbs amputated due to blood circulation problems caused by smoking.

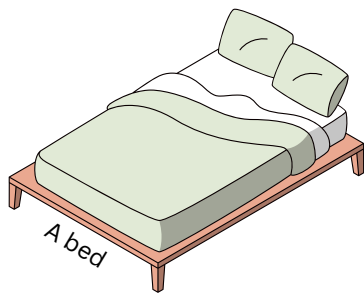


Secondly, smoking harms your loved ones. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says, in adults who do not smoke, secondhand smoke exposure can cause heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and other diseases. It can also result in premature death. It really stinks!

Finally, smoking makes you look older. According to Tobacco Free Life, smoking leads to decreased elasticity. This makes your body look more aged, sagging and wrinkled. Who would choose to look like their grandma?



In conclusion, smoking is terrible for you and your wellbeing. As you can see, it is vital we ban it for everyone because it damages your body, harms your loved ones and makes you look older.



Making our bed in the morning is pointless



An irritated face

At some point in our lives, our parents have shouted, "Go make your bed! It looks like an absolute pigsty." I know I hear this daily. The act of making our beds in the morning has been ingrained into our daily routines since childhood. From the moment we become old enough to sleep alone, making our beds has been presented as a daily chore, essential to our development of independence and responsibility. However, as we grow older, making our beds may seem like a pointless act without any practical benefit.

Traditionally, a well-made bed reflects a tidy and organised mind, indicating self-discipline and a commitment to cleanliness. However, studies have shown that making our beds may have harmful effects on our health. Dust mites and other allergens thrive in warm and humid environments, which can accumulate in our bedding, potentially causing respiratory issues or allergic reactions. Therefore, unmade beds may allow for better ventilation and airflow, thus reducing the risk of health complications.

Moreover, making our beds may not necessarily be hygienic for us. The skin cells, sweat and microorganisms that accumulate under our sheets overnight can thrive in a made bed, creating the perfect environment for breeding bacteria. Therefore, leaving our sheets unmade may allow for better air circulation, which can reduce the risk of bacterial growth and unpleasant body odours.

Additionally, from an environmental standpoint, making our beds can be a wasteful act. Sheets and blankets that have not been used all night and are still clean and fresh can be used again to reduce the frequency of laundry washing. Besides saving water and energy, minimising washing can also extend the lifespan of beddings, reducing waste and unnecessary expenditure.

In conclusion, making our beds in the morning may not be as important as we were led to believe in our childhood. Aside from being a potential health and environmental hazard, it may not necessarily have any practical benefits. As we grow older, it is essential to re-evaluate our routines and adopt only those that truly fulfil our needs. So go ahead, skip making your bed for one morning, and feel the difference for yourself.

By Raphaela Abreu

Ferals

And the damage they cause

By Pixie Hanson

We've all heard of feral plants or animals - those pesty foxes or rabbits that hide or prowl around our neighbourhood or the nearest national park. But what are they? This section is dedicated to these pests, flora and fauna.

So what are they? Ferals are introduced animals or plants that get out into the wild, and cause chaos in the ecosystem. In Australia's case, they were often brought by Europeans for farming, pets, or hunting.

Feral animals in Australia cause terrible damage. The first Australian feral animals were dingoes, about 5000 years ago. After the First Fleet arrived, the settlers deliberately set free pigs, for hunting, and some horses ran away, later to become brumbies. Eventually pigs, foxes, deer, camels, rats, goats, dogs, cats, and rabbits found their way into the Australian wild.

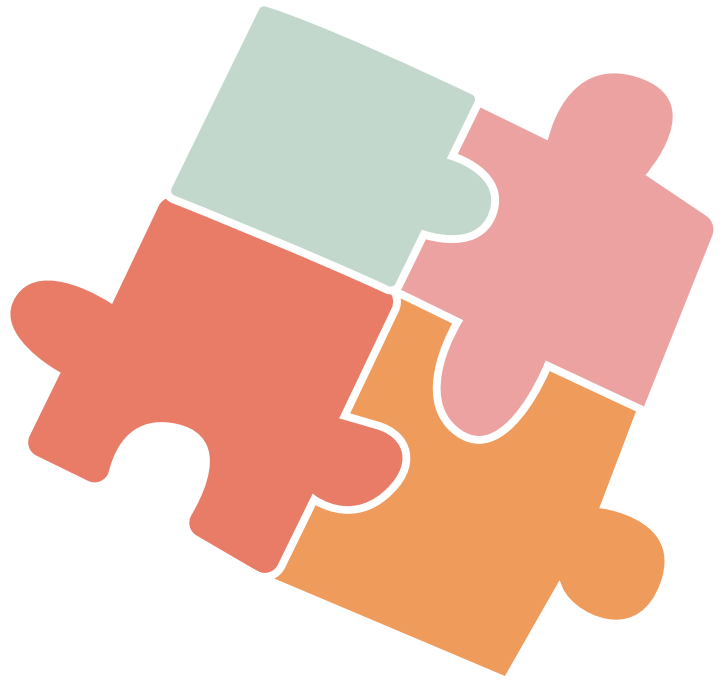
The worst feral animal of all is most likely the feral cat! Feral cats occur in about 99.8% of Australia – that's more space than the internet covers! They live everywhere - forests, deserts and towns. Worst of all, those little kitty-cats kill 2 billion native animals per year! The thing is, domesticated cats also contribute to the terrifyingly large number. This is the reason I can't stand cats!

Another sort of feral is a feral plant. While feral plants are less talked about, they can be just as bad. Feral plants strangle native plants, block waterways, provide shelter for feral animals, and threaten biodiversity. Some sorts in Australia are mistletoe, fireweed, thistle, lantana, and blackberry.

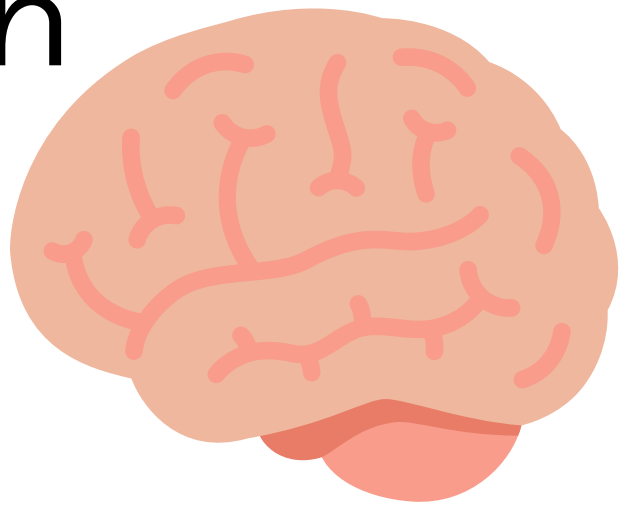
While you'd think everyone is for getting rid of feral animals, there's always been a lot of controversy in the culling of these pests. Many earlier ways of killing them were pretty gruesome. People got enraged about this inhumane treatment, now the most common method is aerial baiting – which works well in rugged areas. While it is still terribly confronting, you only need to kill a few ferals to save many more native animals – would you choose 20 little bilbies or a feral cat?

So, in conclusion, feral plants and animals in Australia are a serious problem. They eat or kill native animals and plants, threaten biodiversity, and generally mess up the waterways, soil, and the ecosystem in general. We need to eradicate them, or stop them spreading to protect Australia's beautiful, diverse and unique ecosystem.





Fun

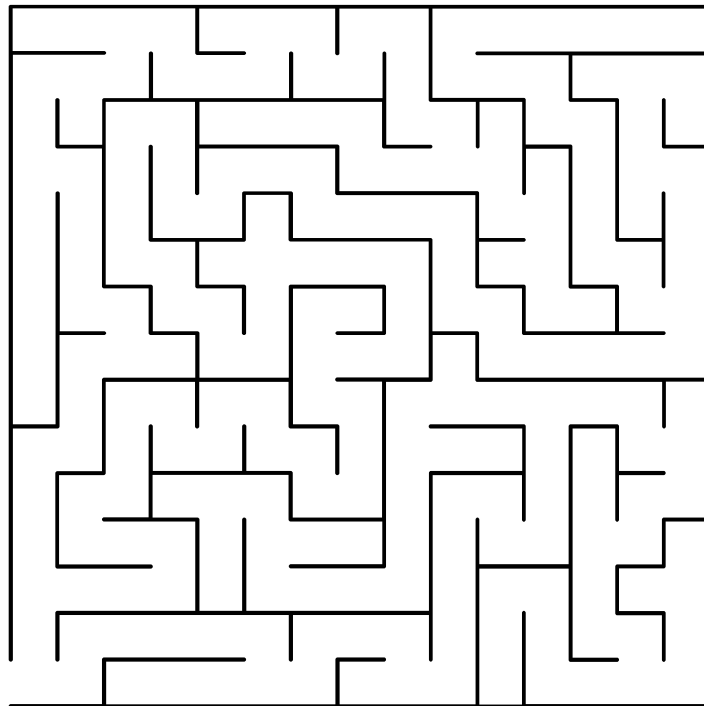
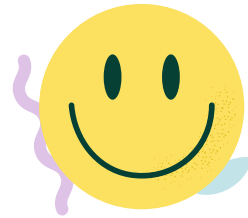


Word Search

by Lisa Mussett

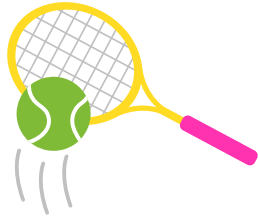
Y T C D I M R L W T
W G R H V Y P K A E
S P O E I L S A L A
F Q X J E S H F T C
N X L C L H H U O H
P P E U E S O O N A
A L Y Z A N W U L H
R Q A Q R D I C S M
E F L Y N N O U M E
V A W R I P E Y Z J

- Oxley
- Walton
- Play
- Flynn
- Teach
- Play
- Treehouse
- Chisholm
- Learn



By David White

HELP PIKACHU GET TO
HIS POKEBALL!



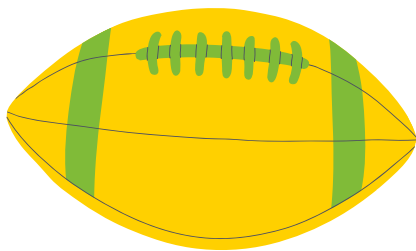
Funny Fill In



By Sienna Patruno

Ask a friend to fill in the gaps then read the funny story out loud!

A few weeks ago, my best friend _____ and I went to watch a _____ match. We drove to
name of friend sport
the city in my dad's _____ and sang all our favourite _____ songs. We had to stop
vehicle name of singer
twice to go to toilet because we were drinking a lot of _____. Once we got to the city,
liquid
we _____ to the _____ stadium. As I looked around, I saw the colours from each of
verb adjective
the teams. People were wearing green _____ and yellow jerseys, supporting the
piece of clothing
_____ team. There were fans everywhere! Screaming and shouting at every goal!
country
After a long _____ minutes, the game finally finished, and we won! We drove to an
large number
_____ ice cream shop to celebrate. I got _____ and _____ got bubble gum.
adjective flavor same name of friend
Victory tasted so sweet! We all felt very proud as we walked back to the car. _____ and
same name of friend
I were so tired that we fell _____ asleep as soon as we started driving home. I can't wait
adjective
until next game!



Having trouble with some of the descriptions? Here is a word bank to help! :

Liquid- something that flows freely (eg. water, milk, acid, salt water)

Verb- a doing word (eg. run, jump, swim, walk)

Adjective- a describing word (eg. green, fast, tall, bright)

What is it?

By Oscar Choo



1. Cat or bird?



2. Cat or frog?



3. Penguin or dog?



4. Cat or snail?



5. This is a real frog



6. Capybara or moth?



7. No one likes broccoli



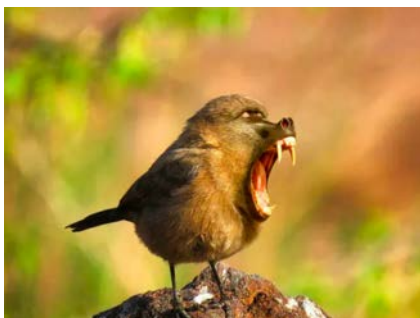
8. Cat or lady



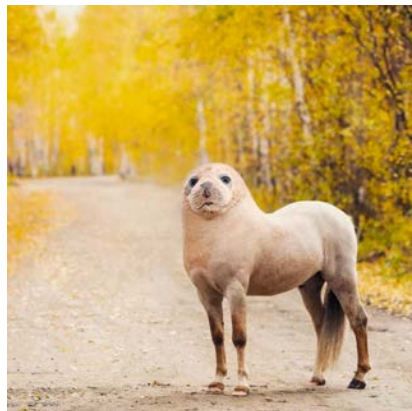
9. Mickey Mouse or dog?



10. Shark or horse?



11. Bird or baboon?



12. Seal or horse?



13. Blobfish or Donald Trump?



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