

New world map unveiled; Korea's robot theme park; the Star Wars museum of storytelling; and soiled undies and kissing bears win science prize.

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, September 7 -

In Squiz Kids today ... New world map unveiled; Korea's robot theme park; the Star Wars museum of storytelling; and soiled undies and kissing bears win science prize.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Hands up if you have a map of the world in your classroom or at home? Well next time you're near it, take a good, long look at it - because it's about to be re-invented - after the United Nations voted over the weekend to re-size some of our globe's continents and countries.

Most maps of the world are what's called a 'Mercator projection' which is to say, they are based on a world map that was created back in the 1500s - more than 400 years ago.

And the problem with the Mercator projection is that it makes countries at the top and the bottom of the globe look much larger than they actually are - and countries in the middle all squished up smaller than they actually are.

For instance: on the Mercator Projection, Greenland appears larger than the continents of South America and Africa when in fact it's about the same size as the Democratic Republic of Congo - one single country inside the vast continent of Africa.

What the what??

One theory as to why this old fashioned version of the world map has been in use for so many centuries is because it makes Europe and North America look bigger than they really are ..

But at a special vote at the United Nations on Friday, 164 countries of the world voted to change the world map to more accurately reflect the actual size of continents and countries.

What does it mean for Australia? Will we shrink or get larger in the new world map? The answer is: get larger ... as befits the world's only island continent - with the world's most awesome people. See ya later ol' Mercator ...

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 South Korea - where a robot theme park hopes to take on Disneyland.

Visitors to the Galaxy Robot Theme Park are treated to k-pop dancing robots, robots who play the piano and robots engaging in kick boxing.

So far: visitor numbers have been good - with lots of locals curious to see just how capable robots are of entertaining and distracting us. But critics aren't so sure - saying a robot k-pop dancer has none of the appeal of the humans they're imitating ... and robots at theme parks don;t have any of the emotional pull of a Disney character ..

Relax Mickey - you're job's safe ... for now .

WEIRD SCIENCE

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Burying underpants to test soil, studying animals that kiss, stealing lollies from babies and studying how vicious best friends can be ... these might all sound like crazy things to do - but they're also scientific experiments that have been honoured in this year's Ig Nobel Awards ..

You've heard of the Nobel Awards - right? The annual awards given out to people doing extraordinary things in the areas of science or literature - or even in the pursuit of world peace.

The Ig-Nobel Awards are given out to science experiments that sound a bit weird - even if they have a genuine purpose ...

And this year's winners were an experiment that saw citizen scientists bury a thousand of pairs of cotton underpants underground to test how many microbes were living in the soil and how quickly the undies broke down ... random ... a research project that studied animals to see if species other than humans like to kiss ... the answer: polar bears, prairie dogs and some insects. Random.

And the scientific study that tested whether rich people or poor people were more likely to steal lollies from babies ... the answer: rich people.

Because when it comes to science - sometimes the silly is just as important and insightful as the serious.

POP CULTURE CORNER

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And so to Los Angeles, in the United States we go - where a new museum has just opened up, built by the creative force behind Star Wars - celebrating the ancient important human art of story telling.

George Lucas is famous for being the director and creative genius behind the sprawling Star Wars universe ... and has long wanted to create a museum dedicated to the art of visual storytelling.

The result: a magnificent, spaceship looking building filled with artworks from important 20th century painters, sculptures, comic strips and films .. and yes - there's a good smattering of Star Wars memorabilia in there too - with Yoda, Grogu and Luke Skywalker all making an appearance.

Sounds awesome ...

SPOTLIGHT PROMO

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Speaking of awesome ... Hands up if you've ever watched a YouTube video? Hands up if you're a fan of YouTube creators like Mr Beast or the Norris Nuts or Australia Zoo's Robert Irwin or YBS Youngbloods?

Maybe you've thought to yourself: i'd love to put my creativity to good use and make video content all my own?

Then brace yourself to meet two of Australia's most creative, super-successful YouTubers – content creators who started with an iphone in their bedroom 11 years ago and have now built their own very successful channel - making short films and travelling the world to meet Spiderman cast members.

They're called the McFarlane Bros - and tomorrow, they're joining Squiz Kids to reveal what it takes to become a successful content creator – spoiler alert: a lot of work - and how any budding young film makers out there in Squiz Kids land can follow in their footsteps and enter the upcoming Trop Jr Short Film Festival ... in the Squiz Kids feed tomorrow - don't miss it ... and I've stuck links to some of the Macfarlane Bros' work and info about how to enter Trop Jr in today's show notes ...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What is the name of the old world map that we've been used to seeing for the last 400 or so years?
2. In which country has a robot theme park opened up?
3. What sort of bears are known to like kissing, according to a science project that won an IgNobel Award.

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, September 7 – today is the start of National Child Protection Week, the start of the Royal Adelaide Show and National Threatened Species Day – there's a lot going on ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Gracie from Yass, Leilani from Petrie, Will from Brighton, Noah from Orange, Rachel from Brisbane, Stevie from Burpengary, Maisie from Shoalhaven Heads, Ellie from Doncaster East, Monroe from Fernhill, and Hamish from Margate, Matty from

Canterbury, Cassandra from Ballarat, Maggie from Liverpool, and Miss Vantarakis from Livingstone Public School in Vermont South.

Belated birthday shoutouts go to... Olivia from Innes Park, Twins Gabi and Abi from Fitzroy North.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... Class 5 Blue and their teacher Mrs Evans at Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School at Eagle Vale, Class 5/6F and their teacher Mr Baker at Arundel State School on the Gold Coast, and Year 2 OWL and their teacher Miss Furst at Denistone East Public School.

And a special shout out to Isabella ... who's an excellent Newshound ... she wrote over the weekend to let me know I had made a mistake in Thursday's pod when I said the Sydney Swans were travelling to Brisbane to play the Lions on the weekend - when in fact it was the other way around. D'oh! Silly me - thanks Isabella!

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Mercator Projection
2. South Korea
3. Polar Bears

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you'd like a shoutout, or if you want a classroom shoutout, or parents, if you'd like to shout out a class or a wonderful teacher... 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 - **Spotlight Macfarlane Brothers**

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