



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

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Food News

Scott

Is Britain Becoming a Fried Chicken Nation?

Fried chicken restaurants and fast-food places have been popping up everywhere around Britain, like the new Popeyes in Lincoln on High St. On top of this, a number of other American restaurants have been appearing, and people have been eating fried chicken a lot. A load of people have been visiting these restaurants recently, increasing the influence and making Britain more like America with all the surrounding popularity of the fast-food restaurants. Some other shops, like fish and chip shops, are closing down or their business isn't running well and are not making enough money. Places like Wingstop, Raising Cane's and many more have been invading British culture.

Large fast-food places have been taking over the country and attracting new customers. An average of about 25,000 fish and chip shops in Britain in the 1920s and 1930s have declined to a dreadful 9,000 at the current time. Professionals say that chicken is a significantly cheaper alternative to getting protein from fish based meals. This has become a trend, and many people have been eating and visiting these new restaurants. Most customers are young people like Gen Z or Gen Alpha compared to people like Millennials.

Game Review

By Gregor

Forts

Forts is a player-versus-player, 2D battle simulator. It is styled similarly to games like Angry Birds, although in a much more combative setting. In the story, you take control of many different pre-built forts, commanded by different factions, in order to destroy the enemy. Across the map, be it a valley, plateau, or mountain range, is the enemy fort. You have many weapons at your disposal to complete the task of winning, and each comes with their own strengths and weaknesses. These fire standard bullets, fire or even energy beams.

Alongside this, Forts comes with a full physics system, meaning your structures can swing under recoil from a gun, or collapse under their own weight. Some materials are stronger than others, such as armour, but strengths also come with weaknesses, like higher costs and heavier weights. A balance of these qualities is required to achieve the best defences.

But as they always say, the best defence is a good offence.

I personally quite like Forts: it has a relatively shallow learning curve that even the newest of users will be able to handle, and there are extensive multiplayer capabilities so you can play with your friends. There is also a large player base, so if you do not have any friends, or they do not want to play, you can play with many others online, with ranging skill levels. The price is also reasonably cheap, although there are a number of extra DLCs which can be used to create new play styles.

Overall rating 7.5/10



Olympic News

Sebastian

Great Britain's Curling Journey

The 2026 Winter Olympics have lit up television all over the world. The curling events ended with the final being a tight battle between Great Britain and Canada that unfortunately, for the British fans, ended in a score of nine to Canada, and six to the UK. This was the second Olympic medal the current British team have won, but neither have been gold due to the team losing out in the final. The team of Kyle Waddell, Grant Hardie, Hammy McMillan, Bobby Lammie, and Bruce Mouat have dominated the sport of curling, and seemed unbeatable, with the only prize to have escaped them being the prestigious gold medal.

While a return to the Olympics in 2030 may seem unlikely as this would be their third Olympics as a team, the team have said they would love to come back to win the one medal they do not yet have. The team have been together for nine years now. They are hurt by the gold medal slipping away from them at the last moment but still feel good to have brought another medal to Britain. Earlier in the tournament Britain lost to Canada in the round robin phase where Britain finished fourth to advance on to the next round: if this table had decided the medals, then Britain would walk away with nothing but luckily for Britain, they came back to win second place.

So, will Britain's medal-winning team return to the spotlight for a third time to claim the prestigious gold medal?



Book review

Holly

The Naturals book review

The Naturals is a YA mystery book for ages 13 and up by Jennifer Lynn Barnes. The narrative follows a 17-year-old girl haunted by her mother's death, who tries to blend into the background as much as possible. However, when she gets picked up by the FBI for having rare profiling ability, her life gets flipped upside down. While understanding and finding out more about her new housemates, other 'naturals', and enhancing her ability to solve cold series killer cases, she also has some teen romance to figure out.

I loved this book so much: the way Barnes used her knowledge of psychology to bring all the characters to life was impressive, and the plot kept me on the edge of my seat. The murder mystery part of the book is extremely good fun and well thought out as it twists and turns, never getting predictable or similar as the clues fit into place at the perfect time. It gives you the brilliant feeling of putting together the clues before even the characters who specialize in this field of work do. Discovering the little things about the characters that the author puts in makes it an interesting challenge too. The book is incredibly well written, with a very flowing style that is such a pleasure that I read the full book in one day.

Overall, I would give this book 5 stars!

This book is perfect for slightly more mature readers, as it can be rather gory and there are a few mentions and implications of more adult topics in places, so I probably wouldn't recommend it to someone who prefers a lighter read or who is very sensitive.

Inventions Article

Emma

Creation of the Play-Doh

Play-Doh was created by Noah McVicker in late 1940s, which he made to clean wallpaper. Multiple attempts later, he reached the final product. Since fresh Play-Doh is slightly sticky and still flat, it makes it the perfect cleaning tool.

We cannot ask Noah what his thought process was: all we know is that it was originally used for cleaning wallpaper, so we can assume that when he was inventing it, he was thinking about making a cleaning tool that is safe for everyone.

Nowadays, Play-Doh is a fun toy to get rid of stress, and to make models to boost creativity. It was only in 1950 that people stopped cleaning with it, and then, in 1956 Play-Doh was rebranded as a tool for playing. Play-Doh is useful for a range of unique things. The most popular colours of Play-Doh are brown, yellow, red, and white. Play-Doh also comes with lots of extra pieces and equipment, such as moulds, cutters, and stations.

Science News

By Gregor

Rise of Nuclear Power

In recent years, development of a new method of generating power has been accelerated, with the type in question being nuclear fusion. This, as the name suggests, involves the energy release happening when atoms fuse. This has been notably developed in spherical tokamaks, a device that encapsulates a hollow torus (donut-shape) that contains the fusion reaction. This form of energy does not produce any harmful waste, unlike fission reactors, and is very safe as the reaction is unable to 'run away' in an uncontrollable spiral until an explosion.

Fission reactors, otherwise known as 'conventional' nuclear reactors, use fission, the splitting of atoms, to produce energy. These generally use uranium and plutonium to produce heat, whereas fusion reactors use harmless tritium and deuterium as fuel. Fission reactors are relatively safe, due to the many safety procedures and systems implemented, yet they can be disastrous if not designed safely, with Chernobyl being a famous example.

Plans have been made to increase the use of nuclear power in the UK, with many new power stations slated for construction over the coming years. These will hopefully replace the coal-fired power stations and theoretically even gas-fired power stations, if built in high enough numbers. They produce significantly more power than a coal-fired power station and have the benefits of not needing fuel and being cleaner for the environment.

Chess News

Isabel

Facts about Chess

Approximately 605 million people take part in games of chess regularly. It is the oldest board game, originating in India in the sixth century and has developed through recent technology. People are now able to play online anywhere with new chess apps; whether online or not, the chess board's colours are contrasting to provide essential visibility and strategic play. The pieces that are included are unique from any other game, and they are all different, performing different actions to one another. For example, the King can move to one square and in any direction; the Queen's moves are combined with the Rook and Bishop and it is the most powerful piece on the board; the Rook can move any number of squares horizontally or vertically; the Bishop can move any number of squares diagonally (staying on the colour square it started on); and the Knights can move in a "L" shape (this being two squares in one direction then one square perpendicularly). There are also eight Pawns, which can move one square, or two squares on its first move, and can be promoted if it gets to the other side of the board into any piece other than the King.

Some Fun-Facts about chess include: it has six variations; it is a mandatory subject in Armenia; space chess was first played in 1970; some people that were Code Breakers in World War Two were chess players; a check mate can be reached in two moves, known as "Fool's Mate"; the most prestigious Chess competition is the World Chess Championships, in which people from all around the world compete; the most famous Chess players are Garry Kasparov, Magnus Carlsen and Bobby Fischer; and the second book ever printed in English was about Chess.

Nature news

Sterling and Holly

Iberian Lynx Numbers Rising

Once on the brink of extinction, the Iberian Lynx has moved from being endangered to being vulnerable on the I.U.C.N red list. The population is now thought to be over two thousand, which has increased rapidly since 2001 when they were at a mere 62 adults.

The comeback was made with the help of more prey being introduced into natural habitats (part of their main diet being rabbits), captive breeding in specialist conservationist shelters, and reintroduction into the wild after all these steps. The rapidly growing numbers were a surprise to many, and will hopefully continue to rise over the next few years.

The reasons for the earlier decline in the Iberian Lynx population included excessive hunting, habitats being turned into agricultural areas, and climate change.

Some people find these lynxes adorable, with speckled fur, long tufted ears, and their iconic 'beards', believing that the world would suffer a great loss if they were to go extinct. This species play a crucial role in nature, and their extinction could have disrupted the food chain in many ways.

Film Review

By Gregor & Max

Over The Hedge (2006)

Created in 2006 by DreamWorks Animation, Over the Hedge is an animated movie centred around a group of animals trying to survive in a fast-developing suburbia in the USA. The story begins by focusing on RJ, a racoon trying to get food at night. He tries to buy a bag of crisps from a vending machine. In typical fashion, it fails and he has to go and find other food. He attempts to steal from a bear, whom he knows, and ends up destroying the entire supply of food the bear had collected. RJ is given a week to collect the food back, else he will be hunted.

He goes to a group of scavengers in an attempt to use them for their talents, but it proves hard to convince them to join him, eventually leading to exposure to human-manufactured food to finally get them on board. They go on several raids, collecting masses of food to give back to the bear, but one of the group finally has enough. When RJ checks on the food supply one final time, he discovers it has disappeared. He has just one night left to recoup the lost food before the bear comes after him, and with the human society hunting him down, will he be able to see another day?

I personally quite like this film: even though it is aimed at younger audiences it appeals well to parents and older children, such as myself. It is well written, and contains many jokes and elements of humour that still appeal to modern generations.

Overall rating: 8.3/10