

1, 2, 3, Caw!

Recent research has revealed that crows may be able to count up to four! The birds are known for their intelligence and their cheeky ways, but this new discovery has amazed scientists. The study involved showing a quantity of objects to the crows, who then responded with a number of cries to match. The crows were right more times than not, and they were rewarded for a



Pictured: A carrion crow. **Source:** Canva.

correct response with a tasty treat! Interestingly, human toddlers go through this stage of development, making a number of sounds to match a number of objects, when learning to count. Scientists believe that crows have developed this counting ability because it helps them with practical tasks in their day-to-day lives, including checking all their eggs are safe, choosing food-rich areas to forage and staying in large groups to avoid predators. For some scientists, the most important finding from the study is that the crows paused before answering correctly, taking longer pauses before counting higher quantities. The pauses indicate that the birds are thinking and planning their responses carefully. Clever crows!

Orange in Alaska

Rivers in Alaska's arctic region have been turning orange in recent years. Some of the discoloured rivers can even be seen from space! Scientists have discovered the rusty orange colour could be a result of minerals entering the water due to melting permafrost. Permafrost – permanent frost – is soil or underwater sediment that remains frozen for two years or more. The oldest known permafrost is nearly 700,000 years old! As this frozen layer of soil thaws, metals such as zinc, copper and iron that were previously trapped are released into streams and rivers. This is a

problem for communities that use the rivers for drinking water as well as for fishing. Researchers are currently in the middle of a three-year project which is aimed at understanding the problem better and finding the right solution.



Pictured: Kutuk River, Alaska.
Source: @007Antriksh on X.

Can remembering difficult times help shape a better future?



I think if something horrible has happened before, we should know not to let it happen again. Trish, 8

Let us know what you think about this week's news



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D-Day Commemorations

Chris Williams, Headteacher at West Dean CE Primary School, has been in touch to share with us that children from the school's Year 5 and 6 recognised the location shown on one of our posters immediately. They had recently visited the British Normandy Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer. Chestnut Class at the West Sussex school were quick to recognise the exact spot as one they had been to during their four-day residential trip to Normandy, France. Staff and learners took with them a commemorative flag (pictured right) that was later flown in their village for the D-Day anniversary. Mr Williams said, 'It is our Year 5 and 6 class (Chestnut Class) pictured. We



Pictured: Pictures from the children's visit to the British Normandy Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer.
Source: Chris Williams, Headteacher at West Dean CE Primary School.

took them on a four-day residential trip to Normandy the week before the half term break. During our trip we visited the British Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer and took some time to remember the fallen whilst viewing the incredible 1400 strong silhouette installation. As a symbolic gesture, we took the D-Day flag from our village (West Dean, near Chichester) across the Channel and back again. On Thursday we'll be flying the flag on our school flagpole, for all of the village to see.'



Valuable Vintage Toy

A Star Wars Boba Fett action figure has been sold by Heritage Auctions for £411,000! The 1970's hand-painted, missile-firing Boba Fett toy is now the world's most valuable vintage toy. Created in 1979, it was never released to the public as it was deemed a choking hazard. Only two of this super rare model of the bounty hunter are still in existence. 'The rocket-firing Boba Fett action figure long ago became such a mythic icon that people worldwide know about it even if they don't collect anything at all,' said Joe Maddalena from Heritage Auctions. 'We knew this one had a chance to enter the record books, and it was thrilling to see it become the most valuable toy in the world.' The previous title holder was a one-of-a-kind Barbie wearing a one-carat diamond, which sold for £236,000 in 2010.



Pictured: The hand-painted, missile-firing Boba Fett vintage toy.
Source: Heritage Auctions Facebook page.

What do you think makes this model worth so much money?
Do you think any of your toys could become valuable vintage items in the future?

Can remembering difficult times help shape a better future?



It's important to look to the past to learn from what has happened. It also means we can remember and respect the people who died in wars. Tilly

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