


October 16, 2017

 SCHOLASTIC

News[®] with Weekly Reader.

Edition 5/6

Vol. 86 No. 5 ISSN 1554-2440



After Hurricane Harvey, a rescue worker in Houston, Texas, carries a woman and her baby to safety.

Surviving the Storms

Across the southern United States, people are still recovering from hurricanes Harvey and Irma. **Page 4**

video
Into the Storm
scholastic.com/sn56

The Future of Pizza Delivery p. 3 • An Astronaut Makes History p. 6

Time for a Checkup

The London Zoo holds its annual animal weigh-in.

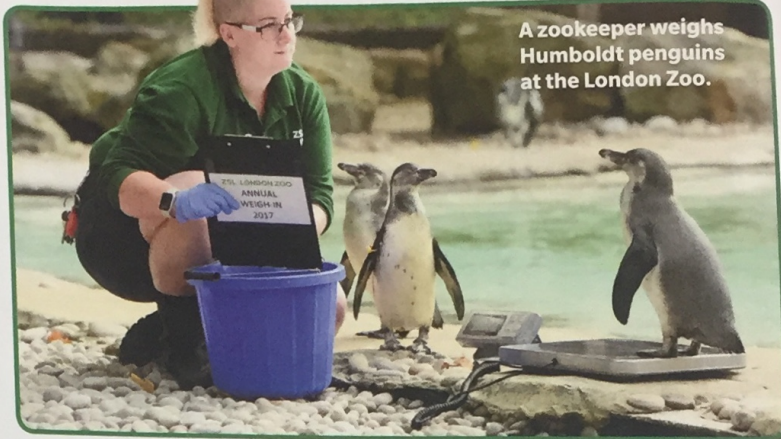
Weighing and measuring 20,000 animals is no easy task. Just ask the zookeepers at the London Zoo in England, who recently conducted their annual animal checkup.

This year's weigh-in started in mid-August and took several weeks to complete. Not only did zookeepers have to round up all the animals, they also had to come up with clever ways to measure some of them. For example, to find out each lion's height, a keeper dangled food next to a giant ruler. While the lion stretched for its breakfast, the keeper quickly recorded its height. Zookeepers also used food to lure penguins, monkeys, and goats onto scales.

"Keepers have to be very imaginative and patient when it comes to getting animals to stay still on scales," says Adrian Walls, a manager at the zoo.

Word to Know

database *noun*. a collection of information that is organized and stored in a computer



A zookeeper weighs Humboldt penguins at the London Zoo.

Weighing in at a whopping 1,874 pounds, Ellish the giraffe is the zoo's biggest animal. Its smallest creatures are leaf-cutter ants. Each weighs less than an ounce (lighter than a feather).

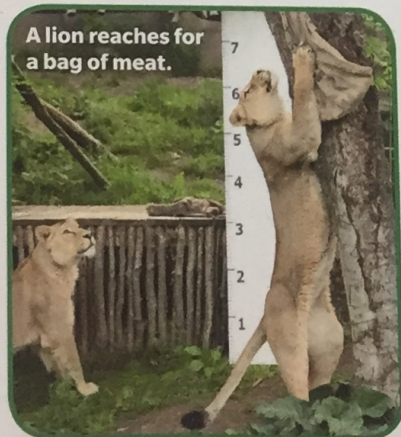
The annual checkup is a way to make sure all of the zoo's information is up-to-date. It also tells zookeepers if the animals are staying fit, eating well, and growing at the proper rate.

"The weight of an animal is a key indicator of its overall health and well-being," says Walls.

The data collected helps animals around the globe too. Each animal's measurements are



recorded in the Zoological Information Management System. This **database** is shared by zoos and conservation centers worldwide. The information enables zookeepers to compare how their animals stack up to those in other places.



A lion reaches for a bag of meat.



A flying tree frog is placed on a scale to be weighed.



A silverback gorilla stands next to a giant ruler.

Special Delivery

Domino's tests a new way of delivering pizza.

Imagine getting a pizza delivered by a car without a driver. How would you know when it arrived? How would you get it out of the car? Domino's Pizza and Ford recently teamed up to answer these questions.

Ford is one of the companies that have been experimenting with self-driving cars in recent years. These cars use sensors and cameras to "see" objects around them, including other cars and people crossing the road. Computers in the cars make decisions about when to stop and when to go.

Word to Know
automated *adjective*. done by a machine rather than a person

Picture This

Food Fight

Welcome to the annual food festival. Each year, the town of Buena Vista hosted a huge festival. Last year, La Tomatina. Over 20,000 people from all over the world flock to the town to throw soft, mushy, over-ripe tomatoes at one another. The festival is a tomato fight, and everyone ends up splattered from head to toe into a sea of red.

Special Delivery



Domino's tests a new way of delivering pizzas.

Imagine getting a pizza delivered by a car with no driver. How would you know when it arrived? How would you get it out of the car? Domino's Pizza and Ford recently teamed up to answer these questions.

Ford is one of the many companies that have been experimenting with **automated** cars in recent years. Self-driving cars use sensors and cameras to "see" objects around them, including other cars, traffic lights, and people crossing the street. Computers in the cars use the

Word to Know

automated adjective. operated by a machine rather than by people



data collected to control the cars so they can get around safely.

During a recent six-week test, Domino's used driverless cars built by Ford to make deliveries to customers in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The focus was on finding out how customers would react to getting a delivery without interacting with another person. For the test, an engineer drove the car and researchers rode along to take notes. But the car's windows were tinted so customers couldn't see that anyone was inside.

After placing an order, each customer tracked it through a phone app. Domino's also sent text updates. When the pizza arrived, the customer entered the last four digits of his or her phone number into a keypad on the car. The code unlocked a heated compartment inside the car that held the food.

"This test is a sneak peek of what's to come," says Adrian Hall, who works for Ford. "The possibilities are endless once a car drives itself."

Picture THIS

Food Fight!

Welcome to the world's messiest food festival. Each year since 1945, the town of Buñol, Spain, has hosted a huge tomato fight called La Tomatina. On August 30, more than 20,000 people from around the world flocked to the town to fling mushy, overripe tomatoes at one another. After the hour-long tomato fight, 150 tons of the splattered fruit turned the streets into a sea of red.



Floodwaters from Hurricane Harvey nearly cover a house in Houston, Texas.

Surviving the Storms

More than a month after two hurricanes raged through the southern United States, people across the region are still recovering.

The Eicher family figured they were safe. Hurricane Harvey had barreled into their home state of Texas on August 25. Three days later, heavy rain from the storm continued to hammer down. Homes across southeastern Texas were being swallowed by floods. Still, the Eichers thought their house in the city of Conroe would be spared because it was built 13 feet off the ground.

But water began creeping up their front steps and would soon reach the front door.

"I knew the storm was coming, but I didn't know the water would get that high," says 9-year-old Ace Eicher.

Fortunately, Ace and her family were rescued. They were among

the countless people in Texas who had their lives turned upside down by Harvey. The storm **lingered** over the state for almost a week, turning highways into rivers and leaving thousands of homes underwater. At least 80 people died because of Harvey.

About two weeks after Harvey, another major storm struck the United States. On September 10, Hurricane Irma tore through Florida with violent winds that reached 142 miles per hour.

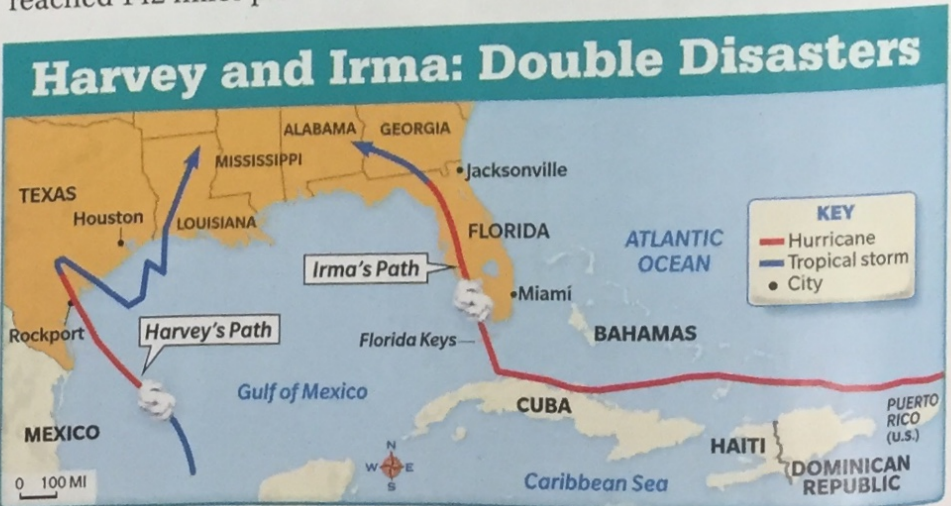
The country had never seen back-to-back disasters like this. Meteorologists (scientists who study weather) rate hurricanes on a scale from 1 to 5, according to wind speed. A Category 5 storm is the strongest. Harvey and Irma both made landfall as Category 4 storms. It was the first time two hurricanes that powerful hit the U.S. mainland in the same year.

People across the South are still struggling to rebuild from the damage caused by the storms.

Words to Know

lingered verb, past tense. stayed in one place for a long time

ravaged verb, past tense. caused serious damage



A Historic Hurricane

Harvey wasn't just powerful. It also behaved differently than most hurricanes. Instead of breaking up quickly once it reached land, Harvey stalled near Houston, Texas, for several days. The storm dumped more than 50 inches of rain near the city.

The Eichers live about 40 miles from Houston. As the floodwaters rose, they were among the tens of thousands of Texans who were left stranded. By August 28, their house looked like it was in the middle of a lake.

"I was thinking, 'What are we going to do? This is crazy,'" recalls Ace's mom, Lisa.

Luckily, firefighters arrived in a dump truck that could drive through the rising water—which was already higher than Ace's head. The firefighters helped Ace, her parents, her three siblings, and their pet dog and pig get to safety.

"I was trying to stay calm, but it was really nerve-racking," says Ace. "[The water] was really cold."

Across Texas, rescue workers and ordinary citizens used boats

Below: A firefighter rescues Ace Eicher (right, with her pet pig) from her flooded home in Conroe, Texas.



Hurricane Irma destroyed this house in Vilano Beach, Florida.

and trucks to rescue more than 120,000 people. Many who were rescued spent weeks living either in temporary shelters or at the homes of relatives and friends.

Irma Moves In

Meanwhile, about 900 miles away, 9-year-old Charlotte Osol and her family were bracing for Hurricane Irma. The storm had already **ravaged** islands in the Caribbean. As Irma neared Charlotte's home state of Florida, officials ordered more than 6 million residents to evacuate.

"I was pretty scared, but my mom said we had to evacuate to higher ground to be safe," says Charlotte. She lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, along Florida's east coast.

Although Irma weakened as it moved through Florida, the storm was so big that it battered the east and west coasts of the state at the same time. It tore apart homes in the Florida Keys and caused

major flooding in Miami, Jacksonville, and other cities. Irma killed at least 68 people in Florida and the Caribbean.

Charlotte's family spent two days at her cousin's house, which is on higher ground. When her family returned home, they had no electricity. About 15 million people had their power knocked out by the storm.

Long Road to Recovery

Back in Texas, the hardest-hit areas may take years to recover from Harvey. Some experts say it may end up being the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

As for the Eichers, the first floor of their house was destroyed by the flood. They're living with Ace's grandmother while their home is being rebuilt. Friends, family, and even two of the firefighters who rescued them have helped with the repairs.

"It's going to be a long, long road," says Lisa. "But it's been really cool to see how many people have been pitching in."

—by Tricia Culligan

Another Hurricane

As we went to press, another deadly hurricane, Maria, had hit Puerto Rico. You can find coverage of the storm at www.scholastic.com/sn56.

Space Traveler

Peggy Whitson has spent more time in space than any other American.

On the morning of September 3, astronaut Peggy Whitson landed in a space capsule in Kazakhstan, a country in Asia. She also landed in the record books. Whitson had just returned to Earth after spending more than nine months living in the International Space Station (ISS), the giant laboratory orbiting Earth. It was the longest any female astronaut had ever been in space during one trip.

The mission also brought the **cumulative** time Whitson has spent in space during her career up to 665 days. That's a record for the most total time in space for an American astronaut.



The ISS has no refrigerators, so astronauts have to get creative with their food. This floating burger was made with dried meat, a tortilla, cheese paste, and onions.

Last January, Whitson made this spacewalk to install new electrical equipment on the outside of the ISS. (Earth is visible behind her.) During her three missions, Whitson completed 10 spacewalks—more than any other female astronaut.



Peggy Whitson hangs out in the International Space Station (ISS) last June.

Out of This World

Whitson first launched into space in 2002 aboard the space shuttle *Endeavour*. It was the first of her three missions to the ISS. In 2007, she became the first woman to serve as commander of the space station. She had the same role during her most recent stay on the ISS. But to Whitson, her space travels have never been just about making history.

"I am not overly comfortable with the praise about the records," she says.

Instead, Whitson says, her missions on the ISS had more important goals. For example, she helped conduct hundreds of science experiments that could

one day help astronauts prepare for longer journeys into space, such as a trip to Mars.

Whitson also underwent a series of tests to see how being in space for so long affected her body. The pull of gravity is much weaker in space, causing people (and anything that's not nailed, screwed, or strapped down) to float. Past space missions have shown that living in a near-weightless environment can cause changes to astronauts' bodies, such as weakening their eyesight and bones. The results of the tests on Whitson could help scientists learn how to keep astronauts healthy on future trips to space.

This was likely Whitson's last mission to the ISS. She says there are a lot of things she'll miss about being in space.

"I will hugely miss the freedom of floating and moving with the lightest of touch," Whitson says.

—by Joe Bubar

Word to Know

cumulative adjective. increasing, such as in amount, by one addition after another

Should National Parks Sell Bottled Water?

Thirsty hikers who wanted to buy a bottle of water in Grand Canyon National Park had long been out of luck. To help cut down on trash, the park had banned the sale of bottled water in 2012. Twenty-two other national parks had similar rules. Park visitors could bring their own water bottles or buy reusable ones in the parks' gift shops. People could fill them for free at water-filling stations within the parks.

But in August, the National Park Service (NPS) ended the ban on selling bottled water in the parks. The director of the NPS wrote in a statement that "it should be up to our visitors to decide how best to keep themselves and their families hydrated."

The NPS also argues that "the ban removed the

healthiest beverage choice" from the parks. The parks that had stopped selling bottled water continued to sell bottles of soda and other sugary drinks. A study released by the University of Vermont in 2015 found that banning the sale of bottled water often leads people to drink more of these unhealthy beverages.

However, critics of the NPS's decision say it's a step backward. A report from 2012 showed that before the ban went into effect, plastic bottles made up 20 percent of all the waste at the Grand Canyon. Conservationists say all that trash pollutes the environment and takes away from the beauty of our national parks.

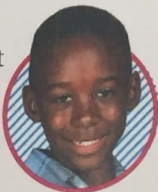
Here's what two of our readers think.

Yes! Being able to buy bottled water can help park visitors' health.

People need water to stay hydrated. During a hike through a national park, they can get very thirsty. Some people may not remember to bring their own water bottles. So they should be able to buy bottled water in the park to keep from passing out or feeling disoriented.

Also, the parks that didn't sell bottled water still sold soda and other sugary drinks. These drinks are not as healthy as water and can lead to obesity (being dangerously overweight) if consumed in large quantities.

Finally, the parks can make extra money by selling bottled water. That money can be used to maintain and upgrade the parks.



Anjay Gooden, New York

No! People should bring their own water bottles to national parks.

Plastic bottles can be harmful to the environment no matter where they are. Only about 30 percent of plastic bottles get recycled in the U.S. Instead, many are thrown in the trash and end up in landfills, where they can take hundreds of years to decompose.

Also, plastic bottles often end up as litter. They look ugly scattered all over hiking trails, roadsides, and fields. Birds, fish, and other wildlife could get seriously injured and possibly die if they eat the plastic.

Why not bring your own reusable bottle when you visit a national park? You could save money by filling it for free at the water-filling stations.



Isabella Zeppa, Massachusetts

What's Your OPINION? Go online to cast your vote and download an opinion-writing skills sheet: www.scholastic.com/sn56

POSTAL INFORMATION: SCHOLASTIC NEWS Edition 5/6 (ISSN 1554-2440) is published weekly during the school year except holidays and mid-term, 22 issues, by Scholastic Inc., 2931 East McCarty St., P.O. Box 3710, Jefferson City, MO 65102-3710. Periodical postage paid at Jefferson City, MO 65102 and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTERS: Send notice of address changes to SCHOLASTIC NEWS Edition 5/6, 2931 East McCarty St., P.O. Box 3710, Jefferson City, MO 65102-3710. Copyright ©2017 by Scholastic Inc. Scholastic News and associated designs are trademarks/registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc. All Rights Reserved. Materials in this issue may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form or format without special permission from the publisher. Printed in the USA.

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation of Scholastic News Edition 5/6 (as required by Title 39, United States Code): Date of Filing, October 1, 2017. Title of Publication: Scholastic News Edition 5/6. Frequency of Issue: 22 times during the school year. Weekly during academic school year except holidays and mid-term. Location of Known Office of Publication: 2931 East McCarty Street, Cole County, Jefferson City, MO 65101-4464. Location of the Headquarters of the Publishers: 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012-3999. Publisher: M. Richard Robinson; Editor: Brian Fitzgerald (both of 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012-3999). Owners: Scholastic Corp., M. Richard Robinson, Trust under will of Maurice R. Robinson, Trust under will of Florence L. Robinson, all of 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012-3999. During Preceding 12 Months Average Number of Copies: Printed each issue, 1,026,547. Paid Circulation, 866,211. Free Distribution, 10,698. Total Number of Copies Distributed, 1,006,909. Copies Not Distributed, 19,578. Total, 1,026,547. For Single Issue Nearest to Filing Date: Number of Copies Printed, 1,092,196. Paid Circulation, 808,852. Free Distribution, 1,166. Number of Copies Distributed, 810,018. Copies Not Distributed, 282,178. Total, 1,092,196.

News Diagram

Hurricanes form when warm air from the ocean's surface rises and meets cool air above it. This produces storm clouds, rain, and strong winds. This diagram shows what a hurricane looks like from above.

Winds blowing on the ocean's surface push the hurricane across the water and sometimes onto land.

The eye is the calm center of the hurricane.

Clouds roll in a swirling pattern around the eye.

The eye wall is a ring of clouds that surrounds the eye. The hurricane's strongest winds are found here.

1. A hurricane forms when ____ meets ____ above it.
 - (A) warm air; even warmer air
 - (B) warm water; cool air
 - (C) warm air; cool air
 - (D) cool air; colder air
2. The eye wall is _____.
 - (A) the calm part of a hurricane
 - (B) located at the outer edge of a hurricane
 - (C) a type of hurricane
 - (D) where a hurricane's strongest winds are found
3. Describe the conditions inside the eye of a hurricane.

News Review

Surviving the Storms pages 4-5

4. Which sentence best states the article's main idea?

- (A) "The Eicher family figured they were safe."
- (B) "Water began creeping up their front steps."
- (C) "About two weeks after Harvey, another major storm struck the United States."
- (D) "People across the South are still struggling to rebuild from the damage caused by the storms."

5. Unlike most hurricanes, Hurricane Harvey _____.

- (A) brought heavy rains
- (B) had strong, violent winds
- (C) didn't break up quickly once it hit land
- (D) was rated on a scale according to its wind speed

6. Why did the Eicher family think they might be spared from flooding?

- (A) Their house was 40 miles from Houston.
- (B) Their house was built 13 feet off the ground.
- (C) They had evacuated to a temporary shelter.
- (D) They knew firefighters would rescue them.

7. Which word is closest in meaning to *lingered*?

- (A) struck
- (B) remained
- (C) stranded
- (D) returned

Space Traveler page 6

8. Which of the following is not one of Peggy Whitson's accomplishments?

- (A) She was the first female astronaut.
- (B) She has spent more total time in space than any other American.
- (C) She was the first female commander of the International Space Station (ISS).
- (D) She has made more spacewalks than any other female astronaut.

9. What was Whitson's main goal while on the ISS?

- (A) to set a record for longest time spent in space
- (B) to train for her next space mission
- (C) to take part in experiments that could help astronauts prepare for longer space missions
- (D) to make repairs to the space station

10. According to the article, what's one thing Whitson will miss about being in space?

- (A) making unique meals
- (B) floating in a near-weightless environment
- (C) breaking records
- (D) being away from home

