



Current affairs

Syria

The conflict in Syria has continued to make news since the Civil War began in 2011. In October the USA withdrew all its forces, enabling the Turkish army to invade Northern Syria to establish a 'buffer zone' between Syria and its border.

An ethnic group known as the Kurds are fighting for freedom and independence in the region they believe to be a homeland, whilst also supporting the West in the fight against Religious Extremism.

If you want to know more....

Research the history of the conflict in Syria since the 'Arab Spring' of 2011

XR protests

Extinction Rebellion are a protest group which are fighting to force governments in the world to do more to fight against climate change. Since the spring of 2019 they have engaged in 'direct action' protests to disrupt day to day life in cities around the world and raise attention to their cause. Many support this action as essential to bring more rapid change to reduce global warming, however others believe their protests to be too disruptive and beyond the accepted limits of direct action protest.

If you want know more...

Read the book 'Silent Spring' by Racheal Carson. Written in 1962 this book is often as the beginning of the environmentalist movement in the West

Arts/Humanities

Simon Armitage Poet Laureate

Appointed in May this year has said he wants to celebrate and speak on behalf of the variety of voices who contribute to the rich chorus of British poetry from a wide range of personal, literary and cultural experiences.

"The poetry of these islands is one of our greatest achievements, and as well as being proud of its traditions I want poetry to feel confident and at home in the contemporary world and to demonstrate that in a hectic and sometimes frenetic age the combination of considered thought and crafted language is more relevant and vital than ever."

Explore the works of Simon Armitage and other British poets and enrich your life.



Simon Armitage

STEM

Science

Technology

Engineering

Math

The Zebra that has spots rather than stripes?

How/why does this happen?

Can it protect itself?

Research this strange phenomenon and learn about survival in the wild.



Recommended books/podcasts/documentaries

Current affairs

Books

'Sapiens - a brief History of Humankind' by Yuval Noah Harari

A best-selling book charting the social and anthropological development of humans from pre-history to the industrial revolution

Podcasts

'50 things which made the modern economy' - on BBC Sounds

A fascinating BBC podcast by Tim Harford which looks at the inventions of products and services in the last 200 years that have created the world economy today - e.g Plastic and GPS

Arts/Humanities

Twenty-eight collections of Mr Armitage's poetry have been published, with some of his work being part of the national curriculum.

<https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/poetry-simon-armitage>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/simon-armitage>

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STEM

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/09/26/rare-zebra-foal-with-polka-dots-spotted-in-kenya/>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/animals/2019/09/rare-polka-dotted-zebra-foal-photographed-kenya>

Zebra: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPhnpMvWXR4>

Supercell: <https://www.youtube>