

**Knight's Choice wins the Cup; a fierce eruption in Indonesia; meet the 3-metre tall "terror bird"; and an ancient Ice Age survivor.**

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, November 6...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Knight's Choice wins the Cup; a fierce eruption in Indonesia; meet the 3-metre tall "terror bird"; and an ancient Ice Age survivor.

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

***THE LOWDOWN***

-----

It started way back in 1851, and yesterday saw the 164th running of the Melbourne Cup – the race that stops a nation... or does it?

In Victoria, kids enjoyed a public holiday, and some classrooms around the country joined in with friendly sweeps to get in on the fun of this world-famous 3.2-kilometre horse race.

Amidst the glitz and glam at Flemington Race Course in Melbourne, the crowds cheered as Knight's Choice crossed the finish line in a photo finish with Warp Speed taking out second place, followed by Okita Soushi in third. So in the end Knight's Choice took home the coveted Cup and a cool 4.4 million dollars. That's a lot of hay and carrots right? But, it's actually not the horse that gets that money... it's the owners, trainer and jockey.

For a growing number of Aussies, some of the shine has faded from the Cup. Concerns over horse injuries, problem gambling, and some pretty rowdy behaviour have led more people to say "Nup to the Cup" and skip the celebrations.

So, whether you were cheering or choosing to sit it out, the Melbourne Cup has Australians thinking about what this long-standing tradition really means.

-----

Election day is finally here in the USA, and voting is underway to pick the 47th President. With six time zones across the USA, voting will finish in some states at 10 am today, but others won't wrap up until 5 pm. Counting millions of votes will take some time. And remember, the person who gets the most votes (called the popular vote) be it Kamala Harris or Donald Trump, may not be the winner—it's all about a system called the Electoral College...confused? (I've stuck a link to an explainer video in the episode notes). We'll keep you updated as the results come in this week.

### ***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 on the remote Indonesian Island of Flores, where, just before midnight on Monday, Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki, one of Indonesia's 120 active volcanoes erupted with incredible force.

The blast sent thick brown ash shooting two kilometres into the sky, while flaming rocks and hot lava landed on villages more than four kilometres away. Over 10,000 people have had to leave their homes, and disaster relief teams are working hard to keep everyone safe.

Indonesia is no stranger to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. The country sits on the Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire," where several tectonic plates meet and constantly shift, making it one of the most active regions for earthquakes and volcanoes in the world. You can check out a map of the Ring of Fire in our episode notes, and if you're curious to learn more, we've got a Shortcut on Earthquakes and Volcanoes just for you.

### ***BELIEVE IT OR NOT***

—

You've heard of Pando right? Oooh I'm seeing some nods out there! Well in case you've missed it, Pando is the world's largest tree... Nope, not the tallest, but the largest... You see, Pando is actually a forest of Aspen trees found in Utah in central western United

States but rather than being individual trees, the estimated 47,000 stems or trunks that make up Pando all have one single root system... yep, they're all part of one single living organism weighing a jaw-dropping 6 million kilos!

But that's not the big news, for the first time, scientists have analysed the DNA of Pando to determine that it is approximately 34,000 years old. Meaning that back in the last Ice Age when woolly mammoths, sabre toothed cats and giant sloths still roamed the planet, it was just a teeny tiny sprouting seed.

But there's a twist to this tale—Pando's in trouble. Climate change, disease, insect infestations, and grazing animals are putting stress on this remarkable organism, causing it to shrink.

Here's hoping that this new research shines a spotlight on Pando, so it can keep growing for the next 34,000 years and beyond!

## ***ANIMAL KINGDOM***

-----

Speaking of colossal ancient creatures, lets go now to the Tatocoa Desert in Colombia, South America, where new evidence is telling researchers that the giant flesh-eating "terror bird" ...yes, you heard that correctly...that roamed the Earth 12 million years ago was even bigger than previously thought.

A shin bone from one these these fearsome ground-dwelling, meat-eating birds, indicates that it probably grew up to three metres tall, making it one of the tallest birds to ever live. Picture three average-sized five -year-olds stacked one on top of each other, and you've got it.

And here's the extra cool (and creepy) part: when researchers used 3D scanning on this ancient bone, they discovered that this massive, emu-like bird, complete with a giant skull for hunting, likely met its end in the jaws of an even bigger ancient crocodile. But don't worry—these giant birds went extinct long before humans arrived. And that's probably a very good thing—magpies provide more than enough excitement for me.

## **THE S'QUIZ**

---

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

1. What is the name of the horse that won yesterday's Melbourne Cup?
2. What type of tree is the ancient organism Pando?
3. How long ago did the flesh-eating terror bird roam the Earth?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

---

It's Wednesday, November 6 ... National Nacho Day in the United States, because why not?

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today ... Atticus from Tempe, Noah from Duncraig, Japneet from Forest Lake, Cormac from Duffy, Ines from Carseldine and Mason and Jacob from Fletcher.

Belated shoutouts go to Hailee from Tailem Bend and Charlotte from Boo-row-a.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 5R at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School in Attadale, class 1MC with Ms Coren and Ms Morgan and class 6CM with Mrs Croft and Mrs O'Key - both at Artarmon Public School, class 3JD with Mrs Donlan at Brightwater State School and class 1W with Miss Willis at SHORE Preparatory School in Sydney.

### **The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. Knight's Choice
2. Aspen
3. 12 million years ago.

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](mailto: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.