

**Waste warriors in the NT; an earthquake swarm shakes Santorini; some furry football fun; and a rare rotten meat flower.**

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, February 12

In Squiz Kids Today ... Waste warriors in the NT; an earthquake swarm shakes Santorini; some furry football fun; and a rare rotten meat flower.

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

***THE LOWDOWN***

-----

Alright, Squiz Kids—hands up if you've ever found a squashed banana peel or a mouldy mandarin at the bottom of your school bag? Yep, me too. Food waste is a big problem—and not just in backpacks (or handbags).

Every year, Australians throw away more than seven million tonnes of food—enough to fill more than 13,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools! That wasted food costs our economy a whopping \$36.6 billion and takes up space in landfills, where it creates methane gas that is 25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in our atmosphere. All bad.

But in Darwin, an Indigenous-owned business called EcoMob is on a mission to change all that. They take food scraps—stuff that would normally be tossed out—and turn them into nutrient-rich additives for soil to help plants grow. Right now, they're processing three tonnes of food waste a week, keeping thousands of kilos of scraps out of landfills.

And they're only just getting started! EcoMob is also looking at ways to use food waste to feed chickens, ducks, fish, and prawns—and because shipping fertilisers into the Northern Territory is expensive, their work could help farmers and create local jobs too.

So, what can YOU do? Be creative, like EcoMob and maybe start a compost bin at school, or bring more wrapper-free nude food to school. Every little bit helps!

Oh, and maybe clean out your school bag once in a while too!

## ***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 Greece on the stunning island of Santorini—where the ground is shaking like never before.

Thousands of earthquakes have rocked Santorini and nearby islands in what scientists call an “earthquake swarm”—with some quakes happening just minutes apart. Since late January, over 12,800 tremors have been detected, with more than 30 quakes a day above magnitude 4.0. The strongest so far, at magnitude 5.1, was even felt as far afield as Greece's capital city, Athens, the island of Crete, and even in parts of Turkey!

While the shaking has caused rockfalls and minor building damage, experts are closely watching in case this signals something bigger—like a volcanic eruption. Many locals and tourists have already left the island, and Greece has declared a state of emergency that will last until at least March 3, meaning that, amongst other things, schools are closed.

So what happens next? Scientists can't predict earthquakes exactly, but they're keeping a close eye on the situation.

Want to know more about how earthquakes and volcanoes work? We've republished our Shortcut to Volcanoes and Earthquakes, which will play straight after today's episode, or you can find it any time by searching for 'Earthquakes and Volcanoes' in the Classroom Companion Worksheets on our website.

## ***ANIMAL KINGDOM***

The Philadelphia Eagles might have beaten the Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl on Sunday, but that wasn't the only game in town... because over on the Puppy Bowl field, things were getting seriously adorable!

Instead of battling for the Lombardi Trophy, these four-legged athletes were playing for the Lombarky Trophy—and it was Team Ruff vs. Team Fluff in a tail-wagging showdown. After a nail-biting final play, Team Fluff snatched a 68-66 victory, with the MVP (that's Most Valuable Puppy) title going to Foxtrot, a speedy border collie who scored twice by dragging a chew toy into the end zone.

But here's the rub: Puppy Bowl can't be broadcast live—Due to the need for... ahem... toilet timeouts. When nature calls, the game paws-es, and a clean-up crew rushes in like a pit stop team! I said 'pit' people!

Even though the game was thrilling, and yes, there's a link to videos of the coverage in the episode notes, every puppy playing was from a shelter—and by the final whistle, they'd all found forever homes. Now that's a real win!

### ***BELIEVE IT OR NOT***

Believe it or not, one of the stinkiest flowers in the world has just bloomed in Canberra—and lucky visitors have said that it smells like a mix of rotting meat, sweaty socks, and bin juice.

It's called the corpse flower, and it only blooms once every seven to ten years. When it does, it releases a gag-worthy stench to attract flies and beetles—the only creatures willing to help pollinate it!

Incredibly, this is Australia's third corpse flower bloom in just three months. One stink bomb went off in Geelong in November, another in Sydney in January (drawing 20,000 curious noses!), and over the weekend, this 1.35m tall flower unfurled in Canberra's Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Scientists don't know why these rare blooms are suddenly appearing, but what we do know is that there are fewer than 1,000 corpse flowers in the world—making this a truly extraordinary (and extra smelly) event! Nature is weird... and wonderful my friends.

### ***THE S'QUIZ***

-----

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

1. How many Olympic-sized swimming pools could be filled with Australia's food waste each year?

2. Which Greek island has been shaken by more than 12,000 tremors since January?
3. Which team won the Puppy Bowl? Was it Team Ruff or Team Fluff?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

-----

It's Wednesday, February 12... Chinese Lantern Festival. This traditional Chinese holiday is celebrated 15 days after Lunar New Year on the first full moon of the lunar calendar. People light up red, gold, and multicoloured lanterns of all shapes and sizes and some lanterns even have riddles written on them. Sounds de-light-ful.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today...Declyn from Turramurra, Mateo from Kellyville, Eddie from Dandaloo, Lachlan from Paraburdoo and Andy from Lalor Park.

Belated shout outs go to...Jack from Bradbury, Saxon, Lucinda, Noah, Balire, Leo, and Carina all from the Gold Coast, Reuben and Maci from Run-O-Waters, Abby and Lachlan from Yass and Cooper, Ashayan and Julia from Paraburdoo.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... Year 1 with Mr Strike at Wenona School in North Sydney, class 3A with Miss Aran go at Shore School in North Sydney, Year 3 with Miss Brim field at Santa Sophia Catholic College in Gables and class 5B with Miss Kane at The Willows State School in Townsville.

## **The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. More than 13,000.
2. Santorini
3. Team Fluff by a narrow 68-66 margin.

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or, if you're after a classroom shout out- drop us a line at [squizkids@thesquiz.com.au](mailto: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.