THE PRIMARY PLANET

Teacher Resource Pack



November 2026

Issue #156

Science Week

Audio Quizzes

A Science-themed Audio Quiz for each day of Science Week

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Media Literacy: Same Photo, Three Stories

Inspired by: Protest or Looting?

TPP location: The Big Story – page 3
Class level: 5th and 6th Class
Time: 45 minutes
Curriculum area: Language – English. Reading and critical literacy; SPHE – Media education

Curriculum link

Pupils examine how words and images work together to shape meaning, and evaluate what a source can and cannot tell them.

Learning intention

To recognise how a caption changes what we believe a photo shows, and to check an image using four simple questions.

You will need

- The Big Story, page 3, and the photo of burnt-out vehicles in 'Protest or Looting?'
- one set of caption cards per group, on the next page
- paper or sticky notes for the group's own caption

Activity

1. Cover the magazine's caption on the photo. Each pupil writes one sentence describing only what they can actually see.
2. Give each group the three caption cards. For each one, groups note what a reader would believe after reading it, and how it makes them feel.
3. Read 'Protest or Looting?' together. Apply its four checks to each caption: where was the image recorded, when, what does it actually show, and which details have been confirmed?
4. Groups decide which caption claims more than the photo can show, and underline the words that do it.
5. Each group writes a fourth caption that is accurate and fair, using only what can be seen or confirmed. Compare it with the magazine's own caption.

Talking points

- Which caption would get the most clicks or shares? Why?
- Is the plainest caption always the most honest one?
- The article says sharing a street, or appearing in the same news report, does not mean sharing a purpose. How could a caption ignore that?

Teacher tip

Keep the focus on how captions work rather than on the protests themselves. Point out the Don't Forget box at the foot of page 3: some news images can be upsetting, and it is fine to take a break and talk to an adult.

Caption Cards



Cut out the cards. Each one is written for the same photo.

Caption A

Burnt-out vehicles on a street.

Caption B

Rioters leave a trail of destruction as France descends into chaos.

Caption C

The morning after a peaceful school protest was ruined by a handful of troublemakers.

Our own caption

TPP location: STEM Matters (Met Éireann special) – pages 3–4 and 12–13
Class level: 5th and 6th Class
Time: 60 minutes
Curriculum area: Language – English. Oral language: explaining and presenting; Arts Education – Drama

Curriculum link

Pupils use subject-specific vocabulary to explain information clearly to an audience, and adopt a role to present it with confidence.

Learning intention

To plan and present a clear, accurate 60-second weather forecast that includes relevant weather information and any appropriate warnings.

You will need

- STEM Matters, pages 3–4 and 12–13
- an outline map of Ireland on the board, a pointer and a timer
- the eight scenario cards on the next page, cut out

Part 1: Name the storms (15 minutes)

Read 'How a storm gets its name' on page 4. Storms are named when they are expected to bring an orange or red warning, in alphabetical order, with no names beginning with Q, U, X, Y or Z. That leaves 21 letters. Give each pupil or pair a letter to suggest a name for, with a reason. Vote, and write the class's storm list on a chart.

One exception: a storm that has already been named elsewhere keeps its name. An ex-hurricane named in America, for example, is not renamed when it reaches Ireland. The class list is only for brand-new storms.

Part 2: The forecast (45 minutes)

1. Give each pair a scenario card. One pupil presents; the other points to places on the map.
2. Every forecast must last 60 seconds and include: the weather for at least two parts of the country, at least one reading and the instrument that measured it (see pages 12–13), any warning and its colour, and one piece of advice for listeners. If a brand-new storm brings an orange or red warning, name it using the next name on the class list.
3. The scenarios are made up. Pupils may add other readings of their own, as long as they are realistic for Irish weather.
4. Pairs have ten minutes to plan, then perform in turn.
5. After each forecast, the class gives feedback on clarity, accuracy and delivery.

Go further: as Gaeilge. Challenge confident pairs to present all or part of their forecast in Irish. Useful words: *báisteach* (rain), *gaoth* (wind), *grian* (sun), *scamaill* (clouds), *sioc* (frost), *stoirm* (storm), *teocht* (temperature), *rabhadh* (warning).

Teacher tip

Watch a real RTÉ forecast before Part 2 and list the presenter's phrases.

Forecast Scenario Cards

Cut out the cards. Each pair takes one. The scenarios are made up for this activity.

Card 1: Storm on the way A deep area of low pressure is moving in from the Atlantic. Strong winds and heavy rain will reach the west coast tonight, then spread east tomorrow. Gusts of up to 110 km/h are expected on exposed coasts. An orange wind warning is in place for Galway, Mayo and Clare.	**Card 2: Frost and ice** A clear, calm night with temperatures falling below zero. The grass thermometer could drop to minus 5°C in the midlands. Roads will be icy for the morning school run. A yellow low-temperature and ice warning is in place nationwide.
Card 3: Flood risk Heavy rain has fallen for three days in the south-east. The rain gauge at one station recorded 60 mm in a single day. More is on the way, and an orange rainfall warning is in place for Waterford and Wexford.	**Card 4: A rare sunny spell** High pressure is settling over Ireland, bringing plenty of sunshine, light winds and very little cloud. Temperatures will reach 17°C, well above normal for the time of year. There are no warnings, but sun cream is a good idea.
Card 5: Snow on the way Cold air is sweeping down from the Arctic. Snow showers will fall across Ulster and the north-west tonight, with up to 5 cm settling on high ground and sleet nearer the coast. A yellow snow and ice warning is in place for Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim.	**Card 6: Thick fog** A calm, cold night will leave thick fog in the midlands and Leinster tomorrow morning. Observers expect visibility to fall below 100 metres in places. A yellow fog warning is in place, and drivers will need to slow down.
Card 7: Thunder and hail After a hot, humid day reaching 26°C, thunderstorms will break out across Munster this evening, with lightning, hail and heavy downpours. Up to 30 mm of rain could fall in an hour. A yellow thunderstorm warning is in place.	**Card 8: An ex-hurricane** Former Hurricane Tobias, named in America, is crossing the Atlantic and will reach Kerry and Cork tomorrow. Cup anemometers on the coast could record gusts of over 130 km/h. A red wind warning is in place. Tobias keeps its American name, so do not use the class list for this one.

Numeracy: 16 Hours for 98 Words

Inspired by: A Message Beneath the Ocean

TPP location: Science Week Special – page 16
Class level: 5th and 6th Class
Time: 45 minutes
Curriculum area: Mathematics – Measurement (time) and Number (rates); STEM – Science. Energy and communication

Curriculum link

Pupils convert between units of time, calculate rates and use them to compare how communication has changed.

Learning intention

To send and time a coded message, and to compare the speed of communication in 1858 with today.

Background

In 1858, a telegraph cable connected Valentia Island in Co. Kerry with Newfoundland. It failed after just a few weeks, and even while it worked, communication was painfully slow: Queen Victoria's 98-word greeting to the US President took 16 hours to get through. Telegraph messages were sent as patterns of short and long signals. In this lesson, pupils use International Morse code.

You will need

- Science Week Special, page 16
- the Morse code chart on the next page
- torches, or pencils to tap on a desk
- a stopwatch or timer for each pair

Activity

1. Read 'A Message Beneath the Ocean'. Work through questions 1 to 3 together.
2. In pairs, pupils write a five-word message and encode it using the chart.
3. One pupil sends the message with a torch or by tapping. A dot is a short flash or tap. A dash is a long one, held about three times as long. Leave a short pause between the signals in a letter, a longer pause between letters and a longer pause again between words. The partner writes down the dots and dashes, then decodes them. Time how long it takes from the first signal to the last correct word.
4. Swap roles, then answer questions 4 to 6.

Teacher tip

Agree the length of a pause before anyone starts. Most mistakes come from letters running into each other, which is exactly the problem early telegraph operators had to solve.

16 Hours for 98 Words

Use the chart to encode your message. Show your working in your copy.

How to send it: A dot (•) is a short flash of the torch or a quick tap. A dash (–) is a long flash or tap, about three times as long as a dot. Count one beat between signals in a letter, three beats between letters and seven beats between words.

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 ––••		

1. How many minutes are there in 16 hours?

2. Roughly how many minutes did each word of Queen Victoria's greeting take to send? Give your answer to one decimal place.

3. Roughly how many words per hour did the 1858 cable manage?

4. How long did your five-word message take? Work out your speed in seconds per word.

5. At your speed, how long would Queen Victoria's 98-word greeting have taken?

6. A text message of 98 words arrives in about one second. How many times faster is that than the 1858 cable? (Hint: change 16 hours into seconds first.)

Music: Rhythm Makers

Inspired by: Planet Music

TPP location: Planet Music – page 25
Class level: 3rd to 6th Class
Time: 40 minutes
Curriculum area: Arts Education – Music. Performing; Composing

Curriculum link

Pupils perform rhythm patterns by clapping and/or on instruments, then compose, record and perform short rhythms of their own.

Learning intention

To understand what a rhythm is, copy rhythmic patterns accurately and create and perform a rhythm of their own.

You will need

- Planet Music, page 25
- percussion instruments, if the school has them – the lesson works without them
- pencils and paper for writing rhythms down
- a screen with YouTube access for the closing game (optional)

Activity

1. Warm up. Explain that rhythm is the pattern of long and short sounds. Say the phrase 'Don't clap this one back' and clap the rhythm of the words as you say it: long, long, short, short, long.
2. Play 'Don't clap this one back'. It works a bit like Simon Says. A leader claps different rhythms and the class claps each one back. If the leader claps the rhythm of 'Don't clap this one back', nobody copies it. Anyone who does is out, and the game continues until one player is left.
3. Main activity: creating rhythms. This mirrors this month's Planet Music. Give each pupil a percussion instrument if you have them, or ask them to choose something from their pencil case or around the classroom that they can make a sound with.
4. Let them explore the sounds their object can make. Be prepared for some noise. Then, individually or in pairs, they create a rhythm to play for the rest of the class.
5. Each pair writes the rhythm down, using traditional music notation, words or their own symbols, then practises it. They can play in unison or divide it up between them – give them the freedom to choose.
6. Pairs perform their rhythm for the class.
7. Finish with a rhythm clapping game such as 'Sevens'. Search 'sevens clapping game' on YouTube to find it.

Talking points

- How did you decide which sounds were long and which were short?
- Could another pair play your rhythm from what you wrote down? What would you change?
- Which classroom object made the most surprising sound?

Teacher tip

If some children find performing hard, pair each pair with another pair so they perform to each other instead of to the whole class.

Fill in the Blanks

Read through the Word Bank first and make sure you understand every word. Then read the article, and think about the best place for each word rather than the first place.

The Ulfberht Swords

Volga	**hilt**	**bladesmith**
slag	**Frankish**	**crannóg**
knock-offs	**carbon**	**crucible**

In 1928, workers draining a bog at Ballinderry, near Moate in Co. Westmeath, uncovered the remains of a _____, an ancient Irish lake dwelling. Among the timbers lay a Viking sword with ULFBERHT picked out in iron letters along its blade.
Ordinary Viking-age iron contained _____, glassy waste left over from making the metal, which could make a blade bend or snap in battle. The best Ulfberht swords contained plenty of _____ but almost no slag. They resembled _____ steel, made by heating iron and charcoal together in a sealed clay pot.
Historic metals expert Alan Williams argues that the raw steel came from Central Asia, reaching Viking craftsmen along the _____ trade route. Historians generally believe Ulfberht was a _____ name, from lands covering much of modern France and Germany.
Some Ulfberht swords carry slightly different lettering, and their metal is ordinary. Williams believes these were _____: cheaper swords copying a famous name.
The Ballinderry sword even carries a second name, HILTIPREHT, on its _____.

Pair Them Up

These words do not often turn up together. Write one sentence for each pair, using both words.

1. slag + crucible

2. Volga + knock-offs

3. Your own pair: _____ + _____

Going further. One Word Bank word was never needed. Find it and use it in a sentence of your own.

Fill in the Blanks

Read through the Word Bank first and make sure you understand every word. Then read the article, and think about the best place for each word rather than the first place.

Save the Tenrec

convergent	**fossas**	**echolocation**
tavy	**Madagascar**	**radiation**
stridulate	**Mozambique**	**aardvarks**

Tenrecs live on _____ and the nearby Comoros Islands. Some of them look like hedgehogs, but they are more closely related to elephants and _____ than to European hedgehogs.

The lowland streaked tenrec rubs its quills together to produce sound. It is the only mammal known to _____ in order to communicate, like a cricket does. Some tenrecs may also use _____, making calls and listening to the echoes that return.

Their ancestors left East Africa and crossed the 400 km _____ Channel, maybe by drifting on dead wood or floating vegetation. Over tens of millions of years they split into forms that resemble shrews, moles and otters. Scientists call this adaptive _____. Developing to look like animals that live similar lives elsewhere is called _____ evolution.

The main threat to tenrecs is habitat loss, especially from _____, the traditional slash-and-burn farming practice of Madagascar.

Three in a Row

Write one sentence using all three words. Then do it again with the next set.

1. stridulate + echolocation + aardvarks

2. Mozambique + radiation + convergent

3. Your own three: _____ + _____ + _____

Going further. One Word Bank word was never needed. Find it and use it in a sentence of your own.

All the Mistakes

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

Route 66 Turns 100!

Route 66 is probably America's most famous highway. Origionally linking Chicago in Illinois with Los Angeles in California, it crosses eight states. It was officially designated on November 11, 1926, joining up existing roads – many of which were in poor condishun.

Route 66 became especially importent during the Great Depression, a severe economic crisis that started in 1929, when many farming familys in the central US travelled west towards California in the hope of a better life.

After World War II, car travel became more popular, and diners, motels, filling stations and a varitey of attractions became part of the Route 66 experiance.

It was decomissioned as an official highway in 1985. However, many parts of the original route still exsist, and it is still popular with tourists. Special events are being held in all eight states to celibrate its centenary.

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

A Second Life

Off the Mayo coast, 4 km out in Killala Bay, a former smuglers' ship lies on the seabed. The MV *Shingle* was towed from New Ross, Co. Wexford, and deliberatly sunk two years ago to create an artifical reef – Ireland's first. Now, 30 metres below the serface, it is living a whole new life.

The *Shingle* was stopped in 2014 with 32 million illegle cigarettes on board. The Revenue Commissioners hoped to sell it, but there were no takers for the rusty old vesel. Tied up in Dublin Port for nine years, it was costing €7,000 a month in fees.

Then the Killala Bay Ships 2 Reef Group came up with the idea of creating 'an underwater oasis'. Now more porpoises and dolfins are coming to the bay than ever before, along with tourists who want to watch them. A diffrent kind of visitor is flocking to the wreck too – divers! The ship was cleaned to strict standards before it was sunk, so there were no enviromental concerns.

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

Word Workout

Go to the page, fact or story shown, then find the word that matches each clue. The number of letters and the starting letter are in brackets.

Page	Article	Clue
3	The Big Story	A person who takes the place of another, such as a teacher who is absent (10, s)
4	National News	Made by people rather than occurring naturally (10, a)
5	National News	Firework displays and special effects (12, p)
6	International News	Taken out of official use (14, d)
7	International News	Using light to control specially prepared nerve cells (12, o)
8	Our Island's History	A set of rules, laws and principles by which a country is governed (12, c)
9	History's Mysteries	An ancient Irish lake dwelling (7, c)
10	Media Matters	Everything you leave behind online: your digital … (9, f)
11	Media Matters	An organisation that keeps watch to make sure rules are followed (8, w)
12	Planet Art	The chemical used to preserve Hirst's shark (12, f)
13	WWW News	Not alive (9, i)
14	Planet Farming	The person who runs the bidding at a mart (10, a)
15	Planet Motors	A drag … measures how easily air flows around a vehicle (11, c)
16	Science Week Special	Hamilton's discovery, used to describe rotations in three dimensions (11, q)
17	Science Week Special	Producing electricity from moving water (13, h)
18	Planet Places	Housing areas often built up the sides of Rio's mountains (7, f)
19	Our Place in Space	Able to support life, like a zone around a star (9, h)
20	Animal SOS	The clearing of forests (13, d)
21	Planet Maths	Two weeks (9, f)
22	Planet STEM	Step-by-step moves that speedcubers memorise (10, a)
23	County by County	Made of large stones, like the tombs at Carrowmore (10, m)
24	Planet Food	The chemical that gives chillies their heat (9, c)
25	Planet Music	Unable to play different high and low sounds (9, u)
28	Planet YOU	Describes your body clock's roughly 24-hour cycle (9, c)

Write your answers here

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.

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, so the answer to Q.7 is on page 7 and the answer to Q.21 is on page 21.

1. According to the cover, is it true or false that some tarantulas let small frogs live in their burrows?	17. In what year did Lough Hyne become Europe's first statutory marine nature reserve?
2. According to the Editor's Note, by what date must Christmas Crackers entries be sent in?	18. How tall is the statue of Christ the Redeemer?
3. How many substitute teachers is the French government sending to the worst-affected schools?	19. In what year did the Cassini probe arrive at Saturn?
4. Which Co. Westmeath village was named Ireland's Tidiest Town 2026?	20. How many species make up the tenrec family?
5. How many people gathered for the Macnas Halloween parade in Galway?	21. How much did Ms Given collect for each shoebox?
6. On what date was Route 66 officially designated?	22. How old is Rubik's Cube record holder Lian Yunzhi?
7. Which South African lawyer and former judge won the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize?	23. What is the highest point in Co. Sligo?
8. How many seats did Fianna Fáil win in the general election of 1932?	24. In what year did chilli become the official dish of Texas?
9. Roughly how many swords are known to bear the Ulfberht name?	25. How many Grammy Awards did Olivia Rodrigo win at the 2022 ceremony?
10. According to Media Matters, what is a digital footprint?	26. Who wrote *Danger Is Everywhere*?
11. In what year did Coimisiún na Meán set up its Youth Advisory Committee?	27. What is the title of this month's winning story in The Writing Corner?
12. In what year did Damien Hirst win the Turner Prize?	28. How many hours of sleep a night do experts recommend for children aged six to 12?
13. How long is Jenny the horse's tail?	29. Where are this year's WTA Finals being held?
14. For how much did the favourite Charolais calf sell at the mart?	30. How many Mayo players won All-Stars?
15. What is Sunswift 7's drag coefficient?	31. Which club did Troy Parrott join from AZ Alkmaar?
16. On what date did William Rowan Hamilton carve his formula into Broom Bridge?	32. Which school did Charlie O'Shea captain to Munster Schools Senior Cup glory?

What's in the News?

How well have you read this month's issue? As well as testing your memory and retention, this page tests your imagination. We base it on our news pages. Read the articles and answer the following questions.

1. Read 'France's School Protests Explained'. Name two complaints the pupils have about everyday school life.

2. Read 'Protest or Looting?'. What is the difference between protesting and looting? Why can we not tell someone's motives simply from seeing them in a crowd?

3. Read 'A Second Life'. Why was the MV *Shingle* sunk on purpose?

4. Read 'Tidiest Town'. According to Aoife Farrell, what is Ballinahown's success largely down to?

5. Read 'Packing a Shoebox That Makes Someone's Christmas'. What are the four Ws? Choose one item from each that you would pack.

6. Read '300 Years Old'. Where did Jonathan Swift write much of *Gulliver's Travels*?

7. Read 'An Explosive Beginning'. Alfred Nobel made his fortune from explosives. Is it right that a peace prize carries his name? Justify your answer.

8. What is your favourite news story in this month's TPP? Why?

Know Your Sport

How well have you read this month's sports news? We base this activity on the pages from our sports section. Read the articles and answer the following questions:

1. At which stadium do Arsenal play Manchester City on November 29?

2. Which country will host the African Grand Prix from the early 2030s?

3. How much prize money did Mona McSharry win for her 'Triple Crown'?

4. From how many points down did the Philadelphia 76ers come back to beat Cleveland?

5. Who has been handed the Ireland rugby captaincy?

6. What was the score in the Kilkenny senior hurling final?

7. Who manages the Republic of Ireland women's soccer team?

8. How many tries did Charlie O'Shea score at the World Junior Championship?

Discussion Grid

Twenty short questions with no right answers. Pairs take one each, discuss their views and explain their reasons. Nothing to write down.

1. Should pupils be allowed to protest about their schools during school time?	6. Should a peace prize be named after the inventor of dynamite?	11. Should horses be kept with tails that long?	16. Should we keep searching for alien life?
2. Is it ever right to sink a ship on purpose?	7. Which achievement of the early Irish Free State made the biggest difference? Why?	12. Should children be allowed to bid at a mart?	17. Should rare animals nobody has heard of get as much help as famous ones?
3. Does a tidy town make a better place to live?	8. Is a fake sword worth less than a real one if it works just as well?	13. Should every car run on solar power?	18. Is three hours a day too much practice for a six-year-old?
4. Should every school take part in a shoebox appeal?	9. Would you share a password with your best friend?	14. Should every bridge have a plaque telling its story?	19. Does chilli need kidney beans?
5. Should a road be celebrated like a famous person?	10. Is a dead shark art?	15. Would you rather visit Rio de Janeiro or New York?	20. Should weather forecasts be left to AI?

Did You Know?

Every issue of The Primary Planet is packed with facts and figures. Which four stuck with you? Write them down, add a small illustration for each, then compare your choices with the class. Here is one of ours to start you off.

Met Éireann's head office in Glasnevin is shaped like a pyramid with its top cut off. Architect Liam McCormick designed it that way to give the best possible view of the sky, with a flat roof for weather equipment.

1

2

3

4

Come Dine with Me

This month's issue is packed with stories about remarkable people. Imagine you are hosting a dinner party and you can invite any two of them, living or dead. Give a brief reason for each choice, then write three questions you would ask to get the conversation going.

Stuck for a guest? Try pages 7, 12, 16, 22 or 25.

Guest One

Name, and the page you found them on

Why you chose them

Three questions you would ask

1.

2.

3.

Guest Two

Name, and the page you found them on

Why you chose them

Three questions you would ask

1.

2.

3.

We Want Book Reviews

Tell us what the book is about, without giving away the ending. Give it a mark out of 10 and say what earned that mark. Name the best bit. Then tell us who else would enjoy this book, and why. Send finished reviews to schools@theprimaryplanet.ie.

Title of the book

Author

Your mark out of 10, and what earned it

What the book is about, without giving away the ending

The best bit

Who else would enjoy this book, and why

Your name, class and school:

Don't forget!

Send your finished review to schools@theprimaryplanet.ie. It could appear on Planet Books, page 26 – and one day in the TPP Library too.

Real readers, real reviews.

The Writing Corner

This month's challenge is our Christmas Crackers special. Your story or poem must be about Christmas, must not run past 450 words, and must be your own work. No AI-generated entries. Email your entry to schools@theprimaryplanet.ie by November 20. A selection will be published in our December issue, and every published writer wins a Cadbury selection box.

Anything to do with Christmas!

Plan it first

Who is in your story, and where are they? What goes wrong, or what surprise turns up? Decide how it ends before you start writing. A poem can be about one small Christmas moment rather than the whole day.

Title

Your story or poem

Continue on the back of this sheet. Name, class and school at the top, please.

Maths Story #156

Shoebox Appeal, page 21. Read the story first. Show your working in your copy.

1. On what date did Ms Given tell her class about the Shoebox Appeal?

2. How many days are there from the day the boxes were collected to Christmas Day? Include both days.

3. What was the volume of one sports shoebox?

4. By how much was the volume of a sports shoebox less than the volume of one of the other boxes?

5. Is it possible to work out the exact total volume of the filled shoeboxes? Give a reason for your answer.

6. How many children were in the class?

7. How many crayons were in each box?

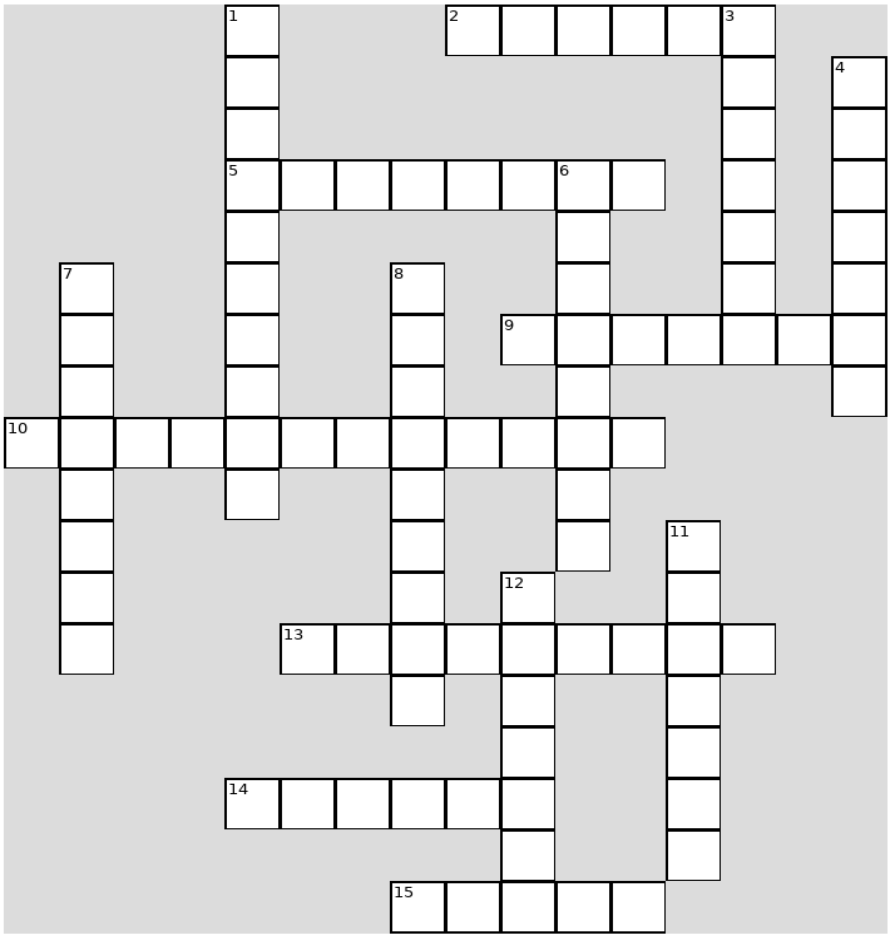
8. What was the total area of all the wrapping paper?

9. What total length of wrapping paper was left over after each box had its sheet?

10. How much money did Ms Given collect altogether?

Sports Crossword Time

How well have you read this month's sports news? Every answer can be found in our sports pages, 29 to 32.



Across

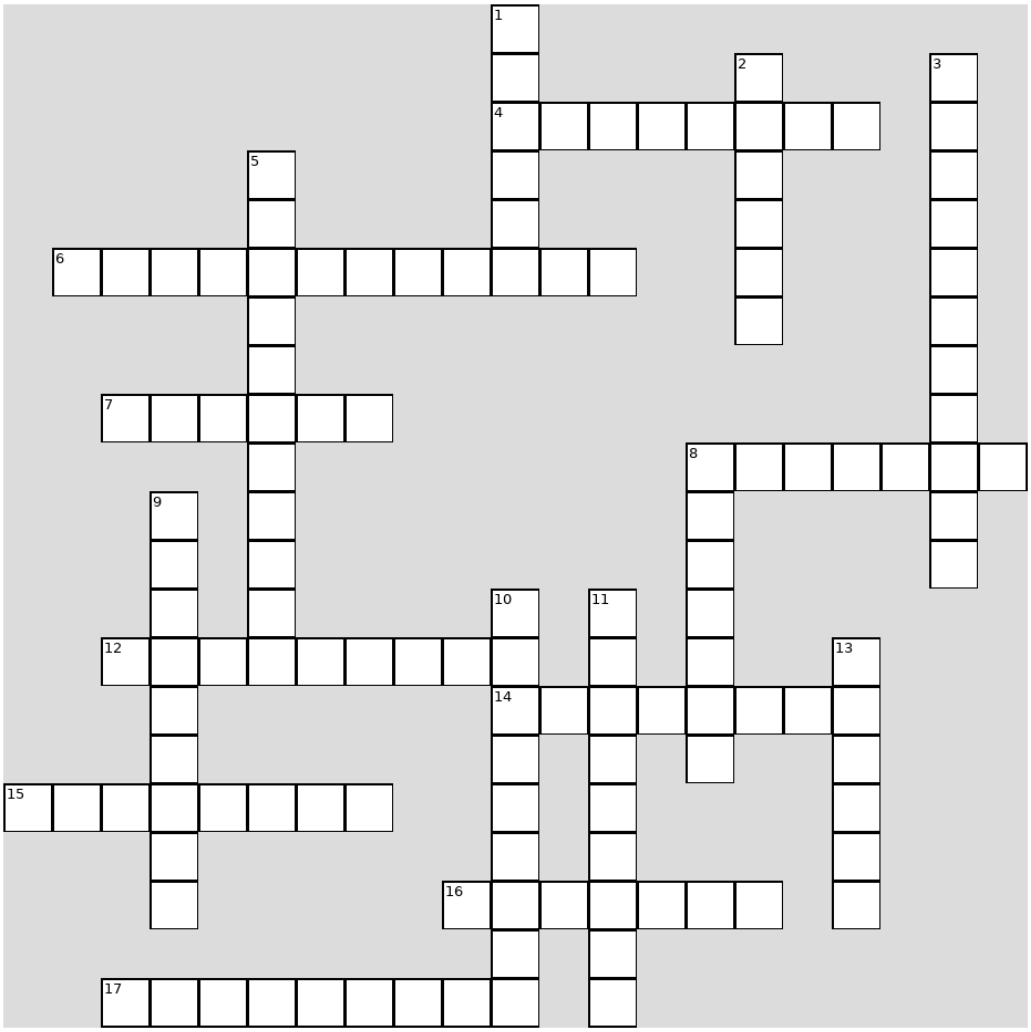
2. Country set to bring Formula 1 back to Africa
5. Kerry's David ___, winner of a seventh All-Star
9. Finnish city hosting the first leg of the U21 play-off
10. City where LeBron James made his home debut for the 76ers
13. Kerry town hosting a historic rally on November 29
14. Ireland's Nations League opponents on November 17
15. Real ___, the Spanish club Parrott joined from AZ Alkmaar

Down

1. Venue for the Nations Championship Finals Weekend
3. Town whose women's team won a third Premier Division title in a row
4. Province Charlie O'Shea plays rugby for
6. Elena ___, Australian and US Open champion
7. Sligo swimmer Mona ___, winner of a 'Triple Crown'
8. ___ Shamrocks, Kilkenny senior hurling champions
11. Dan ___ has been handed the Ireland rugby captaincy
12. Troy ___, linked with a move to Manchester United

TPP Crossword Time

Think you've been paying attention? All the clues in this month's crossword come straight from the pages of The Primary Planet. Every answer can be found somewhere in this issue – so sharpen your pencil, flick through the mag, and see how many you can crack!



Across

4. Land of tiny people where Gulliver is tied down
6. Liquid that preserves Hirst's shark
7. Madagascar mammal that needs saving in Animal SOS
8. Ancient Irish lake dwelling where the Ballinderry sword was found
12. Highest point in Co. Sligo
14. Kerry island linked to Newfoundland by cable in 1858
15. Alfred Nobel's explosive invention, patented in 1867
16. The MV ___ was sunk off Mayo to make Ireland's first artificial reef
17. Chemical that puts the heat in chillies

Down

1. Navi ___ won the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize
2. This month's organ, about the size of your fist
3. Westmeath village named Ireland's Tidiest Town 2026
5. Hamilton's discovery, carved into Broom Bridge
8. Space probe that flew through the jets of Enceladus
9. Breed of the favourite calf sold at the mart
10. Name of the giant telescope at Birr Castle
11. Hormone that tells your body it's time to wind down
13. Galway parade company celebrating its 40th anniversary

Sudoku Time

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

Easy

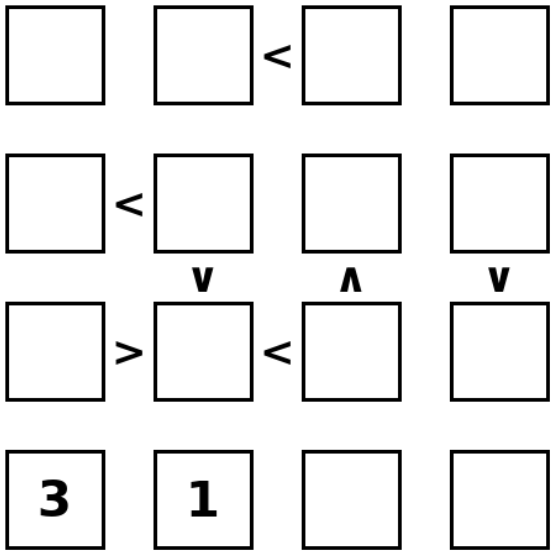
4	5	3			6			
7				4	2			
2			1			6	4	
		4	2			5	9	3
1		5	7			4		
9	2	6	4	3		8		
			6	1				
6	8		9		4	7	3	
	1	7			8	9		

Hard

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

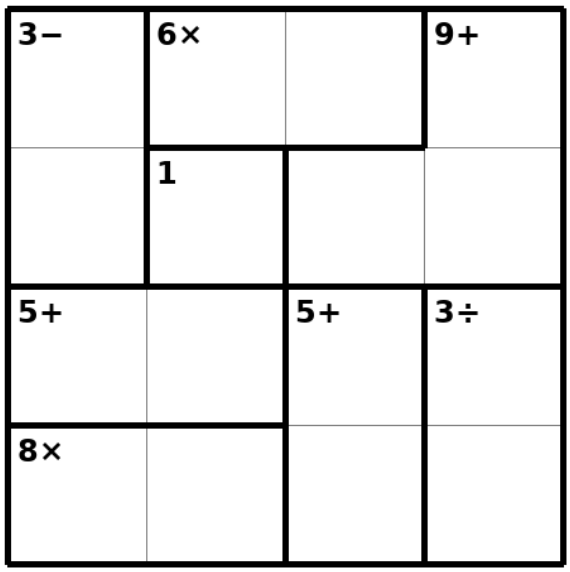
Futoshiki Time

Fill in the numbers 1 to 4 so that each number appears only once in each row and each column. The symbols < and > tell you whether the number in a square is bigger or smaller than the number next to it. ∧ and ∨ do the same job between squares above and below each other.



KenKen Time

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 4. The bold cages show a target number and an operation. The numbers you place inside a cage must make that target, in any order. You cannot repeat a number in any row or column.



Poster Print Time

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

Science Week runs from November 8 to 15, and this year's theme is 'Water: From Molecule to Ocean'. Pages 16 and 17 visit seven places around Ireland with remarkable science stories to tell.

Design a poster for a Science Week event in your school. Before you start, decide on these four things.

- The one image somebody will see from across the corridor
- Your headline, in six words or fewer
- The three facts a visitor needs: what, where and when
- One place from pages 16 and 17 worth putting on it

Planning Box

Poster Print Time

Answers

Fill in the Blanks – The Ulfberht Swords

crannóg, slag, carbon, crucible, Volga, Frankish, knock-offs, hilt

Not used: bladesmith

Fill in the Blanks – Save the Tenrec

Madagascar, aardvarks, stridulate, echolocation, Mozambique, radiation, convergent, tavy

Not used: fossas

All the Mistakes – Route 66 Turns 100!

originally, condition, important, families, variety, experience, decommissioned, exist, celebrate

All the Mistakes – A Second Life

smugglers', deliberately, artificial, surface, illegal, vessel, dolphins, different, environmental

Crack the Quote (page 21)

I don't trust atoms! But only because I heard they make up everything.

Word Workout

1. substitute 2. artificial 3. pyrotechnics 4. decommissioned 5. optogenetics 6. constitution 7. crannóg 8. footprint 9. watchdog 10. formaldehyde 11. inanimate 12. auctioneer 13. coefficient 14. quaternions 15. hydroelectric 16. favelas 17. habitable 18. deforestation 19. fortnight 20. algorithms 21. megalithic 22. capsaicin 23. unpitched 24. circadian

True or False? (cover and page 21)

True. In Peru, the tiny dotted humming frog shares burrows with tarantulas. The spider protects the frog, and the frog eats ants that would attack the spider's eggs.

Answers

Quiz 32

1. True
2. November 20
3. 3,000
4. Ballinahown
5. Some 80,000
6. November 11, 1926
7. Navi Pillay
8. 72
9. About 170
10. Everything people leave behind when they are online
11. 2023
12. 1995
13. 412.62 cm
14. €1,890
15. 0.095
16. October 16, 1843
17. 1981
18. 38 metres
19. 2004
20. 31
21. €6
22. Six
23. Truskmore (647 m)
24. 1977
25. Three
26. David O'Doherty
27. Science Disaster!
28. Between nine and 12
29. Indian Wells, California
30. Six
31. Real Betis
32. Christian Brothers College

Answers

What's in the News?

1. Any two of: overcrowded classes; absent teachers not always replaced, leaving some classes without lessons; poorly maintained buildings; classrooms becoming too hot during heatwaves; long, stressful school days
2. Protesting means calling for change; looting means stealing during disorder. Sharing a street, or appearing in the same news report, does not mean sharing a purpose; pupils' own answer
3. To create an artificial reef, Ireland's first, where marine life can live
4. Having lots of young volunteers, including children from the local primary school. She also mentions the close-knit community
5. Write, Wash, Wear and Wow; pupils' own choices
6. At Quilca House near Mullagh, Co. Cavan, the home of his friend Thomas Sheridan
7. Pupils' own answer
8. Pupils' own answer

Know Your Sport

1. The Emirates Stadium
2. Rwanda
3. $10,000
4. 29 points
5. Dan Sheehan
6. Ballyhale Shamrocks 2-24, Tullaroan 0-08
7. Carla Ward
8. Six

Same Photo, Three Stories

Caption A only describes what can be seen. Captions B and C claim things the photo cannot show: B names the country, says it is in chaos and calls the people involved rioters; C says there was a protest, that it was peaceful and that only a handful of people were responsible. None of that can be confirmed from the image alone. A fair fourth caption adds only details that have been checked, such as where and when the photo was taken.

16 Hours for 98 Words

1. 16 × 60 = 960 minutes
2. 960 ÷ 98 = 9.8 minutes per word
3. 98 ÷ 16 = 6.125, so about six words per hour
4. Pupils' own answer: total time in seconds ÷ 5
5. Pupils' own answer: seconds per word × 98
6. 16 hours = 57,600 seconds, so a text is about 57,600 times faster

Answers

Maths Story #156 – Shoebox Appeal

1. October 21. Tomorrow fortnight is 15 days on, and November 5 minus 15 days is October 21.
2. 50 days: 25 in November (6–30) plus 25 in December.
3. 30 × 20 × 15 = 9,000 cm^3
4. The other box is 33 × 24 × 15 = 11,880 cm^3, so the difference is 2,880 cm^3.
5. No. There are 33 boxes and 3 were unused, so 30 were filled, but we don't know which type the unused boxes were. The total lies between 304,560 cm^3 (if all 3 unused were large boxes) and 313,200 cm^3 (if all 3 were sports boxes).
6. 27. Thirty boxes, minus Aoife's extra one and Tomás's extra two, gives 27 children.
7. 180 ÷ 30 = 6 crayons
8. 15 × 4 m × 0.75 m = 45 m^2
9. The rolls total 60 m and 30 m was given out, so 30 m was left over.
10. 30 × €6 = €180

Sudoku, Futoshiki and KenKen

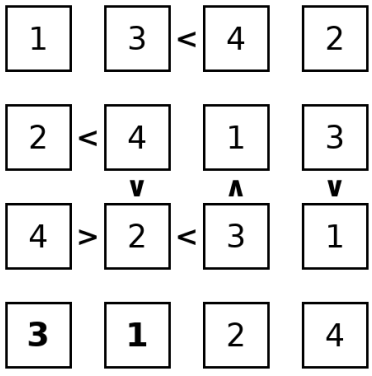
Sudoku – Easy

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

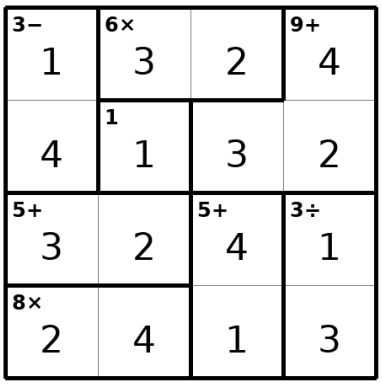
Sudoku – Hard

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

Futoshiki

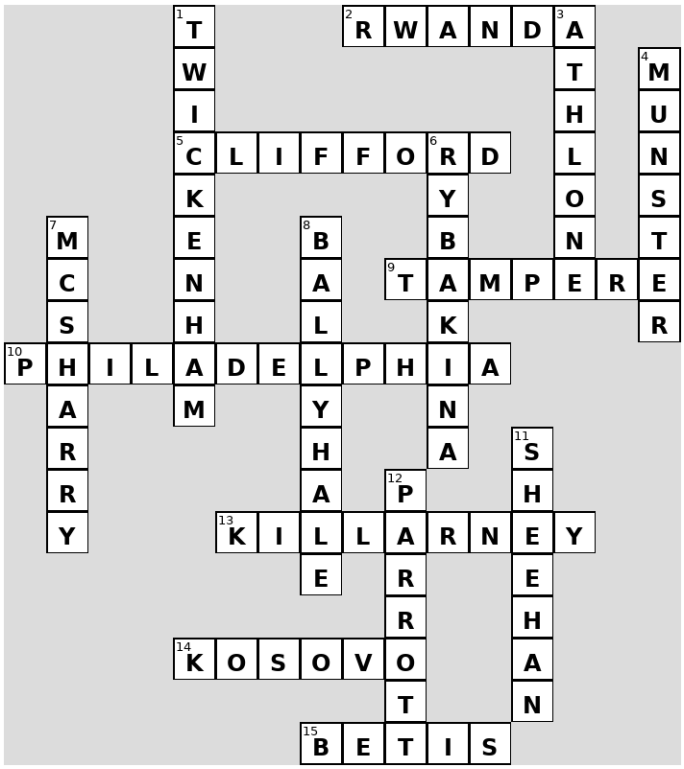


KenKen



Answers

Sports Crossword



TPP Crossword

