

## **Met Gala costume masterpieces; Kiwis comeback to the capital; a donkey in disguise; and gallery goers strip off.**

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 Wednesday, May 6 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Met Gala costume masterpieces; Kiwis comeback to the capital; a donkey in disguise; and gallery goers strip off.

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

### ***THE LOWDOWN***

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While you were arriving at school yesterday, celebrities in New York City were stepping onto mossy green pavers, not the usual red carpet, and into a very unusual dress code that turned fashion into full-blown art.

They were attending the Met Gala, a fancy event where people dress up and raise money, held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, often called "The Met", one of the biggest and most important museums on the planet.

Each year, the Gala raises millions of dollars to support the museum's fashion collection, and this year's event also launched a brand-new gallery dedicated to fashion as an art form.

And if you see the outfits... you'll understand why.

The theme, "Fashion Is Art", saw guests arrive dressed like living masterpieces. Beyoncé stunned in a shimmering skeleton-like look that made her look like she'd stepped straight out of a treasure vault, Bad Bunny looked about 80 with a grey wig and walking stick in tribute to makeup artists, and Hailey Bieber's top half looked like she'd been dipped in gold. I've stuck a link to some photo galleries in the episode notes.

Stars, including Nicole Kidman, helped lead the event, with tickets costing huge sums, all going toward preserving fashion history and future exhibitions.

Because fashion isn't just about looking good. It reflects culture, tells stories about different times and places, and lets people express who they are without saying a word.

## ***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 Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand's capital, where some very special locals are making a comeback... after more than 100 years away.

We're talking about the kiwi. Not the fruit, but the small, flightless bird that's so important to New Zealand, it even gave New Zealanders their nickname.

These shy, whiskery, long-beaked birds once roamed the hills around Wellington in tribes (that's the collective noun for kiwis)... but after predators like stoats and cats were introduced, their numbers plummeted. Today, only about 70,000 are left across the whole country. But a group called the Capital Kiwi Project is bringing them back.

The kiwi even made an appearance in Parliament last week to celebrate the reintroduction of the 250th bird. Over the past decade, locals, landowners and Māori groups have worked together to create a huge safe zone, stretching across 240 square kilometres, and filled with thousands of traps to keep predators away.

And it's working.

The nocturnal kiwi (meaning they sleep during the day and are active at night) are now being spotted by late-night bike riders and popping up on backyard cameras, with chick survival rates now sitting at around 90%, these iconic birds are slowly reclaiming their home.

And it's all part of a bigger goal — to make New Zealand predator-free by 2050.

If the momentum keeps up, the trilling sound of kiwi calls could soon be echoing through the capital once again.

## ***ANIMAL KINGDOM***

What's black and white... and in the middle of the road? If you said a zebra crossing — nice try. But this time, it was a painted donkey.

Residents in Armenia’s capital, Yerevan, were left doing double-takes over the weekend, after reports of a zebra wandering the city streets.

But this wasn’t some great zoo escape.

It turned out to be a donkey... painted with stripes as part of a prank. Yep — a donkey dressed up as a zebra.

The zoo quickly confirmed all their real zebras were safe and sound, and warned that painting animals might actually be harmful.

So while this creature might’ve looked like it belonged on the African savannah... it was really just a donkey in disguise.

There’s a link to the video in the episode notes — judge for yourself.

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

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We kicked off today at a fancy art museum... and we’re finishing in one too — but this time, the dress code is less red carpet... more pool party.

At a museum near Basel in Switzerland, visitors were invited to explore the famous “Bathers” paintings by Paul Cézanne, while wearing their swimsuits.

Cézanne painted people bathing in nature, so the museum brought that idea to life... turning visitors into part of the artwork itself.

At first, it felt a bit awkward, strolling past masterpieces in your togs isn’t exactly standard museum behaviour. But soon enough, the nerves faded, smiles appeared, and people leaned into the fun.

There were even change rooms on site. But if you showed up in your swimmers, you got in for free.

Turns out, the best way to understand the art... is to dive right in.

### ***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. How many kiwis have been reintroduced to Wellington as of this week?
2. What is the name of Armenia's capital city?
3. Which artist painted the 'Bathers' paintings on display in Switzerland?

### **SHOUT OUTS**

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It's Wednesday, May 6 ... on this day, wayyy back in 1840, The Penny Black, the world's very first stick-on postage stamp, went on sale in Britain.

For just one penny (that equates to about a dollar today), anyone could seal up a letter and send it anywhere in the country. Before the Penny Black, it was the PERSON RECEIVING the letter who had to pay.

Australia Post now charges around \$1.50 for a standard stamp, meaning the world's very first postal stamp was actually cheaper in real terms than posting a letter today.

186 years later, when we live in a world of instant messages, voice notes, and emails, there's still nothing quite like opening your letterbox and finding a real, handwritten letter inside.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today...

Seerat from Forest Lake, Sophia from Baulkham Hills, Indi from Glen Huon, Hugh from Mount Riverview, Scarlett from Werribee and Lachlan from Winmalee.

A belated shoutout goes to... Remi from Manly.

Classroom shoutouts go to... classes 6B and 6P with Mrs Pedersen, Miss Barker and Mrs Brown at Malanda State School, class 3/4 Magpies with Ms Newton at Mt Riverview Public School, class 5 Blue with Mrs Evans at Mary Immaculate Parish Primary School in Eagle Vale and class 4H with Mrs Hill at St Aidan's Anglican Girls School in Corinda.

**The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. 250
2. Yerevan
3. Paul Cézanne

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you'd like a shoutout, or if you want a classroom shoutout... 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.

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