

## WORLD NEWS



### GABON

#### ● Keeping our furry cousins safe

Tourists have been banned from seeing Gabon's gorillas, in case they pass on the coronavirus to them. So far, Africa has reported only a small number of cases of the virus, but the poor standard of healthcare in many countries there means that the continent could be hit very hard if the virus takes hold. Gorillas can suffer from some of the same diseases as humans, including colds and pneumonia, and many African gorillas have been killed by Ebola in previous outbreaks. "The respiratory viruses that affect humans are easily transmitted to great apes because the two species are so closely related," park official Christian Tchেমambela told AFP.



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### CANADA



#### ● Less scaremongering, more caremongering!

Kind Canadians have invented a new word and spread a worldwide trend called caremongering. The word was created for social media groups in Canada that were set up to provide help to people in need. The groups aim to stop people from scaremongering, which means to create panic and fear. "It's spread the opposite of panic in people, brought out community and camaraderie [trust], and allowed us to tackle the needs of those who are at-risk all the time, now more than ever," Valentina Harper told the BBC.



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### NEW ZEALAND



#### ● Taxis for the birds!

A taxi driver has become the leader of a volunteer army who rescue Hutton's shearwater chicks that crash-land onto roads. The Hutton's shearwater is the only seabird in the world that nests and raises its young in the mountains. 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 helpless at the side of the road, before dropping them off at a rehabilitation centre, which then gets them back to the sea.



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### SAUDI ARABIA



4

#### ● Maraya means mirrors

A Saudi Arabian company has built the largest mirrored building in the world. Located in the west of Saudi Arabia's Al-'Ula region, the Maraya Concert Hall is 26 metres tall and can seat 500 people. The building is covered by a total of 9,740m<sup>2</sup> of mirrors.

### USA



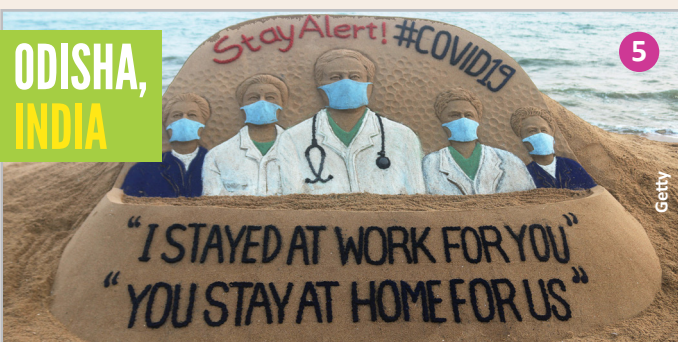
#### ● Basketball record

A teenager has set a world record for the most 'bounce juggles' in one minute with three basketballs. Zaila

Avant-Garde has been practising dribbling basketballs since she was five. She also practised bounce juggling, where you bounce balls off the ground, for two years before trying for the record. She performed the feat on her 13th birthday and managed 231 bounces in one minute. That's about four bounces every single second and 18 more than the previous record. Zaila is a keen basketball player and hopes to join a team in the WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) one day. "The more the achievements of women are promoted, the more little girls around the world will see that they can do any and everything they put their minds to," she said.



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### ODISHA, INDIA

A SCULPTURE by sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik, raising awareness of COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.

WORLD NEWS



GLOSSARY

**gorillas** – Large apes that come from West Africa. Gorillas are one of the great apes, along with chimpanzees, bonobo, orangutans and humans  
**pneumonia** – A serious illness where the lungs become infected and fill with liquid

**ebola** – A rare but deadly disease that is caused by a virus in certain African countries  
**respiratory** – Related to breathing  
**AFP** – Agence France-Presse – An international news agency, based in France

**Hutton's shearwater** – An endangered seabird that nests in two locations in New Zealand  
**rehabilitation centre** – An animal rescue centre. A place where animals are cared for before being released back into the wild

1. Six global news stories are reported here. Identify the **themes** that link the news from the different countries.

Tick if the country's news story is about...	Gabon	Canada	New Zealand	Saudi Arabia	India	USA
A record						
Coronavirus						
Helping animals						
A new structure						

2. Match the people involved (the **subjects** of the news story) to their **location**.

A sporty teenager	A taxi driver	An artist	A business	Tourists	People living in a community
Canada	Saudi Arabia	India	Gabon	USA	New Zealand

3. Look at the story from Gabon.

- a) Why is it easy for gorillas to catch human diseases?
- b) Why would it be terrible news if the coronavirus spread to other great apes? Use your own knowledge of these animals.

4. Look at the story from Canada.

- a) Find the meanings of these three words: scaremongering camaraderie caremongering
- b) Why was the new word needed?

5. Look at the story from New Zealand. Put the events in order.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Some chicks mistake shiny roads for water and crash into the ground
<input type="checkbox"/>	She drives the birds to a rescue centre, where they are nursed back to health and released
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hutton's shearwater birds raise their chicks in the mountains
<input type="checkbox"/>	Each night Toni Painting rescues the chicks and puts them in her taxi
<input type="checkbox"/>	When the chicks are grown, they leave their nests and head for the sea

6. Look at the news from India. What message is being given in the sand sculpture? Explain in your own words.

7. Find all the **statistics** from the story from Saudi Arabia.

8. Look at the news from the USA. What **words** would you use to describe 13-year-old Zaila Avant-Garde's new record?

9. These people are quoted in these news reports. Identify who they are and whether they are directly quoted in the report.

Person	Why are they in the news?	Is there a direct quote from them in the news report?
Zaila Avant-Garde		
Christian Tchemambela		
Toni Painting		
Valentina Harper		

10. 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.

WORLD NEWS



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- A taxi driver
- An artist
- Tourists
- A sporty teenager
- A business
- People living in a community

- USA
- Gabon
- Canada
- New Zealand
- India
- Saudi Arabia

■ Look at the story from Gabon.

3a) Why is it easy for gorillas to catch human diseases?

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3b) Why would it be terrible news if the coronavirus spread to other great apes? Use your own knowledge of these animals.

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Explain your choice.

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**TEACHER ANSWERS**

**AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS:** News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

**TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE:** The teacher answers are intended to provide a quick reference guide. Suggestions are given for the 'Expected response' or starting point that pupils could give. The 'Development' then gives more in-depth ideas that students can work towards as they develop their reading comprehension skills.

For a list of the reading skills used, please email [schools@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:schools@firstnews.co.uk).

**1. Six global news stories are reported here. Identify the themes that link the news from the different countries.**

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence

(NC 2c & 8)

**Expected response**

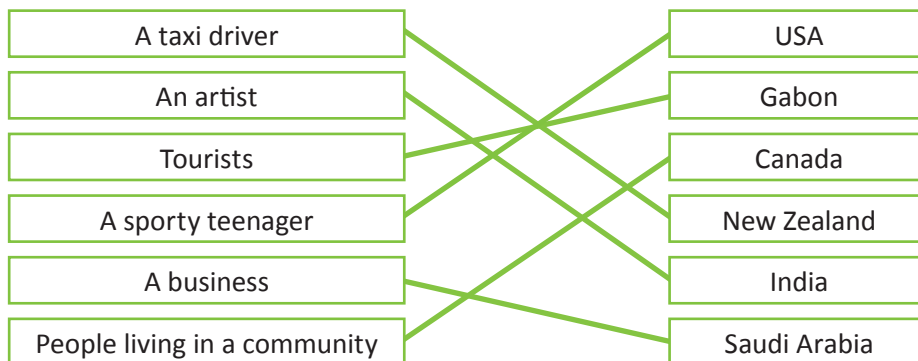
Tick if the country's news story is about...	Gabon	Canada	New Zealand	Saudi Arabia	India	USA
A record				✓		✓
Coronavirus	✓	✓			✓	
Helping animals	✓		✓			
A new structure				✓	✓	

**2. Match the people involved (the subjects of the news story) to their location.**

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

(NC 2a)

**Expected response**



**Look at the story from Gabon.**

**3a) Why is it easy for gorillas to catch human diseases?**

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

(NC 2a)

**Expected response**

- Because the two creatures are so closely related.



**3b) Why would it be terrible news if the coronavirus spread to other great apes? Use your own knowledge of these animals.**

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence (NC 2c & 8)

**Expected response**

- Lots of the animals might die and it would be hard to look after them.
- They might become extinct.

**Development**

- It would be bad news if the great apes caught this virus because many of them are endangered species and their populations are already very low.
- There is a chance that if a large number died, a species might be at much greater risk of extinction.

■ **Look at the story from Canada.**

**4a) Find the meanings of these three words:**

- Scaremongering – to create panic and fear
- Camaraderie – trust and friendship
- Caremongering – to spread ‘care’ or love and kindness

**4b) Why was the new word needed?**

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence (NC 2c & 8)

**Expected response**

- It explains what this new group in Canada is up to.

**Development**

- It was created for social media groups in Canada that are trying to help people in need.
- Some people are spreading scare stories about the coronavirus, so some people in Canada wanted to do the opposite and help people in the community instead.

■ **Look at the story from New Zealand.**

**5. Put the events in order.**

READING SKILL – Summarise information from more than one paragraph (NC 2e)

**Expected response**

3	Some chicks mistake shiny roads for water and crash into the ground
5	She drives the birds to a rescue centre, where they are nursed back to health and released
1	Hutton’s shearwater birds raise their chicks in the mountains
4	Each night Toni Painting rescues the chicks and puts them in her taxi
2	When the chicks are grown, they leave their nests and head for the sea

■ **Look at the story from India.**

**6. What message is being given in the sand sculpture? Explain in your own words.**

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence (NC 2c & 8)

**Expected response**

- It’s telling people to stay at home to stop the coronavirus spreading.

**Development**

- It’s reminding people that doctors and nurses are going to work to care for people with the coronavirus, and the best way to say thank you is for us to stay at home and stop the disease spreading.

**7. Find all the statistics from the story from Saudi Arabia.**

READING SKILL – Find and explain information  
(NC 2a)

**Expected response**

- The hall is 26 metres tall.
- It seats 500 people.
- The building is covered by a total of 9,740m<sup>2</sup> of mirrors.

**Look at the story from the USA.**

**8. What words would you use to describe 13-year-old Zaila Avant-Garde’s new record?**

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence  
(NC 2c & 8)

**Answers similar to:**

- Amazing, incredible, astonishing, impressive, skilful, talented, etc.

**9. These people are quoted in these news reports. Identify who they are and whether they are directly quoted in the report.**

READING SKILL – Find and explain information  
(NC 2a)

**Expected response**

Person	Why are they in the news?	Is there a direct quote from them in the news report?
Zaila Avant-Garde	She has won a world record for bounce juggling	✓
Christian Tchেমambela	He is a park official in Gambon	✓
Toni Painting	She is a taxi driver who is rescuing seabird chicks	
Valentina Harper	She is a Canadian who is trying to do ‘caremongering’ in her community	✓

**10. 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?**

**Student's own responses**