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Barack Obama, the American president, speaking at the U.N. General Assembly, in New York City, in the U.S.

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly is held every year towards the end of September. It is the U.N.'s biggest annual meeting. The Assembly takes place at the U.N.'s headquarters in New York City, in the U.S., and usually lasts for about two weeks.

The U.N. was formally set up, or founded, just after the end of the Second World War in 1945. It replaced the League of Nations. This organization was formed after the end of the First World War (1914 – 1918). Its main purpose was to stop any future wars from happening. Yet the League was not successful and it failed to prevent the start of the Second World War in 1939. Towards the end of the war it was decided to replace the League with a new organization, called the United Nations.

Today the U.N. has 193 member countries. All are invited to attend the General Assembly. Each Assembly is

given a number. This year it was the sixty-seventh session, or the 67th Assembly since the U.N. was founded in 1945.

A secretary-general leads the U.N. Its current leader is Ban Ki-moon. He is a former diplomat from South Korea. The General Assembly has a president. He or she holds this position for 12 months, or until the next Assembly takes place. U.N. member countries are divided into five geographical groups: African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean, Western European and other States, and Eastern European.

The five groups take turns to choose who is going to be the next president of the General Assembly. This year it was the turn of Western European and other States. The members within this group chose Vuk Jeremić, who is a politician from Serbia. The president for the previous 12 months, or sixty-sixth session, was from Qatar.

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As the General Assembly is the one time in the year when nearly all the world's leaders are in the same building at the same time, security is very strict. Hundreds of police officers surround the U.N. headquarters and police boats patrol the nearby East River.

One of the main parts of the Assembly is called the general debate. During the debate the leader or a representative from each member country can make a speech. These happen one after each other. The speeches are supposed to be no longer than 15 minutes. These speeches are often reported in the news. This is because they are a chance, or opportunity, for countries to complain about others if they don't agree with, or don't like, what they are doing.



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (left) President of the General Assembly Vuk Jeremić (right)

This year's general debate began on September 25. It finished six days later. Ban Ki-moon gave the opening address, or speech. He said that there were still many problems in the world and that U.N. member countries needed to work together to solve them. Mr. Jeremić, the Assembly's president, then spoke after Mr. Ban.

Barack Obama, the president of the U.S., was one of the first leaders to speak. Recently, a short movie, or video, was made in the U.S. The movie was about the Prophet Muhammad. It led to many anti-American demonstrations in Islamic countries. Many Muslims were angry.

They claimed that the movie, parts of which were posted on the YouTube website, was disrespectful to Islam and that it insulted their religion.

Mr. Obama said that the movie was an insult to all Americans as well. Yet it has not been banned. Mr. Obama added that in America many movies and publications cause offense. He said that he was sure that many people called him awful things every day, but he insisted that he would defend their right to do so. Free speech and freedom of expression are important.

When it was the turn of many leaders from Islamic countries to speak nearly all disagreed with the American president. They insisted that it was wrong to use the right of free speech to deliberately offend a religion. Algeria suggested that there should be an international law against mocking, or making fun of, Islam in this way. The representative from Malaysia told the Assembly that attacks on Islam should not be protected by freedom of speech laws.

During his address, Mr. Obama also said that Iran must end its plans for making nuclear weapons. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the president of Iran, spoke the following day. He has always insisted that Iran is not making nuclear weapons. Iran's nuclear power, he says, will only be used for peaceful things such as making electricity. On September 27, in his speech Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel, also complained about Iran. He even held up a diagram of a bomb to explain how far he believed that Iran's plans for developing a nuclear weapon had progressed.

Several leaders used their speeches to talk about the need to end the war currently taking place in Syria. David Cameron, the prime minister of Britain, blamed Russia

and China for holding up plans to stop the fighting. He claimed that as these two countries had blocked several U.N. votes it had not been possible to protect innocent people in Syria from the increasing violence. Syria's representative insisted that countries such as Britain were making things worse. He said that supporting groups that were fighting against the government was the wrong thing to do.

Recently, several countries have been arguing about the ownership of a number of small islands in the East China Sea and the East Sea (also known as the Sea of Japan). These countries include China, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea. The representatives of some of them used their 15 minute debate speech to blame the others for the problems.

When Mr. Jeremić spoke at the beginning of the Assembly he talked about Magna Carta. Magna Carta is a Latin phrase. It means "the great charter". Historians say that the charter, written in England in 1215, is the basis for the modern idea of a constitution, or a country's rules that set out people's legal rights.

This was the time when monarchs had all the power. One of the most important rules in Magna Carta was about the legal system. It became totally separate from the king or queen. Before, monarchs in England could control and use the legal system to their advantage. Magna Carta said that they had to obey the laws like everyone else in the country.

Mr. Jeremić declared that the rule of law would continue to be one of the Assembly's main **priorities**. He also said that today, 800 years after Magna Carta was signed, it was wrong that many people in the world still do not have all the rights that were listed in the great charter. ■

ELECTION IN GEORGIA

On October 2, Mikheil Saakashvili, the president of Georgia, spoke on live television. During the broadcast he declared that his political party, the United National Movement (UNM), had lost the election for the country's parliament, which was held the day before.

Georgia's parliament has 150 seats. Mr. Saakashvili's UNM party did badly. A new political party, called Georgian Dream, is expected to easily get more than half of the seats. Georgian Dream is a grouping, or coalition, of several different political parties. It was formally set up six months ago. The official election results will be announced at the end of October.



Bidzina Ivanishvili, Georgia's new prime minister

Bidzina Ivanishvili set up Georgian Dream. He also leads the party. Mr. Ivanishvili has not been involved in politics for very long. However, he is a successful businessman and is the richest person in Georgia. He will now become the country's new prime minister.

The recent election was important. This is because last year it was agreed that the political system in Georgia would change. From 2013, under the new system, the prime minister will be in charge of the country and have more powers than the president. This is a similar system to some other countries. In these the president acts as the country's

head of state, or figurehead, and the prime minister and his government make the important decisions.

Georgia used to be part of the Russian-led Soviet Union. It, like many other countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, became an independent nation soon after the old Soviet Union began to break up in 1990.

Mr. Saakashvili was elected as Georgia's president in 2004. Before becoming president he worked as a lawyer in the U.S. In 2008, he was re-elected for another five years. Many people believe that Mr. Saakashvili has always wanted Georgia to have closer links with European Union (EU) member countries. It's also thought that he would like Georgia to become a member of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization).

Mr. Saakashvili has angered Russia. In 2008, the two countries fought a five-day war. Russian troops easily defeated the Georgians and occupied half of the country. After the war, two regions of Georgia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, said that they had decided to leave Georgia and become independent. Russia has continued to support them.

Mr. Saakashvili used to be a popular leader. Yet in recent years many people have complained that he has changed. They accuse him and his government of being very strict as well as giving the police too many powers.

Before the election Mr. Ivanishvili said that he would like Georgia to start to work more closely with Russia. Mr. Saakashvili accused him of wanting Georgia to return to the days when the country was part of the Soviet Union. Many people think that Russian leaders will be pleased with the election result.

The next presidential election will be held in 2013. Mr. Saakashvili

NEWSCAST

SKIMMING CHAMPIONS — The world's annual stone skimming championship took place on September 29. The contest first began in 1983. It is held on an island in the north of Britain. Contestants skim stones on a lake in a disused slate quarry. The stones must "skim", or bounce off the surface of the water, at least three times. The distance each stone travels is measured. The winner is the person whose stone goes the farthest distance. Nowadays people from many different countries take part. There are several competitions: men's, women's, under 15 and under ten. This year the winners of the adult contests both came from Britain.

cannot stand again. This is because Georgia's constitution, or rules by which the country is governed, say that a person can only be president for two **successive** five-year terms.

Soon after the election result was known Mr. Ivanishvili suggested that as the UNM had lost the parliamentary election Mr. Saakashvili should step down. This would mean that the presidential election would have to be held one year early. ■

WORLD'S OLDEST FILLING?

Scientists in Italy have discovered evidence of some very old dental treatment. When examining an ancient human jawbone they noticed that one of the teeth looked like it contained a filling.

The jawbone was found in what is now Slovenia about 100 years ago. Since its discovery it has been kept in a museum. It was only when it

was scanned by some modern digital equipment that the scientists detected some cracks, or fissures, in the tooth. These, they say, meant that the person probably had a bad toothache.

The scientists also noticed a hole, or cavity, in the tooth. It seemed to have been filled with something. After further tests this substance was found to be beeswax. Using different equipment the scientists were able to work out that the beeswax was around 6,500 years old.

Beeswax is produced in the hives of honeybees. It is formed by worker bees that secrete it from special glands on the inner sides of their bodies. Honeybees use the beeswax to build honeycomb [structures](#), or cells. Young bees develop in these cells, which are also used to store honey and pollen.

Today, beeswax is used in polish, for making candles and many other things. Long ago special writing tablets were made of beeswax. It was also used to make small models and as a type of sealing wax.



Ancient tooth that contains a beeswax filling
(the beeswax is within the yellow dotted line)
(Courtesy of PLoS One)

In the past, scientists have found other forms of ancient dentistry. For example, several teeth with drill holes in them were found in Pakistan. Scientists think that the holes were made with a type of flint, or stone, tool. These teeth are between 7,500 and 9,500 years old. However, until now it was not known what might have been used to fill these holes.

After studying the tooth the scientists are sure that it cracked while the person was still alive. They cannot be certain if the hole in the tooth was filled with beeswax before or after the person died. Yet it seems likely that the filling was probably done to try to reduce the pain of a cracked tooth.

The scientists say that beeswax was a sensible thing to use. It can stick to things and is easily melted and shaped. What's more it contains honey, which, in ancient times, was used to treat cuts and other injuries. ■

WALLACE COLLECTION ONLINE

On September 29, it was announced that the complete works, or the writings, books, pictures and notes, of Alfred Russel Wallace (1823 – 1913), would be made available online. The project has been organized by an historian who works at a university in Singapore.

Most people have heard of Charles Darwin (1809 – 1882) and his famous theory of evolution. Darwin's theory is that species adapt and change to the places and surroundings in which they live. He said that they did this by a process he called natural selection, and that only the fittest survive.

However, few people know anything about Wallace. He was a British naturalist who came up with a similar theory of evolution by natural selection around the same time as, if not before, Darwin.

Darwin's famous book *On the Origin of Species* was published in 1859. At the time many people believed that Darwin's ideas couldn't be true, as traditional Christian teachings say that God created the world and its creatures in seven days.

Between 1848 and 1853 Wallace lived in Brazil. There he collected thousands of specimens of insects and birds. He made a living by sending these back to Britain where they were sold. In 1854, Wallace went to Singapore and then spent eight years in different parts of South East Asia, such as Malaysia and Indonesia. There he also collected specimens.



Alfred Wallace

When he was in South East Asia Wallace and Darwin wrote letters to each other. It was not unusual for Darwin to ask Wallace to send him certain specimens. While studying the wildlife in this part of the world Wallace began forming his own ideas about evolution. He wrote his ideas and thoughts down in a number of long essays. He even sent an outline of his theory to Darwin.

While working in South East Asia Wallace noticed that there seemed to be a dividing line that ran through the region. On one side were animals that were mostly found in Asia while on the other they seemed to come from Australia.

The reason for this is that thousands of years ago the sea level in this part of the world was much lower than it is now. What are islands today were joined to the mainland. However, at this time, a deep sea channel still divided the region. This acted as a barrier to the animals on either side of it. Today this imaginary line, which divides Asian and Australian animals, is known as "The Wallace Line".

Wallace returned to Britain in 1862. By this time Darwin had published *On the Origin of Species*. Darwin always accepted that Wallace's ideas were very similar to his own. Yet because of the publication of his book Darwin became famous while few people have heard of Wallace.

In 2006, many of Darwin's writings, diaries and pictures were made available online. ■

TRAFFIC JAMS IN CHINA

On September 30, record-breaking traffic jams built up on many of China's main roads and highways. The following day, October 1, was the start of the eight day Mid-Autumn holiday, or festival. Many people had decided to travel from the main cities by car to visit their relatives in other parts of the country.

In recent years, there has been a big increase in the number of car owners in China. To travel on many of the country's main roads drivers have to pay money, or a toll. There are therefore tollbooths, or places to pay the tolls, at certain [intervals](#) along the highways. As drivers have to slow down and stop to pay the toll the tollbooths are often the causes of long traffic jams.

This year, the government decided to try to reduce the size of the normal traffic jams at the beginning of the holiday. It said that all toll road travel would be free and no tolls needed to be paid. Unfortunately, this decision seemed to make the problem worse. As it was free to travel on the toll roads many more people than normal decided to go by car to see their relatives.

Around the biggest cities such as Beijing, the capital, and Shanghai, traffic began to build up before

sunrise. Many drivers complained that it was taking several hours just to travel one mile.

Officials said that there were long jams, or tailbacks, on 24 different toll roads. They estimated that around 86 million people had decided to travel by car on the first day of the holiday. When tolls are being charged to use the highways it is usually much less expensive to travel by train.



Traffic jam in China

Some reports said that where the traffic came to a stop many people got out of their cars and walked around. Traffic policemen had to use bicycles. [Portable](#) toilets were set up in some places.

China holds the record for the longest ever traffic jam. This happened in 2010. Then a 60 mile (97 kilometer) long tailback built up on a highway between Inner Mongolia and Beijing. It was caused by road works in the city as well as the thousands of trucks that bring coal to power stations close to Beijing. During the worst part of the traffic jam it was taking one day to travel about two miles (three kilometers).

Another problem in China is that most people all go on holiday at the same time. There are two long holidays in the year. As well as the Mid-Autumn festival many people leave the cities during the Spring festival. This is when Chinese New Year celebrations are held. At this time millions of factory workers leave

the larger cities to spend the holiday with their families in the countryside. People traveling to the countryside for Chinese New Year, in China, is often described as the "world's biggest human migration". ■

NEW PINK DOLPHIN LAW

Recently, a new law has come into force in Bolivia. The law protects the rare pink dolphins that live in some of the county's rivers.

Bolivia's president, Evo Morales, signed the law during a special ceremony that took place in the city of Trinidad. Rivers, lakes and lagoons, which are the natural habitat of the pink dolphins, surround this city. The dolphins are Bolivia's largest freshwater mammals.

Bolivian pink dolphins are one of three species of dolphin that live in the rivers of the Amazon. These freshwater mammals are also known as pink river dolphins as well as Amazon River dolphins. In Spanish they are called bufeo.



Bolivian pink dolphin

Of all the river dolphins Bolivia's bufeo are the largest. Males can be as long as 8.3 feet (2.55 meters) and weigh 180 pounds (81.5 kilograms). Females are a little shorter and lighter than the males.

The dolphins have very flexible necks. This means that their heads can easily turn from side to side and up and down. The rivers in which

they live often flood. Its thought that their flexible necks make it easier for them to catch and eat the fish that swim between the trunks of fallen trees that line the banks of flooded rivers. The pink river dolphins have very large or “chubby” cheeks. It is not yet known why this is. Some people believe that their cheeks make it difficult for them to look downwards. This, they say, may explain why the dolphins spend a lot of time swimming upside-down.

Many of the rivers in Bolivia flow into the Madeira River, which is the Amazon River’s largest tributary. Close to where the Madeira River forms the border between Bolivia and Brazil there is a large waterfall. This is a natural barrier for the dolphins and is probably the reason the river dolphins found in Bolivia have evolved to be slightly different to those found in the Amazon River.

Bolivian pink dolphins are threatened in several ways. One is hunting. The new law says that it is now illegal to catch or kill them. Another problem is local fishermen using explosives in the water to catch fish. The explosions stun the fish, which can then be easily collected. However, the underwater sound waves from these explosions can injure the dolphins. Mercury pollution in the rivers is also a problem. Mercury is used in illegal gold mines. It can kill both dolphins and fish if a lot of it gets into a river.

The Bolivian army has also been given orders to help protect the dolphins and the places in which they live. Mr. Morales said that it was the Bolivian government’s duty to protect the river dolphins as well as all other types of animals in Bolivia. ■

lans have their own language, traditions, flag and regional parliament.

On September 11, Catalonia’s national day, over one million people took part in a demonstration in the city of Barcelona. Nearly all were “separatists” or people who want Catalonia to become an independent country. Barcelona is the biggest city in Catalonia and the second largest in Spain.



Many Catalans want their parliament to be able to make more of the decisions that affect Catalonia. Currently the most important decisions are made by the Spanish parliament in Madrid, the capital of the country.

Recently, Artur Mas, the president of Catalonia, met with Mariano Rajoy, Spain’s prime minister. Mr. Mas wants Catalonia to be able to raise its own taxes. This is similar to what happens in the Basque Country. Yet Mr. Rajoy refused Mr. Mas’s request.

Catalonia is one of the wealthiest regions of Spain. However, many people who live there complain that the government in Madrid is now using more and more of the money that comes from Catalonia to help Spain’s less wealthy regions. For example, about 16% of the country’s population live in Catalonia but of all the things that are exported from Spain to other countries about 30% come from the region. Therefore a lot of the money made in Catalonia is being spent elsewhere.

NEWSCAST

GIRAFFE DUCK — Zookeepers in China have successfully managed to take a giraffe, called Mengmeng, to a new wildlife park. The giraffe was transported on a special trailer for a distance of only a few miles. Yet before this could be done a problem had to be solved. Along the route were 20 low bridges and Mengmeng’s head would be sticking out of the top of the trailer. So for several months the keepers trained the giraffe to duck its head. To do this they made a special pen in the zoo, which was similar to the trailer. After a lot of practice Mengmeng eventually understood that she needed to lower her head whenever a low obstacle approached.



SPAIN AND CATALONIA

On September 27, an important vote was held in the parliament of Catalonia, a region of Spain. The vote, to decide if people living in Catalonia would be able to take part in a future referendum on independence, passed. A referendum is a vote in which all adults can take part.

Over the last 12 months, Spain has had serious financial problems. These difficulties are expected to continue for a long time. Some people now worry that these problems may mean that several Spanish regions, such as Catalonia and the Basque Country, will try to become separate countries.

Spain’s population is about 47 million. Of these roughly 7.6 million live in Catalonia. Even though Catalonia is part of Spain, many who live there think that their region should be a separate country. Cata-

When countries split up into a number of different smaller nations it is often described as “Balkanization”. This word comes from a part of southeast Europe that is known as the Balkans. This was where the former country of Yugoslavia used to be. Starting in 1991 Yugoslavia began to break up. What used to be different regions of Yugoslavia are now seven separate countries, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Kosovo.

The vote that was passed in the Catalan parliament says that a referendum on independence should be held before the end of 2016. However, many people think that it is unlikely that there will be any Balkanization in Spain. This is because the constitution of the country, or rules by which Spain is governed, say that regional votes about secession, or independence, are unlawful. ■

IRON MAN BUDDHIST STATUE

Researchers from Austria and Germany have recently discovered that a Buddhist statue taken from Tibet was carved out of a meteorite. The statue was brought back to Germany in 1938 by members of an expedition, which was supported by one of Nazi Germany’s most **notorious** leaders, Heinrich Himmler.

Himmler was head of the SS in Nazi Germany. This group was responsible for many of the crimes against humanity that were committed during the Second World War (1939 – 1945).

A man who was trained in both zoology (the study of animals) and ethnology (the study of people and races) led the expedition to Tibet, which is part of China. Some people think that the reason for the expedition

was to try to find out about the origins of the Aryan race.

Leaders of Nazi Germany, such as Himmler, believed that Aryans were a race of pale skinned people who lived in northern India and the Himalayas many thousands of years ago. They claimed that the Aryans later moved to Europe and that the German people were their descendants. As they believed that their ancestors were Aryans, followers of Nazi Germany thought that the German people were superior to all other races.



Iron Man statue

The Buddhist statue is known as the Iron Man. It is 9.4 inches (24 centimeters) tall and weighs around 23.3 pounds (10.6 kilograms). The statue is thought to be of the god Vaisravana, the Buddhist King of the North. Experts believe that it was carved about 1,000 years ago.

Chemical tests showed that the statue contained a lot of iron and **nickel**. They also confirmed that it was made from a very rare kind of meteorite called ataxite.

It is known that a large meteorite of this type crashed somewhere near what is now the border region

between Mongolia and Russia about 15,000 years ago. **Prospectors** looking for gold in this area found bits of it in 1913. The researchers believe that the fragment, or part, of the meteorite that the statue is made from was probably picked up in the same area hundreds of years before.

It is not known how or where in Tibet the 1938 expedition found the statue. However, it was probably brought back to Germany because a large swastika is carved on the figure’s chest. In Buddhism the swastika is a symbol of good fortune. It is also the symbol that is most associated with Nazi Germany.

A private collector, who only recently asked the researchers to study it, owns the statue. The Iron Man is the only known figure of a human to have been carved out of a meteorite. Therefore it is likely that the statue is now worth a very large amount of money. ■

ELDERLY PEOPLE REPORT

In 1990, the United Nations (U.N.) decided to **designate** October 1, as the “International Day of Older Persons”. This year a special U.N. report about ageing populations was released on this day.

The U.N.’s report is called “Ageing in the 21st Century: A Celebration and a Challenge”. It says that the number of older people in the world is increasing much faster than any other age group. The report uses the age of 60 and above to define people who are in the oldest age group.

The U.N. warns that all governments should start to prepare for the time when a greater number of older people are living in their countries. For instance, the report says that in 1950 there were about 250 million

people in the world who were over 60 years old. This year the figure will increase to roughly 810 million. Within the next ten years the number is predicted to be one billion and to double by 2050.



In 2000, for the first time there were more people in the world over the age of 60 than there were children under five. A greater number of people are becoming older in richer, or more developed countries. However, in the future the same will probably be true for poorer, or less developed ones.

There are several reasons for this. The birth rate, or the number of babies being born, in developed countries has been declining and healthcare has improved. Scientists are always learning more about the causes of diseases and how to treat them. This means that many are now living to a much older age than people used to in the past.

Another reason for people living longer is a better understanding of the importance of **nutritious** foods and healthy lifestyles, or behaviors. For instance, today, in many countries, far fewer people smoke than they did 50 years ago.

Japan has the “oldest” population in the world. Of the 126 million people living in the country roughly 30% are now over 60.

Ageing populations can cause problems for governments. As older people retire from work some require more help and extra medical care. The money needed for this comes from the taxes younger workers pay. Therefore as the number of elderly people in the population increases, the amount of money needed to look after them goes up.

Yet, with fewer people being born, the number of younger workers paying taxes to provide money to look after the elderly decreases.

The U.N. report says that in the future governments should make sure that they have enough money to look after all their older people. They should also look for ways of increasing the age at which people retire. This means that older people will work longer and therefore be able to look after themselves for a greater period of time. ■

LIBYANS HAND IN WEAPONS

On September 29 and 30, hundreds of people traveled to Tripoli, the capital of Libya, and Benghazi, the second largest city in the country. All had come to hand over their weapons to army officials.

Violence broke out in Libya at the beginning of 2011. This eventually turned into a civil war between Libya’s leader Muammar Gaddafi (better known as Colonel Gaddafi) and those who wanted to get rid of him and his sons, as well as his close supporters.

Colonel Gaddafi had controlled Libya, under very strict laws, for over 40 years. In February last year he sent armed troops and police to stop people demonstrating against him in Benghazi. Yet the local people, some armed with weapons, managed to force them to withdraw.

Protests soon spread to other towns and cities. A group of people set up an organization called the National Transitional Council (NTC) in Benghazi. They claimed that the NTC was Libya’s new government.

Colonel Gaddafi then planned to use tanks and planes to attack Benghazi. Other countries, especially

France and Britain, were worried the attack would put ordinary people in danger. The United Nations (U.N.) voted to let warplanes from NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries protect civilians in Libya. Other non-NATO countries such as Qatar also offered to help.



A man goes to hand in a weapon, in Libya

NTC supporters gradually took control of several parts of the country. They arrived in Tripoli in August 2011 and captured Colonel Gaddafi’s headquarters. The Libyan leader, members of his family, and close supporters fled the city. A few months later Colonel Gaddafi was captured and killed.

In August this year, an election was held for Libya’s new Congress, or parliament. Now an elected president, Mohammed Magarief, leads the country.

However, after eight months of fighting many people had **acquired** weapons. During the war people had formed groups, or what’s known as militias, to fight against Colonel Gaddafi’s supporters. When the fighting was over most were **reluctant** to give up their weapons. Since the end of the war there has been frequent outbreaks of violence by armed militia groups.

After he became the country’s leader Mr. Magarief said that he was determined to get the militias to hand all their weapons over to the country’s army. Yet few agreed to

do so. Then in September the U.S.'s ambassador in Libya and three other Americans were killed in Benghazi. The building they were in was attacked by a group of armed men. Soon afterwards, large crowds of people in Benghazi forced a militia group that was suspected of carrying out the attack to leave the city.

Many people in Libya were unhappy about the killing of the American ambassador. An [appeal](#) for everybody to hand in any weapons they had was made on television. This time many decided to do so. Those that gave up their weapons were entered into a draw where they could win new cars, flat screen televisions and iPads.

Thousands of automatic rifles were handed over. Larger weapons including rocket launchers and anti-aircraft guns were also given to the army. One militia group from Tripoli even handed over a tank that they had captured during the fighting. Many hope that the violence in the country will now stop and all Libyans will be able to live in peace. ▣

PLANKTON STUDY

A small research ship, called the *Tara*, has just completed a 36 month long voyage. During the trip the crew took samples of the seawater in different parts of the world and studied the plankton that they found within them.

It was thought that there were around 30,000 different types of plankton in the world's oceans. Yet to the crew's surprise they recorded as many as 1.5 million plankton species.

Plankton are tiny marine creatures. They are important for several reasons. One is that they take carbon dioxide out of the sea and turn it into

oxygen. The carbon dioxide in the sea has been absorbed from the air. It's estimated that, in this way, the oceans produce about half of the oxygen in the world. This means that every second breath a person takes contains oxygen that has come from these tiny sea creatures.

Plankton are also at the bottom of the oceanic food chain. Small fish and other marine creatures such as krill feed on them. These are then eaten by larger fish, which are a food source for bigger animals and certain types of seabirds. So if there weren't any plankton there wouldn't be any fish.

The research ship set off from France two and a half years ago. The ship is a type of boat known as a schooner. It is only 118 feet (36 meters) long. During the voyage the boat traveled a distance of around 70,000 miles (112,600 kilometers). It sailed through the Atlantic, Pacific, Southern and Indian Oceans.



One of the many species of plankton, as seen through a microscope

There were 14 crew members in total. These people rotated, or took turns, to spend several months on board before being replaced by other members of the crew. They took around 30,000 samples of seawater. Some were from as deep as 6,560 feet (2,000 meters). On board were special 3D (three-dimensional) microscopes. These were used to study and record the plankton that each sample contained.

Some of the new species discovered were quite big or roughly 0.4 of an inch (one centimeter) in length. Yet many were only a tiny fraction of an inch and could only be seen when using the microscopes.

During the voyage the *Tara* also found a lot of microplastic pollution in the oceans. Microplastic is the name for very tiny pieces of plastic that are smaller than one millimeter in size.

Microplastic comes from larger pieces of plastic rubbish floating in the sea that breaks up. It is also the tiny pieces of plastic used in some cleaning products as well as the fibres that come from washing [synthetic](#) clothing in washing machines. This microplastic finds its way into rivers, which eventually flow into the sea.

Even in the remote Antarctic Ocean the researchers discovered that there are about 50,000 tiny pieces of plastic in 0.4 square miles (one square kilometer) of sea. Many scientists worry about microplastic in the sea. This is because it has been found inside many fish, so it has already gotten into the food chain. ▣

BATTLE FOR KISMAYO

On October 1, it was reported that African Union (AU) and Somali government soldiers had finally captured the port city of Kismayo, in Somalia. Fighting around the city had been going on for several days. A militant Islamic group called al-Shabaab had held Kismayo for many years. The city was the group's last major stronghold in the country.

Over the last 20 years there have been many problems in Somalia. Many say that it is still the most lawless country in the world.

In 2004, with help from the United Nations (U.N.) and the U.S. together with the African Union (AU), a new Somali government was set up. The AU is a union or group of 54 African countries. Somalia is one of its members.



This new government was called the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). At first, because of the dangers in Somalia, the TFG operated from Kenya. The AU with support from the U.N. then decided to send troops to Somalia to protect the new government. The AU's operation in Somalia is known as AMISOM (the African Union Mission to Somalia).

Al-Shabaab had managed to seize control of large parts of Somalia. It ruled these areas of the country according to its own very strict version of Islamic laws. The AU wants to defeat al-Shabaab because it does not want its supporters to spread to other nearby countries.

By the beginning of this year, a total of 9,000 AMISOM soldiers were in Somalia. They are mainly from Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Burundi and Djibouti. These troops eventually managed to remove all the al-Shabaab fighters from Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.

Recently, a new parliament and an elected president replaced the TFG. The members of Somalia's new parliament chose the president, Hassan Sheikh Mohamed. Mr.

Mohamed, who is a former university professor, is the first person to be elected as president in Somalia for over 20 years.

However, even though al-Shabaab was forced to leave Mogadishu the group still controlled Kismayo in the south of the country. This port city is not far from Somalia's border with Kenya. It's believed that al-Shabaab was able to bring in many weapons through the port. Large amounts of charcoal are exported from Kismayo. As al-Shabaab controlled the port it also made most of its money from this charcoal trade.

The attack on Kismayo was made by troops from Kenya together with Somali government soldiers. Kenyan warplanes were used to bomb al-Shabaab's weapon stores close to the city. Many of the AMISOM troops arrived by sea in specially designed military landing boats.

Now al-Shabaab no longer holds any of the country's bigger towns and cities. Yet it still controls large areas of the countryside. Many people therefore warn that it could be a long time before the group is defeated. Soon after becoming the new president Mr. Mohamed declared that he would be willing to hold peace talks with al-Shabaab's leaders. ■

HUBBLE DEEP SPACE PICTURE

Astronomers working with the Hubble Space Telescope (Hubble) have managed to create the "deepest ever" image of part of the Universe. The image, called the eXtreme Deep Field, or XDF, was made from around 2,000 photographs taken by the Hubble telescope over a period of ten years.

An American Space Shuttle took Hubble into space in 1990. Since then astronauts have visited it several times to carry out repairs and upgrade some of its equipment. Hubble is in what's known as a low orbit, or around 375 miles (600 kilometers) above the surface of the Earth. As it is outside the Earth's atmosphere the telescope is able to take very clear pictures of objects far out in space. Hubble helped astronomers to work out that the Universe is about 13.7 billion years old.



Hubble's XDF image

The telescope is named after the American astronomer Edwin Hubble (1889 – 1953). He discovered galaxies beyond our own Milky Way. He was also the first person to work out that the universe is expanding, or getting bigger and bigger.

Hubble created the deep space image from a very tiny piece of the night sky. If you imagine looking at the Moon the picture is of an area that is about only one tenth of its diameter square. Hubble is also able to take pictures of very distant galaxies that are not visible but can be detected in infrared and ultraviolet light.

The XDF photograph of this small piece of the night sky includes around 5,500 galaxies. Each contains many millions or even trillions of stars.

Scientists believe that the Universe began with what is known as

a “Big Bang”. This happened 13.7 billion years ago. The Big Bang Theory says that no space, time, matter, or energy existed before the Big Bang. The words “Big Bang” make it sound as if there was a giant explosion. This is misleading. Scientists often say that the best way to imagine how the Universe was formed is to think of a very tiny balloon. The balloon is the Universe, which gradually keeps getting bigger and bigger in all directions. However, unlike an expanding balloon no extra “air” is being “blown” into the Universe.

As the Universe is expanding, looking deep into space is a bit like looking back in time. Because of the time it takes light to travel huge distances in space what can be seen in the XDF picture is an image of what these distant galaxies looked like hundreds of millions of years ago. For example, one of the galaxies in the picture is believed to be the most distant yet discovered. If this is true the image of this galaxy is how it looked 13.2 billion years ago, or only 500 million years after the Big Bang. ■

MIGALOO RETURNS

At the end of September, a very rare white humpback whale, nicknamed Migaloo, was seen off the east coast of Australia. Migaloo means “white fella” in one of Australia’s [Aboriginal](#) languages.

Adult humpback whales can grow to a length of 62.5 feet (19 meters). They feed on small fish, plankton and tiny shrimp-like marine creatures called krill. When fully grown the whales can weigh around 40 tons. In the past many humpback whales were hunted and killed. Today they are a protected species.

Humpback whales that live in the Southern, or Antarctic, Ocean migrate every year. Around June (this is winter in the southern hemisphere) they travel north to warmer waters closer to the Equator, where the females have their calves, or babies. Then around September (or the beginning of summer in the southern hemisphere) they go back to the Southern Ocean to feed. When traveling north and south the whales can often be seen off the east coast of Australia.



Migaloo

Migaloo was first spotted in 1991. At the time the whale was believed to be the only albino, or white, humpback whale in the world. When Migaloo was first spotted it was estimated that the whale was between three and five years old. Humpback whales are thought to live for at least 50 years. Later, it was discovered that Migaloo was a male. When migrating north and south, close to the coast of Australia, male humpbacks can travel as far as 87 miles (140 kilometers) in one day.

There are stories throughout history of white whales, some, it’s thought are true, while others are legends. The most famous story is a novel called *Moby-Dick*. The American author Herman Melville (1819 – 1891) wrote the book, which was published in 1851.

As a young man Melville had worked on a whaler, or ship that set off to hunt whales. His book tells the story of a sea captain [obsessed](#) with

hunting down a giant white whale nicknamed Moby-Dick. In the novel the huge white whale eventually rams and sinks the captain’s ship.

Whale-watching is a big tourist attraction in Australia. Visitors travel to the east coast to see the humpback whales on their migration. Nowadays whale-watchers have to follow certain rules so they do not disturb or harm the whales. Boats must stay a certain distance away from them. If they break the rules the boats’ owners can be fined large amounts of money.

Migaloo is now so well-known that there are several websites about him. People who spot the white whale during his migration can send in their photographs as well as information about where they saw him. However, there have been several years during which there were no Migaloo sightings.

After 1991 a few other humpback whales with large white markings were seen. Yet none have been completely white like Migaloo. Then, in September 2011, an all white baby humpback calf was spotted for the first time close to its mother, not far from the Australian coast. Although it is not yet known some believe that Migaloo is the baby’s father and have nicknamed the calf MJ, or Migaloo Junior. ■

RUINED FRESCO ROYALTIES?

Many tourists have recently been visiting a church in the town of Borja, in northern Spain. The attraction is an attempted [restoration](#) of a mural painting, or fresco. Nearly everyone agrees that the restoration work has completely ruined the fresco.

At first, the story of the restoration was reported in the Spanish newspapers. Yet later newspapers and news

websites in over 160 countries featured the “ruined” fresco story. Now, as so many people want to see the attempted restoration, church officials are charging visitors €4.00 (\$5.20) to enter the church.

Cecilia Giménez is the person who did the restoration work. She is 80 years old. Ms. Giménez is now demanding that she should get royalties, or some of the money that visitors pay to enter the church.



Original fresco and attempted restoration

A Spanish artist painted the mural on a pillar in the church in 1910. He used to take holidays in the village where the church is. The painting is of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the Son of God, wearing a crown of thorns. The painting is called *Ecce Homo* or *Behold the Man*. However, the mural has been affected by the humidity, or moisture, in the air. In recent years this has caused some of the paint to come away, or flake off.

Last August, Ms. Giménez decided that she would restore, or repair, the painting. She claims that a local priest gave her permission to do the work. Yet most people think that this is unlikely. This is because this kind of repair work is very difficult. What’s more a person must have special qualifications and experience to do this type of restoration.

People were shocked to see what Ms. Giménez had done to the mural. Many say that the picture of Jesus now looks like a monkey, with

funny eyes and a strange mouth. Some have even nicknamed it *Ecce Mono* or *Behold the Monkey*. Others think that it is so bad that the mural should now be covered up.

The descendants of the artist who painted the fresco 100 years ago live near the village. They knew the painting needed to be repaired and recently gave some money to the church. This was to be used to help to restore the mural. The family say that Ms. Giménez has destroyed the fresco and they may now take legal action against her for what she has done.

Ms. Giménez insists that she did her best to repair the painting. She now believes that as so many people are paying to come and see it she is **entitled** to some of the money. A lawyer working for her agrees. However, Ms. Giménez says that she does not want to keep any of the money. Instead she plans to give it to several charities, which help people who have a type of illness that affects their muscles. This, she explains, is because her son suffers from this medical condition. **■**

VAMPIRE SQUID STUDY

For many years, marine scientists have been puzzled about vampire squid. What they feed on, for example, was unknown. Recently, marine scientists in the U.S. carried out a special study on these unusual deep-sea creatures. Some of the things they discovered were surprising.

Vampire squid are examples of what are sometimes called living fossils. These are creatures that have existed for a very long time without changing much. Therefore fossils of vampire squid, many millions of years old, look similar to the ones found living in the oceans today.

Vampire squid are cephalopods. Other marine creatures in this class include both the octopus and cuttlefish. Their scientific name is *Vampyroteuthis infernalis*, which means “vampire squid from hell”.

The squid grow to a length of about one foot (30 centimeters). Their color can vary between “reddish” to black. Unlike other cephalopods their eight arms are webbed, or joined. There are suckers on the insides of their arms that are also lined with spines called cirri. These are not hard and sharp but soft and flesh-like.

The squid have two fins one on each side of their mantle, or body. They are able to swim through the water by flapping these fins. Unlike other cephalopods vampire squid have two long string-like **filaments**. These are about eight times the length of their bodies.



Vampire squid (MBARI)

Vampire squid live around 3,000 feet (900 meters) below the surface of the sea. Not many things live in this part of the ocean. At this depth there is very little oxygen in the water.

To find out more about the squid the scientists studied deep-sea video recordings. These were taken by remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). The ROVs were also used to catch some of the squid, which the scientists then kept in a tank.

Cephalopods catch and eat live prey. Yet the scientists discovered that vampire squid don’t do this.

Instead the squid live on marine snow. This is the small “bits and pieces” that sink down to the bottom of the ocean. It includes the dead bodies of small creatures, eggs, fish scales, small bits of jellyfish and the **faeces**, or faecal pellets, of other fish that swim in the sea above them.

As it sinks bits of marine snow get stuck to the squid’s long filaments. These are then slowly pulled in and the squid uses its arms to clean or scrape off all the bits stuck to them. The “food” is then covered in mucus that comes from the suckers on its arms. The cirri on the inside of the arms then pass these “food lumps” towards the squid’s mouth.

Vampire squid are the only known cephalopods that are not carnivores, or meat eaters. Yet even though they do not eat living creatures it’s known that others will eat

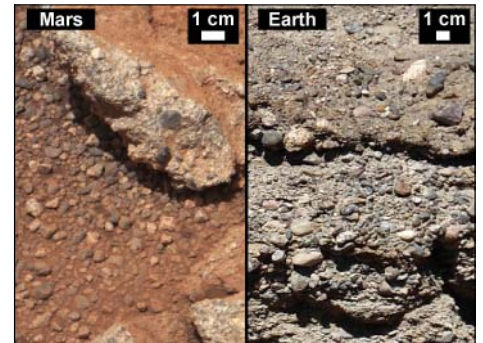
them. This is because the remains of vampire squid have been found inside the stomachs of certain types of whales and sharks. ■

CURIOSITY’S DISCOVERY

NASA officials recently announced that less than two months after landing on the Red Planet the Mars Rover **Curiosity** might have made its first discovery. It recently sent back several pictures of a certain type of rock that many experts believe finally proves that many millions of years ago there was flowing water on Mars.

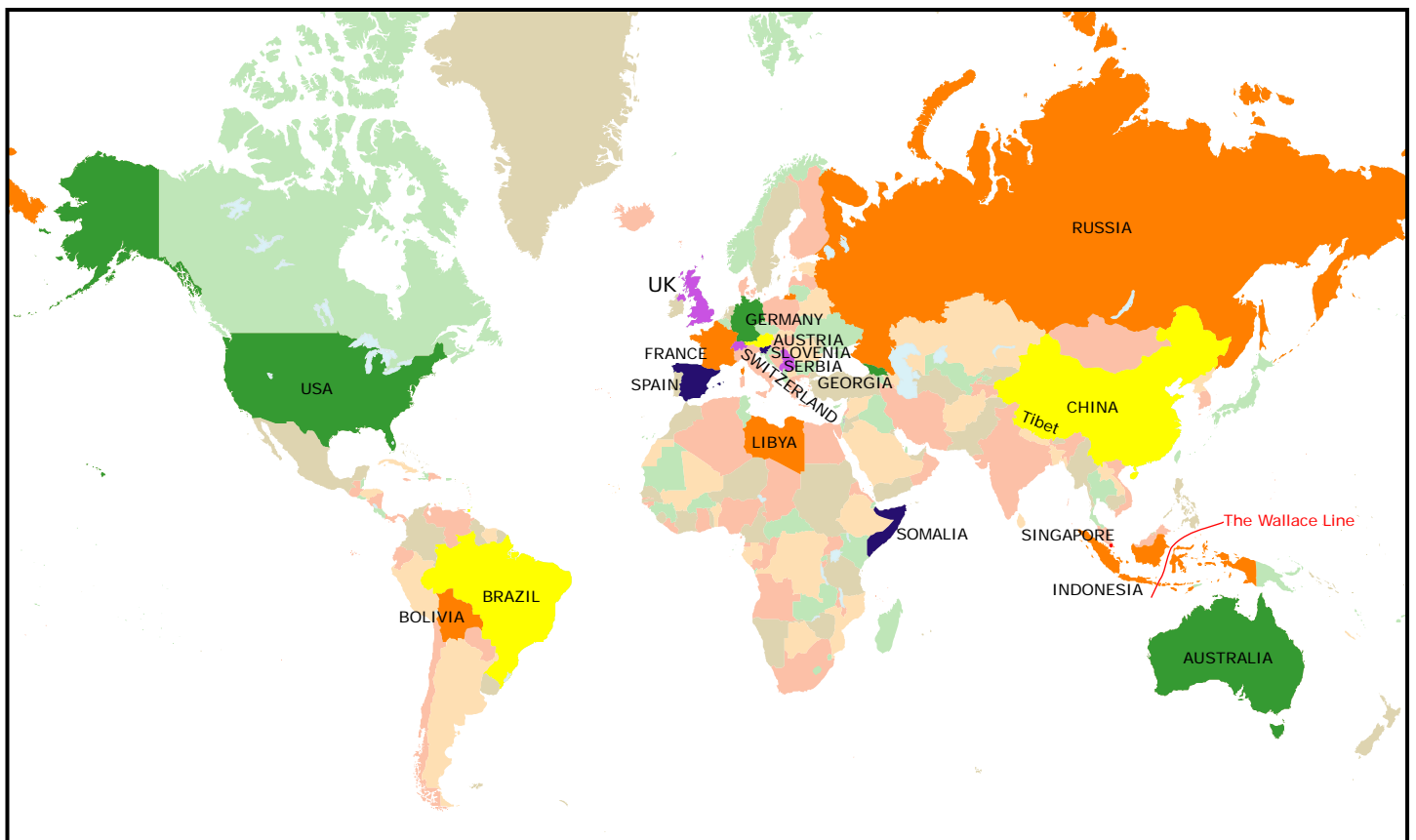
NASA’s Mars Rover Curiosity successfully landed on Mars on August 6. NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) is the U.S.’s space agency. Curiosity has been designed to try to find out

more about what Mars was like in the distant past. It has six wheels and is about the size of a small car. It also includes specially designed equipment for testing and working out what various rocks are made from.



Comparison of rocks on Mars and the Earth

Curiosity landed in what’s known as Gale Crater. This huge crater is 96 miles (154 kilometers) wide. A large asteroid hitting Mars about two billion years ago is believed to have created it. The crater was chosen as the landing site



This map shows countries to which news stories refer in this issue. Visit www.newsademic.com for more detailed world maps.

because of a 3.4 mile (5.5 kilometer) high mountain in the middle of it. The official name of this mountain is Aeolis Mons. Yet it's more commonly known as Mount Sharp.

Scientists think that over many millions of years, after the crater was formed, water and the wind gradually filled it up with sediment. Over time this turned to rock. Later, wind eroded this rock so all that is now left of the filled-in crater is the mountain in the middle of it. If this is how Mount Sharp was formed, it means that the rocks at the top are the most recent and those at the bottom are about two billion years old. Curiosity is now slowly traveling towards the base of the mountain.

Some scientists suspect that around 3.5 billion years ago there was a lot of liquid water on Mars. This is because satellite pictures of the planet's surface show many valleys that look as if rivers have formed them. Cliffs that seem to have been eroded, or worn away, by running water can also be seen. Yet these pictures do not prove that there used to be water on Mars.

Trying to find out if there was water on the Red Planet is important. Of all the other planets in our Solar System Mars is the most Earth-like. Therefore, if there was liquid water on the planet, there may also have been some forms of life, such as small microbes. What's more if life developed on Mars as well as the Earth then there could be life throughout the whole Universe.

The pictures of the rocks that the Mars Rover Curiosity sent back are very similar to what are known as conglomerates on the Earth. These types of rocks, which are formed by sand and gravel, look like concrete full of pebbles, or small rounded stones.

On the Earth it's known that ancient rivers and streams formed conglomerates. The rounded pebbles within them can only have been transported and shaped by running water.

Scientists will now study the pictures of the pebbles in the rock. It's possible that the shapes could even help them to work out the speed of the water flow and how far it traveled.

It's hoped that in the coming months and years the Mars Rover Curiosity will make many other discoveries. For example, the information it gathers may help scientists work out for how long there was water on Mars. It could even help to solve the mystery of why it all disappeared. ■

FRANCE'S BUDGET

France's budget for next year was announced on September 28. A budget is a plan for saving and spending money in the future.

François Hollande became the French president last May. This therefore was his government's first budget

since he was elected as the country's new leader. Jean-Marc Ayrault, the prime minister of France, announced the details of the new budget.

Most companies have annual budgets. These predict how much money the company will use for things, and how much it expects to make or lose in the next 12 months. The budget explains what the company will do with the money it makes. If it expects to lose money, the budget shows how the company plans to both spend less and to borrow what it needs.



François Hollande, president of France

Like companies, governments also produce budgets. A country's budget sets out how much money will be raised from people paying taxes. It also says whether taxes will go up or down, and what the tax money will be spent on. Many governments spend more than they receive in taxes. They therefore have to borrow extra money. The amount they need to borrow for the next 12 months is sometimes called the budget **deficit**.

France is one of the 17 eurozone members. These countries use the euro as their currency. In recent years several eurozone countries such as Greece, Italy, Portugal, Ireland and Spain, have had serious financial problems. Their economies have been doing badly. The number of people without jobs has been increasing and their governments have had to borrow more and more money.

NEWSCAST

SINGING DENTIST DRILL — A dentist in Indonesia has come up with a new invention. He hopes that when people need a filling, or other dental treatment, they will be less fearful in the future. His invention is a new type of dentist drill. Instead of making a loud “buzzing” or “whirring” sound it plays music. The dentist says that the drill, which is attached to a MP3 player, is popular with young people. This is because they are able to choose the music they would like the drill to play. It even has lights that flash in time to the music.

France too now has financial problems. For example, the number of adults of a working age without jobs in the country has been increasing. Now it is about 10%, or around three million people. This means that the government has to spend even more to help these people. Over the last few years the amount of money that France has had to borrow has been increasing. This means that the cost of repaying this money also goes up.

In most other eurozone countries governments have been trying to reduce the amount of money they spend. This is often called “government spending cuts”. For example, a government might decide to reduce the amount it spends on schools, roads and its army. It may also cut the amount of money that government workers, such as teachers, police officers, doctors, nurses and officials are paid. Normally these types of government spending cuts are very unpopular.

Before he was elected, Mr. Hollande said that he would reduce the budget deficit. To do this he would either have to increase taxes, cut government spending or do some of both. Most eurozone countries that have financial problems have announced that there will be large spending cuts.

However, in the budget the French prime minister announced that wealthier people would have to pay much higher taxes. For example, those being paid over €150,000 (\$194,380) a year will pay 45% of what they make in tax. People earning over €1 million (\$1.3 million) a year will have to pay 75%. Larger companies will also have to pay much higher taxes.

Some people were surprised that the new budget did not include many more government spending cuts.

They argue that making wealthier people and large companies pay such high taxes will cause problems. Richer people are more likely to set up new businesses, as are larger companies. This, they say, creates more jobs and helps the economy to grow. Higher taxes mean that they are now unlikely to do this.

However, Mr. Hollande said that the new budget was fair. He also insisted that the changes would improve the economy and reduce France’s budget deficit. ■

YOUNGER MONA LISA?

On September 27, an organization in Switzerland displayed a painting that looks very similar to Leonardo da Vinci’s *Mona Lisa*. The painting has been kept in a local bank vault for the last 40 years. Its owners and several art experts claim that da Vinci also painted this “Mona Lisa”.



Mona Lisa

Isleworth Mona Lisa

The *Mona Lisa* is probably the world’s most famous painting. It’s thought that Leonardo da Vinci (1452 – 1519) painted the *Mona Lisa* at some time between 1503 and 1506. The picture now hangs in the Louvre art gallery in Paris, the capital of France. The painting is believed to be of Lisa Gherardini. She was the wife of a wealthy silk merchant who lived in the city of Florence, in what is now Italy. The painting is famous for the woman’s

mysterious hint of a smile. Some people think that she is smiling, while others think that she is not.

Over the years, other artists have painted many copies of the *Mona Lisa*. Recently, the Museo del Prado (Prado Museum) in Madrid, the capital of Spain, discovered a copy in one of its storerooms. It had a completely black background. Museum officials thought that it was painted about 100 years after the original.

However, after it was cleaned experts discovered that the black color had been painted over a different background. When the black paint was removed they were surprised to find that the background was the same as the one in the Louvre.

Da Vinci had a number of younger artists working for him. They are often described as his pupils. Art experts now believe that the “Prado *Mona Lisa*” was painted by one of his pupils, probably at the same time as da Vinci was painting the real one. The background seemed to have been painted black about 100 years later. It is not known why this was done.

The picture that has been kept in a bank vault in Switzerland is known as the “Isleworth *Mona Lisa*”. An art collector discovered the painting hanging in a large country house in Britain in 1913. It had been in the house for over 100 years and was thought to be a copy. The collector bought the picture and took it to his house in Isleworth, near London, the capital of Britain.

Since 1913, several collectors have owned the Isleworth *Mona Lisa*. In 2008, an international [consortium](#) bought it. Two years later a group called the Mona Lisa Foundation was set up to try to prove that Da Vinci also painted it. The famous artist is known to have painted two versions of many of his pictures.

The Mona Lisa Foundation has arranged for many art experts to study the painting and for special tests to be carried out. Now a number of experts believe that da Vinci did paint the Isleworth *Mona Lisa*. For example, they say that the brush strokes are exactly the same as those that can be detected on other da Vinci paintings.

The Foundation believes that the picture was painted about 11 or 12 years before the famous one. It claims that the Isleworth painting was done in about 1505 and that the one in the Louvre was not completed until 1517. There are also some historical documents that mention two versions of the painting.

However, not all da Vinci experts agree. Some say that it is very unlikely that he painted the Isleworth *Mona Lisa*. Others have suggested that many more tests will need to be done before the Foundation can prove that the Isleworth *Mona Lisa* is a “younger version” of the world’s most famous painting. ■

RUSSIA AND THE ARCTIC

On September 25, an unusual ceremony took place in the Arctic. A bishop from Russia lowered a special capsule over the side of a Russian nuclear-powered icebreaker ship. At the time the icebreaker, called *Rossiya*, was at the North Pole.

The capsule contained a message from the bishop. It said that “with the blessings of the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church the **consecration** of the North Pole marks 1,150 years of the Russian state”.

Countries with Arctic regions are Russia, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Canada, and the U.S. Denmark is included because Greenland is one of its territories.

These countries have not always been interested in what happened in the Arctic region. Yet in recent years this has changed. Rising world temperatures have meant that the Arctic ice has been shrinking. Now, during the summer months, ships are able to travel along Arctic routes once blocked by ice.

Many suspect that there are valuable resources under the Arctic seabed, such as oil and natural gas. Until now, it was almost impossible to search for them. Yet as the ice melts, and if undersea oil and natural gas fields are discovered, it will be necessary to decide who owns them.



According to international law, countries own the seabed within 230 miles or 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) of their coastlines. The law also says that countries own the continental shelves connected to, or extending from, their coasts. During ice ages, thousands of years ago, these continental shelves were dry land. They may be narrow or may extend under the sea for many hundreds of miles.

In 2007, Russia sent a submarine under the ice to find out if Russia’s continental shelf extended far out into the Arctic Sea. The submariners placed a Russian flag made of metal on the seabed at the North Pole.

This annoyed Canada, the U.S., and Denmark.

Some people think that the recent religious ceremony at the North Pole is another part of Russia’s plan to claim ownership of a large part of the Arctic. The bishop is the leader of an Arctic diocese, which includes the islands of Novaya Zemlya and Franz Josef Land. A diocese is an area of which a bishop is in charge.

The *Rossiya* left the Russian port of Murmansk at the beginning of September. As well as going to the North Pole it has been looking for a place to set up a new research station.

Russia first began to put research stations in the Arctic in the 1930s. The stations are floating, as they are placed on large pieces of ice, or ice floes. When the ice floe finally breaks up, or drifts too far south, the station is moved to another one.

The floating research station, called “North Pole 39”, has been operating for over 300 days. It is now about to be moved, as its ice floe has drifted about 1,100 miles (1,800 kilometers). The *Rossiya* picked up the 17 scientists at North Pole 39. It will also take them to the new one or North Pole 40 when it has been set up. ■

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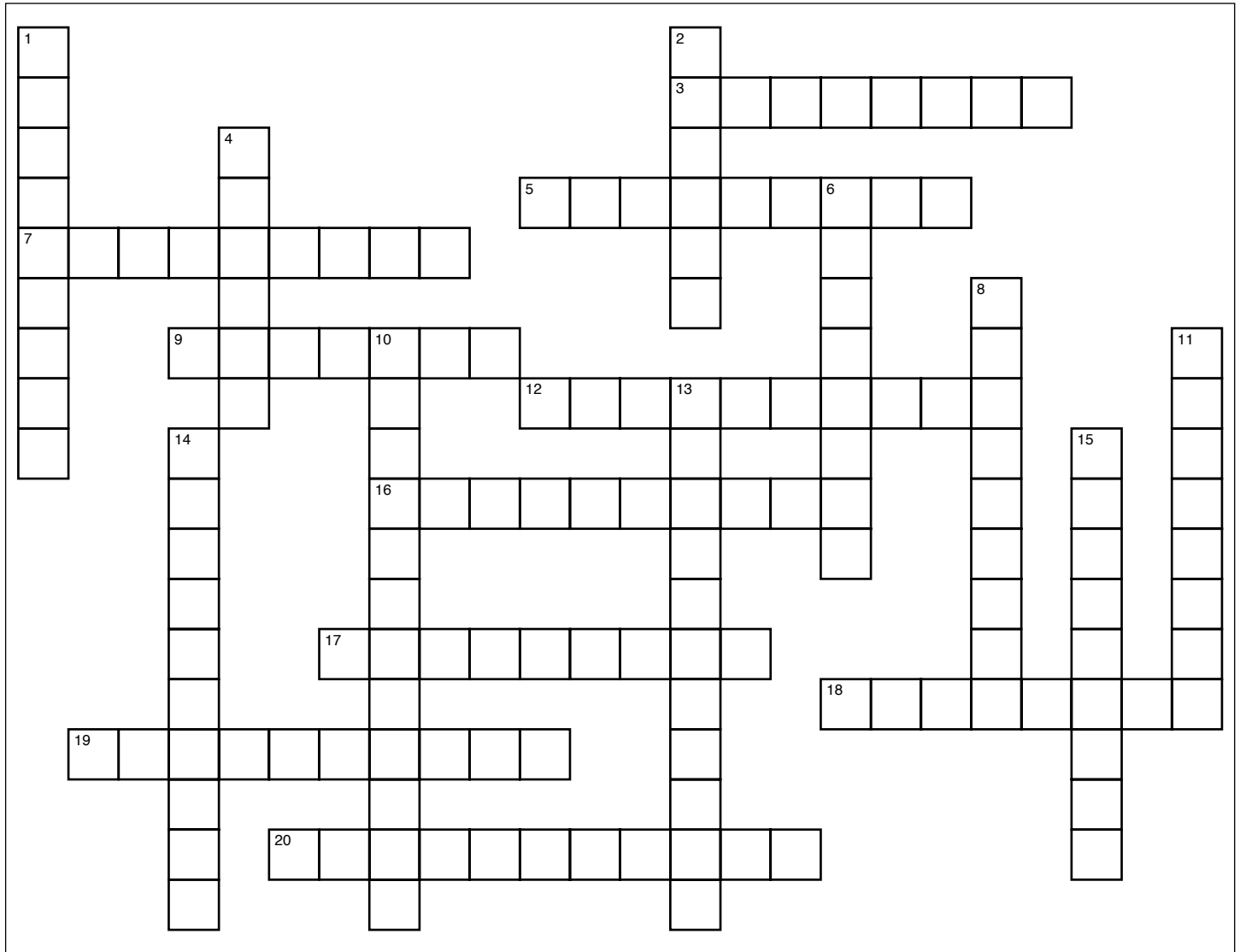
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ISSUE 181

GLOSSARY PUZZLE

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword go to the word search on the next page ➡



Across

- 3 *Adjective* Describes something that can be easily carried or transported
- 5 *Noun (Plural)* Distances between things
- 7 *Adjective* Unwilling or not keen
- 9 *Noun* The total amount by which money spent is more than money received
- 12 *Adjective* Containing things needed for life, growth and good health
- 16 *Adjective* Following one after the other in a series
- 17 *Noun* River or stream flowing into a larger river or lake
- 18 *Verb* To think about something or someone all the time
- 19 *Noun* Things that are important or that are needed to be done urgently
- 20 *Noun (Plural)* People who search for mineral deposits

Down

- 1 *Adjective* Having a very bad reputation
- 2 *Noun* An urgent request
- 4 *Noun* A silvery white metal
- 6 *Verb* Got or obtained something so you now own it
- 8 *Verb* Given an official name, title or purpose
- 10 *Noun* The act of officially making something holy so it can be used for religious ceremonies
- 11 *Verb* Given the right to do or to have something
- 13 *Noun* The act of bringing something back to a former good condition
- 14 *Adjective* Describes the original inhabitants of a country
- 15 *Noun* A desire or interest to learn more about something

ISSUE 181

GLOSSARY PUZZLE *CONTINUED*

INSTRUCTIONS: ③ Find 19 of the 20 crossword answers in the word search. Words can go vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back to front. ④ After finding the 19 words write down the 20th (or missing) word under the puzzle.



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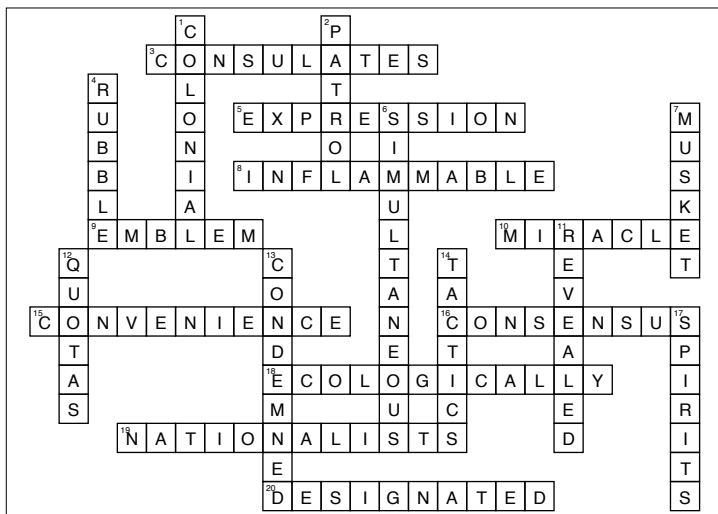


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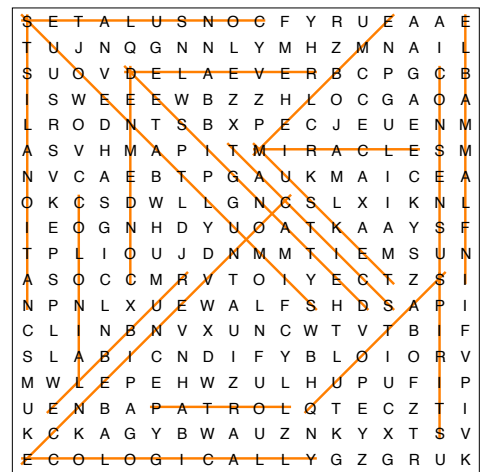
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MISSING WORD ANSWER = _____



ISSUE 180 ANSWERS



E X P R E S S I O N