

# **The Primary Planet**

## **Teacher Resource Pack**

### **December 2025**

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## 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](http://www.agmag.ie)

For queries relating to resources, email [stephen@newsmagmedia.ie](mailto:stephen@newsmagmedia.ie)



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## 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

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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.

achievements

historic

jersey

atmosphere

performances

pride

fit

bright

### COYBIG

The Republic of Ireland men's national football team is known for its strong spirit and loyal supporters. Many young fans dream of playing for Ireland one day, imagining the moment they walk onto the pitch wearing the famous green \_\_\_\_\_. The team usually plays its home matches at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin, where huge crowds create an exciting \_\_\_\_\_ that encourages the players to do their best.

Ireland has a long footballing history, and some past matches are remembered as truly \_\_\_\_\_ occasions. The team has taken part in major tournaments such as the World Cup and the European Championships, sometimes surprising bigger nations with clever teamwork and brave defending.

Players who are chosen for the national squad must train hard and stay \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the season. Coaches spend a great deal of time planning strategies that help the team improve. Young supporters often try to copy the skills of their favourite players in their local parks or school playgrounds.

With new talent developing and fans continuing to show their support, many people believe the future of Irish football looks very \_\_\_\_\_. The team hopes that upcoming tournaments will bring exciting \_\_\_\_\_ and memorable \_\_\_\_\_ that will inspire Future generations. Every match is a chance to show teamwork, courage and national \_\_\_\_\_.



## 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.

# Icelandic Christmas Traditions

togetherness  
gift  
kindness  
nights  
lights  
spirit  
clothes  
reading  
days

Christmas in Iceland is a special time filled with old stories, cosy traditions, and bright decorations that help people enjoy the long winter. One of the most famous Icelandic traditions is the arrival of the 'Yule Lads', thirteen playful characters who visit children in the days before Christmas. Each night, children leave a shoe on their windowsill, hoping the Yule Lads will leave a small \_\_\_\_\_ if they have behaved well.

Another well-known tale is about the 'Christmas Cat', a huge creature said to wander the snowy countryside. According to the story, the cat looks for people who have not received new \_\_\_\_\_ to wear for Christmas, which is why many Icelandic families make sure everyone gets warm clothing.

Iceland is also known for its 'Christmas Book Flood', when people give each other books and spend the evening \_\_\_\_\_ by the fire. Traditional foods such as smoked lamb and leaf bread are enjoyed during family gatherings.

Homes are decorated with lights to brighten the dark \_\_\_\_\_ and create a warm, cheerful atmosphere.

For Icelanders, Christmas is a time to relax, show \_\_\_\_\_ to others, and enjoy peaceful moments together. Families share stories, look out for the northern \_\_\_\_\_, and celebrate the beginning of brighter \_\_\_\_\_. Many people say the true \_\_\_\_\_ of Icelandic Christmas comes from kindness and \_\_\_\_\_.



## 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.

### The Know on Knitting

texture

scarves

creativity

comfort

items

achievement

stitches

style

new

Knitting is a creative and relaxing hobby that people of all ages can enjoy. It involves using two needles and a ball of wool to make loops that link together to form fabric. Many beginners start with simple projects such as a scarf or a small blanket, because these allow them to practise basic \_\_\_\_\_ without feeling rushed. With time, knitters learn different stitches and patterns, each giving their work a unique \_\_\_\_\_.

Knitting is also a hobby that can be shared. Families sometimes sit together on cold winter evenings, chatting while they knit warm hats, gloves, or \_\_\_\_\_ for loved ones. Some people find knitting calming because it gives them something steady and repetitive to focus on. Others enjoy the sense of \_\_\_\_\_ when they finish a project they have worked on for weeks.

There are many different types of wool to choose from, ranging from soft merino to colourful acrylic. Knitters often pick their wool based on how the finished item should feel or what \_\_\_\_\_ it should have. Books, online videos, and local clubs can help beginners learn new skills.

Whether someone knits for fun, relaxation, or \_\_\_\_\_, the hobby continues to bring joy and \_\_\_\_\_ to people all over the world. It encourages patience, imagination, and the confidence to try something \_\_\_\_\_. With practice, anyone can learn to make beautiful knitted \_\_\_\_\_.



## Edit the Editor #1

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

### Goodbye to Paschal

Paschal Donohoe has resined as Ireland's finance minister to become manageing director at the World Bank, based in Washington DC. The Fine Gael TD has also stepped down as president of the Eurogroup – the group of finance ministers from countrys using the euro.

Speeking about his new role, he said that international cooperation has never been more important in helping the most vulnralbe. The World Bank's mission is to 'end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity on a livable planet'.

Paschal has long been seen as a steady hand in Ireland's economy, so his sudden departure created a political challenge. Tánaiste Simon Harris has now taken on the job of finance minister himself.

Irish politics is more affected by global events than ever, and 2026 is set to be a tough year at home. Many voters are frustrated by slow progress on housing and other issues. The months ahead will show whether Simon Harris can handel the pressure.

#### Did you know?

The World Bank Group is made up of five internaitonal organisations that lend money to developing countries for important projects such as schools, hospitals and clean water.

Choose three of these words and put them into sentences.

#### Correct spelling





## Edit the Editor #2

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

# Census 2027

Minister of State Mary Butler, who has responsibility for the Central Statistics Office (CSO), has confirmed that Census 2027 will take place on Sunday, May 9, 2027.

The census, held every five years, provides vital information about Ireland's population, housing, education, health, employment and more.

This census brings some big changes. For the first time, households will be able to complete the census online – a major shift in how it is carried out.

It will also move to a 'usual residence model', meaning people will be counted where they normally live rather than where they happen to be on census night.

Following public consultation and a nationwide pilot survey, new questions will be asked about gender and sexual orientation, mental health, overnight parking and qualification pathways (academic vs employment-based). Updates will be made to questions on ethnicity, education, working from home and commuting.

The popular Time Capsule from Census 2022 will return, giving people the chance to leave a message for future generations.

**Did you know?** Around 3,800 support officers and 500 supervisors will be hired nationwide to help carry out the census.

**Choose three of these words and put them into sentences.**

**Correct spelling**





## Edit the Editor #3

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

### Jólabókaflóð

Every country has its Christmas traditions, and Iceland has a wonderfulley bookish one all of its own. Jólabókaflóð, or 'Christmas Book Flood', is the tradition of gifting books on Christmas Eve and then spending the eveing reading them while drinking hot chocolate.

The tradition began in 1944, during the Second World War, when Iceland gayne independence from Denmark. At the time, many items were rationed, but paper was not, which made books the perfect Christmas gift.

Each year the newly pubblished books are listed in a catalogue called Bókatíðindi, or 'Book Bulletin'. It is delivered to every household in Iceland dureing the Reykjavik Book Fair in November, giving people time to chose and order the books they would like to give (and maybe drop a few hints about the books they would like to recieve).

With more books being published and read per person than in most other countries, Iceland is the perfect place for Jólabókaflóð to flurish. Reading is an ideal way to spend the cold winter days and long dark nights. But could a bookish Christmas tradition take off anywhere? What about an Irish version?

#### Did you know?

According to Guinness World Records, 10 percent of people in Iceland will publish their own book – that's around 40,000 writers.

Choose three of these words and put them into sentences.

#### Correct spelling





## Vocabulary Constabulary #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)
<b>Vocabulary Constabulary (1)</b>			
2	Editor's Note	Notice taken of something or someone	(9, a)
3	... Lives On	Something that is particularly better or more important (7, s)	
3	... Lives On	A period of time, usually around 30 years/ a group of people usually around the same age	(10, g)
4	... Fossil Hunt	Things that occur or exist that are not manmade	(7, n)
4	The Puffins Return	Trees, flowers and plants	(10, v)
5	... Paschal	The weight of expectation	(8, p)
5	Census 2027	A piece of information you send to someone	(7, m)
5	Creative Crafters	When a video clip, picture or story spreads quickly	(5, v)
6	Jólabókaflóð	A sweet treat made from cocoa beans and milk	(9, c)



## Vocabulary Constabulary #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)
6	Jólabókaflóð	To get	(7, r)
6	... Suspended	Taught	(8, e)
7	... Song Protest	Money that someone earns	(6, i)
8	... Home Rule	Very rich	(7, w)
8	... Home Rule	Very long	(7, l)
9	Historical Diary	A section of the air force	(8, s)
9	Historical Diary	One complete turn	(10, r)
10	Planet Art	Asked someone to make a piece of work and paid them for it	(12, c)
11	Gum Wall	A building or feature easy to recognise and see	(8, l)



## Vocabulary Constabulary #3

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)
12	Planet Movies	Part of a series made up of sections	(10, i)
12	Planet Movies	Someone you know well and like a lot but isn't related	(6, f)
13	... of Friendship	Land along the side of the sea or a lake	(5, s)
14	Planet Farming	Lots of things happening quickly/a tall column of spinning air	(9, w)
14	Planet Farming	Small fields where horses are kept	(8, p)
15	Planet Motors	Straight away, immediate	(7, i)
16	The Christmas Match	Yearly	(6, a)
19	Planet Places	Someone very skilled at something	(6, e)
20	Animal SOS	A very fast runner	(8, s)





# Quiz 32

This month's 32-question quiz is based on the 32 pages of ***The Primary Planet***. 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. How many Christmas stories are in this issue?
2. Where was Seamie hiding out last month?
3. In which minute of the match did Troy Parrott score the winning goal?
4. Who damaged around 40 cars in a Stillorgan housing estate?
5. What did the Creative Crafters create?
6. What is the Cambridge Dictionary 'Word of the Year'?
7. What will no longer be available for sale in England from spring 2027?
8. In which year was Charles Stewart Parnell born?
9. Who 'accidentally' flew solo across the Atlantic in 1938?
10. What nationality was Hugo van der Goes?
11. In which US city is the gum wall?
12. What is number four in the 'TPP Christmas Movie Guide'?
13. How much is the world's most expensive burger?
14. What make is the spreader?
15. Who founded Ferrari?
16. Who did the Christmas Club play in the match?
17. What is the title of the poem on page 17?
18. How many Christmas words and terms are there to find?
19. What is the name of the nearest city to Perito Moreno Glacier?
20. What does IUCN stand for?
21. What is the class teacher's name?
22. How tall is the tallest known tree in the Amazon?
23. What is Waterford called as Gaeilge?
24. How much plain flour do you need?
25. Where were The Cranberries originally from?
26. Where did Rowan and her mom move from?
27. In 1633, what was Galileo Galilei condemned to for the rest of his life?
28. Who do Arsenal play on December 30?
29. How many World Cups did Miroslav Klose play in?
30. This year, who was named the Camogie Player of the Year for the second time?
31. Who won the Ryder Cup this year?
32. If Ireland beat Czechia in the semi-final play offs next year, who would they play in the final?



## 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 4 & 5. Read the articles and answer the following

1. Read the article 'The Great Irish Fossil Hunt'. How many fossil photographs were received?
2. Read the article 'The Puffins Return'. What is the main threat to seabird eggs and chicks?
3. Read the article 'Goodbye to Paschal'. Name five things you would do if you became managing director of the World Bank.
4. Read the article 'Census 2027'. Think of three more questions that could be asked on the census that would be interesting for people in 100 years' time to find out about.
5. Read the article 'Domain of the Dinosaurs'. Why do you think people are so fascinated by dinosaurs?
6. Read the article 'Jólabókaflóð'. Would a similar tradition work in Ireland? Why/why not?
7. Read the article 'Auction of World's 'First Calculator' Suspended'. Do you think it is right to ban the export of 'La Pascaline' permanently?
8. Read the article 'Paul McCartney's Silent Song Protest'. Name five ways in which AI is damaging the creative industries.
9. Read the article 'Irish-Designed Grand Egyptian Museum Opens'. What would you most like to see if you were to visit the museum?
10. What is your favourite news story in this month's TPP? Why?



## The Big Story Quiz

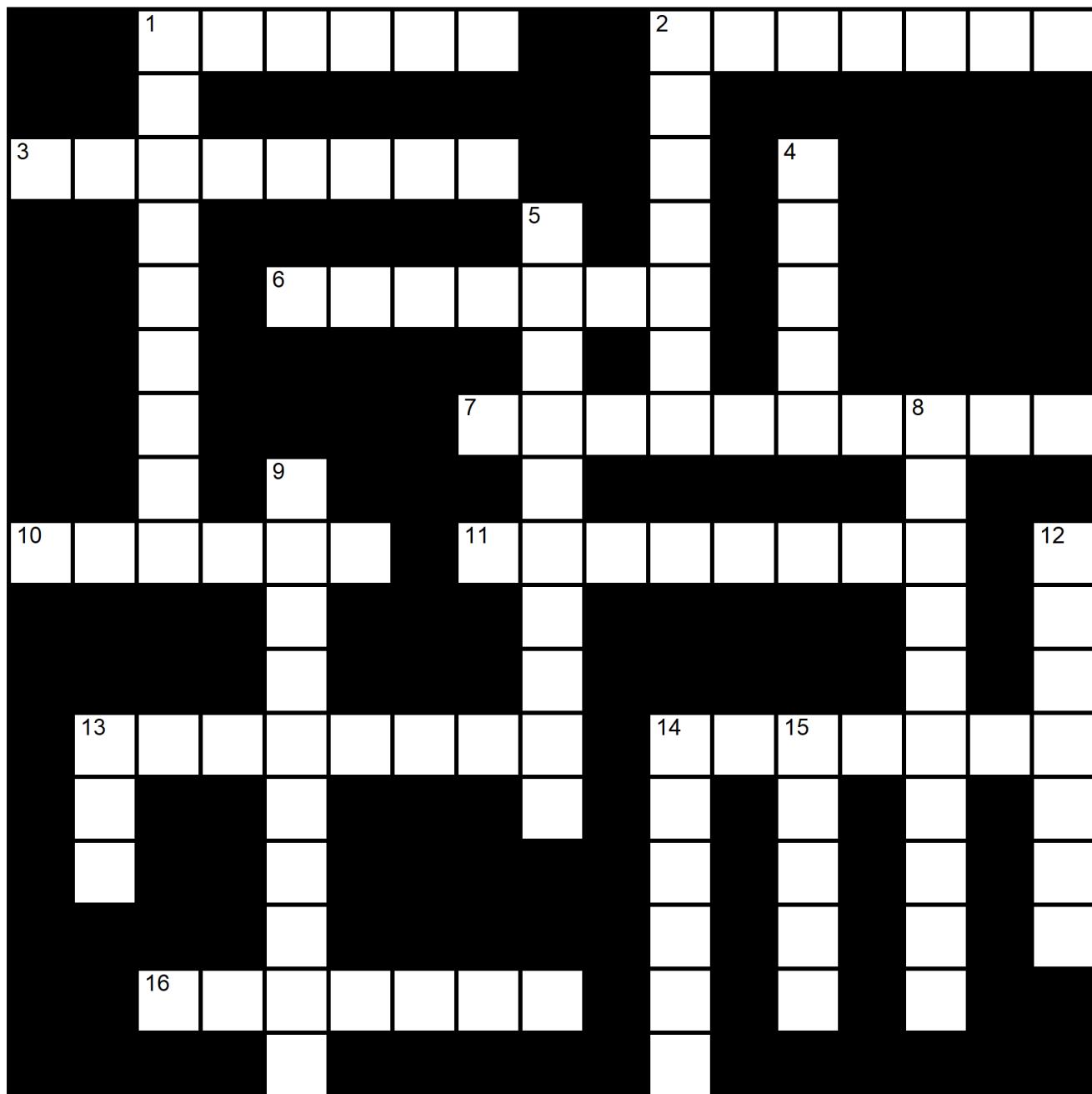
How well have you read this month's paper? Here in 'The Big Story Quiz', as well as testing your memory and retention skills, we also test your imagination and creative skills. We base this activity on our Big Story section on Pages 3. Read the articles and answer the following

1. Who did Ireland narrowly beat 1-0 on October 14?
2. When was Ireland's most recent golden age of football?
3. Who did Ireland beat in their first match of Euro '88?
4. Who was Ireland's manager during Italia '90?
5. With Ireland and the Netherlands finishing level on every statistic in the group stage of Italia '90, how was it decided who went through to the Round of 16?
6. Who was Ireland's main goalkeeper in 1990?
7. What stage of Italia '90 did Ireland reach?
8. When did Ireland last qualify for the World Cup?
9. Who had a (famous) big falling out at that tournament?
10. What is the name of Ireland's current number 1?



# Planet Crossword

How well have you read this month's TPP? Here, in Planet Crossword, we're testing your memory and retention skills. All answers can be found in this month's TPP!



## Across

- In which Irish city is the research centre CÚRAM based? (6)
- What is the surname of the Irish leader known as the 'Uncrowned King of Ireland'? (7)
- What is the name of China's space station where astronauts were stranded? (8)
- Which car company makes the F80 hypercar featured in Planet Motors? (7)
- What Lancashire town hosts the World Black Pudding Throwing Championship? (10)

- What is the surname of the Irish goalkeeper who saved a penalty v Romania in 1990? (6)
- What endangered bird at Dublin Zoo was named after Troy Parrott? (8)
- In which African country did the Hayli Gubbi volcano erupt after 12,000 years? (8)
- What large 3D knitted creation did Creative Crafters make of Ireland? (7)
- In which US city would you find the famous Gum Wall? (7)

## Down

- In which Dublin cemetery is Parnell buried? (9)
- What birds returned to nest on the Isle of Muck after 25 years? (7)
- In which city is the new Grand Egyptian Museum located? (5)
- What word did the Cambridge Dictionary choose as its 2025 Word of the Year? (10)
- Who scored a famous hat-trick against Hungary for Ireland? (4,6)
- What type of clouds over Cape Town were mistaken for UFOs? (10)
- Which Dublin-born WWE star was profiled in Planet Archives? (7)
- Which Christmas film in the movie guide stars Buddy the elf? (3)
- What is the first name of the swimmer who swam around Ireland? (6)
- What animal off Santa Cruz is known for stealing surfboards? (5)



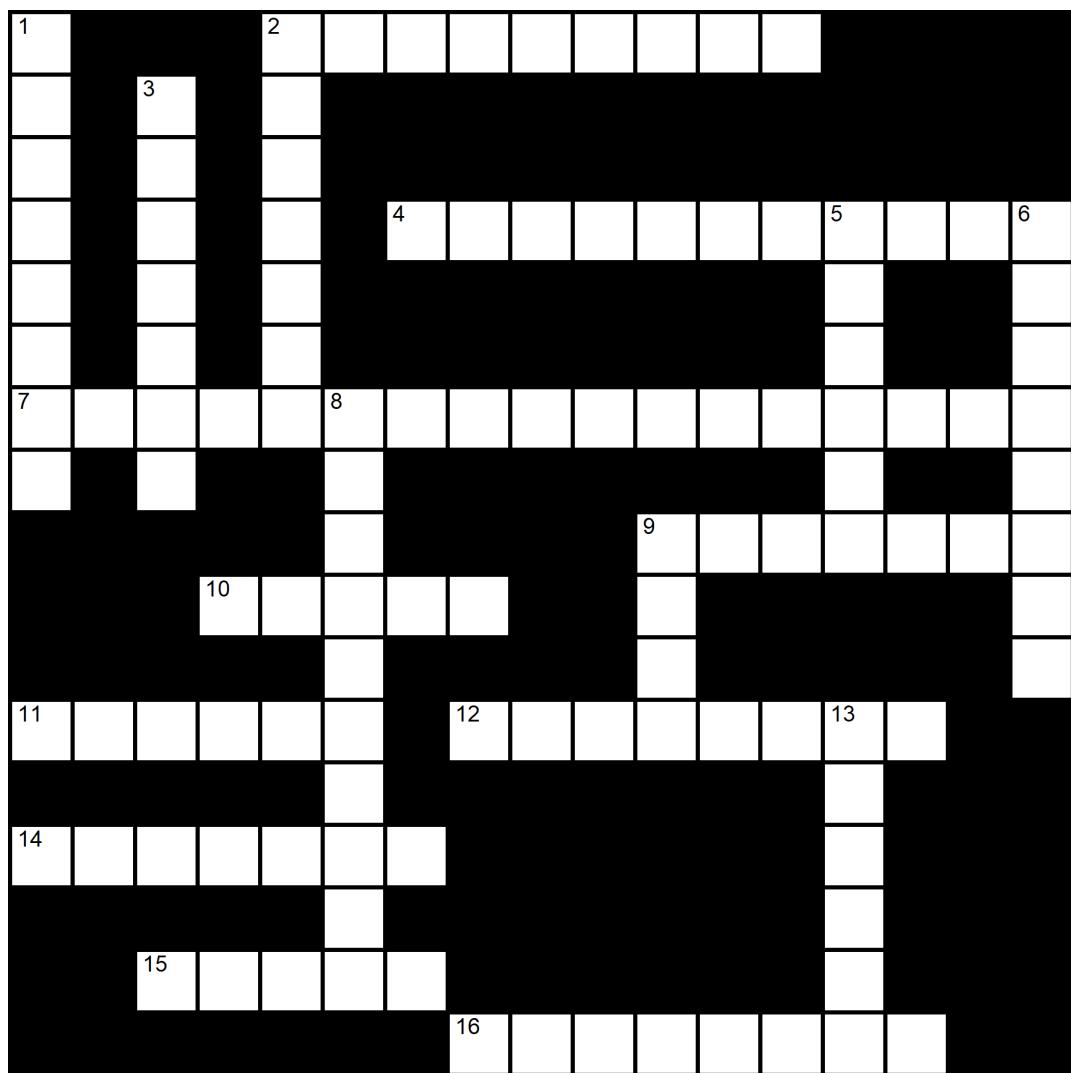
# Word Search Maker

Here's your chance to create a word search for your friend or classmate to complete. Fill 16 words in the word search grid (they can go backward, forward and diagonal) 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.




## 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.



### Across

2 This team have had a bad month. (9)  
 4 Team that beat Ireland's men's international rugby team in Dublin last month. (5,6)  
 7 Irish athlete who has broken the 100-mile world record. (9,8)  
 9 Ireland's women's soccer team were recently promoted to this tier of the UEFA Women's Nations League. (6,1)  
 10 Team Kate Flood plays for. (5)

11 County Shane Lowry hails from. (6)  
 12 City in which Troy Parrott scored his amazing hat-trick. (8)  
 14 Country Ireland play in the play-off semi-final. (7)  
 15 Number of times Rory McIlroy has won the Race to Dubai. (5)  
 16 David \_\_\_\_\_ won Footballer of the Year for the third time. (8)

### Down

1 Troy Parrott scored this against Hungary. (3-5)  
 2 Luke \_\_\_\_\_, top darts player. (7)  
 3 Katie McCabe has this title in the Republic of Ireland women's soccer team. (7)  
 5 Fintan McCarthy's sport. (6)  
 6 Hannah Tyrell is one of seven Dublin players to have won this. (3-5)  
 8 Troy Parrott scored the winning goal during this. (6,4)  
 9 Name of Aoife O'Rourke's sister. (4)  
 13 Colour of medal Kate O'Connor won at the World Athletics Championships this year. (6)



## Did You Know?

Every issue of ***The Primary Planet*** 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. You'll see I didn't just copy it from the book, I wrote it out in my own words. Always a great idea when doing a project.

When your stomach is empty, it secretes a hormone called ghrelin, often called the hunger hormone. This signals to your brain that you are hungry.





## Come Dine with Me

This month's issue, as always, is packed full of inspirational stories about amazing people. Imagine you were going to host a fancy dinner party. Which two people would you choose from this month's issue (dead or alive) to join you at your table? We would like a brief explanation of your choices and three questions that you would ask them to get the conversation flowing!

**Name of Guest One:**

**Reason:**

**Questions you'd ask:**

**Name of Guest Two:**

**Reason:**

**Questions you'd ask:**





## Sudoku Time

See if you can fill in the missing squares in this number puzzle called Sudoku. Each of the 9 boxes must contain the numbers 1-9. You must fill them in so that each line going across the entire box and each line going down also contains the numbers 1-9. Take your time and good luck. [Tip: Use a pencil when starting out]

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

Easy

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

Easy

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

Hard

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

Hard



# Crack the Quote

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
36	24	44	63	96	25	81	62	28	38	10	20	12	22	27	56	42	30	18	48	66	40	46	16	90	72

Quote Crackerjacks! Let's go over this again – just for fun. Each answer to the multiplication sums below corresponds to a letter in the grid provided. But don't forget, once you figure out the letters, you will then need to reorder them to make the words. Only then can you decipher the code and crack this wise quote.

6x11 9x3 15x6

6x8 33x2 9x7 2x11

24x4 6x6 8x5 31x2

9x3 6x8

48x2 6x4

5x6 9x4 3x32 9x9 6x8

3x9 8x6

12x4 6x3 5x6 6x6 24x2

11x6 6x8 6x4

45x2 33x2 3x9

9x3 7x9

31x2 8x5 6x6 32x3

3x9 24x2

8x6 6x6 5x6 16x3 3x6

3x9 8x6

24x4 6x4

6x5 9x9 6x6 8x6 8x12!



# Spot the Difference

**OK, eagle-eyed TPPers. Here is a jumbo Christmas Spot the Difference special with 30 – yes, 30 – things to spot. Only the best will survive this festive finding challenge. You've been warned!**





## TPP Mega Quiz

This Christmas quiz will test your festive knowledge like no other. You can choose to read the quiz here, or listen to it online. Either way, be sure to enter your answers online to be in with a chance of winning a TPP hoodie.

1. Santa has nine reindeer. Can you name them all?
2. How many 'lords are a-leaping' in the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'?
3. What is the name of Kristoff's reindeer in the Disney movie *Frozen*?
4. What are the names of the two burglars in the movie *Home Alone*?
5. Santa Claus is also known as Saint \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What type of red-breasted bird often appears on Christmas cards?
7. What is the name of the character played by Will Ferrell in the Christmas movie *Elf*?
8. If you're standing under this plant at Christmas, you have to kiss the person you're standing with. What is the name of the plant? (Hint: it starts with the letter 'm'!)
9. What was Scrooge's first name?
10. What gifts did the three kings bring to Jesus when he was born?
11. How many days are there in the month of December – 28, 31, 25 or 30?
12. In what language is 'Noel' the word for Christmas?
13. What brought Frosty the Snowman back to life – a hug, a scarf or a silk hat?
14. Which type of bird is traditionally eaten on Christmas Day?
15. What present did Harry Potter receive for his first Christmas at Hogwarts?
16. What is the missing word for this Christmas carol: 'O little town of \_\_\_\_\_'?
17. What might you find hanging at the end of your bed on Christmas morning?
18. How many 'Days of Christmas' are there in the famous Christmas song?
19. Can you unscramble PANDALL to reveal the region where Santa lives?
20. How many points does a snowflake have?
21. What is the Irish word for Christmas?
22. What name is given to December 26?
23. In which country does Christmas Day occur first: Ireland or New Zealand?
24. Do you eat or drink eggnog?
25. What Dr Seuss character stole Christmas?



## Snow Search

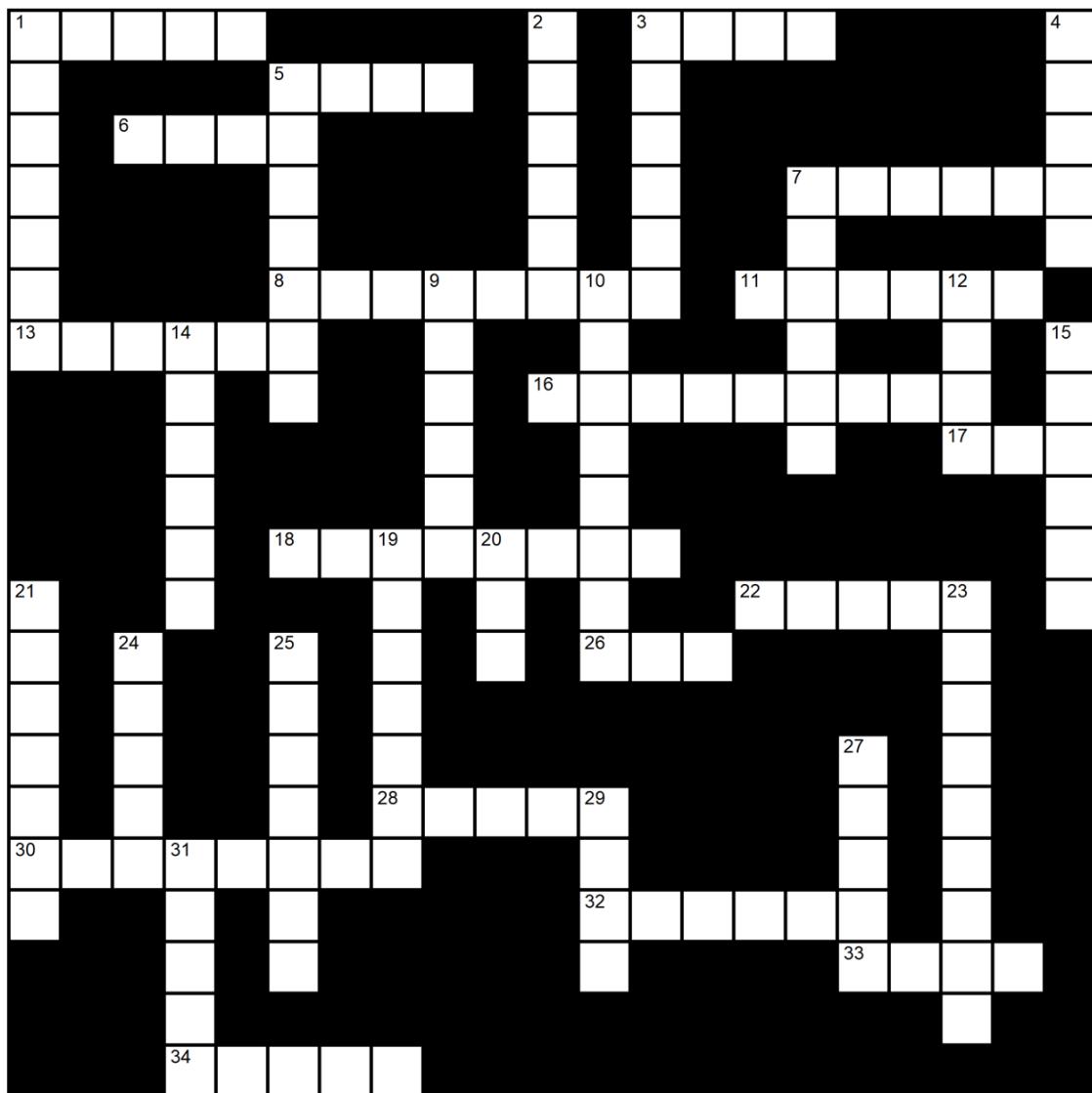
Can you find the 21 hidden objects in the picture below?





# Christmas Cracker Crossword

Ah, go on, you have the time! Here is a Christmas Cracker Crossword for you to enjoy.  
Hope you can fill in the Ho ... Ho ... Ho ... whole lot!



## Across

- You wrap this around your neck to keep warm (5)
- 'Away in a manger, no \_\_\_\_ for a bed' (4)
- The North \_\_\_, address of Santa (4)
- The shepherds followed this in the sky (4)
- A popular Christmas tree string decoration (6)
- You pull these to win small gifts (8)
- \_\_\_\_ the Snowman was a jolly happy soul (6)
- The shepherds and Three Wise Men saw Jesus in here (6)
- You kiss under this (9)
- Christmas \_\_\_\_ falls on December 24 (3)
- The month of Christmas (8)
- We celebrate his birthday on Christmas Day (5)
- Santa's suit colour (3)
- Santa's little helpers (5)
- You give these to your loved ones at Christmas (8)
- A favourite snack of Rudolph (6)
- White and cold, great to play in (4)
- You put this heavenly figure on top of the tree (5)

## Down

- Green Christmas-day vegetables: Brussels \_\_\_\_ (7)
- A popular Christmas song: \_\_\_\_\_ Bells (6)
- The name given to Christmas songs (6)
- A Christmas plant with red berries (5)
- One of Santa's reindeer, rhymes with Dancer (7)
- Many people eat this on Christmas Day (6)
- A favourite snack of Santa's (6)
- These animals pull the sleigh (8)
- You decorate this for the Christmas (4)
- You hang this type of ball on the tree (6)
- The reindeers pull this (6)
- Often seen lit in windows over Christmas (7)
- Three wise \_\_\_\_ (3)
- The red-nosed reindeer (7)
- A \_\_\_\_\_ box: a yummy box of chocolate bars (9)
- A famous Christmas movie: Home \_\_\_\_ (5)
- Santa goes down this (7)
- These are found under the tree on Christmas morning (5)
- Used for carrying Santa's toys (4)
- The man who delivers presents to one and all (5)



## Have Your Say

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. Ireland will make it to the 2026 World Cup tournament.

2. People spend too much money on Christmas presents.

3. 'Wicked' is the best movie franchise ever!

4. Christmas music is boring – it's the same every year!

5. Troy Parrott is Ireland's best ever soccer player.





## Poster Print Time

As we head into mid-winter, why not create a poster about the best ways to enjoy the cosy months ahead? It could be curling up with a book, a bit like the Icelandic tradition of Jólabókaflóð, or creating some winter crafts, maybe even learning a new skill such as knitting or sewing. Or maybe it could be outdoor activities like a winter scavenger hunt, nature walk or making bird feeders. Remember to be creative and informative you want people to be inspired and to want to have fun!



# Answers

## Fill in the Blanks #1

1. jersey
2. atmosphere
3. historic
4. fit
5. bright
6. achievements
7. performances
8. pride

## Fill in the Blanks #2

1. gift
2. clothes
3. reading
4. nights
5. kindness
6. lights
7. days
8. spirit
9. togetherness

## Fill in the Blanks #3

1. stitches
2. style
3. scarves
4. achievement
5. texture
6. creativity
7. comfort
8. new
9. items

## Edit the Editor #1

1. Resigned
2. Managing
3. Countries
4. Speaking
5. Vulnerable
6. Liveable
7. Economy
8. Handle
9. International

## Edit the Editor #2

1. Responsibility
2. Housing
3. Households
4. Carried
5. Normally
6. National
7. Orientation
8. Qualification
9. Supervisors

## Edit the Editor #3

1. Wonderfully
2. Evening
3. Gained
4. Published
5. Catalogue
6. During
7. Choose
8. Receive
9. Flourish

## Vocab Constab #1

1. Attention
2. Special
3. Generation
4. Natural
5. Vegetation
6. Pressure
7. Message
8. Viral
9. Chocolate

## Vocab Constab #2

1. Receive
2. Educated
3. Income
4. Wealthy
5. Lengthy
6. Squadron
7. Revolution
8. Commissioned
9. Landmark

## Vocab Constab #3

1. Instalment
2. Friend
3. Shore
4. Whirlwind
5. Paddocks
6. Instant
7. Annual
8. Expert
9. Sprinter

## Sudoku

### Easy

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

### Easy

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

### Hard

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

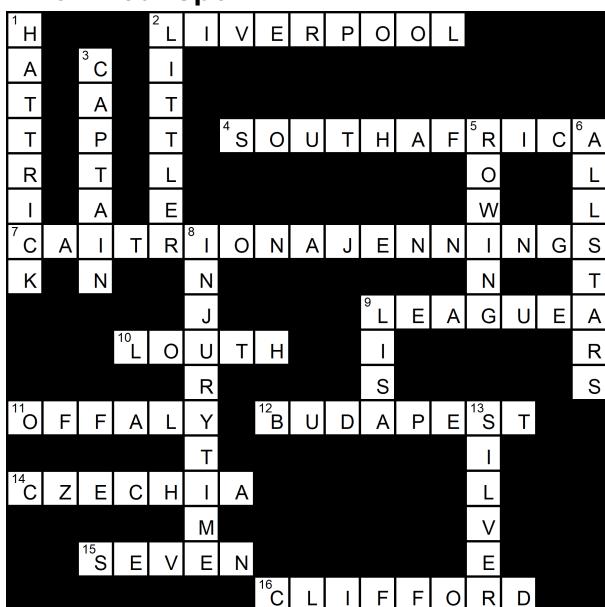
### Hard

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

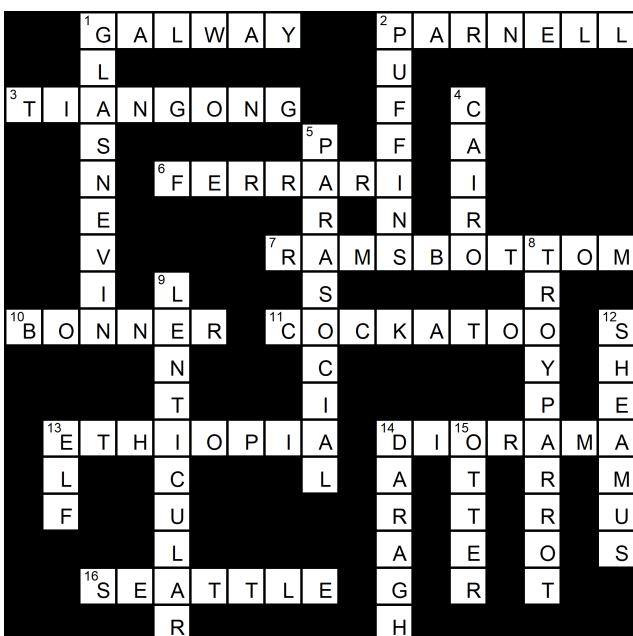


# Answers

## Know Your Sport



## TPP Crossword



## Snow Search



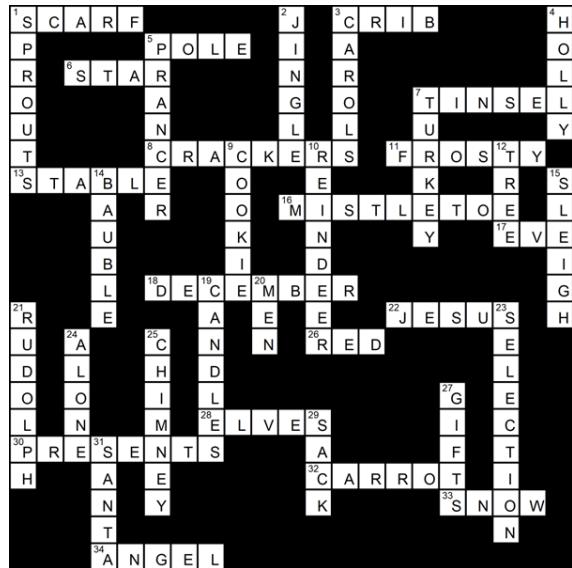
## Crack the Quote

You don't have to be great to start but you do have to start to be great

## Christmas MEGA Quiz

1. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph
2. 12
3. Sven
4. Harry and Marv
5. Nicholas
6. Robin
7. Buddy
8. Mistletoe
9. Ebeneezer
10. Gold, frankincense and myrrh
11. 31
12. French
13. Hat
14. Turkey
15. Wooden flute
16. Bethlehem
17. Stocking
18. 12
19. LAPLAND
20. 6
21. Nollag
22. St Stephen's Day
23. New Zealand
24. Drink
25. The Grinch

## Christmas Cracker Crossword





# Answers

## Quiz 32

- Two
- Carrick-on-Shannon
- The 96th
- A fox
- A 3D, knitted 16-square-metre map of Ireland
- Parasocial
- Plastic wet wipes
- 1846
- Douglas 'Wrong Way' Corrigan
- Flemish
- Seattle
- Elf
- \$11,000 (€9,497)
- Belmac
- Enzo Ferrari
- Castletown N.S.
- 'Fireworks on the Driveway'
- 51
- El Calafate
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- Ms Murphy
- Over 88 metres high
- Port Láirge
- 360g
- Limerick
- Arizona
- House arrest for the rest of his life
- Aston Villa
- Four
- Aoife Donohue
- Europe
- Denmark or North Macedonia

## The Big Story Quiz

- Armenia
- From the late 1980s to the early 2000s
- England
- Jack Charlton
- They drew lots!
- Packie Bonner
- The quarter finals
- 2002
- Ireland manager, Mick McCarthy and captain, Roy Keane
- Caoimhín Kelleher

## PREMIER LEAGUE QUIZ

- Amad Diallo
- Aston Villa
- Roma
- 2-2
- Dan Burn
- 3-0
- Josh Cullen
- Nottingham Forest
- Eberechi Eze
- 4-1
- Morgan Rogers

## Maths Story

- 6 minutes
- 30
- 48 seconds
- 13
- €1,848,750
- 40%
- 4:9

## Ken-Ken

4	1-		2÷
4	2	3	1
2-	12×	8×	
3	4	1	2
			1-
1	3	2	4
3+			
2	1	4	3

## Sudoku

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

## Futoshiki

3	2	1	4
1	3	< 4	2
4	1	< 2	3
2	4	3	1