

CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR



SAMPLE
ISSUE

What on Earth!

Schools & Libraries Edition

MAGAZINE

AGES
6-14

MERCURY

TERRESTRIAL

JUPITER

GAS GIANT

MARS

TERRESTRIAL

SPACE QUEST!

SCHOOLS &
LIBRARIES

HELP YOUR CHILDREN ENGAGE IN READING FOR
PLEASURE WITH THE NEW SCHOOLS & LIBRARIES
EDITION OF WHAT ON EARTH! MAGAZINE



Peters

Help children read for pleasure with What on Earth! Magazine...

You are reading a sample edition of a new magazine for schools and libraries, developed in partnership with Peters.

Every 20-page issue of the new Schools & Libraries Edition of What on Earth! Magazine is packed with facts, photos, quizzes, puzzles, jokes and more. Covering all their favourite topics – from animals, space and nature to art, sport and history – this award-winning magazine ignites curiosity and sparks

informal conversations about reading – turning reluctant readers into confident ones. Each subscription includes: 36 copies of each issue (that’s 360 magazines a year!); full access to our searchable digital archive; and a PDF of practical tips from Peters’ expert team on how to use the magazine to build literacy skills.



New special edition launches in January

Peters, the UK’s largest and most trusted provider of books and resources to schools, is proud to partner with What on Earth! Magazine to produce class sets of our Schools & Libraries Edition, which launches in the new year.



What the OU research shows

A recent UK-wide study by leading child literacy experts at The Open University, led by Professor Teresa Cremin, right, identifies What on Earth! Magazine as a powerful way to help turn reluctant readers into confident ones. In a study of 500 children across 12 UK schools, providing each child with a monthly copy of What on Earth! Magazine alongside dedicated Reading for Pleasure

time in school, led to a host of positive outcomes for children. What on Earth! Magazine:

- Engages all children in reading and learning, including those who don’t perceive themselves as ‘book readers’.
- Allows children to read the content in any order, giving children agency of what and how they read.

“Our Open University study found that reading What on Earth! Magazine sparked spontaneous conversations and visible excitement among the children.”

Teresa Cremin
Professor of Education



- Includes short, bite-sized text, stunning photos and illustrations, and a wide range of puzzles, games, quizzes, optical illusions and other interactive features, successfully engaging children who are less confident with longer narrative texts.
- Sparks rich group and social conversations around reading among peers, parents and teachers, especially when used in dedicated weekly Reading for Pleasure time.



- Engages children’s innate curiosity and spans the widest possible range of topics of interest and reading levels between the ages of 6 and 14.

- Builds vital information-processing skills through a printed reading environment, which provides a calm, inspiring experience that contrasts with the distraction-filled nature of digital media.
- An affordable class set of 36 individual copies per issue (that’s 360 magazines a year) means every child can ‘own’ a copy at school or at home, supporting sharing, discussion, and independent reading for pleasure outside the classroom.

For the Summer 2025 study by The Open University’s Reading for Pleasure team, scan the QR code or read the summary of findings at: whatonearthmag.com/research



“What on Earth! Magazine is the perfect antidote to tablets and TV. My kids sit down with it for hours – usually with me peering over their shoulders!”

Dan Snow
Historian & broadcaster



How the magazine can help your school

Buying a 36-copy class set of our Schools & Libraries Edition gives children of primary age and those that need reading support in Key Stage 3 their very own copy – not as homework or classwork, but to spark their curiosity and help them engage in Reading for Pleasure.

SNAP IT!

Astonishing photos from around the world



EYE TO EYE

Damselflies are found on every continent except Antarctica and come in a brilliant rainbow of colours. This extraordinary close-up not only captures the insect's delicate features in breathtaking detail but also reveals the tiny droplets of early-morning dew that often form on insects as the day starts to warm.



IPA 2025/PEDRO LUIS AJURIAGUERRA SAIZ

WORLD OF WALLS

This striking photo shows a cluster of very tall buildings in the densely populated city of Hong Kong in Southeast Asia. Once home to Kowloon Walled City – one of the most crowded places on Earth – Hong Kong still has some cramped neighbourhoods today, even though the Walled City itself was knocked down decades ago.

IPA 2017/ANDY YEUNG



A LITTLE HELP?

This funny squirrel earned Italy's Milko Marchetti the top prize at the Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards. Curious and determined, squirrels sometimes squeeze into the most unexpected places while searching for food or a place to rest. Luckily, this one was able to wriggle inside the tree soon after.

COMEDY WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS/MILKO MARCHETTI



THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

In this fun photo, American football player Derek Stingley Jr of the Houston Texans leaps high into the air during the pre-game warm-ups. Don't use up all your energy before kick-off, Derek!

IPA 2025/ZACH TARRANT



FACTopia!

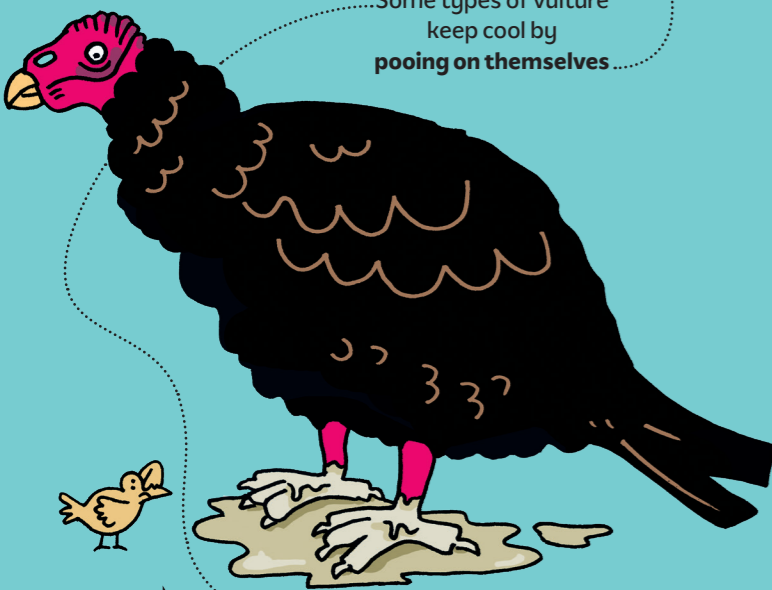
Follow the trail of crazily connected facts all the way from a bone-eating vulture to... balloons full of cow farts!

By Kate Hale, Paige Towler, Julie Beer and Rose Davidson
Illustrations by Andy Smith

Egyptian vultures **drop stones** on ostrich eggs to crack them open.....



Some types of vulture keep cool by **pooing on themselves**.....



START HERE

Bones make up most of a bearded vulture's diet. These birds eat only the rotting bodies of animals – called carrion.....

The world's longest aeroplane flight is 18 hours and 45 minutes.....



Rüppell's **griffon vultures** are the world's highest-flying birds. They've been spotted soaring along with aeroplanes at more than 10,973 metres high.....

In 1969, one businessman flew racehorses around the world in a plane called **Air Horse One** – based on the US presidential plane Air Force One – complete with in-flight meals.....

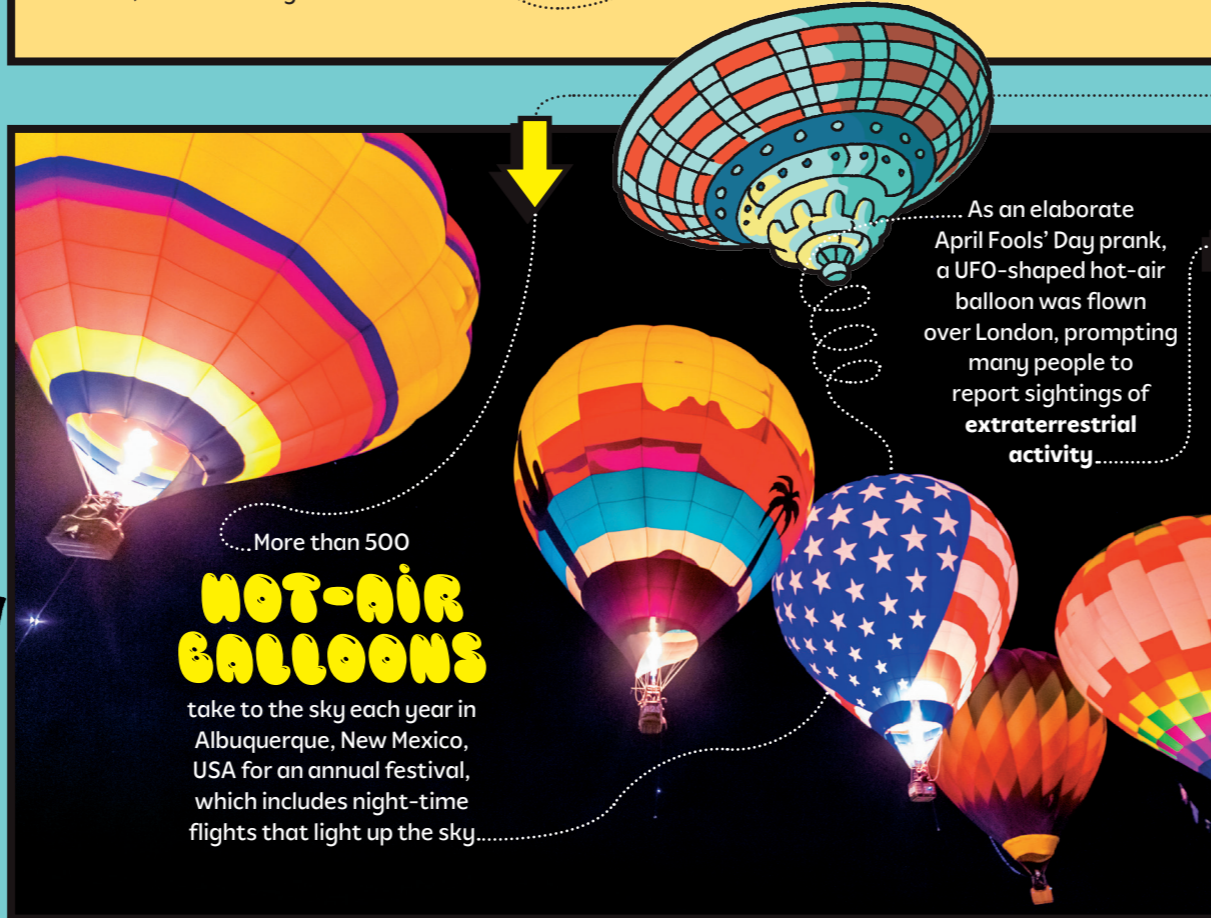
A SHEEP, A COCKEREL, AND A DUCK were the first passengers ever to fly in a hot-air balloon.



The first people to cross the English Channel in a **hot-air balloon** brought so much stuff that the balloon stayed low and almost crashed. In panic, the passengers threw almost everything overboard – including their jackets and trousers.

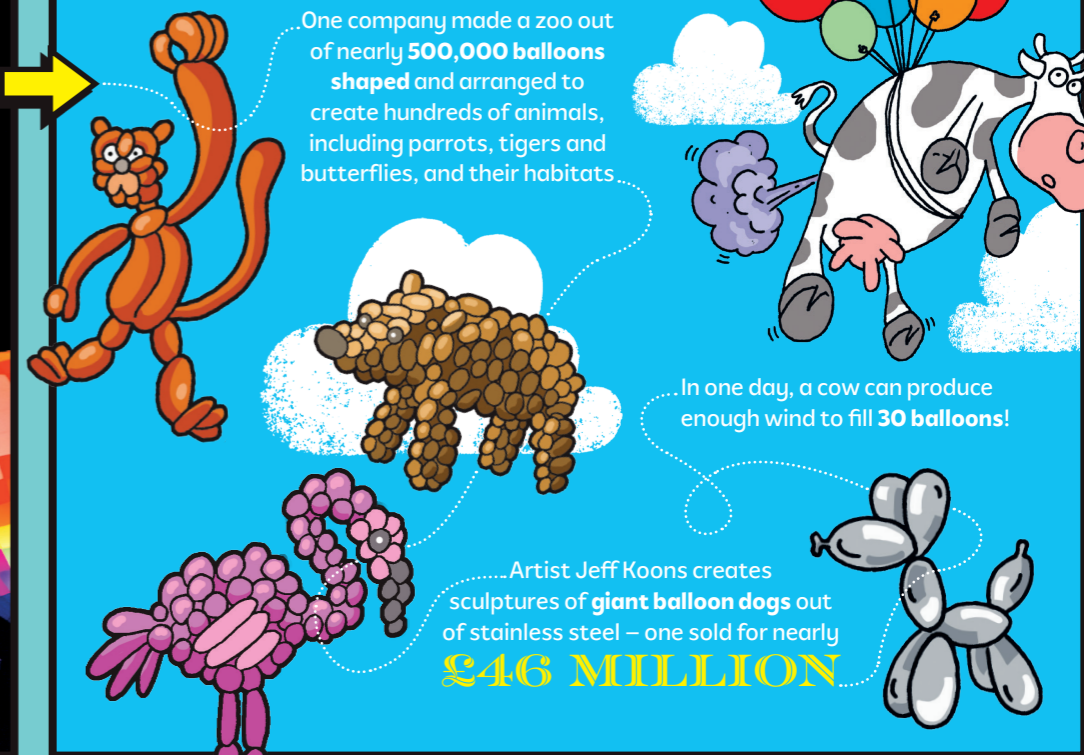


As an elaborate April Fools' Day prank, a UFO-shaped hot-air balloon was flown over London, prompting many people to report sightings of **extraterrestrial activity**.....



More than 500 **HOT-AIR BALLOONS** take to the sky each year in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA for an annual festival, which includes night-time flights that light up the sky.....

One company made a zoo out of nearly **500,000 balloons** shaped and arranged to create hundreds of animals, including parrots, tigers and butterflies, and their habitats



In one day, a cow can produce enough wind to fill **30 balloons**!

Artist Jeff Koons creates sculptures of **giant balloon dogs** out of stainless steel – one sold for nearly **£46 MILLION**

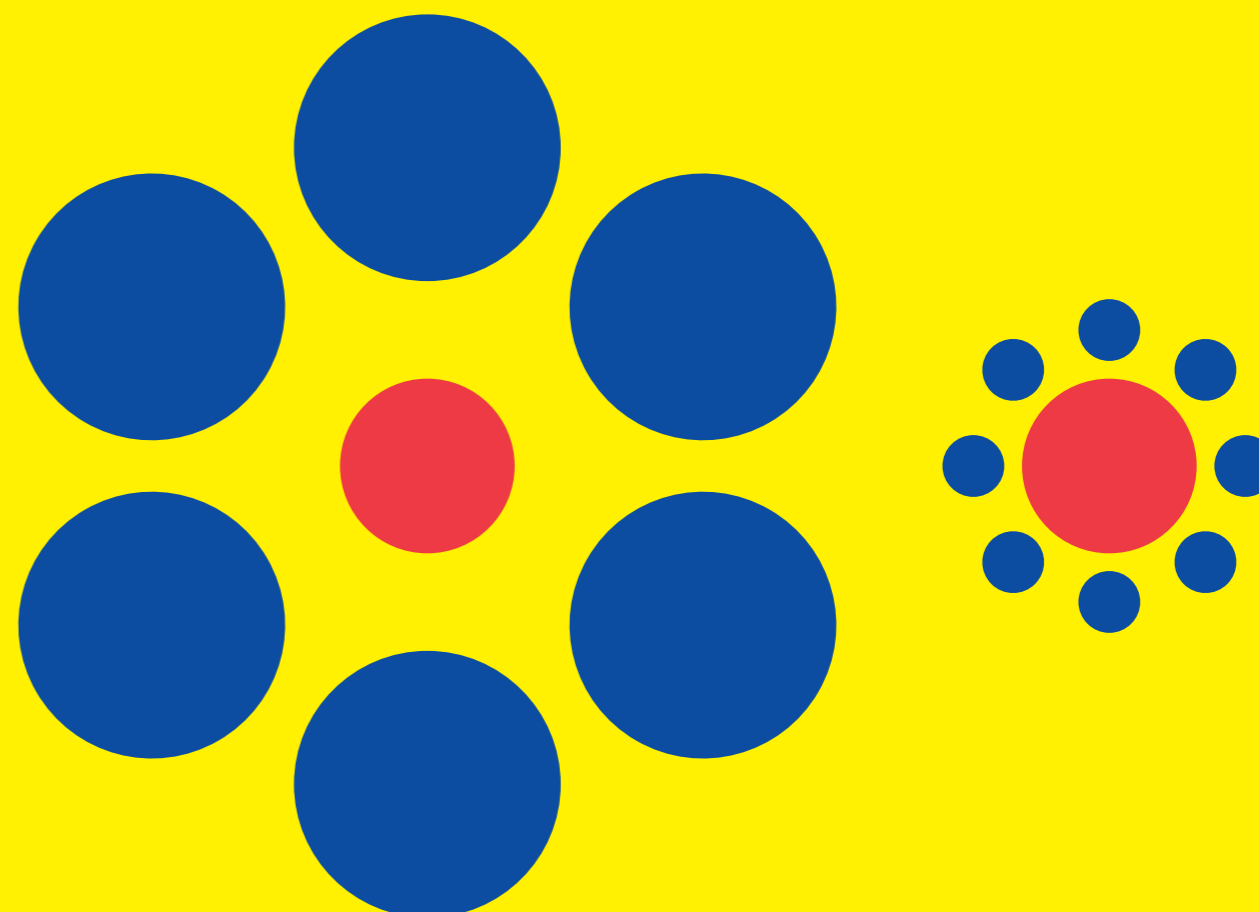


THE LONGEST ROAD

The Pan-American Highway is recognised as being the longest road in the world, stretching nearly 19,000 kilometres. It crosses two continents and 14 countries on its winding way from Alaska to Argentina. It goes through six different time zones and a variety of different terrains and climates – from tundra to jungles and deserts – which means driving it is quite a journey. In fact, the whole trip can take months!



Amazing optical illusions that trick your brain...



Ebbinghaus Illusion

Look at the two red circles in the centre of the two patterns shown above. Which circle do you think is bigger? If you think the red circle on the right is larger, prepare to be amazed – because both red circles are in fact *exactly* the same size.

This mind-bending illusion happens because your brain likes to estimate the size of things by comparing them with other nearby objects. So when a red circle sits among larger blue circles, it looks smaller. When the red circle is surrounded by smaller blue circles, it seems bigger. This fascinating optical trick is named

after Hermann Ebbinghaus (1850–1909), a German psychologist who studied how humans perceive the world. You can see the same effect in everyday life. For example, a portion of food piled onto a small plate can look like a feast, whereas the same portion of food on a larger plate can seem like a small snack.

Still don't believe us? Then scan the QR code to see a visual demonstration of how the two red circles in the middle of the patterns really are exactly the same size!



SPACE QUEST!

KÁRMÁN LINE

DISTANCE FROM EARTH:
100 KM

Space is closer than you think! It officially begins at the Kármán line, just 100 km above Earth — a distance a car could drive in about an hour.

DID YOU KNOW?

At the moment, there are more than 30 different space probes exploring our solar system!

Blast off on an amazing journey from Earth, through our solar system and beyond! Plus, discover the history of space exploration and how we learn about other worlds.

Humans have been fascinated with space for millennia. Ancient civilisations watched the stars and named the constellations they saw. They tried to predict when meteors and eclipses would appear. Even ancient monuments such as Stonehenge – built thousands of years ago to track the Sun’s position during the summer and winter solstices – have been linked to astronomy and the movement of celestial bodies.

In the 1600s, humans built the first telescopes, allowing us to see even further and to discover distant planets and moons. Fast forward to today, and humans are more

knowledgeable than ever about what lies beyond our home planet. But there’s still so much more to discover and explore!

Space telescopes, satellites and probes are just some of the things humans have invented to help us get a glimpse of what’s out there in the rest of the solar system – and even into deep space. Asteroids, comets, moons, dwarf planets and exoplanets are still being discovered every day thanks to the work of curious scientists at space agencies all around the world.

So let’s set off on a space quest to see where we’ve been – and where we’re headed next!

KNOW YOUR PROBES

MARINER 2

Launched in 1962 to study Venus. (p. 15)

VOYAGER 1 & 2

Launched in 1977 to study the outer solar system. (pp. 16)

GALILEO

Launched in 1989 to study Jupiter and its moons. (p. 16)

CASSINI

Launched in 1997 to explore Saturn and its moons. (p. 17)

MESSENGER

Launched in 2004 to study Mercury. (p. 14)

NEW HORIZONS

Launched in 2006 to explore Pluto and its moons. (p. 17)

JUNO

Launched in 2011 to study Jupiter. (p. 16)

PARKER SOLAR PROBE

Launched in 2018 to learn more about the Sun. (p. 15)

Scan the QR code to see an amazing interactive 3D model of our solar system and everything in it!



BEYOND EARTH

ISS

**YEAR
LAUNCHED:**
1998

STATUS:
ACTIVE

The International Space Station (ISS) was built through a partnership of 15 countries. It has been continuously inhabited by astronauts since November 2000.

HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE

**YEAR
LAUNCHED:**
1990

STATUS:
ACTIVE

This space telescope has been sending clear pictures of space objects back to Earth for 35 years! It is expected to last for 5 to 10 more years.

THE MOON

DISTANCE FROM EARTH:
384,400 KM

The Moon is one of the most-studied objects in space, partly because it's our closest neighbour. The first probe to reach the Moon was the Soviet Union's Luna 2, which crashed there

in September 1959. Humans set foot on the Moon for the first time 10 years later. So far, 12 humans have walked on its surface. They've also left some surprising things behind! Charlie Duke left a photo of his family (far left) and the crew of the Apollo 15 mission left a small model of a Fallen Astronaut (left) to honour astronauts who lost their lives on other missions.

WILL HUMANS LIVE ON THE MOON?

Writers and artists have been imagining what life would be like on other worlds for centuries. Scientists have been busy thinking about it, too! If humans are ever to live on the Moon, there are many problems that need to be solved first. The atmosphere of the Moon is very thin and humans can't breathe

without special equipment. There is no liquid water for drinking, and the soil is rocky and would be difficult to grow crops in. Recently scientists have come up with an idea for giant glass bubbles that could be built from microwaved Moon dust! Time will tell if humans ever get the chance to live in them.

SPACE JUNK

DISTANCE FROM EARTH:
750-1,000 KM

About 3,000 old satellites that no longer work orbit Earth, along with millions of bits of machinery. If this space junk collides with active satellites, it could destroy them. Scientists are trying

to remove defunct satellites from orbit. By 2030, the European Space Agency (ESA) plans to launch ClearSpace-1 to reduce the amount of space junk and stop more debris being left in orbit.

ClearSpace-1 could collect a large chunk of a rocket left in orbit about 800 km above the ground.

JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

**YEAR
LAUNCHED:**
2021

STATUS:
ACTIVE

This is the largest and most powerful telescope ever launched into space. Unlike Hubble, which orbits Earth, the JWST orbits the Sun. It has already taken spectacular pictures of the universe.

INNER SOLAR SYSTEM

EARTH

MERCURY

SUN

PARKER SOLAR PROBE

YEAR LAUNCHED:
2018

STATUS:
ACTIVE

This probe was specially designed to withstand the Sun's extreme heat and send back observations of the only star scientists are able to study up close.

MESSENGER

YEAR LAUNCHED:
2004

STATUS:
CRASHED

This probe was the first spacecraft to orbit Mercury. It sent back 255,858 images and over 10 terabytes of data about the planet. It was crashed into Mercury in 2015.

MARINER 2

YEAR LAUNCHED:
1962

STATUS:
IN ORBIT

Mariner 2 was the very first spacecraft to visit another planet. It was sent to fly by Venus and send back data. Earth lost contact with it in 1963, and now it orbits the Sun.

VENUS

MARS

PERSEVERANCE AND INGENUITY

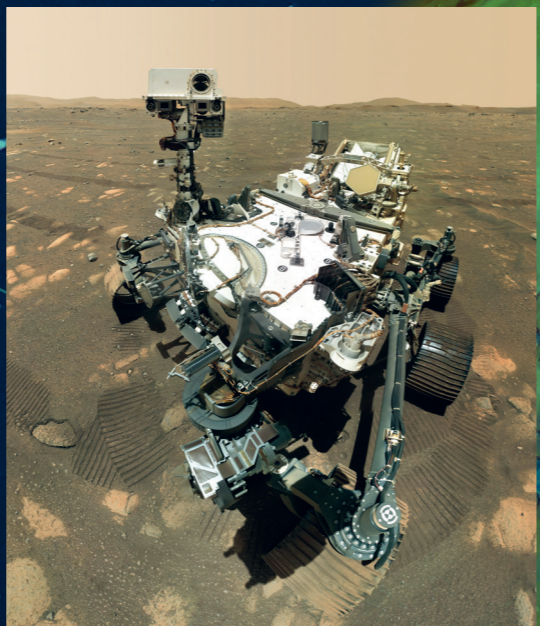
YEAR LAUNCHED: 2020

STATUS:
ACTIVE

Although Venus is Earth's closest neighbour and in many ways similar to Earth, scientists have long set their sights on the 'red planet' Mars as the next frontier of exploration. While Venus is extremely hot with a toxic atmosphere, Mars

is very cold and has a thin atmosphere. However, scientists think Mars was once more like Earth, with warmer temperatures and covered with water. They have sent dozens of missions to

explore Mars, including robot rovers that can roam the surface and collect samples and data. Perseverance (shown right, exploring the site of an ancient lake) is one of these rovers and its sibling Ingenuity (left) is a helicopter that observes from high in Mars's skies!



An artist's imagining of a base on Mars.

OUTER SOLAR SYSTEM

GALILEO

YEAR LAUNCHED:
1989

STATUS:
CRASHED

Named after the astronomer Galileo, who discovered Jupiter had moons, this craft studied the gas giant and other space objects until it was crashed into Jupiter in 2003.

JUPITER

VOYAGER 1 & 2

YEAR LAUNCHED:
1977

STATUS:
ACTIVE

Voyager 1 and its twin space probe, Voyager 2, have been exploring space for nearly 50 years! After flying by the outer solar system planets they left our solar system and are now in interstellar space.

URANUS

NEPTUNE

NEW HORIZONS

YEAR LAUNCHED:
2006

STATUS:
ACTIVE

The first spacecraft to study the dwarf planet Pluto up close, New Horizons is now at the outer edge of our solar system, 9.4 billion kilometres from Earth.

PLUTO

CASSINI-HUYGENS

YEAR LAUNCHED: 1997

STATUS:
CRASHED

Cassini studied Saturn and its many rings and moons for more than a decade, sending back stunning photos. Like Galileo on Jupiter, Cassini was deliberately crashed into Saturn to avoid contaminating its moons with Earth microbes (tiny living



things). Its lander probe, Huygens (above), was left on Saturn's largest moon, Titan, to collect data.

SATURN

JUNO

YEAR LAUNCHED:
2011

STATUS:
ACTIVE




This probe, named after the wife of the Roman god Jupiter, was sent to observe the planet closely and answer questions about its evolution and the history of our solar system.

Earth

This amazing image taken by Cassini shows Earth as a tiny, distant dot!

EMOJI IDIOMS

Each of the four emoji sequences below represents a common phrase. Can you work out which phrase it is in each example?

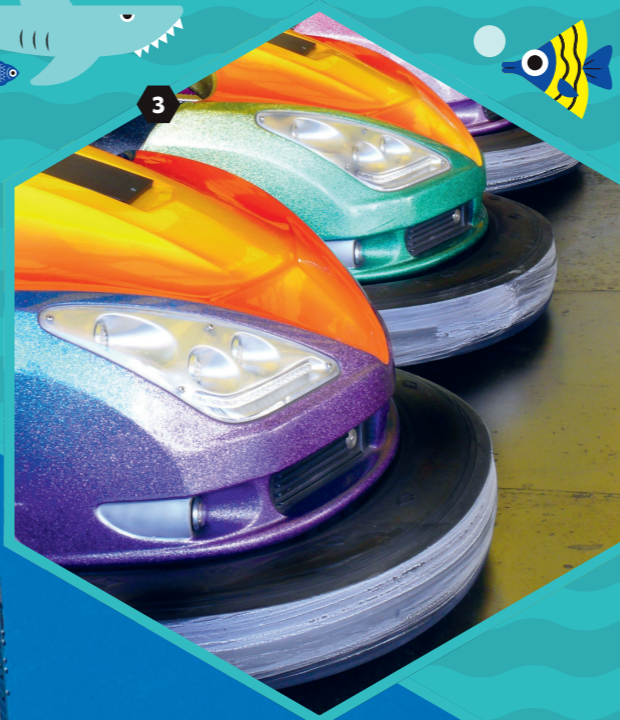
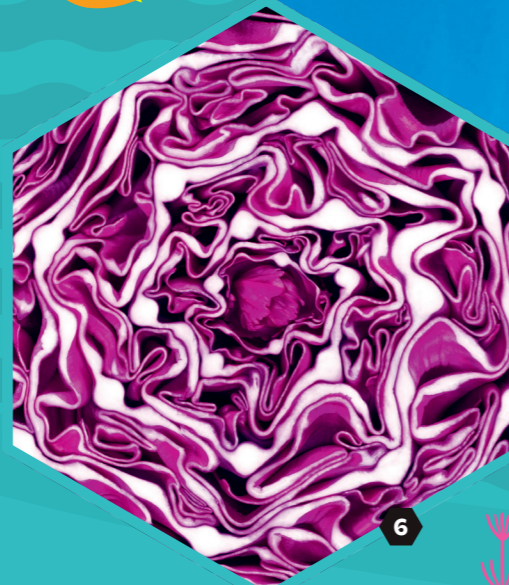
- A   
- B   
- C   
- D    

PUZZLES & GAMES!

You can find all the answers on page 23.

PICTURE QUIZ

Can you work out what you are looking at in each of these six photos?

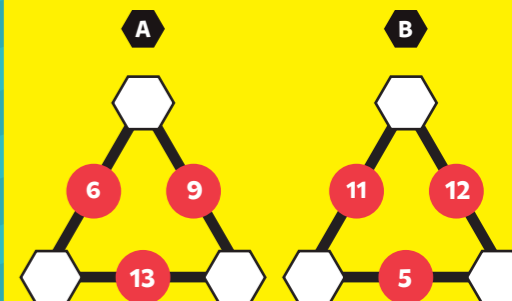


NUMBER TRIANGLES

In the triangles below, the numbers inside the red circles are the sum of the two numbers in the connected white hexagons. For example:



Can you work out which number should appear in each of the hexagons? All the numbers in the hexagons are between 1 and 10 and a number can only be used once in each of the triangles.



SUDOKU

Fill all the empty squares so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains each of the numbers 1 to 6.

A

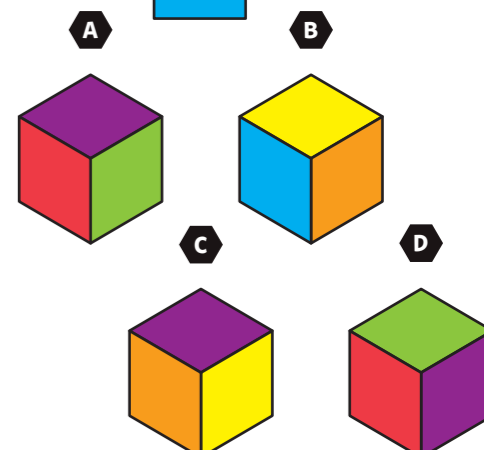
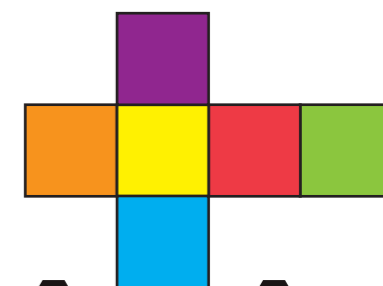
	1	6			
			3	1	6
	5	1	2		3
	3	4	6		
1	2				5
	6		1		2

B

4	3				
		2	4	3	
6					1
				4	
	6	4		1	3
	1		2		

CUBE IT!

The six-sided shape on the top can be folded up to form a cube. Only two of the cubes below can be made by it. Which are they?



QUICK QUIZ



1 Mudskippers are the only type of fish that can do which of the following things?

- a. Poo
- b. Chirp
- c. Blink
- d. Fly

2 Insects make up what percentage of all known animal species on Earth?

- a. 25%
- b. 50%
- c. 80%
- d. 99%

3 Which of these animals is thought to have inspired myths about mermaids?

- a. Manatee
- b. Dolphin
- c. Whale
- d. Seal

4 What small primate has eyes that are bigger in size than its brain?

- a. Okapi
- b. Lemur
- c. Chimpanzee
- d. Tarsier



LINK WORDS

A link word is a word that can be added to the end of one word and the start of another word to create two new words. For example, the word FRIEND can be added to the end of GIRL to create GIRLFRIEND, and also added to the start of SHIP to create FRIENDSHIP.

GIRL F R I E N D SHIP

Can you think of link words that fill the gaps below and create two new words in each case?

NOTE _____ WORM

SUPER _____ FISH

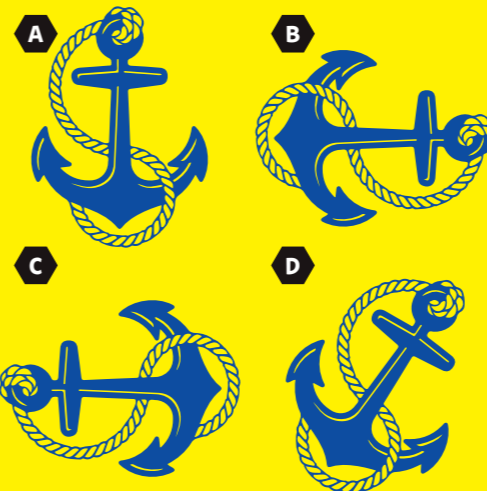
WILD _____ PLACE

HEART _____ FAST



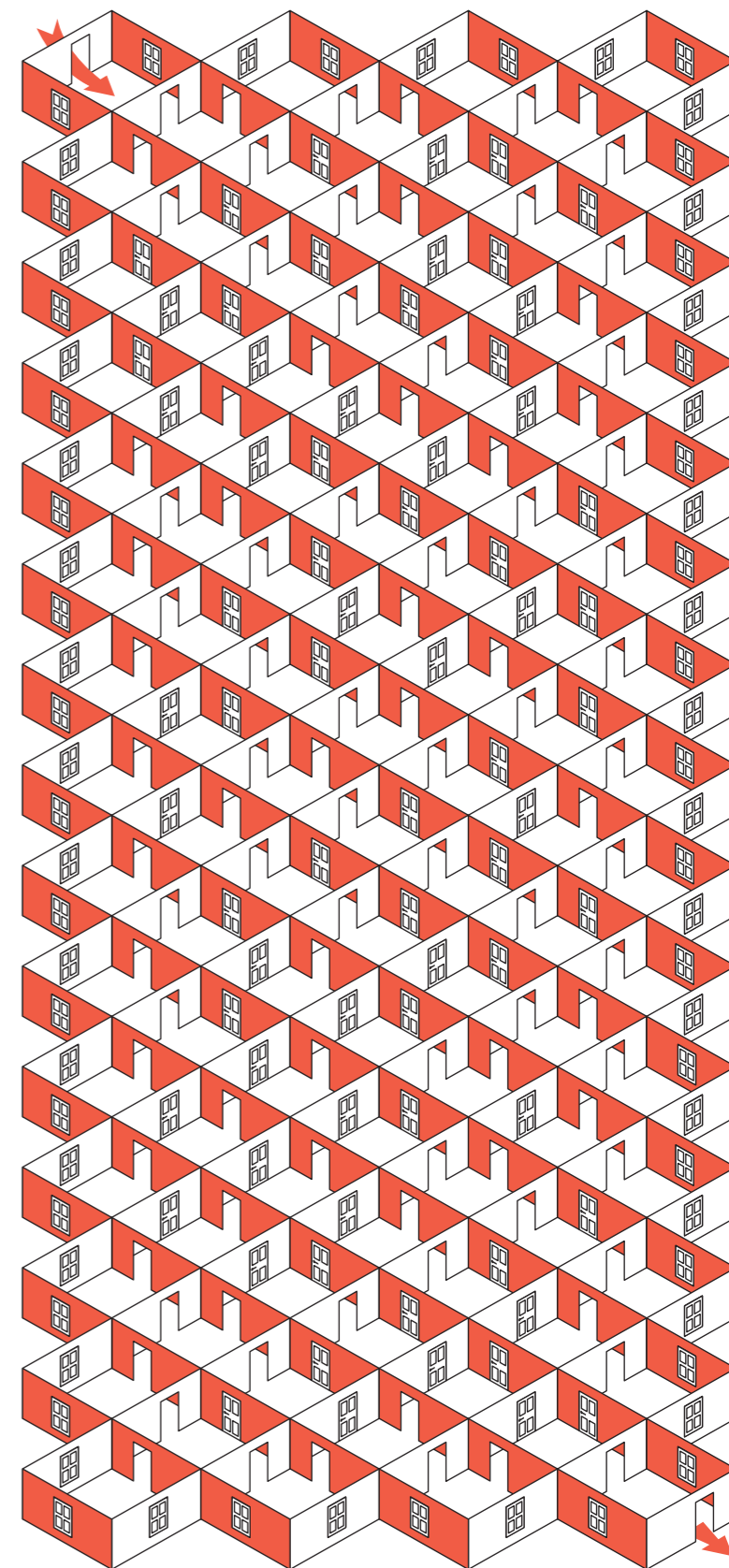
ODD ONE OUT

Look closely at the four anchors below. Three of them have exactly the same shape, but one is different. Study each anchor carefully, compare their shapes, and see if you can spot which anchor is the odd one out!



CHANGING ROOMS

Can you find your way through our maze of square rooms? Enter through the door marked with the red arrow, then try to find your way to the exit by going through the correct sequence of open doors. Good luck!



Jokes & Riddles

Which
reptile
tells the
funniest
jokes?



A
stand-up
chameleon!

Question
What has a tongue
but never speaks?

Answer
A shoe!

Question
You have three stoves:
a wood stove, a coal
stove and a gas stove,
but only one match.
Which should you
light first?

Answer
The match!

Why
couldn't the
pirate
play cards?

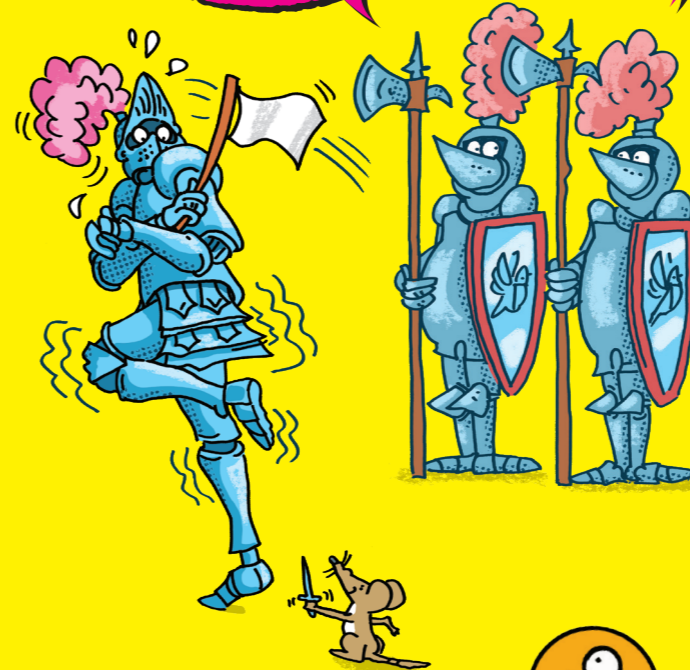
He was
standing
on the
deck!

What
happened in
the race
between two
giraffes?

It was
neck
and
neck!

What do
you call a
cowardly
knight?

Sir
Render!



What do
you call a
snoozing
policeman?

An
undercover
cop!

**READER'S
JOKE
OF THE
MONTH**

Sent in by
Esme, age 10

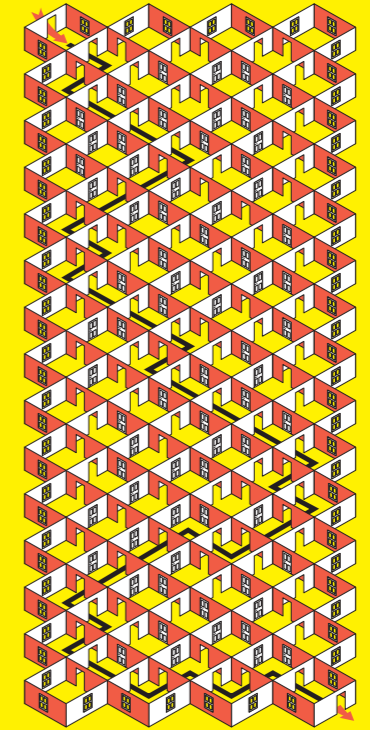
Why did the
old man
fall down the
well?

Because he
couldn't see
that well!

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANDY SMITH

ANSWERS

Changing Rooms



Picture Quiz



Burj Khalifa skyscraper
in Dubai, UAE



Bighorn sheep



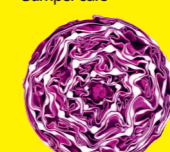
Sushi roll



Rubik's Cube



Bumper cars



Red cabbage

Emoji Idioms

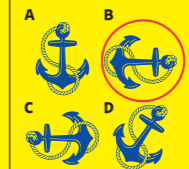
- A. Bird's eye view
- B. Fit as a fiddle
- C. An apple a day keeps the doctor away
- D. Go bananas

Sudoku

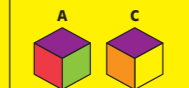
A	3	1	6	5	2	4
	5	4	2	3	1	6
	6	5	1	2	4	3
	2	3	4	6	5	1
	1	2	3	4	6	5
	4	6	5	1	3	2

B	4	3	6	1	5	2
	1	5	2	4	3	6
	6	4	5	3	2	1
	3	2	1	6	4	5
	2	6	4	5	1	3
	5	1	3	2	6	4

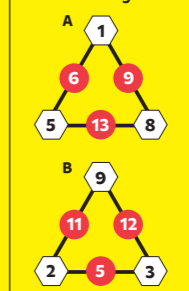
Odd One Out



Cube It!



Number Triangles



Link Words

- 1. BOOK
- 2. STAR
- 3. FIRE
- 4. BREAK

Quick Quiz

- 1. c; 2. c; 3. a; 4. d

What on Earth!

Published by

What on Earth Magazines Ltd,
The Black Barn, Wickhurst Farm,
Leigh, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 8PS

Editor-in-Chief

Andrew Pettie

Editor

Alison Eldridge

Art & Design Director

Mark Hickling

Senior Designer & Illustrator

Susanna Hickling

Production

Sarah Epton

Contributors

Andy Smith, Paige Towler,
Rose Davidson, Julie Beer,
Kate Hale, Dan Knight, May,
Esperanza Hickling

With thanks to

Andy Forshaw, Natalie Bellos,
Helen Thewlis and the whole team
at What on Earth Publishing

Editorial Consultant

Nancy Feresten

Business Development

David Falzani

CEO, What on Earth Magazines

Christopher Lloyd

For Encyclopaedia Britannica

Mary McCudden, Director, Middle
School and Elementary Products

Editorial enquiries

editor@whatonearthmag.com

Picture credits

Library images from:
Getty Images; Shutterstock;
Alamy; iStock; NASA, ESA.

Copyright

© 2025 What on Earth
Magazines Ltd.

All rights reserved. No part
of this magazine may be
reproduced or transmitted
in any form, including
photocopying, without
permission in writing from
the publishers.

Awards



Best Designer

PAWARDS

Children's Brand of the Year
Designer of the Year

PAWARDS

Consumer Publication of the Year
Creative Director of the Year



Art Director of the
Year, Consumer

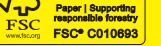
Subscription
Brand of the Year



CARBON
BALANCED
PAPER

www.carbonbalancedpaper.com

CBP028151



MIX
Paper | Supporting
responsible forestry
FSC® C010693

CLASS SET OF 36 COPIES EACH MONTH – JUST £349 A YEAR

Give every child their own copy of the Schools & Libraries Edition of What on Earth! Magazine to build their reading confidence and encourage Reading for Pleasure.

What you get:

- ✓ 36 copies per issue — delivered direct to your establishment
- ✓ 10 issues a year (every month except January and August)
- ✓ 360 magazines a year — that's less than £1 per copy and under £10 per child per year
- ✓ Access to searchable digital archive
- ✓ Tips on how to use the magazine in your class or library



'Our Open University study found that reading What on Earth! Magazine sparked spontaneous conversations and visible excitement among the children.'

Teresa Cremin,
Professor of Education



How to order:

- Visit www.whatonearthmag.com/educators
- Or scan the QR code below
- Pay by credit card or school invoice (30-day terms)

whatonearthmag.com/educators

