

**Queensland floods seen from space; rare tortoises welcome hatchlings;
Mushroom mission accomplished; and Ronin the mine-sniffing rat.**

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

I'm Bryce Corbett

It's Monday, April 7 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Queensland floods seen from space; rare tortoises welcome hatchlings; Mushroom mission accomplished; and Ronin the mine-sniffing rat.

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

THE LOWDOWN

And we start the week with a stocktake of the floods in outback Queensland, the extent of which is so huge and so devastating that disaster recovery experts were in shock over the weekend.

Try to wrap your head around this ... after receiving more rain in four days than they usually receive in an entire year - enormous parts of regional Queensland are still under water, with estimates at the weekend suggesting the flooded area is more than four times the size of Victoria, bigger than the entire state of New South Wales and about the same size as Egypt.

The floods are so widespread that they can even be seen from space - with NASA images released over the weekend showing the footprint.

Experts reckon if the flooding were a country, it would be the 31st largest country on Earth.

And while it hasn't attracted the same attention as say Cyclone Alfred did last month, when it bared down on Brisbane, the impact of these floods is expected to last for weeks, as the water moves downstream and impacts communities in its path.

To all of our Squiz Kids listeners out there: we're thinking of you and hoping you're safe and dry.

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So you know how we talked last week about tariffs being introduced by US President Donald Trump? Yes, I know, don't roll your eyes. I know tariffs are about as interesting to you as watching paint dry.

But there was a lot of news around on the weekend on the impact the tariffs will have on the price of things like Nike trainers and Nintendo Switch 2 consoles.

Ah .. so NOW you're interested ...

Because Nike trainers are made in countries like Vietnam - the tax that will be applied to them when they are shipped into the US for Americans to buy at their local Foot Locker, means they will be up to \$20 more expensive.

And Nintendo pressed pause over the weekend on shipments of Switch 2 consoles into the United States as it weighed up how much more expensive the consoles will be for American gamers after tariffs are applied. It's called global economics, people .. and you can thank me for introducing your little brains to it when you turn 20

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 Cambodia .. where a mine-sniffing rat has set a new world record.

So - wait, what?

Giant African pouched rats are used to detect old land mines in the country of Cambodia - land mines left behind from various wars that have taken place there in the last 50 years.

They do it by sniffing out the landmines - which are then cleared by bomb disposal experts.

The reason they train Giant African pouched rats to sniff out landmines is because they are so light, they can scamper across the ground without setting them off. Clever!

On Friday - Ronin the landmine-hunting rat - was rewarded for breaking the Guinness World Record for the most landmines sniffed by a single rat. He's discovered 109 landmines since he arrived in Cambodia to do his very important work four years ago.

Hope he got a big whack of cheddar cheese to celebrate ...

SPACED OUT

And it's Mushroom Mission Accomplished for the first astronaut to fly into space wearing the Australian flag, as the latest Space X capsule to blast off returned to earth at the weekend - splashing down in the Pacific Ocean off California.

Remember last week how we talked about the historic mission - which would take a bunch of private citizens in orbit over the north and south pole - and how one of the experiments they'd be performing whilst up there was to see whether mushies grown in space?

Well it all went to plan and now the astronauts and space mushrooms are back on earth for scientists to now study the results of the experiment and decide whether mushrooms will be a good source of food for humans living on the moon. You'd have to be a fun-ghi to eat mushies on the moon ... fun-ghi - mushrooms, get it? (DAD JOKE ALARM) .. yeah alright fair enough - not one of my better dad jokes ..

ANIMAL KINGDOM

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And for a little bit of light relief on a Monday ... a shout out to the two Galapagos tortoises in a zoo in America who have become parents for the first time - welcoming four little hatchlings into the world.

Why is that such a big deal? Because they are both over 90 years old .. which is a long time to wait to become parents. I mean - it's hard enough in your mid-30s - I can't imagine having to chase toddlers around at the age of 90 .. Slow and steady wins the race, I guess.

It's a big win for Galapagos tortoise conservation efforts - introducing four more of the endangered species into the world.

PETITION

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Hello team .. a quick message before we hop into the quiz ... a huge thank you to everyone who has signed our petition calling on the Australian government to fund digital literacy education in our schools ...and help save Squiz-E the Newshound.

We hit the 10,000 mark over the weekend - but I really want to hit 20,000 by the time the election rolls around in just under a month .. so if you haven't signed, do me a solid and pop on over to the Squiz Kids website - squizkids.com.au and add your name to this very important cause. And tell your friends to do it too.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In which country is Ronin the rat doing an excellent job sniffing out landmines?
2. The floods in outback Queensland are so big - if they were a country they would be the what largest country in the world? The 10th largest, the 78th largest or the 31st largest?
3. In which ocean, off the coast of California in the US, did the Space X capsule splash down on the weekend?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, April 7 ... first day of school holidays for Qld, Vic and NT .. only one week to go for the rest of you .. Today is also an important day in Vietnam - its the Hung Vuong Festival - held every year on the tenth day of the third lunar month to honour the legendary Hung Kings, who are considered the ancient ancestors and founders of the Vietnamese nation.

Today is also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow...

Amelia from Ivanhoe, Stevie from Middletown Grange, Ernie from Balgowlah, Abhay and Eva from Oran Park, Tarquin and Rosalie from Ashmont, Adam from Bentleigh East, Harry from Brisbane and Ned listening over in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Belated shoutout go to... Navya from Hammond Park, Mason from Birkdale, Ivy from Elizabeth and Belo listening over in Memphis, Tennessee.

(note QLD Schools now on holidays)

Classroom shoutouts go to ... class 5B with Mrs Bazzi and Miss Islam at Hal Hikma College in Lakemba, class 3V with Mrs Vannitamby at North Kellyville Public School, class 1CM with Ms Choo and Mrs Moon at Northcross Christian School in Ryde and class 5B with Miss Karen at Iona Presentation College in Mosman Park.

And a reminder - if you celebrate a birthday over school holiday break, send us your birthday shout-out by THIS Friday April 11*, and we'll make sure to include you in the weekly Quizzes that will be going out each Friday of the school hols.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Cambodia
2. 31st
3. Pacific Ocean

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or, if you're after 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, when Amanda dives into the deep with a shark expert in your Squiz Kids Shortcut to Sharks — to find out what makes these ancient sea predators so fascinating.

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