

BIG NEWS

BIDEN BEATS TRUMP

AMERICANS have voted for Joe Biden to be their next president.

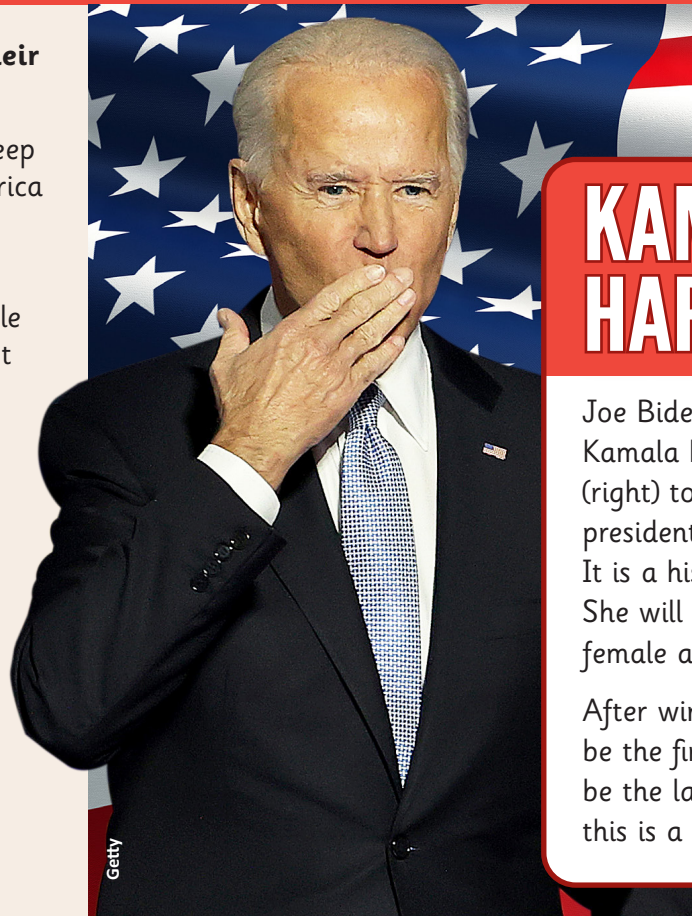
Donald Trump, the current president, had hoped to keep his job for another four years, but the people of America have decided otherwise.

A record number of people voted in the election last Tuesday. The result was much closer than many people thought it would be. In the end, the nail-biting contest came down to the results in a handful of key states (areas).

Joe Biden was declared the winner on Saturday, after he won in the state of Pennsylvania. More than 77 million people voted for him, in total. He won five million more votes than Donald Trump.

Normally the loser accepts the result and congratulates the winner. Instead, Donald Trump declared he was winner, claiming – without any evidence – that many of the votes made by post were illegal.

Joe Biden starts his new job as president of the United States in January.



KAMALA HARRIS

Joe Biden chose Kamala Harris (right) to be his vice president (his deputy). It is a historic choice. She will be the first female and the first black vice president of America.

After winning the election, Kamala said: "While I may be the first woman in this office [this job], I will not be the last. Every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities."



Questions on: 'Biden beats Trump'

1) Who will be the next president of the USA?

2) How long do presidents have in the job, before people get the chance to choose again?

3) What job will Kamala Harris have soon?

4) Find two reasons why this is 'historic'.

1: _____

2: _____

5) How long is it between the election and the new president taking over, roughly?

☐ One year

☐ Two weeks

☐ Two months

6) The journalist has described it as a "nail-biting contest"? What do you think this means?

7) How did Donald Trump react to his defeat?

8) Why do you think so much attention has been paid to this American election in Britain? Do you think it is important, or not?

You aren't told the answer in the report. Give your own opinion.

WORLD NEWS

FRANCE



100-YEAR-OLD MESSAGE



Getty

A rare carrier pigeon message from the First World War has been discovered in Ingersheim, France. The tiny capsule would have been strapped to a pigeon's leg.

Pigeons were used to carry news and secret messages in both world wars. This was a time before mobile phones!

The message was written by a German soldier. It reads: "Platoon Potthof receives fire as they reach the western border of the parade ground, platoon Potthof takes up fire and retreats after a while. In Fechtwald half a platoon was disabled. Platoon Potthof retreats with heavy losses."

IRELAND



FLYING OFF THE SHELVES

Fifteen-year-old Anthony Gorman from Co Offaly, has been blown away after receiving hundreds of orders for his homemade reindeer decorations.

Made from local ash tree wood, and built by Anthony and his dad in their workshop, the wooden reindeer have been a surprise Christmas hit. Anthony said: "Orders have come in from all over Ireland! I think people like them because I am so young. They are just so surprised that a 15-year-old can produce all of this."



Anthony's Wooden Crafts

INDIA



CRACKERS FOR KAMALA



Getty

People in southern India have been celebrating the success of Kamala Harris in the US elections.

As vice president, she will be the second most powerful person in America. Kamala's mother was Indian. She went to the USA to study, and ended up staying.

People from her ancestral village set off firecrackers and celebrated her achievement, saying it was a historic and "proud moment" for the country.

Questions on: World News

1) Match the headline to the correct country.

India

Flying off the shelves

France

Crackers for Kamala

Ireland

100-year-old message

Look at the news from Ireland.

2) What sort of wood are these decorations made from?

3) Can you find the words with a similar meaning to ‘unexpected seasonal success’?

Look at the news from France.

4) This message seems to describe the experiences of platoon Potthof. What do you find out from the message?

	True	False
They have been attacked		
They want urgent back-up		
They were attacked but won		
They have had to retreat (go back)		
Many soldiers in the platoon have died		
They are headed to Fechtwald		

Look at the news from India.

5) Can you explain the link between the American election and India?

6) What does the word ‘ancestral’ mean?

- ☐ to do with people from southern India
- ☐ to do with your family who lived in the past
- ☐ to do with your right to vote

7) Why do you think “Crackers for Kamala” is a good headline for this story?

Consider all the news.

8) Which story are you most likely to share with a friend? Why?

Which story are you most likely to share with a parent or grown-up? Why?

Are your choices different?

BIG NEWS



**AT LAST –
A VACCINE TO
BEAT THE
VIRUS?**

GLOSSARY

vaccine – A medicine that protects people from a disease

Vaccine

2019 - nCoV

Coronavirus

iStock

FOR the first time, a vaccine for the coronavirus has been proven to work.

This fantastic news gives hope that the end of the coronavirus pandemic might be in sight.

The results from the scientific trial came out on Monday. They showed that the vaccine worked for 90% of people. In other words, it prevented nine out of ten people from getting the virus.

To develop a working vaccine this quickly is a remarkable scientific achievement. The company behind the vaccine hope that it will be approved and ready to use in December.

The UK has already ordered 40 million doses. This will vaccinate up to 20 million people, as each person will need two doses for it to work properly.

Ten other vaccines are also in the final stages of testing. So, very soon, there could be more COVID-19 vaccines available.

Although this is great news, Matt Hancock, the Government's Health Secretary, has warned us that "this is not over yet."

It will take quite a while before the vaccine is available to everyone. The elderly, who are most at risk from the virus, will be vaccinated first. Mr Hancock has urged people to be patient and reminded us all that, right now, it's essential we keep following the rules to stop the virus spreading.

Questions on: 'Hope at last – a vaccine to beat the virus?'

- 1) What fantastic news was announced on Monday?
- 2) If ten people are given this vaccine, how many of them will be protected from the virus?
- 3) Can you explain why this is a “remarkable scientific achievement”?
- 4) “The results from the scientific trial came out on Monday.”

Which word is closest in meaning to ‘trial’?

- ☐ Test
- ☐ Injection
- ☐ Experiment

- 5) If the UK is buying 40 million doses of the vaccine, why can only 20 million people get the vaccination?

- 6) Who is Matt Hancock?

- 7) What warning has he given?

Why do you think it was important to give this warning to people?

- 8) Does this news make you feel **hopeful**?

Explain your thoughts and feelings.

SCIENCE NEWS



Ripe mangos

TREMENDOUS TROPICAL TREES

COULD the solution to two of the world's biggest problems grow on tropical trees?

A new report says that encouraging farmers to plant more tropical fruit trees such as mangos, avocados and Brazil nuts would be good for the planet. Eating these crops would also be good for us!

There are more than 7,000 types of edible plant in the world. Yet, humans get half of their energy from only four crops: wheat, rice, sugarcane and maize (also called corn). These are all grasses.

These foods provide energy but lack other nutrients that are essential for a healthy diet.

The four main crops are grown in huge quantities worldwide, taking up vast areas of land. This causes the loss of trees and other plants needed for a healthy planet.

Experts have high hopes that growing more tree-based food will have enormous benefits. Trees help to combat climate change because they absorb carbon dioxide in large amounts, for a long time.

Changing what we grow and what we eat is a **major** challenge. Farmers, companies, governments and shoppers will need to work together for things to change.

But the new report says that now is the time to start growing a much wider variety of plants and trees, in order to provide healthy and nutritious food.



Wheat



Rice



Maize



Sugarcane



Avocado



Brazil nuts

Questions on: 'Tremendous tropical trees'

1) What is the **headline** of this news report?

Why has it been chosen?

2) Humans get half their energy from which four plants?

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

4: _____

3) Grass or tree? Tick the right box.

	Grass?	Tree?
Wheat		
Mango		
Avocado		
Maize		
Sugarcane		
Brazil nut		

4) Why do trees help us to tackle climate change?

5) What is described as “a major challenge”?

6) Find the adjectives used in the report.

- _____ challenge
- _____ quantities
- _____ benefits
- _____ areas

7) What links all these adjectives?

8) “Could the solution to two of the world’s biggest problems grow on tropical trees?”

Now that you have read this report, can you summarise which two problems the writer is talking about?