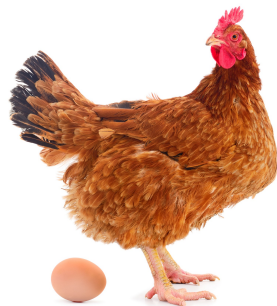




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Crack the chicken or egg riddle: Page 2

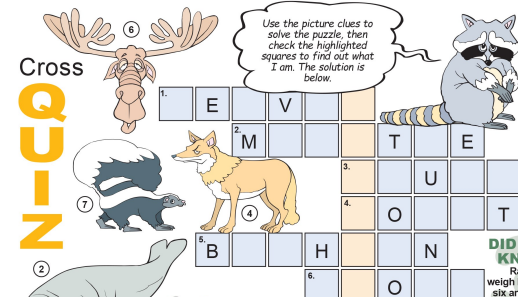


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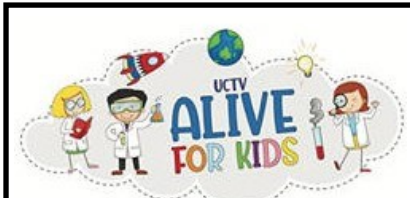
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Can you solve the cross quiz? Page 2



Share projects inspired by *The Wonder Weekly* with us. Email: UnderwoodCentre.Enquiries@utas.edu.au

Picture: iStock/ Andrew Haysom



Live show on history of coins

THE Peter Underwood Centre's interactive, live show is back this week, and the fascinating history of coins will be on the agenda.

University of Tasmania Classics Lecturer, Dr Charlotte Dunne, will lead the *UCTV Alive for Kids* session, which will be targeted at Year 5-6 students, but is open to all.

The broadcast will be delivered via Zoom webinar from 9:15am-10am on Wednesday December 2, with child safe protocols in place.

If you would like to participate, please register by December 1, via the Peter Underwood Centre Facebook page: www.facebook.com/UnderwoodCentre

HOPE FLIGHT

AUSTRALIA is known as the 'land of parrots', and is lucky enough to be home to 56 species of these fantastic birds.

Usually brightly-coloured, often noisy, fun and a bit cheeky, parrots are the rock stars of the bird world.

Unfortunately some species of parrots are endangered.

And orange-bellied parrots, affectionately known as OBPs, could be the world's most critically endangered parrot.

This beautiful little bird - about the same size as a budgerigar - breeds only in Tasmania.

In fact breeding is known only to occur in one location, at Melaleuca in the wilderness of south-west Tasmania.

Only 17 birds arrived at the breeding site in 2017, and last year there were just 23.

Following the breeding season, OBPs migrate to coastal Victoria and South Australia for autumn and winter.

They are one of only three parrot species in the world that migrates.

Scientists have been working hard to save OBPs, and might have had a breakthrough.

As of last week, 51 birds had arrived at Melaleuca, and a few more were expected.

The birds are counted by volunteers working with the Tasmanian Government's OBP Tasmanian Program.

Between September and April,

the volunteers stay in huts at Melaleuca, observe and record birds, as well as providing food and keeping the bird feeding tables clean.

As part of the OBP Tasmanian Program, parrots are being bred in captivity at Five Mile Beach, near Hobart Airport, before being released back into the wild.

The annual release of captive-bred birds, has raised the number of OBPs at Melaleuca to 77, with 39 females and 38 males.

This balanced ratio of the sexes will hopefully lead to a productive breeding season.

But despite the increase in numbers, the OBP population is still dangerously low.

It has been driven down most likely by a number of factors, but the loss of high-quality habitat is considered a likely reason.

OBPs nest in the hollows of eucalypt trees near button grass plains.

Continued Page 2

Chicken or the egg?



IT is a question that boggles the mind - which came first, the chicken or the egg?

The good news is scientists have an answer - eggs came before chickens, but perhaps chickens came before chicken eggs.

Confused?

Well, let us explain, and we won't even use any bad jokes (or is that yokes) like "unscrambling the riddle" or "cracking the puzzle".

The first amniotic eggs, eggs which could survive out of water, appeared with the first amniotes (which were also the first reptiles) more than 300 million years ago.

Scientists believe the first chicken arrived much later, having evolved from animals that were not chickens, most likely species of wild jungle fowl.

So while chickens have been around for thousands of years, eggs came first.

Well yes, but a chicken's egg shell contains a protein that can only be found in a chicken's ovaries.

The protein called ovocledidin-17 (OC-17) helps to convert calcium carbonate into the calcite crystals that make up an egg shell.

So without a chicken there can be no chicken egg.

So how do you answer the age-old question?

Well neither argument is wrong, but possibly the best answer is - "the egg came before the chicken, but it was laid by a bird that was not a chicken".

That is sure confound your friends and family.

By the way, as you probably know, birds are reptiles.

In fact birds are living dinosaurs, and are closely related to crocodylians - including crocodiles, alligators and caimans.

Thankfully crocodiles can't fly.

Why was the amniotic egg a turning point for life on Earth?

Picture: iStock/Stepanyda

New hope for parrot in danger

From Page 1

They feed on the seeds, fruits, flowers and berries of low-growing shrubs and grasses.

On mainland Australia, their favoured habitat is salt marshes.

Historical records indicate that OBPs, which have the scientific name *Neophema chrysogaster*, were once quite common.

Your challenge is to research and find out:

- The two other species of migrating parrots.
- The only parrot endemic (restricted to a certain place) to Tasmania.

Children's University Tasmania members can earn stamps in their passports for this challenge, at the discretion of their school coordinator.

You can find out more about the OBP Tasmanian Program here: dpiptwe.tas.gov.au

Cross QUIZ

Use the picture clues to the puzzle, then check the highlighted squares to find out what I am. The solution is below.

1.	E		V							
		2.	M			T E				
					3.	U			R	
					4.	O			T	
			5.	B			H			N
					6.		O			
				7.	K					

DID YOU KNOW?
Raccoons weigh between six and seven kilograms. They are found in a variety of habitats, ranging from remote wooded areas to heavily populated suburban and urban environments.

MYSTERY ANIMAL: Raccoon
5. Big Horn, 6. Moose, 7. Skunk, 2. Manatee, 3. Cougar, 4. Coyote, SOLUTION: 1. Beaver, 1. Beaver, 2. Manatee, 3. Cougar, 4. Coyote, 5. Big Horn, 6. Moose, 7. Skunk

Artwork: www.johnpollifarmer.com.au/