

## **Huge dinosaur discoveries; an ancient ship beneath a car park; a giant wearable robot revealed; and a whale-sized asteroid zooms by**

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm

It's Wednesday, May 20 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Huge dinosaur discoveries; an ancient ship beneath a car park; a giant wearable robot revealed; and a whale-sized asteroid zooms by

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

### ***THE LOWDOWN***

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Dinosaurs are stomping into the spotlight today, with two discoveries that are helping us better understand how these prehistoric beasts lived, moved... and ruled the Earth millions of years ago.

First to Spain, where palaeontologists have uncovered the best-preserved stegosaur skull ever found in Europe. If you're not in the know, a palaeontologist is a scientist who studies fossils to learn about dinosaurs and other ancient plants and animals.

And if you're thinking, big deal... it actually kind of is.

Stegosaurs, those famous dinosaurs with bony plates on their backs and spiky tails, had surprisingly delicate skulls. Imagine trying to preserve a crunchy taco shell buried underground for 150 million years. Usually, they crumble, squash, or disappear altogether.

Because this fossil survived, scientists can finally study how stegosaurs' heads, jaws and brains evolved. It's even led researchers to suggest a brand-new dinosaur family tree group

with a very fancy name: Neostegosauria, helping rewrite how these plated dinosaurs spread around the world.

Meanwhile in Thailand... scientists have discovered Southeast Asia's largest dinosaur ever found... a giant long-necked dinosaur nicknamed "the last titan."

Nagatitan chaiyaphumensis (**NAH-guh-TIE-tan chai-yah-poom-EN-sis**) would have lived 100 to 120 million years ago during the Early Cretaceous period.

Quick dinosaur timeline check: the Jurassic came first, then the Cretaceous. So this giant arrived roughly 30 to 50 million years after that spiky dinosaur in Spain.

And it was absolutely colossal! Scientists reckon it stretched about 27 metres long and weighed around 27 tonnes, about the same as nine adult Asian elephants. One front leg bone alone was as big as a fairly tall human. Researchers think this might be one of the last giant dinosaurs to roam the region before rising seas slowly turned much of the land into shallow ocean.

And if becoming a dinosaur scientist sounds fun... researchers say there are still heaps of fossils waiting to be discovered in Thailand. So, go for it, dino detectives.

## ***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 Spain... where workers digging under a car park have uncovered something very unexpected: a 500-year-old shipwreck.

Construction crews in Barcelona were digging foundations for a new carpark when they struck giant pieces of wood buried more than five metres underground. Archaeologists soon realised it was the remains of a merchant ship from the 1400s or 1500s.

Back then, this part of the city wasn't streets and apartments... it was ocean. Ships floated nearby where people now park their cars. Over hundreds of years, storms and shifting sand slowly changed the coastline, burying the old harbour underground.

And here's the coolest bit: before reaching the ship, scientists had already uncovered an old war bunker, part of a fortress, and an old fish market. It's basically a history lasagne.

Amazingly, this isn't the first amazing thing found under a car park. In 2012, in Leicester, England, archaeologists discovered the lost bones of King Richard III beneath one too. He'd died way back in 1485. Turns out... car parks are surprisingly good at keeping secrets.

## ***BELIEVE IT OR NOT***

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You know how Transformers look cool until you remember they're not actually real? Well... that might be changing.

Believe it or not, a company in China has unveiled something straight out of science fiction: a giant wearable robot that a human can actually climb inside and drive.

The machine is called the GD01, and it's what engineers call a mecha a wearable, mechanical robot. The name became popular in Japanese cartoons, comics and movies featuring humans piloting enormous robot suits to battle monsters, protect cities or save the day.

This one stands more than two and a half metres tall, weighs around 500 kilograms, and can switch between walking on two legs or four at the press of a button.

In videos released last week, the robot stomps around, changes position, and even smashes through walls like something from an action movie.

Right now though, owning one would cost about one million Australian dollars... which may require many years of pocket money.

There's a link to the video in today's episode notes.

Do you think it's too early to start my Christmas list?

## ***SPACED OUT***

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What's the size of a blue whale, zooms through space, and gave astronomers a reason to sit up and pay attention this week?

An asteroid about the size of a blue whale paid Earth a very close visit yesterday morning... and scientists only spotted it nine days ago.

The space rock, called 2026 JH2, 'catchy name, right?', was first seen by astronomers in the United States on May 10 and passed first by the Moon before zipping past Earth in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Scientists estimate it measured somewhere between 15 and 35 metres wide, or about the length of a blue whale.

Now, before you panic and start building a backyard bunker... Earth was never in danger. The asteroid flew past about 90,000 kilometres away, close in space terms, but still safely missing us.

Scientists say it won't swing by again until 2060.

But here's a question... what would happen if an asteroid the size of a blue whale did actually hit Earth?

Find out in this weekend's Squiz Kids Science Short, waiting in your podcast feed first thing Saturday morning

### ***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. Which type of dinosaur did the skull discovered in Spain belong to?
2. What is the common name for a robot that humans can climb inside of and pilot?
3. In what year can we expect asteroid '2026 JH2' to make its next fly-by of Earth?

### ***SHOUT OUTS***

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It's Wednesday, May 20 ... World Bee Day... and before you think "oh, just bees", hear me out, because bees might actually be the most important animal on the planet.

Bees pollinate around three-quarters of the world's food crops. That means every time a bee lands on a flower and gets a bit of pollen stuck to its fuzzy little body, it's basically doing the job that keeps us all fed.

And here's the crazy bit: a single bee will only make about one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in its entire lifetime. And, to make just one kilogram of honey, a hive has to visit around one million flowers. Mind blown!

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

Mikayla from Albany Creek, Emma from Innaloo, Joven from Yarrawonga, Ava from Griffith and Elliot from Tanunda.

Belated shoutouts go to ...

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 6A with Mrs McIver at Kallangur State School, class 4/5/6 Magpies with Mrs Murphy at Albury North Public School and class 5A at Livingstone Christian College in Ormeau and happy birthday to their teacher Ms Ssentamu .

**The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. Stegasaurus
2. Mecha
3. 2060

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.