

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

**BEN
SCHWARTZ**

Getty

BEN Schwartz is the voice of the fastest hedgehog in town, in the new live-action film *Sonic the Hedgehog*.

■ **How would you describe the differences between ‘game Sonic’ and ‘movie Sonic’?**

Well, I played Sonic for years. Now I am playing Sonic! There are aspects of the videogame that, if you have played it, you will see them in the movie. But we also wanted to make a movie that works for all ages, for everybody.

■ **What’s your Sonic like?**

I’m playing him like a very energetic kid. I want it to feel like you’re looking at a little kid who is just so excited to be there and so happy.

I tried to figure out the things that make him unique. You know, how quick he is, obviously, but also, he’s kind of sassy. Like, when you wait too long, he starts tapping his foot! He has this attitude. He’s a funny kid. He has fun and can’t believe he has the opportunity to go and do whatever he wants. I was like: “I need to bring that.”

Also, he’s so fast that nothing has ever really been a threat to him, so he’s so confident whenever he’s doing anything. It’s only when he meets Dr Robotnik that someone is really making him scared.



Paramount

■ **How did they turn you into the animated Sonic?**

[First], they took pictures of me doing all of these different emotions with my face. We took a ton of pictures.

Then, when we were recording, they would put dots on my face and I would have a helmet with a camera and a light on, so any time I did anything, the animators would have something to animate from. [The dots are used by computers to track movement.]

I’m a little nerd for this stuff. I was very excited to get those dots because I’ve seen them used in *The Avengers* before, so it was very exciting! And to see the things Sonic does, and to see that he looks like me when he’s doing them? That is a thrill beyond a thrill.



Sonic the Hedgehog is available to download and keep now!

DID YOU KNOW?

Sonic the Hedgehog is a videogame series made by Sega. Sonic first appeared in 1991, making the little hedgehog 29 years old!

Questions on: 'Five minutes with Ben Schwartz'

1) The character of Sonic the Hedgehog first appeared in a...

- book
 videogame
 film
 TV series

2) “I played Sonic for years. Now I am playing Sonic!”

Can you explain what the actor means?

3) To act the character of Sonic, Ben tried to be just like a...

- Hedgehog
 Little kid
 Videogame character

4) What does Ben say is a “**thrill beyond a thrill**”?

5) Find **three** words Ben uses to describe the character of Sonic.

1:

2:

3:

6) Who do you think is the ‘**baddie**’ in the film and the games? What information tells you this?

7) Why did Ben have dots all over his face during filming?

8) Can you think of another videogame that could be turned into a film? Explain your choice and your ideas.

CRAZY BUT TRUE

KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE

A father and son from America have invented a funny way to make sure people are keeping two metres apart from each other!

They call it the Social Distancing Circle. The pair linked together pipes to make the circle, then covered it with a tarpaulin. A video of them wearing the contraption and taking a wander in the park has been viewed millions of times.

“There were a few confused people,” admitted the son. His dad added: “Some of them thought we were flying a big kite, others thought it was a trampoline.”



impatman/TikTok



Jamingg/Twitter

Fans of *Doctor Who* will be familiar with the terrifying Daleks and their famous catchphrase, “EXTERMINATE!”

Now they’re taking to the streets of Whitby! A Dalek was spotted patrolling the local area, warning: “All humans must self-isolate by order of the Daleks!”

The dustbin-shaped robots first appeared on TV way back in 1963. Many people still remember being scared of them when they were little.

HAIR-LARIOUS HAIRDOS

A hairdresser in America has found a funny way to practise her skills during the lockdown.

While Geoff Clark works from home on his computer, his girlfriend Heidi styles his long hair – and shares the pictures! As you can see, she often chooses to make him look like a famous character, including Princess Leia from *Star Wars* and Poppy from *Trolls*. Heidi said that Geoff “has a heart of gold for letting me do this and post it”!



All pics: heidiesoleyhair/Facebook

Questions on: 'Crazy but True'

1) What links all these 'Crazy but True' stories?

Look at the story 'Keeping your distance!'

2) Why have a father and son made a big plastic circle?

3) What is a 'contraption'?

- A mechanical or electrical gadget
- A machine or device that looks quite strange
- A cutting-edge invention

4) What was the 'Social Distancing Circle' mistaken for?

1: 2:

Look at the story 'Hair-larious hairdos'.

5) Can you explain the **pun** (play on words) in the headline?

Look at the story 'SELF-ISOLATE!'

6) What do you find out about the Daleks?

TV programme:

Shape:

Favourite saying:

Type of character:

7) What is this Dalek saying as it moves around the streets of Whitby? Why do you think someone has made this Dalek?

Consider all the news.

8) True or false?

TRUE FALSE

All the stories are from America.		
All the stories contain quotes.		
All the stories are about pictures or videos shared on the internet.		
All the stories include characters from TV or film.		
All the stories hope to make you smile.		

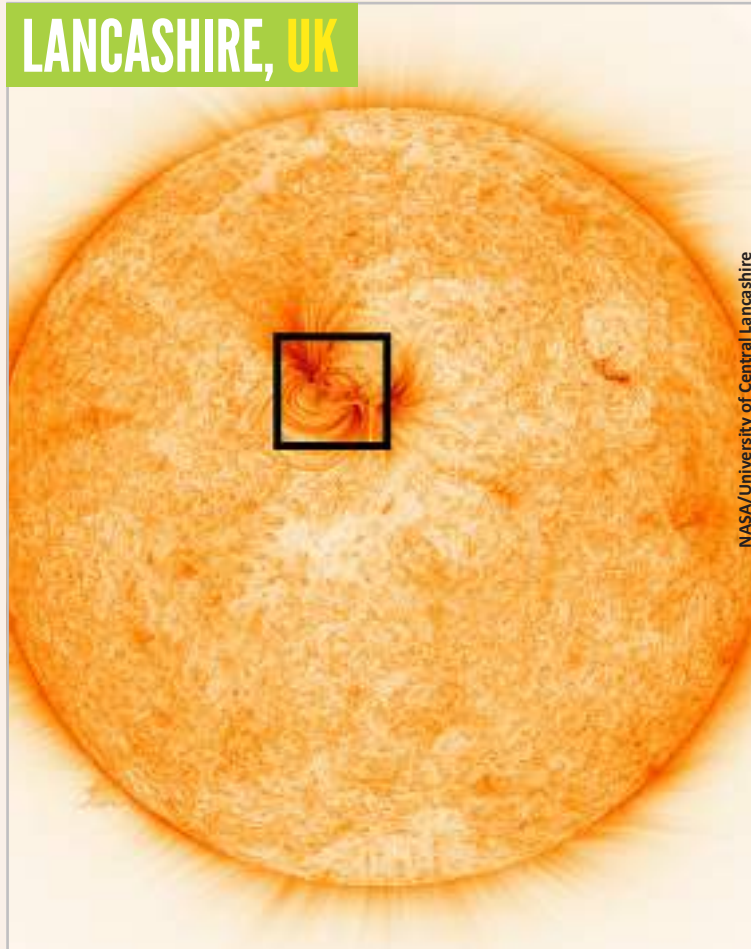
NEWS IN PICTURES

SOMERSET, UK



The Taylor family from Wellington in Somerset spent six hours colouring every brick of their house with jumbo chalks to create a rainbow effect. They did it to “lift people’s spirits” during the coronavirus lockdown. Mum, Fern Taylor, put pictures of the house on Facebook. She said that as they worked lots of people stopped to cheer them on and asked to take photos. “We even had an ambulance stop and say they loved it!”

LANCASHIRE, UK



Extraordinary, detailed images of the sun have been revealed by researchers at a university in Lancashire. They were taken by NASA’s Hi-C telescope and show the sun’s outer layer in detail for the first time. The threads you can see are filled with plasma (a form of gas) and are thought to be about a million °C!

LONDON, UK



Dedicated keepers at ZSL London Zoo decorated fresh eggs and created an egg hunt to entertain their meerkat mob this Easter. Even though the zoo is closed, the keepers are still hard at work looking after all the animals. Meerkats are a type of mongoose found in southern Africa. They mostly eat small insects, but the zoo explained they “sometimes come across eggs in the wild, which they see as a rare treat.”

Questions on: 'News in Pictures'

1) Match the place to the correct news subject.

Somerset	Easter treat for meerkats
Lancashire	Colourful bricks
London	Stunning sun pictures

Look at the news from Lancashire.

2) Which part of the sun is shown here in detail for the first time?

3) What **two words** does the writer use to describe the picture?

1: 2:

4) Find **two facts** about the strands you can see in the picture.

1:
2:

Look at the news from Somerset.

5) Can you answer these key facts about the news story?

Who?	What?	Why?
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Look at the news from London.

6) We're in lockdown because of the coronavirus. Why aren't the zookeepers staying at home to keep safe?

7) True or false?

TRUE FALSE

Eggs are a meerkat's main food.		
A group of meerkats is called a mob.		
Meerkats are a type of mongoose.		
Meerkats are from North Africa.		

Consider all the news.

8) Imagine you were creating a school newspaper. Which of these photographs would you choose to go on your front page? Explain your choice.

WORLD NEWS

NEW ZEALAND



STEEPEST STREET – AGAIN

Baldwin Street in New Zealand is once again ‘the world’s steepest street’ after a rethink by Guinness World Records. Last year, the title was snatched by a street in Wales called Ffordd Pen Llech. It is a street in the medieval castle town of Harlech. But the people of Baldwin Street weren’t happy and complained about how the measurements were taken.

Following an “intensive review”, Guinness agreed. Gwyn Headley, from the Harlech team, said: “Blinking back the tears, we would like to congratulate Baldwin Street for winning the record.”



Getty

NEPAL



RARE LEOPARDS TAGGED

Two rare snow leopards have been tagged and fitted with radio collars in Nepal. It’s thought there are only 4,000 snow leopards left in the wild, making them at great risk of extinction. The WWF and the government of Nepal worked together on the project to catch the two male cats. The animals were tranquillised before being given a health check and fitted with the tracking collars. It’s hoped that the data collected will include information about where they live, their day-to-day movements and their behaviour. These big cats are very shy and spend most of their time high in the mountains, making it hard for scientists to study and understand them.



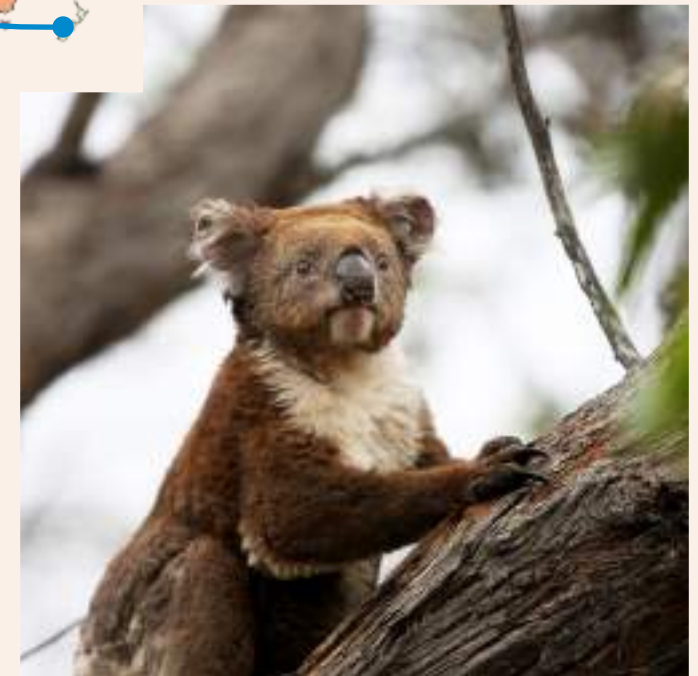
© DNPWC/WWF Nepal

AUSTRALIA



KOALAS RELEASED

As the bushfire season comes to an end in Australia, lots of the koalas rescued from the terrible fires in December are being released back into the wild. Recent rains mean that there are plenty of new leaves on their favourite eucalyptus trees. They will be released back where they were found. Many will be returned to the exact same tree. Radio trackers will help scientists to check their progress.



Questions on: 'World News'

Look at the news from Australia.

- 1) Why are so many koalas in rescue centres at the moment?
- 2) Why is now a good time to release the koalas?

Look at the news from New Zealand.

- 3) Two towns have been battling it out for which world record?
- 4) What did Guinness World Records decide **last year**?
What did Guinness World Records decide **last week**?
- 5) Fill the gaps.

In Harlech, _____, you can find a _____
castle and the world's _____ steepest street.

- 6) Look at Gwyn Headley's words. How does he feel about losing this world record?

- He is heartbroken.
- He is sad but laughing.
- He doesn't care.

Look at the news from Nepal.

- 7) Imagine you were planning this project. Can you think of **four steps** involved in the project, from beginning to end?

The first step has been started for you.

- 1: Capture the animals and...
- 2:
- 3:
- 4:

Consider all the news.

- 8) In all the news reports, which part gives a useful summary of the story?

- The headline
- The first sentence
- The last sentence

Explain your choice.