



September 2026 • Issue 106

NEWS FLASH

Teacher Resource Pack



September 2026

Issue #106



Fill in the Blanks

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. Be careful as you go, as some words may fit in more than one place, while other words will only suit one.

The Amazing Apple

flower	bees	pollen
September	pip	grafting
Armagh	Bramleys	cooking

There is a good chance you had one in your lunchbox today. The apple is one of the most ordinary fruits in the world, and one of the most surprising. Its story starts months earlier, with a _____.

In spring, apple trees burst into pale pink and white blossom. The flowers attract _____ searching for sweet nectar. As they crawl around inside, their bodies become dusted with a yellow powder called _____, which they carry to other flowers. This is pollination.

Once a blossom is pollinated, its petals fall and the base of the flower begins to swell. All summer that little green lump grows bigger and rounder until, by _____, it has become a ripe apple. That is why autumn is harvest time in orchards all over Ireland.

Now for the strange part. You might think planting a _____ from an apple would grow you the very same apple again. It almost never does. Each one is a mix of two parent trees, so it grows into a brand-new kind of apple that has never existed before, and more often than not a sour one.

So how do growers get the same apple year after year? They snip a small twig from a tree they like and join it onto another tree, where it grows on as a perfect copy. This is called _____.

There are more than 7,500 kinds of apple in the world. The heart of Irish apple country is County _____, known as the Orchard County. Most of its apples are _____, the big green _____ apples found in kitchens all over Ireland.

All the Mistakes

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

Ducks Clock In for Work

Every morning on a vinyard in South Africa, hundreds of ducks head off to work.

The Indian Runner ducks spend their day serching between the vines for snails, worms and insects that might damidge the grapes. By gobbling up pests naturally, the farm can reduce its use of chemical pestisides.

The ducks are especialy useful because their long necks help them reach food around the raised vines. Their droppings also add nutriants to the soil and water.

This unusuall pest-control system has been used at the vineyard for around 40 years, and nearby farms are now begining to copy the idea.

There is one problem, though. When the grapes are ripe, the ducks are moved away from the vines – otherwise they might decide the crop looks tastyer than the pests.

Flashy Fact

Indian Runner ducks stand unusually upright and were originaly bred in Asia to help control pests in rice fields.

Correct spelling

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.



Word Workout

Go to the page, fact or story shown, then find the word that matches each clue.

Page	Article / Paragraph	Clue	Answer
3	Save the Date	A group of ships (5, f)	
4	Peanut Butter ... on the Floor?	Something done to honour someone (7, t)	
4	Ducks Clock In for Work	Chemicals that kill pests (10, p)	
5	Community Games	People who help without being paid (10, v)	
5	A Football Worth €2.87 Million	A sale to the highest bidder (7, a)	
6	Picture This	A balloon's giant fabric bag (8, e)	
8	Robots on Mars	A craft that circles a planet (7, o)	
9	Art to Heart	Strange and dreamlike (7, s)	
10	A Blacksmith	A heavy block for hammering on (5, a)	
12	The Amazing Apple	Moving pollen from flower to flower (11, p)	
14	Star Quality	A long spell without rain (7, d)	
15	Star Quality	Good at making do with what you have (11, r)	
18	Around the World	A particular kind of living thing (7, s)	
20	Amazing Animals	An animal with a hard shell and jointed legs (10, c)	



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. Which number issue is the September 2026 issue of *News Flash*?

2. What has Forgetful Flashy lost this month?

3. Who was Gráinne Mhaol?

4. How much peanut butter was used to cover the museum floor in Rotterdam?

5. How much did the 1986 World Cup football sell for this summer?

6. What did Richard Crosbie burn to make his balloon rise?

7. How many balloons can take off together at the Irish championships?

8. Which spacecraft landed on Mars on September 3, 1976?

9. In what year did Yayoi Kusama paint *Mushrooms*?

10. What does a farrier look after?

11. What is the name of the record-breaking Ankole-Watusi?

12. Who grew the very first Bramley tree?



Quiz 24

Questions 13 to 24.

13. How many Irish apple varieties are kept in the orchard in County Clare?

14. What was the name of the library book that gave William Kamkwamba his idea?

15. What does being resourceful mean?

16. How many hidden animals are there in Eye Spy?

17. How many words are hidden in this month's word search?

18. What is Costa Rica's highest point?

19. What is the national instrument of Costa Rica?

20. How fast can a peacock mantis shrimp's club move?

21. What is the Japanese word for a day that reaches 40°C?

22. How many medals did Ireland's athletes win over the summer?

23. How much did the 20 Premier League clubs spend on new players?

24. How long had Eric Moussambani been swimming before the Olympics?



What's in the News?

How well have you read this month's magazine? 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 and 5. Read the articles and answer the following questions.

1. Which Dutch artist dreamed up *Peanut Butter Floor*?

2. What was added to one version of the artwork as a joke?

3. Which two *Sesame Street* characters did he voice in the Dutch version?

4. What kind of ducks work on the South African vineyard?

5. Why are the ducks moved away from the vines when the grapes are ripe?

6. How many young people took part in this year's Community Games?

7. Who scored the 'Hand of God' goal, and who kept the ball afterwards?

8. Name three unlikely things thieves have stolen.



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. This activity is based on our sports section. Read the articles and answer the following questions.

1. In which events did Kate O'Connor and Mark English each win gold?

2. How many years had Mayo waited to win the All-Ireland?

3. What was the final score in the All-Ireland final?

4. In which competition are Leinster chasing a third title in a row?

5. Which transfer was the biggest of the summer, and how much did it cost?

6. How many appearances did Emma Byrne make for Arsenal?

7. Which club did Byrne join before spending a season in Denmark?

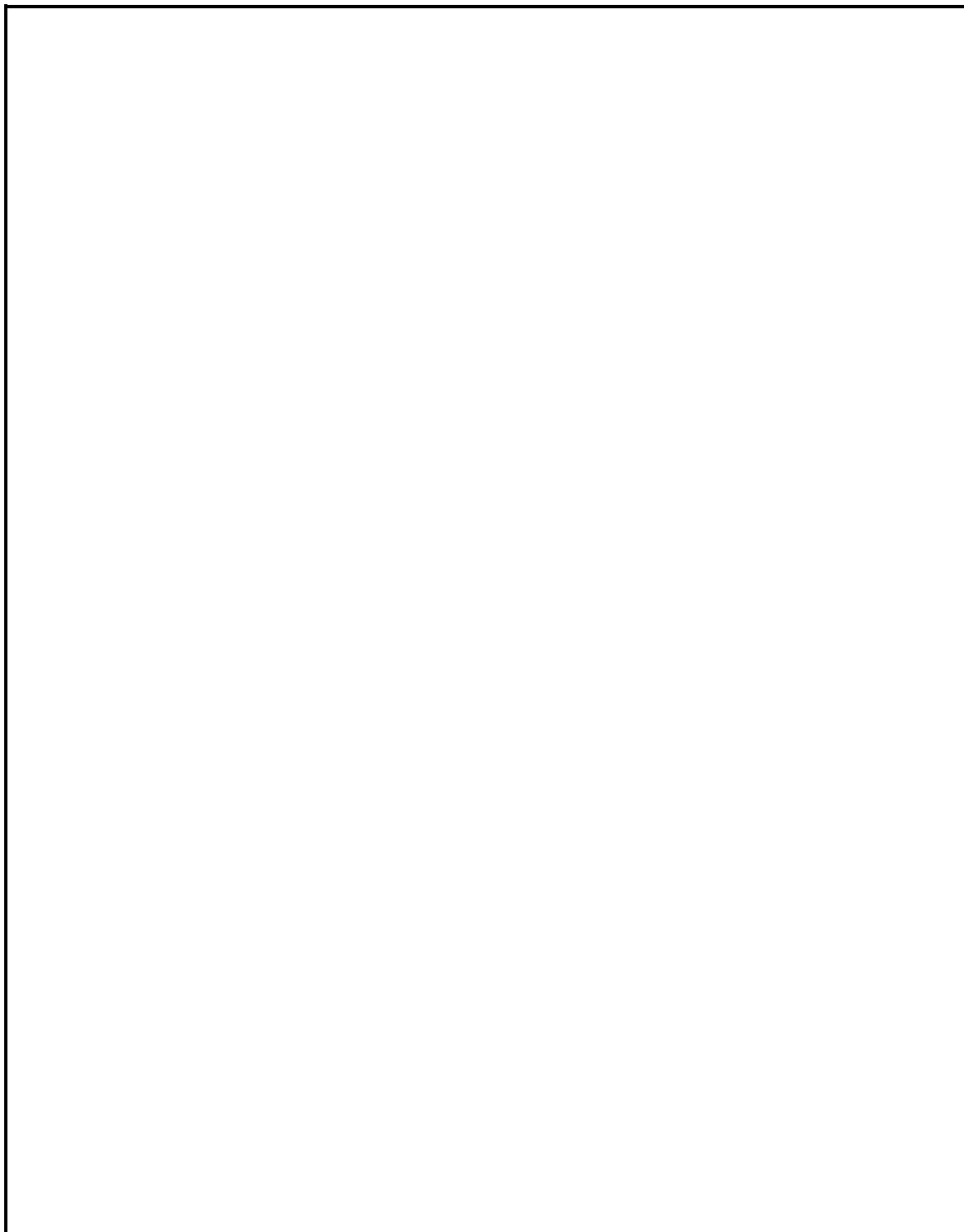
8. Why did Eric Moussambani win his Olympic heat?



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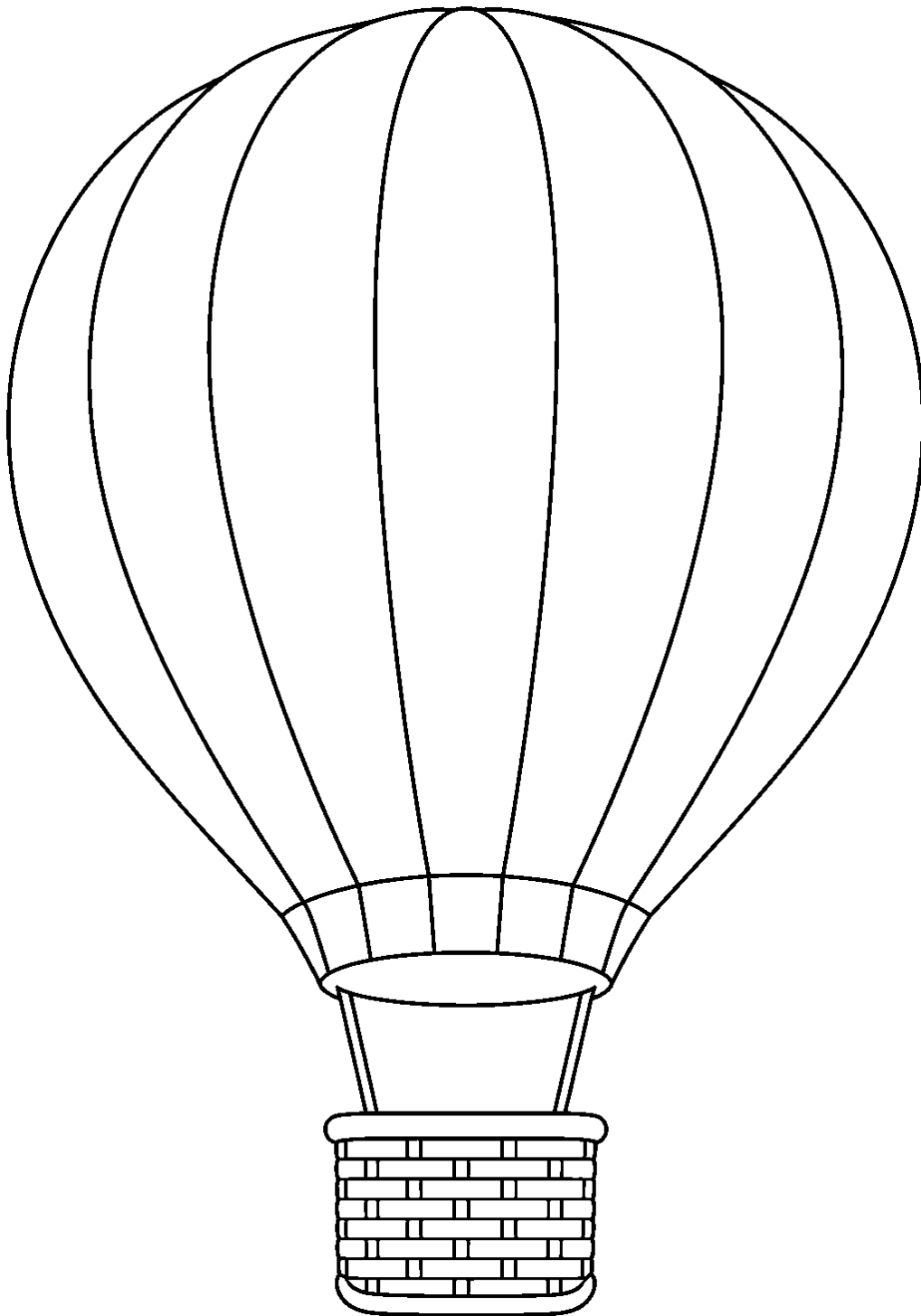
Crack the Joke

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 an illustration that you think best captures the joke.



Colouring Time

Two ways to do this one. Colour the balloon in, stripe by stripe, and make it the loudest thing in the sky. Or take a leaf out of Yayoi Kusama's book from page 9 and cover the whole thing in dots instead. Big dots, tiny dots, dots inside dots. Your balloon, your rules.



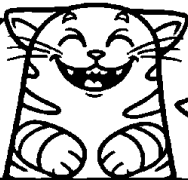


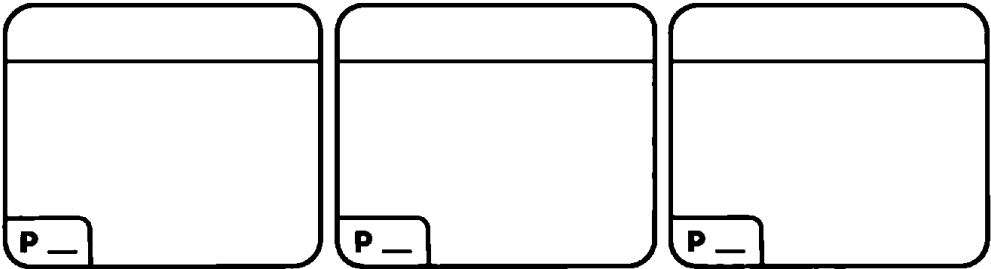
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Design Your Own Cover

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MONTH _____ ISSUE _____

News Flash 



A fun monthly news magazine for curious young minds



Let's Talk About It

Some of these you will agree with straight away. Some will make you cross. That is the point. Take a side, give your reasons, and listen properly to somebody who thinks the opposite. You are allowed to change your mind.

1. Peanut butter spread across a museum floor is art.

2. Sending a sheep, a duck and a rooster up in the first balloon was wrong.

3. €2.87 million is far too much to pay for an old football.

4. Maradona's 'Hand of God' goal should never have counted.

5. Using ducks to do a job on a farm is unfair on the ducks.

6. Old jobs like blacksmithing are not worth keeping alive.

7. Eric Moussambani deserved to be remembered, even though he finished last.



Ask a Stupid Question Day

September 28.

Your teacher has probably told you there is no such thing as a stupid question. September 28 says otherwise. Grab a partner, take one question each and argue it out. There are no right answers here, only better reasons. Nothing to write down. Just talk.

1. Would you rather have grass for hair or a banana for a nose?	2. Would you rather talk to trees or to fish?	3. Is a hot-air balloon a vehicle or a building?	4. What would you call a brand-new colour?
5. Is cereal a soup?	6. How many potatoes make a pile?	7. What is the best sound in the world?	8. Would you rather always be five minutes early or five minutes late?
9. What colour is Tuesday?	10. Is silence a sound?	11. If you could uninvent one thing, what would it be?	12. If your shadow could take the day off, where would it go?
13. Do fish know they are wet?	14. If you named a cloud, would it be yours?	15. Would you rather be invisible or two centimetres taller?	16. Is a jumper still a jumper if nobody ever wears it?
17. Could a sloth win a race if it started early enough?	18. Would you rather have one enormous foot or 12 tiny ones?	19. Is it lying if you tell a joke?	20. Which is heavier, a good idea or a bad one?



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Design Your Balloon

Balloons don't have to be balloon-shaped. Pilots fly them shaped like giant owls, and one that flew at Boyle in 1991 was built to look like a can of Club Orange. So here is the only rule for this one:

Your balloon cannot be balloon-shaped.

Draw your design in the space below.

My balloon is called _____

My Favourite Facts

Every issue of *News Flash* is packed with facts and figures. Which four stuck with you? Write them down, draw a small illustration to go with each one, then share your choices with the class and see whether anybody picked the same ones. Here is one of ours to start you off.

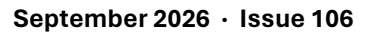
A peacock mantis shrimp punches with a club that moves at around 80 km/h, fast enough to smash a crab shell.

1

2

3

4



Build a word search for a classmate to solve. Pick 12 words from this month's issue and hide them in the grid, running forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally. List all 12 in the boxes underneath so your classmate knows what to hunt for. Then fill every empty square with random letters until your words disappear. If you want to make it harder, hide one extra word that you leave off the list.

[illegible]

Sudoku Time

Each row, each column and each of the nine boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9 exactly once.

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

Design a Poster

Plan it in rough first, then draw it properly in the frame.

The Irish Hot Air Ballooning Championships come to Lough Key Forest Park in Boyle, Co. Roscommon from September 19 to 25. Around 10,000 people came to watch last year. Your job is to make it 11,000.

Design the poster that gets them there. Remember a poster has two jobs at once: it has to tell people what they need to know, and it has to make them want to come. Use page 6 and page 7 for your facts.

Before you start, decide on the four things below:

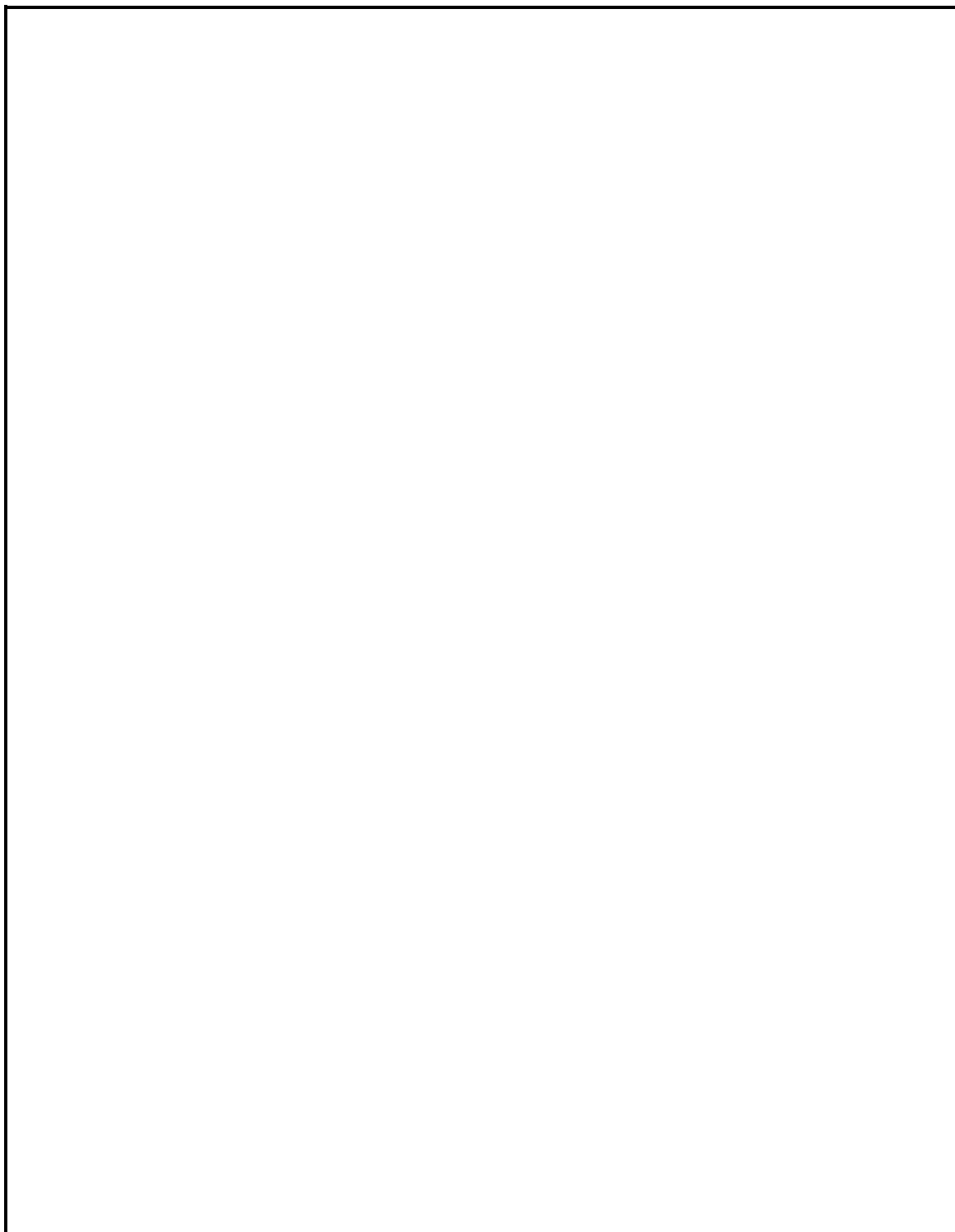
- The one image someone will see from across the room
- Your headline, in six words or fewer
- The three facts a visitor absolutely needs (where, when, what they'll see)
- Why someone should get out of bed for a 7 a.m. launch

Planning Box



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Design a Poster



Spot the Difference



It's Talk Like a Pirate Day on September 19. So, to get you pirate-ready, let's see if you can spot the 12 differences between the two pictures. You may need to take off your eye patch to find all! Aaaaarrrrr!

TALK LIKE
A PIRATE DAY



Answers

Fill in the Blanks

1. flower
2. bees
3. pollen
4. September
5. pip
6. grafting
7. Armagh
8. Bramleys
9. cooking

All the Mistakes

1. vineyard
2. searching
3. damage
4. pesticides
5. especially
6. nutrients
7. unusual
8. beginning
9. tastier
10. originally

Word Workout

1. Fleet
2. Tribute
3. Pesticides
4. Volunteers
5. Auction
6. Envelope
7. Orbiter
8. Surreal
9. Anvil
10. Pollination
11. Drought
12. Resourceful
13. Species
14. Crustacean

What's in the News?

1. Wim T. Schippers
2. Bread and chocolate sprinkles
3. Kermit the Frog and Ernie
4. Indian Runner ducks
5. They might decide the grapes look tastier than the pests
6. Over 170,000
7. Diego Maradona; referee (Ali Bin Nasser)
8. Any three of: Pokémon cards, maple syrup, Cheddar, Nutella, beehives, a gold toilet

Know Your Sport

1. The heptathlon and the 800m
2. 75 years, since 1951
3. 1-20 to 1-17
4. The United Rugby Championship
5. Enzo Fernández from Chelsea to Manchester City, €145 million
6. 459
7. St Patrick's Athletic
8. Both of his rivals dived in too early and were disqualified

Quiz 24

1. #106
2. His lucky conker
3. Ireland's pirate queen, who commanded a fleet off the Mayo coast
4. 363 kilograms
5. About €2.87 million
6. Straw, chopped wool and dried horse manure
7. Up to 30
8. Viking 2
9. 2005
10. Horses' hooves
11. Lurch
12. Mary Ann Brailsford
13. More than 140
14. Using Energy
15. Solving a problem with whatever knowledge, ideas and odds and ends you already have
16. 13
17. 25
18. Cerro Chirripó (3,820 metres)
19. The marimba
20. Around 80 km/h
21. Kokushobi
22. 12, including six golds
23. €4.07 billion
24. About eight months

Sudoku Time

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

Crack the Joke (page 17)

What kind of music do balloons hate? Pop music, of course!

All Mixed Up (page 16)

Apple, Kusama, Mars, Sloth, Windmill, Balloon, Mantis Shrimp, Spiracles, Richard Crosbie, Marimba

Word Search

