

# What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

4th - 10th September 2023



**What can we learn  
from new adventures?**



## Let's look at this week's story

Almost ten years ago, the now 44-year-old Torbjørn Pedersen from Denmark left his job and family behind to begin a life-changing journey. His goal was to visit every country in the world without flying on a plane. In May this year, Pedersen successfully visited his 203<sup>rd</sup> and final country, the Maldives. After celebrating, he backtracked to Malaysia via Sri Lanka to board a container ship for the 33-day trip home. Now he has had time to rest and reflect, Pedersen plans to write a book about his adventure.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).  
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).  
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



# How does it make me feel?



<b>sad</b>	<b>angry</b>	<b>happy</b>	<b>confused</b>	<b>excited</b>	<b>worried</b>	<b>shocked</b>	<b>afraid</b>
despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified

# This week's story looks at events related to ...

Denmark – Torbjørn Pedersen is from Denmark.





Read through the information below,  
which explains more about Torbjørn's journey.

## Visiting all 203 countries of the world without flying!

**1** In early 2013, Torbjørn Pedersen, a hopeful adventurer from Denmark, received an email that changed his life.  
'My father sent me a link to an article, and I clicked on it. I quickly realised that no one in history had gone to every single country in the world without flying. The fact caught my interest and stuck with me.'

**2** Torbjørn was already fascinated with world firsts: the first to go to the North Pole, the South Pole, the deepest sea, the highest mountain, the longest river. Now he believed he had a chance to set a world record himself. 'It was right in front of me. I could do something of significance with my life, something worth putting in a book, something worth remembering. And it would be a great adventure!'

**3** Torbjørn decided to be the first person to visit all 203 countries without flying or any breaks. He had just two rules for his challenge:

1. Spend at least 24 hours in each country.
2. Not return home until he finished.

**4** Torbjørn did his best to keep costs low and lived off a budget of roughly \$20 (£16) a day.



Torbjørn C. Pedersen

**5** Throughout his journey, Torbjørn faced many difficulties, including spending two years instead of four days in Hong Kong, during the coronavirus pandemic that began in 2020, and being unable to support friends during difficult times back home.  
He also had some incredible experiences including asking his girlfriend, who was visiting, to marry him during a snowstorm on top of Mount Kenya!

**6** Torbjørn's journey came to an end on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, when the 44-year-old arrived in the Maldives, the final country on his list of 203!

**Which parts do you think would have been the most challenging,  
and which the most enjoyable?**



Look at the resource below, where some people share what they took with them on their adventure.

My adventure was a walk up a mountain! I took water, food, a map, a compass, waterproof clothing and a first aid kit. I put it all in a small rucksack.

**Jennifer**

I went on a cycling trip. I cycled for most of the day and then found a bed and breakfast to sleep at. I didn't take much with me, just one change of clothes, refillable water bottles, my money and my mobile phone.

**Zenghi**

I went on a family holiday. I packed all the things I would need for a whole week away from home in a suitcase with wheels and a handle. I took clothes, towels, toiletries, a few games, some spending money and my favourite teddy!

**Eli**

What would you need to pack for your adventure?



Which bag would you use for your adventure?





Look at the resource below, which shares some of the obstacles Torbjørn (Thor) may have faced during his challenge.



### Covid-19

Thor planned to spend four days in Hong Kong but the coronavirus pandemic caused travelling restrictions. He spent two years there instead.



### Being away from family

The challenge took ten years to complete. During this time, Thor was away from his friends and family.



### Navigation

Thor needed to know where in the world he was and to plan and follow a route.



### Money

Thor had a budget of around £16 per day.



### Transport

To achieve the challenge, Thor was unable to use any mode of transport that involved flying.



### Different countries

Thor visited 203 countries. Different countries have different laws, cultures, languages etc.



**Can you think of any other obstacles Thor might have faced?**





**What can we learn  
from new adventures?**

# Reflection



Beginning a new adventure can be an exciting experience, but also one that may be scary and bring its own challenges for us to overcome!





## **Individual Liberty**

There are many challenges and adventures we will face throughout our lives. Some we may choose to do; others we do not. We can, however, choose how we respond to these challenges and the actions we take.

# Protected Characteristics



Thor travelled to 203 countries, meeting many people along the way. The country someone belongs to is their nationality. Nobody should be treated unfairly because of their nationality.





# UN Rights of a Child



If a child lives in a different country than their parents, governments must let the child and parents travel so that they can stay in contact and be together.



# Useful vocabulary



## Adventurer

A person who enjoys or seeks dangerous or exciting experiences.

In early 2013, Torbjørn Pedersen, a hopeful **adventurer** from Denmark, received an email that changed his life.

## Backtracked

Go back along a track or route just taken.

After celebrating, he **backtracked** to Malaysia via Sri Lanka to board a container ship for the 33-day trip home.

## Encountered

Unexpectedly be faced with or experience something difficult.

Can you think of an adventure or challenge you have **encountered**?

## Fascinated

Extremely interested.

Torbjørn was already **fascinated** with world firsts.

## Overcome

Successfully deal with or control a problem or difficulty.

Beginning a new adventure can be an exciting experience, but also one that may be scary and bring its own challenges for us to **overcome**!

## Significance

Important or has meaning.

I could do something of **significance** with my life, something worth putting in a book, something worth remembering.

**Can you use them in your writing this week?**

# Picture News



## What can we learn from new adventures?

Almost ten years ago, the now 44-year-old Torbjørn Pedersen from Denmark left his job and family behind to begin a life-changing journey. His goal was to visit every country in the world without flying on a plane. In May this year, Pedersen successfully visited his 203<sup>rd</sup> and final country, the Maldives. After celebrating, he backtracked to Malaysia via Sri Lanka to board a container ship for the 33-day trip home. Now he has had time to rest and reflect, Pedersen plans to write a book about his adventure.



- Look at this week's poster image and share your own experience of travelling. Is it something you like to do?
- Why do you think Torbjørn might have decided to make the journey? Do you think it is the type of challenge you might enjoy?
- How do you imagine Torbjørn felt after reaching the final country, after ten years?
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource, which explains more about Torbjørn's journey. Which parts do you think would have been the most challenging, and which the most enjoyable?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows a trailer for a new documentary about the ten-year journey. What lessons do you feel we can all learn from Torbjørn's challenge and successful outcome?
- Can you share an adventure or challenge you have encountered? What difficulties did you face?
- Talk about how a new adventure doesn't necessarily mean travelling around the world! Can we come up with other adventures we face, e.g., the start of a new school year, or being brave and trying a new sport or hobby?

### Reflection

Beginning a new adventure can be an exciting experience, but also one that may be scary and bring its own challenges for us to overcome!

# Picture News



## KS1 focus

### What would you need to take with you for an around the world adventure?



- Think about a time when you have been away from home, either for the day or overnight e.g., a sleepover, a holiday, a school trip. Where did you go? When did you go? Who did you go with? Did you enjoy it?
- When we go on a trip or an adventure, we often pack a bag to carry the things we need. Look at resource 1, where some people share what they took with them on their adventures. What would you need to pack for your adventure? Which bag might you use for your adventure?
- Compare Eli's adventure with Zenghi's. Why did Zenghi not pack much? Would he be able to take a suitcase? Why might Eli need a suitcase? What items do you think they both need to pack?
- There are many people who enjoy adventures that involve travelling to different places around the world. They need to be able to carry their belongings with them as they move from place to place. What type of bag do you think would be best to use for travelling around the world?
- Make a list of the things you would take with you on an around the world adventure. Compare your list with someone else's. Which items are the same and which are different? Can you order your items from the most important to the least?

### Reflection

We will have many adventures in our lives. Each adventure will be different so the items we pack to help us along the way will be different too.

# Picture News



## KS2 focus

### How did Thor overcome some of his obstacles?



- An obstacle is something that gets in someone's way or can prevent or hinder progress or success. Can you think of an obstacle you may have faced recently? Were you able to overcome it? How?
- Look at resource 2, which shares some of the obstacles Torbjørn (Thor) may have faced during his challenge. Can you think of any other obstacles Thor might have faced?
- For each of Thor's obstacles, discuss how he might have overcome them. What skills do you think he needed to help him do this e.g., discipline to stick to the budget, navigation skills, resilience, determination?
- Share the proverb 'Plan for the worst, hope for the best'. Have you ever heard this before? What do you think it means? Do you think planning for obstacles would help you overcome them or would it cause you unnecessary worry? Is it possible to plan for all obstacles? Are there any obstacles Thor overcame that you don't think he planned for?
- New adventures or challenges often come with obstacles. Sometimes the obstacle can be overcoming our fears and having the courage to try. Make a list of skills/traits that you could learn/develop to help you overcome obstacles you may face.
- Discuss how it feels when we are able to overcome an obstacle. How does it feel if we cannot? Do you think that challenges and adventures with difficult obstacles to overcome are more rewarding?
- Do you think we all face the same obstacles throughout our lives? Why?

### Reflection

Everyone will face obstacles throughout their lives. Sometimes we may even choose adventures with obstacles that will push and challenge us. We can learn many things from facing obstacles, even if we don't overcome them!



## KS2 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

Thor visited 203 countries during his challenge. Look at a world map.

- Locate the UK.
- Have you ever visited another country or know somebody who has? Can you locate it?
- Can you name and locate any other countries in the world?

Imagine you were going to visit as many countries in the world as possible. Use the world map to discuss some of the routes you could take and the transport you might use.

- Are there any countries in the world you are particularly keen to visit?
- Do you think travelling the world is an adventure you would enjoy? Why?

### Option 2

Think about the school year ahead.

- What challenges can you set yourself?
- Do you have a deadline for achieving them?
- How will you achieve them? Will you need help from other people or resources/equipment?
- Are there any obstacles you think you may need to overcome?
- What will you do if you do not succeed?

Record some of your thoughts. You could do this by writing them down or videoing them. Keep your records so you can look back at them, update them or tick them off once you have achieved them!



## KS1 follow-up ideas

### Option 1

Discuss some of the adventures you have been on, or an adventure you would like to go on e.g., a visit to a seaside, camping, a trip to the cinema.

- What was your adventure?
- Where was your adventure?
- Who were you with?
- How did you feel before, during and after?

Make a postcard to send to a friend or family member to tell them all about your adventure. Draw a picture on the front and write a sentence or paragraph to describe your adventure on the back.

### Option 2

Design a bag that you could use to pack items for an adventure. Think about:

- What adventure are you going on?
- Where are you going?
- What items do you need to take with you?
- Will you need to pack lots of items or just a few?
- What type of bag would be best to carry your items e.g., a rucksack, a suitcase?
- Will your bag have any pockets or different compartments?
- What colour will your bag be?

Draw a picture of your bag. You could add labels, write a sentence about it, or share your design with someone else.



## This week's useful websites

### This week's news story

<https://edition.cnn.com/travel/thor-pedersen-visited-every-country-returns-home-intl-hnk/index.html>

### This week's useful video

Every country in the world  
[https://youtu.be/cTcf18uz\\_TM](https://youtu.be/cTcf18uz_TM)

### This week's Virtual Picture News

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

## This week's vocabulary

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## Happy Hellos

Research conducted by the University of Sussex, Transport for London (TfL) and research company, Neighbourly Lab, has revealed that passengers saying, 'good morning' or 'thank you' had a positive impact on bus drivers' happiness and job satisfaction, making them feel 'respected', 'seen' and 'appreciated'. The small study showed that although 80% of passengers questioned at one bus stop believed it would have a positive impact to say 'hello' to their bus driver, on average only two in ten passengers did. The bus company have now introduced signs on buses encouraging people to speak to their driver. This has increased the number of interactions to three in ten. Grainne O'Dwyer, who led the research, said, 'This research makes an exciting contribution to our understanding around the value of small, daily interactions. The positive impact that something as small as a 'hello' or 'thank you' can make for our brilliant bus drivers demonstrates the power of these small actions. It argues the case for looking up from your phone, even briefly, and giving a friendly smile or greeting when on your daily commute, grabbing

your daily coffee, grabbing a few bits from the shop. After all, a thanks or hello means more than you know.'

***Do you think a friendly greeting is always a good idea?***



**Pictured:** Buses in London. **Source:** Canva



**Pictured:** A bus driver greeting children as they board a school bus. **Source:** Canva

## Sardinian Seagrass

One million seagrass seedlings will be planted by 2050 as part of a new project to protect Sardinia's beaches. Scientists working at the Med Sea Foundation say the reintroduction of seagrass meadows in the Mediterranean sea, surrounding the Italian island, will not only protect their beaches, but help to combat climate change, and contribute towards saving the planet. The amazing plant provides habitat for nearly all species in the sea, and importantly gives a nursery area for young wildlife. The sea forests anchor the sediment on the seafloor and dissipate wave energy, helping to protect the seabed and prevent the erosion of beaches. The plant also produces and releases oxygen, which helps to regulate the ocean's acidity. Seagrass



**Pictured:** Caprera Island, Sardinia, Italy. **Source:** Canva



**Pictured:** Posidonia oceanica in the Mediterranean sea. **Source:** Canva

stores 35 times more carbon per area of rootstock than trees in rainforests. Seagrasses are also the only flowering plants able to live and pollinate whilst fully submerged in seawater. 'If there was no seagrass there, then the coastal areas would get much more damaged. It's important for biodiversity, it's important for the life that lives in the ocean, but it's also important for those of us who live on the land,' says Lucy Woodall, a marine biologist who is involved with the project, and works at the University of Exeter, UK. Sardinia is the second largest island in the Mediterranean Sea (measuring 24,090 km<sup>2</sup>). It has around 1850km of coastline and beautiful beaches.

# Cheetahs Check-in

Two cheetahs have arrived at Yorkshire Wildlife Park, which provides a walkthrough wildlife experience near Doncaster. Darcy, a 4-year-old female, and Brooke, a 13-year-old male, are both endangered Northern Cheetahs. The pair will move into the specially designed Cheetah Territory that covers 10,000 square metres of bespoke habitat. 'The habitat comprises three new reserves and two houses, forming a breeding complex which, at approximately 2.5 acres, is believed to be the largest in Europe. The landscape is enriched with trees, rocks, sandy areas to relax, caves and lookout points which are expected to be popular

with the new arrivals. Cheetahs have excellent sight and can see prey up to 3 miles away,' said Dr Charlotte Macdonald, Director of Animals at the park. Cheetahs, the smallest of the big cat species, are known to be the world's fastest land animal, capable of running at 128 km/h in short bursts. However, they usually chase their prey at half this speed. They also need about 30 minutes to recover before they eat their catch. Another interesting fact about the spotted feline is instead of roaring, they meow and purr!

**Do you know any other interesting facts about cheetahs?**



Pictured: A Cheetah sitting and running Source: Canva

## Last week's topic: What makes art valuable?



Although I enjoy looking at pretty art, I do think the millions of pounds could be spent better to help people in need.

**Marika**

I love painting. I keep all my pictures and my Gran puts them up.

**Ismay**

I think art has different value to each person looking at it, it's a matter of opinion.

**Norman**

I think a story behind art can make it very valuable - sometimes hearing about what the artist was thinking when they painted their piece is more interesting to me than what the art is.

**Jess**

## Let us know what you think about this week's news?

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# TAKEHOME



What can we learn  
from new adventures?

## In the news this week

Almost ten years ago, the now 44-year-old Torbjørn Pedersen from Denmark left his job and family behind to begin a life-changing journey. His goal was to visit every country in the world without flying on a plane. He had just two main rules: to spend at least 24 hours in each country, and to not return home until he finished. In May this year, Pedersen successfully visited his 203<sup>rd</sup> and final country, the Maldives. After celebrating, he backtracked to Malaysia via Sri Lanka to board a container ship for the 33-day trip home. Now he has had time to rest and reflect, Pedersen plans to write a book about his adventure.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- Share your thoughts on Pedersen's journey. What do you think could be some of the reasons he decided to take on the challenge?
- What things do you imagine Pedersen would have found most difficult about the ten-year challenge? What might he have enjoyed the most?
- Do you think you would enjoy that type of challenge?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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