

Tension grows in the Middle East; Mount Everest gets a growth spurt; the Haka record comes home; and Pokémon could make you rich.

INTRO

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm [Christie Kijurina](#),

It's Wednesday, October 2...

In Squiz Kids Today... Tension grows in the Middle East; Mount Everest gets a growth spurt; the Haka record comes home; and Pokémon could make you rich.

That's what's making news, kid's style...

THE LOWDOWN

Imagine two next-door neighbours who have been arguing for a long time. This is a bit like the situation between two countries in the Middle East at the moment. One neighbour is Israel, and the other is Hezbollah, a group right across the border in Lebanon. Their disagreements go back to the 1980s, and they've had some big fights, like a major one in 2006. But lately, their arguing has gotten even worse.

Recently, Israel and Hezbollah started sending rockets back and forth, making it dangerous for people living near the border. Many families have had to leave their homes to stay safe. But now, Israel has taken things further by sending soldiers across the border into Lebanon. They're trying to stop Hezbollah from launching more rockets by knocking out their bases and weapons.

Other countries are trying to help these neighbours calm down, but right now, it's still a very tense situation. Israel and Hezbollah both say they don't want a bigger war, but the fighting hasn't stopped yet. Hopefully, they can find a way to stop the arguing and keep people safe.

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day, we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops, and today, we've landed in Nepal, and brrr... I definitely should have brought a jumper because we've landed right at the top of Mount Everest... and you'll never guess what?! It's getting taller.

Everest is already an incredible 8.8 kilometres tall, the highest mountain on Earth above sea level, but it's still growing. Right now, it's getting taller by around 2 millimetres every year. That might not seem like much, but it's twice as fast as scientists expected.

So, why is it still growing? Well, a recent study suggests that when two rivers at the base of the mountain joined forces about 90,000 years ago, they kicked off a series of changes that have been lifting the great mountain.

Studying these rivers and the surrounding mountains is like reading a diary of what's been happening for thousands of years, and scientists are excited to keep uncovering secrets about Everest's journey skyward.

BIGGEST, FURTHEST, LONGEST

And now we go from the top of the world to the Land of the Long White Cloud—Aotearoa, New Zealand—where the Kiwis have reclaimed a record that, let's be honest, should have been theirs all along! You might be surprised to hear that, until recently, the record for the world's largest haka—yes, that powerful Māori dance performed to welcome people or fire up warriors before battle—was held by France. Yep, you heard that right! And New Zealanders weren't too thrilled about it.

But on Sunday, that changed when 6,531 passionate Kiwis, from kids to elders, gathered at Auckland's Eden Park to perform the haka, Ka Mate.

One cultural ambassador for the haka said it was incredibly important to bring the mana (which means prestige and honour) of this record back to its rightful home in New Zealand.

I've popped a link to a video of the event in the episode notes, and trust me, if that doesn't give you goosebumps, I don't know what will!

POP CULTURE CORNER

If I say the names Pikachu, Charizard, and Squirtle you know what I'm talking about, right? Yep, it's Pokémon of course. But today's story is not about video games or battles; we're talking about Pokémon cards. These little cards have been around for almost 30 years, ever since the game launched in 1996. And since then, Pokémon has sold a whopping 34.1 billion cards around the world! You heard right, that's billion with a 'b'.

One TikToker, whose handle is @Ryan's_Cardhouse, this week showed off an original sheet of some of the first- ever Pokemon prints. This sheet never made it into the final print run, making it extremely rare and sought after by collectors.

And here's the jaw-dropping part—some of the rarest Pokémon cards are worth a fortune. A British financial website reports that the most valuable card on the market today is priced at an incredible 3.7 million dollars! So, if you've got any old cards lying around, just saying, you might want to take a closer look at what you've got!

THE S'QUIZ

This is the part of the podcast where you get to test how well you've been listening ...

1. How high, in kilometres, does Mount Everest tower above sea level?
2. In which New Zealand city is Eden Park, where the Haka world record was won back over the weekend?
3. In which year was the first-ever set of Pokemon cards released?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, October 2... Random Acts of Poetry Day. So why not write a rhyme, short and sweet; and spread some joy to those you meet!

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today Thomas from Cannon Hill, Sahir from Castle Hill, Martha from Yass, Nyomi from Mt Gravatt and Thomas from Albany Creek.

If you celebrated a birthday during our recent podcast break - check out the Bumper Quiz for the week in which your birthday fell ...

Otherwise belated birthday shout outs are going out today to a bunch of kids whose birthday fell during our recent break, and who missed the deadline for submission ... a very happy belated birthday to ... Floyd from Cairns, Ben from Broken Hill, Marloe from Dundas Valley, Noah from Albany Creek, Ella from Medowie, Lola from Tarragindi, Leo from Sydney, Henry from Camp Hill, Jude from Bonin, Shriyan from Canning Vale and Delia (pronounced Deal-ee-uh) listening from San Diego in the USA.

Classroom shoutouts will resume next week.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. 8.8 kms
2. Auckland
3. 1996

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or if you want a classroom shout out - drop us a line at squizkids@thesquiz.com.au or fill out the form on our website.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today -We'll be back again tomorrow.

In the meantime, get out there and have a most excellent day. Over and out.