

**Saving Timmy the whale; Japan's big bear problem; Fiji's cyclone-predicting bees; and Baby Yoda's big debut.**

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, May 4 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Saving Timmy the whale; Japan's big bear problem; Fiji's cyclone-predicting bees; and Baby Yoda's big debut.

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

***THE LOWDOWN***

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And it's been a happy ending over the weekend for Timmy the whale - stranded for days off the coast of Germany - who has been rescued in an elaborate operation which saw him loaded into a barge and towed back out to sea.

About a month ago, a humpback whale was spotted in shallow waters off the coast of Germany - far from the deeper waters of the Atlantic Ocean which is its normal habitat.

Fast forward to last week and Timmy - as the people of Germany decided to name him - got himself stranded on a sandbank - unable to move. And things were looking desperate.

That was until a rescue team swung into action ... digging a channel in the sand to coax Timmy into deeper water, then loading him into a special water-filled barge - usually used to transport boats.

Once safely aboard the barge, Timmy was towed far out to sea, where he was released and was last seen swimming happily off into the sunset.

Go Timmy ...

The news of Timmy's marvelous rescue comes as scientists have reported seeing what they have called 'super groups' of humpback whales off the coast of South Africa.

Numbering up to 300 whales in a pod, the super groups have been observed feeding and migrating together as a group ...

Further happy evidence, according to scientists, that a species of whale which was once almost extinct, has bounced back since international laws were introduced to protect it.

See what the world can do together if we just put our minds to it?

### ***SPIN THE GLOBE***

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Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops .. and today we've landed in Japan - where a sudden population explosion of another animal completely is causing all sorts of chaos.

Japan has itself something of a bear problem, you see.

Black bears are native to Japan - and with the end of winter there, bears are coming out of hibernation with concerns they could start wandering into towns and villages again - as they did in increasing numbers last year.

Hikers are on alert, people who like to jog in forests are being told to carry bells - while authorities in Japan are crossing their fingers that a better crop of beechnuts this year - which is one of the bears' main sources of food - will mean bears will stay in the forests and bear encounters with humans will drop off.

### ***ANIMAL KINGDOM***

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To the islands of Fiji now - where bees are turning out to be just as effective as the weather man when it comes to predicting cyclones.

Predicting big tropical storms like cyclones is important in places like Fiji - where the earlier you prepare for a weather event, the more likely you can reduce damage from it. And increasingly farmers and villagers in the South Pacific nation are keeping as careful an eye on the behaviour of local bees as they are on the hi-tech weather forecasts on TV and online.

That's because traditional knowledge - passed down through generations - tells Fijians that when bees build their hives close to the ground, it's a good sign that a cyclone is coming. That's because the closer a hive is to the ground, the less likely it is to be blown away by the big winds that come with a cyclone.

Observing how plants are growing too - and whether they are choosing to stay close to the ground is another indicator, according to traditional owners in Fiji.

Nature's very own weather forecasters ... amazing!

### ***POP CULTURE CORNER***

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Do you feel the force my friends? Have you got your lightsabers out and are you ready to get your Jedi knight on?

Well that's because today is International Star Wars Day ... the date today is May the 4th ... May the fourth, be with you. Geddit?

And as Darth Vaders and Luke Skywalker all over the country dress up as Ewoks and Jar Jar Binkses - there's one little fella from the Star Wars universe who is getting ready for his big screen debut.

I'm talking about Grogu - or Baby Yoda as he's also known. The tiny green, doe-eyed and big-eared star of the TV series The Mandalorian .. cute as pie.

After conquering the small screen - Grogu is about to appear on movies screens around the world in the movie: The Mandalorian and Grogu ... gosh - they put a lot of thought into that name ..

This is the way ...

Speaking of pop culture ... make sure you tune in tomorrow for our Squiz Kids Shortcut to KPop ... perfect timing as K-pop super-girl-group KATSEYE prepare to arrive in Melbourne on Friday for a one-off pop up performance ... Girl power.

### ***THE S'QUIZ***

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

1. What is it called when bears go into sleep mode for winter?
2. Off the coast of which country in Africa have scientists spotted huge pods of whales, numbering up to 300?
3. Which K-Pop group is scheduled to do a pop-up performance in Melbourne this Friday?

### ***SHOUT OUTS***

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It's Monday, May 4 ... as well as being Star Wars Day - today is a public holiday in Queensland for Labour Day – lucky Queensland kids, no school for you today.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Jayde from Rosewood, Maddie from Tanilba Bay, Emilia from Albany, Sophia from Kurri Kurri, Florence from Langhorne Creek, Chase and Raven from Goornong, Amilia from Oran Park and Noah and Hannah from Shoalhaven Heads.

Belated shoutouts go to... Isabelle from Miranda, Tearna from Goornong and Hanah G from Shoalhaven Heads.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 5A and Ms Seccull from Haileybury College, Brighton Campus, class stringy bark white with Mrs Charles at Melonba Public School, class 4B with Mr Murphy at St Thomas More Catholic School in Bradbury and class P1 with Ms Hesketh at Smalls Road Public School in Ryde.

And a special thanks while I am here to Rachel and Harriet - who wrote in to point out how bad my maths is .. last Thursday when I was talking about the King's visit to the United States I talked about the USA's 250th birthday ... and described it as a a quarter of a century ... which was obviously wrong. We all know a quarter of a century is 25 - not 250 ... oops-a-daisy

### **The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. Hibernation
2. South Africa
3. KATSEYE

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up or even if it's in December, send it through to us now and we'll and you want a shout out - or, if you're after a classroom shout out-drop us a line at [squizkids@thesquiz.com.au](mailto: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 our shortcut to k-pop ... the history of the world conquering music phenomenon that started with Gagnam Style and peaked last year with Huntr/x

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