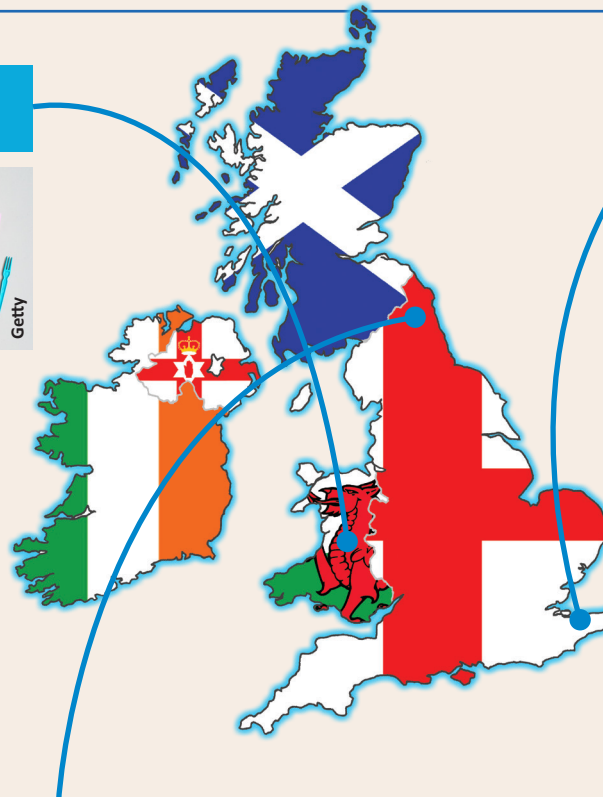


## UK NEWS

### WALES

#### PLASTIC BAN

Wales is going to ban lots of single-use plastics from 2021. Single-use plastics are items that are designed to be used once and then thrown away. The ban includes straws, cotton buds, drinks stirrers, plastic plates, cutlery and balloon sticks. England is already banning some items from next month, but Wales has a much longer list of plastics that it is going to outlaw. Hannah Blythyn, the minister in charge of recycling, said these plastics are “hard to recycle and often found on beaches and seas around our coast, blighting our beautiful country.”



### KENT

#### ICELAND PROPOSAL

A nurse who planned to propose to his girlfriend in Iceland had to change his plans after the flights were cancelled. Robert Ormsby wanted to propose to his girlfriend Patsy on holiday, but the flights were cancelled because of the coronavirus. So, instead of proposing in the country of Iceland, he did it in an Iceland supermarket instead! Robert got down on one knee in the middle of the shop to ask Patsy to marry him. Patsy was “laughing hysterically”, but said yes! News of the quirky proposal went viral (spread quickly over the internet). The couple say they are glad to put smiles on faces.

### NORTHUMBERLAND

#### DEADLY GARDEN WINS

The Poison Garden in Alnwick has been named the Garden of the Year by *BBC Countryfile Magazine*. More than 100 dangerous plants grow in the unusual garden. Visitors aren't allowed to touch, smell or taste (we should hope not) any of the plants. You are only allowed to visit with a guide. It has been called “the deadliest garden in England”.



## Questions on: 'UK news'

### Look at the news from Wales.

1) Which of these are single-use plastics?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> cotton buds     | <input type="checkbox"/> pencil sharpeners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bouncy balls    | <input type="checkbox"/> elastic bands     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> drinks stirrers | <input type="checkbox"/> shampoo bottles   |

2) Would you miss any of the items being banned by Wales?

### Look at the news from Northumberland.

3) There are four sentences in this story. In what order do you find out the information?

- |   |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> What plants grow in the garden       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A description of the garden          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The visitor experience               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The winner of the Garden of the Year |

4) What does the writer find a shocking thought?

### Look at the news from Kent.

5) What is Robert Ormsby's job?

6) Explain Robert's change of plan.

Planned proposal: .....

Actual proposal: .....

7) Which word has a similar meaning to 'quirky'?

- |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> unusual     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> serious     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> traditional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> private     |

8) Why do you think this story has been so popular and has been shared so many times?

## WORLD NEWS

## SPAIN



## TOLD OFF BY A DRONE!

Like us, the people of Spain have been told to stay at home to stop the coronavirus spreading. The rules mean that no-one is allowed out, unless it is absolutely



essential. Unfortunately, some people haven't been following the rules, so police have had to step in – without having to step outside. Drones with speakers are being flown over public spaces, where they find and yell at people gathering outside! The drones hang around until everyone buzzes off.

## SAUDI ARABIA



## MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALLS...

The largest mirrored building in the world has been built in Saudi Arabia. The Maraya Concert Hall is 26 metres tall and can seat 500 people. In total, the building is covered by 9,740 square metres of mirrors! As you can see, it creates a stunning reflection of the mountains and sands that surround it.



## NEW ZEALAND



## TAXIS FOR THE BIRDS

A taxi driver has a new night job: rescuing chicks that crash-land onto roads! The Hutton's shearwater is a rare seabird that only breeds in two places in New Zealand. It is also the only seabird in the world that nests and raises its young in the mountains. The trouble is, on foggy nights, the grey puffballs mistake glimmering roads for the sea, and fly straight into them. They're then unable to move, and might get hit by a car or eaten by a cat. Fortunately, Toni Painting and her volunteers are there to help! Toni drives around every night, scooping up the birds she finds at the side of the road, before dropping them off at a rescue centre.



## Questions on: 'World News'

1) Match the country to the news topic.

Spain

A new building

Saudi Arabia

Rare bird rescue

New Zealand

Remote control policing

**Look at the news from Spain.**

2) Why are the people of Spain in a similar situation to the UK at the moment?

3) How are drones being used in Spain?

- To monitor where all the ambulances are in the country
- To stop people gathering in groups outside
- To deliver goods to hospitals

**Look at the news from Saudi Arabia.**

4) What is the answer to this question:  
Mirror, mirror on the wall, what is the largest mirrored building of them all?

**For bonus points, which fairy tale does this rhyme come from?**

5) Look closely at the picture. Choose **three words** to describe this building.

**Look at the news from New Zealand.**

6) Find **two** facts about the Hutton's shearwater.

1: .....

2: .....

7) What **word** tells you that the roads sometimes shine at night?

**Consider all the news.**

8) The coronavirus means that there is a lot of serious, and sometimes sad news about. Which of these stories from around the world do you find either **cheering** or **fascinating**? Explain your choice.

## BIG NEWS

# KEEPING OUR COUSINS SAFE

**TOURISTS have been banned from seeing gorillas in the African country of Gabon, in case they pass on the coronavirus to them.**

Gorillas are one of our closest relatives and can suffer from the same diseases as humans. There are concerns that the coronavirus could spread to gorillas and the other great apes.

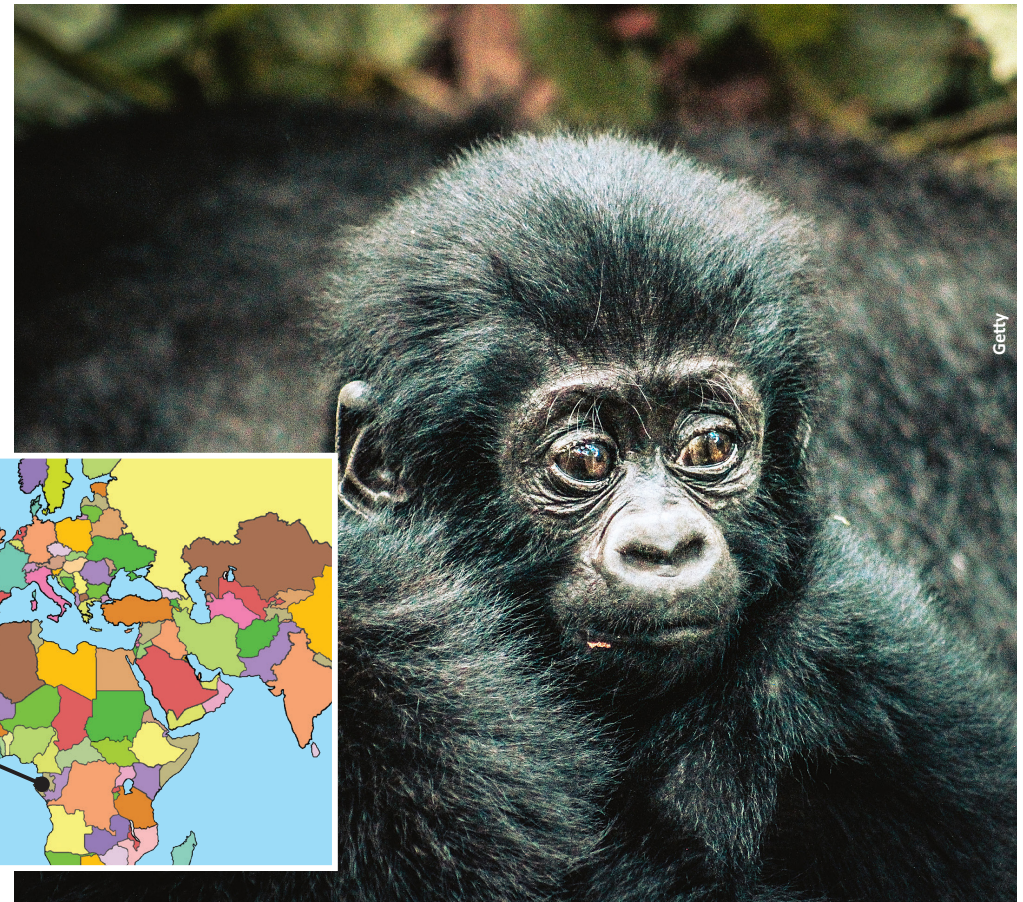
To protect the gorillas, Gabon has banned people from visiting its parks. It has reason to be cautious. In 1995, a virus called Ebola spread from humans to gorillas and killed 90% of the gorillas in one area of the country.

An expert from the park said: “Viruses that affect humans are easily transmitted [given] to great apes because the two species are so closely related.”

It’s a difficult decision because the country relies on money from tourists to pay for the rangers and other park staff that protect the gorillas. There are also fears that with fewer people around, poaching may increase.

## The great apes

There are five kinds of great apes: gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobo, orangutans and humans.



Getty

## Questions on: 'Keeping our cousins safe'

1) This report has news from which African country?

- Ghana
- The Gambia
- Gabon

2) Find the names of two viruses mentioned in the news story.

1: .....

2: .....

3) Why have tourists been banned from going to see gorillas in this country?

4) What happened in Gabon in 1995?

5) Match the word used in the story to the correct definition.

Cautious

To pass something on

Transmit

A particular kind of plant or animal

Species

Not allowed

Banned

To be careful and avoid risk

6) Why is it easy for gorillas to catch human diseases?

7) Which group of animals do humans and gorillas belong to?

8) Why would it be terrible news if the coronavirus spread to other great apes? Use your own knowledge of these animals.

## CRAZY BUT TRUE

# NOT EVERYTHING'S CLOSED IF YOU'RE A PENGUIN!

**IT seems like all the fun places you can go to are closed for now. But one aquarium in America remains open... to the animals that live there!**

The Shedd Aquarium, in the American city of Chicago, is staying closed like lots of places to slow down the spread of the coronavirus.

Instead, it has been letting its penguins out to explore! They have been waddling around parts of the aquarium they would never normally see. The curious birds have been out on field trips meeting dolphins. They have visited exotic areas like Amazon Rising. They have even been peeking their beaks around the reception area!

The penguins aren't the only ones having time out and about. The most recent animal to have a wander is Tyson the porcupine. He enjoyed his lunch while visiting the Polar Play Zone and watched the penguins having a swim.

The California Science Center has already joined in, sharing pictures of their rats, who got to explore the kelp forest exhibition while it's closed to visitors.

We wonder if we'll get to see more animal fun online from other zoos, aquariums and animals centres?



shedd\_aquarium/Instagram

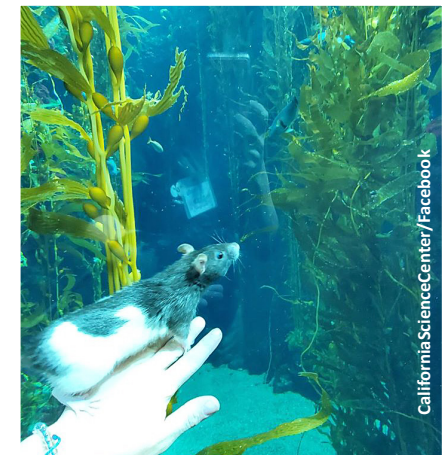


Tyson

shedd\_aquarium/  
Instagram

shedd\_aquarium/Instagram

Wellington was fascinated by the piranhas in the Amazon section of the aquarium



CaliforniaScienceCenter/Facebook

Rats got to explore the California Science Center

## Questions on: 'Not everything's closed if you're a penguin!'

1) Where is the Shedd Aquarium?

\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

2) Find three places in the aquarium visited by the penguins.

1: .....

2: .....

3: .....

3) What does the word 'waddled' tell you about the way the penguins walked?

4) What creature is Tyson?

5) What did Tyson do while visiting the penguins?

He had a picnic  He had a swim  He had a sleep

6) "Peeking their beaks" is an example of ...

**Rhyme** – where words have the same last sound

**Assonance** – where words have the same vowel sound

**Alliteration** – where words start with the same sound

7) How does this report finish?

With a question  With a quotation  With a joke

8) Most of us have been told to stay home, but what essential jobs still have to be done in the world's zoos and animal parks?