

**Ancient caves new beginnings; world's biggest spider web; deer in the tuck shop;
and Wicked flies back for box office battle.**

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

I'm Bryce Corbett

It's Monday, November 17 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Ancient caves new beginnings; world's biggest spider web; deer in the tuck shop; and Wicked flies back for box office battle.

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

THE LOWDOWN

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In a dusty, stunning corner of the Pilbara - a region in north west Western Australia famous for its mines - there's a clever project underway looking to restore ancient Indigenous rock carvings destroyed in an explosion five years ago.

The Juukan Gorge rock shelter in the Pilbara was home to ancient and important artefacts from the local Indigenous people. Until a mining company blew them up.

But now a group of traditional owners from the Puutu Kunti Kurrama people have spent time in France - visiting the site of some of the oldest cave paintings in the world - believed to be 17,000 years old.

And that's because in France, they created a whole replica of the cave and its paintings for tourists to visit - so that the originals could be protected and preserved. And that's what they're going to do in the Pilbara. With the help of the mining company that destroyed them - a whole new replica Juukan Cave shelter is being built. Indigenous elders say it won't bring back the original- but will go some way to healing.

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And there was an update on the weekend to the contaminated coloured sand saga.

Schools and day care centres were closed on Friday and retailers like Officeworks withdrew coloured sand from sale after it was discovered some batches of it contained asbestos. A material that if inhaled, is not good for humans.

Leading scientists yesterday assured worried parents and teachers that the risk of asbestos in coloured sand being airborne was very very small.

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 Albania - a country in Europe - where the world's largest spider web has been discovered.

Taking up an incredible 342 metres squared - which is like one and half times the size of the average Australian home - the web is home to approximately 110,000 spiders.

Can you even imagine?

It's located in a cave near the Albania-Greek border. The sort of cave that I would NEVER want to walk into ...

And the thing that has scientists amazed .. it's not that someone hasn't taken the world's largest can of Mortein to it – but rather that living in the web are two different species of spider. Apparently, that's really unusual in spider world ... get this - most times different species of spider live in such close proximity they end up eating one another.

Charming ..

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Tuck shops can be pretty wild places at the best of times. Only so many Quelches to go around each lunch time ...

So imagine how shocked the kids of a school in Ohio in the United States were last week when their breakfast was interrupted by a deer crashing through a plate glass window and scuttering across the cafeteria floor.

Video showed four deer running wildly outside the school in the seconds before the incident - when one of them veers suddenly at the window - smashing through and sending kids in the tuck shop running for their lives.

Deer on the menu at the tuck shop? Just contemplating whether I go with a dad joke like 'Oh deer' or 'i wonder if any kid could afford it or if it was too dear?' .. but i don't want to set off the dad joke alarm (DAD JOKE ALARM) ... ahh – too late.

POP CULTURE CORNER

It was one of the biggest movies of last year ... it had people singing along in cinemas all over the world - and this Thursday - the second half of the Wicked movie juggernaut flies back into cinemas to conclude the epic Wizard of Oz tale of Elphaba and Glinda.

Tickets are already on sale, and reports out of the US this weekend suggest it has sold more pre-sale tickets than any other PG movie in the history of ever.

The question is: can Elphaba and Co. beat other movie releases from 2025 to be the biggest PG movie at the box office this year? The not-so Wicked Witch of the West and her wonderful friends from Oz have to topple the current top three: Jurassic World Rebirth; the Minecraft Movie and Lilo and Stitch ... let the box office battle begin ..

XMAS PROMO (FRIDAY)

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(sleigh bells) Can you hear that? That's the sound of Christmas fast approaching .. and we couldn't be more excited.

As we continue the countdown to the most magical time of the year - Squiz Kids is getting into the Christmas spirit.

As per Squiz Kids tradition, we've managed to convince Santa Claus himself to hop into the Squiz Kids Q+A hotseat again this year – answering ANY questions you might have for him. It's your chance to say hi to the big fella and ask him how he makes the magic of Christmas work - from reindeers, to elves, to toy workshops and sleighs. If you have a question you'd like Santa to answer - email it through to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au.

And because too much Christmas is never enough .. we're launching an Elf On The Shelf competition too ... Elves will be arriving in households around the country in the next couple of weeks .. and we want to see what wacky places they find themselves in in the lead up to Christmas. Email photos of your Elf to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au and we'll share them on our socials .. and there'll be a prize for the weirdest and wackiest Elf hiding spot. Those crazy elves ..

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In which country is the world's biggest spider web?
2. What sort of animal gatecrashed a US school tuck shop last week?
3. Name the movie that comes out this week for which pre-sale tickets have already broken records?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, November 17... odd socks day in the US - where you're encouraged to mix it up - just because

Today's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Oliver from Forest Lake, Charlie from Bradbury, Charlie and Claudia from Malvern, Hamish from Albury, Nihan from Marsden Park, Jewell from Canberra, Hazel from Eglington, Lucas from Kurri Kurri, Sophie from Northcote and Conner from Brunswick Junction.

Belated shoutouts go to... Odette from Wentworthville, Luka from Sydney and Alex P from Heatherton.

Classroom shoutouts go to... the year 6 Neptune class with Mr Diaz from Chester Hill Public School, classes 2A and 2AH with Mr Arnold, Mrs Arter and Mrs Hallam at Eltham East Primary School and the 3/4 Kangaroos with Ms Burcher and Mr Langdon at Rylstone Public School.

And a special shoutout goes to Massimo from Abbotsford Primary School who is competing in the Grand Final for the Metropolitan South and Metropolitan West Public Speaking Competition - which is on tomorrow! Good luck Massimo - let us know how you go.

The S'Quiz Answers:

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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 the final Episode of Planet Warriors series - where you get to meet the last of our super-connected renewable energy superheroes, Buzz ... it all ends on an electric note (DAD JOKE ALARM) — oh seriously?

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