

Rocket crashes into Moon; Guatemala's fire volcano erupts; Escaped lion fake news; and New Zealand's ducks breathe sigh of relief.

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 Thursday, August 6 -

In Squiz Kids today ... Rocket crashes into Moon; Guatemala's fire volcano erupts; Escaped lion fake news; and New Zealand's ducks breathe sigh of relief.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Thousands of telescopes were trained on the Moon yesterday afternoon as part of a rocket sent from Earth crashed into the lunar surface.

In January last year, a SpaceX rocket took off from planet Earth to deliver two robotic landers on the Moon. The rocket booster that got them there has since been floating about in space near the Moon - one piece of hundreds of thousands of pieces of space junk floating around above our heads.

But now - according to scientists - thanks to the influence of the Sun and the Moon's gravity - that rocket booster found itself on a crash course with the Moon's surface - smashing into it about 4.30 yesterday afternoon Australian time - or 2.30am US eastern time.

Many astrophysicists - who are people that study space for a living - are excited - because the rocket will hit the Moon's surface at a speed of more than 8,000 kilometres per hour, creating a crater on impact and throwing up a large cloud of Moon dust which could give researchers a better understanding of what lies beneath the Moon's surface.

Many others, however, are less excited. Worried that with the race to set up a base for humans on the Moon, and more and more space traffic heading its way, scientists are being too careless about using the Moon as a sort of interstellar garbage dump.

It's an interesting conundrum ... which is a fancy word for a challenge that doesn't have an obvious answer ... what do you think?

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 Guatemala in Central America - which is fun, because we very rarely find ourselves in Guatemala ...

The reason we're there today is a little less fun, as a volcano called Fire is threatening to erupt.

People living in villages around the base of the volcano - called Fuego in Guatemala's native language Spanish - have been evacuated as the massive mountain starts to grumble away threateningly.

Lava and plumes of ash have been spewing out of the top of the volcano since the start of the week, prompting volcanologists - who are scientists who study volcanoes - to predict she's about to blow her top in spectacular fashion. Watch this space ...

ANIMAL KINGDOM

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A rare species of duck in New Zealand is breathing a sigh of relief after a feral cat, responsible for hunting and killing hundreds of their kind over a three year period, was finally caught.

The cat, called Nine Lives by locals because of his ability to escape capture for so long, is one of many feral cats in the Purerua region of NZ - where native bird life is constantly under pressure from the hungry cats that once were pets but have since become wild.

But after three years of tracking Nine Lives, a local conservationist finally trapped him.

It means the local population of pateke duck - which is considered endangered - has one less predator to worry about.

And if you're interested to learn more about how feral animals impact native wildlife, have a listen to our Squiz Kids Shortcut on Invasive Species .. I've stuck a link to it in today's episode notes .. You're welcome.

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday, Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his snout into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet. And today his nose is twitching unhappily following the discovery of loads and loads of fake news following the recent earthquake disaster in Japan.

It's a sad fact that following natural disasters, lots of people create fake news - or disinformation - and circulate it online - to push an agenda, or intentionally cause chaos and confusion.

You'll remember we talked last week about the dreadful earthquake that shook the southern Japanese island of Kyushu.

The destruction it caused has now been compounded - which is to say, added to - by fake social media posts claiming the quake was a fake, the explosion that followed it in a shopping centre was made up and crazy claims blaming immigrants for trying to take advantage of people's misery. None of which are true. One social media post used AI to create a fake video claiming a lion had escaped from a local zoo during the quake and was now stalking local neighbourhoods. Again - another fake.

The lesson? The same as every week: the only way we as Newshounds can make sure we're not tricked by fake news - or disinformation - is to STOP, THINK and CHECK before believing everything we see online - just like Squiz-E tells us.

Well done Squiz-E! (WOOF)

SA JOB

Attention to our South Australian listeners .. especially those of the teacher and educator variety ... Newshounds is hiring.

We're about to launch an exciting new chapter of our award-winning media literacy program across primary schools in sunny South Australia - and we're looking for someone local - to help us roll it out.

Someone who knows the local landscape and is passionate about joining our mission to make Aussie kids the most media literate in the world.

You'll find a link to the job description in today's episode notes, or on the careers page of the Big Squiz website - www.thesquiz.com.au

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What's the name of the country in Central America where a volcano is rumbling away?
2. What is the name of the feral cat that's been terrorising the duck population in a part of New Zealand?
3. How fast was the rocket travelling that smashed into the Moon's surface yesterday? Was it a) 25 km/h b) 200 km/h or c) 8,000 km/h?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, August 6 – it's 35 years ago today that a computer scientist called Tim Berners Lee introduced to the world a little something he'd been working on called the world wide web ... that's the internet, kids - and hasn't the world changed a lot since then ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today...Stella from Yass, Laynie from Banana, Steele from Chinchilla, Seb from Urrbrae, Lillian from St Ives, Liam from Epping and Oakley listening over in Epping, New Zealand.

A belated shoutout goes to ... Elka from Thornbury

Classroom shoutouts go to ... class 4/5M with Ms McNabb at Albury West Public School, Jacaranda class with Miss McBride at Speers Point Public School, Athlone class with Miss Rodaro and Year 4 Rathowen with Miss Melançon both at Killarney Heights Public School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Guatemala

2. Nine Lives
3. c) 8,000 km/h

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 the Kids v Adults News S'quiz

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