



THE PRIORY ACADEMY
LSST

Priory Press

Module 5 - Edition 1



Environmental News

Aashritha

Turquoise treasure: New species discovered in Cambodia's caves

A recent survey of caves in western Cambodia has uncovered 11 new species, including a striking turquoise pit viper. The discovery was made by a team led by the wildlife conservation charity Fauna & Flora, who explored over 60 caves across 10 hills in Battambang province.

The newly discovered species also include a flying snake, several geckos, two micro-snails, and two millipedes. The turquoise pit viper, still awaiting an official name, is a remarkable find, with its heat-sensitive organ on the head used to detect prey.

Conservation Concerns:

The discovery highlights the incredible biodiversity of Cambodia's karst landscapes, but also raises concerns about conservation. The area is under threat from cement extraction, overtourism, wildlife hunting, logging, and wildfires. Conservation biologist Pablo Sinovas emphasizes the importance of protecting these areas, stating, "If we destroy an area where certain species live, and those species don't live anywhere else, then we would automatically potentially lead to the extinction of species".

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Unique Ecosystems:

The caves and karst landscapes of Cambodia are home to unique ecosystems, with species found nowhere else on Earth. Evolutionary biologist Lee Grismer notes, "Each hill and cave... is isolated from the others, performing as its own individual 'island laboratory' of evolution".

The discovery of these new species underscores the importance of continued exploration and conservation efforts in Cambodia's caves and karst landscapes.

Game Review

Scott

Geometry Dash

Geometry Dash is a fun platformer game where you are a cube, and you try to reach the end of a level; however, unlike other platformer games, you do not stop moving, so you need to think and jump fast. There are many game-modes, such as: the cube, the ship, the ball, the spider, and many more. There are main levels which were made by the game developer. Also, there are many secrets in the game, such as vaults and secret coins, which can be found throughout the main levels and scattered in hidden locations.

Custom levels can also be played, which are made by other players in the game. You can also create your own level within the level editor, where you can make a masterpiece. There are many ratings that quickly ramp up in difficulty, and they are given to levels that the community decides to rate and if it gets recognized by the developer or a moderator. Once rated, these levels then give rewards upon completion. There are many shops where you can buy icons for each game-mode. Many colours can be used to further customize your icons. There are also unique features, such as map-packs, which give rewards for completing a group of three custom levels. You can also create your own map-packs, known as 'lists'. There are also objects known as 'orbs' which can be tapped or clicked mid-air to get effects from a small jump to switching gravity. The different game modes are accessible via portals which you can place in custom levels or find in main levels. The game has a good soundtrack within both the custom and main levels. Practice mode is also available to help you practice on a level, or just to look through the level.

Baking News

Esmae

Giant Cake Picnic Hits Sydney

The Cake Picnic is a viral event in Australia that has already had dates sell out in San Francisco, New York, and Los Angeles. Some places were even harder to come by than others though: for example, to get tickets in Dubai, London and Mexico city was extremely difficult. Now it has landed in Australia, with a Melbourne event earlier in March, which had over 1600 cakes in one go! Cake Picnic founder Elisa Sunga told the BBC that she had no idea that she could ever go on tour for baking cakes.

Now for the history behind it: two years ago Sunga who moved to San Francisco, aged twelve, from her home of Baguio City in the Philippines. She posted an invitation online for a small gathering with one request - everyone must bring a cake. She didn't think many people would show up. However, over two hundred came to buy cakes, and more than 180 cakes were eaten. There was plenty of excitement in the crowd, with a gathering larger than five hundred at the next event. Lots of different people go from professionals and influencers to non-bakers. Everyone places their cakes on the table and tucks in. Sunga says her event brings together families, older women that bake together, Gen Z's that are having fun, and people in college or young people exploring activities. She's very excited to see the future of this event and many others are too.

Festivals Feature

Ahmed

Ramadan

One of the biggest festivals in the Islamic world is Ramadan, with over two billion Muslims celebrating it. You have likely learned the basics in RE, but you've never learned what it is like for a random kid in a crazy secondary school in the middle of Britain who, let's say, is called Ahmed. Well, we will talk about it!

There is a special prayer called Taraweeh, which starts at 8:00 and ends at 9:30. Muslims eat an early breakfast before the sun comes up at 5:00 or 4:00, known as suhoor.

Here is what can you do to support your Muslim friends: hide food while eating; try to ask questions about Ramadan, because it will make you more informed and them feel more respected; try to help them in class because they might be tired.

Remember to be respectful!

Politics news

Aashritha

Protests erupt in Minneapolis after fatal shooting by federal agents: 'Justice for Alex Pretti' campaign begins

Protests have erupted in Minneapolis following the fatal shooting of Alex Pretti, a 37-year-old US citizen and intensive care nurse, by federal immigration agents on January 24, 2026. This incident marks the second deadly shooting by federal agents in Minneapolis this month, sparking widespread outrage and demands for justice.

The Incident:

Pretti was shot during a federal immigration enforcement operation, with eyewitnesses claiming he was protecting a woman when confronted by agents. The Department of Homeland Security stated that Pretti had a handgun and resisted attempts to disarm him, but bystander videos contradict this account, showing Pretti holding a phone and not a gun.

Protests and Reactions:

Hundreds of protesters took to the streets, clashing with federal agents and demanding an end to the immigration crackdown. The protests have been met with tear gas and flashbang grenades, with several arrests made. Local leaders, including Governor Tim Walz and Mayor Jacob Frey, have condemned the shooting and called for an investigation.

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National Response:

The incident has sparked a national debate, with Democratic lawmakers demanding an end to federal immigration operations in Minneapolis. The National Basketball Players Association has expressed solidarity with the protesters, and public figures like Ray Allen and Steph Curry have spoken out against the violence.

Investigation and Tensions:

The state of Minnesota has taken over the investigation, with Governor Walz questioning the federal government's account of events. The incident has heightened tensions between state and federal authorities, with accusations of excessive force and racial profiling.

Football News

By Max

Champions League Round of 16 – Goals Galore!

Chaos. Absolute chaos. Goals were not scarce in this year's round of sixteen, and it was entertaining to say the least. So here are all the scores, goal scorers, and details on the highest scoring games (on aggregate):

Barcelona 8-3 Newcastle united – Newcastle made an effort to keep themselves in the competition as they drew 1-1 in the first leg, as well as early on in the second when they equalized not once but twice! However, Barcelona were too hot to handle as they managed to score another five goals and proceeded to have five separate goal scorers throughout the game in Robert Lewandowski, Raphinha, Yamal, Fermin Lopez and Bernal.

Bayern 10-2 Atalanta – Atalanta didn't have much of a chance, did they? Ten goals across two legs is insane with eight goal scorers as well! It was the highest scoring match up of the round in terms of one team and in total they are on par with Spurs vs Atletico Madrid at twelve goals across both teams.

Spurs 5-7 Atletico Madrid – What a nightmare for poor Antonin Kinsky! Just seventeen minutes into his UCL debut, he was substituted off for the usual starter goalkeeper in Vicario as he gave away the ball leading to goals not once but twice! And another goal was conceded after Micky Van De Ven slipped and then Griezmann slotted it home - All in the first leg! That match ended 5-2 and the second 3-2 to Spurs, but it wasn't enough to save them.

Chelsea 2-8 PSG – The current champions continue to shine as poor CFC are the victims in another high scoring game with six goal scorers across both legs.

None of the teams were holding back this round!



Film News

Genevieve

Mario Galaxy Movie

After the outstanding success of the Super Mario Bros Movie, which came out in 2023, both Illumination and Nintendo clearly got bored. So now coming out on 1st April 2026 is the Super Mario Galaxy Movie, a continuation from the original.

This film is based on the 2007 game Super Mario Galaxy and its 2010 sequel. The original game (2007) was set in space and everyone's favourite Italian plumber, Mario, had to travel through different galaxies to collect Power Stars. Regarding the main cast of the film, the original characters will still be voiced by the same actors. Chris Pratt will be voicing Mario yet again and Bowser will be voiced by Jack Black, also known for his role of Steve in the Minecraft Movie.

However, some new characters will be introduced. Everyone is definitely excited for the arrival of Yoshi, Mario's trusty green dinosaur. We will also be introduced to Rosalina, another princess, who is arguably better than princess Peach. Finally, we will meet the main antagonist, Bowser Jr, who will be getting revenge for his father. Much like the original game, Mario, his brother Luigi, and all their companions will venture out into space, where they will meet Princess Rosalina and face off against Bowser and Bowser Jr.

So, what do you think: will you go and see this sequel?

Global News

By Gregor

Iranian leader killed in conflict

On the 28th February, the Iranian supreme leader Ali Khamenei was killed in an airstrike in Iran, conducted by Israel and the USA. These strikes in Tehran, the nation's capital, were aimed at harming high-ranking Iranian officials in an effort to damage chains of command in the government.

Khamenei was the second supreme leader of Iran since 1989, with his leadership lasting thirty-six and a half years. He was previously the president of Iran, spanning from 1981 to 1989, at which point he became supreme leader. His death was suspected by the United States after a strike on his residency in Tehran, and officially confirmed by Iranian state media on 1st March.

On the 8th March, Mojtaba Khamenei, the son of late Ali Khamenei, was elected as the new supreme leader of Iran. As of March 17th, he had not made any political statements or lectures to the point that many Iranians had not heard his voice, maintaining a public silence he has held for a long time. Some people have suspected that he will maintain his father's harsh policies relating to rights and conflict; however not much is currently known due to a lack of information.

Environmental news

Anusha

Colours of the cosmos: Understanding the northern lights and its colours

In the UK the Northern Lights, or Aurora Borealis have had an increase in solar activity over the past few weeks, and are a mesmerizing spectacle that has captivated humanity for centuries. These ethereal displays of light dance across the night sky, painting it with an array of colours that seem to defy explanation. But what causes this natural phenomenon, and what do the different colours signify?

The Northern Lights occur when electrically charged particles from the sun collide with the Earth's atmosphere. These particles are guided by the Earth's magnetic field towards the polar regions. As they interact with gases in the atmosphere, they release energy in the form of light. The colour of the light depends on the type of gas being energised and the altitude at which the collision occurs.

The most common colour seen in the Northern Lights is green, produced by oxygen at lower altitudes. Red auroras are also caused by oxygen, but at much higher altitudes where the atmosphere is less dense. Blue and violet colours are typically produced by nitrogen. In rare cases, you might even see a hint of yellow or pink, resulting from a mix of these elements. Each colour tells its own story, and on a clear night, the sky above us becomes a window into the science of our atmosphere. From the familiar greens of oxygen collisions to the exceptionally rare blues of nitrogen far below, every aurora is a unique display shaped by the sun, earth's magnetic field and the gases that surround our planet

Animal news

Holly

Dog has 14 puppies while under dog sitters' care

In Wales, Labrador Tilly was pregnant when her owner, Meirion Thomas, went on holiday with his family, leaving his brother and family to take care of her and her unborn litter. She was due to have at least six puppies though they weren't due for another week or at least after her owners got home so when she started giving birth while they were away it gave Rhian and Steve quite a shock. Giving birth to twelve healthy puppies was difficult for Tilly, but luckily she had the help of Rhian, Steve, and their two children, who were eager to assist.

One of the puppies was found in the garden, birthed when Tilly was assumed to be doing her business, and Rhian had a difficult job keeping the puppy alive, but it is now healthy and with her loving mother. Since then, Tilly has been checked up on by the vet, but is perfectly healthy and so are her twelve remaining puppies.