

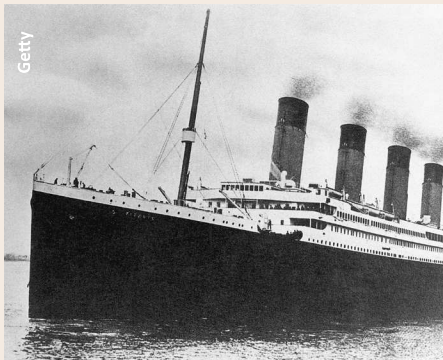
WORLD NEWS



ATLANTIC OCEAN

● Rusting in peace

A NEW treaty between the UK and the US means that the wreck of the Titanic will be protected from treasure hunters and tourists. The wreck itself lies deep in international waters, 600km off the coast of Canada. Those who break the treaty will be punished with big fines. David Scott-Beppard, the honorary secretary of the British Titanic Society, said: "The Titanic must be treated with the respect that those 1,500 souls lost deserve." The Titanic sank on its maiden voyage in 1912.



EAST ANTARCTICA

● Icy challenge

ENDURANCE swimmer Lewis Pugh has become the first person to swim under an Antarctic ice sheet. He swam for ten minutes and 17 seconds under the melting ice sheet, and took on the feat to raise awareness of climate change at the Earth's poles. He said: "I swam here today as we are in a climate emergency. We need immediate action from all nations to protect our planet."



UK

● Brexit: we're out!

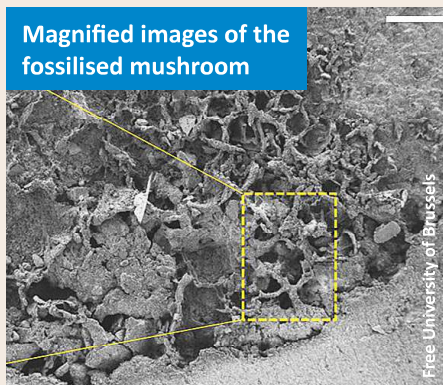
AT 11pm tonight (Friday 31 January), the UK will leave the EU, but (surprise!) it's not really that straightforward. So what happens next? From now on, the UK won't have any MEPs in the European Parliament. This means that we won't have any say in Europe's rules and laws, but we do still have to stick to them – at least during the "transition period". That lasts until 31 December 2020. By then the prime minister reckons he will have negotiated a deal about which of their laws and rules we will use in the future. Others say it will be impossible to do this in less than a year.



DR CONGO

● Ancient mushroom

THE world's oldest mushroom has been discovered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Fossilised remains of fungi, thought to be up to 810 million years old, were found in rocks dug up near the city of Mbuji-Mayi. Researchers from the University of Brussels, who studied the fossils, say that the discovery helps us to understand how mushrooms helped make soil for the first plants on Earth.



IVORY COAST

● Plastic classrooms

PLASTIC landfill is being put to good use in Africa, where it is being used to build classrooms. Women in Ivory Coast who sort and sell plastic found in landfill are selling it on to a factory run by the charity Unicef, which turns the waste into plastic bricks. These interlocking bricks can then be used to build much-needed classrooms quickly and cheaply. Norman Muhwezi from Unicef said: "The bricks require no sand, no cement and a classroom can be built in less than a month."



SPACE

● Cookies in space

ASTRONAUTS have baked chocolate chip cookies in space for the first time. Italian Luca Parmitano was the master baker on board the International Space Station (ISS). It took him and Christina Koch a whopping two hours to make the first food baked in space from raw ingredients. We don't know how good the biccies are, because nobody has tasted them. They were made over Christmas and sealed in pouches, then dropped to Earth in a SpaceX capsule. They will be examined in a lab in Texas, USA.



WORLD NEWS



GLOSSARY

treaty – A written agreement between countries, signed by their leaders

MEP – A Member of the European Parliament: a person who has been chosen to represent part of a European country in the European Parliament

endurance – The ability to keep doing something difficult for a long time

climate change – an increase in the Earth's temperature (and other changes to the planet's weather patterns), mainly caused by the carbon dioxide that comes from engines, power plants and factories. It will have serious consequences for humans and the world's wildlife

Ivory Coast – A country on the west coast of Africa

DR Congo – short for the Democratic Republic of Congo: a country in central Africa on the equator

Unicef – “YOU-nee-seff” – A charity that supports children around the world. (It was originally called the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund because it was started after the Second World War to look after children in desperate need of help)

maiden – The first attempt, or first act of its kind

1. Tick the correct boxes.

	Plastic classrooms	Rusting in peace	Brexit: we're out!	Cookies in space	Ancient mushroom	Icy challenge
Which story would have to be rewritten if it was put into next week's newspaper?						
Which two stories are about agreements between countries?						
Which stories would fit on to an 'Environmental News' page?						
Which two stories are from Africa?						

2. Why are 'Cookies in space' and 'Rusting in peace' the odd ones out on the World News page?

■ Look at the story 'Brexit: we're out!'

3. Brexit has happened and we are now in what is called a “transition period”. What will change and what won't change during this time?

Change:

Won't change:

■ Look at the story from DR Congo.

4a. How old is this fungi fossil?

4b. Why did fungi (mushrooms) play a crucial role in the history of life on planet Earth?

■ Look at the story from Ivory Coast.

5. Can you think of three benefits of this amazing project run by Unicef?