

Brexit Irish Border

1. Discuss the *Brexit Irish Border* story as a class and record the main points of the discussion.
2. Where is Ireland? Locate using Google Maps.
3. Complete the following sentence. Brexit is the United Kingdom's plan to leave the E_____ U_____.
4. Northern Ireland is part of Ireland. True or false?
5. Who were the first people in Ireland?
6. What name has been given to the decades of violence that went on in Northern Ireland up until the 90s?
7. On what day and what year did they agree to stop the fighting?
8. How might Brexit affect the border between the UK and the Republic of Ireland?
9. What questions do you have after watching the BTN story?
10. What do you understand more clearly since watching the BTN story?

East Antarctic Marine Park

1. Briefly summarise the BTN *East Antarctic Marine Park* story.
2. Where in Australia are marine experts meeting for a conference on Antarctica?
3. What are some of the animals that can be found in the Antarctic? Name two.
4. Polar bears can be found in Antarctica. True or false?
5. When was the Antarctic Treaty written?
6. What do Australia's scientists do in Antarctica? Give an example.
7. What is a marine protected area?
8. What species found in Antarctica are scientists particularly concerned about?
9. Why is Russia objecting to the proposed Antarctic marine park?
10. What questions do you have about Antarctica?

Check out the [East Antarctic Marine Park resource](#) on the Teachers page.

Waste Solutions

1. Before watching the BTN story, discuss what you know about recycling?
2. Why are some countries not accepting Australia's recyclable waste?
3. Which state in Australia has released a report outlining some ideas for improving waste management?
4. Give some examples of single-use plastics that we can reduce.
5. Complete the following sentence. Recycle, reuse and _____.
6. What type of gas do food scraps release when they break down?
7. What type of waste goes in each of the bins in the six-bin system?
8. Which country already has a six-bin system?
9. Investigate how your school recycles and deals with waste. What improvements could be made?
10. What did you learn watching this story?

Letter Writing Class

1. What was the main point of the BTN story?
2. How many fewer letters were delivered across Australia last year than the year before?
 - a. 8 million
 - b. 20 million
 - c. 820 million
3. When did World Letter Writing Day begin?
4. Why does Richard want to bring back handwritten letters?
5. How can letters teach us about the past?
6. How did the letter that Meghan Markle wrote when she was twelve make a difference?
7. What is the difference between a formal and an informal letter? Give an example.
8. What are some of the benefits of writing letters?
9. How do you feel when you receive a handwritten letter in the post?
10. Who would you like to send a letter to? Why?

Check out the [Letter Writing Class resource](#) on the Teachers page.

Halloween History

1. Retell the BTN *Halloween History* story using your own words.
2. Complete the following sentence. Halloween started thousands of years ago with a _____ festival called Samhain.
3. What did villagers do to ward off any spooky spirits during Samhain? Give an example.
4. What date was Hallows Eve?
5. When did Halloween become a tradition in the United States?
6. What does guising mean?
7. Where did the tradition of Jack-o-lanterns come from?
8. Why don't some people celebrate Halloween?
9. Illustrate an aspect of the *Halloween History* story.
10. What did you like about the BTN story?

Get your class involved in BTN's [Ask A Reporter](#). This week's topic is Halloween.



BTN has launched its first ever Kids Talk Survey. We want to know what's going on in the lives of school kids around the country. It will run alongside the ABC's Australia Talks survey and will allow researchers and the ABC to compare kids' attitudes on some issues with those of adult Australians. [Do the survey now.](#)

East Antarctic Marine Park

Focus Questions

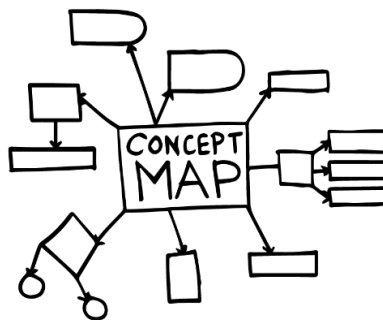
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Activity

Class Discussion

As a class discuss the BTN *East Antarctic Marine Park* story using the following questions as a guide. Record the main points of discussion on a mind map with ANTARCTICA at the centre.

- What do you know about Antarctica?
- Why is Antarctica a unique environment?
- What is a marine park?
- Why is it important to protect Antarctica?
- What are the threats to Antarctica?
- Think of a question you would like to ask an expert about the East Antarctic Marine Park.



Key Learning

Students will learn more about the marine park proposed for East Antarctica and why it's important to protect the area.

Curriculum

Science – Year 4

Living things, including plants and animals, depend on each other and the environment to survive.

Science – Year 5

Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment.

Science – Year 6

The growth and survival of living things are affected by physical conditions of their environment.

HASS – Year 5

The environmental and human influences on the location and characteristics of a place and the management of spaces within them.

Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN *East Antarctic Marine Park* story. Here are some words to get them started.

Marine park

Ecosystem

Climate change

Biodiversity

Adaptation

Antarctic Treaty

Define: What do I want to know?

Key questions to research

Students can choose one or more of the following questions or come up with their own:

- Why is a marine park proposed for East Antarctica? Why is it important to protect the area?
- A ban on fishing for krill in the D'Urville Sea-Mertz is being proposed in the marine park. Investigate the importance of krill as a food source for animals in Antarctica. Find out which animals feed on krill. What does krill feed on? Draw a diagram showing what animal feeds on what. Explore what would happen to all these animals if krill numbers were significantly reduced.
- Describe Australia's connection to Antarctica. Create a timeline showing major expeditions and discoveries made by Australians in Antarctica.
- Who owns Antarctica? Explore which countries have territorial claims in Antarctica and draw on a map.
- What is the Antarctic Treaty? What is the main purpose of it? What makes Antarctica unique in relation to its rules and the way it is run.

Locate: Where do I find the information?

What resources will help answer my questions? (Internet, people, resource centre, organisations, print). Discuss with students what a reliable source is.

Select: What information is important for the investigation?

Students may need support to sort through and select relevant information.

Organise: How do I make sense of the information?

Students can organise their research by creating main headings from their questions. Write each heading on a separate piece of paper. Record the information found for each question.

Present: How do we let others know about this information?

Each group needs to discuss then decide on the best way to present the information. Possibilities could include:

- A 'Did You Know' Facts sheet
- Infographic
- Oral presentation
- [Prezi](#) presentation
- Create an infographic using [Canva](#)

Evaluate: What have we learnt?

Each group reflects on what they have learnt about Antarctica during their investigation. Students will reflect on their learning and respond to the following.

- What I learned...
- What I found surprising...
- What I would do differently next time...

Activity

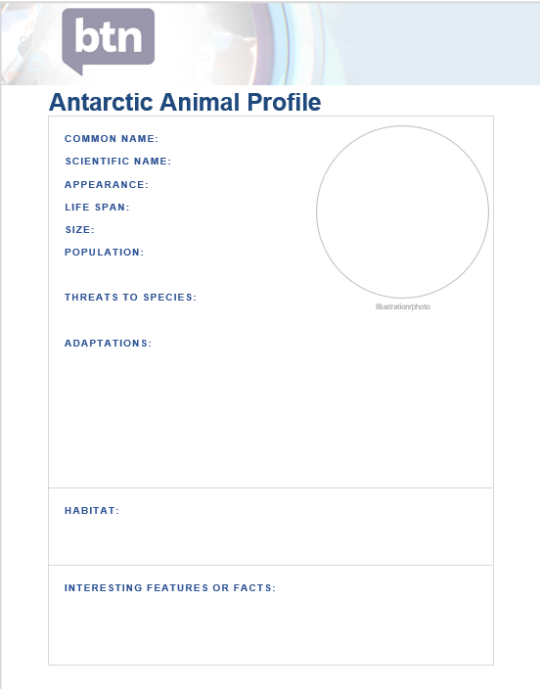
Profile

Students will research an Antarctic animal that lives in an area of the East Antarctic Marine Park. Students will choose an animal to explore, create a profile and then share their findings with the class. Here are some suggestions:

- Antarctic toothfish
- Mackerel icefish
- Antarctic silverfish
- Krill
- Weddell seal
- Adelie penguins

Students can use the profile worksheet at the end of this activity to organise and present their information.

- Common and scientific name
- Appearance - what are some of their physical characteristics?
- Describe their habitat.
- Threats - what are some of the threats to their survival?
- Adaptations and interesting features.

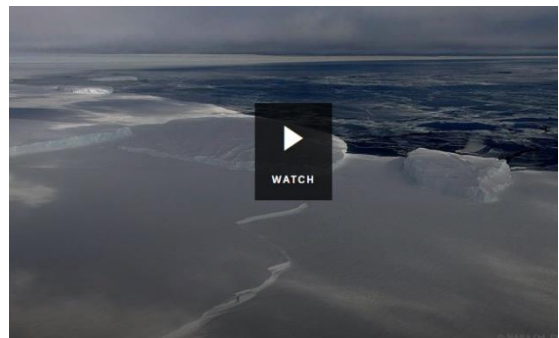


The worksheet is titled "Antarctic Animal Profile" and features a "btn" logo in the top left corner. It contains several sections for data entry: "COMMON NAME:", "SCIENTIFIC NAME:", "APPEARANCE:", "LIFE SPAN:", "SIZE:", "POPULATION:", "THREATS TO SPECIES:", "ADAPTATIONS:", "HABITAT:", and "INTERESTING FEATURES OR FACTS:". A large empty circle is provided for an illustration or photo, with the text "Illustration/photo" written below it.

Activity

Students watch the BTN [Antarctic Marine Park](#) story to find out more about the Ross Sea Marine Park then answer the following questions:

1. Why is Antarctica a unique environment?
2. Where will the marine park be located?
3. The marine park is an area the size of _____.
4. The area is one of the most pristine environments in the world. What does that mean?
5. The Ross Sea is home to which unique animals?
6. Why do environmentalists want to protect the Ross Sea?
7. Scientists say the marine park will help them study climate change. True or false?



Activity

Quiz

Students will create a quiz about Antarctica using [Kahoot!](#). Quizzes can be created to recap learning or test personal knowledge. There is also the option to connect with classrooms around the world and play kahoot in real time.



Useful Websites

Antarctic Marine Park – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/antarctic-marine-park/10523832>

Antarctica Special – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/antarctica-special/10937004>

A Marine Protected Area for East Antarctica – Australian Antarctic Division

<http://www.antarctica.gov.au/law-and-treaty/ccamlr/marine-protected-areas>



Antarctic Animal Profile

COMMON NAME:

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

APPEARANCE:

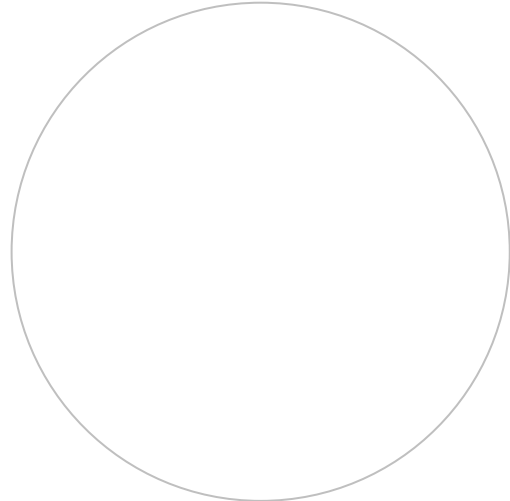
LIFE SPAN:

SIZE:

POPULATION:

THREATS TO SPECIES:

ADAPTATIONS:



Illustration/photo

HABITAT:

INTERESTING FEATURES OR FACTS:

Letter Writing Class

Focus Questions

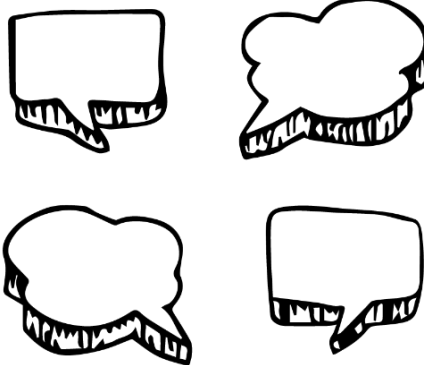
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8. What are some of the benefits of writing letters?
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10. Who would you like to send a letter to? Why?

Activity

Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN *Letter Writing Class* story as a class, using the following questions to guide the discussion. Record the main points on a mind map with 'Letter Writing' at the centre.

- What are the different ways that you communicate with friends and family? What types of technologies do you use?
- When did you last receive a handwritten letter in the post?
- How do you feel when you receive a handwritten letter in the post?
- How often do you write letters?
- Who would you like to send a letter to? Why?
- Do you think we should write more letters? Why or why not?
- What are the different parts or features of a letter? (e.g. date, postal address, greeting, signature).



Key Learning

Students will practise the art of letter-writing. Students will investigate how technology has changed the way we communicate.

Curriculum

English – Year 6

Analyse how text structures and language features work together to meet the purpose of a text.

Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts, choosing and experimenting with text structures, language features, images and digital resources appropriate to purpose and audience.

Re-read and edit students' own and others' work using agreed criteria and explaining editing choices.

Develop a handwriting style that is legible, fluent and automatic and varies according to audience and purpose.

Activity

Class brainstorm

Discuss the BTN *Letter Writing Class* story as a class and ask students to brainstorm who we send letters to. Below is a list to get you started.

- Friends, relatives or pen pals
- Politician about an issue important to you
- To your principal or teacher
- To a newspaper
- Dealing with banks

Students will investigate the purpose of a letter and then give examples of different types of letters, for example:

- A letter of invitation
- Job application
- Thank you letter
- Exchanging news
- Letters of complaint
- Making an appointment
- Asking questions
- Giving information about an event



Letter writing activities

Students will practise the art of letter writing. Below are some letter writing activities.

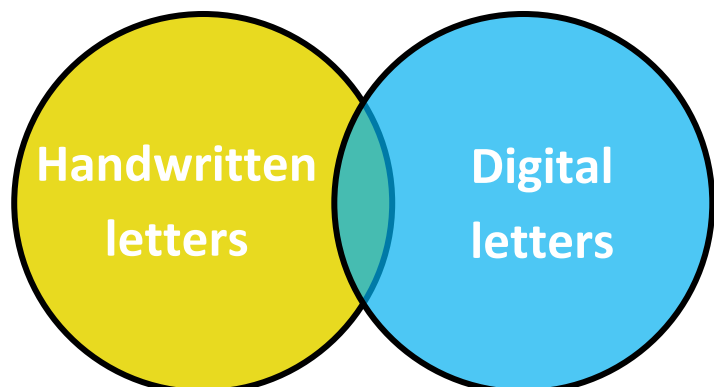
- Who would you like to send a letter to? Why? Students will design and create their own letter head or writing paper and write a letter to someone using their paper.
- Make a time capsule which includes a collection of letters handwritten by your students. Students can write to future students at the school telling them what school is like for them and then make a prediction about what school will be like in the future.
- Connect with a class from another country and ask if they would like to become pen pals with your class. Students will tell them what school life is like in Australia and then find out how their school life is similar or different.
- Students will explore an issue that is important to their school community. Students will then write a letter to their local council or member of parliament voicing their concerns and/or asking for change.
- Students will interview a friend or relative about letters they wrote (or still write).

Activity

Compare and contrast

Students will find similarities and differences between handwritten letters and digital letters. Use the questions below to start a class discussion. Use a Venn diagram to help organise the information.

- What are the differences and similarities between handwritten letters and digital letters (e.g. emails)?
- When would you hand write a letter?
- When would you send an email instead of a handwritten letter?
- What's the difference between a formal letter and an informal letter? Give examples.



Further investigation

Students will choose one of the questions below to explore in more detail.

- What type of language would you use in an informal letter to a friend or relative? Compare the language used in an informal letter to the language used in a formal letter. Give examples.
- Why are letters useful primary sources? Investigate how letters can tell us about the writer's opinions and personality and tell us more about the past. Choose an important letter in history to interpret and then explain your findings to the class. Here are some examples – [link](#).
- How has technology changed the way we communicate?
- What is meant by the term 'the art of handwritten letters is dying'? Explain using your own words.
- What is the future of 'snail mail'? Check out the [BTN Snail Mail story](#) then make some predictions about the postal mail system 20 years from now.

Activity

Persuasive text

Students will develop a persuasive text for or against the following statement: 'We should write more letters.' Alternatively, students can develop their own statement. Students can use the information recorded on the mind map and their own research to help develop their argument. Encourage students to use a range of sources. Provide students with the following structure to follow when completing this activity.

Structure

Introduction

- What is the point you are trying to argue? Construct an introductory paragraph which states the issue or topic.
- Introduce the arguments that will be developed in the body of the text.

Body

- Construct arguments that support your point of view.
- Each paragraph starts with a topic sentence which introduces each point.
- The rest of the paragraph gives more reasons.
- Arguments can be ordered from strongest to weakest.

Conclusion

- Restate your position on the argument.
- Construct a concluding paragraph that provides a summary of your arguments and a call to action.

Tips

- Who is your audience? For example, are you directing your argument at kids, teachers or politicians?
- Explore how language choices can have a big impact on persuading your audience.
- Which language devices give the report credibility and authority?
- Which are designed to create an emotional response in the listener?
- Provide facts and evidence to support your argument.
- Write in the present tense.
- Check your spelling and punctuation.

Use this [Read Write Think persuasion map](#) to plan your exposition text.

Useful Websites

World Letter Writing Day

<http://www.worldletterwritingday.com/index.html>

Education – Australia Post

<https://auspost.com.au/about-us/corporate-responsibility/our-community/education>

Snail Mail – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/snail-mail/10535178>

BTN Transcript: Episode 30 – 29/10/19

Hey. I'm Amelia Moseley and you're watching BTN. Here's what's coming up. We learn about some ideas for fixing Australia's waste problems, meet some kids who are learning to write letters - old-school style, and find out about the history of Halloween.

Brexit Irish Border

Reporter: Leela Varghese

INTRO: But first today to Brexit. We've been hearing about it for ages, and this week was supposed to be the week when the UK actually left the European Union, but that doesn't look so likely anymore. So today, we thought we'd find out more about one of the biggest Brexit issues and that's the border between the UK and Ireland. Take a look.

LEELA VARGHESE, REPORTER: There's a lot to love about Ireland; the beautiful countryside, Irish dancing, the accent, leprechauns (OK, they're not real, but they're cool). But those aren't the reasons why Ireland is in the news at the moment. Right now, the Emerald Isle is making headlines because of Brexit (you know, the UK's plan to exit the European Union)! But we'll get to that in a bit. First, let's really get to know Ireland.

Ireland is this bit, and this is Northern Ireland. While it's on the same island as Ireland and half its name is Ireland it's actually not a part of Ireland, it's a part of the United Kingdom. Time for some history. The first people in Ireland were the Celts, but after the Celts came a whole lot of people who fought for control of Ireland. Eventually, it came under English rule. Lots of Irish people weren't happy about that, especially seeing as England's rulers were Protestant (a type of Christian religion), while most of the Irish were Catholic (a different sort of Christian religion).

There was a lot of fighting over a long time. A really long time. Eventually, the Southern part of Ireland broke away from the UK and became the Republic of Ireland. Northern Ireland, however, chose to remain with the United Kingdom. But the troubles didn't end there. In fact, "The Troubles" is the name given to the decades of violence that went on in Northern Ireland right up until the 90s. Groups that were loyal to the UK fought with groups that wanted to leave. Including one called the Irish Republican Army who fought UK soldiers and carried out bombings. Innocent people were killed by both sides. But eventually, in 1998 on Good Friday, the Republicans and the Unionists came together and agreed to stop the fighting. Since then, things have been pretty peaceful.

But some are worried that peace will be threatened by Brexit. Yep, back to that. You see at the moment both the UK and Ireland are a part of the European Union. Because of that, people and things can go across the border without anyone stopping you or checking your passport, so it's basically like there's no border. But that could change after Brexit. Because there'll be different trade and immigration laws. There might need to be border guards and passport checks for people and goods travelling between the UK and Ireland. That's something most people in the UK and Ireland want to avoid. Aside from making it much harder for people who live and work around here, there are worries it will remind people of the bad old days when there were armed guards on the Irish border, and maybe stir up old tensions.

So what's the answer? Well, one possible solution would be for the UK to give Northern Ireland its own special trade rules that are more similar to the EU's, so there'd be no need to check people and goods at the border. Instead, they'd be checked when they've crossed the Irish Sea. But some people don't like the idea of Northern Ireland being treated differently to the rest of the UK and Northern Irish politicians haven't supported the plan. It's a really tricky problem to solve. In fact, it's one of the main reasons why Brexit still hasn't happened.

The deadline has already been extended to October 31st (This week) and while the British Prime Minister wants it to go ahead as soon as possible, he's had to ask the EU for an extension, on the extension. Now he wants to call an election. So basically, no one knows what's going to happen. And people here in Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK have some uncertain times ahead.

Quiz

What's the Irish name for Ireland? Is it

Éire
Cymru
or Alba?

Ireland is Éire. Cymru is Welsh for Wales and Alba is Scottish for Scotland.

This Week in News

Australia's most famous rock is officially closed to climbers. On the weekend people watched as rangers put up this sign, telling visitors that climbing Uluru is now banned. It's something the traditional owners of the land, the Anangu people, have wanted for decades. There was a concert to celebrate the closure and from now on people will only be able to check out this amazing landmark from a distance.

Crews in New South Wales are fighting dozens of bushfires across the state's east. Some hot and windy weather made things difficult for firefighters over the weekend and at least one home has been destroyed.

Meanwhile the state of California over in the US is also dealing with some huge fires. Nearly 200,000 people had to leave their homes. Authorities think the fires were caused by an electricity problem, so one company just cut the power in the area leaving millions of people without electricity.

Kids Talk Survey

KID 1: What do you think about?

KID 2: School.

KID 3: Screen time.

KID 4: Homework.

KID 5: Bullying.

KID 6: The news.

We at BTN want to know. That's why we're launching Kids Talk. A big survey all about you and the things that matter in your life. Including how you're feeling, the issues you're dealing with, how you get to school and how long you spend on your devices. No, not just how much time you say you spend. We want school kids all around Australia to get involved so we can get to know you. Just head to our website for all the details.

East Antarctic Marine Park

Reporter: Emma Davis

INTRO: Looking forward to hearing from you. Now to one of the world's most extreme places - Antarctica, or, to be more specific, the ocean off the coast of East Antarctica. That's where Australian researchers are hoping to set up a marine park to protect the weird and wonderful creatures that live there. Here's Emma.

Where would you find penguins, seals, whales and me all in one place?

EMMA: I'm in Antarctica!

I was only there that one time, but these animals plus heaps more call Antarctica home all year round. Not polar bears though. They're at the other pole.

But there's a lot more to Antarctica than what lives on the surface. Dive down hundreds of metres under the water around here and you'll find some weird and wonderful creatures. Crabs, squid and this? It's just a headless chicken monster, no big deal. Australia's Antarctic scientists are pretty keen on protecting these creatures and that's what they're working on at an international meeting in Hobart. It's attended every year by representatives from 25 countries and the European Union that are part of the Antarctic Treaty.

It was drawn up way back in the 1950s. Before that, things in Antarctica were getting a little heated, so to speak, with lots of different countries trying to claim parts for themselves. So, they decided to chill out and made an agreement to share the continent and only use it for peaceful purposes. These days bits of Antarctica are controlled by different countries, including Australia. We have a big slice down here. They're allowed to set up bases, conduct research and even fish in Antarctic waters but that last one could be changing soon.

For nearly a decade Australia's been leading a plan to set aside some big sections of Antarctic Ocean as a marine protected area. All up it would be about 1 million square kilometres. Marine protected areas are used all over the world to protect animals and their habitats from the effects of humans. Basically, it means no mining and no fishing. Antarctica is already protected from mining, but fishing does go on and some scientists say that's a problem, especially for krill. Krill aren't the biggest or cutest creatures, but they are super important because they're food for bigger sea creatures and in a roundabout sort of way that involves eating carbon-sucking phytoplankton they actually remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

There's actually already a marine protected area in Antarctica. In fact, it's the biggest in the world and it was created back in 2016. But not everyone's convinced we need a new one. Russia's objecting because the proposed area is where a lot of Russian boats go to fish, while China wants more proof that the area actually needs protection. Still most scientists are pretty confident this new marine park will happen and that it'll be a good thing for the headless chicken monsters that call it home.

Quiz

Which of these is NOT found in the Antarctic Ocean?

Sea pigs
Sea angels or
Sea spiders

Trick question, sorry. They're all real and they're all found in the Antarctic Ocean.

Waste Solutions

Reporter: Jack Evans

INTRO: Back on land now, and you've probably heard that Australia's had some waste management problems ever since some other countries stopped taking our recycling. Well last week Victoria's Government released a report looking at some possible solutions. Let's find out more about them.

JACK: G'day Australia and welcome to - Australia's Got Recycling Problems. Let's meet tonight's contestants. We have Don't single-use re-use Bruce, Waste to Energy Wally and Six Bin Sally. Now before we hear their solutions to our recycling problems, let's take a look at how we got here.

As you've probably heard Australia's in a bit of a bind right now when it comes to our recyclable waste. You see a lot of it used to be sent overseas. Until the countries that were recycling it decided they didn't want it anymore. They said we were sending over stuff that was too dirty to be recycled, too difficult to sort, or that just couldn't be recycled and was ending up in landfill over there. That caused big problems for recycling here. One big Victorian recycling company went broke and tonnes of recyclables have had to go to landfill or to warehouses, where they're waiting for someone to find a solution. Last week Victoria's Government released a big report outlining some ideas for improving waste management.

JACK: Alright Bruce, let's start with you.

BRUCE: No more single use plastics. That's part 1 of my plan.

JACK: Love the enthusiasm.

BRUCE: Thanks.

Basically this plan is to cut right down on single use plastic. That includes packaging used in places like supermarkets as well as things like plastic knives, spoons, forks, sporks and straws.

JACK: And part 2?

BRUCE: Recycle, Reuse, Re-new.

JACK: Catchy phrase.

BRUCE: You can re-use it if you'd like.

This plan would also involve companies using recycled materials to make new products.

JACK: Right let's meet contestant number 2, Waste-To-Energy Wally.

WALLY: Did you know food scraps can be used to make gas.

Wally's plan refers to green waste recycling. You know food scraps, plants etc. When this stuff breaks down it releases methane gas. That's a powerful greenhouse gas that traps heat in the atmosphere. But with the right machines you can actually burn methane gas and use it as a source of electricity.

WALLY: Hey Jack, pull my finger.

JACK: Where's Wally? And finally, we have Six Bin Sally, what's your solution?

SALLY: Bins.

JACK: Yes Sally, we already have those.

SALLY: No, more bins. I love Bins.

This next plan is an interesting one. The Victorian report suggested that maybe we could add a few more bins to our households to help us sort our recyclables. There would be six all up. One for glass, one for metal, one for paper, one for plastic, as well as a green waste and stuff to go to landfill. It said that would make recycling easier and cheaper by reducing the need to sort it and making sure it's not contaminated. The six-bin system is already a thing in Wales in the UK and experts there reckon it's making a big difference to the amount of stuff that can actually get recycled.

JACK: Well it's time to hear from our judges, what have you decided? Well, it seems our judges aren't sure what to do just yet.

Victoria hasn't decided on a plan either. But a lot of people reckon this report's a good first step.

JACK: So hopefully soon in every state and territory we'll be able to solve Australia's recycling problem. See you next time.

Letter Writing Class

Reporter: Leela Varghese

INTRO: Now, how long's it been since you've written a letter to someone by hand? Have you ever? I know for me it's been a while. But this week Leela met a man who's on a mission to bring back letter writing one school at a time. Check it out.

LEELA VARGHESE, REPORTER: Your trusty old letterbox. If it could speak it would probably say something like:

I'm so lonely. I never get letters anymore. I mean every so often I get a bill or junk mail. But no one ever writes to me just because they want to write to me. I hate email.

NEIGHBOUR: Leela is that you pretending to be the letterbox again?

LEELA: Maybe. I just feel so bad for it.

Yep. Ever since these fancy digital ways of communicating came along, our letterboxes have been getting lonely. Just last year, 820 million fewer letters were delivered across Australia than the year before. But there was a time when heaps of kids your age were writing letters all the time.

KID 1: Dear Mum and Dad, I'm here writing you a letter. And you won't believe it. BTN are here filming me as

I write it.

Wait a minute. That's not vision from the old days. That's today, it's just in black in white. Get rid of that. Why are you guys writing letters?

LEELA: Richard what's going on? Have I travelled back in time? Why is everybody writing letters?

RICHARD SIMPKIN: People are writing letters because they're really enjoying writing letters. So, I founded World Letter Writing Day in 2014 and I go to schools and I teach kids about writing letters and they're loving it.

Yep, Richard wants to bring back letters. He reckons a handwritten letter is a really good way to communicate, because unlike emails or instant messages, which you can write and send off really quickly, you really have to think about what you're going to say. Another nice thing about letters is that people tend to keep them, so they can be a really interesting window into the past. Whether it's a letter written by a soldier on the battlefield, a letter from a Queen to a U.S president, or a job application from Leonardo Da Vinci. Cool. And people use letters to make a real difference.

RICHARD: And history's shown as well that people that write letters can change the world. I know Meghan Markle when she was just twelve wrote a letter because she saw a TV ad she thought was a bit sexist. And they then went back and changed the whole commercial.

MEGHAN MARKLE: Write letters and send them to the right people and you can really make a difference.

Of course, there are different types of letters. There are formal letters which you write to someone you don't know very well. They have rules about how they should be set out and the language you should use. For example, you might write Dear Mr Simpkin, not Hi Richard, or what's uppppp. But these kids are writing informal letters to their parents, so the rules aren't as strict. But they say they're learning all sorts of things.

KID 2: They help you with spelling because you have to check them without having auto-check.

And Richard reckons, that lack of technology is actually good for you.

RICHARD: What I'm saying is take a break from social media, pick up a pen or a pencil and write a letter to somebody and you'll feel much better.

And your letter could put a smile on someone else's face too.

KID 3: I think it's very nice and you have to put a lot of thought into it and when you give the person the letter it makes them very happy.

Sport

New Zealand rugby fans did not have a good weekend as England pulled off a massive upset at the World Cup. Heading into Saturday's semi-final, the All Blacks had not lost a World Cup game in 12 years and England hadn't won a final since 2003 so New Zealand were definitely the favourites. But England came out firing and kept the All Blacks scoreless in the first half. They ended up winning the match 19 to 7 and English fans are pretty confident their team can win the overall World Cup. They'll face off against South Africa in the final who beat Wales in the other semi-final match.

And how's this for sportsmanship. During the qualifiers at the Gold Coast 600, Scott McLaughlin lost control of his car and ended up in this nasty crash. The first person to come to his aid fellow driver Shane van Gisbergen. McLaughlin was fine, but his car wasn't. And even after this classy act, van Gisbergen managed to win the race.

Halloween History

Reporter: Jack Evans

INTRO: This Thursday lots of people around the world will get dressed up and celebrate the spookiest holiday of the year - Halloween. While not everyone's into it it's been getting more popular in Australia. So,

Jack thought he'd find out more about where Halloween and its creepy traditions came from.

JACK: Hello, well it's that spooky time of year again. It also happens to be Halloween hahahahahaha. Right, who keeps screaming?

AMELIA: Oh sorry.

JACK: Where was I? Oh yes hahaha Halloween. That time of year when the veil between the living and the dead is unveiled. But where did it all start? Now I must warn you, it's a little spooky hahahahahaha. Roll the clip

The exact origins of Halloween are a little mysterious. But most people agree it started thousands of years ago with a Celtic festival called Samhain. It was celebrated in parts of Ireland, the UK and Northern France. It marked the end of Autumn and the Celtic New Year. It was believed that on that night just before the new year began the gates between the living and the dead would open.

JACK: To ward off any spooky spirits villagers would light bonfires, leave offerings of food and disguise themselves as ghosts to blend in.

Later Christianity came to Europe bringing with it a new calendar and some new holidays. Including All Hallows Eve on October 31st, which just so happened to be around the same time as Samhain.

JACK: Put them together and what do you get? Sallowseve. Wait that doesn't sound right, Halloween. Much better.

The spooky holiday became a tradition and eventually found its way to the US in the 1900s where it really took off. Children loved to get dressed up and go guising as it was called back then asking for food and money in exchange for songs. These days we call it trick or treating.

Of course, Halloween isn't nearly as big here as it is in the US. But experts reckon it is getting bigger. Not that everyone's on board with the spooky spirit. Some people are not big on the idea of kids going door to door asking for food and some reckon it just encouraging us to buy and eat stuff we don't really need. After all, all that sugary food can be bad for your teeth.

JACK: Which is why I always plan my dentist appointment around this spooky time of year. Hello Dr Bickmore.

DR BICKMORE: Say Ahh.

Ask a Reporter

Do you have a question about Halloween? Well, we'll be around to answer them live on Ask a Reporter this Friday. Just head to our website for all the details.

Closer

I don't think that was a real dentist. Well that's it for this week but we'll be back before you know it. In the meantime, don't forget to jump online and fill out our kids talk survey. There's only one week left to take part and we'd love to hear from all of you, so tell your friends. Have a great week and I'll see you soon.