

**The Conclave begins; Sweden's massive moose migration; a new heavy metal star;
and a wee-ly important wee-source.**

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, May 7 -

In Squiz Kids Today ...The Conclave begins; Sweden's massive moose migration; a new heavy metal star; and a wee-ly important wee-source.

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

THE LOWDOWN

The biggest news story today comes from the smallest country in the world — Vatican City. It's the tiny country inside the city of Rome, where a special chimney has just been installed on the roof of the Sistine Chapel — yep, the one with the famous painted ceiling — and when white smoke rises from it, the world will know: we have a new pope! (If you want to know exactly how that works, there's a great Squiz Kids Shortcut on The Making of a Pope — go check it out!)

But, one really important thing to note is who gets to vote. For the first time in history, most of the cardinals choosing the new pope aren't from Europe. That's because Pope Francis — who passed away last month — spent his time as pope making sure voices from all over the world were included. Before he became Pope Francis, he was Jorge Bergoglio, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina — the first Latin American pope ever.

During his 12 years as pope, he appointed cardinals from places like Bangladesh, East Timor, Haiti and even Sweden — countries that had never had a cardinal before. He believed that the Church should represent all its people — including those in countries facing poverty, war or unfair treatment. That way, the new pope is more likely to understand and care about the real-life problems affecting Catholics all over the world.

It could take hours... or even days... but keep an eye on that chimney, because soon, the white smoke will rise — and the world will have a new pope.

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 Sweden, where millions of people have just finished watching one of the slowest – and most spectacular – TV shows on Earth.

Every spring, for thousands of years, hundreds of moose have migrated through the Swedish countryside, following ancient trails to their summer feeding grounds. And thanks to a 24-hour livestream, millions of people around the world watched it happen in real time — steps, swims and snack breaks.

It's called The Great Moose Migration — or The Great Elk Trek — and over three weeks, 26 remote cameras and a drone streamed 478 hours of moose making their way through forests, snow, and icy rivers.

The moose are now safely in their summer pastures — and yep, stick it in your calendar, because the show will return next year!

SPACED OUT

It's a space story about a heavy metal star. And no, not the kind with long hair that headbangs to music! It's a magnetar — a rare star with super-strong magnetic forces.

Scientists have just published a study showing that when a magnetar explodes in a giant flare, it can do something truly mind-blowing: it can create gold, platinum and other heavy metals by smashing tiny particles together!

That matters because we need those heavy metals to build things like phones, computers, spaceships — even to help our bodies work properly.

Everything in the universe is made of atoms — like space LEGO made of protons, neutrons and electrons. The more pieces in an atom, the 'heavier' it is. And it takes an epic cosmic blast to squish them together.

The magnetar in the study produced more heavy metal than the mass of Mars. That's a lot of bling.

So next time you see some gold or platinum jewellery, just remember, it might have been exploded out of a star!

ANIMAL KINGDOM

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Regular listeners might remember that we've told you before that whale poop helps ocean life grow — but guess what? Whale pee is also making waves!

A new study shows that some baleen whales — like humpbacks and grays — can produce nearly 1,000 litres of pee every day. That's enough to fill a couple of inflatable paddling pool! EWWW And their wee is packed with nitrogen — a key nutrient that helps tiny ocean plants, called phytoplankton, grow.

When phytoplankton grow, they suck up carbon from the air and make oxygen — kind of like the ocean's version of trees. Scientists say whale pee could help remove over 18,000 tons of carbon from the atmosphere each year!

And, as whales migrate thousands of kilometres from the polar regions to the tropics, they take these nutrients with them — it's called the Great Whale Conveyor Belt.

But here's the sad bit: because of past hunting of whales, they now move only one-third of the nutrients they used to. And today, they still face threats like ship strikes, pollution and climate change.

So remember, if we protect whales, we're helping protect the planet too.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which country was Pope Francis from?
2. Everything in the universe is made out of particles called what? It starts with an 'A'
3. How much pee can a baleen whale produce in a day?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, May 7 ... Interpreter Appreciation Day! With about 7,000 languages spoken on the planet today, these folks have an extremely important job in helping us to understand one another!

Today is also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today...

Ava from Cobbitty, Eva from Mount Colah and Shepard from Cremorne.

Belated shoutouts go to... Bishop from Kallangur, Hugo from Anglesea and Grace Astrid, Max, Lewie and Lance all from Kurri Kurri.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... class 5/6T and Mr Meeson at Belmont Primary School, Opal Class with Ms Pensini at the North East Public School of Distance Education in Port Macquarie, Year 6 Datsuns with Ms Carr at Oran Park Public School and Senior L Class with Mr Lester at Anglesea Primary School.

And for the month of May - we're introducing a new Classroom Shout-Outs promotion – if you send in your Classroom Shout in the month of May - your class will go into the draw to have Bryce pay a virtual visit .. yes that's right ... Bryce will beam into the classroom of one lucky school that submits its classroom shout out this month. And he might have a book pack under my arm to give away to you too ...

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Argentina
2. Atoms
3. Almost 1000 litres

Otherwise ... 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 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.