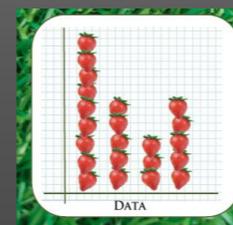




Answers



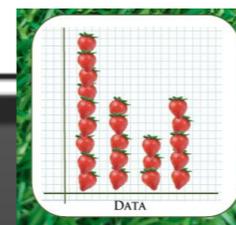
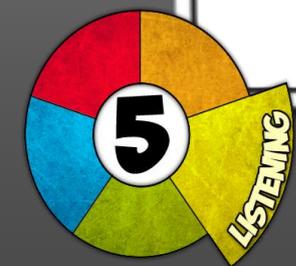


1

A mission to the outer solar system came to a spectacular end when scientists deliberately crashed the Cassini space probe into which planet?

- a. Jupiter
- b. Saturn
- c. Neptune

b. Saturn - Controllers commanded the probe to destroy itself by plunging into the planet's atmosphere. It survived for just over a minute before being broken apart. Cassini was launched in 1997 and had run out of fuel. Nasa determined that the probe should not be allowed simply to wander uncontrolled among Saturn and its moons.





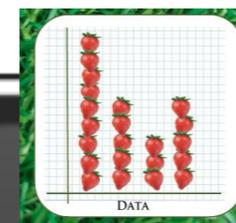
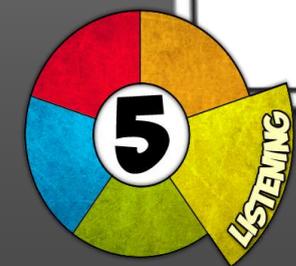
2



From which country are many people in the region of Catalonia seeking their independence?

- a. France
- b. Spain
- c. Italy

b. Spain - Thousands of Catalans held marches in support a vote of independence for the region. However, many others held rival rallies to show unity with Spain.





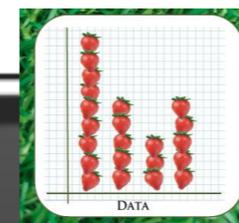
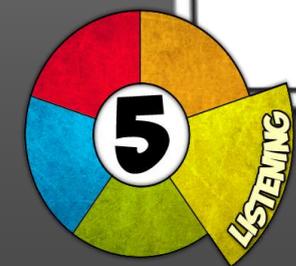
3



What type of meat are Australians being urged to consume to help control an animal population explosion?

- a. camel
- b. asian water buffalo
- c. kangaroo

c. kangaroo - 2016 figures show there were almost 45 million kangaroos, which is almost double the human population of Australia. Licenses to shoot kangaroos are available but most aren't taken up because Australians don't like to eat kangaroo meat and it is considered a novelty food just for tourists.



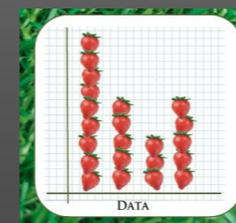
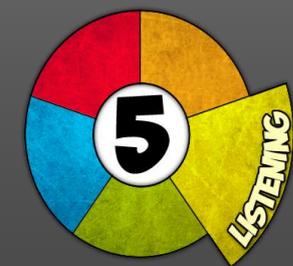


4



True or false, this building is a real part of the skyline in Milan, Italy?

True - The Bosco Verticale (Vertical Forest), is a pair of residential towers in Milan, Italy. They have a height of 111 metres (364 ft) and 76 metres (249 ft) and host more than 900 trees. The designer was aiming to combat climate change, and his idea is now being exported all over the world.





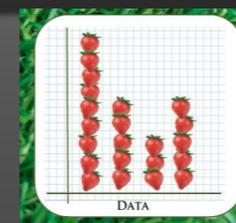
5



Which international company was denied a licence to operate in London earlier in the term?

- a. Starbucks
- b. Uber
- c. Airbnb

b. Uber - Transport for London has concluded the ride-hailing app firm was not fit and proper to hold a private hire operator licence. Uber's approach and conduct demonstrated a lack of corporate responsibility which could have potential public safety and security implications, it said. Uber is likely to appeal the decision, and a large petition from users has already gained over 500,000 signatures.



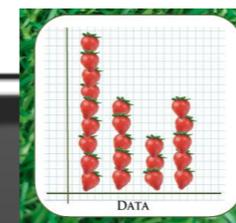
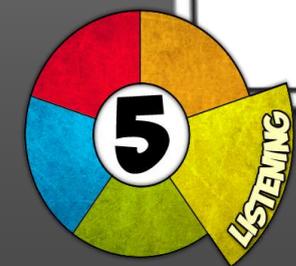


6

What has Donald Trump taken to calling the leader of North Korea?

- a. Crazy Kid
- b. Rocket Man
- c. Lil' Kim

b. Rocket Man - Donald Trump regularly refers to Kim Jong-Un as Rocket man which is the name of a famous song by Elton John.





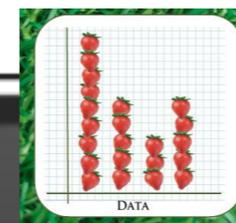
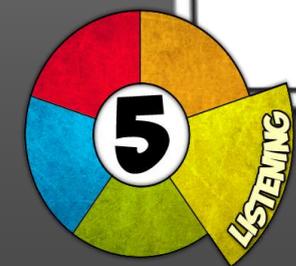
7



In which UK city did ongoing strike action by binmen cause rubbish to build up and become a problem for residents?

- a. Manchester
- b. Glasgow
- c. Birmingham

c. Birmingham - The strike action was in protest of Birmingham City Council's plan to make 106 binmen redundant. A High Court ruling has stopped the council from carrying out their planned job cuts, and so the strike action has been halted.



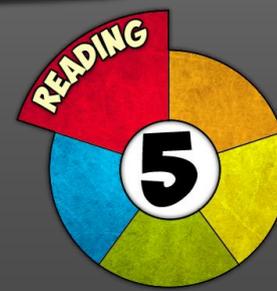
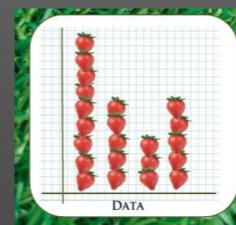


8



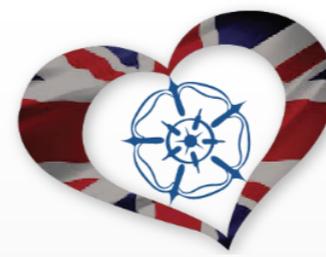
What is the name of this vehicle that has been in the news recently?
a. Bluebird b. Bloodhound c. Blue Hornet

b. Bloodhound - the super sonic car has conducted its first public runs. The vehicle raced to 210mph (340km/h) down the runway at Newquay Airport in southwest England. Eventually, Bloodhound will be fitted with an additional rocket motor so that it can go 1,000mph (1,610km/h).





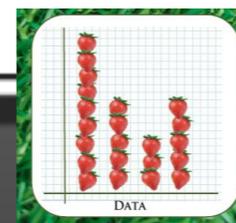
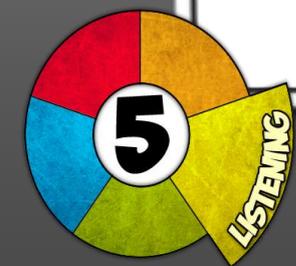
9



For how long will Big Ben be silenced, while important repair and maintenance work is carried out?

- a. 4 weeks
- b. 4 months
- c. 4 years

c. 4 years -The "Big Ben" bell in the British parliament's famous clock tower ceased its regular bongs in August. The 160-year-old tower, which is a Unesco World Heritage site, is undergoing £29 million of work to increase energy efficiency and redecorate the interior of the building.

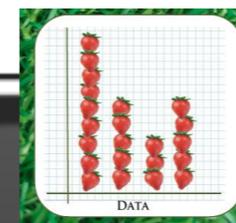
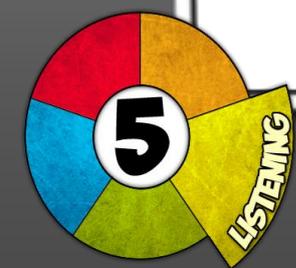




The Invictus Games is a sporting event for soldiers who have been wounded or injured. Which member of the royal family has established this event?

- a. Prince Harry
- b. Prince William
- c. Prince Charles

a. Prince Harry - Launching the 2017 Invictus Games in Toronto, Canada, the prince told the audience he wanted the world to be inspired "by the spirit of those who wear the uniform". The first Invictus Games took place in London in September 2014. They were held in Orlando, Florida, in 2016, and will be hosted by Sydney, Australia, in 2018.

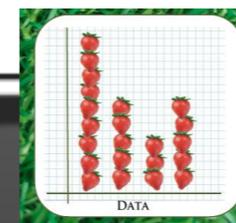
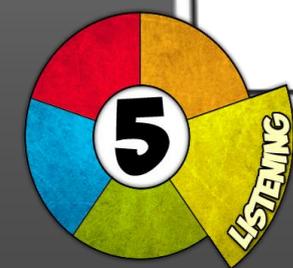




What were the most common names for babies born in England and Wales in 2017?

- a. Olivia (Girls) & Oliver (Boys)
- b. Harriet (Girls) & Harry (Boys)
- c. Charlotte (Girls) & Charlie (Boys)

a. Olivia (Girls) & Oliver (Boys) - With 5,017 namings for 2017, Olivia was ahead of Amelia (4,777) and Emily (3,551) as the most common girls' name. While Oliver (6,623) was the most popular boys name, ahead of Harry (5,284) and George (5,263).

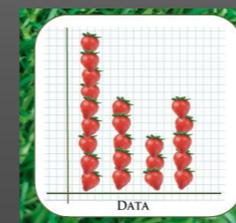




What was responsible for this damage in the Caribbean at the start of the term?

- a. an 8.2 earthquake
- b. a 10m tsunami
- c. hurricane force winds
- d. all of the above

c. hurricane force winds - Hurricane Irma devastated many communities and the damage bill is expected to be in the hundreds of billions. Many of the islands rely on tourism, so the economic effects will last for many years.





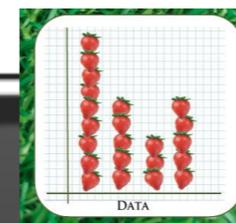
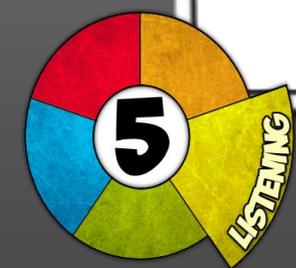
13



Which country announced earlier in the term that it will allow women to drive for the first time?

- a. South Africa
- b. Saudi Arabia
- c. Sri Lanka

b. Saudi Arabia - The Gulf kingdom has been the only country in the world that banned women from driving - and women are still subject to strict dress codes and gender segregation. Until now, only men were allowed licences and women who drove in public risked being arrested and fined.

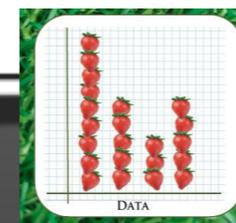
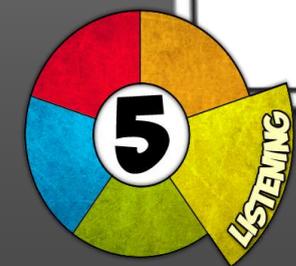




China elevated the status of its president to 'lingxiu' - a reverential term for “leader”. What is the name of the Chinese president?

- a. Xi Jinping
- b. Hu Jintao
- c. Jiang Zemin

a. Xi Jinping - Lingxiu - a more spiritual, grander term for “leader” than the commonly used lingdao - is an honorific bestowed only on “great lingxiu” Mao, the founder of communist China. A series of changes in October has led to the biggest shakeup in Chinese politics since the cultural revolution.





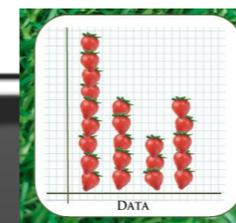
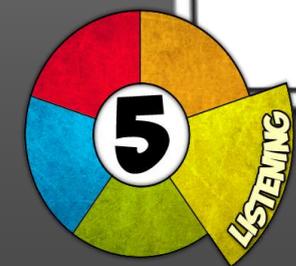
15



Which US record did One Direction equal recently?

- a. Justin Bieber's record number of YouTube views
- b. Adele's achievement as the fastest-selling British artist in the US
- c. The Beatles' as the only groups where three members have achieved a solo number one

c. The Beatles' as the only groups where three members have achieved a solo number one The band has just joined the Beatles to become the only groups where three members have achieved a solo number one in the US. It comes after Niall Horan topped the charts with his debut single, Flicker.



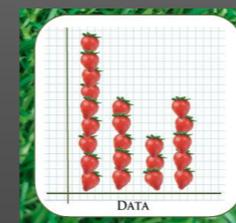


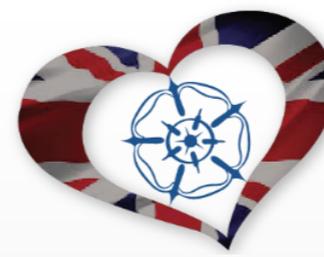
16



Which organisation has this flag?

United Nations

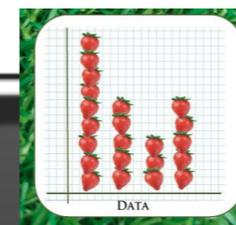
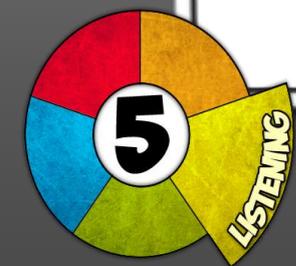




The Paradise Papers were in the news a lot last month. What are the Paradise Papers?

- a. leaked financial information that includes offshore investments of many wealthy and famous people
- b. a series of recently published short stories by J.K Rowling
- c. recently discovered ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic scrolls

a. leaked financial information that includes offshore investments of many wealthy and famous people - Nearly 100 media groups are investigating the 13.4 million leaked documents. The papers are giving insight to how the wealthy avoid taxes by using offshore tax havens.

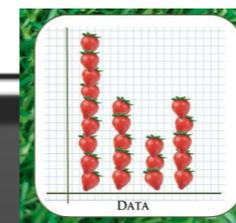
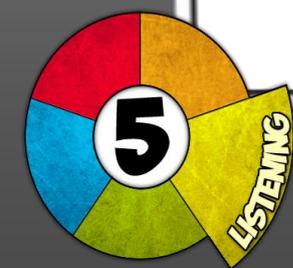




A 500-year-old painting by the famous artist Leonardo da Vinci recently sold at auction and received the highest ever amount for a painting. For how many US dollars did it sell?

- a. \$4.5 million
- b. \$45 million
- c. \$450 million

c. \$450 million - The oil painting depicts Christ holding a crystal orb, called *Salvator Mundi* is one of fewer than 20 paintings by Leonardo da Vinci known to exist. The previous record for the sale of an artwork was \$US179.4 million.

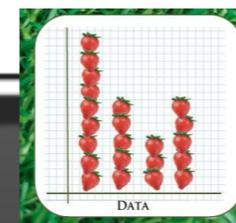
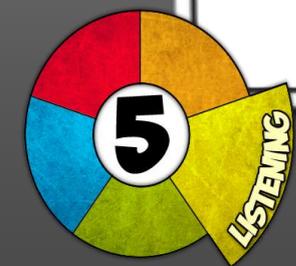




What has been banned by a chain of children's nurseries because of the "terrible damage" it does to the environment?

- a. glitter
- b. play-doh
- c. face paint

a. glitter - Top Day nurseries in southern England have banned the use of glitter among its 2,500 children to reduce the amount of microplastics entering the seas. Microplastics are fragments of plastic less than 5 millimetres in length. Their size makes them an appealing - though dangerous - food item for many animals.





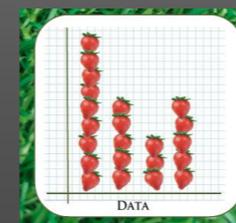
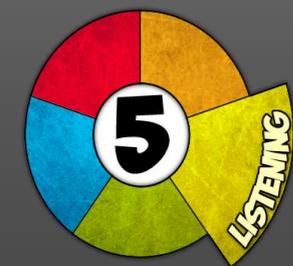
20



This man is no longer the leader of his country. What is his last name?

- a. Zuma
- b. Mugabe
- c. Kenyatta

b. Mugabe - The military took control of Zimbabwe and initially placed Robert Mugabe under house arrest. The 93-year-old was then forced to resign.





The End

