

A time machine for the nose; the surprising fashion of black teeth; a footballer's seagull rescue; and AI fakes in the Iran war.

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, March 5

In Squiz Kids Today ... A time machine for the nose; the surprising fashion of black teeth; a footballer's seagull rescue; and AI fakes in the Iran war.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Is there a smell that instantly takes you somewhere else?

Maybe it's the clean soapy scent of shampoo... the sweet waft of cookies baking... or the familiar scent of your grandparents' house.

Now scientists and historians at the Max Planck Institute in Germany are trying to capture smells like these and preserve them for the future — so museum visitors can experience history not just with their eyes and ears, but with their noses too.

Researchers in Europe are building what they call a “time machine for the nose.” One project recreates the scent used in ancient Egyptian mummification by analysing chemical traces left in jars from 1450 BC. The result was a warm, spicy aroma made from beeswax, tree resins and other ancient ingredients.

Other experiments have recreated the inside smell of Queen Elizabeth II's Rover car, and even tried to imagine what the breath of a Tyrannosaurus rex might have smelled like using clues from fossils.

So how can scientists recreate a smell?

Smells are made of tiny molecules floating through the air. When those molecules reach special receptors inside your nose, they send signals to your brain, which recognises the scent. By analysing those molecules in a lab, scientists can mix chemicals together to recreate them.

Researchers are now asking people a big question: which smells should we save for the future? What smell would you add to their list?

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 Vietnam, where archaeologists have uncovered evidence of a beauty trend from more than 2,000 years ago that might make you do a double-take.

Today, a bright set of pearly whites is often seen as the perfect smile. But in ancient Vietnam, the most stylish look was the exact opposite.

At an archaeological site in the north of Vietnam, scientists discovered a skeleton with teeth dyed a deep, glossy black. To find out whether the colour happened by chance or was done on purpose, researchers used high-tech chemical scans on the tooth enamel.

The results showed traces of iron-based pigments, meaning the teeth had been carefully painted with a special iron-rich paste.

For people living in the region during the Iron Age, blackened teeth could signal beauty, adulthood, and cultural identity. In fact, versions of the tradition were still practised in some parts of northern Vietnam until fairly recently.

It's a reminder that what people think looks fashionable can change wildly depending on where — and when — you live.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

You've heard of spectacular saves in football, right? Well, this one might be the most unusual of all.

During a recent amateur football match in Istanbul, Turkey, a low-flying seagull was accidentally struck by the ball and crashed onto the pitch.

While players and spectators looked on in surprise, GAH-nee JAH-tahn, captain of the team YOOR-doom Spor.Gani Catan, captain of the team Yurdum Spor, sprinted across the field and began performing CPR on the bird, gently pumping its ribcage. CPR - which stands for cardiopulmonary resuscitation - is an emergency technique where someone presses on the chest to help the heart keep blood and oxygen moving around the body.

He later said he simply reacted on instinct, thinking he might once have seen someone perform CPR on a dog or a cat.

As he pressed on the bird's chest, the seagull began moving its legs and breathing again, and Catan carried it to the sidelines, where medical staff took over.

Videos of the rescue quickly went viral around the world, and animal rights group PETA awarded Catan a "Hero to Animals" prize.

The moment has inspired the club to consider adding a seagull to its team logo.

What a legend!

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 going bananas because fake and misleading videos about the conflict involving Iran are spreading quickly online.

When big world events happen, social media can fill up with dramatic pictures and videos. But right now, fact-checkers say some of the most shocking clips being shared aren't real at all.

One viral post claimed the world's tallest building — the Burj Khalifa — had been set on fire. A reverse image search showed the photo was taken more than a decade ago and actually just showed the tower surrounded by fog.

Some posts even shared an image claiming to show Iran's supreme leader trapped under rubble. But fact-checkers used an AI-detection tool and found the picture was generated using artificial intelligence.

And videos claiming Iran had struck the U.S. aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln were also fake — the ship wasn't hit, and one clip may even have come from video game footage.

So how can you check things for yourself?

Tools like Google reverse image search or TinEye can show where an image first appeared online. And organisations like Reuters Fact Check, AAP FactCheck, Snopes, and PolitiFact investigate viral claims every day.

We've popped links to some of those tools in the episode notes if you want to try them out.

And if you haven't done Newshounds yet, there's a whole lesson dedicated to spotting tricks like these and becoming an internet detective. You can find it on the Squiz Kids website.

Because when it comes to the internet, a curious mind and a careful nose are needed to sniff out the truth.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. True or False - Scientists recreated the scent of ancient Egyptian mummification by analysing chemical traces in old jars.
2. What unusual colour did people dye their teeth in ancient Vietnam?
3. What emergency technique did the footballer use to try to save the seagull?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, March 5 ... two very different competitions get underway. In the UK, Crufts — the world's biggest dog show — begins, And while thousands of dogs are showing off their best tricks and shiny coats, here in Australia the 2026 Men's AFL season kicks off — where the athletes are slightly bigger... and a lot less furry...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Mason from Canberra, Aleksander from Kallangur, Frankie from Banana, Billie from Patterson Lakes and Kobe from Brisbane.

Belated shoutouts go to...

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 6S with Mrs Sikorski at Cherrybrook Public School, classes 3/4/5/6 Bearded Dragons with Miss Macartney and Mrs Conibear at Corowa South Public School, class 5/6B with Mr Blain at Belmont Primary School, Honolulu class with Mrs Hanson at Banks Public School in St Clair and class 4C with Mrs Chapple at Merimbula Public School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. True
2. Black
3. CPR

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 Kids vs Adults Weekly News S'Quiz

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