

A big political break-up; Massachusetts' Magna Carta millions; octopus or pancake?; and the mega-quake misinformation.

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 Thursday, May 22 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... A big political break-up; Massachusetts' Magna Carta millions; octopus or pancake?; and the mega-quake misinformation.

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

THE LOWDOWN

You know how sometimes even the best of mates can have a bit of a falling out? Maybe you argue over what game to play or whose turn it is to go first... Well, something a bit like that has just happened in Australian politics.

After nearly 80 years of working together, the Liberal Party and the National Party (who usually form a team called the Coalition) have split up. It's the first time that's happened in 38 years.

While the two conservative parties often agree on things, this time they didn't.

New Liberal leader Sussan Ley promised her party she'd review all its policies after a big election loss — including climate targets and nuclear power.

But the Nationals weren't happy to wait. They handed Ley a list of demands — including support for nuclear energy and when Sussan Ley didn't agree, the Nationals made the break.

Now, instead of being one team, they'll sit separately in Parliament — with the Liberals holding 28 seats and the Nationals 15. And, that's a lot less than Labor's 94 seats.

Former Prime Minister John Howard called the split a “stupid move” that could deepen divisions.

It’s not the first time the two parties have split, and people on both sides of the disagreement are hopeful they’ll both make up.

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 at Harvard Law School, in the American state of Massachusetts, where what was once thought to be a faded old copy of a famous document has turned out to be the real deal.

That document? The Magna Carta... one of the most important pieces of paper in history! The Magna Carta was first written way back in 1215 in England. It was a deal between King John and a group of rebellious barons, sort of like powerful lords, who were unhappy with how he was running the country. They wanted rules to stop the king from having too much power.

And that’s why the Magna Carta is such a big deal: it was one of the first times in history that a ruler agreed to follow the law too, and it inspired many of the rights and freedoms we have today.

Now, there were multiple copies made and sent across England, but only a few originals still exist. The one just discovered at Harvard was issued by King Edward I in the year 1300 ... that’s 725 years ago!

It was bought in 1946 for just \$27.50, but now that it’s confirmed as a rare original, it could be worth millions of dollars.

Not bad for an old, stained sheet of paper!

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Scientists have discovered a new deep-sea octopus off the coast of Western Australia , and it looks just like a tiny, squishy pancake.

Called the Carnarvon flapjack octopus, it’s only about 4 centimetres long, has big eyes, red tentacles, and can flatten its body like a flapjack or pancake. It also has little fins on

its head, earning it the nickname “dumbo octopus” because they look like miniature elephant ears. Adorable! I’ve stuck a link to a picture in the episode notes.

Now — onto the real headline-stealer...

We recently told you about a capybara that escaped from a zoo in China — well, this week, two more capybaras escaped from a zoo in Poland!

The giant guinea pig look-alikes made a run for it on Monday and were eventually found by locals hiding in some thick bushes — safe, happy, and apparently having the time of their lives.

Another week, another capybara breakout. What’s going on?! Maybe keep an eye out, there could be one in your backyard!

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday, Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his snout into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he’s sniffed out on the internet ... and today his nose is twitching because of some very shaky science.

There’s a rumour going around online that a huge earthquake is going to hit Japan in July. The prediction comes from — wait for it — a manga comic, based on the author’s dream. Hmm... not exactly scientific!

But that hasn’t stopped people from worrying. A Facebook group with over 250,000 members has been sharing the rumour, and a video telling people not to visit Japan has been watched over 100,000 times. Some travel agents in Hong Kong say they’ve seen a drop in bookings to Japan because of it.

So, what’s true?

- ◆ Yes, Japan does get a lot of earthquakes — and in 2011, a big one caused serious damage.
- ◆ Yes, scientists say there’s a chance of a megaquake sometime in the next 30 years.
- ◆ But no, there’s no scientific way to predict the exact date of an earthquake.

So, remember, Newshounds: if something you see online makes you feel big emotions, Stop, Think, and Check other trusted sources to see if it’s really true! Thanks Squiz-E you’ve done it again!

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Hello - it's Bryce here - and well done Squiz-E on sniffing out another example of fishy information online ... that dog and his nose, I tell you what. Nothing gets past him...

I'm just jumping into the podcast for a moment to let you know that at the end of today's episode we've got an interview with ACARA CEO Stephen Gniel.

ACARA is the national curriculum authority - the people who decide what you should learn at school and why. And this week - they made the big announcement that media literacy would be part of the Aussie schools curriculum .. hurrah!

And they've recommended teachers use Newshounds to help teach you lot how to tell online fact from fiction. Double hurrah!

Parents, teachers, kids - keep listening at the end of this episode to hear Stephen chat about why media literacy has been added to the curriculum, why Squiz-E is the dog for the job - and what it all has to do with protecting our precious democracy ...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which two political parties that made up 'The Coalition' are taking a break from each other?
2. Which King first agreed to the set of rules layed out in the Magna Carta?
3. The fins on its head have earned the flapjack octopus which nickname?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, May 22 ... Sherlock Holmes Day! Sherlock is a fictional character invented by author Arthur Conan Doyle wayyy back in 1887! He used logic, observation, and a sharp eye for clues to solve even the trickiest of mysteries. Today might be the perfect day to test your own detective skills. Elementary, my dear Squiz Kids!

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Piper from Paraburdoo, Thea and Archie from Camp Hill, Corey from Frenchs Forest, Paddy from Walkervale, Brayden from Woodcroft and Hasan from Mosman.

A belated shoutout goes to... Archer from Bundaberg.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... class 5/6 Raptors with Miss Ghacham at Al Hikma College in Lakemba, class 5OD with Mr Duncan at Seabrook Primary School, class 3MW with Mrs McHugh and Mrs Wight at St Ives North Public School, class 2TS at Greenhills Primary School and class 5S with Mrs Malone at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in Wagga Wagga.

And a *reminder* ... All Classroom Shoutout requests we receive during the month of May will go into a 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. Liberals and Nationals
2. King John
3. Dumbo Octopus

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 with Kids vs Adults Weekly Quiz.

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