

Swimming Lessons!

Wildlife photographer, Bertie Gregory, couldn't believe his eyes when he witnessed baby penguins making a giant leap from the top of an ice shelf into the ocean. The photographer expressed concern for the penguins as the jump was an enormous 15m drop, and the icy Antarctic sea below was full of floating chunks of ice. But he says, 'To my amazement, they were not just surviving but popping up and going, 'I can swim!' This is their first swim ever, the first swim of their lives.' Before Gregory captured his incredible images, researchers had been unsure



Pictured: Emperor penguin with its chick.
Source: Canva.

about how the chicks came down such steep slopes. This ritual of the penguin chicks taking their first plunge from the ice is called fledging. Emperor penguins are known to nest on sea ice. However, as ice shelves have become more fragile in the past 20 years, they have been forced to form colonies on the permanent ice shelves, which are much higher.

Hay Fever Returns

Runny nose? Itchy eyes? Can't stop sneezing? You may be struggling with hay fever. Not everyone has hay fever, but it is quite common with around 13 million people in the UK struggling with it. At this time of year, as temperatures rise and trees and flowers begin to bloom, more pollen is in the air. It is this pollen that causes hay fever as some people are allergic to it. There are, in fact, different types of pollen, such as grass pollen, tree pollen and weed pollen. The body works to protect itself by getting rid of pollen and this results in hay

fever symptoms, namely itchy eyes, a runny nose and lots of sneezing! Some ways to help manage these symptoms include wearing sunglasses to limit pollen getting into your eyes, closing windows at night and changing clothes after you have been outside.



Pictured: Boy sneezing. **Source:** Canva.

Can the past help us learn about modern life?



I think it just goes to show, we have more similarities than differences.

Eden, 6

Street Librarian's Success

Araba Maze is a street librarian and influencer who lives in Baltimore in the U.S. state of Maryland. She is combatting the book desert in her local area by becoming a street librarian and setting up a free book vending machine. A book desert is an area with limited or no access to appropriate books, with no libraries or bookshops in walking distance. Araba set up Storybook Maze after talking with children, who had joined her on her stoop at home to listen to the stories she was reading to her nieces. When she finished the last story, the children didn't want to leave, and this was when she discovered that they had no books at home! Araba then used her experience as a librarian to put together a collection of books to take to the children as a mobile library. She used her social media platforms to



Pictured: Street librarian Araba Maze.
Source: Storybook Maze Facebook page.

raise money to have a free book vending machine installed as well. Storybook Maze's next aim is to raise enough money to provide a Book Trolley – a colourful train with carriages full of books and places for people to read. 'This book haven on wheels aims to break down barriers and provide access to books that traditional libraries can't reach,' Maze writes about the new project. 'As the wheels of the Book Trolley turn, so do the pages of countless stories waiting to be discovered!'

Do you think this is a good way to make sure that everyone can access books? What else do you think could be done?

Blue Whale Comeback

For the first time in decades, many blue whales have been seen near Seychelles! Seychelles is an African country: a nation of 115 islands scattered across more than a million square kilometres of the Indian Ocean. Scientists from Florida International University (FIU) and University of Seychelles conducted two expeditions covering about 5,500km across the northern Seychelles. They reported a total five sightings, including groups of up to ten blue whales. Marine biologists say that the return of blue whales in eastern Africa, following intense whaling, offers hope of their number increasing. Jeremy Kiszka from FIU, who worked on the project, said, 'When blue whales were sighted, we approached them slowly to obtain details of their group size and behaviour. Photographs of both left and right sides of the dorsal region were taken to identify them. Because

colouration patterns are unique to each animal, we knew that at least five individuals were identified during this expedition. After sharing our pictures with other research groups working on blue whales in the Indian Ocean, no "match" was found. This means the whales we identified in Seychelles might have been photographed for the first time ever!'

Did you know that blue whales are the largest creatures on Earth? They can grow up to 30 metres in length! Do you know any facts about blue whales?



Pictured: Blue Whale.
Source: Florida International University @FIU X page.

Can the past help us learn about modern life?



*I think we should use what we have learnt about people in the past to improve our lives now. We should look at things that they did right and do them that way again but not copy things that didn't work out so well. **Trudie***

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