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THE DAY
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News Detectives

TODAY'S BIG STORY

Heatwaves are the new normal in Europe

Temperatures reached boiling point this summer as Europe was hit by a huge heatwave. Some say big changes are needed to cope with the effects of climate change.



Cooling off: Most European cities were not built for such high temperatures.

At a castle near Lisbon, the tourists are disappointed. The leaders of Portugal have closed the building – because it is just too hot.

A heatwave has hit Europe. In the UK, the heat **peaked** at 40.3C. Heatwaves are happening more

often. They are lasting for longer. Scientists say this is a result of **climate change**.

Extreme heat can be very dangerous. We struggle to keep our bodies cool.

This is a big problem in Europe. Most cities were

not built for very high temperatures. Buildings do not have **air conditioning**.

Some cities are searching for **solutions**. Barcelona in Spain is planting more **trees**. In Vienna, there are water spray misting stations in the streets.

You decide: Can we adapt to the climate crisis?

YES!

Europe is learning its lessons from the past. Cities are making plans to help residents live in the heat.

NO!

These measures are very expensive and difficult. It would be better to focus on stopping climate change and preventing more heatwaves.

KEY WORDS

Peaked: When something reaches its highest point.

Climate change: As humans release more greenhouse

gases into the atmosphere (such as by burning fossil fuels), this slowly raises the Earth's average temperature.

Air conditioning: A system used to cool down buildings and rooms.

Solutions: Answers to a problem.

Trees They provide shade and lower air temperatures.

Adapt Change or adjust to deal with changing conditions.

Detective zone

Picture puzzle



Can you work out what this is?

- ☐ Mountains under a moonlit valley
- ☐ Stars being born in outer space
- ☐ A fierce dust storm in the desert

Spot the fake!

Only one of these news stories is fake. Which one?

☐ “British homes will one day be 95% bamboo”

☐ “Bees are highly intelligent, say insect IQ tests”

☐ “Animals enjoy ice lollies at wildlife parks”

Build THE Change

Cities around the world are racing to adapt to rising temperatures. In this challenge, you will design a new tool to help keep your town or city cool.

Step 1: Come up with a design. How will it help to keep people cool? What will it look like? What will you name your climate solution?

Step 2: Create your design! You can draw a picture of it or, if you have time, use craft materials and LEGO bricks to make a real version of your heat-busting idea.

Did you know...?

- The highest temperature ever officially recorded on Earth was 56.7C in Death Valley in the USA.
- The word “heatwave” was first used in New York in 1892.

Share your genius



Show your work to your class



Upload a photo of your work to the Build the Change gallery by scanning the QR code and have your work displayed to inspire real-world change.

Find our weekly Build the Change challenges online at <https://theday.co.uk/build-the-change-homework-portal>. Help take Build the Change Tuesday into the home with our handy parent/guardian fact sheet [here](#).

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Teacher notes

TODAY'S BIG STORY BACKGROUND

Deadly heatwaves kill thousands of people every year – but it doesn't have to be this way, the world's largest humanitarian network is urging.



Credit: Euronews.green

As temperatures soar across much of Europe, Spain and France are sweltering under oppressive heat.

Such mercury spikes can be deadly – globally, around 480,000 people die from extreme heat every year.

Yet heatwave fatalities are not inevitable, insists the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

“Heat waves are the silent killers of climate change, but they don't have to be,” says Francesco Rocca, President of IFRC. “Most heatwaves are forecast days or weeks in advance, giving ample time to act early and inform and protect the most vulnerable.”

Five billion people live in places that are prone to heatwaves around the world, and where early warning systems can predict them before they happen. Urban planning can help minimise the devastating impact of extreme weather.

“The good news is that there are simple and low-cost actions authorities can

take to prevent unnecessary deaths from heat,” says Rocca.

The C40 Cool Cities Network – which is partnering with the IFRC to raise awareness – has launched an “urban cooling toolbox.”

The toolbox is full of actions we can all take to improve our cities, such as increasing the amount of green space and painting roofs white. These measures help keep citizens cool.

Choices like these can make a huge difference, explains Mark Watts, Executive Director of C40 Cities Climate Leadership group.

“From Miami to Mumbai and Athens to Abidjan, mayors in our network are increasing green spaces, expanding cool roof programmes and collaborating on heat actions to improve resilience to rising urban heat,” he says.

“But far more work is needed to reduce and manage risks as the climate crisis worsens.”

Other ideas include “blue infrastruc-

ture” – drinking fountains, water cooling, public swimming pools and fountains. So-called “grey infrastructure” can help too – such as façade shading, solar window film, cool pavements, and passive cooling in buildings.

“When cities and communities are better prepared, extreme weather doesn't have to become a disaster or a tragedy,” says Rocca.

As global temperatures rise, so too will the frequency and severity of heatwaves. Climate change made the March/April 2022 heatwave in India and Pakistan 30 times more likely, the 2019 heatwave in western Europe 100 times more likely and the 2019-20 heatwave in Australia 10 times more likely.

Those most at risk are already vulnerable – the elderly and isolated, infants, pregnant women, those with pre-existing ailments and the urban poor, who often work outdoors or live and work in buildings without air conditioning or adequate ventilation.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Picture this!

Stars being born in outer space

Spot the fake!

“British homes will one day be 95% bamboo”



This week's challenge is part of the LEGO® Build the Change programme. It can be done at school or as homework, and parents can help upload photos of pupils' work to the online gallery.



Visit the gallery at <https://bit.ly/btcgallery> and feel free to use it as discussion point in class.

Build the Change is the LEGO Group's learning through play-based sustainability program, encouraging children to become engaged global citizens with voices that are heard.

This worksheet is available every Tuesday at 6am from <https://theday.co.uk/resources/build-the-change-tuesday>. For any feedback or help please contact newsdetectives@theday.co.uk. Thank you.