

World Cup serves up thrilling finale; Canada's wildfires' smoky problem; Luke's lightsaber sets a new record; and giant earthworms lurk beneath.

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, July 20 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... World Cup serves up thrilling finale; Canada's wildfires' smoky problem; Luke's lightsaber sets a new record; and giant earthworms lurk beneath.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Forty-eight countries, 104 thrilling games of soccer over 39 days - and it all comes down to this morning - as Argentina face Spain in a World Cup final that will stop the world in its tracks.

As we go to air this morning, defending World Cup champions Argentina are in an almighty struggle to retain the famous gold trophy against their European Champions rival Spain - in a sold out, star studded event in New York.

More than 82,000 fans have packed Met Life Stadium - and more than 1.8 billion - that's billion with a B - are expected to tune in to TV coverage of the game right across the world - easily making this the most-watched sporting event on the planet.

With its 5am kick off this morning - at least 90 minutes of game time, plus a Superbowl-style half-time show expected to last 30 minutes - we're not expecting a result until mid-morning Australia time.

And while the final result will be the most watched-for outcome - all eyes are also on superstar Lionel Messi this morning to see if he can become the all-time top World Cup scorer .. at the time of recording this pod, he was on 21 goals, with Kylian Mbappe just

ahead on 22 goals - after slotting two in his country's playoff for third place yesterday morning against England.

And what a mighty bronze medal battle between France and England it was.

After steaming ahead to a four-nil lead at half time, England watched on as France clawed its way back into the game. Finally though, the French renaissance wasn't quite enough, with England winning the bronze medal match in a ten-goal thriller - by 6 goals to four.

And now - with the World Cup at an end, we can all get back to our normal sleeping patterns ... right?

Although maybe don't put away the alarm clock just yet ... the Commonwealth Games kick off in Glasgow, Scotland this Friday .. oh well .. who needs sleep anyway?

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 Canada - where weeks of extreme heat have led to a wave of wildfires across the country.

The province of Ontario was ablaze late last week - with more than 190 forest fires burning across the territory - forcing residents of small towns to flee as their homes burned behind them. Across Canada - it's estimated there were an extraordinary 1,000 active fires burning on Saturday

Meanwhile, the smoke from so many fires was traveling across the east of Canada and choking its biggest city - Toronto - and also moving down into the United States - reaching big cities on the east coast like Washington DC and New York City - where today's World Cup final is being played.

To our Canadian and American listeners- stay safe over there ..

POP CULTURE CORNER

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And the force is now with some very rich Star Wars fan with news over the weekend that Luke Skywalker's light sabre was sold at auction in the United States for \$5.3 million.

Remember the movie The Empire Strikes Back? When Darth Vader tells Luke .. “I;m your father” – just before chopping off his hand? It’s the prop from that iconic scene.

And to round out the purchase - the winner bidder also got a fake plastic hand, wrapped around said light saber, for his or her troubles.

It comes after Darth Vader’s light saber, from the same scene, sold at auction last year for \$5.1 million ... just a little less than what Luke’s light saber fetched ..

Because good guys always finish first ..

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

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If you’re a Roald Dahl fan - you’ve probably heard of James And The Giant Peach .. the story of a kid who uses magical green crystals to grow a giant peach - and meets a cast of gigantic critters into the bargain. A giant centipede, a giant spider, a giant lady bug – and a giant earthworm.

Well now South Australia is on a mission to prove it has a species of invertebrate worthy of a Roald Dahl kids’ book – with more and more reports of giant earthworms popping up all over the state.

Scientists are on the hunt for evidence from South Australians of the existence of these giant slimy creatures .. with social media recently being flooded with images of kids holding up worms as thick as an adult’s finger and more than a metre in length.

One researcher claims she has even seen evidence of earthworms as thick as a garden hose and measuring up to two metres - or 6 foot tall.

Now that is one worm I do NOT want to see in my garden.

Q+A ANDY GRIFFITHS Q&A

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Speaking of kids' books ... don't forget we have a very special guest coming up on the podcast in the coming weeks ...

Aussie kids' author Andy Griffiths has signed up to take the hotseat for our next Squiz Kids Q+A - to talk about his new book, *You & Me And the Gigantic Knucklehead* and answering any questions you might want to ask him.

He's of course the same author of the wildly popular Treehouse series of books -

Where and how does he write? What does he do when not writing? How does he find inspiration? Does it ever get tiring? Who's his favourite footy team? Anything you like.

There are prizes to be won for the best questions .. so get cracking! Send your questions to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au - But hurry along .. you've only got until next Monday to get your questions in ..

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which team finished third in the World Cup - winning yesterday's bronze medal match in Miami by six goals to four?
2. In which city in Scotland will the Commonwealth Games kick off this Friday?
3. Name the Star Wars movie in which Luke finds out Darth Vader is his father.

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, July 20 – today is International Chess Day .. a great excuse to whip out a chess board and challenge a friend or family member to one of the greatest games of strategy and skill ... check mate!

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Ellery from Kallangur, Max from Beecroft, Eliza from Wynnum, Alize from Oran Park, Emily from Artarman, Beatrix from Brunswick, William from Beaumaris and Rohan from Ferntree Gully.

Belated shoutouts go to ...Alice from Armidale and Isabelle from Concord West.

Classroom shoutouts go to...class 5ASA with Mrs A at Canterbury College in Waterford, Room 13 with Miss Vinten at North Cottesloe Primary School and class 5/6B with Ms B at Faith Lutheran College Junior School in Tanunda.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. England
2. Glasgow
3. The Empire Strikes Back

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 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 an excellent Shortcut to the Commonwealth Games .. discover how the Games grew out of the old British Empire, who we should be watching this year, and how Glasgow stepped in to save the day after the Aussie state of Victoria pulled out as host.

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