



ON THE ROCKS

DECEMBER 2021

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Welcome to the latest edition of On The Rocks, YOUR school magazine!

It's been a long time getting here, but HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

2021's been a challenging year for all of us in different ways, but, as a school, we've made it. It's definitely time for a bit of a break from school- we've all earned it.

In this issue, you'll find the usual mix of features and student writing, but this time with some focus on the School Parliament and the House System- we guarantee you'll learn something you didn't know before!

We hope you like what you see, and that you'll contribute to our next issue, due out in the New Year. Of course, if you DON'T like what you see, feel free to tell Mr Whinger. I'm sure he'll give you a balanced reply.

Stonehenge School

Parliament

Brady Wright

What is Stonehenge Parliament?

Represented by the blue ties, Stonehenge Parliament brings together students of all Year Groups to share their ideas, create change, and make their voices be heard. Lead by President Ellis Fretwell and Deputy President Jessica Jaycock, Parliament is separated into three committees - Academic, Internal and External. Meetings are held weekly for each committee to discuss matters to do with their area.

The Academic Committee

The first committee is Academic. Academic focuses on any matters to do with what goes on within the classroom and learning in general. This can be by hosting competitions or events, making changes, or solving issues. Members of Academic meet every Tuesday and are led by Vice President Brady Wright and Deputy Vice President Agnes Corivuka.

The External Committee

The next committee is External. External includes everything the School does outside of school, such as raising money for charities. Right now, they are preparing events to raise money for the School Charity: Macmillan Cancer Support. Members of External meet every Wednesday and are led by Vice President Mackenzie Rose and Deputy Vice President Immy Crowe.

The Internal Committee

The final committee is Internal. Internal discuss matters to do with inside of the school area (like the canteen or the facilities); right now they are working on planting some trees around the school. Members of Internal meet every Thursday and the committee is led by Vice President Alisa Billman and Deputy Vice President Roashan Lovis.

How you can join

So that's it! All of the committees are looking for new members so if you would like to join, all you have to do is either talk to your tutor, ask any president of School Parliament, or contact Mr. Langley.

Ask Mr Whinger

Our regular feature where Stonehenge's teacher of Combined Studies, Mr Whinger, answers your questions direct from Room 12A in Lower School. Email your questions to whingeri@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk or go to his classroom and ask him in person*.

*But not at break or lunch - he'll be on duty at the croquet lawn

Dear Mr Whinger,

I think it's time our teachers cheered up a little bit- it's Christmas, after all! Since December 1st, I have perkily demanded either 'a fun lesson', 'some Christmas activities', or to listen to some Christmas songs in lesson time. All I've been given in return are assessments, and in one case, the threat of a detention!

Disappointed,

Gloria, Year 9

Dear Gloria,
You can belt up as well.

Dear Mr Whinger,

Why oh why do we have to have a half day at the end of this term? Surely in the Season of Giving, our teachers should be giving us a full day of lessons and learning?

Ernest, Year 10

Dear Ernest,
Belt up.

Dear Mr Whinger,

Isn't it time we had all the teachers putting on a big end-of-term show? It could even be a pantomime! Imagine all the grumpy old teachers showing a cheerier side to their personalities (or in some cases, just some personalities)! There could be songs, dancing, jokes, more songs, custard pies, and to finish, more songs! Everyone would have a great time, especially the teachers!

Holly, Year 7

Dear Holly,
I have deleted my original response.

Editor's note: I'm afraid Mr Whinger is a little tired and emotional at the moment, and has had to go for a lie down. He will return in the new year, no doubt refreshed, recharged, and full of his usual positive energy!

THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL

HOUSE SYSTEM

Since September 2019, The Stonehenge School has been gradually introducing and integrating a House system into school life. It consists of four Houses – all named with a Wiltshire theme – and currently features in Years 7, 8 and 9. Providing a means to compete against other students both in your year-group and the school as a whole, the House system is proving to be incredibly successful and a real asset to Stonehenge School.



Sarum



Barrow



Archer



Solstice

What are the four Houses?

The Houses are named **Sarum**, **Barrow**, **Archer** and **Solstice**. Their colours are blue, red, green and yellow respectively. The name 'Sarum' derives from Salisbury; 'Barrow' relates to ancient burial grounds; 'Archer' from the Amesbury Archer whose bronze-age body was locally discovered in 2002; and 'Solstice' relating to when the sun reaches its greatest or lowest point.

Get to know each Head of House: We asked members of staff within the House system to answer five questions generated by you!

Mr Carter, Head of the House System.

What was your favourite subject at school? History

If you could only talk to one person for the rest of your life, who would it be? Jesus

What's better: KFC, Burger King or McDonald's? Burger King

Who's your favourite football team? Aston Villa

Would you rather a bath or a shower? Bath





Miss Bowen, Head of Sarum House.

Which football team do you support? If I teach you then you will more than likely know that I am a MASSIVE Cristiano Ronaldo fan and so follow Manchester United. In November, I travelled up to Old Trafford to watch the Manchester derby! (Let's not talk about the score, though...)



If you could have any superpower what would it be? This is a really niche response but I've said this for years – the ability to transfer my full bladder to someone else. You know when you get that horrible feeling that you just *have* to go? When you can't hold it in any longer? Stuck in traffic and you just *need* to go? I'd love to be able to transfer that feeling to someone else!

If you could only listen to one musical artist for the rest of your life, who would it be? Darren Styles. He's a Hardcore DJ and his music is insane - I've seen him live at least five times! I even managed to nab a selfie with him, too!

If you could change one thing about The Stonehenge School what would it be? I would definitely build and install a shuttle tram from Lower School that travels to Upper, of course stopping off at Middle on the way. Failing that, golf buggies to get around!

If you could have any other job what would it be? I think I'd still be working in education, but I've always liked the idea of teaching in prisons; helping to rehabilitate prisoners by giving them qualifications for when they complete their sentence. Aside from this, I'd also like to become a foster parent, too.

Mr Waterman, Head of Barrow House.

As a child, what did you want to do when you had grown up? I wanted to be either a professional football player or a sports journalist.

Which football team do you support? I support the mighty Torquay United.

Which House is your biggest rival for competition? I think Solstice are as they keep unexpectedly winning things!

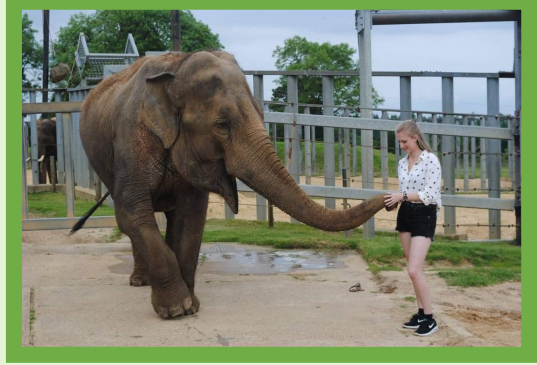
What is your favourite breed of dog? Dachshund, because I have two of them!

If you could have any superpower what would it be? I would have the power to stop and control time so that I had more of it.



Miss Raines, Head of Archer House.

What was the first word you said as a toddler? 'Pocahontas'. I basically didn't speak much and my parents took me to a speech therapy class and they showed me some pictures, nothing. Second class they showed me some pictures, one being a tribal Indian woman and I just blurted out 'Pocahontas'



If you could have any superpower, what would it be? Probably time travel. I'd love to see the past and meet more of my family.



If you were stuck on an island with two other teachers which two would you take with you? Miss Bowen and Mrs Waterman.

If you could have any other job, what would it be? Elephant keeper or work at a dogs' home.

If you could have a three course menu, what would it be? For starters, a charcuterie board of cured meats, cheeses and breads. Main: probably duck related - I went to a Michelin-star restaurant where I had an amazing duck meal so probably that! For dessert, please teleport me to an ice-cream parlour in Tuscany, Italy.



Mr Wood, Head of Solstice House.

What's your favourite colour? Blue.

If you were stuck on a desert island which two other teachers would you take with you? Mr Twin and Mrs Blake

Do you sing in the shower? Obviously! It's a personal concert with a different star every day!!!

What is your favourite breed of dog? I love all dogs but I'd say either a Rottweiler because they're meaty and loving or a Frenchie because they're so crazy.



If you could change one thing about The Stonehenge School what would it be? That we had a specific wellbeing hour on either a Monday lesson 1 or Friday lesson 5 - students could select one area to go where there are specific activities to choose from. Each week you could choose something different and it is a chance to relax and unwind.

Stonehenge School

Winter Book Exchange

Jólabókaflóð

This December our book swap is evolving. We want every student to have access to a new book of their own for the holidays and so we are embracing the spirit of the Icelandic tradition of Jólabókaflóð.

The tradition began during World War II in 1944 when Iceland gained its independence from Denmark. As paper was one of the few items that were not rationed during the war, books became the most popular gift to exchange for Christmas.

Over the years this has developed into a nation of bookaholics and each year a catalogue is created and sent to every home for people to buy the newest books to exchange that Christmas.

Books are exchanged on Christmas Eve for a day of curling up with a hot chocolate and your new book. Heavenly!

Complete the Registration Form.

Follow the link on the library homepage. Everyone can register for the exchange, with or without a donation.

Find a book to donate.

If you buy one, don't spend more than £2. You can donate as many as you want – but you can only register **once**.

Wrap your book.

Take as much care as you would with any present. Check you have all you need to complete the submission form before you cover it.

Fill in and attach a gift tag.

Tags can be collected from the library. You'll need it to complete the submission web-form.

Complete the Submission Form.

Follow the link on the library homepage. If you need help with the forms you can get it from the library team.

Give your donation to the library team.

They will check that everything has been done correctly and add it to the exchange.

To complete the web forms you will need the following information:

Registration Form

- Name*
- Tutor Group
- Accelerated Reader ZPD Levels (Years 7 – 10)
- Chosen Genre*

*Required

Submission Form

- Name*
- Tutor Group*
- Book Title
- Book ISBN
- Accelerated Reader Book Level
- Genre*
- Gift Tag Number*

*Required

Gift Tags

- Collect a pre-numbered gift tag from the team in the library.
- Fill in your own name in the 'from' line. The 'to' line will be completed later by the team.
- If you want to write a message for the person who receives your book then you can. If you don't want to – you don't have to!
- Attach the tag to your wrapped book and complete your submission form.



To push this festive feeling as far as we can, the exchange will stay open until the Spring Holiday at the end of February.

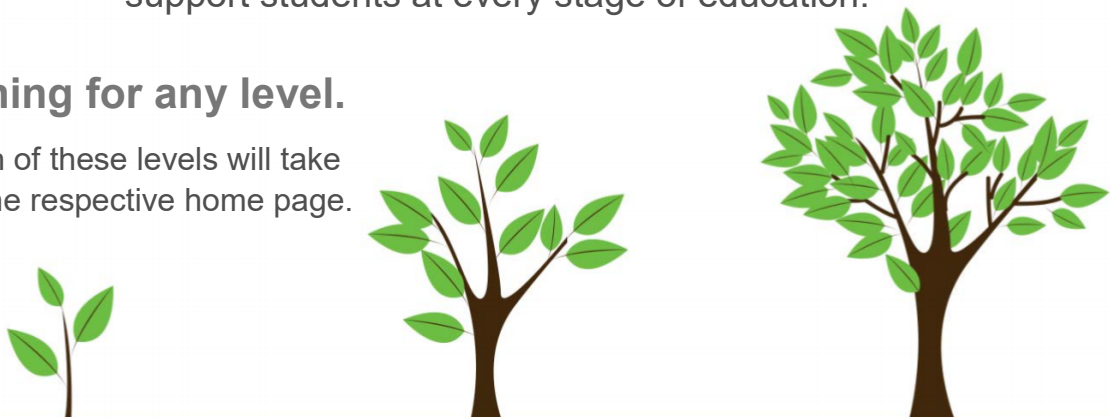
If you have any questions then you can ask the librarian who will be happy to help.

Britannica School Home Page

Our Highly reputable editorial team expertly creates content at three levels to support students at every stage of education.

Select learning for any level.

Clicking on each of these levels will take you directly to the respective home page.



Foundation



Intermediate

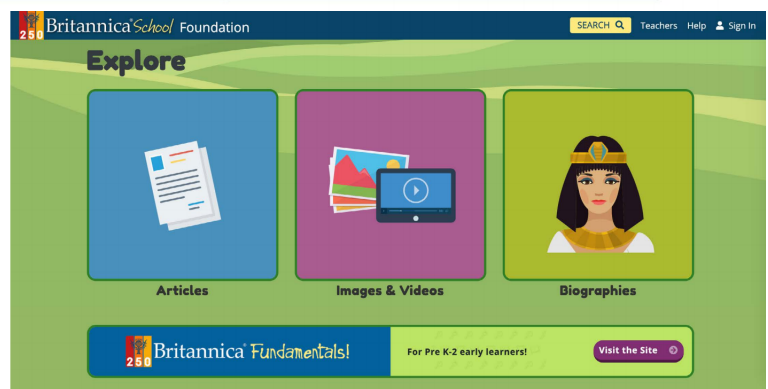


Advanced



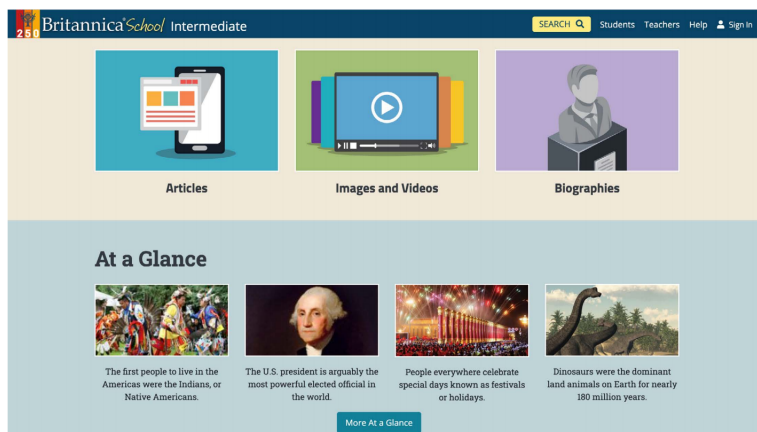
Foundation Level

Built and designed with younger learners in mind, the Foundation Level uses pleasing and eye-catching colours and images to keep students engaged. Regularly updated content makes the home page the perfect place to find unique hooks and discussion points!



Intermediate Level

The intermediate Level home page is adapted to cater to intermediate level learners. Resources can be used to inspire curiosity, engage in discussion, or encourage independent learning. Additional features on the Intermediate Level home page include the **Daily Buzzword**, **At a Glance** articles, and much more!



Advanced Level

Content at the Advanced Level is designed to be of relevance to older students. The home page allows students to engage with features such as **Flash Facts** and **In Their Words**. Students can conduct research and develop critical-thinking skills that will prepare them for higher education and career.



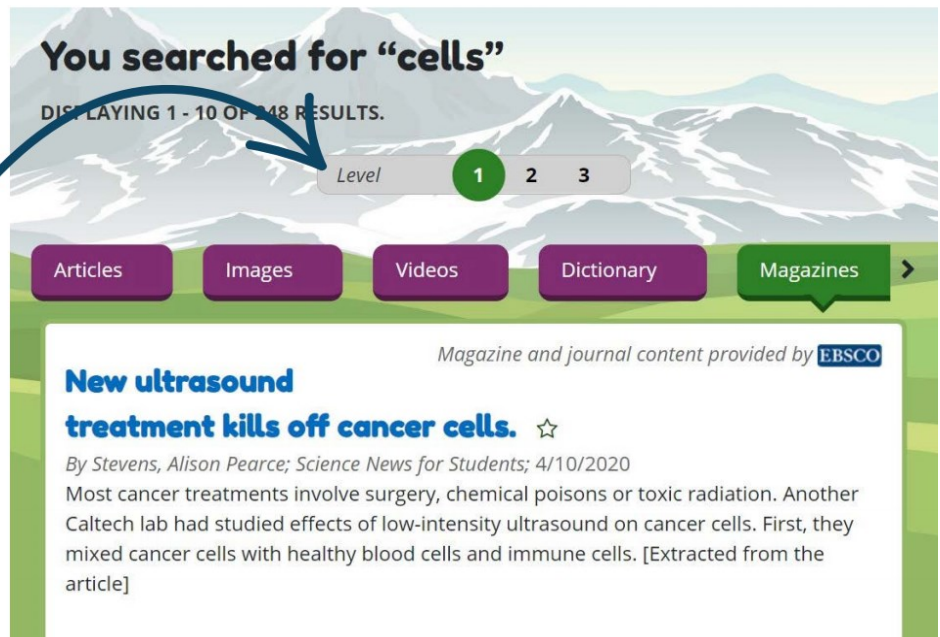
Supporting Remote Learning

Reading Levels

Support or challenge students by selecting the appropriate academic level. This is a simple way to include differentiation in the classroom.

Multimedia

You have access to a large range of high-quality images and videos. These can be used to support your understanding and engagement with a topic or for discussion points!

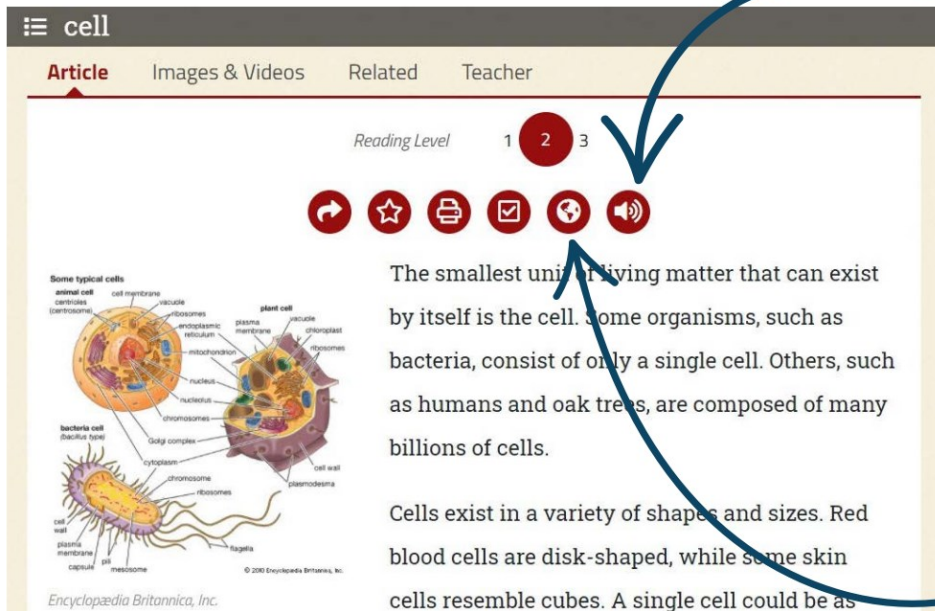


Literacy Support

We have put tools in place to support you with reading. Use the **Read Aloud** tool to highlight the text while a neutral voice guides you through the text. Next, double-click a word to see the dictionary definition.

Translation Tool

Support your English language development by translating content into your first language and then hover over the translation to view the original text.



Stay Safe Online

New & Revised Articles



inventors at a
glance



Jack Dorsey



Evan Williams



Christopher Stone

Safe

Britannica is an educational resource. Therefore, all information found within the site is unbiased and nonpolitical. This means that you can browse safely without seeing or reading anything inappropriate.

Reliable

The content within Britannica is constantly being updated - on average, every 20 minutes! Therefore, you can be assured that the information you are accessing is 100% accurate and reliable.

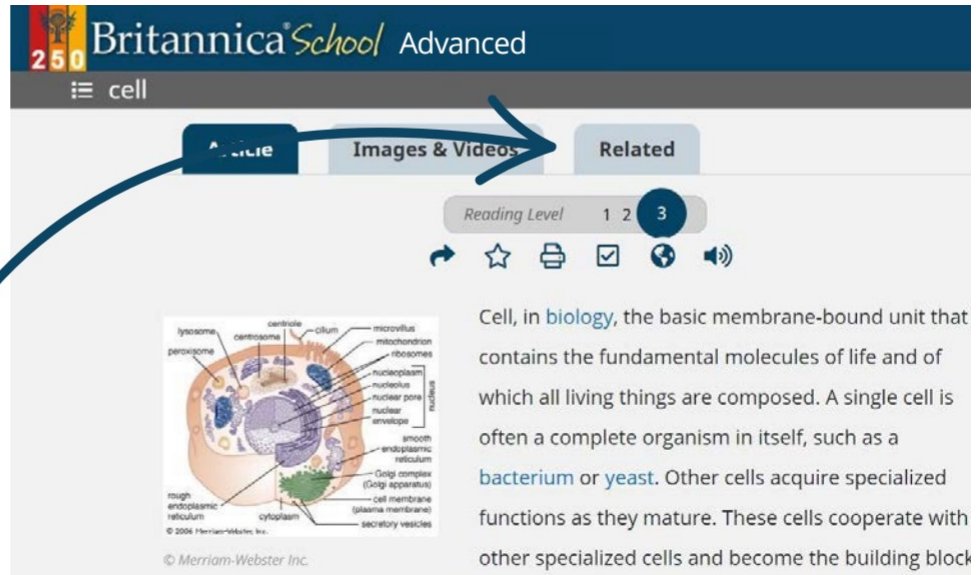
Challenging Yourself

Reading Levels

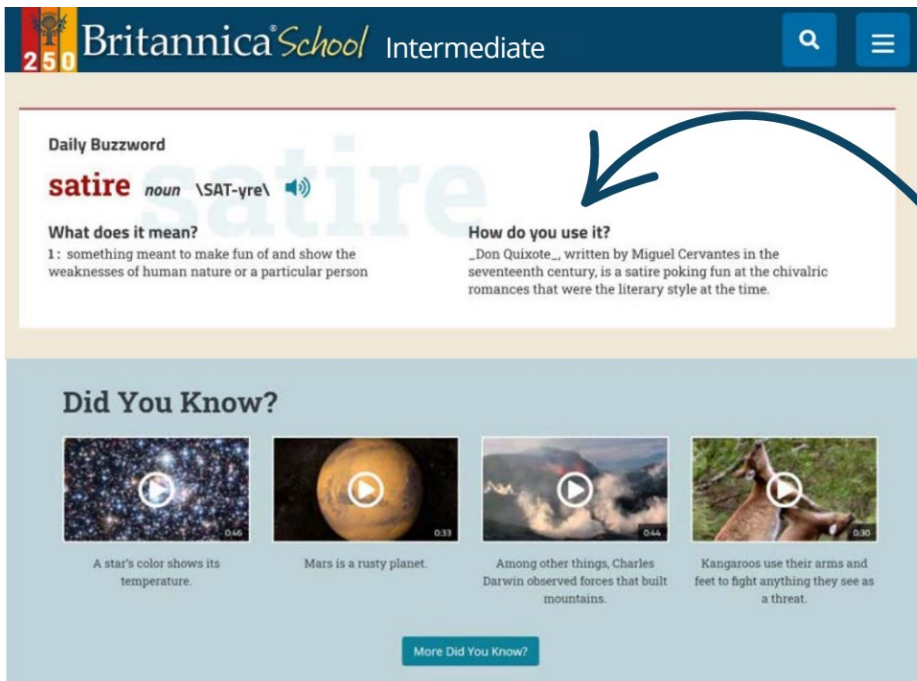
Challenge yourself by increasing the reading level of a text. This will mean that the context becomes more detailed and the vocabulary more complex.

Related

Expand your interest and develop your understanding by clicking on the Related tab. Doing this will take you to further resources on a topic.



Cell, in **biology**, the basic membrane-bound unit that contains the fundamental molecules of life and of which all living things are composed. A single cell is often a complete organism in itself, such as a **bacterium** or **yeast**. Other cells acquire specialized functions as they mature. These cells cooperate with other specialized cells and become the building block



Daily Buzzword
satire noun \SAT-yre\
What does it mean?
1: something meant to make fun of and show the weaknesses of human nature or a particular person
How do you use it?
...Don Quixote... written by Miguel Cervantes in the seventeenth century, is a satire poking fun at the chivalric romances that were the literary style at the time.

Did You Know?

- A star's color shows its temperature.
- Mars is a rusty planet.
- Among other things, Charles Darwin observed forces that built mountains.
- Kangaroos use their arms and feet to fight anything they see as a threat.

More Did You Know?

Daily Buzzword

Expand your vocabulary through the **Daily Buzzword** feature. You can build your own vocabulary banks as a daily activity at home.

Independent Study

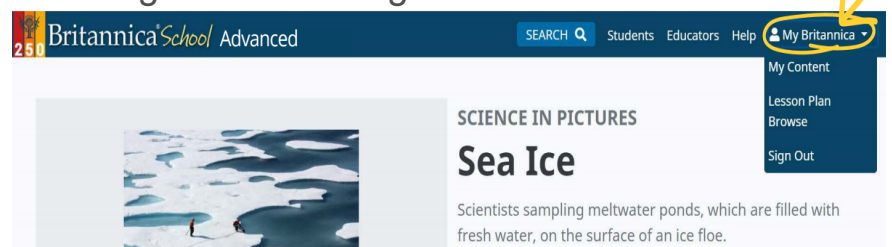
The home page provides you with constant information and tasks. Explore these resources to help inspire your natural curiosity.

My Britannica

Resource Packs

Resource Packs provide the perfect area for teachers to collect and organise all relevant resources for a specific unit of work. You can also upload your own documents into a pack. Students can organise research and use notes to write summaries of key points and other information. Packs can then be shared with other students or teachers.

Set yourself up with a personal My Britannica account. Here, both educators and students are able to view their content and organise it into Resource Packs. The notes section allows for simple communication between educators and students, making Resource Packs a great tool for digital homework!



SCIENCE IN PICTURES
Sea Ice
Scientists sampling meltwater ponds, which are filled with fresh water, on the surface of an ice floe.

Accessing Britannica School



School Access ID **stonehenge**

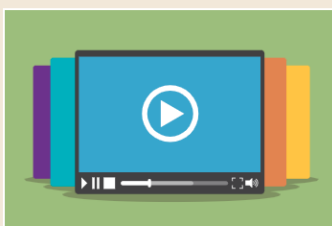
School Passcode **school**

Continue

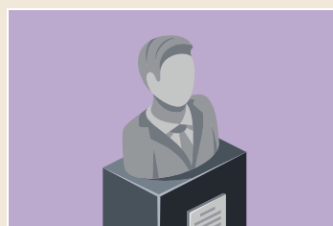
Explore



Articles

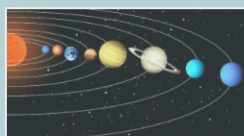


Images and Videos

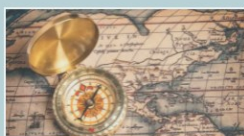


Biographies

At a Glance



The Sun and all its smaller companions are known as the solar system.



What lies beyond one's physical limitations has always been of interest to humans.



Our world is a living system.



People who think of new machines or ways of doing things are known as inventors.

[More At a Glance](#)

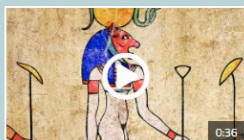
My Content



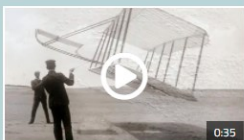
My Content

Favourite articles and content for later and organise them into packs.

Did You Know?



Ancient Egyptians believed that cats were holy.



The Wright brothers experimented with gliders before building their first plane.



Harriet Tubman was called the Moses of her people.



A volcano both destroyed and preserved Pompeii.

[More Did You Know?](#)

Daily Buzzword

spangle *noun* SPANG-gul

What does it mean?

1. a small piece of shining metal or plastic used for ornamentation on clothing
2. a small glittering object

How do you use it?

Many of the holiday decorations the kids made were adorned with spangles.

Can you Guess?



Why did King Arthur and his knights gather at a round table?



When does a total eclipse take place?



Why is the Atlantic the saltiest ocean?



Where is the "Roof of the World"?



What are the three orders (styles) of Greek architecture?



Where is the longest mountain chain in the world?



Which 15th-century Italian artist designed a batlike flying machine?



Why was the Hindu temple Angkor Wat transformed into a Buddhist shrine?

Compare Countries

Russia and Turkey were both once the centers of large empires.



[Explore Compare Countries](#)

World Atlas



[Explore Atlas](#)

[Tour Europe](#)

Recommended Primary Sources

Find letters, speeches, and other primary source materials.

- [Egyptian Book of the Dead](#)
- [Code of Hammurabi](#)
- [Sayings of Confucius](#)
- [Thucydides' History of the Peloponnesian War](#)
- [Magna Carta](#)
- [Marco Polo's Travels](#)
- [Christopher Columbus's Letter to the King and Queen of Spain](#)
- [Niccolò Machiavelli's The Prince](#)

New & Revised Articles



Greek mythology at a glance

TODAY



Kentucky

TODAY



Arctic Ocean

TODAY



bird

TODAY

[More New & Revised Articles](#)

News of the Day

News from BBC News

- [Bank of England raises interest rates to 0.25%](#)
- [Queen cancels pre-Christmas family lunch as Omicron surges](#)
- [We're not locking the country down, says Boris Johnson amid rising Covid cases](#)
- [Sabina Nessa: Man accepts responsibility for teacher's killing](#)



MPI/Hulton Archive/Getty Images

ON THIS DAY

The Original Tea Party

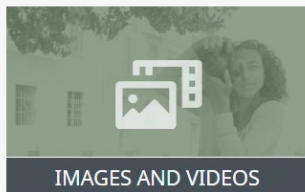
In 1773, in what is known as the **Boston Tea Party**, American colonists disguised as Indians threw 342 chests of tea belonging to the British East India Company into Boston Harbor to protest a tea tax.

[Read more](#)

Explore



ARTICLES

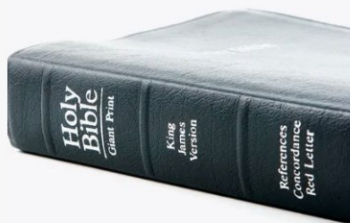


IMAGES AND VIDEOS



BIOGRAPHIES

Flash Facts



Who Wrote the King James Bible?

The King James Version of the Bible was published in 1611 at the behest of King James I of England, but he had no hand in its translation (writing). Instead, this work was completed by a committee of 47 scholars and clergymen over the course of many years.

- [King James Version](#)
- [James I](#)



Scientists Identify Four Species of Giraffes

A genetic study performed by Namibian and German researchers revealed that giraffes do not belong to one species; they can be separated into four.

- [Giraffe](#)
- [Species](#)

[More Flash Facts](#)

In Their Words



"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife."

[Jane Austen](#) (born December 16, 1775—died July 18, 1817)

[Another Quote](#)

SCIENCE IN PICTURES



MPI/Hulton Archive/Getty Images

Sea Ice

Scientists sampling meltwater ponds, which are filled with fresh water, on the surface of an ice floe.

EXPLORE OTHER SCIENCE AND MATH MEDIA:

- [Earth sciences](#)
- [hydrologic sciences](#)
- [climatology](#)

Music and Self Expression

Music has been used as a form of communication and entertainment since the earliest times in human history, but the way it has shaped (and been shaped by) society over the years is a topic that isn't always thought about. Music can be used to communicate lots of different messages, messages of love, messages of anger or hatred, messages of self-expression, political opinions and so many other things. Musicians such as John Lennon, bands like Insane Clown Posse, even classical composers like Beethoven, all have one thing in common. They all want to convey some sort of message.

In the 1970's movements like the Punk and Gothic movements, which relied heavily on music to gather communities, spread information and messages, and entertain people, began to gain popularity amongst youth and young adults. The idea was to fight against societal norms through the heavy hardcore theme of the music and through the "anti-fashion" style that many of these movements followed. These movements would later go on to form sub genres such as emo, pop punk, riot grrrl, post punk, and even rapcore.

Bands such as My Chemical Romance, The Cure, Rage Against the Machine, Bikini Kill, Joy Division, and more are all still commonly enjoyed today and each have their own individual ideas and opinions to express.

But what are these messages?

Well Rage Against the Machine (a rapcore band that began in 1991) are commonly known for sharing their socio-political opinions through their Hip Hop style hardcore rock songs. Their most popular song, "Killing in The Name" (released in 1991 on the band's self-titled album) is about revolution against authority figures in order to end their abuse of power. This is only one of many different types of messages music can convey.

Music and Self Expression

While the alternative movement (the umbrella term for all the movements that began with punk and goth) is incredibly unique, many other music genres are also great for pushing messages such as equality, justice, and self-acceptance.

A popular example is Hyperpop. Hyperpop is a genre that consists mostly of Transgender and Gender non-conforming artists who use editing software to modify the sound of their voice to make them sound how they feel happy and comfortable, this helps them to accept their identity better while bringing more awareness to LGBTQIA+ societal issues.

A popular transgender hyperpop artist known as "SOPHIE" used her 2018 album "oil of every pearl's un insides" to talk about her experiences with being transgender. She used her lyrics to contextualise her fully realised identity. Unfortunately, on January 30th 2021 she tragically passed away, but her message has continued to be spread and appreciated.

Another example is popular musician and member of the duo 100 Gecs Laura Les, has admitted to using the common hyperpop tool of pitching her voice to not only make herself sound cooler but also to help ease her gender dysphoria.

Another popular genre with an underlying message is Indie (which stands for independent). They are musicians who produce their music by themselves (hence the name) sending the message that big labels aren't necessary for success in the music industry.

Teachers' Picks

We asked some teachers what Christmas films they'd recommend.



Miss Harris:
Love Actually because the bit where Emma Thompson straightens the duvet cover and pats her eyes makes me cry every year.

Mr Langley:
My favourite Christmas movie is **The Holiday**.
A life affirming rollercoaster, making the most out of human relationships.



Miss Raines:
The Muppet Christmas Carol!! I watch it every year, usually around 11pm so when it's finished, it's officially Christmas! I love the songs!



Mrs Cable:
White Christmas because of the music. My sister and I used to sing the song 'sisters' as a performance to the rest of the family.

Ms Dawes:

Home Alone -

This makes me feel instantly Christmassy, even though it's not actually about Christmas that much..
"I made my family disappear" and he runs round the house and creates chaos as no one is there to tell him off !

What are you watching this Christmas?

Mrs Blake:

Mine is **The Holiday** because Jude Law's Mr Napkin Head is brilliant and the little girls are perfection!



Mr Woods:

Elf

Two reasons, I love it when James Caan has got a "bunch of stuff" to do. I use that phrase now. I also, inexplicably, get a bit of dust in my eye when they all start singing 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town' to help Santa's sleigh take off.



Mr Wooster:

Die Hard 2. A festive message about watching out for terrorists and avoiding air travel at peak times, plus some snow.



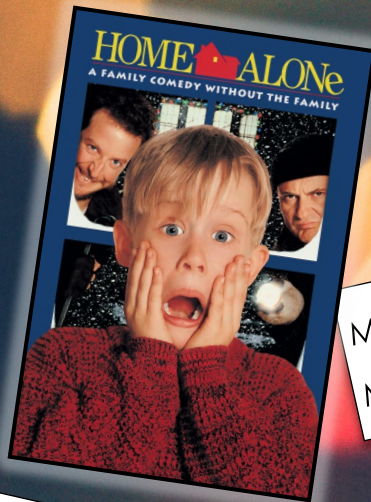
Mrs Dean:

Jingle all the way - the fight for 'Turbo Man' reminds me of trying to get a Buzz Lightyear when my children were younger. And I love Arnold Schwarzenegger more than I love Father Christmas himself!

Mrs Jackson:

The Muppet Christmas Carol - happy childhood memories of watching it with my sister.

What are you watching this Christmas?



Mrs Hillier:
Mine is **Home Alone**.

Mr Wood:
Elf - it is pure joy, innocence and spirited. I LOVE it.

Mr Randall:
Mine is also **Love Actually**.
I love the various cameos that all link together,
and can relate to so many of them. Just a
brilliant film.



Mrs Thompson:
Santa Claus the Movie - reminds me of being
a child with my brother watching it on
repeat.



Miss Lucas:
Elf - the singing in the shower bit!



Mrs Staker:
Gremlins - because who doesn't love gizmo?

Student Showcase

A Christmas Truce

One Christmas Eve in 1914 soldiers on the Western Front stopped fighting for a period of time over Christmas and helped each other bury their dead.

The truce was not officially declared at first. It started with German soldiers putting up Christmas trees and singing Christmas songs [as their Christmas celebrations happen on Christmas Eve]

Most people believe there was a football game, but reports show there was a small one but there was no official game played and it definitely was not the centre of the truce.

Both sides took turns singing songs and exchanging pleasantries.

After a while of shouting back and forth, some soldiers climbed up to no man's land and no one shot anyone.

The First World War Christmas miracle of 1914



An illustration showing British and German troops fraternizing on the battlefield in December 1914.
Mary Evans Picture Library/Alamy

Roughly 100,000 British and German troops were involved in the informal cessations of hostility along the Western Front.

Soldiers exchanged gifts such as cigarettes and alcohol. The Germans tended to have better rations than the British, so the British troops did quite well out of it.

Fighting started again the next day, but in some places lasted right up until New Year's Day.

The Christmas ceasefire never happened again.

Lily Jeffcoate

Student Showcase

The Christmas Truce

The miracle of World War 1's first Christmas

On December 23, German soldiers began putting Christmas trees outside their trenches.

They sang Christmas carols from their trenches, and the British would sometimes join in. Soldiers from both sides made signs to send greetings to each other.

Slowly, some of the soldiers began to leave the trenches and approach the other side. When it was clear that they were not armed, other soldiers joined them.

29th December 1914

Benek Loftus



British and German soldiers fraternising at Christmas 1914 from a photo album compiled by Lt-Col. Arthur Fancourt Logan MC, 2nd Bn, Bedfordshire Rgt, and 21st Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry. The photograph was captioned 'A friendly chat with the enemy' in the album. *National Army Museum*

By Christmas Eve, some lower-ranking British officers had begun ordering their men not to fire unless fired upon. This policy came to be known as "live and let live," and it would be adopted on an ad hoc basis throughout the war, particularly in less active sectors. Like all implementations of "live and let live," the officers' decisions were made without any authorization from above, and the Christmas truce slowly started to take hold. As morning broke on Christmas Day, German soldiers emerged from their trenches, waving their arms to demonstrate that they had no ill intent. When it became clear that they were not carrying weapons, British soldiers soon joined them, meeting in No Man's Land to socialize and exchange gifts.

A time where some soldiers enjoy the War and a friendship was temporarily made for 1 – 7 days. Peace was made.

Censorship had not yet been imposed on letters home, and British soldiers wrote of playing football and sharing food and drink with men who had been, just a day earlier, their mortal enemies. These accounts stress that the men themselves could scarcely believe the remarkable events that were transpiring around them and that they recognized, even in the moment, their unique and historic significance. All was not frivolity, however, as some of the most common activities in areas observing the Christmas Truce were joint services to bury the dead. Perhaps recognizing that the peace surely could not last, both sides also used the cessation of hostilities to improve and reinforce their trenches.

There were some casualties as a result of the no universal implementation of the truce, and, even among the units which observed the cease-fire, not all men approved of the decision. Adolf Hitler, who, as a dispatch runner for regimental headquarters, rarely went as far as the forward trenches, sharply criticized the behaviour of men in his regiment who had opted to join the British in No Man's Land. "Such a thing should not happen in wartime," he is reported to have said. "Have you no German sense of honour?"

In the days following Christmas, violence returned to the Western Front, although the truce persisted until after New Year's Day in some areas. While the truce could not have succeeded without the endorsement of junior officers on both sides, British and German generals quickly took steps to prevent any further episodes of fraternization between their men. Still, there were no courts-martial or punishments linked to the events of the Christmas Truce; senior commanders likely recognized the disastrous effect that such a move would have on morale in the trenches. Attempts to revive the truce on Christmas Day 1915 were quashed, and there were no subsequent widespread cease-fires on the Western Front until the armistice of November 1918.

Student Showcase

The Christmas Truce

One day of peace in 1914

Jenna McMahon

The Christmas Truce was an event that happened during World War 1. The war began in Europe in the summer of 1914, and within only a few months hundreds of thousands of soldiers had been killed in heavy fighting. However, in December, in many places along the battle area known as the Western Front, soldiers stopped fighting and celebrated Christmas together. This truce was so unbelievable that many people thought it was a myth.

Starting in early December 1914, in many areas of the Western Front, British, French, Belgian, and German soldiers had friendly interactions. They spoke to each other from the trenches, and in some cases they left their trenches and started removing their wounded and dead from No Man's Land. Both sides helped each other bury their dead.

On December 23, German soldiers began putting Christmas trees outside their trenches. They sang Christmas carols from their trenches, and the British would sometimes join in. Soldiers from both sides made signs to send greetings to each other. Slowly, some of the soldiers began to leave the trenches and approach the other side. When it was clear that they were not armed, other soldiers joined them

On Christmas Day of 1914, throughout the Western Front, there were joint services to bury the dead. There were also reports of soldiers playing football sharing food and gifts.



World War I; Christmas Truce. *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

Stonehenge School Magazine



Have Your Say...

Do you have a story to tell?

We are looking for submissions of the following;

- Short Stories
- Poetry
- Journalist or Opinion Pieces
- Jokes
- Comics
- Tips & Advice
- Anything else you can possibly think of....

Everything will be considered and submissions are open to all ages and abilities.

Send your work to the team at library@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk for review and hopefully see your work in a future edition.