

Special Edition – Iran Explained

Hello -

And welcome to this special edition of Squiz Kids - the daily news podcast just for kids.

I'm Bryce Corbett.

We're committed here at Squiz Kids to keeping you informed about what's happening in the world around you - and when something big happens - we'll interrupt normal programming to bring you a special edition - just like this one.

Because some events - such as the ones that happened in the country of Iran over the weekend - are so big - they need a little extra time to explain.

So let's start with what's happened ...

BREAK ///

If you've been anywhere near a TV or radio or internet connection in the last 24 hours, you've probably heard that the United States and Israel launched strikes on a country called Iran.

In plain speak: that means they launched rockets with bombs attached - mostly from ships in nearby waters.

And as a result, Iran has retaliated - sending rockets of its own into the country of Israel and into other countries of the Middle East including those where the United States has military bases.

Why? President Donald Trump, and the leaders of the UK and Australia, have all said the attacks were launched to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon ... the most destructive sort of bomb in the world.

It's all happening in a part of the world often called the Middle East - and you're going to hear that referred to a lot in the next week or so.

The most significant detail of yesterday's air strikes is the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader - a man by the name of Ayatollah Khomeini (Hha-mannay).

He's been in power in Iran for 36 years - running the country as something called a theocracy. That's to say: the country is run by a group of men who say they have been put in power by God.

Australia, and the United States and the United Kingdom and most other so-called Western countries are examples of Democracies ... where the government is put in place by the people.

For almost fifty years now, life in Iran has been pretty strict. Women and girls don't have the same rights as men and boys - lots of people are not free to practice their religion and the media is tightly controlled by the government.

Recently, when Iranian people were protesting in the streets to try to overthrow the Ayatollah, the internet was even shut down to try to control them.

When news of the Ayatollah's death was confirmed, many Iranians celebrated in the streets of the capital city, Tehran. Many others celebrated in other cities around the world. Many others still were angry.

So what happens now?

It's a good question. And one that won't be answered for a while yet. But the eyes of the world will be on the Middle East to see what the ripple effect of this huge news will be.

Importantly: it's vital for you to know that it's all happening a long way away. Whether you're a Squiz Kid listening in Australia, in the US or the UK - Iran is a long way from where you are and there's no need for you to worry.

Sometimes when big things like this happen, and the news coverage is everywhere - it can feel like it's something that's going on around the corner. But it's not. Your day to day life will not be affected.

That's not to say there won't be an impact on your life at all - or the lives of your mums and dads.

Because Iran sits in a part of the world that produces a lot of oil - and oil is used to make petrol - there could be a spike in petrol, or gas prices.

Grocery prices at the supermarket could be affected too - because it will now be more expensive for trucks to transport all the food we like to eat. Because - more expensive petrol and gas.

Lots of international flights were also cancelled over the weekend - as the airspace above countries like Iran, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates were closed. And that meant lots of people trying to get to Australia for next weekend's Melbourne Grand Prix and athletes trying to get to Milan for the Paralympics had their travel interrupted.

Everything, you see, is interconnected.

The other way the Iranian conflict could impact you is if you find yourself online - coming across content related to it.

Just be careful. Sometimes algorithms will serve up content that your brain is not yet mature enough to process.

The same goes for misinformation - which always spikes at times like this.

Be careful if you're online not to automatically believe every piece of content that you come across. Remember to have your Newshounds skills at the ready: your internet detective magnifying glass on hand - and Stop, Think and Check.

And remember, most of all, if you have any questions or feel at all worried - speak to an adult in your life - someone you know and someone you trust.

Because sometimes just talking about things can make you feel less worried about them.

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Of course: even when big events like this take place, the planet keeps turning and life still goes on.

And so it was over the weekend ...

There was footy, of course - with the NRL's 2026 season getting off to a cracking start in Las Vegas with victories for the Newcastle Knights and - in a nail-biting finish - for the Canterbury Bulldogs too ...

There was music and celebration over the weekend too - with the Brit Awards taking place in the city of Manchester in England ... The Brits are the big music awards in the United Kingdom - recognising some of the world's best pop artists.

Harry Styles, Dua Lipa and Huntr/x all performed - as Olivia Dean scooped the pool - continuing a winning streak that started at the Grammys a couple of weeks ago ... Olivia took home four Brits including for best song, best album and best artist ...

// SHOUTOUTS //

Speaking of life going on - today and tomorrow are special days for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday ...

Ryan from Forest Lake, Kenzie and Luca from West Albury, Arnold from North Ryde, Arnold from Gubbi Gubbi Country, Margaret from Woodford and Archer from Wagga Wagga.

Belated shoutouts go to... Parker, Maya and George from South Australia and Hunter and Dannica from Rose Bay.

Classroom shoutouts will resume on Wednesday ..

And to the teachers and parents out there - to keep up to date with everything going on at Squiz Kids - make sure you've signed up to our newsletters - via our website squizkids.com.au

Well, that's all we have time for today .. thanks for listening to this Special Edition of Squiz Kids ... we'll be back again tomorrow with a Squiz Kids Shortcut to Women's Football - as the Women's Asian Cup unfurls across Australia. It's a good one - make sure you listen.

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