

Cow burps to save the Earth; England's gravy wrestling champion; giant scorpions ruled the seas; and a skydiving centenarian.

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm Christie Kijurina -

It's Wednesday, August 28 ...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Cow burps to save the Earth; England's gravy wrestling champion; giant scorpions ruled the seas; and a skydiving centenarian.

That's what's making news, kid's style...

THE LOWDOWN

Today's *Lowdown* might sound like something out of a science fiction movie, but I promise, it's all real!

First up, we've got cows at the centre of a new plan to help save the planet —yes, cows. You see, the bacteria in cows' stomachs that help them digest their food also produce methane—a powerful greenhouse gas—that is released every time they burp or fart. And with around 1.5 billion cows on the planet, cow gas contributes more to global warming than some entire countries!

But, scientists in California have a clever plan to change that. They're working on a probiotic pill (filled with good bacteria) for calves to take that could alter the bacteria in their stomachs for life, making cow burps planet-friendly. If every cow had this pill—it could be like taking millions of cars off the road!

From cars to stars, or rather, what's hidden in the darkness between them. For decades, scientists have been on the hunt for dark matter, the mysterious stuff that we think makes up most of the universe but can't be seen. Imagine looking for buried treasure but not knowing exactly what it is. That's what scientists are doing with dark matter.

These scientists have built a super-sensitive detector hidden 1.5 kilometres underground in an old gold mine in South Dakota, USA, to search for particles called WIMPs. And no, we're not talking about scientists being wimps—these are Weakly Interacting Massive Particles! Despite digging deeper than ever before, they still can't find a trace. And while finding nothing might not sound exciting, we're now a step closer to cracking one of the greatest mysteries of the universe!

Go Science!

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day, we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops, and today we've landed in England, at a pub called the Rose 'N' Bowl, where the World Gravy Wrestling Championships took place on Monday!

Hundreds of spectators gathered to watch competitors, including a leprechaun, a series of superheroes, and even a fluffy dalmatian, slip and slide in a pool of gravy for two minutes, scoring points for fancy dress, comedy, and wrestling moves.

With so much gravy sloshing around, you've got to wonder—what do they do with it all afterwards? Maybe grab a bowl of chips and dig in!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

—

Let's go now from a sea of gravy to the ancient oceans of Australia, where giant, crocodile-sized sea scorpions once roamed! What the!!

Dr. Patrick Smith, a palaeontologist (that's a scientist who studies fossils), made an incredible discovery while sitting quietly at the edge of a creek near Orange, in NSW. He spotted fossils of these massive ancient creatures, which lived over 400 million years ago, could grow to the size of a small car and ruled the oceans as apex predators—think of them as the sharks of their time! Scary!

These giant scorpions were part of a group called arthropods, animals with exoskeletons, like crabs and spiders. Imagine having huge claws, powerful legs for swimming, and a beefy exoskeleton to protect you—no wonder they were the top predators! Built for hunting, these scorpions would snatch fish up with their sharp pincers. They could even cross vast ancient oceans, travelling thousands of kilometres

between supercontinents. Despite being so powerful, these creatures mysteriously went extinct around 400 million years ago, leaving scientists puzzled as to why.

So, if you're ever feeling bored, remember: incredible discoveries can be made when you take your time and look closely. Who knows what ancient secrets are waiting to be found in your backyard?

BIGGEST FURTHEST LONGEST

—

Do you ever get FOMO—fear of missing out—thinking maybe it's too late to try something new? Well, these stories prove that you've probably still got time! First up, we have the incredible Manette Baillie from Suffolk, England, who celebrated her 102nd birthday by becoming Britain's oldest skydiver.

From the skies, we turn to John Tinniswood, the world's oldest living man at 112. Born in Liverpool, England, in 1912, John takes his age in stride, enjoying life's simple pleasures, like his weekly Friday fish and chips. When asked why he's lived so long, he simply says, "I have no idea. No special secrets." A World War II veteran, John has received a birthday card from the monarch every year since turning 100.

How many years until you get your birthday card from the king or queen?

BOOK WEEK PROMO

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Wow, what an amazing Book Week! We were blown away by the photos you sent in of your costumes for our Squiz Kids Book Week Competition. From favourite storybook characters to fantastic creatures, the entries were nothing short of spectacular. It was a tough decision, but there can only be three winners of the Allen & Unwin book packs.

Congratulations to Henry from Rosebud, VIC, who dressed up as the wolf from 'The Bad Guys.' Flynn from Rye, VIC, nailed it with his costume as the alpaca from 'Alpacas in Maracas.' And Alexis from Currambine, WA, brought the ice age to life as the woolly mammoth from 'The Ice Monster.'

But wait, there's more! Because there were so many fabulous and creative costumes, we've awarded some extra prizes. So, check your Instagram direct messages to see if you're a lucky winner of some very cool Squiz Kids Merchandise!

Want to see how creative your fellow Squiz Kids are? Head over to our Instagram page to check out the gallery of amazing Book Week costumes.

AD STING

Mid-roll: Bounce

Do you have a kids' birthday party coming up? Or are you looking for an activity these holidays where you can leave all the planning to someone else? Then get yourself to your nearest BOUNCE venue - the indoor action adventure playground where kids parties are hassle free. Let the kids jump, climb and fly at BOUNCE with adventure challenges including the ninja course, cliff jump, dodgeball and the big bag... and the best bit? BOUNCE's parties are run by a dedicated host, meaning you can leave the supervising to someone else. Fun, safe, adrenaline-inducing physical activity... and not a screen in sight. Find your nearest BOUNCE and view their party options and packages by visiting bouncinc.com.au. And for Squiz Kids there is 10% during these school holidays, just use the code SQUIZKIDS10 when booking online, NICE!

THE S'QUIZ

This is the part of the podcast where you get to test how well you've been listening ...

1. What mystery of the universe have scientists been searching for deep underground in a gold mine in South Dakota?
2. Which World Championships were held in England on Monday? And I'll give you a hint: they were very tasty!
3. How old is Manette Baillie, who became Britain's oldest skydiver this week?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, Aug 28 ... National Bow Tie Day! And because there's nothing smarter than a bow tie...I've stuck a link for you to make your own origami one in the episode notes. And I suggest colouring your paper in before you start folding.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today...

Maira from Oran Park, Liam from Point Cook, Milo from Toorak, Luke from Chatswood, Lochie from Taillem Bend, Alexis and Judy from Grovedale, Daniel from Mount Riverview, Edith from New Lambton and Bayley listening over in Pennsylvania, USA.

And belated shoutouts go to... Hunter from Buninyong, Shaheen from North Ryde, Isabella from Bentley Park, Victoria from Terrey Hills and Jake and Logan from Bannockburn.

Today's classroom shoutouts go to... Class 4M and Miss McKinney at Five Dock Public School, class 3G and 3B with Miss Cafarelli, Miss Thomson and Miss Gregson at McAuley Catholic Primary School in Rose Bay, year 5 and 6 with Mr Stuart at Boorowa Central School, class 5B with Miss Barton at Griffith Public School, class 5M with Mr Mellon at Narrandera Public School and room 20 with Mrs Maddison at Ocean Road Primary School in Dawesville.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Dark Matter
2. The World Gravy Wrestling Championships
3. 102

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or if you want a classroom shout out - drop us a line at squizkids@thesquiz.com.au or fill out the form on our website.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today -We'll be back again tomorrow.

In the meantime, get out there and have a most excellent day. Over and out.