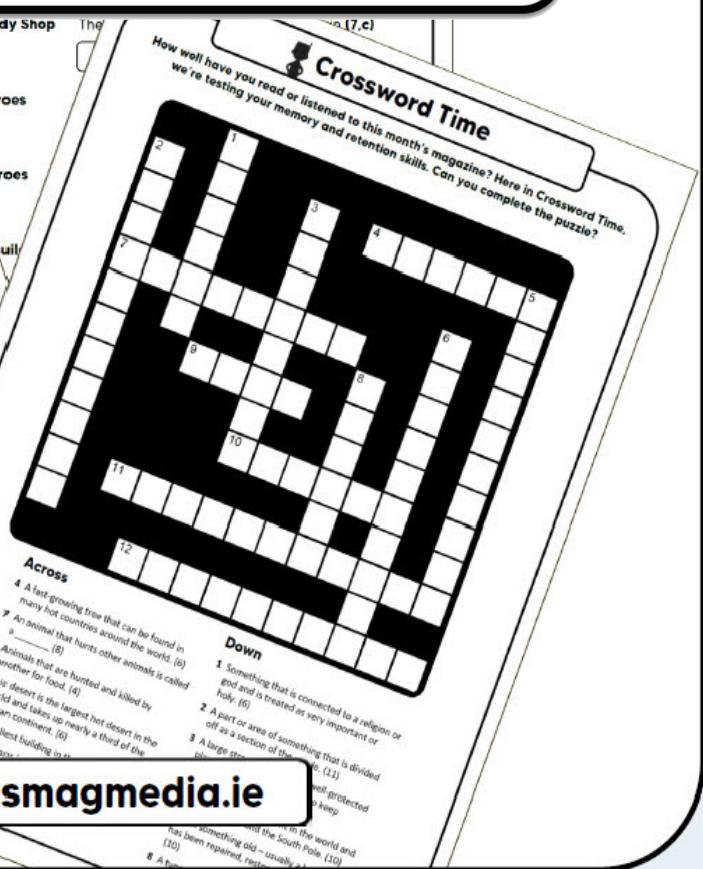
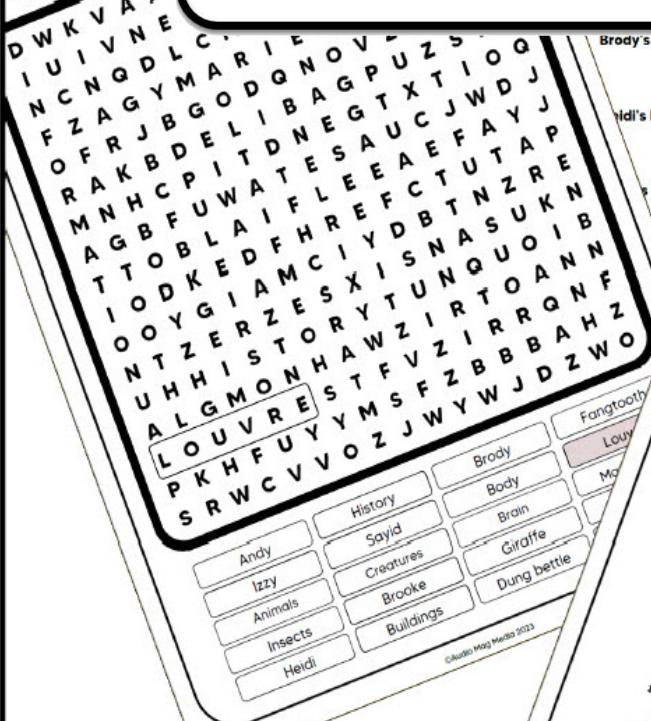


News Flash

Teacher Resource Pack

Teacher Resource Pack
September 2025
Issue #96



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Scan this QR code to or visit <https://www.newsmagmedia.ie/resources-the-primary-planet/>



New 68-PAGE AG MAG OUT!

We're delighted to let you know that AG MAG, Ireland's brand-new farming magazine for children, has just launched! Packed with stories, facts, interviews and safety tips, AG MAG is created especially for pupils who are curious about farming life and the world of agriculture.

Want to find out more? Full details are on the back page of this month's Primary Planet.

Visit www.agmag.ie

For queries relating to resources, email stephen@newsmagmedia.ie



20%
OFF



The Fact Factory Reading Kit Available to SETs

Having collaborated with the Dyslexia Association of Ireland (DAI) and the National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI), News Mag Media have proudly created the world's first audio-print magazine for children with print disabilities - dyslexia, visual impairment, reluctant readers, children with ASD and EAL being the most common. The purpose of the kit is to empower marginalised readers, inspire engagement with text, instil a love of reading and, ultimately, help every child, regardless of needs, feel included when it comes to reading. We hope (and believe) you will see the potential that the kit and magazines hold for print-disabled children.

“ We love *The Fact Factory* magazine and pen kit! It's a fantastic child-friendly resource. We have children with reading difficulties and dyslexia, as well as children with visual impairments, who absolutely love this resource!

Catherine, SET, Athlone

IDEAL FOR CHILDREN WITH ...

DYSLEXIA **VISUAL IMPAIRMENT**
EAL **RELUCTANT READERS**

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Fill in the Blanks #1

Read through the words in the Word Bank first and make sure you understand them. Then, read the article. Make sure you think about the best place to put a word, not the first place. Careful as you go, as some words may fit in more than one place, while other words will only suit one.

Pirates

crossbones

riches

pistols

ships

“Ahoy!”

masts

Xs

law

treasure

Pirates were sailors who sailed the seas hundreds of years ago, looking for treasure and (1)_____. They often attacked other (2)_____ to steal gold, silver, and food. Many pirates carried swords and (3)_____, and they sometimes wore eye patches or had parrots on their shoulders.

A pirate ship often had a black flag with a skull and (4)_____. This was called the Jolly Roger, and it warned others that pirates were coming. Life on a pirate ship was not easy. Pirates had to work hard, climb the tall (5)_____, and face dangerous storms.

Pirates were famous for burying their (6)____ on islands, although this may be more of a story than a real fact. They also made maps with big red (7)_____ to mark where the treasure was hidden.

Even though pirates broke the (8)_____, many people today enjoy reading stories and watching films about them. Pirates are exciting characters full of adventure and mystery. Some children even dress up as pirates, wearing hats, boots, and shouting (9)_____!



Fill in the Blanks #2

Read through the words in the Word Bank first and make sure you understand them. Then, read the article. Make sure you think about the best place to put a word, not the first place. Careful as you go, as some words may fit in more than one place, while other words will only suit one.

A Céilí

circles

laughter

bodhrán

traditions

costumes

feet

party

Ennis

Happy

A céilí is a special kind of Irish (1)_____ where people come together to enjoy traditional music and dancing. Céilís are often held in community halls, schools, or at festivals, and they bring lots of fun and (2)_____ for everyone.

The music at a céilí is usually played on instruments such as the fiddle, flute, accordion, and (3)_____. The lively tunes make people want to clap their hands and move their (4)_____.

Céilí dances can be done in pairs, small groups, or big (5)_____. The steps are not too difficult, and people often help beginners to learn. One famous céilí dance is called "The Siege of (6)_____, " which is enjoyed by children and adults alike.

People usually wear comfortable clothes so they can dance easily, but sometimes they also wear traditional Irish (7)_____. At the end of the night, dancers often feel tired but very (8)_____, because they have shared music, movement, and friendship.

Céilís are a wonderful way to keep Irish culture and (9)_____ alive for future generations.



Fill in the Blanks #3

Read through the words in the Word Bank first and make sure you understand them. Then, read the article. Make sure you think about the best place to put a word, not the first place. Careful as you go, as some words may fit in more than one place, while other words will only suit one.

Type 1 Diabetes

blood
condition
dizzy
levels
medicine
understanding
insulin
meals
healthy

Type 1 diabetes is a health (1)_____ that some children and adults live with. It happens when the body cannot make enough (2)_____, which is a hormone that helps turn sugar into energy. Without it, the sugar stays in the (3)_____ instead of being used by the body.

People with Type 1 diabetes need to check their blood sugar (4)_____ every day. They may use a small device or a finger prick test. To stay healthy, they also take (5)_____ through injections or a pump. This gives their body the hormone it needs.

Food and exercise are very important too. Eating balanced (6)_____ and staying active can help keep blood sugar steady. Sometimes, if sugar levels get too low, a person might feel shaky, tired, or (7)_____.

Having Type 1 diabetes does not stop children from playing, learning, or having fun. With the right care, they can live full and (8)_____ lives. Friends and teachers can support them by being kind and (9)_____.



All the Mistakes #1

Read through the article taken from this month's issue and see if you can spot the nine spelling mistakes.

Robotic Rabbit Trap

Burmese python snakes are wreaking havock in Florida in the US. Their population growth has got out of control and is causing the decline of over 85% of small native animals such as bobcats, racoons and marsh rabbits.

These snakes are not native to Florida and have no natural predators. They are often kept as pets, and the reason for their poplation growth is due to owners purposely or accidentally releasing them into the wild.

However, scientists in Florida have come up with an unusual solution to the problem! They have designed a robot that looks like one of a python's favorite things to eat – a marsh rabbit. The robot even smells like a rabbit and contains a camra so that when it detects a python, a snake wrangler will be sent out to capture the creature.

It has yet to be tried and tested, but scientists are hopping that it will be successful and reduce the declien in the pythons' prey.

Flashy Fact: Burmese python snakes are excellent swimmers!

Correct spelling

Choose three of these words and put them into sentences.



All the Mistakes #2

Read through the article taken from this month's issue and see if you can spot the nine spelling mistakes.

World's Largest Céilí Band

There were many things to celebrate at this year's Fleadh Cheoil in Wexford, and amongst them was a new musical world record!

1,018 musicians from all over the world gathered together at Chadwick's Wexford Park to play The Wexford Polka, The Gaelscoil Polka and The Little Diamond as part of the world's largest céilí band. The musicians came from all over Ireland as well as other countries including the US, Japan, France and Canada.

The previous record attempt was set only last year in Croke Park during The Late Late Show, where a band of 384 musicians played together.

The success at breaking the Guinness World Record was confirmed by adjudicator Glen Pollard. A wide variety of instruments were involved in the band, including fiddles, bodhráns, tin whistles, banjos, guitars, uilleann pipes, mandolins and the piano.

So, when and where will the next record-breaking attempt be? 1,018 musicians will take some beating!

Flashy Fact: The tin whistle was the most played instrument in the record-breaking céilí band.

Correct spelling



All the Mistakes #3

Read through the article taken from this month's issue and see if you can spot the nine spelling mistakes.

€66.7m Left Behind

Does your family use the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)? If not, you're not alone. Lots of people are still missing out on getting back their money for bottles and cans from water and soft drinks. Because of this, the company running the DRS, called Re-turn, made a massive profit of €51.3 million in 2024.

Re-turn began in February 2024 as part of Ireland's plan to be kinder to the planet. At the start, not everyone was expected to cash in their deposits, but experts believe that will change in the next few years as more families use the scheme.

The extra money Re-turn made has been used wisely. It has gone towards paying off start-up costs, running education campaigns, building more return points, and saving for future needs.

Still, with a goal of 90% returns, we all need to play our part. So, start bringing back those bottles and cans!

Flashy Fact: In 2024, 877 million bottles and cans were returned!

Correct spelling

Choose three of these words and put them into sentences.



Word Workout #1

Find the page, fact or story to find the word that solves the clue to its meaning. The number of letters and the starting letter of the word are in brackets after each clue.

Page	Article/Paragraph	CLUE (number of letters, first letter)	
3	The Nature Notebook	Greenery found on plants, flowers and trees	(6, l)
4	Robotic Rabbit Trap	Chaos	(5, h)
4	... Céilí Band	What musicians play	(11, i)
5	... Africa's Rhinos	Organisations that are in charge	(11, a)
6	Picture This	Flash of light often during a thunderstorm	(9, l)
7	Picture This	Made	(7, c)
8	... Sets Sail	Cruel and violent	(6, b)
9	Art to Heart	An organisation that runs a town or a city	(7, c)
10	... Optometrist	Sight	(6, v)





Word Workout #2

Find the page, fact or story to find the word that solves the clue to its meaning. The number of letters and the starting letter of the word are in brackets after each clue.

Page	Article/Paragraph	CLUE (number of letters, first letter)
11	NF Book Club	Really funny (9, h)
12	Ahoy, Me Hearties!	Disease caused by lack of vitamin C (6, s)
14	Farm Life	Protects you from the sun (9, s)
15	Feel Good	Controls everything you do (5, b)
18	Around the World	Buying and selling (5, t)
19	Around the World	Grower and/or manufacturer of something (8, p)
20	... Caterpillar	Found or uncovered (10, d)
21	Alphabet Animals	Abilities (6, s)
22	Sports Desk	Game/contest (5, m)





Quiz 24

This month's 24-question quiz is based on the 24 pages of *News Flash*. The question number corresponds to the page it is taken from. For example, the answer to Q.7 can be found on page 7 and the answer to Q.14 can be found on page 14.

1. What colour are the feathers in the parrot's pirate hat?
2. What has Flashy lost?
3. How deep should the hole for a bulb be?
4. Where was this year's Fleadh Cheoil held?
5. What is the storm name for the letter 'W'?
6. What is the name of the winner of the 'World's Ugliest Dog' Competition?
7. What does the new Barbie have?
8. Who funded Magellan's risky voyage?
9. What was Edward Burne-Jones' artistic style?
10. What is someone when they can see things close up but find it hard to see things in the distance?
11. Who is the author of *Ellora McGee, Trainee Banshee: The New School?*
12. What does 'hearties' mean?
13. What is a pirate's favourite drink?
14. What protects a Berkshire pig from the sun?
15. Roughly how many times a day do children smile?
16. How many animals are hidden in the picture?
17. What is the first word you are asked to find in the wordsearch?
18. Where does the Dutch government meet?
19. How far below sea level is the lowest point in The Netherlands?
20. How long has the wheel been part of human history?
21. Where does the Uakari live?
22. How many teams are competing in the Women's Rugby World Cup?
23. How many caps has Omar Marmoush got for his country?
24. How much is a one-year subscription to AG MAG?



Word Search Maker

Here's your chance to create a word search for your friend or classmate to complete. Fill in the 12 words in the word search grid (they can go backward, forward or diagonally) and then list them in the word boxes underneath the puzzle. Fill in all the other squares with random letters so your words become hidden. Perhaps you could include a secret word (not in the list) that your friend must try and find on their own.

A 10x10 grid of black lines on a white background. The grid consists of 9 horizontal rows and 9 vertical columns, creating a total of 81 equal-sized squares. The lines are thin and black, with the grid centered on the page.



Sudoku Time

Each of the 9 boxes must contain the numbers 1 – 9. When you fill them in, you will then see that each line going across and each line going down also contains the numbers 1 – 9.

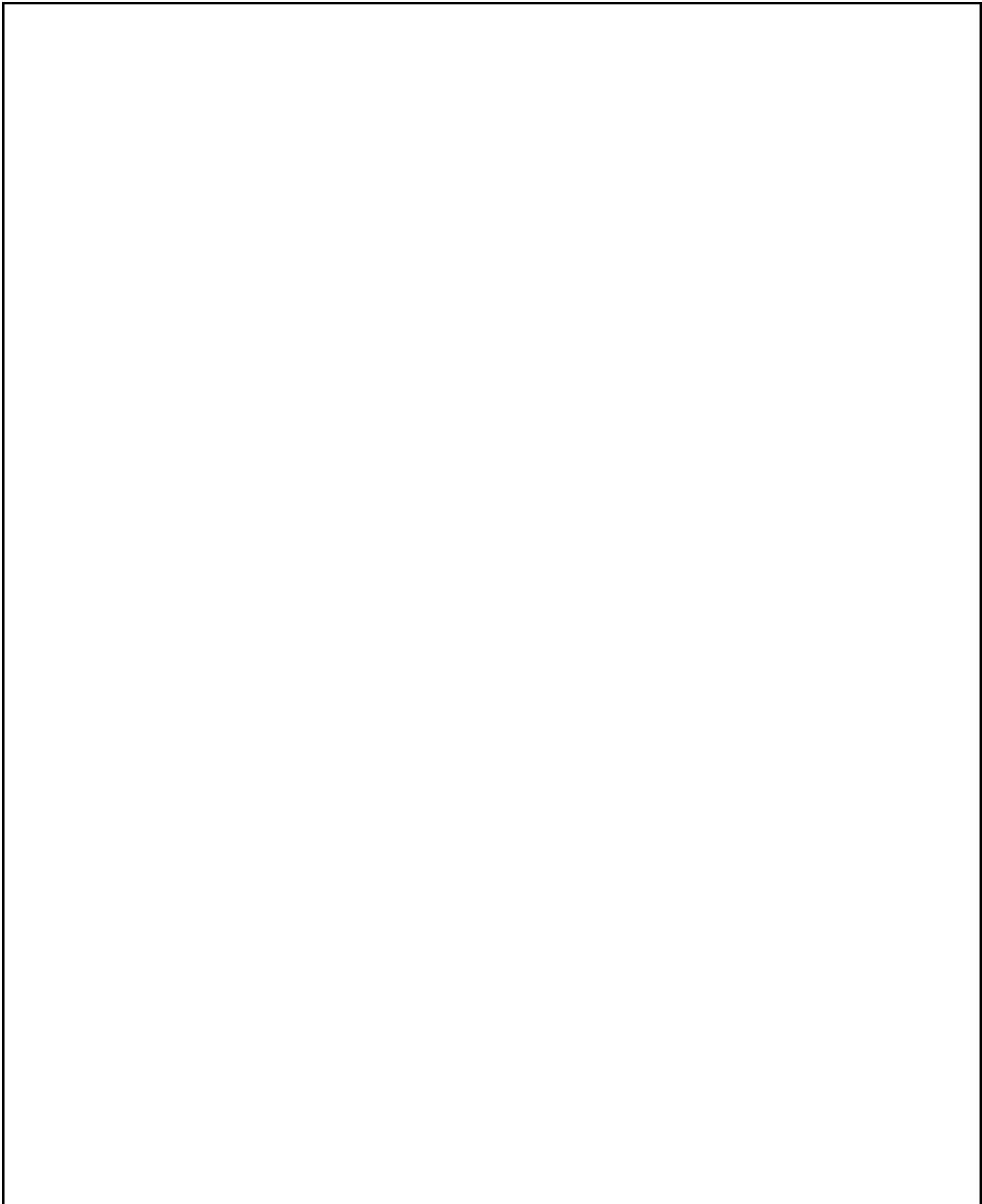
9	5			8				
3		7			8	9	5	
			2	9		4		
	3							
		6		5	3	2		
			3	7		5	9	
2				4		8	7	
		3	9	1	8			
		9	7				6	

			8			5	7	1
				5	7			
		1	6			9		
	7				9	1		
6	3						7	
						5		
		4	9		8			3
				2				
	1	6			3			9



Poster Print Time

For this month's poster challenge, we want you to create a poster for a pirate-themed party. Remember to be both informative and creative – you want people to know about it AND look forward to it!





Crack the Joke

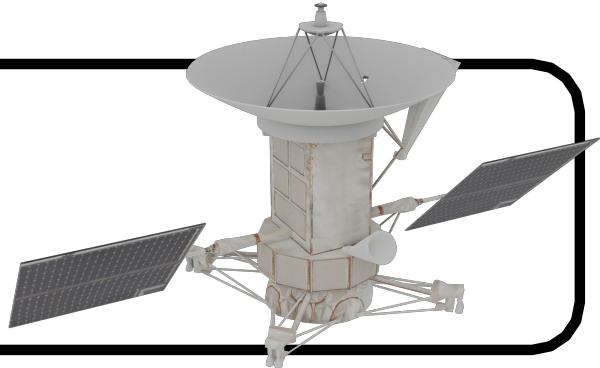
In this month's Crack the Joke on Page 17, a funny joke is waiting to be cracked. When you solve the code and reveal the gag, see if you can come up with a drawing/illustration that you think best captures the joke.



My Favourite Facts

Every issue of **News Flash** is packed full of facts and figures. Why not record the top four things that you learned from this issue? When you do, make sure to draw an illustration to go with each one. When you are finished, share and discuss your choices with your classmates. We have added one of our favourite ones below.

Magellan's name travelled even further than he did. In 1989, NASA launched a spacecraft called *Magellan*, which spent five years mapping the surface of Venus before finally plunging into the planet in 1994.



1

2

3

4



Talk Time

Based on articles from this month's magazine, we want you to think about some of the issues that arise. Remember, when you are trying to put forward an opinion, or an argument, make sure you know your facts and figures and be clear in how you feel about a certain topic and why.

Here are some questions and statements you and your class might like to consider thinking about and discussing. Some you will agree with, some you clearly won't!

1. Every child should learn a traditional Irish instrument at school.

2. The Deposit Return Scheme should be compulsory.

3. It's a waste of money baking a life-size cake.

4. Barbie is doing a great job to show how we're all different.

5. The amount of money that teams in the Premier League spend on players is ridiculous and shouldn't be allowed.



What's in the News?

How well have you read this month's paper? Here in 'What's in the News', as well as testing your memory and retention skills, we also test your imagination and creative skills. We base this activity on our News Desk section on pages 3, 4 & 5. Read the articles and answer the following

1. Are Burmese python snakes native to Florida?
2. What is one of the Burmese python snakes' favourite things to eat?
3. How many musicians gathered together at Chadwick's Wexford Park?
4. Which was the most played instrument in the céilí band?
5. How many Mayo beaches have been awarded a blue flag this summer?
6. What is the storm name for letter 'L'?
7. What is the name of the company behind the Deposit Return Scheme?
8. How many rhinos are there in the world?



Know Your Sport

How well have you read this month's sports news? Here, in Know Your Sport, we're testing your memory and retention skills. We base this activity on the pages from our sports section. Read the articles and answer the following questions.

1. Who are the current Premier League trophy holders?
2. Where will the Women's Rugby World Cup Final be held?
3. In which country do the World Athletics Championships take place?
4. Which Irish athlete will not take part in the World Athletics Championships due to injury?
5. Which Premier League team does Ireland men's goalkeeper, Caoimhín Kelleher, now play for?
6. Which GAA player was named Footballer of the Year in 2017?
7. How many points separated Cork and Galway in the All-Ireland camogie final?
8. Which position does French soccer player Ousmane Dembélé play?



Word Search

This word search contains words to do with The Netherlands! Can you find them all ... including the secret term not listed below. *Clue: The Netherlands is the biggest producer of this type of flower.*



Amsterdam

Windmills

Flowers

Keukenhof

Zuidplaspolder

Dutch

Cheese

Rotterdam

Bicycles

Rembrandt

Euro

Gouda

The Hague

Microscope

Van Gogh

Dykes

Edam

Football

Bakfietsen

Royal family

Front Cover Design Time: Issue 96, September 2025





Answers

Fill in the Blanks #1

1. riches
2. ships
3. pistols
4. crossbones
5. masts
6. treasure
7. Xs
8. law
9. "Ahoy!"

Fill in the Blanks #2

1. party
2. laughter
3. bodhrán
4. feet
5. circles
6. Ennis
7. costumes
8. happy
9. traditions

Fill in the Blanks #3

1. condition
2. insulin
3. blood
4. levels
5. medicine
6. meals
7. dizzy
8. healthy
9. understanding

All the Mistakes #1

1. Python
2. Havoc
3. Raccoons
4. Population
5. Accidentally
6. Favourite
7. Camera
8. Hoping
9. Decline

All the Mistakes #2

1. Amongst
2. Countries
3. Set
4. Musicians
5. Success
6. Breaking
7. Adjudicator
8. Mandolins
9. Beating

All the Mistakes #3

1. You're
2. Getting
3. Water
4. Company
5. February
6. Expected
7. Scheme
8. Campaigns
9. Our

Word Workout #1

1. Leaves
2. Havoc
3. Instruments
4. Authorities
5. Lightning
6. Created
7. Brutal
8. Council
9. Vision

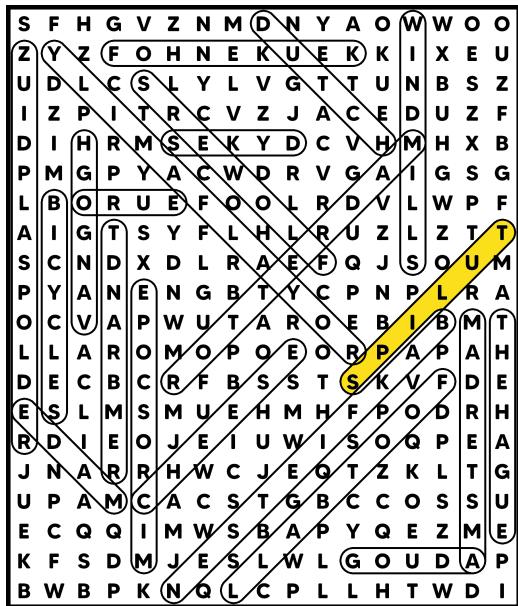
Word Workout #2

1. Hilarious
2. Scurvy
3. Sunscreen
4. Brain
5. Trade
6. Producer
7. Discovered
8. Skills
9. Match



Answers

Word Search



Eye Spy



Quiz 24

1. Red and green
2. His goldfish teddy
3. 15cm
4. Wexford
5. Wuboo
6. Petunia
7. A glucose monitor and insulin pump
8. King Charles I of Spain
9. Pre-Raphaelite
10. Short-sighted
11. Sinéad O'Hart
12. Friends
13. Grog
14. Their black coat
15. Around 400
16. 12
17. Batbox
18. The Hague
19. 6.76 metres
20. More than 5,000 years
21. The Amazon River Basin in South America
22. 16
23. 35
24. €49.50

In the News

1. No
2. A marsh rabbit
3. 1,018
4. The tin whistle
5. Met Éireann, the UK Met Office and the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute
6. Lilith
7. Re-turn
8. Around 27,000

Know Your Sport

1. Liverpool
2. Twickenham
3. Japan
4. Rhasidat Adeleke
5. Brentford
6. Andy Moran
7. One
8. Forward



Answers

From Puzzler Pages (pages 16 & 17 of News Flash)

Crack the Joke

*What do you call a pirate
with two eyes and two
legs? A beginner!*

True or False

TRUE

Snow is rare but has been recorded in the Sahara, most recently in Algeria (2016, 2018, 2021).

TRUE

A caterpillar has around 4,000 muscles, while a human has about 600.

TRUE

Wood frogs and a few other species can freeze, stop breathing, and then thaw out in spring.

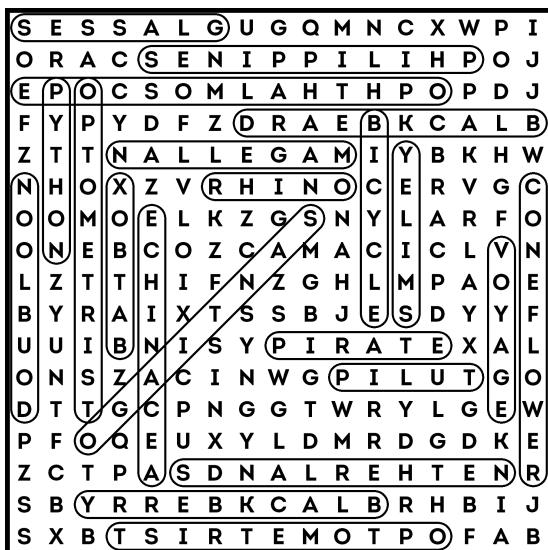
TRUE

The Anglo-Zanzibar War of 1896 lasted between 38 and 45 minutes, depending on reports.

TRUE

A blue whale's tongue can weigh up to 3–4 tonnes, about the same as a large elephant.

Word Search (magazine)



Sudoku

9	5	4	7	8	3	2	6	1
3	2	7	1	4	6	8	9	5
8	6	1	2	9	5	4	7	3
5	3	8	6	2	9	7	1	4
7	9	6	4	5	1	3	2	8
1	4	2	8	3	7	6	5	9
2	1	5	3	6	4	9	8	7
6	7	3	9	1	8	5	4	2
4	8	9	5	7	2	1	3	6

4	6	3	8	9	2	5	7	1
9	8	2	1	5	7	6	3	4
7	5	1	6	3	4	9	2	8
2	7	5	3	4	9	1	8	6
6	3	8	2	1	5	4	9	7
1	4	9	7	8	6	3	5	2
5	2	4	9	6	8	7	1	3
3	9	7	4	2	1	8	6	5
8	1	6	5	7	3	2	4	9