

# LOOK CLOSER

Weekly In-Depth Reading Comprehension



Can you:

- Find the facts?
- Interpret the information?
- Work out why the journalist wrote and presented the story in the way that they did?



18 **FirstNews** ISSUE 276 16 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2011

## GREEN NEWS

# The trash truck

**A TRUCK** made from rubbish and powered by old cooking oil is back in the UK after a two year trip around the world!

Andy Pag and Christina Ammon travelled 30,000km in their 'Biotruck' across Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Americas.

Mr Pag built the truck in 2009, using an old school bus salvaged from a scrap yard. He used recycled materials to turn the truck into a cosy eco-home and then converted the engine so that it could run on cooking oil.

It's called a 'Biotruck' because it runs on biodiesel (or vegetable oil). This includes cooking oil. Fossil fuels such as



In Death Valley, USA

petroleum (which makes petrol) will run out one day, so scientists are working on other types of fuel to power vehicles.

Along the journey, the couple got the fuel they needed from restaurants that would otherwise have thrown the oil away.

The truck did break down a few times, but the couple were always helped by people they met on the way.

"The random acts of kindness have given us an overwhelming faith in how great humankind is," said Pag.

After a brief stop in the UK, the couple set off in their truck for the next leg of their journey... to Africa!



Fixing the Biotruck





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**GREEN NEWS**  
with Keilly Swift

For more green news, pictures and videos go to [www.firstnews.co.uk/discover](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/discover)

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Fixing the Biotruck



## Safe zones in the sea

**A LIST** of 127 areas of sea have been proposed as new nature reserves.

The areas include parts of the sea around the Isle of Wight and the Isles of Scilly, plus reefs, trenches and some remote areas of sea that have hardly been seen by humans.

They range in size from a tiny 0.09 sq km speck of rock near Dorset to a giant 5,800 sq km area of sea in the western Channel. Altogether, it is an area of 37,000 sq km, which is about twice the size of Wales!

As marine conservation zones, the wildlife that live there would be protected, some of them rare or threatened, such as seahorses and sunset cup corals.



Marine minister, Richard Benyon, said: "The thousands of species of sealife and habitats that live hidden under our waters need just as much protection as those that we can see on land."

Rather than being chosen by the Government, the areas were selected after thousands of interviews and meetings with sea users, conservationists and industries, such as fishing and shipping. It is hoped that this process will help to avoid arguments later on.

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

What do you do to help fight climate change? How do you get your friends, family and school to do their bit too? Tell us and First News readers. Log on to [www.firstnews.co.uk/discover](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/discover), or write to [newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk), or the address on page 10.

### SCHOOL NEWS

For more news crew, pictures and videos go to [www.firstnews.co.uk/news](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/news)



## The Jacks Attack...

AT school we have been working on a project to create our own businesses. We have called ours PK, which stands for Powerful Kids.

Our first step was to decide on what we are going to sell at our school's big event. It took lots of brainstorming and determination but we came to a final conclusion that was to sell the traditional playground game of jacks along with a high density rubber ball.

To raise money to buy the jacks and balls we took part in an enjoyable sponsored events day. We did a sponsored walk, run and jog, a sponsored dance and a sponsored silence.

Once we had collected all the sponsored money, we had raised an amazing £1,200 for our business. This meant that we could buy high quality jacks and rubber balls. We also had a long discussion about

by Year 4, St Mary's C of E Primary School, Hertfordshire

making an advert for our products. A man came in and showed us what a good advert looked like and how to make them. Then we tried making our own.

We have now started to make the bags that will keep the jacks and balls safe. The bags will come in different colours and varieties. There will be pull threads to open them and they will be made from felt!

We also had the privilege of going on the TV programme Dragons' Den and discussing what we will be doing in our business. We are hoping this will result in a £150 bonus for our business project.

### We want to hear what your school is up to

**ARE** you doing something sponsored for charity? Starting your own school newspaper? Or putting on a show?

Email your report (including pictures) to [newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk). If we print your story we'll send you a copy of the paper and a First News certificate to be presented to you in assembly! Don't forget to include your name, age, and your school's name and address. (By writing to First News you give consent to First News printing details and photographs of those involved in the report.)

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# GREEN NEWS

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Can you:

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Carefully read the article **The trash truck** and then answer the following questions:

1) What type of vehicle was the Biotruck before it was a truck?



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2) What distance has the Biotruck covered in its journey across Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Americas?



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3) Why is the truck called a Biotruck?



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4) Where did Andy Pag and Christina Ammon get their fuel for the Biotruck from on their journey?



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5) In the headline, the journalist could simply have written **Biotruck's world journey**. Instead the journalist wrote **The trash truck**? Why do you think she chose this headline?



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6) The **lead** or **first** sentence of a newspaper report should tell as much of the story as possible.

**A TRUCK made from rubbish and powered by old cooking oil is back in the UK after a two year trip around the world!**

How many of the **five W questions** (*Who? What? Where? When? and Why?*) has the journalist managed to include in the opening sentence in this article?



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# GREEN NEWS

7) How do the two **photographs** help you understand the story?  
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 .....

8) Why has the journalist included a **quotation** in this article?  
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9) What has Andy Pag learnt about others during his journey in the Biotruck? Explain fully, referring to the article in your answer.  
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 .....  
 .....

10) This article could have appeared elsewhere in **First News** . Why has **The trash track** been written for the **Green News** section of the newspaper?  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

**A.** Read and explore the other **Green News** story **Safe zones in the sea.**

**B.** What other sections of **First News** could either of the **Green News** stories appeared?

**C.** Visit [biotruckexpedition.org](http://biotruckexpedition.org). Find the world map, look at the route the Biotruck took and the photographs of the places taken along the way.

**D.** We want to hear from you! Tell us all the environmentally-friendly things you do.

**E.** Have a look on **First News'** website [www.firstnews.co.uk/discover](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/discover) for more green news and how to join in.

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**GREEN NEWS with Helly Swift**

**The trash track**  
 A TRUCK made from rubbish and powered by old cooking oil is back in the UK after a two-year trip around the world.

**Safe zones in the sea**  
 A LIST of 127 areas of sea have been proposed as new nature reserves.

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**  
 What do you think? Do you agree? Tell us what you think about the Biotruck and what it does here. Tell us what you think about the Biotruck and what it does here. Tell us what you think about the Biotruck and what it does here.

**SCHOOL NEWS** For more news, pictures and videos go to [www.firstnews.co.uk/news](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/news)

**The Jacks Attack...**  
 AT school, we have been working on a project to create our own... We have started our... We have started our...

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**  
 Are you doing something sponsored for charity? Starting your own school newspaper? Or putting on a show? We want to hear from you! Tell us what you are doing and we will feature it in our next issue.

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