

# What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

11th - 17th July 2022





Picture  
News

**Should wet wipes be  
banned?**

Stephan Simpson/Stock



# Let's look at this week's story



An island of wet wipes has 'changed the course of the Thames' river in London. The island, thought to be around the size of two tennis courts, has prompted many campaigners to fight for them to be banned. Rebecca Pow, Under-Secretary at the Department for Environment, said that if members of the public need to use wet wipes, they should not flush them into drains. Fleur Anderson, Labour MP, has warned that mounds of wet wipes and waste are changing the shape of rivers and polluting the water.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).  
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).  
This week's Virtual Assembly [here](#).



# This week's story looks at events related to ...





# How does it make me feel?



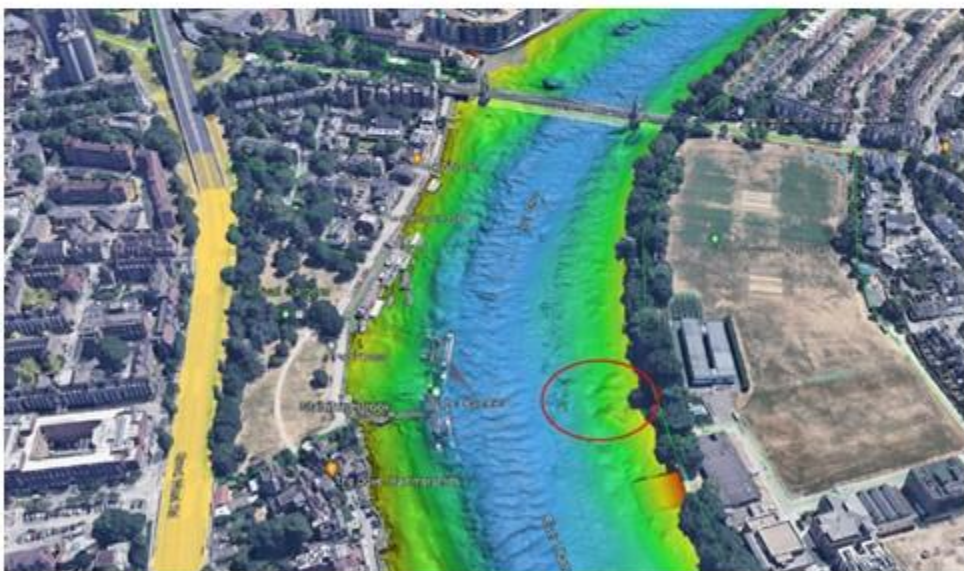
<b>sad</b>	<b>angry</b>	<b>happy</b>	<b>confused</b>	<b>excited</b>	<b>worried</b>	<b>shocked</b>	<b>afraid</b>
despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified



## Read through the information below about the 'wet wipe island' in the River Thames, London.

### What is the 'wet wipe island'?

An island of wet wipes has 'changed the course of the Thames' river in London. The island, caused by wet wipes being flushed down toilets is thought to be around the size of two tennis courts.



**Pictured above:** Laser scans released by the charity, Thames 21, last year showed a mound on the foreshore in Hammersmith created by a build-up of wet wipes. **Source:** Thames21

### What damage do wet wipes cause?

When people flush wet wipes, they end up in our sewers, and form 'fatbergs'. The plastic in wet wipes makes them sturdy enough to form huge lumps, and cause tens of thousands of blockages each year. Utility companies spend millions clearing these wet wipe fatbergs. Thames Water cleared 1,500km of sewer this year using shovels, hand picks and high-pressure washers.



### What can be done to stop this happening?

Anna Boyles, Thames Water's operations manager, said: "We know many busy families love the convenience of wet wipes, but most are made from plastic and can take centuries to biodegrade. It's like flushing a plastic bag down the loo. Some wipes are marketed as 'flushable'. All that means is that they will disappear down the u-bend, but they're not gone for good and could end up clogging your pipes or in the river. We're working to influence manufacturers to properly label their products and, even better, to remove the plastic from the wipes altogether. If you're using standard wet wipes, please pop them in the bin instead of the toilet."

**Share your thoughts on the situation and what you think should be done about it.**





Look at the resource below, which shares some examples of single-use plastics.



Take away food containers



Crisp packets



Shampoo bottles



Coffee cup lids



Drinks bottles



Wet wipes



Sandwich and freezer bags



Shopping bags

**Do you use any of these items? Is there anything you use instead?**





**Look at the resource below, which shares more information about plastic and how it harms the environment.**

**Plastic is a material that is made by people. There are many different types of plastic and they can be formed into a variety of shapes. Most plastics are made from chemicals that can come from oil and coal. Plastic items can be very useful but they can cause many problems for the environment. Most plastic cannot biodegrade, which means it doesn't rot like paper or food. Plastic waste can last for hundreds of years.**

Plastic that cannot be recycled often ends up in landfills. Whilst it breaks down, it can leak many of the potentially toxic chemicals used in its manufacture into the ground, which can kill plants, harm wildlife and pollute water.



Some plastic is incinerated, which can be used to generate electricity. However, as it burns, it releases potentially harmful gases into the environment, which can harm health and contribute to the greenhouse effect.



Most of the plastic found in oceans comes from the land. Animals in the ocean can become trapped in plastic or mistake it for food. This can cause them to become ill or die. As plastic breaks into smaller pieces, these are eaten by fish and other sea creatures. The chemicals, which can cause harm, are passed along the food chain and can end up in food we eat. Animals living on land can also be harmed by plastic in the same way.

'Trash islands' or 'garbage patches' can be formed in the sea. This is a huge island of plastic that has been created by currents in the ocean clumping it together.



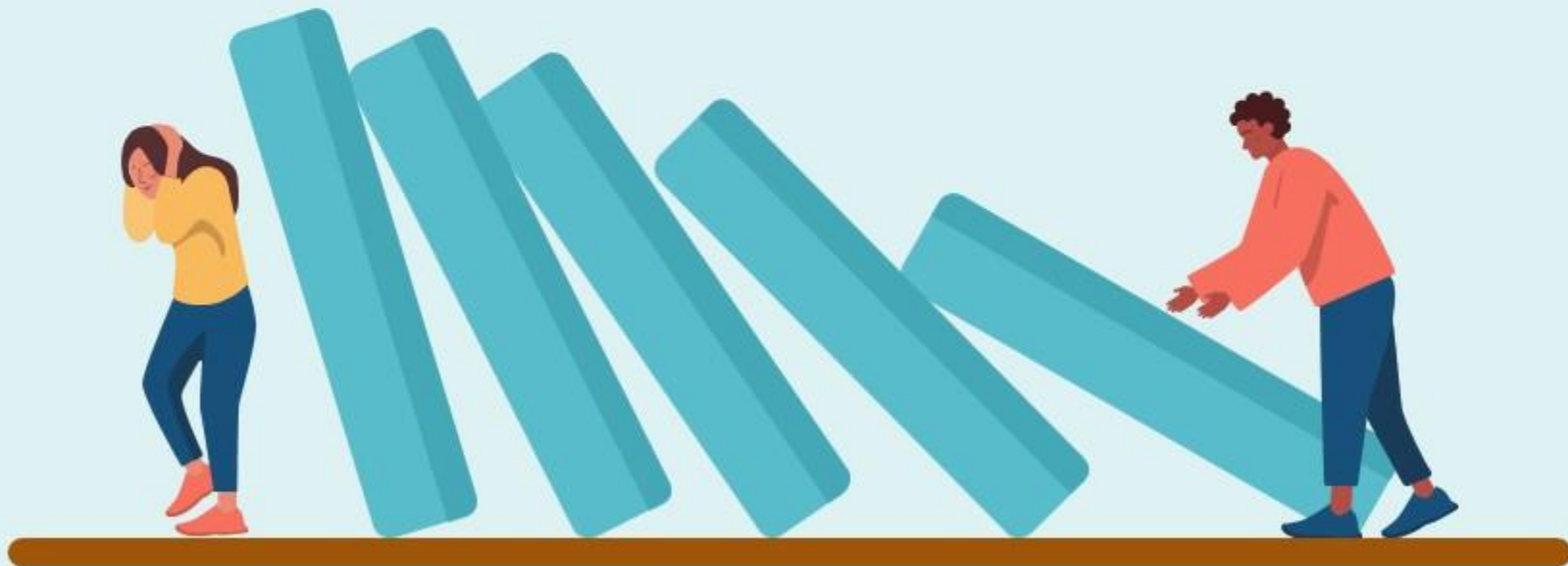
**Were you aware plastic caused this damage? Who is responsible?**



# Reflection



It is important for us to learn and understand how our actions affect the world around us, this will help us make informed decisions as responsible citizens of the world.







## Rule of Law

Sometimes items can be banned. This means a rule or law is put in place to forbid this item being used. It is important to remember that rules and laws are there to protect us.







# UN Rights of a Child



We all have the right to clean drinking water, healthy food and a clean and safe living environment. We must try to take care of our world so that we do not poison or harm it.





# Useful vocabulary



## Banned

Something that is officially or legally forbidden.

The island, thought to be around the size of two tennis courts, has prompted many campaigners to fight for them to be **banned**.

## Disposed

Got rid of something.

Do you think more awareness needs to be made so people know that isn't how they are to be **disposed** of?

## Polluting

Contaminating something such as water, the air, etc. with harmful or poisonous substances.

Fleur Anderson, Labour MP, has warned that mounds of wet wipes and waste are changing the shape of rivers and **polluting** the water.

## Prompted

Caused or brought about an action or feeling; to make something happen.

The island, thought to be around the size of two tennis courts, has **prompted** many campaigners to fight for them to be banned.

## Shoreline

The line along which a large body of water such as a sea, lake or wide river meets the land.

It shows volunteers helping clean up the **shoreline** of the River Thames in Fulham, London.

## Solution

Something that solves a problem or deals with a difficult situation.

Do you think that there are any alternative **solutions**?

**Can you use them in your writing this week?**





**Pictured:** Hamster in the stratosphere. **Source:** Iwatani Hiken

## Hamster in the stratosphere

A hamster has safely returned to Earth, after it was launched into the stratosphere on a flying balloon. The balloon was launched from a city on Okinawa Island, Japan, by Japanese company, Iwatani Giken. The company is hoping to bring space travel to the general public and the experiment was designed to give confidence to would-be space travellers. The rodent, who was travelling in an airtight cabin 60cm high and 50cm

in diameter with the same atmospheric pressure and temperature as the ground, reached a maximum altitude of 14 miles (22.5km). An onboard camera showed the hamster, who is in good health after being safely recovered from the sea off Japan's Miyako Island, napping during its journey. The next flight tests Iwatani Giken has planned will reach an altitude of 15 miles (23km) – a height at which you can see the curvature of the Earth.

## Drinking water out of thin air!

A Tunisian company called Kumulus has developed a generator that can refine vapour in the air into water that is safe to drink. The tech start-up business says on their website that 1 billion people don't have access to clean drinking water and that 31% of schools worldwide do not have clean water! Because of these shocking facts, they are on a mission to help provide economical and sustainable access to safe drinking water, which they state

should not be a luxury and is a right to all human beings on Earth. The Kumulus-1 is an Atmospheric Water Generator (AWG) that can produce 20 to 30 litres of healthy drinking water per day. The water vapour in the air is put through a system that removes particles and kills any harmful bacteria, the water is then collected in a small reservoir, from here it is ready to be safely consumed.



**Pictured:** Kumulus-1 being tested and showcased at the Inauguration of the Bayadha primary school, Ghardimaou, Tunisia. **Source:** Kumulus Water's Facebook page.



# Did Jupiter 'eat' chunks of other planets?

People have often wondered how Jupiter became so big! Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun and the biggest planet in our Solar System! The planet is so big that over 1,300 Earths could fit inside it. Jupiter's mass is two and a half times greater than that of the other eight planets put together! Astronomers now think it 'ate' chunks of other planets to grow so huge and heavy. The international team of astronomers, led by Yamila Miguel from the SRON Netherlands Institute for Space

Research, theorise that the massive planet absorbed a number of 'planetesimals' on its journey to become the biggest planet in the solar system. A planetesimal is an object formed from dust, rock, and other materials during the creation of planets. They can measure from several meters to hundreds of kilometres in diameter. Data gathered during NASA's Juno space mission was used to study the distribution of metals within the planet to provide information about how Jupiter was formed.



Pictured: Jupiter. Source: Robert Sullivan

## Last week's topic: How important are appearances?




I think appearance does matter but not as much as someone's personality and traits.  
**Edward**

I don't think people should treat animals differently if they don't look as nice. They should be treated the same.  
**Abi**

Yes and no. No because what's underneath matters and yes because if you are scruffy going to work it isn't good.  
**Philis**

I think that sometimes what things look like matter, but we should always look beyond that as well.  
**Gemma**

## Let us know what you think about this week's news?

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 Picture News Ltd,  
Colber Lane,  
Bishop Thornton,  
Harrogate,  
North Yorkshire, HG3 3JR

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# TAKEHOME



## Should wet wipes be banned?



## In the news this week

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### Things to talk about at home ...

- Do you use wet wipes? Can you think of different examples of situations when they are often used?
- Thinking about what people use wet wipes for, can you think of any alternative products that people could use?
- Do you think that people know that you shouldn't flush wet wipes? If not, how do you think people could be made aware?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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