

Humans lap the Moon; penguins make a splash in Argentina; an ancient egg cracks a prehistoric mystery; and the UN maps hunger in real time.

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 Monday, April 20

In Squiz Kids Today ... Humans lap the Moon; penguins make a splash in Argentina; an ancient egg cracks a prehistoric mystery; and the UN maps hunger in real time.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Welcome back to Squiz Kids Today, people... It's great to be back in your ears. We took two weeks off... and, well, the world did *not* slow down. So we're kicking things off with your lightning lap of the biggest stories while you were busy on holidays...

First up, humans went back around the Moon. On April 1, Artemis II launched four astronauts on a 10-day journey, travelling more than 1.1 million kilometres, that's about 694,000 miles) around the Moon and back. They didn't land this time, but they tested everything needed for a future mission (including some toilet troubles) with humans expected to return to the lunar surface for the first time since 1972 later this decade. And the photos of Earth from space? Stunning. There's a link in the episode notes <https://www.nasa.gov/artemis-ii-multimedia/#images>

Back on Earth... tensions continued in the Middle East. The Strait of Hormuz — a narrow but crucial shipping route carrying about 20% of the world's oil, has been caught in a standoff between the US and Iran. It's been opened, closed, and reopened again, with ships turning back and fuel prices bouncing around globally. Talks are underway, with countries like Pakistan helping mediate. A mediator is someone who helps two sides

talk when things get heated... a bit like when a teacher helps you work things out with someone you've had a disagreement with.

Closer to home, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has been meeting leaders across Southeast Asia, including the Sultan of Brunei, to secure fuel supplies and ensure Australia is prepared no matter what happens.

Now, to something that made fans *very* happy. K-pop supergroup BTS are back, launching a massive world tour across 34 cities. Tickets sold out in hours, and yes, Australian shows are locked in for early 2027.

And finally, speedy Queensland teen Gout Gout is tearing up the track, smashing the national 200m record in 19.67 seconds, becoming the first Australian to legally break the 20-second barrier... and he backed it up with a blazing 100m win days later. The world is officially on notice.

Welcome back, Squiz Kids... Term 2 is off and racing.

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 Argentina, on the wild Atlantic coast of South America, where fifteen rescued penguins waddled back into the ocean last Friday.

For the past few months, the penguins had been recovering at a rehabilitation centre after washing ashore in rough shape... dehydrated, malnourished, and suffering from hypothermia, which is when your body temperature drops dangerously low, plus infestations of ticks and lice.

Carers had to wait until they had a healthy group of at least seven or eight birds before releasing them because penguins need to be in a group to be successful.

Now they're off on an epic ocean road trip, migrating north along the coast, chasing fish as the seasons change.

From near death on a beach to ocean adventurers. What a comeback.

ANCIENT EARTH

Can you name the only mammals alive today that lay eggs? If you said the platypus, or its spiky cousin the echidna, both proudly Australian, you're spot on.

But here's the big question scientists have debated for decades ... did the earliest ancestors of all mammals once lay eggs too?

The answer, it finally turns out, is yes, and a 250-million-year-old fossil has finally proved it.

The creature inside this fossilised egg is called *Lystrosaurus* — a tough, plant-eating proto-mammal that survived Earth's most catastrophic extinction event, 252 million years ago, when more than 90% of all life was wiped out. This was even bigger than the extinction that would later finish off the dinosaurs.

The fossil egg was actually discovered in 2008, but scientists only have the technology to see inside it properly now, using powerful X-ray scanning to reveal a perfectly curled-up embryo.

The large, nutrient-packed egg likely gave *Lystrosaurus* hatchlings a fighting chance in a devastated world and may be one reason that modern mammals didn't just survive... but thrived.

So, your ancient ancestors laid eggs. Not just dinosaur ancestors, YOUR ancestors. So... does that make us a little bit like chickens?

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

What if there was a map — like Google Maps, but for hunger — that could show exactly where in the world people are going without food, updated every single day?

There is, because the United Nations just built it.

Before we dive in, let's just take a moment. Most of us listening right now don't have to worry about where our next meal is coming from, and that's something genuinely worth being grateful for. Because for millions of people around the world, including lots of kids, that's not the case.

Last week, the UN's World Food Programme launched HungerMap Live... a real-time digital platform that uses AI, data from more than 300 analysts, and information from governments around the world to track food insecurity across more than 50 countries.

The idea is simple but powerful. As one UN expert put it — *"you can't stop hunger if you can't see it coming."*

The faster aid organisations can spot a crisis brewing, the faster help can arrive. And with conflicts like the one in the Middle East threatening food supply chains globally right now, a tool like this could genuinely save lives.

We've popped a link in the episode notes so you and your class can explore it.

<https://hungermap.wfp.org/>

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Gout Gout recently smashed Australia's men's 200m record to become the first Australian to legally break the 20-second barrier. Was his time A) 19.89 seconds, B) 19.67 seconds, or C) 19.71 seconds?
2. True or false — Artemis II is the first time humans have travelled that far from Earth in more than 50 years?
3. The Lystrosaurus fossil egg was discovered back in 2008 — so why did scientists have to wait until now to confirm what was inside it?

SHOUTOUTS

It's Monday, April 20 ... On this day in back in 1986, a 23-year-old basketball player named Michael Jordan scored 63 points in a single NBA playoff game — a record that still stands today. His team still lost... but nobody was talking about that. A player from the opposing team famously said, "I think it's just God disguised as Michael Jordan".

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Alice from Googong, Cillian from Forest Lake, Cameron from Vermont South, Ryan from

Tanilba Bay, Ivy from Yeppoon, Hadley from Belmont, Sam from Shoalhaven Heads, Ari from Cheltenham, Gypsy from Cannon Hill, Jaxx from Dundas Valley, Liam from Altona Meadows and Haon-Kim listening from Incheon, South Korea.

If you had a birthday over the recent break, your shoutout was featured in the weekly Quizzes released each Friday during the holidays. For anyone who missed the cut-off, don't worry — we'll be sharing your belated holiday shoutouts in this week's episodes... starting with... Jasper and Jake from Adelaide, Sienna from Heathwood, Hamish from Surrey Hills, Kaylen from Leeton, Adilyn from Ruse and Lea listening over in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Classroom shoutouts will be back next week.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. B) 19.67 seconds
2. True - last time was 1972
3. They didn't have the technology — powerful X-ray scanning was needed to see inside it properly

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 a Squiz Kids Shortcut that we're pulling out of the Vault all about the Titanic.... You know, that unsinkable ship, that, well, sunk! The 114th anniversary of her sinking was on April 15, just last week...we'll take you through WHY Titanic is the most famous ship, and shipwreck, in history... HOW it all went so wrong ... and WHAT Titanic looks like today. Join us tomorrow for that ...but,

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