



# NEWS DETECTIVES

## TODAY'S NEWS STORY

### The plan for a city that could float on water

#### KEYWORDS

- ☐ **Stunt:** Something done to get attention
- ☐ **Archipelagic:** Made up of lots of islands
- ☐ **Architect:** Someone who designs buildings
- ☐ **Amphibious:** Can exist on both land and water



#### BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Rising sea levels are one of the most dangerous outcomes of global warming. As ice at the North and South Poles of the Earth melts, the water is released into the ocean, bringing the whole sea higher. As many as 424 billion tonnes of water are pouring into the sea every year.

Work has started on a floating city in the Maldives, which could house up to 20,000 people.

#### Deep trouble

In 2009, the then-prime minister of the Maldives, Mohamed Nasheed, held a meeting of his government underwater. Wearing scuba gear, he and his ministers signed waterproof documents and waved at the media.

It was a silly **stunt**. But the point was serious. Four fifths of the small **archipelagic** nation is less than a metre above sea level.

Without action on climate change, the Maldives could sink beneath the Indian ocean before 2100.

#### Flood defence

Global temperatures and the sea have both kept rising, but the Maldives has a back up plan. They have started building a floating city, and are on track to finish by 2028!

#### Head above water

The design is the brainchild of a Dutch **architect**, Koen Olthuis.

The city's houses will have hollow concrete bases that

keep them floating in place.

Othuis's architecture firm, Waterstudio, has already built **amphibious** houses in the Netherlands and a floating theatre in Lyon, France.

The new city's layout is inspired by the local coral, which looks like the human brain.

#### Waterworld

As many as 800 million people live in cities that could be underwater by 2050. Adapting to that will take some big brains indeed!





# INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

## SHOULD WE LET FLOODS HAPPEN?

**WHAT**  
causes rising  
sea levels?

**WHO**  
is designing  
the floating  
city?

**WHERE**  
are the  
Maldives?

**WHEN**  
will the  
Maldives be  
underwater?

**WHY**  
did the Maldives'  
prime minister  
appear in scuba  
gear?

**HOW**  
many people are  
in danger from  
rising sea levels?

### 1 TAKE ACTION

Floods of the past might be able to teach us how to adapt to the floods of the future. Find out about one important flood.



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### 2 SHARE YOUR IDEAS

What have you found out in your investigation? Write, present or even record a piece that tells people about the flood you have chosen to study. Share what you've learned with your family and friends. What do they think? We want to hear your ideas too! Your teacher can share your reports with us too by sending them to [editorial@theday.co.uk](mailto:editorial@theday.co.uk).

### 3 Build THE Change



#### CREATE YOUR DESIGN

Floating cities don't all need to look like brains. But they all take brains. Can you use yours to come up with a flood-proof neighbourhood of the future?

##### STEP 1:

Think about your design! What will your neighbourhood need? How should it be laid out? Will there be public space or just houses?

##### STEP 2: Build the change!

Draw your neighbourhood plan. If you have time, why not make your model of it using LEGO® bricks or other bits of recyclable materials?

**Share your genius**  
Show your work to your class!

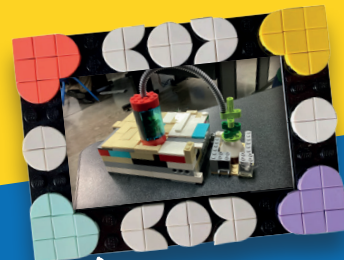


Upload a photo of your work to the **Build the Change** gallery by scanning the QR code and have your work displayed to inspire real-world change.

### 4

#### BUILDER OF THE WEEK

Every week we handpick one of the most inspirational designs from our online photo gallery to be our **BUILDER OF THE WEEK**. To get your creation featured here, ask your grown up to take a photograph and upload it to our Build the Change gallery, using the QR code on this page.



This week features a house where the trees create all the energy needed through a cable.

**"GREAT WORK!"**



This worksheet is available every weekday at 6:30am London time from <https://theday.co.uk/resources/news-detectives>. For any feedback or help please contact [buildthechange@theday.co.uk](mailto:buildthechange@theday.co.uk). Thank you.

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