

What's happening in the news this week?



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

16th - 22nd October 2023



**How can we remember things
that were important to us?**



Let's look at this week's story

The tree at the centre of the world-famous 'Sycamore Gap' on Hadrian's Wall, England, has reportedly been deliberately felled on the night of 28th September and was discovered by walkers the next morning. The National Trust said it was 'shocked and saddened' by the felling of the tree, which won English Tree of the Year in 2016.



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



How does it make me feel?



sad	angry	happy	confused	excited	worried	shocked	afraid
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

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





Read the information below, which explains a bit more about what happened at Sycamore Gap.

What was the Sycamore Gap tree?

The Sycamore Gap tree is an estimated 300-year-old sycamore tree, which stood alongside Hadrian's Wall near Crag Lough in Northumberland, England.

It was located in a dip in the landscape and was always a very popular photographic subject, often described as one of the most photographed trees in the country.

On the morning of Thursday 28th September, the National Trust confirmed that the tree had been 'deliberately felled' overnight. Currently, it is not known how or why the tree was cut down.



Pictured: The felled tree at Sycamore Gap. **Source:** Owen Humphreys.

Can the tree be saved?

The stump of the tree remains healthy and could be used to grow new shoots, Andrew Poad from the National Trust has said. Though others, including Rob Ternent, head gardener at the Alnwick Garden in Northumberland, warned the beauty spot will never be the same again.



Can you think of any ways that the tree's legacy can be remembered?



Look at the resource below, which shares some famous trees from around the world.



The Willow Tree, found in Lake Wanaka, New Zealand, stands alone in the water. Many people visit and take photographs because of its unusual location and the beautiful landscape that surrounds it.



The Boab Prison Tree also known as Kunumudj is thought to be 1,500 years old and was used as a holding area for Aboriginal prisoners. It is found near Derby in Western Australia.



Ashikaga Flower Park in Japan is a popular tourist attraction, especially in the spring, due to its famous cherry blossom trees.



Tree Root Cave, also known as the Tree of Life is found in Kalaloch, Washington State, USA. Many people describe it as magical, as it is still standing, even though its roots seem to have nowhere to go!



**Why do you think each tree is famous? Which would you most like to visit?
Can you name any other famous trees?**



Look at the resource below, sharing people's views about human impact on the natural world.



"My home was next to a beautiful tree. Each year it grew and we had to begin trimming its branches to keep it from damaging my home. Eventually, we had to make the decision to have it felled as it was becoming too much of a danger."

Amara

"I feel passionately about nature and conservation so I am a member of the National Trust. They aim to 'work to tackle climate change, protect historic sites and help people and nature thrive.' I love visiting their sites and knowing they are preserved and protected is fantastic."

Sarah



**National
Trust**



"Some land in my town now has planning permission to build new homes. These will be affordable homes, which I know are needed in our local area. Some people are very angry as they do not want more homes because their views will be spoiled."

Eddie

"The mountain near me is so popular that erosion has become a big problem. The grass is being killed and the ground is wearing away."

Diego



**Can you think of a time when you might have impacted the natural world?
Was it a positive or negative impact?**



**How can we remember things
that were important to us?**

Reflection



Places, people, animals, and objects can all hold an important place in our hearts. Even after they are gone, we can find ways to keep their memories alive.





Individual Liberty

We can choose whether to care for and protect the places and things that are special to ourselves or others. It is important to remember our actions have consequences.

Protected Characteristics



The things that we value can form part of our beliefs and shape how we choose to live. We should never be treated unfairly because of our beliefs.



Sex



Sexual Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender Reassignment



Marriage and Civil Partnership



Pregnancy and Maternity



Race



Religion and Belief



UN Rights of a Child



We have the right to give our opinions freely on issues that affect us and things that are important to us. Adults should listen and take us seriously.



Useful vocabulary



Beauty spot

A place in the country that is popular because of its beautiful scenery.

Though others, including Rob Ternent, head gardener at the Alnwick Garden in Northumberland, warn the **beauty spot** will never be the same again.

Deliberately

Intentionally, on purpose.

The tree at the centre of the world-famous 'Sycamore Gap' on Hadrian's Wall, England, has reportedly been **deliberately** felled.

Felling

Cutting down a tree.

The National Trust said it was 'shocked and saddened' by the **felling** of the tree.

Landscape

All the visible features of an area of land.

It was located in a dip in the **landscape** and was always a very popular photographic subject.

Legacy

A situation that has developed as a result of past actions and decisions.

Can you come up with any ways that the tree's **legacy** can be remembered?

Sentimental value

The value of something based on personal or emotional associations rather than material worth.

Talk about how other things, such as toys or animals, can also hold a lot of meaning to us, or '**sentimental value**'.

Can you use them in your writing this week?

Picture News



How can we remember things that were important to us?

The tree at the centre of the world-famous 'Sycamore Gap' on Hadrian's Wall, England, has reportedly been deliberately felled on the night of 28th September and was discovered by walkers the next morning. The National Trust said it was 'shocked and saddened' by the felling of the tree, which won English Tree of the Year in 2016.



- Look at this week's poster. Does anyone know where it was taken or why the tree in the image has been in the news?
- Read the information found on the assembly resource, which explains a bit more about what happened at Sycamore Gap. Can you come up with any ways that the tree's legacy can be remembered?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows the Sycamore Gap tree before and after its felling. Talk about how people in the local area, others who cared about the area, and those who have special memories of the tree must be feeling.
- Can you think of a place that is special to you? Where is it and why is it important? How would you feel if that place was damaged or changed in some way?
- Talk about how other things, such as toys or animals, can also hold a lot of meaning to us, or 'sentimental value'. Can we think of anything in our homes or at school like this? Explain that it isn't always the newest or shiniest things that can be the most special!

Reflection

Places, people, animals, and objects can all hold an important place in our hearts. Even after they are gone, we can find ways to keep their memories alive.

Picture News



KS1 focus

What are other famous trees from around the world?



- What do you already know about trees? Can you name any of the different parts of a tree? Can you name any tree species (types)?
- A tree is a plant. They live longer and grow taller than any other living organism (living thing). There are trillions of trees found all over the world. Some are even famous and people make special trips to see them.
- Look at resource 1, which shares some famous trees from around the world. Why do you think each tree is famous? Which would you most like to visit? Can you name any other famous trees?
- Locate the countries where each tree can be found on a world map. Have you ever visited another place or been on holiday? Did you notice the trees? Were they similar to or different from the ones found in your local area? How?
- Different species of trees can be found living in different countries, as they are suited to different climates, but all trees help us. Can you think of some of the ways trees help us e.g., provide food/shelter/shade, produce oxygen?
- Think about some of the trees found in your local area. Do you have a favourite tree? Do you have a special tree? Is there a tree that is famous in your local area?

Reflection

Every tree in the world is unique. Some are famous as many people know about them; others are not. We may have a tree that is special just to us!

Picture News



KS2 focus

How much do you value the natural world?



- The natural world is all of the plants, animals and other things that are found in nature that have not been made by humans. Make a list of things we might find in the natural world e.g., mountains, seas, rivers, birds, insects, trees.
- Many people enjoy the natural world and spending time in nature. Have you ever seen a view that was so beautiful or spectacular it took your breath away? Where was it? Can you describe the view to someone?
- Look at resource 2, sharing people's views about human impact on the natural world. Can you think of a time when you might have impacted the natural world? Was it a positive or negative impact?
- Think about Diego's comment. Were you aware that whilst enjoying our natural world, we may also be causing it harm? Discuss how many popular walking routes have been maintained so that they are conserved and can still be enjoyed.
- Amara felled a tree. How do you feel about this? What do you believe is the difference between Amara's tree being destroyed and the tree at Sycamore Gap?
- Discuss how important the natural world is to you. Is it something you enjoy? Is there anything you do to conserve, preserve or protect it?

Reflection

We live in a world with many beautiful natural places that we can visit and enjoy. We can take responsibility for these places and help to protect them so they will be there for years to come.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Think about a place or thing in the natural world that means a lot to you. Perhaps a sea view that takes your breath away, a plant that commemorates something or a park that makes you feel happy and safe. Write a poem about it. Use the following to help you plan:

- Write down words and phrases to describe what you can see, hear, smell.
- Describe how it makes you feel.
- Describe what it means to you.

Use these ideas to create your poem. Try to include a metaphor and some alliteration.

Option 2

Explore the different parts of a tree and its function. Think about:

- Which part of a tree absorbs water and nutrients from the ground?
- What part of a tree makes food from water, carbon dioxide and light?
- Which part of the tree transports water, nutrients and food between the leaves and the roots?
- Which part of a tree anchors it?
- Which parts of the tree make up the crown?

If you can, go for a walk around your local area and spend some time looking at the different trees you find. Compare their leaves, branches and trunks and discuss what size their roots may be!



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Look at the images of trees found on resource 1 or use the diagram below.

- Can you name any parts of the tree?
- Can you see the roots?
- Where can the bark be found?
- Point to its leaves, branches, trunk.
- Does the tree have any fruit?

Draw and label your own tree picture.



Option 2

Produce some tree-inspired art. You could try one or more of the following:

- Make a bark rubbing.
- Collect some fallen autumn leaves to make a collage.
- Paint a picture of your favourite tree.
- Trace the shapes of different leaves found in your school ground.
- Make a fingerprint tree.

Create a display of your art in your classroom!



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-66957589

This week's useful video

The Sycamore Gap, then and now
www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-66960442

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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Seaside Zip Wire?



Pictured: A view of Scarborough. **Source:** Canva.

It has recently been reported that plans to build a 650m zip wire in Scarborough, North Yorkshire have been submitted. Big Bang Promotions, an adventure tourism and activity provider, has said it would like to build four zip lines, each 650m in length in the seaside town! The company says the experience would start in front of the town's Open Air Theatre in North Bay and head towards the Scalby Mills miniature railway station, offering 'panoramic views out over the North Bay' along the way. The cliff-top zip line adventure experience would launch from a temporary, steel-framed, 33m-tall tower, which can be put



Pictured: A person on a zip wire. **Source:** Canva.

up in two weeks and taken down in less. The tower has already been used for a zip wire in London. The ride would end at a similar, but shorter, 17m-tall tower, where the rider would be given the choice to exit through the tower or take a further 'drop ride' down to the ground! The application is currently pending consideration with North Yorkshire Council and the local planning authority, so their decision is awaiting.

Is a long, high zip wire your idea of fun? Would you like to go on something like this?

'Paddington Bear' welcomed at Chester Zoo

A 10-year-old, rare, spectacled (also known as Andean) bear has moved into Chester Zoo to join their breeding programme. Oberon, nicknamed Obe, has been described by team members at the zoo as the perfect match for their resident female, Pacha. Zookeepers hope the pair will have cubs together and this will increase the numbers of the last remaining short-faced bear. The bears, who get their name from their distinctive fur pattern that gives the appearance of 'spectacles' on their nose, originate from South America and were made famous by the character, Paddington Bear. Scientists estimate that there are only 10,000 Andean bears alive today. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists the bears as Vulnerable to Extinction. The English zoo says Obe is vital to the survival of his species and that it is excited he is getting his 'bear-ings' at his new home. 'Male Andean bear Oberon has settled in nicely since arriving here in Chester, spending his time exploring, climbing trees and checking out the sights and scents of his new home. His arrival is an exciting new chapter for Andean bears in European conservation zoos like ours,' reported Mike Jordan, Director of Animals and Plants at Chester Zoo on the zoo's website.



Pictured: Andean bear Oberon. **Source:** Chester Zoo Facebook page.



Astronaut and two cosmonauts land in Kazakhstan after being stuck in space



Pictured: NASA astronaut Frank Rubio in Kazakhstan as he landed back on Earth.
Source: NASA X page.

A NASA astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts have returned to Earth after an unplanned extended stay in space. The trio, who were stuck in space for just over a year, have safely landed in a remote area near Zhezkazgan, Kazakhstan. The original mission was scheduled to last 180 days. American astronaut, Frank Rubio, has set a record for the longest US spaceflight, after being away from home for 371 days. They couldn't come back to Earth from the International Space Station as planned because their original return capsule was hit and damaged by space junk. The Soyuz MS-23 capsule was then launched in February as a replacement to bring Frank

and cosmonauts, Sergey Prokopyev and Dmitri Petelin, back to their home planet. Since launching from Kazakhstan in September last year, the crew have logged 253 million kilometres and travelled around the world nearly 6,000 times. Astronauts and cosmonauts do the same work in space. The difference in their job titles is due to who they have been trained by - Astronauts are trained by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), ESA (European Space Agency), CSA (Canadian Space Agency), or JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency). Cosmonauts are trained by the Russian Space Agency.

Last week's topic:

Can anyone break a world record?



We think that as long as someone works hard, and has talent they will be able to break a world record!

Year 5 Hawthorn Class


Yes, anyone can break a world record. Even if it [is] crazy, and you're the first person to do it/have the longest record to do it etc., it is still a record.

Jayden

Yes, because if you practice you make perfect.

Kenza

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

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Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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TAKEHOME



In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home ...

- Is there a place in your local area that is very special to you? What is it that makes it special?
- How do you think the people living close to Sycamore Gap will be feeling? How do you believe the legacy of the tree could be remembered?

How can we remember things that were important to us?



Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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