

Giant robot catches a rocket; talking animals in England; The Socceros keep World Cup hopes alive; and the tiniest load of laundry.

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 16...

In Squiz Kids Today ...Giant robot catches a rocket; talking animals in England; The Socceros keep World Cup hopes alive; and the tiniest load of laundry.

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

THE LOWDOWN

We're blasting off into space in *The Lowdown* today with NASA's Europa Clipper, the largest robotic probe it's ever built! Its mission? To explore one of the most mysterious places in our solar system—Europa, one of Jupiter's moons. Scientists think this icy moon may have a vast ocean beneath its frozen surface.

Could that mean life? Well, NASA's \$5 billion mission, which has been decades in the making, aims to find out. The probe will take five and a half years to travel 2.9 billion kilometres to reach Europa, getting a gravity boost from Mars and Earth to slingshot it out toward Jupiter.

Once it arrives, the Europa Clipper will stick around for four years, making 49 fly-bys and coming as close as 25 kilometres from the surface, studying the moon for signs that it might have what's needed to support simple life, like bacteria - sadly probably not fish or whales say scientists.

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Meanwhile, SpaceX made history on Sunday with another jaw-dropping achievement! During a test flight of its Starship rocket, the massive first-stage booster—the bit that launches the rocket with all the fire and gas—carried the second stage 70 km above Earth. But here’s the cool part: instead of crashing, the booster flew itself back to the launch pad, where giant mechanical arms caught it in mid-air! It landed perfectly in the launch tower’s arms.

This new catch-and-land trick is a huge step towards reusable rockets that could one day take humans to the Moon—and even Mars. There’s an amazing video of the landing, and trust me, it’s out of this world!

SPIN THE GLOBE

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Each day, we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops. And today, we’ve landed in England. Specifically Cambridge University’s Museum of Zoology, where something a little bizarre is happening. People are... talking to the animals! And no, Dr Dolittle isn’t running the show (ask your parents if you haven’t heard of him!). Here’s the twist—these animals are long gone, kicked the bucket... dead. But thanks to AI, for the next month, 20 different animals, whether they’re stuffed or skeletons, have been given the power of speech!

Using their phones, museum visitors can chat with creatures from a fin whale to a dodo in over 20 different languages. The idea behind the program is to forge a closer connection between humans and animals to try and stop future extinctions. Want to know what a dodo ate for lunch before humans wiped it out? Just ask! Wonder what life was like for the fin whale in the open ocean? It’ll tell you. And yes, the platypus speaks with an Aussie accent—how cool is that?

There’s even an American cockroach in the exhibit. I wonder if I’d still squish it if it could argue back.

SPORT TIME

Have you ever had one of those hectic Saturday mornings where you're running late for sport, arrive just in time, and have to run straight onto the field without warming up? That's pretty much what happened to Australia's men's soccer team, the Socceroos, in Japan overnight. Stuck in traffic, they arrived at the stadium with just 49 minutes to spare before kickoff—and this wasn't just any old game. It was a *FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifier!*

Despite the chaos, the Socceroos managed to hold Japan to a one-all draw. But here's the kicker—neither team scored a proper goal! Both points were own goals, meaning they accidentally kicked the ball into their *own* nets.

Going into the match, the Aussies were the underdogs, facing a red-hot Japan team sitting pretty at the top of their qualifying group. And to make things tougher, the Socceroos had never beaten the Samurai Blue on Japanese soil, with their last win against them way back in 2009.

So, all things considered, taking home a point was a solid result!

The road to FIFA World Cup 2026 is still open, but their next match against Saudi Arabia in Melbourne on November 14 is a *must-win* to keep their hopes alive of securing one of two direct qualifying spots. Go, Socceroos!

BIGGEST, FURTHEST, LONGEST

Smallest? In the "Biggest, Tallest, Longest" segment? You heard right! Usually, we bring you tales of giant things—like the world's biggest dog, the largest haka ever performed, or the most clothes pegs clipped to someone's face (161, by the way—please don't try this at home!). But today, we're flipping the script and diving into the world of tiny with the world's smallest... washing machine.

As far as usefulness goes, well, this one might not get through a full basket of dirty laundry, but on the impressiveness scale? It's off the charts! This mini marvel measures just 3.25 cm by 3.35 cm by 3.86 cm—about the size of a Tamagotchi—and weighs only as much as two Oreo biscuits! Created by an Indian engineer, this teeny-tiny washer earned its world record by going through a full wash cycle. Yup, that's wash, rinse, and spin!

And don't worry, there's a video of this itty-bitty clean machine doing its thing in your episode notes. Now, if only we could find some Trolls who need their laundry done...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. The ice-moon Europa, orbits which enormous planet?
2. In which year will the next FIFA Mens World Cup be played?
3. Which biscuits did we compare the weight of the world's tiniest washing machine to?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, October 16 ... World Food Day! It's not only a day for eating tonnes of delicious food but it's a day to think about how we might be able to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of ZeroHunger. I've stuck a link in the episode notes if you want to find out more about what you can do.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... Chelsea from South Brisbane, Isla from Nightcliff, Evy from Dubbo, Logan from Beldon, Grace from Adelaide, Artie from Wagga Wagga, Lila from Melbourne, Juniper fro Dickson and Charlotte who is caravanning the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Year 5 with Mrs Mitchell at St. John's Primary School in Lambton, class 5/6R with Miss Ghacham (pronounced Gha-sham) at Al Hikma College in Lakemba, class Monro 1 with Ms Wood at Parkside Primary School, class 4/5 with Mr Rowley at Boorowa Central School, class 3/4C with Mr Ockers at Miller Public School and classes 2/4R and 5/5KC with Mrs Chalmers & Mrs Robertson at Albury North Public School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Jupiter
2. 2026

3. Oreos

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.