KPop Demon Hunters on Tour; millions of crabs hit the road; The Leonids light up the sky; and Neil the Seal gets some space

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, November 18

In Squiz Kids Today …. KPop Demon Hunters on Tour; millions of crabs hit the road; The Leonids light up the sky; and Neil the Seal gets some space

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

THE LOWDOWN

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What were you doing before sunrise this morning? Sleeping? Excellent choice. But if you happened to be awake and looking up at a clear sky, you might've caught one of Earth's annual natural light shows … the Leonid meteor shower.

Every November, on its trip around the Sun, Earth travels through a dusty trail left behind by a comet called Tempel-Tuttle. Often called shooting stars, these meteors are actually tiny bits of space dust. Think of it like a trail of crumbs. When Earth crosses it, some of those crumbs hit the air around our planet at incredible speed and make a bright streak. That flash of light can be gone in the time it takes you to say, "Look!" Which is deeply annoying for whoever you're trying to show.

If you missed it this morning, you can still try your luck for the rest of the week. The trick is to look before the Sun starts coming up. So if a grown-up's keen to join you, try early tomorrow morning. Pick a spot away from streetlights and look at as much of the sky as you can. And if you do see one? Make sure you make a wish.

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Speaking of stars … some of Australia's biggest music stars are heading to Sydney tonight for the 40th ARIA Awards. Think of them as Australia's Grammys, with those pointy trophies for everything from Album of the Year to Best Australian Live Act.
In the running for Most Popular International Artist? BTS, Taylor Swift, Sabrina Carpenter and a whole bunch more. But the showdown I've got my eye on is Best Children's Album. Bluey versus four others, including The Wiggles! Yep, even a blue heeler can be up for an ARIA!

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 on Christmas Island, where this week, the forest floor is alive! So, Christmas Island is an Australian territory, but it's way out in the Indian Ocean, about 2,600 kilometres northwest of Perth and much closer to Indonesia than mainland Australia.

This week, tens of millions of red crabs are on the move. The wet season rains are their cue to leave the rainforest and head for the coast. They stream across roads that have to be closed and climb over rocks. Some even cross busy roads on a bridge built just for them.

So why the big journey? Well, the adults are heading to the coast to breed, and, get this: each female can release up to 100,000 eggs into the sea. Then, about a month later, there's a second march, this time in the opposite direction. The baby crabs, which are only about the size of a grain of rice, head back inland. It takes them around nine days to reach the forest, where they spend their first three years tucked away among rocks and fallen leaves. And, of course, there's a link to the crab cam in the show notes.

https://christmasislandnationalpark.gov.au/red-crab-migration/2026-red-crab-migration-livestreams/

ANIMAL KINGDOM

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He’s a social media sensation. Crowds flock to see him whenever he turns up. And he weighs about a thousand kilos. Yep, I’m talking about Neil the Seal! And when your local celebrity is a one-tonne wild animal, you need a plan to keep him and everyone who comes to see him safe. Over the weekend, the Tassie Government released just such a plan.

If you’ve missed the traffic-cone videos, Neil is a six-year-old southern elephant seal who comes ashore in south-east Tassie to rest and shed his old fur. He’s still growing, too. A fully grown male can weigh more than three thousand kilos. And we already know what happens when Neil has a good ol’ scratch. On one visit, he flattened a sign, knocked over ten posts and crushed part of a fence.

Under the new rules, people in the protected areas have to give Neil at least 30 metres of space (about the length of a basketball court) and keep their dogs away. It gives Neil room to rest and keeps people safe. Which is handy, because I’m pretty sure Neil hasn’t read the plan.

POP CULTURE CORNER

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How do you take a band on tour when all three members are animated? We’re about to find out, because HUNTR/X are hitting the road! That’s right, people: the KPop Demon Hunters Golden World Tour kicks off in the United States in June next year. O. M. G!

Rumi, Mira and Zoey will be there, and so will the Saja Boys and, yes, Derpy Tiger. Exactly how it’ll work is still under wraps, but we’re told to expect animation, live performers and stunts, and lots of crowd participation. I’d love to know how they’re going to pull it off!

The movie has racked up more than 670 million views, making it Netflix’s most-watched film ever. So I’m guessing tickets will go fast. And will we get to see HUNTR/X here? No Aussie dates yet, but Netflix says dates for the Asia-Pacific region are still to come. Excitement overload!

SANTA Q+A

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There's a Christmas question that's been bugging me for ages... What happens if Santa turns up at a house with a really barky dog? Does he carry emergency dog biscuits? And Mrs Claus, how did you and Santa meet? And, do you like living at the North Pole?

Well, this year, I might actually get some answers, because Santa **and** Mrs Claus are coming on Squiz Kids! They've made time in the middle of their massive Christmas preparations for a special Q+A, and we want your questions.

Maybe you'd like to know how Santa finds you if you're away on holidays at Christmas. Or what the elves do when they make a toy that's *too* noisy.

Whatever you're curious about, send your question to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au. Or, with a grown-up's permission, head to squizkids.com.au and record your question in your own voice. We'll pick ten to ask Santa and Mrs Claus.

Right. I'll be putting the dog biscuit question in. I really want to know.

(SLEIGH BELLS)

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What colour are the crabs making a mass migration on Christmas Island?
2. How much can I fully-grown southern elephant seal weigh?
3. What colour is Derpy Tiger? Will we trick any adults...?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, November 18 – and tonight NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft is set to make history. It'll become the first thing humans have made to reach one light-day from Earth. That's 25.9 billion kilometres. Voyager's been travelling for nearly 50 years to get there ... and light can cover that same distance in a single day

It’s also Bugs in My Backyard Week! See what’s crawling, wriggling or buzzing around your school or backyard. Snap a photo and ask a grown-up to help you upload it to the iNaturalist website. Every photo helps scientists see which bugs are out and about across Australia this spring. There’s a link in the show notes!

It’s also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today… Jayden from Mansfield, Luana from Forest Lake, Jakai from Bullarah, Oscar from Rhodes, Amelia from Goonellabah, Bambi from Melbourne, Jackson from Bomaderry and Clancy from NSW.

Belated shoutouts go to… Elliot from Tanunda and Jordan from Casula.

Classroom shoutouts go to… the year 6 maths group with Mrs Vass at Claremont Meadows Public School, the year 5 students with Mrs Rowles at Holy Cross Primary School in Helensburgh, class 4W with Miss Collimore and Mrs Stradman at St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School in Picton and a special mention to student Lachlan for all his recent hard work and effort.

The S’Quiz Answers:

1. Red
2. 3000 kilos
3. Blue

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