

What's happening in the news this week?



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

10th - 16th February 2025



**Should we be allowed to travel
anywhere we like?**



Peter Giovannini/imageBROKER/Shutterstock



Let's look at this week's story

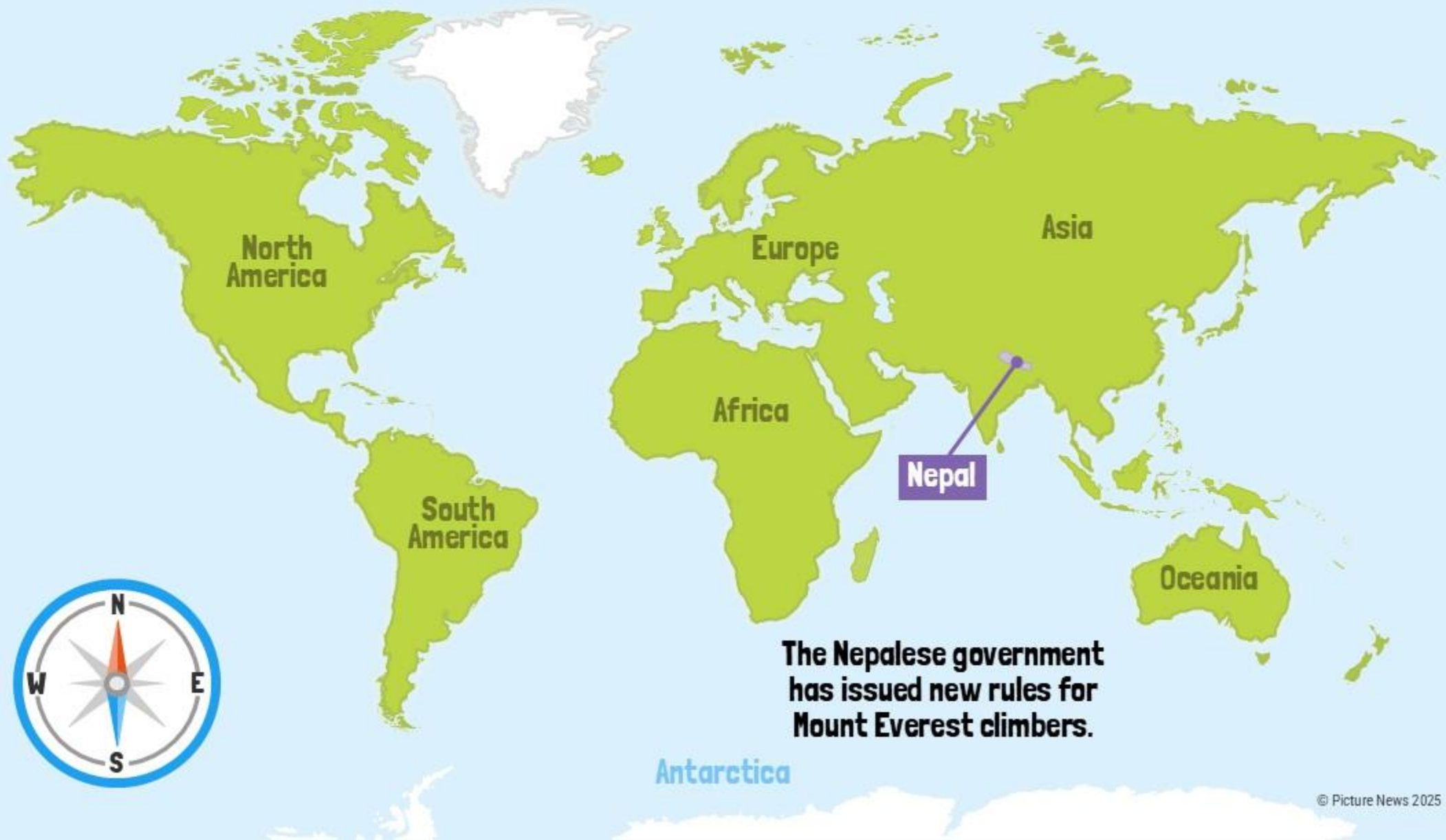
The Nepalese government has announced that, from September, climbers aiming for the world's highest mountain will have to pay just over £12,000 (\$15,000) during the main climbing season. This is over \$4,000 more than the previous permit fee for climbing Mount Everest. There have been concerns that there are too many people climbing the mountain, leaving rubbish and not respecting nature. It is hoped the extra money will go towards protecting the area from tourists.



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



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





Read through the information found below, all about the new rules to climb Mount Everest. Do you think there should be a limit on the number of people who can climb the mountain? Do you believe the rules will help protect the local area?

Who can climb Mount Everest?



Anyone wanting to attempt climbing Mount Everest must be physically fit and mentally prepared. Most people spend at least one year training before they are ready. The trek itself is expensive, and takes around two months to complete.

What are the new rules?

The government in Nepal has issued new rules to those hoping to climb Everest. The rules are to help protect the area and reduce pollution there.

1. No climbers are to travel alone, all must travel with a guide.
2. The price during the peak season has increased by £3,200 (\$4,000) per climber. It's thought this money will go towards measures to combat pollution and enhance safety.
3. Climbers will have to carry biodegradable bags to collect waste in the upper areas. The use of biodegradable bags is now required for climbers on peaks over 8,000 metres.



In the first weeks of every season, when the weather conditions are perfect for climbing, over 600 people attempt to summit Mount Everest.

The mountain has become very overcrowded during these times, and there is an increasing amount of waste left behind by climbers. The leftover waste is a risk to clean water sources there.



Pictured above: Rubbish brought down, during organised missions, by charities such as the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC). **Source:** Everest Pollution Control Committee.

Source: The Indian Express.



Look at the resource below, which shares some examples of things to consider when climbing Mount Everest.



The range in Nepal, where Mount Everest is located, has beautiful scenery. Climbers get to enjoy this!



Mount Everest has litter and waste.

Source: @LaughingLegend0 on X.



It's very expensive to climb: special equipment is needed, and you must pay money to climb and for guides to help. Insurance and travel costs add up as well.

Climbing Mount Everest is a difficult, and potentially dangerous, thing to do. Climbers must prepare for the trek and complete training before the climb. The mountain can also become overcrowded!

Source: @Rainmaker1973 on X.



Altitude sickness can make climbers feel very ill with headaches, sickness and dizziness. Portable oxygen can help!



Specialist breathing equipment is required higher up the mountain, where the air is thinner.

Source: @GeorgeBakhos1 on X.

What would it be like to climb Mount Everest?
Would the view and experience of the climb be worth the challenges?



Look at the resource below, which shares some more information about responsible tourism.

What is responsible tourism?

Responsible tourism is about enjoying travel, while making choices that have a positive impact on the environment, local communities, and cultural heritage.



Did you know?

Around **10% of the world's jobs** are linked to tourism.

Lots of the **money spent in large, all-inclusive resorts** leaves the local economy, compared to smaller, locally-owned businesses.

Tourism accounts for 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions, with transportation being a significant contributor.



How can we travel responsibly?

Stay in eco-friendly accommodation.

Choose places that conserve energy, avoid single-use plastics, and support local conservation efforts.

Avoid littering.

Use bins or take your rubbish home. Carry reusable water bottles, bags, and containers to reduce waste.

Respect wildlife.

Observe animals from a distance, avoid feeding them, and choose ethical experiences that don't harm animals.

Support local businesses and craftspeople.

Buy local products, eat at locally-owned restaurants, and support traditional crafts to help communities thrive.

Learn about and respect local customs.

Research traditions and dress codes, follow cultural site rules, and use local greetings to show respect.



Can you add any other ideas to this list?



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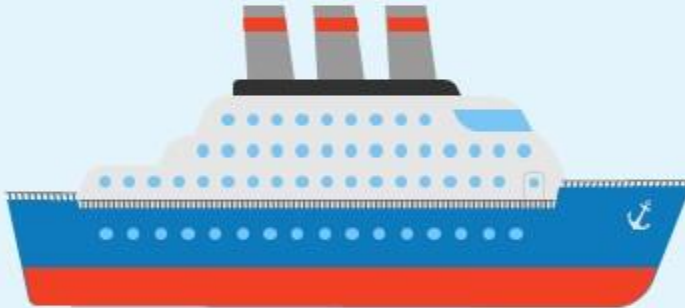


Peter Giovannini/imageBROKER/Shutterstock

Reflection



Through travel, we can go to new places, learn and understand more about the world we live in. Whilst there are many benefits, it's important for us to be respectful and considerate of the places we visit.



Media Literacy

What is the purpose of the news story?



Explanation: Let's consider why the article has been written and its value.



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

Questions to Discuss

- How does the news story make you feel?
- How do you think it tries to make you feel?
- Does the news story entertain, inform, educate, spread awareness, advertise?

Reflection

Do you think the reason why an article is written can affect how trustworthy and valuable it is?

Activity

Read through this week's Picture News Paper.

For each story, consider how it makes you feel, how you think it tries to make you feel, and its purpose.



Mutual Respect & Tolerance

When we travel, we visit places with different cultures, traditions, and ways of life. By respecting and appreciating differences, we can learn from each other and help communities feel valued.

Protected Characteristics



Many places we visit hold religious or cultural significance, including Mount Everest. Tourists have a responsibility to understand this, and to show respect for these places, and the people that use them.



Sex



Sexual
Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender
Reassignment



Marriage and
Civil Partnership



Pregnancy
and Maternity



Race



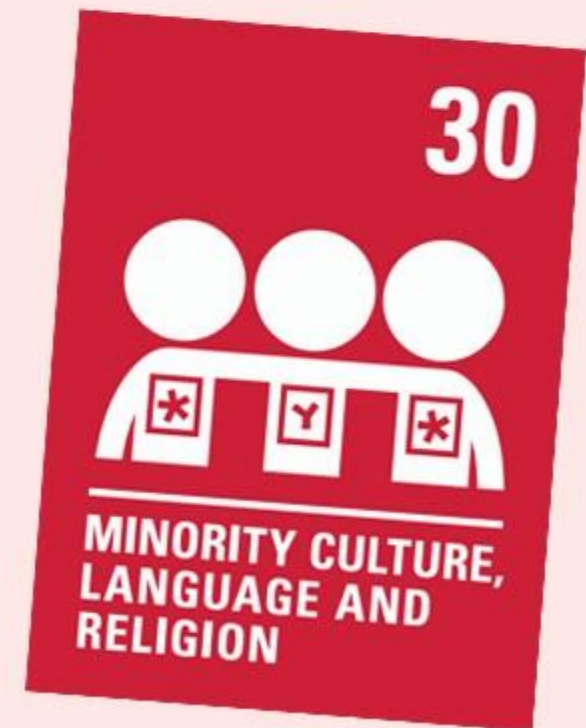
Religion
or Belief



UN Rights of the Child



We have the right to use our own language, religion, and culture. Tourists can support this right by learning about and respecting local languages, traditions, and beliefs when travelling.



Useful Vocabulary



Limit

A rule that sets a maximum amount or number of something, to prevent it from becoming too large or excessive.

Do you think there should be a **limit** on the number of people who can climb the mountain?

Overcrowded

When a place has too many people, making it uncomfortable or unsafe.

The mountain has become very **overcrowded** during these times.

Peak

A high point on a mountain; a mountain can have several **peaks**.

The use of biodegradable bags is now required for climbers on **peaks** over 8,000 meters.

Peak season

The time of year when a place has the most visitors.

The price during the **peak season** has increased by £3,200 (\$4,000) per climber.

Summit

The very highest point of a mountain.

It shows an Austrian climber on his last few steps to the **summit** of Mount Everest.

Trek

A long and difficult journey, usually on foot, which takes **several days, weeks or even months**.

The **trek** itself is expensive, and takes around two months to complete.

Can you use them in your writing this week?

Picture News



Should we be allowed to travel anywhere we like?

The Nepalese government has announced that, from September, climbers aiming for the world's highest mountain will have to pay just over £12,000 (\$15,000) during the main climbing season. This is over \$4,000 more than the previous permit fee for climbing Mount Everest. There have been concerns that there are too many people climbing the mountain, leaving rubbish and not respecting nature. It is hoped the extra money will go towards protecting the area from tourists.



- Look at this week's poster and make a prediction about where in the world you think it could be. It shows an Austrian climber on his last few steps to the summit of Mount Everest.
- Watch this week's useful video showing Jordan Romero (a teenager from the USA), who has climbed Mount Everest. Share your response, and talk about the journey Jordan has been on in his quest to climb the highest mountain in every continent.
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource, all about the new rules to climb Mount Everest. Do you think there should be a limit on the number of people who can climb the mountain? Do you believe the rules will help protect the local area?
- Can you recall some of the places you have visited as a tourist? What things can we learn from visiting different areas? Can you think of any places where people shouldn't visit, or that should be protected?

Reflection

Through travel, we can go to new places, learn and understand more about the world we live in. Whilst there are many benefits, it's important for us to be respectful and considerate of the places we visit.

Picture News



KS1 focus

What would it be like to climb Mount Everest?



- Look at resource 1, which shows images of some of the things to consider when climbing Mount Everest.
- Would you like to climb a mountain like Everest? Imagine standing at the base - how would you feel before starting? How would you feel when you reached the top?
- Climbing Everest is tough! What would you say to yourself to keep yourself motivated?
- What things would you take with you for your climb? Who would you like to climb with?
- Imagine spending days high in the mountains. What do you think it would be like to sleep outdoors every night? Would you like to be woken each morning by the sunrise?
- Sadly, climbers have left a lot of rubbish behind. How would you feel seeing this? Would the waste impact your experience?
- Climbing Everest is very expensive. Do you think it's worth the cost? What might the money be used for?
- What sort of things would you need to practise before the climb? What training would you need to do?
- Altitude sickness is a real danger. Imagine feeling dizzy and unwell while climbing - how might this affect your ability to continue? What could climbers do to stay safe?

Reflection

Climbing Mount Everest is a huge challenge that takes strength, training, and resilience. For those who climb it, the experience and memories last a lifetime!

Picture News



KS2 focus

What is responsible tourism?



- Think of a place you have visited before. It could be somewhere local, like a park or historical place, or it might be a trip or holiday abroad. How might your visit have impacted the area you went to or the people living there? Did you have a positive impact? Negative? Or a bit of both?
- What do you think the word 'responsible' means in the context of tourism?
- Can you think of any examples of how people might behave responsibly while visiting another place?
- Look at resource 2, which shares some more information and ideas linked to responsible tourism.
- How could visiting places like historic sites, wildlife areas, or local communities impact the environment or people who live there?
- Why is it important to show respect to the culture and traditions of the places we visit? How can visitors do this?
- What might happen if tourists don't behave responsibly?
- Have you ever been on a trip where you noticed something being done to protect the environment or help the local community? Share your experiences.
- Do you think you travel responsibly? What might you do differently in the future?
- How can small choices, like where to stay or what to buy, make a difference when we travel?

Reflection

Responsible tourism means caring for the places and people we visit, ensuring future generations can enjoy them too.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Imagine you were a tourist for the day! This could be a real trip you've been on or a made-up adventure. Write a diary entry about your day as a responsible tourist. Think about:

- Where did you go? (A city, a beach, a nature reserve?)
- How did you travel there? (Did you walk, cycle, take a train?)
- What did you do to look after the environment? (Did you avoid littering, use a reusable bottle?)
- How did you support local people? (Did you visit a market, try local food, or learn a few words in their language?)
- What did you learn about the place and its culture?
- How did your choices make a difference?

Think about how your actions as a responsible tourist made a difference. How did you feel at the end of your day? Proud? Excited? Hopeful?

Option 2

Where in the world would you love to visit? Make a travel bucket list and mark your dream destinations on a world map!

1. Pick 3–5 places you'd love to visit one day.
2. Find out where they are! Write down the country and continent for each place.
3. Mark them on a map. You could draw your own world map or add them to a class map.
4. Write a reason why you want to visit each place.

Extra challenge - find one responsible travel tip for each destination (e.g., the best time to visit to avoid crowds, an important local custom to respect).



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Let's do a litter cleanup around school, inspired by the one on Mount Everest!

You could complete it as a class, in small groups, or take the idea to your school council. Grab some rubbish bags, litter pickers, and disposable gloves, and go on a walk around your school grounds to pick up any rubbish from the floor. Keep your eyes peeled for anything that can be recycled and pop it into the recycling bin! NB: You may want to risk assess your litter pick area before taking the children.



Option 2

Create a picture of Mount Everest at sunrise or sunset. Think about the colours you might see when the sun is rising or setting and the shape of the mountains. You could look at images online for inspiration!

Choose the materials you would like to use to create your artwork. Here are some ideas:

- Water colour paints
- Pastels
- Felt tip pens
- Crayons
- Chalks



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd0jlp3ll88o

This week's useful video

Jordan Romero's experience of climbing Everest
https://youtu.be/_dcL-PJUFRI

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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Snake a look at this!

It's the Year of the Snake in the Chinese New Year celebrations for 2025, which has got us thinking here at Picture News, what types of snakes can we find in the United Kingdom?

There are only three types of snakes that are native to the UK: the adder, the grass snake, and the rarest of the three, the smooth snake. Smooth snakes, as their name suggests, have flat scales and are smooth to the touch. They look similar to an adder, but their heads are rounder, and their markings aren't as defined. 'Smooth snakes are smaller than most people imagine, usually only growing to 60-70 cm in length!', says Steve Allain, a zoologist.



Pictured:
A smooth
snake.
Source:
Canva.

They live in sandy dunes in just three counties in England, although they have been reintroduced into two more places, to try to preserve them further. Unfortunately, building work on their natural habitats has caused a big decline in this wonderful, rare species. If threatened, they can bite but are not poisonous. They can also give off a foul-smelling odour to scare off potential predators! Phwoar!

Have you ever seen a snake?

Umbrella Day has got you covered!

On Monday 10th February, it's National Umbrella Day!

It is unknown who first invented the canopy shaped accessory, but we do know that it was used in ancient Egypt, China and India, and then later in Ancient Greece and Rome. Initially, it was mainly used to protect people from the sun, and then as a shelter from the rain too.

Like many things, umbrellas have changed and improved over time – becoming more lightweight, portable and easy

Pictured: Smart Umbrellas – connect to your phone!

Source: Canva.



to whip out when needed. Now, you can even buy 'Smart Umbrellas' that open and close by themselves, can connect to an app via Bluetooth, and tell you when it's going to rain. They even vibrate when your phone rings, so you never miss a call!

Did you need your umbrella today?

Who should be involved in key decisions for the world?



It is important for prime ministers to sort out problems as they are the ambassadors for their countries. Ethon

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



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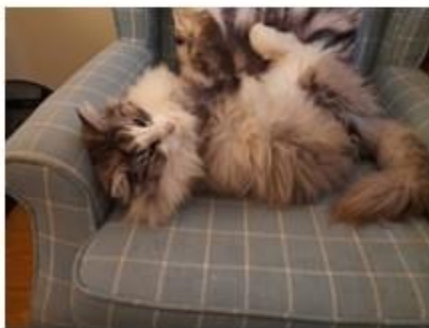
help@picture-news.co.uk



[@HelpPicture](https://twitter.com/HelpPicture)

Purrrfect Happy Ending!

A beloved pet has been reunited with his family, after being missing for 11 days! Chewie, the Norwegian forest cat, was rescued by staff at a McDonald's drive-thru, 30 miles away from his home. 'We're just so relieved and it's so amazing to have him home,' said owner, Sophie Morrish. After the feline approached customers in the car park, staff became concerned as he was close to busy roads. The cat was taken into a back office, where he



Pictured: Chewie, the Norwegian forest cat.
Source: Cats Protection St Albans Branch on Facebook.

could safely wait for Jo Weaver from Cats Protection, St Albans, to scan his microchip. This revealed he was a long way away from his home in Essex. His owner was contacted, and he was able to return home to join his very worried family. The Cats Protection charity pointed out that reunions like this are only possible if people keep their pet's microchip information up-to-date. Richard Forte, from London Colney McDonald's, said they were 'incredibly proud of the restaurant team for going above and beyond', and 'reuniting Chewie with his grateful owner and creating a purrrfect happy ending'.

Did you know that all pet cats in England should have a microchip?



Pictured: Chewie, the Norwegian forest cat.
Source: Cats Protection St Albans Branch on Facebook.

Popular Pongy Plant

A super-smelly plant, named Putricia, has drawn massive crowds at the Royal Sydney Botanic Garden, Australia. The *Amorphophallus titanum* plant, famous for its 'deadly' stench, is said to smell of many things – from rotting food, sweaty socks and even garlic! Putricia (named from a staff competition - a combination of the words 'putrid' and 'Patricia') was placed in a special display area, allowing people to watch it bloom. It's a very rare plant – there are only around 1000 in the world – and has the biggest and smelliest flower-spike. It only appears for 1-2 days and won't flower again for years. Long lines of people queued up to experience the smell for themselves. Up to 20,000 people are estimated to have visited the special display. A livestream of the flower preparing to open had millions of views! Describing the plant's aroma,



Pictured: Putricia, the *Amorphophallus titanum*.
Source: Botanic Gardens of Sydney on Facebook.

Paul Nicholson, from the Botanic Gardens, said, 'If you've got some wet teenage socks, throw that into a blender, then you get some cat food you've left out in the sun, whack that in your blender, and then get some day-old vomit. Put that in the blender, blend it all up, rip the lid off. That's the kind of smell you're getting. It's actually stunningly beautiful as well.'

Do you know any facts about *Amorphophallus titanum*?

Do you think you would have waited in line for hours to experience this?

Who should be involved in key decisions for the world?



It would be good if the leaders of all the countries could work together to make the world a better place.

Stacey

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



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TAKEHOME



Should we be allowed to travel anywhere we like?



In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home ...

- > Why do you think so many people want to climb Mount Everest? Can you imagine what it feels like to reach the summit?
- > Can you recall some of the places you have visited as a tourist? These could be close to where you live, or further away. Talk to someone at home – where have they visited?
- > What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of tourism?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

