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SWINE FLU SPREADS AROUND THE WORLD

Health organisations around the world are trying to stop the spread of a new type of influenza **virus**.

At the beginning of April officials in Mexico started to become concerned about a large number of people catching influenza (known as flu). Tests showed the illness was a type of swine flu that may have started in pigs. Officials were worried because the new flu virus was being passed from human to human.

By 17th April some people living in the American state of California, which shares a border with Mexico, had caught the same type of flu.

Within the next few days there were reports of other people as far away as the UK and New Zealand, who had recently returned by plane from visiting Mexico, becoming ill with flu-like symptoms – a high temperature, sore throat and coughing and sneezing. Medical tests showed

they too had caught the same type of swine flu. Other cases were also reported in Germany and Austria.

Cancún is a part of Mexico that is very popular with tourists from Europe and the USA. Tour companies began to warn people their holidays would have to be cut short. Planes were sent to pick tourists up and take them home. Those about to travel to Mexico had their holidays cancelled.

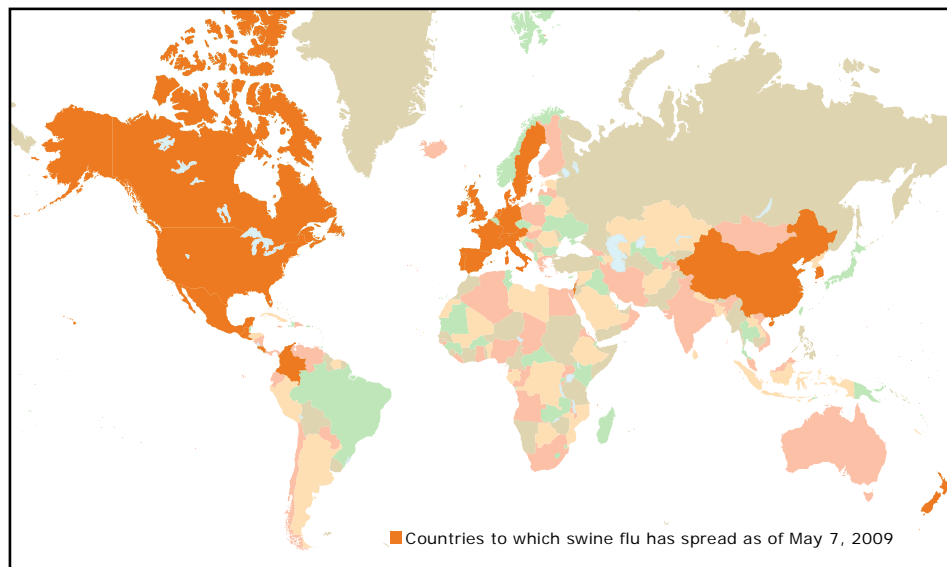
The World Health Organization (WHO) is part of the United Nations (UN). Its headquarters are in Geneva, in Switzerland. The WHO's job is to advise governments around the world on public health matters.

The WHO has officially called this type of flu Influenza A(H1N1). The organisation has a warning plan for preparing for a flu pandemic. A pandemic describes an **epidemic** that has spread

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over a large geographical area. The WHO has a warning scale in place that shows how serious a pandemic is. The highest warning level is six. This is when there is a high risk of a virus spreading among humans all around the world. On 29th April the WHO raised its warning level of the possible spread of swine flu from four to five.

To try to stop the flu virus from spreading further, the Mexican president, Felipe Calderón, announced all schools, businesses, theatres and restaurants would close down between 1st and 6th May. He also advised people to stay at home. Church services were cancelled. Those that did go out were given protective masks to wear by soldiers positioned on the main streets.

Although some people have died from swine flu in Mexico, most of those who have caught the illness have recovered. So far there have only been two deaths caused by the illness outside Mexico. Both were in the USA. However, one person who died was a baby from Mexico who was visiting his parents in the USA.

Many people have been relieved that only a small number of those who have caught swine flu have

died from the illness. Experts say the number of deaths is far fewer than those that can be caused by 'normal seasonal human' flu. They also stated there is no danger of catching swine flu from eating pork meat.

Others warn that flu viruses tend to fade away in the northern hemisphere during the summer months and then return in the autumn. This is what happened in the last two worldwide flu pandemics in 1957 and 1968. Both started in South East Asia. It is estimated around two million people died from the 1957 flu virus, and one million in 1968.

For the last ten years many governments and the WHO have been worried about the possibility of the spread of a type of bird flu, called H5N1, from Asia. The only people to have caught this type of flu are those who have worked closely with poultry – chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese. So far the H5N1 bird flu virus doesn't seem to spread from human to human.

Because of the existence of bird flu, many governments have built up supplies of an antiviral drug called Tamiflu. This now seems to be quite effective in helping stop the spread of the swine flu virus. Once a person

has been found to be suffering from swine flu he or she can be given the drug. It is also given to people close to the affected person.

President Calderón has asked other countries not to discriminate against Mexico or its people because of the virus. He is angry with China and Russia because they have banned the import of raw pork meat from Mexico. China also held over 100 Mexican people visiting the country in isolation after one was found to have the swine flu virus. The Mexican government sent a special plane to bring them all back home.

In the UK some schools were closed after a few pupils were found to have caught the virus. In the USA a navy warship was stopped from sailing after it was confirmed that one of its crew members had caught the swine flu virus. ■

FIAT PLANS EXPANSION

Fiat, an Italian car company, has offered to buy parts of two of America's largest carmakers, Chrysler and General Motors (GM). If Fiat succeeds it will become the second-largest car making company in the world.

At the beginning of the year the three large American carmakers, GM, Ford, and Chrysler, asked the American government for help. The



three companies are losing a lot of money because fewer people are buying cars. This is mainly due to the financial problems that have been affecting the USA and many other parts of the world.

In April Chrysler announced that it would declare itself bankrupt. It

said it would have to close down unless organisations that had lent it money in the past agreed to re-arrange the company's debts.

But then Fiat declared it would be interested in buying part of Chrysler. This arrangement is currently being discussed by the organisations that own Chrysler and the banks that lent it money.

GM owns three carmakers in Europe – Opel in Germany, Vauxhall in the UK and Saab in Sweden. GM is also facing severe financial problems. It has told officials in Germany, the UK and Sweden that it may no longer be able to afford to support these carmakers. The governments of the three European countries do not want GM to close these car companies down. Shutting the factories would mean many thousands of workers would lose their jobs.

Fiat, currently the tenth-largest carmaker in the world, has now said it would like to buy two of GM's



If Fiat is successful it will become the second-largest car company in the world, after the Japanese company Toyota.

Fiat has had its own financial difficulties in the past. Yet under its current boss, Sergio Marchionne, it has started to make money again. Recently, the company has done well by producing small fuel-efficient cars, which are popular in many European countries.

On 4th May Mr Marchionne visited Germany to discuss the possible sale of Opel with government officials. To buy Opel and Vauxhall Mr Marchionne said he would need help from both the German and UK governments.

Some experts say Mr Marchionne has been very clever. GM has such serious financial problems it may agree to sell Opel and Vauxhall for a very cheap price. Others disagree. They believe the senior people at Fiat will not be able to manage a large company that is able to produce between six and seven million cars a year.



The bosses at GM claim other companies have contacted them and said they too are interested in buying Opel and Vauxhall. ■

ELECTRONIC EXAMS

Students in Norway will be allowed to take their exams on laptop computers as part of a new pilot scheme.

Students aged between 16 and 19 have been given laptop computers for schoolwork by the Norwegian government. The laptops are capable of producing spreadsheets and documents. They also have calculators. Students taking different subjects have software on their laptops to match particular topics.

Now the laptop pilot scheme is being used in exams too. 6,000 students in one area have taken part in the exam pilot. In some schools, students download the exam paper from a website, but otherwise cannot access the internet during the exam. In other schools, the exam

questions are on printed paper and the students answer the questions by typing on the computers.

The laptop computers have a special security system. This creates a warning if a student is trying to cheat by communicating with another student or accessing the internet. The teachers can also track what students are typing in real time. The people who designed the system say although the security software is on the students' computers all the time, it is only switched on during the exams. This, say the designers, means nobody can spend time working out how to hack the security software and cheat. The only time the system is active is during the exam – so if students wanted to try to hack it, they would have to use their exam time to do so!

Teachers say they have spent time helping students understand that everything they type in the exam is monitored. The teachers hope that once the students understand this it will prevent them from even trying to cheat.

NewsCAST

FISHY DELIVERY — Journalists and other workers at an Australian newspaper were surprised to find an anonymous bundle on the doorstep of their office. Someone had left a 70 centimetre (27.5 inches) long shark outside the front door of the newspaper's building. The staff poured water on the shark and discovered it was still alive. So they put it into a bucket of water and drove it to the coast to release it back into the sea. So far nobody can think of a reason why anyone would have left the live shark on the newspaper office's doorstep.

One possible advantage of students taking exams in this way is that the exam papers could be emailed to examiners. At the moment, most exam boards have to send large parcels of exam papers in the post to examiners who mark them and post them back. Examiners could receive electronic exam papers more quickly than posted ones, and start marking them earlier.

If the pilot is successful, Norway says it may use the new exam system in all its schools. ■

ATTACK ON DUTCH ROYAL FAMILY

A car driver attempted to attack the royal family of The Netherlands on 30th April.

In The Netherlands, 30th April is Queen's Day. This is a national holiday held to celebrate the reigning monarch's official birthday. The current monarch is Queen Beatrix. She became queen in 1980 after her mother, Queen Juliana, decided to [abdicate](#).

During Queen's Day children's games are organised and musical concerts held. It is traditional for people to be able to sell anything they want to in street markets. During the day the royal family travels to some of the country's towns and cities.

This year the royal family visited the town of Apeldoorn, about 88 kilometres (55 miles) from the capital city of Amsterdam. While the family was driving through the town a car suddenly sped through the crowds of spectators towards the royal family's open-topped bus.

The driver of the car first drove through two metal barriers. These had been set up to block off nearby roads. He hit some people in the

crowd before his car crashed into a stone monument. The car only missed the bus in which the royal family was travelling by 4.6 metres (15 feet).

When the first policeman reached the crashed car the driver told him he had meant to smash into the bus carrying the royal family. After the driver was taken out of the car the police searched it as they thought it may have contained a bomb.

Six people were killed by the car driver, including one policeman. Eight others were seriously injured. The driver of the car was also badly injured and died the following day.



Queen Beatrix

The Dutch people were shocked by the incident. The Queen's Day celebrations were immediately cancelled in Apeldoorn and in many other towns and cities. Shortly after the attack Queen Beatrix arranged for a message of [condolence](#) to be broadcast on national television.

Later the police announced the driver was 38 years old and lived on his own. He had recently lost his job as a security officer and was due to hand back the keys of the flat in which he lived because he could no longer pay for the rent.

Traditionally the Dutch royal family has been very open with the public. The family members often walk around and meet the people, especially on Queen's Day. Many think the car attack on the royal bus will mean this will now have

to change. In the future, some say, the Queen and her family will need to be more heavily guarded by the police. ■

UK TROOPS LEAVE IRAQ

On 30th April a ceremony took place in Basra, the second largest city in Iraq. The event was held to mark the departure of the last 4,100 UK troops from Iraq.

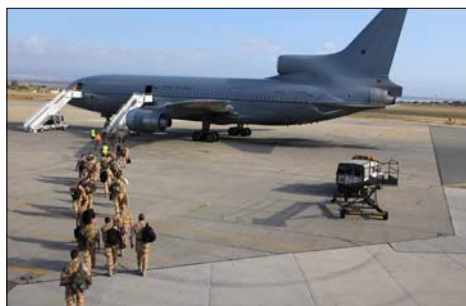
UK troops have been in Iraq since joining the American-led invasion of the country in 2003. During the last six years 179 members of the UK armed forces have been killed in Iraq. As part of the ceremony the names of all those who had been killed were read out.

The USA invaded Iraq because it claimed Saddam Hussein, Iraq's leader at the time, was developing dangerous weapons – called Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Other countries such as the UK agreed with the USA's claim. The leaders of the USA and the UK, President George W Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair, said Saddam Hussein planned to use WMDs to attack other countries.

The invasion, in which 48,000 UK troops took part, was successful and the Iraqi army was quickly defeated. The USA arranged for elections to be held and the Iraqi people elected their own parliament and prime minister. Saddam Hussein was eventually captured and put on trial in an Iraqi court. He was sentenced to death after being found guilty of crimes against his own people.

However, fighting continued between different militant groups in Iraq. This was fiercest around Baghdad, the capital city, which is con-

trolled by American troops. There were also problems in Basra. In 2007 the new Iraqi army, which the UK and USA helped to train, took over control of the city. UK military leaders withdrew their troops from Basra to an airbase outside of the city. Just before the UK troops departed they handed the airbase over to American forces.



UK troops boarding a plane to leave Iraq

The UK government and its military leaders claim the UK's involvement in Iraq has been a great success. Yet many others disagree. They say the limited number of soldiers and the lack of enough special equipment, such as helicopters and bombproof vehicles, meant the troops were not very effective.

Some people in the UK are unhappy about their country's part in the war in Iraq. They claim the war was illegal under international law. No WMD – the original reason for the invasion – has ever been found. Now that UK troops have finally left Iraq many people, including some politicians, want an investigation to be held. This investigation would try to find out why the UK government at the time decided to become involved with the war. ■

PRIME MINISTER RESIGNS IN NEPAL

An argument has broken out between the prime minister and the president of Nepal. The prime minister,

Pushpa Kamal Kahal (known as Prachanda), wanted to dismiss the leader of Nepal's army, General Rookmangud Katawal. Yet Nepal's president, Ram Baran Yadav, blocked his decision. On 4th May, in protest at what the president had done, the prime minister announced he had resigned.

Prachanda became prime minister only eight months ago. He is the leader of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal – also called the Maoists. The Maoists are a former militant group set up in 1996. The group wanted to get rid of the caste system in Nepal, remove the king, and give equal rights to women.

At first the Maoists took control of large areas of the countryside. Later they began to fight battles closer to the cities against the Nepalese army. Eventually, after talks, and with the help of the United Nations (UN), the Maoists declared a ceasefire and agreed to take part in new elections.

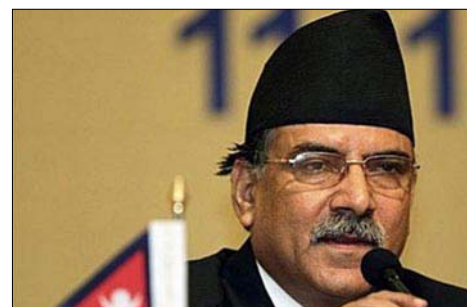
In the elections, which were held last year, the Maoists surprised many people by winning around half of the votes. However, they did not win enough seats to have a majority and had to form a coalition with other smaller parties. Prachanda, as the leader of the party with the most seats and the largest coalition, then became prime minister.

Shortly afterwards the king was forced to step down. Nepal changed from having a monarchy to being a republic. This means the country's head of state is now an elected president and not the king. In Nepal the president is not elected by all the people, but by the members of Nepal's parliament or assembly. The current president is a member of the Nepali Congress party, which is a rival of Prachanda's Maoist Party.

The argument between the prime minister and the president was about what to do with 19,000 former Maoist fighters. As part of the arrangements with the UN, these fighters have been kept in special camps since the ceasefire. They were supposed to hand over their weapons and be allowed to join Nepal's army, which is led by General Katawal.

Joining the army and the Maoist former fighters together was always likely to be difficult, because they spent many years fighting each other. General Katawal refused to accept the former Maoist fighters. So Prachanda wanted to remove the general from his position as head of the army.

Since Nepal became a republic, its rulers haven't decided on the new rules by which the country should be run. Prachanda insists the president does not have the authority to block his decisions. But this isn't really clear because the new constitution, hasn't been agreed yet.



Prachanda, Nepal's former prime minister

On 5th May a group of other political parties agreed to join together to form a 'national government'. The leader of the largest party in the group is expected to become prime minister. However, many people worry there will now be large demonstrations by Maoist supporters. It's even possible, some say, that the fighting ended by the last elections could re-start. ■

CHINESE NAVY ON SHOW

On 23rd April the People's Republic of China held a fleet review. This is a type of parade on the sea designed to show off the ships in a country's navy.

The Chinese navy has been expanding quickly. Around 250,000 people now serve in the navy and it has hundreds of ships. In the past China bought most of its naval ships from other countries, especially Russia. Recently China has begun to design and build more of its own ships.



Fleet review of Chinese naval ships

The fleet review, held near the port city of Qingdao, was the final part of four days of celebrations. They were held to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of China's navy.

Hu Jintao, the president of China, stood on board a Chinese-made destroyer – a type of fast-moving long-range ship. While the president was on board, over 50 other ships sailed past. They included submarines and assault craft – ships used to carry large numbers of troops and equipment. Navy aircraft and helicopters also took part in the review.

In the past China has been very secretive about its navy. This was only the fourth review it has held since 1949. For the first time, navies from other countries were invited to take part. There were 21 ships from 14 other countries including

the USA, Australia, France, Brazil, Russia, Pakistan, India and South Korea.

Two nuclear-powered submarines led the review. However, experts said these were both over ten years old, and that China's most modern submarines did not take part in the display.

China now has one of the largest navies in the world, although it is still much smaller than the American navy. Some other Asian countries are becoming concerned about the growing size of China's navy. They worry it could be used to bully them in future.

President Hu made a speech. He insisted China's armed forces, including its navy, will never be used to threaten other countries.

President Hu also said he wants the Chinese navy to work more closely with those of other countries to help keep the peace. Recently, China has sent two ships to join those of other countries currently in the Indian Ocean near Somalia. These ships are trying to stop the pirate attacks that have been happening there.

One of the most powerful navy ships is an aircraft carrier. These large ships can transport attack planes to any part of the world. The USA has over ten aircraft carriers. China does not have any, but experts believe it is now planning to build its first one. ■

'MISSING LINK' FOSSIL FOUND

A fossil has been discovered in Northern Canada that scientists believe may help explain how pinnipeds – fin-footed mammals such as walruses, sea lions and seals – developed flippers.

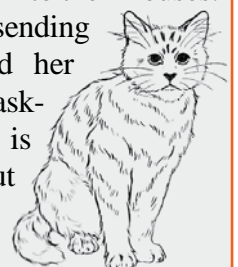
The fossilised skeleton was found in what was once the bottom of an ancient lake. Scientists think the fossil is between 20 and 24 million years old.

The scientists who discovered the fossil said they were very lucky. First, thousands of years ago the area was hit by a meteor that exposed the rocks in which the fossil was found. Second, the scientists only discovered the skeleton because they happened to be travelling nearby and ran out of fuel. They had to wait for two days for more fuel to arrive. During this time, they found the fossil.

The fossilised skeleton is important because it is the first that shows how some mammals may have changed, or evolved, from living on land to living in water. Charles Darwin is the British scientist who developed the theory of evolution. He believed that millions of years ago some land mammals began to

NewsCast

CAT BURGLAR CAUGHT — A burglar in the UK has been stopped in the middle of committing one of his crimes. The burglar – a cat named Henry – was caught by his owner as he brought home his stolen loot – a neighbour's sock. When his owner followed him to his lair under a bed, she discovered around 50 other stolen odd socks. Henry's owner is not sure if her cat pulls the socks from people's washing lines or somehow gets into their houses. She is now sending messages around her neighbourhood asking if anyone is missing socks, but has yet to receive any replies.



hunt in shallow water as well as on land. Gradually, over a very long period of time, they began swimming in streams and rivers and eventually moved to the oceans.



Artist's impression of *Puijila darwini*

If Charles Darwin's theory of evolution is right, there should be many fossils showing the **transition** from one type of animal to another. But only a few have been discovered. Most scientists believe this is because they are yet to be found. Some, who do not agree with Darwin's ideas, say the lack of 'transition' or 'intermediate' fossils shows his theory is wrong. These transition or intermediate fossils are often nicknamed 'missing links'.

The fossil found in Canada shows the animal had a body similar to an otter but a head like a seal. Its legs were strong for walking on land, and it had webbed feet for swimming. It also had a tail.

The animal has been called *Puijila darwini*. The first part of the name means 'young sea mammal' in Inuktitut. This language is spoken by the Inuit, the native people who live in Northern Canada and other parts of the Arctic. The second part of the name was chosen in **homage** to Charles Darwin. This year marks the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his famous book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*.

Scientists believe Northern Canada was warmer when *Puijila darwini* was alive than it is today. Yet there still would have been 24-hour periods of darkness in winter, and 24 hours of light in the summer. The scientists say this may be one reason why seals gradually developed such large eyes, which were needed for hunting in the dark Arctic winters. ■

WHICH CITY IS THE BEST?

On 28th April a survey was published that compares people's quality of living in different world cities.

The survey looks at several different features of each city to give it a ranking against others. The cities are awarded points. New York City, in the USA, is the 'base' city against which others are compared. New York has 100 points. Other cities are given more or fewer points than this depending on how living in them compares with living in New York City.



Vienna, capital of Austria

The researchers study things that affect living conditions in a city. For example, they consider what can affect people's health, such as air pollution, **sanitation**, and the availability of medical treatment. The survey looks at the kind of schools in the cities, the amount of crime, and the leisure activities available. It also considers the natural environment of each city,

including the climate and whether it is at risk of earthquakes or other natural disasters.

The firm that produced the survey is called Mercer. It provides information to governments and companies and gives them advice. The survey is mainly used by organisations that send employees to work in offices in other countries. This way, Mercer says, the organisations know what their employees can expect when they move to new cities compared with where they live now.

The Mercer researchers also suggest the amount of money an organisation should pay its workers if they are sent to live in a city on the list. For instance, an organisation might pay extra money to an employee who moves cities, so the person can keep the same standard of living as he or she is used to.

The highest-ranked city in the survey, with 108.6 points, was Vienna, the capital of Austria. Seven of the top ten-ranked cities are in Europe. In equal fourth position are Vancouver, in Canada, and Auckland, in New Zealand. New York City came 49th on the list.

The survey also looked at the **infrastructure** of different cities. This included comparing electricity and water supplies, traffic and public transport, and communication systems such as the telephone and postal services. The highest-ranked city on this list was Singapore. ■

ELECTION IN ICELAND

On 25th April an election was held for Iceland's 63-seat parliament, called the Althing. Iceland has been one of the countries most affected by the current world banking problems.

The party that won the most seats was the Social Democratic Alliance with 20. The Left-Green Movement came third, with 14 seats. The two parties have joined together to form a coalition. Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir, the leader of the Social Democratic Alliance, is now prime minister.

Ms Sigurðardóttir has been acting as prime minister of Iceland since the last prime minister, Geir Haarde, resigned in January. He decided to step down after many people protested about the country's serious financial problems.



Iceland's prime minister, Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir

Mr Haarde's party, the Independence Party, came second in the election with 16 seats – nine fewer than it won in the previous election. For the first time in 18 years, the Independence Party will not be part of Iceland's government.

In October 2008, Iceland's three largest banks collapsed. Over the previous years they had borrowed large amounts of money from banks in other countries. Suddenly, when the credit crunch happened, they were unable to borrow more to pay off some of their debts.

Many Icelanders had also borrowed money to buy new homes and cars. Most borrowed money in euro or other currencies. But as the banks collapsed, the country's currency, the króna, lost most of its value. This meant people could not afford to pay their debts. Now many people have lost their homes and their jobs.

Iceland had to call for help from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF, which is based in the USA, is an organisation that will lend money to countries that have serious financial problems. Most Icelanders do not expect the situation to improve in their country for many years.

Ms Sigurðardóttir believes that one solution would be for Iceland to join the European Union (EU) and change its currency to the euro. Others disagree. Iceland's traditional main industry is fishing. If it were to join the EU it would have to agree that fishing boats from other EU member countries could catch fish in the waters around Iceland. EU officials would also restrict how much fish each country could catch.

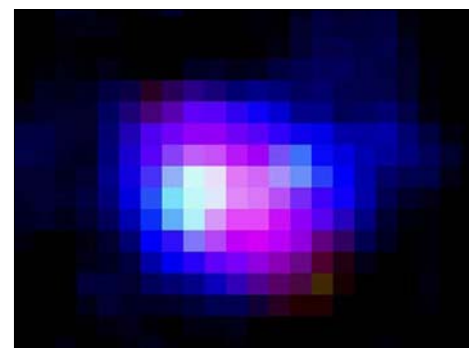
Most people believe the country's new government will decide to hold a referendum – a vote in which all adults can take part. Everyone will then have the opportunity to say whether or not they want Iceland to apply to join the EU. ■

LOOKING BACK IN TIME

Astronomers have spotted a huge glowing object in deep space that's never been seen before. The team that discovered the object has given it the name Himiko. They think it's a galaxy billions of light years away.

Scientists call a huge collection of gasses and stars like this one a 'blob' – to be exact, a Lyman-alpha blob. Some astronomers think Lyman-alpha blobs are created by two or more small galaxies colliding. Others think the blob is a cloud of gasses heated up by a large black hole nearby. Even with today's very powerful telescopes, astronomers can't tell what

the blob is made of. But they are quite sure Himiko is almost as old as the universe.



Himiko

The light by which we see things travels at about 299,792 kilometres (186,282 miles) per second. This means we see most things immediately. But when things are very far away, it takes time for their light to reach us. The distance light can travel in one year of time is known as a light year – about 9.5 trillion kilometres (around 6 trillion miles).

The light from the Sun takes about eight minutes to reach us. So we're really seeing what the Sun looked like eight minutes ago. The newly-discovered blob is 12.9 billion light years away. So the astronomers know it is at least 12.9 billion years old. Most astronomers agree that the universe itself was created between 13 and 14 billion years ago.

The team says it is very unusual to see an object of this size from so many millions of years ago. The way in which scientists believe the universe was formed means it began with small galaxies and clusters that only later formed larger systems. Other huge Lyman-alpha blobs have been discovered, but these were all formed much more recently.

The scientists that identified Himiko work at a university in California, in the USA. They used

very powerful telescopes on a high mountain in Hawaii to spot the distant blob. ■

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FIRST 100 DAYS

Barack Obama officially became president of the USA on 20th January. So 29th April marked his first 100 days of being in charge of the country.

In the USA it has become a tradition for television and newspaper reporters to examine what successes and failures a president has had during this time. A president's first 100 days is often known as a 'honeymoon period'.

This tradition first started in 1933. Then the newly-elected president Franklin D Roosevelt announced he had arranged for 15 new laws to be passed in his first 100 days. These laws were made to try to help America get out of what has become known as the 'Great Depression'. At the time of the Great Depression economic growth in many countries, including the USA, slowed

down. World trade almost stopped and millions of people lost their jobs or were unable to find work.

Many Americans think the current financial problems in the world are as bad as they were during the Great Depression of the 1930s. In the USA the economy is getting smaller, companies are reducing the number of things they buy and many people have lost their jobs. Most experts think this situation is unlikely to improve until at least the beginning of 2010.



Barack Obama, president of the USA

During his first 100 days Mr Obama has arranged for government money to be used to help American banks and car companies. He also introduced a US\$787 billion (€91 billion) stimulus to the economy. This was designed to save people's jobs and to try to get the country's economy growing again.

Mr Obama has also arranged to shut down the part of the Guantánamo Bay detention camp used to hold prisoners captured in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many Americans were unhappy about the camp as some of the prisoners said they were tortured. Although the camp will soon close, it has not yet been decided what will happen to all the prisoners.

The president has also had to make decisions on the number of American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan during his first 100 days. And just as he reached his 100th day, he had to deal with the problem

of swine flu that has spread from Mexico to the USA.

President Obama said he thought he had made a 'good start' but more work needs to be done.

Several newspapers and magazines ran surveys, or polls, about President Obama's first 100 days. These polls tried to calculate how many Americans think Mr Obama is doing a good job. An average of 60% of people asked said they approved of what he had done so far. ■

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

Journalists and media organisations around the world observed World Press Freedom Day on 3rd May.

The United Nations (UN) first announced World Press Freedom Day in 1993. The day has several purposes. It is meant to celebrate the principles of freedom of speech. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights says 'Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.'

Some organisations use the day to judge and highlight how much freedom there is in the media in different countries. This includes television, newspaper and internet reporting companies and organisations. The day also aims to show that some official groups and governments try to force the media to report selected news and not to mention things they want to hide.



NewsCAST

PIRATES PICK WRONG TARGET — On 5th May a French ship sailing in the Indian Ocean was targeted by a group of pirates. The pirates approached the ship intending to get on board and capture it. But instead of it being a cargo ship, the vessel turned out to be a French navy ship. The pirates were met by soldiers from the French ship who captured them and took all their weapons and ammunition. The French ship was sailing in the area to protect other ships from being attacked by pirates.

Finally, it honours journalists who have died while doing their job.

Freedom House is an organisation based in the USA. It studies press freedom and awards different countries a ranking based on how 'free' their media is. **Analysts** from the organisation look at information in different categories to give each country a ranking.



Lasantha Wickrematunge

For example, Freedom House checks if a country has any laws that would affect a journalist's freedom. It considers a country's political system and how easy it is to be allowed to look at government documents for information. Analysts also find out if a country makes it possible for foreign journalists to travel and get information, and if journalists are ever threatened by government officials or the police. Freedom House attempts to find out if anyone tries to pay journalists to write or broadcast news reports in a certain way. It also tries to discover if the news reports featured in a newspaper or television programme are only chosen by the person or people who own it.

Its survey adds up all these things and lists each country's media as 'Free', 'Not Free', or 'Partly Free'. The organisation claims press freedom has decreased around the world in the last 12 months.

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) awards its World Press

Freedom Prize on 3rd May each year. This award honours a person or organisation that has worked to defend the freedom of the media. This year it was given to Lasantha Wickrematunge, a Sri Lankan journalist. In 2000 he led a campaign to stop a law that allowed his country's government to restrict what was reported in the media in Sri Lanka.

Mr Wickrematunge was assassinated in January this year. He knew he was in danger, and had already written a report to be published after his death. This report talked about the importance of standing up for freedom of the press. ■

WORKERS MAY DAY MARCHES

1st May is marked in many countries around the world as International Workers' Day. Also known as May Day, 1st May is a day on which many workers' unions hold organised street marches and demonstrations.

International Workers Day is held to celebrate the achievements of workers' unions – also known as trade or labour unions. These organisations represent the rights of different groups of workers. Nowadays unions are meant to try to keep working hours fair and help improve conditions if members feel they are unfairly paid or treated.

When mines and factories first began opening, there were no rules about how bosses treated their workers. The bosses could make people work long hours for little pay in difficult, or even dangerous, conditions. Gradually workers began to meet to protest about what they believed to be unfair treatment. These meetings eventually became workers' unions.

In 1886, some workers in Chicago, in the USA, used 1st May to campaign for a working day of eight hours. Many went on strike – or refused to work – and demonstrations were held. Although the protests began peacefully, there were soon violent clashes between the police and workers.

Three days later the workers held another demonstration. Their leader was reported to have said it was not meant to **incite** violence. The city's mayor went to the protest because officials were worried there may be trouble. Yet the protest was peaceful and the mayor went home. However, at the end of the day, the police began advancing on the protesters to break up the crowd. One person threw a hand-made bomb at the police.

The police began shooting at the crowd. Some police officers and protesters were killed and many others injured. This became known as the Haymarket Affair.



May Day demonstration in Berlin, Germany

Eight men were arrested for leading the protests. They were sentenced to death. Many people believed this was just to make an example of them, and to try to put a stop to workers' demonstrations. The prosecutors admitted they did not think any of the men on trial actually threw the bomb. Four of the men were executed and one committed suicide in prison. The others were eventually pardoned.

In 1889, American unions decided to try to make their campaign for fairer treatment an international one. So 1st May was declared to be International Workers' Day. Unions in other countries began using the same day to hold their protests and marches.

This year, on 1st May, big protest marches were held in larger cities in France, Spain, Russia and Germany. Workers attending these protests were angry about how their governments are dealing with current world financial problems. For example, in Germany it's expected that the number of people without a job will reach five million within the next 12 months. In Berlin, the capital of Germany, 5,000 police struggled to control the thousands of protesters. Tens of thousands of demonstrators also marched through Paris, the capital of France.

They were protesting against recent decisions made by the French president, Nicolas Sarkozy, and his government. ■

SUPER-STRONG SILK

Scientists already know that spider silk is one of the strongest fibres in the world. Now, they have found a way to make it even stronger.

Spiders produce silk from proteins in their bodies. The silk is used to make webs in which the spiders can catch insects to eat. Spider silk is extremely light and can stretch a great deal. A filament of spider silk is stronger than a filament of steel of the same thickness.

Some spiders can even produce different kinds of silk. For example, a very strong thread is used to build the outside of a spider web, while

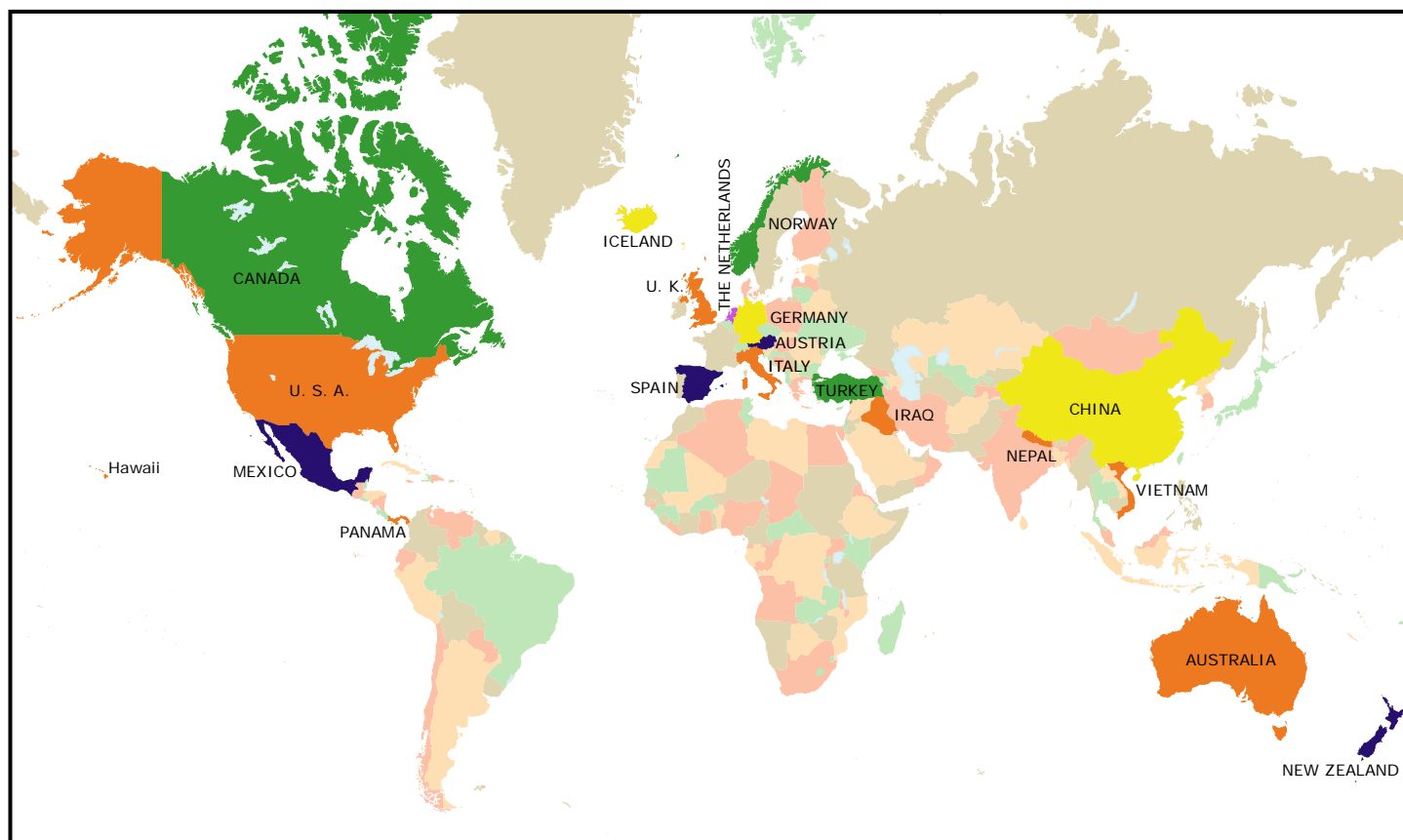
the inner threads are stretchier and sticky, to catch insects. A different type of silk is used to wrap spiders' prey, and another to wrap and protect their eggs.



Spider web

Engineers have tried to find ways to produce spider-silk in big quantities, mostly because of its strength. But they have not had very much success.

Now a team of scientists in Germany has tried fusing metals with spider silk to try to increase its strength.



The team says it got its idea from other creatures that have tiny amounts of metals present in their cells. For instance, leaf-cutter ants have traces of the metal zinc in their jaws, and researchers think it is this that makes them so strong. So the scientists used a way of coating a thread of spider silk with tiny amounts of different metals – zinc, aluminium, and titanium.

The team said the strands could hold three to four times as much weight as those not coated with the metals. And snapping a thread of the titanium-coated spider silk took ten times more energy than the silk on its own.

Many now wonder if the scientists' extra-strong spider silk could have a medical use. For example, it may be possible to use it to make collagen stronger. Collagen is a stiff material present in the cells of living things. It forms our [tendons](#), which join muscles to bones. Some scientists think collagen strengthened with the new extra-strong spider silk could be used to make artificial tendons for people whose own have been badly damaged. ■

EUROPEAN VULTURES GET NEW MENU

The European Parliament has made a decision that experts say could save the lives of large numbers of vultures.

The vulture is a large bird that lives by [scavenging](#) for food. It mostly feeds on the carcasses, or bodies, of dead animals. Vultures can eat flesh that is rotting without getting ill. Other animals cannot eat the high levels of bacteria in rotting meat and can be poisoned by it. Dead animals left to rot can spread

disease and pollute water supplies. So vultures are useful in keeping ecosystems healthy.



Griffon vulture

In 2002, the European Union (EU) introduced some new rules on how farmers could dispose of the carcasses of dead farm animals. The rules were brought in because of a disease called BSE – known as 'mad cow disease'. Carcasses, said scientists, could still be infected with the disease. So the EU ordered that animal carcasses could not be left in the open and had to be taken to special disposal places. This meant less food was available for vultures.

An organisation called BirdLife International campaigned to change the European law. It says populations of Griffon vultures and other scavenging birds are starving. The organisation says that since 2005, the number of cases of BSE in cows has decreased. BirdLife International claims over a million goats and sheep have been tested for BSE. Even though only one has tested positive for the disease, goat and sheep carcasses still have to be cleared away. BirdLife International insists this isn't necessary, and says it takes away an important food source for the vultures.

The new law will mean farmers are allowed to leave the carcasses of dead animals out in the open. Farmers will still have to make sure the carcasses are not a threat to human or animal health.

In Europe the Griffon vultures, which bird experts hope will benefit from the change in the law, are mostly found in Spain. Observers say the birds have recently been seen as far away as Belgium. This, say experts, shows the vultures are being forced to travel much farther than usual to try to find food. ■

WORLD'S LARGEST CAVE?

At the end of April a team of explorers from the UK announced they have found what they believe is the biggest cave in the world.

The cave is in Vietnam. It is within a national park called Phong Nha-Ke Bang. This national park includes one of the largest karst regions in the world.



Rock formation in the Son Doong cave

Karst regions are mostly made up of limestone – a type of rock [soluble](#) in water. This means karst areas often have many caves formed over millions of years by underground rivers, streams and dripping water. These types of caves can also have spectacular formations of stalactites and stalagmites. Experts think the karsts of the Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park were formed around 400 million years ago.

There are many grottoes and caves in the Park. Grottoes are smaller caves or chambers leading from larger caves and

passageways. So far 20 caves have been fully explored in the Park. These have a total length of 70 kilometres (44 miles). One, called Phong Nha – from which the Park gets its name – has unusual rock formations. These have been given names such as the ‘Buddha’, the ‘Lion’, the ‘Royal Court’, and the ‘Fairy Caves’.



Lake in the Son Doong cave

The newly-discovered cave has been named Son Doong, which means Mountain River. The entrance to the cave was discovered by a local man in 1991. However, no-one dared go inside because of the strong wind and loud noise coming out of it. The UK team that explored the cave said both the wind and noise are caused by a large river flowing deep inside the cave.

The team had to walk for six hours through the jungle from the nearest road to reach the cave entrance. At first the team had to cross two underground rivers before reaching the main passage of the cave. Following this passage for 6.5 kilometres (four miles), they then arrived at a place where it was blocked by a large wall

of rock. The team spent five days exploring several caves. One has a large lake inside, which is over 200 metres (656 feet) deep.

Using special laser measuring devices the team discovered that in some places the Son Doong cave is around 150 metres (492 feet) wide and 200 metres (656 feet) high.

Currently, the cave thought to be the largest in the world is in a karst region in Malaysia. Called the Deer Cave, it is two kilometres (1.25 miles) long, 100 metres (328 feet) high and 90 metres (295 feet) wide.

The UK team plans to return to the Son Doong cave later in the year to do a complete survey. If the measurements are found to be correct, it will mean that the cave in Vietnam is roughly twice as big as the one in Malaysia. ■

NEW PRESIDENT IN PANAMA

On 3rd May officials in Panama announced the results of the country's presidential election. The winner was Ricardo Martinelli, who won around 60% of the votes. Balbina Herrera came second with 37%.

In Panama presidential elections are held every five years. The current president, Martin Torrijos, was elected in 2004. Presidents are not allowed to stand for two five-year terms in a row. President Torrijos will officially hand over to Mr Martinelli on 1st July.

Mr Martinelli is a wealthy businessman who owns the country's largest chain of supermarkets. His election success surprised many people. His rival, Ms Herrera, is a member of the same political party as President Torrijos. And when Mr Martinelli stood in the 2004

presidential election, he only got 5% of the votes.



Ricardo Martinelli, the new president of Panama

Mr Martinelli will now be in charge of Panama while its famous canal is being widened. Before the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914, ships travelling between the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean had to sail around the southern tip of South America. The 79 kilometre (28 mile) long canal therefore saved them a very long and sometimes dangerous journey.

The building of the Canal was first started by a French company in the 1880s. But the company ran out of money and the USA bought

NewsCast

RECORD PRICE FOR DIAMOND? — A rare blue diamond has gone on display in London, the capital of the UK. The diamond is due to be sold at an auction that will be held in Switzerland. The weight of diamonds is measured in units called carats, and the rare blue diamond weighs 7.03 carats. In 2008 the auction company, Sotheby's, sold a blue diamond ring for £3.3 million (US\$4.9 million). The company estimates the new blue diamond could be sold for as much as £5.7 million (US\$8.5 million). This would not be the highest price ever paid for a diamond, but it would be the highest price per carat.

the rights to finish and run the canal in 1903. It took a further 11 years to complete.



It's estimated over 25,000 workers died during the building of the Canal – most from tropical diseases. In 1999, after 96 years, the USA handed over running the Canal to the government of Panama.

In the last 100 years cargo ships have become much bigger. Many are now too large to use the Canal. The new plan, which will cost over US\$5 billion (£3.75 billion), will mean ships carrying 10,000 containers will be able to make the eight-hour journey along the Canal. Currently only ships carrying a maximum of 4,000 containers can make the trip. The work is expected to be completed by 2015.

Mr Martinelli said he would improve Panama's health, education and transport systems, and reduce crime, if he were elected. He also promised to grow the economy by working more closely with the USA. This is unusual, as over the last ten years many other countries in South and Central America have elected leaders who claim to be anti-American.

Panama, like many other countries in the world, has recently been having financial difficulties. Some therefore suggested that many people decided to vote for Mr Martinelli because they want to have a

successful businessman in charge of the country at this time. ■

ANZAC DAY

On 25th April people in Australia and New Zealand commemorated Anzac Day.

Anzac Day is a military memorial day. 'Anzac' stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The date commemorates the first major battle during the First World War (1914-1918) in which soldiers from Australia and New Zealand took part.



Anzac Day parade

Australian and New Zealand troops fought alongside British soldiers that were trying to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. The plan was for the troops to go on and occupy Constantinople (now called Istanbul), the capital of Turkey. The attacks failed and the fighting against the Turkish army in Gallipoli carried on for 260 days. During this time, 8,709 Australian and 2,721 New Zealand soldiers were killed. Many thousands more were injured.

In 1921, 25th April was declared an official public day of commemoration. Now, Anzac Day is a day on which Australians and New Zealanders remember their troops who have fought in all wars. This includes the Second World War (1939-1945) and other more recent conflicts.

NewsCAST

ROOFTOP RESCUE — An emergency crew was called out to rescue a man stuck on a roof in Australia. The 53-year-old man had got stuck because rain had made the roof slippery. The emergency crew at first could not reach him because of the bad weather. A fire engine with a long ladder had to be called, while a police helicopter hovered above to light up the area. It took around three hours to bring the man down to safety. The man was then arrested because he was found to be carrying tools for breaking in to the factory.

Several traditions and rituals are observed in both countries on Anzac Day. The day begins with services held at dawn. The first official dawn service was held in Australia in 1927 and in New Zealand in 1939. Some are religious services held in churches. Others are secular services, which often take place at war memorials. The ceremonies include a minute's silence, during which people reflect on and remember the dead. In many cities, ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen take part in a parade.



ANZAC biscuits

Events are held throughout the day by the RSA and RSL (Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association and Returned and Services' League of Australia). Often these

events include a special breakfast and a gambling game called two-up.

Both countries share the tradition of Anzac biscuits. Anzac biscuits contain oats, sugar, flour, butter, golden syrup and coconut. It's said that people at home, in Australia and New Zealand, baked these biscuits to send to their soldiers serving overseas during the First World War. The biscuits had to be made from ingredients that would keep well, because it took a long time for parcels to reach the soldiers.

Today, many RSA and RSL volunteers bake and sell Anzac biscuits to raise money to help support [veterans](#). Some of the money raised is also used to maintain war memorials and the graves of people who have died in wars. ■

HISTORIC CHINESE CRAFT SUNK

In June 2008 a wooden Chinese ship, called Princess Taiping, set out to sail across the Pacific Ocean from Taiwan to the USA. On 25th April, on its return trip, it was hit by a large tanker carrying chemicals. The Princess Taiping sank only 48 kilometres (30 miles) from the end of its long journey.



Princess Taiping

The wooden ship's 11 crew members were picked up by a helicopter and rescue ship after spending four and a half hours in the water.

The ship, called a junk, took one year to build. 'Junk' is a word

English sailors once used to describe large wooden Chinese sailing ships. Over 25 ship makers built the Princess Taiping using traditional tools and methods. It had no engine, and was powered by cotton sails.

The main reason for building the junk and sailing it across the Pacific Ocean was to try to prove a theory. Some historians believe Chinese wooden sailing ships reached the west coasts of North and South America over 600 years ago, during the Ming Dynasty. This would mean the Chinese reached the Americas many years before the European explorers Christopher Columbus and Ferdinand Magellan.

Between 1405 and 1433 the Chinese Admiral and explorer Zheng He made seven long voyages in what have been called 'treasure ships'. These were very large wooden junks. On these voyages the Admiral was in charge of many ships and thousands of armed men.

Records of five of his voyages show his ships sailed around the Indian Ocean and reached India and the Middle East. But the records for his last two voyages were destroyed. Some people believe on these two voyages his ships sailed around the southern tip of Africa into the Atlantic Ocean and across the Pacific Ocean. Zheng He died during his last voyage.

Those who believe Admiral Zheng He was the first to 'discover' the Americas claim some ancient maps show an outline of the continent. These, they say, were made before Europeans crossed the Atlantic Ocean and were based on maps made during Zheng He's voyages. But most experts disagree. They say the maps are not that old, and it's unlikely the Admiral reached these distant lands.

The people that sailed the Princess Taiping across the Pacific Ocean wanted to prove that a Chinese wooden sailing ship similar to those used 600 years ago could have reached the west coast of America.

After setting off last June, the Princess Taiping sailed around the North Pacific Ocean and reached the city of San Francisco, in the USA, five months later. During the trip it had to sail through several bad storms.



Scale model of a Chinese wooden 'treasure ship' next to a model of the ship used by Christopher Columbus

The captain of the ship was very angry that the large tanker hit his craft. He said after travelling 27,200 kilometres (17,000 miles) across the Pacific Ocean and back he was sorry his crew was unable to complete the final part of its journey. An investigation is now being held to find out how the accident happened. ■

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Editor: Amber Thody

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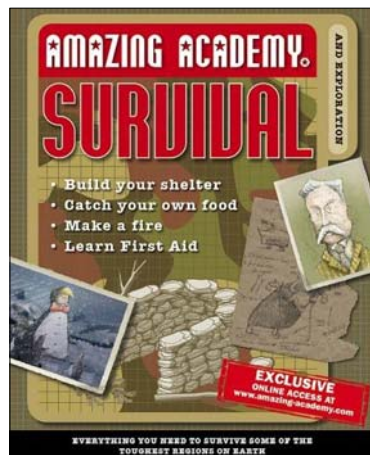
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B O O K R E V I E W

HAVE YOU READ ...?



er, *tutors* – in survival, navigation, gadgetry & exploration. Your first bit of exploration is simply finding your way through the academy campus. There's a very detailed spread of the library, map room, and the Amazing Academy survival area.

This is followed by the Survival Basics. In detail, the author tells you how to make your own basic survival kit, build a shelter, make a fire, avoid dying of thirst and hunger, cook food without a kitchen, and make your own very efficient camp.

I found the part about building your own shelter fascinating. You can actually make a decent – though very basic – shelter using a fallen tree over a pit lined with bark or branches from another tree. The rock house the book describes would be a challenge though. The roof should be made of driftwood and a [tarpaulin](#) – if you carried one along on your journey! The sheet shelter would be your best option – it can keep you dry better than the other two.

Have you ever made your own water filter? The book shows you how to make one with a plastic bottle containing layers of cloth, moss, charcoal and gravel, to filter drinking water. How can you survive out in the wilderness if you don't have your own food? You may be surprised – or disgusted! – at what we humans can live on when forced to find food. If you're by a river, you can build a fish trap using stones placed carefully. But, as the book warns, never eat anything you can't identify, and don't trap or kill animals or fish without permission (i.e. a licence).

Another section looks at the history of exploration, and some famous explorers. This includes the first

European explorer to see – and write about – kangaroos; an Italian who spent 24 years of his life exploring Asia; someone who discovered North America 500 years before Christopher Columbus – and 'Scott of the Antarctic'.

The Hands-On part of the book is a kind of planner. Here you can record how you would do things on an expedition: what you'll cook, and who will do the chores each day. You can draw your map, do a word search, create a picture dictionary, and design your own vehicle.

There is also an awesome campus map. Visually, I like this map best. If only there were a real Amazing Academy campus to go to! It's a vast campus of different kinds of schools – of underwater adventure, polar studies, dinosaur training, railroad driving and very large machinery, spying, Egyptian studies, and even a gladiator school. You could spend a lot of time imagining which of the schools you might want to attend, and what lessons you'd take there. I'd choose to go to the school of survival and exploration, with its adobe buildings similar to those you can find in the American Southwest.

This package also contains a dog tag and I.D. card. The whole book makes imagining a survival expedition all the more realistic, from choosing what to put in your backpack to learning what other explorers before you have done. So you think you'll never *really* need to learn these skills? You never know...

Amazing Academy: Survival by Nick Page 2008. Make Believe Ideas.

Reviewed by **Craig Purdon**

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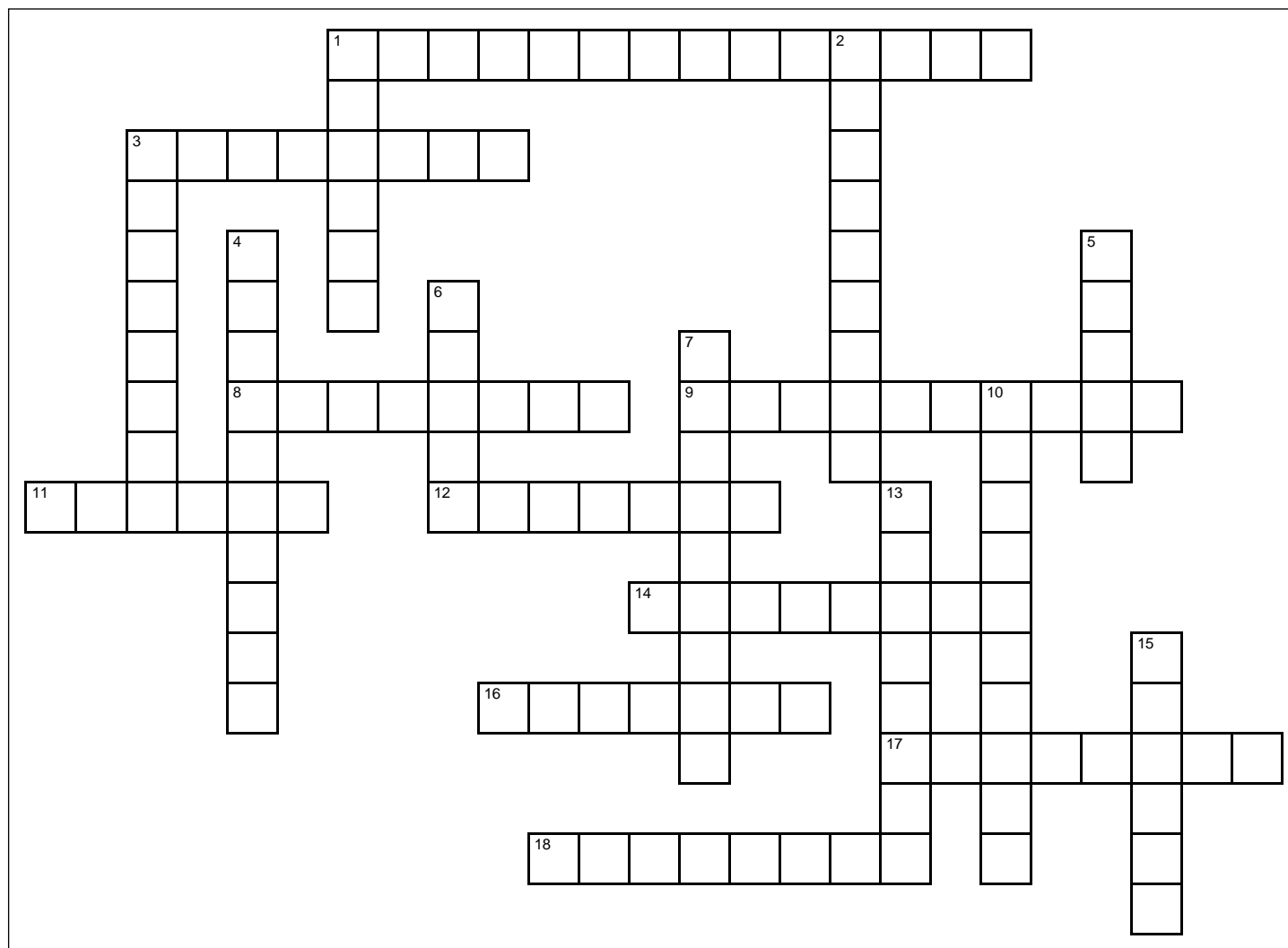
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Complete the form and tell us why you enjoyed the book. If we review your choice, we'll mention your name and include some of your comments.

GLOSSARY

PRIZE COMPETITION

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword find the 20 words in the word search on the next page ➡



Across

- 1 Noun** Systems and services such as transport and power supplies that enable a country or organisation to work effectively (14)
- 3 Verb** To resign from a throne (8)
- 8 Noun (Plural)** People who have served in the armed forces during a war (8)
- 9 Noun** The systems for taking waste products and dirty water away from buildings to protect people's health (10)
- 11 Verb** Joining together (6)
- 12 Adjective** Able to be dissolved in liquid (7)
- 14 Noun** Something that has an impact, usually to encourage growth or activity (8)
- 16 Noun (Plural)** Strong cords in the body connecting muscles and bones (7)
- 17 Noun** A disease outbreak that spreads quickly (8)
- 18 Adjective** Unable to pay debts (8)

Down

- 1 Verb** To encourage an action (6)
- 2 Noun** A large waterproof plastic sheet or cloth used as a covering (9)
- 3 Noun (Plural)** People whose job it is to study or examine something in detail (8)
- 4 Verb** Feeding on the flesh of dead, decaying animals (10)
- 5 Adjective** Describes a plan, product or system used to test if something will work (5)
- 6 Noun** A very small organism that causes disease in humans, animals and plants (5)
- 7 Noun** Being kept separate from other things or people (9)
- 10 Noun** A change from one thing to another, or the process by which this happens (10)
- 13 Noun** A thin fibre or thread of an artificial or natural material (8)
- 15 Noun** Respect or praise shown for a person or god (6)

GLOSSARY

PRIZE COMPETITION *CONTINUED*

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

INSTRUCTIONS: ③ Find the crossword answers in the word search. Words can go vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back to front. ④ After solving the word search write down the unused letters, starting at the top left and reading from left to right, top to bottom to find the solution. **Hint** - The numbers of letters and words in the solution are shown under the word search.

COMPETITION PRIZES

Glossary Prize Winner

Paperback copy of 'Amazing Academy: Survival' by Nick Page

Glossary Prize Runner up

10 free issues of Newsademic

Sudoku Prize Winner

10 free issues of Newsademic

ISSUE NUMBER 91 PRIZE WINNERS

Glossary Competition

Jonathan Zhang, USA
Kate Watts, UK

Sudoku Competition

Emma Travis, UK

Competition solution (two words with a total of 17 letters)

Go to www.newsademic.com log in and submit your solution by clicking on the "Enter competition" link within the Subscribers tools menu.

Deadline for receiving your entry is 10 pm on 21st May 2009 (GMT/UTC).

COMPETITION RULES:

1 Competition prizes are awarded on a per issue and not a per edition basis. 2 Only one entry per person per competition will be accepted. 3 You must obtain permission from your parent/guardian before entering if you are under 16 years of age. 4 Deadline for receiving entries is at 10 pm (GMT) on 21st May 2009. 5 The winners will be randomly selected from all correct entries received. 6 The winners will be contacted by E-mail. Newsademic's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 7 Prizes must be taken as offered. There are no cash alternatives. 8 Newsademic does not accept any responsibility for lost or late entries due to the internet. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt. 9 Prizes won by those who have used a school subscription to enter will be awarded to the individual entrant and not to the school. 10 Competitions are not open to employees or contractors of Newsademic. 11 Newsademic reserves the right to cancel competitions at any stage, if in their opinion it is deemed necessary or if circumstances arise beyond their control. 12 These rules are governed by the laws of England and Wales. 13 When entering competitions entrants will be deemed to have accepted these rules and to agree to be bound by them.

SUDOKU COMPETITION

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Fill the boxes on each horizontal row with a number between 1 and 9. ② Fill the boxes on each vertical row with a number between 1 and 9. ③ Make sure that each number between 1 and 9 also appears in each highlighted 3 x 3 square box. ④ After solving the Sudoku puzzle write down the numbers from the tinted vertical column from top to bottom in the boxes below.

Competition Solution

					5	1		2
6				1		4	8	5
		4			8		9	6
			1	5			6	3
	1					8		7
	6	2		4				
	3	1		8		9		4
	4		9				2	
8	9			7	4	3		1