**How Climate Change Impacts Polar Bears by Haydon Swanson**

Did you know that temperatures in the Arctic are rising nearly four times as fast as the global average? Unfortunately, global warming has a drastic effect on many species in the world, in particular, polar bears. Polar bears are breathtaking animals who have adapted to the Arctic and depend on the sea ice. However, as global temperatures continue to warm and sea ice melts rapidly, polar bears’ habitats and food supply are disappearing.

The Arctic ocean is warming quickly, causing the bottom of the food chain, such as phytoplankton and zooplankton, to disappear. Once the bottom of the food chain decreases, it also affects the population of larger species. This includes seals, which are polar bears' main prey. The loss in food supply is causing problems between polar bears and other Arctic predators, such as the Arctic fox. The declining food supply also is greatly affecting polar bears' overall population.

Polar bears depend heavily on sea ice and this makes them more vulnerable. Polar bears need sea ice to travel, hunt, mate, and rest. In particular, they depend strongly on sea ice-dependent prey, such as bearded or ringed seals. Research also shows that as polar bears' main diet, seals, disappear polar bears become more reliant on other foods, such as reindeer, whale carcasses, and sea ducks eggs. When the sea ice disappears, so does the polar bear's food. In the next coming decades it will become harder and harder for polar bears to find a sufficient amount of food.

According to the United States Geological Survey, “The Arctic is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the world, causing sea ice to shrink by 13% per decade.” When sea ice melts quickly in the summer, polar bears have to swim long distances in search of a meal. This results in energy loss and malnutrition. This makes it very hard for smaller cubs to survive and overall any polar bears.

The warming weather in the Arctic is also making it harder for adult female polar bears. Now the female polar bears only have one third as much denning habitat available as in the 1980s. This is because warmer weather in the winter can cause dens to collapse that female polar bears build to protect and birth their cubs. According to Carbon Brief, “One [study](https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/eap.2071) finds that female polar bears give birth to smaller litters of cubs when there are longer summer ice-free periods.” This quote shares that polar bears need sea ice to give birth to their young, so as sea ice levels are declining quickly it is making it harder for polar bears to have cubs.

Furthermore, more than 96 percent of the polar bear’s habitat is sea ice, and only four percent of their habitat is onshore. However, recent scientific research proves that as sea ice levels decline, it causes polar bears to spend more and more time on land. In the 1980s polar bears would spend most of their summer months on sea ice hunting for prey, such as ringed seals, and would only spend a couple of weeks on shore. Polar bears are now estimated to spend around two of the summer months onshore. Additionally, the amount of bears onshore has increased drastically from 5 percent to 50 percent or more. As more and more polar bears spend most of their time on land it increases the risks of human-bear conflicts. Polar bears are expected to be seen more often in places with human populations and human trash dumps, as they find an alternative way to find food.

Polar bears are facing a grim future due to the impacts of climate change. According to defenders.org, “Scientists predict that by 2040, more than half of the polar bear population will be spending three to four months, or more, on land.” This shows that in the next few years sea ice will continue to melt even more quickly than before causing the polar bear population to keep declining and overtime polar bears will completely disappear. Also, based on Carbon Brief, “Scientists estimate that there is a 70% chance the global population of polar bears will fall by more than a third within the next three generations.” This also proves that if we don’t act soon and save the polar bears, their population could become vulnerable.

However, there are some things we can do to help the polar bear population. One main factor of climate change is greenhouse gas emissions. These are gasses that trap warm air in Earth's atmosphere. If we can lower the amount of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere then we can create a better future for polar bears. As the Polar bears population declines it is more important than ever that we take action. By reducing our carbon footprint we can help save the polar bears' habitats and future.

**Red is a Star by Georgia Strus**

Bartow senior pitcher, Katelynn (Red) Oxley, recovered from knee surgery last winter and is back pitching her best. Although her name is Katelynn, she has been known as Red because of her flowing red hair. The 5-foot-6 junior right-handed pitcher and outfielder led her travel team out of Bartow, the Yellow Jackets, to a 29-3 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Katelynn Oxley recently won Bartow’s 9th state title.

Oxley is 6-0 with a 0.00 ERA and has allowed just two hits in 29 IP. She finished with 10 shutouts and posted five no-hitters. Red Oxley threw 62-63 mph in her first pitching session back and is now the best she has ever been. Oxley posted a 23-2 mark in the circle with a 0.50 earned run average, striking out 307 batters while allowing just 45 hits in 154.1 innings pitched and allowed 11 earned runs all season.

In a recent interview she shared, “When I came back, in my first pitching session, I didn't miss a pitch from full distance. I hit all of my pitches, not one was a ball, all of them were right where they're supposed to be, throwing crisp. So I think it overall helped me immensely. Getting in the gym like I had to help me mentally pitching because I understand more. OK, this is a set. I treat each set like, 'OK, let me go hard for each set' type thing. So I think that helped me a lot mentally too.” In the championship game, she pitched four no-hit innings with nine strikeouts in the Yellow Jackets’ 7-0 victory over Lake Region. She also pitched a one-hitter in a 1-0 victory as she struck out 16 of the 23 batters she faced.

At the plate, Oxley batted .447 with 33 RBIs. That means she hit the ball so that 33 people could score on each hit. She used a variety of bats so that none of her bats would get dull. Oxley does not use batting gloves but still keeps a good grip to the bat.

Gatorade player of the year was awarded to Oxley in 2023. The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and outstanding character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Oxley as Florida’s best high school softball player.

Oxley has maintained a 4.43 GPA in the classroom and has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at the University of Florida beginning in the fall of 2024. Oxley also volunteers locally with Feed the Need, and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group.

**Where Does Pizza Come From? by Harper Harrington**

According to a pizza catering service called 11 inch Pizza, the word “pizza” was first used in the year 997 in a place on the Southern coast of Italy called Gaeta. We all know pizza as a flatbread with various toppings. But not many people know the origin of pizza.

Pizza started with the Ancient Egyptians, the Ancient Greeks, and the Romans. There are archaeological records of pizza from 7000 years ago. However, this was an early version of pizza and it is very different from pizza today. The early version of pizza was a flatbread with various toppings, but the toppings were different from the common toppings used today. The early version of pizza was also much more sweet than it is today.

The history of modern pizza started with King Umberto I and Queen Margherita’s trip to Naples, Italy in 1889. Queen Margherita and King Umberto I were tired of all of the French cuisine and they wanted something authentic to eat. They asked a local chef to make them something original. This local chef was named Raffael Esposito. Raffael made three different pizzas, he called the specific toppings on the pizza “pizza Margherita” after Queen Margherita. The pizza that Raffael Esposito made was made of tomatoes, mozzarella, and basil to represent the colors of the Italian flag. Pizza became popular in Italy but it took a while for pizza to become popular in America.

According to Alto Hartley, in the late 1800s and the early 1900s Italian immigrants that moved to New York introduced pizza to Americans for the first time. Although pizza was in the country, it didn’t become popular until after WW2. Pizza became more popular after WW2 because people started traveling again and when Americans traveled to Italy they had pizza. The Americans spread the word of how good pizza is until most of America was eating pizza. After WW2 there were more pizzerias and new types of pizza were being invented.

Gennaro Lombardi opened the first pizzeria in America in 1905 called Lombardi’s. Lombardi’s opened in Manhattan and it is still open today. After Lombardi’s became popular, more pizzerias inspired by Lombardi’s started opening mainly in New York. Soon after there were so many pizzerias opening, some pizzerias started making different types of pizza. This is how pizza today is very unique to the pizzeria it is from. The first pizzeria in Italy was Antica Pizzeria Port’Alba. Antica Pizzeria Port’Alba started baking an older version of pizzas in 1738 in Naples, Italy.

The World Population Review shares that Norway eats the most pizza per person. Each person in Norway eats an average of 11 pounds of pizza per year. This is a surprising fact because Norway is not known for having a lot of pizza while other countries like America and Italy are known for pizza. According to Domino’s, the US eats the second most pizza in the world. In conclusion, pizza that we know today has many contributors and is not only from one place, but many different places and many different times.

**A Very Creepy History by Julian Lake**

OK, we lied, it’s not Creepy, It’s CREEPER. Think about this scenario: You are building your Minecraft home late at night, when you suddenly hear a loud hissing, and then a big explosion, you get blasted back and take damage. You look around and only see a large crater where your house used to be, replaced by gunpowder. You realized it was a Minecraft Creeper.

According to the official Minecraft Mobestiary, the Creeper has a large block of TNT lodged inside of it, around where the stomach would be, this allows it to explode when near a player and defend itself, a side effect of this though, is that it sacrifices itself doing this. It is an aggressive mob who actively searches for players in order to attack them. A Creeper is 1 and ¾ meters (blocks) tall, with four stubby legs and a constant frowning angry face. It has many different shades of Green covering it, with completely black facial features. In the game’s lore it is of natural origin, and according to Theorists Inc. seems to be similar to peat moss which explode to spread spores.

Markus Persson or “Notch” is the original creator of Minecraft. While he was trying to make the Minecraft Pig he accidentally swapped some values on the model and it ended up looking like a pig, but the torso was up upright, the head was on top of the torso like a human, and its four pig legs were still close to the ground where they were supposed to be. The story goes that after he did that, he liked it so much that he kept working on it and he changed the textures until it looked like the classic green, leafy looking Creeper. The Creeper blended in with the early textures for leaves and other green textures. Early Minecraft textures weren’t well shaded, and were very vibrant, so the name “Creeper” makes sense, since they could stalk the player and then hunt.

The Creeper was first added to the game on September 1st, 2009. Since being added, the Creeper has become a staple of the game and has even been added to the logo of the game in the letter “a” of Minecraft. The Creeper is meant to have a texture like dry leaves according to Notch. Creepers are frightened by felines, for some strange reason, so if you keep cats around your Minecraft home, you won't have to worry about Creepers blowing it up. Many players are annoyed by Creepers, but still like them, whether it’s because of nostalgia, or just how iconic they are. Creepers add a challenge to the game that is only similar to another player exploding someone’s home with a block of TNT. That was “a Very Creepy History” by Julian Lake

**All-Time Home Run Records by Devon Walton**

It is August 7th, 2007, and Barry Bonds is up to the plate in the 5th inning against the Washington Nationals. The crowd knows that he is one away from breaking Hank Aaron's 755 home runs record, and with one out against Mike Bacsik, Barry Bonds gets a 84 mph fastball to the middle of the zone and Boom, Barry Bonds hits the ball high, far and is it gone?

Some of the most amazing events in baseball history are when players hit home runs. Like when Rajal Davis hit a two run home run in the World Series off the fastest pitcher in the world, Aroldis Chapman. Or when Edwin Encarnion hit a walk off homerun in the 11th inning against the Orioles. So let me take you through a whole new world of baseball. In the big leagues it's harder than you think to get a homerun. First you are facing a pitcher that throws about 90 mph sometimes 100mph, that would mean you have 400 milliseconds to react to the ball before it crosses the plate. Basically that means you would barely have time for one blink before the ball crosses the plate. And it's not only fastballs they throw they could also fool you by throwing a change-up or a curveball. Let's say you hit the ball, you would still have to hit the ball over 300 feet to make it over an MLB wall, which is basically a whole football field. So was Barry Bonds very lucky by hitting over 73 home runs in 162 games?

No Barry Bonds had a special weapon, Barry Bonds was in an ERA that was called the Steroid ERA. Barry Bonds is one of the ten players on the leaderboard for most home runs in a career that used Performance enhancing drugs (PED). Steroids gave Barry Bonds increased muscle growth, enhancing athletics, and physical appearance. On the leaderboard for most home runs in a career six out of the ten players used PEDs and other cheats. But surprisingly only 2,000 players take steroids today. But from 1994 to 2004 over 80 percent of the league were taking PEDs, and most of them were hitting over 0.600 batting average.

**The Mario Movie, One Year Later by Declan Iavarone**

*The Super Mario Bros. Movie* is a love letter to all Mario fans alike. This movie is intended for a PG audience. This movie was released on April 5th 2023. The movie is about Mario and Luigi who are plumbers in Brooklyn. Their family are not very proud of this and think they will fail. After causing the city's sewer system to break they try and fix it to only get sucked into the Mushroom Kingdom. Luigi is sent to the badlands where Bowser rules. Mario walks around and jumps into Toad, a resident of the Mushroom Kingdom who takes him to Princess Peach. Peach tells Mario she’s going to fight Bowser because he’s trying to rule the Kingdom. Mario wants to go with her because he needs to save his brother from Bowser. Peach trains Mario how to use power-ups and be ready to fight Bowser. Bowser is jealous of seeing Mario being with Peach because he wants to become Peach’s wife and he hopes that now that he has a power star Peach will marry him. Mario, Peach, and Toad go to Kong island to get help from the Kong army. However Mario has to fight Donkey Kong and uses the Cat Bell to take DK down. The Kongs build karts for the entire army and Bowser ambushes them on Rainbow Road. Mario and DK get swallowed by a giant eel and figure out a plan to escape. Meanwhile Bowser tries to get Peach to marry him with the star but she says no. Bowser strangles Toad for her to reluctantly agree. Mario gets past Bowser’s army to Bowser and encases him in ice. Only for him to break free and launch a Bomber Bill into the kingdom. Mario redirects the Bomber Bill and it goes back to Brooklyn where Mario fights Bowser. Luigi being freed, helps Mario fight Bowser with the help of the power star and they give Bowser a mini mushroom which shrinks him down and they trap him in a jar, finally gaining the respect of his family.

This movie was good in my opinion. As a Mario fan this movie was very enjoyable with all the references to the games like the power-ups and music were a treat to see on the big screen. However there was also no conflict in the movie other than everyone and Bowser. There is a scene where Mario and DK are in the eel and they start talking about how their dads aren’t proud of them but then they play it off for a joke. This scene could have been used to have Mario and DK bond over a shared problem but they don’t. The movie expects you to get all of the Mario references in the movie to understand the universe of the movie and why everything is the way that it is.

The visuals are stunning and bring out all of the aspects of the Mario world on the big screen. But this movie had a character from the Mario universe that was changed for the movie being Peach. Peach is not the one being kidnapped and instead Luigi is the one being kidnapped. This results in Luigi, one of the funniest characters in the movie, having little screen time in a 90 minute movie. Also Peach’s personality changed from being a sweet, caring, damsel in distress to an energetic, snarky, threatening, leader which is very strange as a Mario fan. She only occasionally acts like herself in the games. The humor in the movie varied because in some scenes the joke was funny like when Bowser sang the song “Peaches” but other scenes weren’t funny like the Toads being referred to as adorable and cute.

The general audience of the movie thought the movie was a 98% according to Rotten Tomatoes. One viewer said: “Good story but a lot of references! I loved that videogame a lot. Is the best movie about video games in my experience!” On the other hand the critics gave it a 59%. One critic said: “The film feels like it’s content to check off to-do notes and scratch the viewer’s nostalgia itch.” This movie’s target demographic is kids and they liked it so this movie succeeded. The movie earned over 1 billion dollars in the box office and a sequel will be released in 2026. I recommend this movie if you are a die-hard Mario fan and you want to see a movie where all of your family will enjoy. I give this movie a 7/10.

**The Rays are Back by Bryce Pate**

The Rays are an incredible baseball team. They play many hard games, and they play to win. For example they beat the Dodgers 11 to 10 with 10 home runs, which is really hard to do in professional baseball. The best people play there, that's why it is difficult. They have really good baseball players. One of these players is Franco, number 5 on the Rays.

He puts a lot of effort in the game making diving catches a lot of home runs and helps his team. For example giving them confidence and building them up. He plays the game very safely. He doesn't risk his team out. Because if someone has the ball don't risk an out because they could easily get you because they have a lot of arm strength and good accuracy, and can throw fast so your chances of making it to the base are not very bad odds. Something that is amazing is someone that is still on the Rays baseball team named Evan Longario he has 261 home runs.

It sounds like it is easy but it is not easy.The amount of effort you need to put in that is crazy. Think about in your mind 261 home runs over and over in your head you will be mind blown. And the Rays have a very cool 50/50 thing where you bet and it goes on this board if you win half will go to donations and half will go to you. The most I have ever seen on the board is 63,556 dollars. My suggestion is don’t yell out that you won because someone will try to steal it from you. Another really cool thing is that if someone hits a home run you can try to catch the ball in the crowd, and you can put it in a class case to keep it safe.

A lot of people like to go watch the Rays game. Because it is a very nice stadium, it has good dippin dots, Chick-fil-A, PDQ, and many other good options to choose from. The thing I get every time I go there is dippin dots, the dippin dots come with a cool Rays bowl that’s designed as a baseball, and you can keep the bowl. I have been using it ever since I got it, it is very cool. I really like the Rays stadium and it is so fun to watch. I would suggest you go to a Rays game. It is very fun! Thank you for listening!

**The Eras Tour: The Phenomenal Performance by a Phenomenal Artist**

**by Molly O’Brien**

The brightly illuminated clock on the screen finally ticked its count of short and anticipated minutes. The crowd goes wild, and there she is. Global superstar, Taylor Swift. This woman is a globally known singer and songwriter who went on tour after releasing six albums without touring. The Eras Tour, running two years strong, is the highest-grossing tour of all time, earning over 1 billion dollars. The recorded concert film version of the tour made its way to Disney+ on March 14th, and after three days, it was the most streamed film on the platform. The tour began in 2023, and since then over 4.35 million tickets have been sold to view the modern popstar Taylor Swift in concert. The show’s duration is over 3 hours, switching Swift eras and albums throughout the performance.

But why is The Eras Tour so successful and popular? There are multiple answers to that question. One could be Taylor Swift’s extreme vocal versatility, singing a wide range of octaves and genres. Another reason is the wide range of Swift’s albums and eras being shown and incorporated throughout the show, giving a feeling of possible nostalgia or happy memories for early fans and newer fans alike. It is incredible that Taylor has that ability to commemorate memories from her past and remind the audience of theirs. That leads to another huge cause of why this tour is so successful: it brought the community together. No matter the background or age, being a fan of Swift’s work can bring people together in a union of worshiping her gorgeous vocals. The Swifties unite together as thousands in just one stadium, where they show their love and support of Taylor Swift (such as…).

The stadium is prepared very well for said Swifties, too! If a fan is in the front row, they get the advantage of being up close and making eye contact with Swift. If the fan is in a decent or pretty average seat, they can view Taylor and have room to dance around. If a fan is in the nosebleeds, thanks to the technology of light up bracelets, they are still in the sight of Taylor and a huge part of the show, their bracelet lighting up to make a collage throughout the performance. Less fortunate fans can still access live streams, go outside the stadium, and can watch off of streaming platforms.

The Eras Tour can easily be differentiated from other tours, with its extremely unique features. Taylor Swift changes the set for each era completely, changing the lighting, background visuals, props, her entrance, her exit, and even her clothes change with every album. She sneaks in little hints for upcoming projects, and every show, sings two different acoustic songs on the piano and guitar. The fans have little rituals and traditions as well, such as exchanging friendship bracelets with Swift references, and chanting after certain song lyrics. The Eras Tour completely changes the area it is touring in, for the better!

That brings us to our next question. How does The Eras Tour affect the city it is touring in? Well, lots change in the city during the tour. The amount of tourists significantly changes, sometimes even bringing the city out of debt and boosting the economy. Local businesses get more visitors, Swifties headed to hotels and restaurants after a night of crying and shouting the lyrics of songs. The highest attended evening was in Melbourne, where 96,000 people attended the concert. This caused Taylor Swift to realize how appreciated she is, and she expressed her gratitude to her fans during the duration of the concert multiple times. But sometimes, the effects of The Eras Tour aren’t so good! According to CNN, the Swifties were so enthusiastic in Los Angeles that they actually created a mini earthquake, or a so-called “Swift-Quake”.

The fans leave the concert experience starstruck, in awe of the 3 hours they just spent with Taylor. Some fans get more interactive experiences than others, though. A woman who attended The Eras Tour was being talked to rudely by a stubborn security guard, and in between the song lyrics of hit, “Bad Blood”, Taylor Swift stopped the security guard from bothering the fan.

I was so lucky to attend The Eras Tour in Tampa! Even though I didn’t get an experience as interactive as that fan, I was still impacted by the concert. Seeing Taylor Swift live was one of the best moments of my life. I witnessed her sing some of my favorite songs live, just like how I heard them on the radio. I am so incredibly fortunate that I got to be in a stadium with such a talented woman. I don’t think there is a better artist to appear in the spotlight like Taylor Swift.

The Eras Tour will go down in concert-history as one of the most formative and important musical events, and Taylor Swift will go down in history as an incredible legend. Keep listening to Taylor!

**The Hot Dog’s History Throughout the Years by Andy Li**

Hotdogs are a masterpiece served and enjoyed all over the world, but where did they come from? Hotdogs are a slice of usually white bread with a sausage in the middle paired with condiments but how did we get here?

There’s been many assumptions on where hot dogs came from but the one that the majority agrees on is Charles Feltman in 1967 on Coney Island, New York. Charles Feltman who was a German immigrant and a baker anyways thought of new ideas, but he would not know that one of his ideas would change America. Charles Feltman though if he put a bun on a sausage so people can enjoy sausages without the need for utensils. Instantly it became a popular pick and Charles restaurant became famous called Coney Island Red Hots. Charles Feltman did not know it but at some point it will become the largest restaurant in the world for some time, serving up to 10 thousand people at once.

How did hotdogs in Germany come to America, in the 1800s German immigrants who became street vendors started to sell hotdogs to the people in America who loved them and the hotdogs popularity grew more and more as time went on. With its cheap cost and tastiness it quickly gained popularity as a popular pick with different creative toppings like a chili dog and a Chicago hotdog, with all of these in mind hotdogs did not disappear but grew in popularity making it a casual tasty snack if your on the go or looking for a treat, with condiments that you can put on to customize it to your liking.

But where did the name hotdog come from and what was its original name? Most people believe that the original name of the Hotdog is called Dachshund sausages or Red hots, German street vendors would often say “they're red hot!” or say “get your Dachshund sausages while they're red hot!” One of the earliest documented uses of hot dogs can be traced to 1895 when 2 Ivy League students were eating a hotdog as they noticed that the Dachshund sausages looked like a dog, because of this they joked around calling it a hotdog. Another theory and the most agreed idea of where the term Hot Dog came from can be traced to baseball. In 1901, New York Journal cartoonist Tad Dorgan supposedly penned a drawing of a dachshund in a bun with the caption "hot dog!", and because the Red Hot already looked like a dog in a bun it took off quickly with many people calling it Hotdog which was carried to now being called hotdog on a regular biases.

How did hotdogs affect baseball culture? No matter how you like your hotdog prepared, grilled or boiled, with mustard, ketchup or chili, we can all agree on one thing, hotdogs have affected baseball culture a lot but how? Hotdogs were always a delicious snack ever since it arrived to America and in this year alone hot dog sales were up by as much as 127%. Because of the popularity of hot dogs and baseball are now inseparable because of the cheap cost, the deliciousness, being easy to make and its accessibility , it makes hotdogs a great snack for Baseball.

Hotdogs have grown from just a small business selling sausages with bread to hundreds of different types of hotdogs like Chicago Style Hot Dog, Seattle-Style Hot Dog, Michigan Style Hot Dogs, Kansas-Style Hot Dogs, Sonoran Dogs, Corn Dogs and much more helping people express creativity bringing us to where we are today.

**Reviewing the Apple Vision Pro by Kira Creadon**

Jim Cook, Apple’s chief executive, states that the Apple Vision Pro is the “beginning of a new era for computing.” The Apple Vision Pro is a headset that blends digital content with your physical space. It can turn any room into your own personal theater, through a digital lense. It is much like VR. Unlike other kinds of headsets, though, to navigate, you just need to use your voice, eyes, and hands. You don’t need controllers.

Apple’s Vision Pro was released on February 2, 2024 in the US. The headset sold out almost immediately after pre-orders opened on January 19. The Vision Pro is equipped with Siri and pristine sound-technology. The sound quality makes it feel like you’re really in a movie theater! Multitasking is also easy with Apple’s Vision Pro. You can open different tabs and apps at the same time, while also working on things in real life.

According to CivicScience,a website used to measure campaigns across digital platforms, based on a poll, about 21% of adults in the United States are currently ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ interested in the Apple Vision Pro. A lot of people enjoy the Apple Vision Pro because of its advanced hand-tracking features and the high quality display, as long as you set the headset to the correct size. You can even attach keyboards, and make the Vision Pro like your own MacBook!

Despite the amazing display and the advanced navigating features, there are some cons about the Apple Vision Pro. The battery life is only about two and a half hours on full charge, and it's really expensive! The Apple Vision Pro’s prices range from 3,499 to 4,500 dollars! Many people believe that the Apple Vision Pro was just not “worth the price tag.” Other kinds of VR headsets, like Meta Quests, are a lot less expensive. For example, their prices range from $93 to $600. However, they are both very similar. Another sad thing about the Apple Vision Pro is that bringing it outside in specific weather can damage it, so it's advised that you keep the Vision Pro inside.

In the future, Apple plans to make different adjustments to the Vision Pro. Some say that they are already testing a second one, set to come out near 2025 or 2026! According to Apple Support, the Apple Vision Pro can “spark new routines while you work”. Other kinds of VR headsets are mainly used for gaming, while Apple’s Vision Pro can be used for both gaming AND work.

The Apple Vision Pro would probably be best for adults working in business who enjoy multitasking and people who want to relax on the weekend and play games or watch movies from home, not at a movie theater.

**An Update and Reminder of the War in Ukraine by Camden Beamguard**

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, 350,000 Russian soldiers have been lost or injured, while Ukraine has 190,000 soldiers that have been injured or become casualties. When Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, they expected very little resistance or no resistance at all. The Russian Government officials expected little resistance because eight years earlier, in February 2014, the Russo-Ukrainian war began when Russia invaded and claimed the Ukrainian Republic of Crimea. Before Russia had taken Crimea, they sent spies to Crimea to gather information. Almost all of the spies reported that most of the people in Crimea didn’t like being controlled by Ukraine and some even wanted Russia to take over. Russia then took over Crimea with almost no resistance. In 2022, Russia looked at their previous invasion of Crimea and decided that the rest of Ukraine would stand down to Russia and not fight back, but Ukraine didn’t let Russia take control like they did in Crimea. When Russia first entered Ukraine by helicopter, they met much more resistance than expected. Ukrainian soldiers surrounded the Russian positions and fought as hard as they could.

Since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Ukrainian citizens have been mistreated and attacked. Some Russian soldiers are attacking Ukrainian civilians instead of Ukrainian soldiers. One common thought is that causing the Russian soldiers to do this is that they think that attacking civilians will make the Ukrainians surrender more quickly. Since the Russians are attacking Ukrainian civilians many civilians are running away to safer places, which has brought most of the refugees poverty and hunger. Almost all of the Ukrainian citizens and refugees need humanitarian aid and support. Some of these people are getting support from a few different countries. Some of these countries are the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom, Poland, Germany, France and most of the European Union. The United States of America has accepted over one-hundred thousand Ukrainian refugees, whereas Poland has accepted over seventeen million Ukrainian refugees since 2022. Many Ukrainian refugees also fled to Romania, Slovakia and Hungary. The United States of America is sending more money and weapons over to Ukraine than other contributors.

On April 3rd 2024, Ukrainian General Yuriy Sodol told Ukrainian lawmakers that Russia had over 10 times the number of soldiers than Ukraine and that they needed more. The Ukrainian Parliament agreed and passed the bill onto the Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy. This bill would allow more Ukrainian Civilians to be drafted into the Ukrainian Armed Forces if President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signs off on the bill. Since the beginning of the war, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been in the action with the soldiers. He has been leading his people through an extremely tough time. Both Ukraine and Russia have been suffering many losses. Many of the Russian soldiers do not want to even be there, and the Ukrainian soldiers have to fight or their homes would be taken or destroyed.

**The Yankees’ 2024 Season by Lucas Ferguson**

The Yankees 2024 season leads people to think they are going to be the best performing team in the MLB. You may be wondering how this is possible because the Yankees 2023 was horrible. Speaking of, let’s take a look at the Yankees 2023 season. In 2023 The Yankees had a tough season Despite having a very good roster, they faced many challenges and couldn’t find their rhythm. Injuries to good players, bad performances on the mound and offensive slumps helped to their bad performance. This was very disappointing for Yankees fans, but all teams go in ups and downs and you just have to keep pushing.

You may be wondering, how do the Yankees bounce back from their 2023 season. Well, Aaron Boon,the Yankees manager, made some very good changes. They focused on making their lineup better and getting new players from the free agency market. They also focused on giving young players a chance in the 2024 season. This caused rookie Anthony Volpe and rookie Oswaldo Cabrera to have a great start in their 2024 season. This shows that after a rough year the yankee bounced back to be the best team in the 2024 season.

Another way the Yankees bounce back is how they decided to get star player Juan Soto and star player Alex Verdugo for the field. Right now Juan Soto is the best player in the MLB and could cause the Yankees to have an amazing 2024 season. Another reason why the Yankees bounce back is because their pitching is healthy. They got new pitcher Marcus Stroman, which is very good right now. Their CY Young pitcher Gerrit Cole is currently out due to injury but when he comes back the Yankees are going to be even better!.

Now, you must be wondering how the 2024 Yankees season went. Well, The New York Yankees are off to a great start in their 2024 season. They have shown very consistent and impressive performances on the diamond. They have been very focused on solid hitting and hitting with intent, strong pitching and consistent pitching, and lastly great teamwork and positive attitude on the field and towards their fellow teammates. The Yankees 2024 has been getting lots of great hits and getting a lot of wins for competing in the highest level possible. It’s very cool to see them play and do stuff on the field. The fans are also a great part because they are very cocky and happy about their chances at the 2024 World Series. I hope they continue their great winnings this season and keep pushing to make the playoffs.

**Six Minutes of Fame by Emma Flannigan**

Did you know that the Grand Ole Opry is the longest running radio play? A radio play, also known as a radio drama, is a TV show like story, but does not contain visuals. Some say it is between a TV show and a podcast. Radio play history goes back almost one hundred years with the first radio play being *A Rural Line on Education* which aired in 1921. The Straz Center shares “The ground-breaking play depicted a telephone conversation between two farmers, continually by others wanting to use the line”. The plays use voice actors to voice the characters and have a team of people focused on all the sound effects. Radio plays take just about the same amount of time and effort as a TV show or movie.

A popular radio play among our sixth grade class recently is a play called “Six Minutes”. Six Minutes is a mysterious and suspenseful radio play. It is also action-packed and fun. It is about a girl named Holiday who the Anders family found in the water when they were on a whale watching tour. Holiday was unconscious, but when she woke up she couldn’t remember anything about her past besides her name. The family decides to tell her that she has always been a part of their family. But one year later, strange things start happening and Holiday realizes that the people she’s lived with for the past year might not be who they say they are.

According to GZM Classroom, Six Minutes is intended for grades 3-8. I believe that many people enjoy it because it is different from what our generation is used to. We are used to watching something happen with dialogue simultaneously. Also, I think that people enjoy the cliffhangers that Six Minutes uses to bring people in. This is also what makes them unique. The way they use these cliffhangers make listeners feel the need to continue listening so they can find out what happens next. Another thing that makes the play unique is the amount of effort put into all of the sound effects and character emotions. These aspects make you feel like you are actually in the play. The play also has received many nominations and awards showing us that many other people also enjoy the radio play. Overall I think the reason this play is enjoyed so much is because it is different from what we are used to and enjoy.

**17 Years of Taylor Swift by Belén Johnson**

Early Life

Taylor Swift was born on December 13, 1989 in a little town called Reading Chester in Berks County Pennsylvania, on a Christmas tree farm.Taylor grew up in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Swift’s younger brother, Austin Swift, has appeared in and produced several of Taylor’s music videos including “I bet you think about me” (Taylor version). Austin also manages elements of Taylor’s licensing for multimedia. Austin is three years younger than Taylor and told Vanity Fair that he is foregoing his own artistic path, he shared, “Something I learned myself, and learned through watching her, is respect.”

Growing up Taylor Swift looked up to Joni Mitchell who was a feminist hero, Taylor swift aspired for lyrical greatness and a sense of feminist empowerment, Jodi was a source of inspiration. She also was influenced by Paul Mcartney who was actually one of her biggest musical inspirations. Taylor gave props to the former beatle for his “unparalleled art” Taylor swift hasn’t been shy about crediting the chicks (previously known as the Dixie chicks) the chicks are one of her biggest musical and character influences. When Taylor swift was little a band called Fall out boy emerged as an emo/alternative rock band. In 2013 Taylor Swift and Fall Out Boy joined forces to perform at the Victoria Secret Fashion Show. Fall out boy has always been a Taylor Swift Favorite. When Taylor was at the age of eight she wanted to be a financial advisor, while other students at her school said they wanted to be astronauts and ballerinas. Taylor spent her early years on a Christmas tree farm with her parents and her younger brother, Austin. When Taylor was nine she started taking vocal and acting lessons in New York City, later she decided to shift her focus toward country music, Taylor was inspired by Shania Twain and Faith Hill to start country music.

By the age of twelve years old Taylor was already a rising star, Taylor learned how to play the guitar by a computer repair man named Ronnie Cremer and helped Swift with her first efforts to become a songwriter. Ronnie also led Taylor to write her first song ever, “Lucky You” at the age of twelve. With the help of a family friend manager in 2003 Taylor modeled for Abercrombie & Fitch and had an original song on the show's compilation CD. With the CD came new opportunities to attend meetings with major record labels to help Taylor’s break into country music. When Taylor was 14 her dad, Scott Swift transferred his job to an office in Nashville the family relocated to a lakefront house in Hendersonville, Tennessee this is where Taylor attended two years of high school. Then two years later she transferred to Aaron Academy to better accommodate her tutoring schedule through homeschooling. Taylor graduated high school a year early because of that.

When Taylor gets an idea for a song, she records herself in a voice memo, but when she was 16 she went on CBS news and said that her friends are very supportive of Taylor and that Taylors music is better than any other country music's singer at that time. Taylor’s friends also said that they have seen her write an idea for a song on a napkin!

Career Beginnings

In Nashville every Tuesday afternoon after school Taylor started working with songwriter Liz Rose for two hour writing sessions. After many two hour writing sessions Taylor became the youngest artist signed by Sony/ATV publishing house. Later in 2005 at a showcase in Nashville’s Bluebird cafe, Taylor got the attention of Scott Borchetta, a record executive who was preparing to form an independent record label with Big Machine Records. Taylor became one of Big Machine Records first signings. After the signing she started working on her debut album (her very first album) she also persuaded Big Machine Records to hire Nathan Chapman to produce one of her very first lead singles, “Tim McGraw”, Tim McGraw was released in June of 2006. The song was on her very first album that she tilted after herself, Taylor Swift. The album was released later in the year on October 24, 2006, it peaked at number 5 on the US billboard 200.

The song spent 275 weeks at number 5 on billboard. Brad Paisley's 2007 tour and Taylor was granted to do the opening act to promote her album. She also did promotions on radios, television, and being the opening act for country artists in the US. Taylor did this promotion from 2006 till 2007. Throughout 2007 till 2008 Taylor released more singles for her debut album, every single one of Taylor singles on her debut album appeared on Billboard’s Hot country songs chart. Taylor also released 2 EP’s, “The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection” and “Beautiful Eyes”. By October 2007 and July 2008, respectively, winning accolades for all of her first three projects. Taylor became the youngest person to be honored with the BMI songwriter of the year in 2007. She won awards at the CMA’s, CM’s and AMA’s while also having a nomination for the Best New Artist at the 50th Grammy Awards.

Fearless

Taylor’s sophomore year album was called *Fearless*; it was released on November 11, 2008, throughout 2008 and 2009 there were five singles released. The lead single out of the five was called “Love Story”, love story hit number 4 on billboard's hot 100 chart and number 1 in Australia. The second single hit number 2 in the US and the song was called, “You belong with me”. The album, *Fearless* debuted at number 1 on the billboard 200 and was the top selling album of 2009 in the US.

Taylors first headlining concert tour grossed over $63 million and that tour was called the *Fearless* tour. Following the *Fearless* tour, Taylor also released a documentary about the tour. The documentary of the tour was aired on television and released on DVD. Taylor won many awards with her LP famed at award shows including CMA’s, ACM’s, Artist of the year at the AMA’s, and her first album of the year statue at the 52nd Grammys. Taylor also brought home 3 more wins at the Grammys. In 2009 Taylor was named ‘female artist of the year’ by Billboard.

Taylor also co-wrote songs with artists similarly as John Mayer, Boys Like Girls, Kellie Pickler, and wrote 2 tracks for Disney Channel's Hannah Montana including “Crazier” and “You’ll Always Find Your Way Back Home”, which were featured on the movie's soundtrack.

Taylor also wrote “Today Was a Fairytale” for the fearless era and for the Valentine’s Day movie soundtrack, which also peaked at number 2 in the US.

Speak Now

Taylor released “Mine”, in August of 2010 the lead single from her third studio album, *Speak Now* which debuted on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart at number 3. Taylor was having criticism claiming that the song writing was good only because she worked with co-writers, Taylor wrote all 17 tracks on her third record by herself as well as co-produced every song.

The album *Speak Now* was released on October 25, 2010, *Speak Now* took number 1 on Billboard 200 with 1 mission copies sold in the first week of the albums debut.

In 2012 at the 54th Grammy Awards, Taylor won the Best Country Song and Best Country Solo Performance award for Taylor’s song, “Mean”, she performed “Mean” at the Grammys in response to her much criticized 2010 Grammy Performance, serving as proof for her abilities as a musician. Taylor won many awards for the album *Speak Now* including Songwriter of the year at the BMI awards, Entertainer of the year at the ACM’s and CMA’s, and lastly was named Women of the year.

The album also received general acclaim from critics, with The Rolling Stones praising Taylors abilities as a rockstar. By now the *Speak Now* world tour was over between 2011 and 2012, the tour grossed over $123 million.

Taylor also contributed to the Hunger Games Soundtrack with two original Taylor Swift songs, “Eyes Open” and “Safe & Sound”, later these 2 songs went to win a Grammy Award with also a golden globes nomination.

**WHAT IS A SOLAR STORM? by Ellie Thomas**

A solar storm in 2025 could potentially put out power for North America and interfere with satellites. What is a satellite and what do they do? Satellites provide information about the planet’s oceans,lands, and clouds and they help predict the weather and track. volcanoes/wildfires. What exactly is a solar storm? A solar storm is when the sun creates huge bursts of energy called solar flares. When solar flares hit the earth the earth reacts and in the most northern and southern parts of the world you can see northern lights in the sky. A common question is, is a solar storm dangerous? Solar storms are not dangerous but they do cause severe radiation in places that are higher up in the air such as mountains. Solar storms can also occur but humans do have some reactions to them. Some of the reactions to solar storms are that normal people usually feel at a low point and feel hopeless and disconnected, while more sensitive people are typically very emotional during a solar storm. The last big solar storm was Sunday March 24th. The solar storm was a G4-class geomagnetic storm which was the strongest one since 2017. A G4 is severe and causes power voltage problems and satélite issues. You could also see it in California,Oklahoma, and South Carolina. For reference the next level is G5 and is extreme and you can see Northern lights in Florida.

How do scientists predict a solar storm? Scientists monitor the sun for solar flares and coronal mass ejections which gives them a good idea one is happening. A solar storm actually affects earth for 4-10 years which is how much time it takes for the earth to heal from a solar storm. The solar storm doesn’t affect us as long though only lasting hours to weeks or in rare cases even longer, but definitely not years. Why is a solar storm important anyways? Solar storms are important because solar storms can cause damage to communication systems and affect technology and power greatly. Overall you should really stay cautious about solar storms and keep track of solar storms and activity and I hope you learned something new.

**Comeback Season by Shea McNurlin**

As school starts to come to an end, the baseball season starts up, an exciting time of the year for young Yankee fans. Let’s break down what’s happened so far for the Yankees in the 2024 season. The Yankees spring training started at the beginning of February and ended at the start of March. They had a record of 14 wins and 16 losses, which isn’t very good. But individual players had a great spring training, starting off with Giancarlo Stanton, the Yankees DH (designated hitter). Stanton hit 3 separate home runs in a row while playing against the Pirates, which was just the start he needed this spring training. But Juan Soto, the Yankees newest teammate will leave you impressed. Soto hit 4 home runs in the spring training season and tied Stanton in homeruns! Stanton and Soto had the most home runs for the Yankees this spring training season!

Now, if you follow the Yankees, this player needs no introduction. Aaron Judge kicked off his spring training season with a rocky start. Judge hit 0 home runs and only had 5 hits this spring training. But, why? Aaron Boone, the Yankees manager, calls this a “mid-spring beat up”. Judge injured himself half way through spring training and had to take time off, trying to recover so he could play on opening day.

Now, I’m going to talk about two players that don’t get enough credit for what they do. The Yankees Short-Stop and 3rd Baseman tend to deliver on the field and when batting. Anthony Volpe was drafted to the Yankees in 2019 and made his way to the Majors in 2023. Oswaldo Cabrera was signed to be a Yankee at age 16, and joined a few years later in 2022. Volpe and Cabrera both performed strongly this spring training season, with good plays on the field, and even better hits at the plate.

Now, the Yankees might have had a rough start, but doesn’t mean they can’t bounce back. The Yankees have started their 2024 regular season with an epic comeback. They currently lead the MLB ( Major League Baseball) in wins, with 12 wins and 5 loses. Fans predict that this rain of wins will continue until the end of the season, leading the Yankees to win the world series.

“We can do something special this year,” says Gleyber Torres, the Yankees 2nd baseman said to news reports at YES Network “I don’t want to leave, I want to stay a Yankee my whole life.”

**The History of the Boy Scouts of America** **by David Van Cott**

Do you know what the Boy Scouts of America are? The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is to provide the nation’s best youth program of character development and values-based leadership training. The BSA's stated purpose at its incorporation in 1910 was, to teach boys patriotism, courage, self-resilience, and other important values.

It was founded by Lord Baden-Powell. BSA was founded in 1908. Cavalry officer, Lieutenant General Robert S.S. Baden-Powell, who was later named Lord Baden-Powell. He had written a book called Scouting for Boys. Three quotes from Lord Baden-Powell are

"Discipline yourself daily by having a plan...not just vague, wishful thinking. Commit yourself daily to do something however small, for somebody else, for by making other people happy you will find true happiness yourself."-Lord Robert Baden-Powell

"Happiness comes not from what we have but from what we give and what we share."-Lord Robert Badgen-Powell

“Be Prepared… the meaning of the motto is that a Scout must prepare himself by previous thinking out and practicing how to act on any accident or emergency so that he is never taken by surprise.” Lord Robert Baden-Powell

The scout law was first made by lord Baden-Powell, and had 9 points. A Scout is…Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, and Thrifty. In 1910 the first scouting handbook was made by Seton. It had the nine points that Baden-Powell made. The following year Er Seton and lord Baden-Powell added 3 more points to the scout law from the wood craft Indian law. They were brave, clean, and reverent.

Scout Oath: On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight featured in the 1908 book Scouting for Boys, written by Robert Baden-Powell

Some quotes from Boy Scouts are, “Nobody is too small to do a good turn, even if it is only to smile.”-Boy Scout

“The man who is blind to the beauties of nature has missed half the pleasure of life.”-Boy Scout

“Scouting is a man’s job cut down to a boy’s size.”-Boy Scout

“We must change boys from a ‘what can I get’ to a ‘what can I give’ attitude.”-Boy Scout

“The Boy Scouts of America stands for a set of principles. These principles have a lot of staying power. The values you learn as a Scout are like a compass. They can help you find your way through difficult and sometimes uncharted terrain. The principles of Scouting give you a sense of what’s important. I feel I owe the Boy Scouts a great deal, both personally and professionally.”-Bill Bradley.

Bill Bradley was a former U.S senator and Boy Scout. He reached the rank of Eagle Scout, and was a member of the Order of the Arrow.

The Order of the Arrow is the honor society of the Boy Scout of America. Every year a member of the Order of the Arrow comes to one of your meetings and they tell you who you are able to vote for. Your fellow scouts then vote for you if they think you are worthy to get into the honor society. If you get in you get a sash that you were to important scout events showing that you are in the Order of the Arrow.

**2024 Olympics USA Skateboarding Team by Holden Green**

Skateboarding is a sport as well as a lifestyle. And some professional skateboarders will make it to the 2024 Paris Olympics. But first, what is a professional skateboarder? Well, a professional skateboarder is a person who has practiced skateboarding for a long time, and has become one of the greatest skateboarders in the world. To be a professional skateboarder, you must make money off of skateboarding from sponsors and skateboarding competitions, and have a professional skateboard deck that has your name on it.

Many of the skateboarders in the 2024 Olympics Skateboarding Team are professional skateboarders. The team is split into four categories, which are Men’s Street, Woman's Street, Men’s Park, and Woman's Park. All four of the categories will have 22 skateboarders competing to win the gold medal. One of the categories, street skateboarding, is when a skateboarder skates in the street through obstacles like handrails, ledges, and stairs. Another category, bowl skateboarding, is when a skateboarder skates ramps, empty swimming pools, or bowls (a part of some skateparks that have ramps on all sides, so you can carve or grind on the ramps). To be a street skateboarder, you need to have incredible balance, and you need to be very focused. To be a park skateboarder, you need to have great stamina, and you can’t be afraid to get hurt. Both skateboarding styles are extremely different in many ways, especially if you are skating at the level of the 88 skateboarders in the Olympics.

In the Men’s Street category, the six Olympic skateboarders representing the USA are Nyjah Huston (age 29), Alex Midler (age 25), Braden Hoban (age 22), Jagger Eaton (age 23), Jake Illardi (age 27), and Chris Joslin (age 27). In the Women's Street category, the four skaters are Paige Heyn (age 16), Mariah Duran (age 27), Poe Pinson (age 19), and Meagan Guy (age 25). These skaters are very experienced and great skateboarders, but these skateboarders actually had to qualify for the USA team. The way that the street and park skateboarders qualify is by their global ranking, which they earn by competing in World Skate competitions. In the Men’s Park category, the six skateboarders are named Gavin Bottger (age 17), Jagger Eaton (age 23), Tate Carew (age 19), Tom Schaar (age 24) Taylor Nye (age 20), and Liam Pace (age 23). In the Women’s Park category, the six skaters are named Minna Stess (age 18), Bryce Wettstein (age 20), Ruby Lilly (age 17), Grace Marhoefer (age 20), Jordyn Barrat (age 25), and Lillian Erickson (age 14).

In the skateboarding community, the skater who is the most famous and considered the best, is the legendary skateboarder named Nyjah Huston. Nyjah Huston started skateboarding at the young age of five, and he picked up the sport very quickly. In fact, Nyjah got his first sponsorship at the age of seven. His father saw how good of a skateboarder he was, and he took him out of the country all the way to Puerto Rico. At the age of 10 he won what is arguably the biggest contest in skateboarding, the Tampa Am in the year 2014, and he was competing with 107 of the best amateur skateboarders of the time. Nyjah Huston has 19 X Games medals, 13 of them being gold medals. From a poor family, Nyjah now has a net worth of 10 million dollars. Nyjah Huston will be back to the Olympics this year, and he will be hoping to get a better score than seventh, which is what he placed last Olympics.

In total, there are 22 skateboarders from the United States that made the 2024 USA Olympic Skateboarding Team. The oldest skateboarder on the team is Nyjah Huston (age 29) and he is participating in Men’s Street, and the youngest is Lillian Erickson (age 14), and she is participating in Woman’s Park. In total, 88 skateboarders are going to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, and 25% of all of the skateboarders are from the USA.

**How Microplastics Affect the Environment by Sophia Stier**

Did you know most people have consumed a minimum of around 40 pounds of plastic in their life without realizing? On average, every human consumes 40 pounds of plastic over their lifetime. You may be wondering about the main cause of this. Well, this is because of Microplastic Pollution in the ocean.

Microplastics are tiny pieces of plastic less than five millimeters long, which can be incredibly harmful to our aquatic and ocean life. Microplastics come from a variation of sources, including larger plastic waste that degrades into smaller and smaller pieces. Micro beads are a type of microplastic that is very hard to recycle. Microbeads are the tiny pieces of plastics in liquids, such as shampoo and toothpaste. These are almost impossible to recycle and can easily pass through water filtration systems and end up in oceans and lakes. These different kinds of wastes pose dangers to both humans and animals.

Around 50 years ago, in 1970, microplastics started becoming a problem. Later in 2012, they were given the name Microplastics and are now a well-known modern day problem for our environment. Fish even become tangled and injured in the bigger debris and some animals mistake items like can wrappers and plastic bags for food and eat them. So imagine how much trouble they’d get into with in-noticeable pieces of plastic! Smaller animals feed on these tiny microplastics, yet microplastics have been detected in a wide range of species, varying from huge whales to tiny plankton.

According to the N.I.S.T Gov, Various types of microplastics have been displayed to compromise the immune systems of fish and increase stress levels for fish. The consumption of microplastics can also reduce the amount of food intake, can cause oxidative damage, abnormal behavior, and delay growth. Overall microplastics are not good for fish, yet many consume them, but so do humans.

The food chain is a very interesting topic, especially the human food chain. The most visible impact of plastic debris (microplastics) are ingestions of marine species. Marine wildlife such as whales, fish, turtles, and seabirds all mistake plastic for prey. Most of these animals end up dying of starvation as their stomachs become filled with plastics.

This ingestion by marine life also majorly impacts humans. As those who eat fish or other sea animals are actually consuming many tiny microplastics if the fish wasn’t prepared correctly and cleanly. On average there are 2.5 microplastics particles in each fish, so if you're someone who likes seafood, this could be a problem. From the article, *Am I Eating fish, or am I Eating Plastics,* by the Ocean Conservancy, they held a recent study trying to figure out more of this problem.

“We also found microplastics were widespread in the filets and livers of all seven species. This means that plastics are not just being exceeded after being ingested (i.e., via poop), but they’re also traveling to other parts of the body— including the parts we eat.” This quote shows that if these oceans keep getting more and more polluted, and these fish keep injesting more and more microplastics, humans will keep consuming plastic! This is because there’s nothing much we can do about this once the plastics arrive in the fish's body, and consuming plastic is the last thing a human should be doing. Researchers have found microplastics disrupt the endocrine system, damage human cells, and decrease reproductive health. Overall, microplastics are not good for the environment, including humans, so beware of what you're eating, what you're throwing out, and what you could be recycling.

**Why Do We Fear Snakes? by Steele Gebicke**

Did you know that around half the population of the world is afraid of snakes? Snakes are the second most feared animal in the world, and the scientific name for this fear is ophidiophobia.

According to Audiology.com, as of 2024, around 51% of the world's population was afraid of snakes. This fear, ophidiophobia, is second to the fear of spiders, arachnophobia. 3% of the population have intense ophidiophobia and just cannot stand to be around a snake! Because snakes live everywhere on earth except the Arctic and Antarctic, most humans will encounter them in their life, and some species will be killed unnecessarily, causing some species to become endangered. Many people around the world today will kill a harmless snake, like a black racer or garter snake, just because of their fear. This has led some species of snake to be endangered. Unfortunately, the fear of snakes also has an impact on snakes across the globe.

So what triggers the fear of snakes? Some people say it's them having no legs, their fangs, or their venom. Here is a quote from 6th grader, Sophia Stier, on the topic: “I do not like snakes. They are terrifying. Their massive fangs, poison, how big they can be, it all freaks me out.” Sophia fears snakes because of their fangs and venom, but the fear of snakes can come in many different forms. This is because when humans first came around, giant pythons preyed on them, leading to a fear of snakes. Throughout evolution, snakes have gotten smaller but armed with venom, leading to different forms of ophidiophobia. Now that we know more about snakes, people are learning about the danger they bring instead of the positives. This triggers ophidiophobia from our ancestors’ instinct. Scientist Kiley Briggs quotes:: “The fact that most infants and toddlers are not afraid of snakes, but older kids and adults are, suggests that the fear is learned.” This statement tells us that our brains develop this fear along with our evolutionary growth, meaning we must have gotten it from when we were snake food.

Though snakes were big enough to eat us back then, what snakes are actually dangerous today? Venomous snakes are. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, out of 3,000 species of snakes, only 600 have venom, and out of that 600, only 200 can kill or significantly wound. The Saw-scaled Viper is considered to be the most dangerous snake in the world, killing the most people each year. It is 6th for the most venomous. The King cobra is one of the most famous snakes and is often underestimated. One drop of its venom can kill ten elephants, and it can kill a human in one minute. It is also the largest venomous snake in the world. The black mamba is the second most dangerous animal in the world, because it slithers twelve miles an hour and is the second longest venomous snake in the world. Its venom can kill in just under 30 minutes. However, none of these snakes live in the U.S. These snakes may be dangerous, but they are 3 of 3,000. Most of the rest are harmless, like the Common Garter snake. They are small and live together. In U.S history, they have never killed a human, but are one of the most killed snakes every year, next to pythons. This is why it is important to be educated on dangerous snake species. According to The Orianne Society, many people would run barefoot through a raspberry bush away from a garter snake, even though they would be more likely injured in the process.

**Cristiano Ronaldo’s Famous Sui Celebration by Avree Vigue**

“SUUUUUUIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII!!!” yelled Cristiano Ronaldo after scoring an incredible goal against Chelsea, the Professional Football Club located in London, England, as the crowd roared wildly! The superstar soccer player performs his famous celebration where he yells “Sui” after he scores a goal, but many fans do not know exactly why he does it or what it means.

Cristiano is an unsurpassed professional soccer player, rated as one of the greatest soccer players of all time. He is one of the most popular players with a fan base of over 900 million (which is crazy!). Currently, this unstoppable forward is based in Saudi Arabia after joining Al Nassr just over a year ago. His career continues to skyrocket!

Ronaldo’s Sui celebration is one of the most iconic in sports today. The first time he ever performed his celebration was on August 7, 2013, after scoring a goal for Real Madrid against Chelsea in the UEFA Champions League. Ever since then his celebration stuck. He performs it every time after he scores, as if it is a ritual.

When asked about his famous goal celebration, Cristiano Ronaldo said that he didn’t think much of it when he first did the Sui but it caught on fast. According to Indian Express, Ronaldo said that “I started to say ‘si’, it’s like ‘yes’, when I was in Real Madrid. I was in the USA and we played against Chelsea and I don’t know where this is coming from, the celebration” he said. “I just scored the goal and it just came out. It was just natural, to be honest.”’ Unintendedly, the Ronaldo Sui has become a global phenomenon. People all over the globe have mimicked the Sui, even other professional athletes, including Odell Beckham Jr. (professional American football player), Manel Kate (professional UFC fighter), Fabio Quartararo (French Grand Prix motorcycle rider), Novak Djokovic (professional tennis player) Mohammed Siracusas (professional cricket player), and many, many more. The Sui is a fun way to celebrate the incredible Ronaldo.

During Cristiano Ronaldo’s Sui celebration he does not just yell the word Sui. After Cristiano scores, he runs then jumps vertically. When he comes down he opens his hands while shouting "Sui". People come from all over the world to watch him perform, but it is most fun to watch him score. Cristiano’s Sui may just mean yes, but he adds more power and enthusiasm to celebrating a goal , making it incredibly fun to watch! According to Indian Express, during an interview Cristiano Ronaldo said, “Since that [then], I started to do it [the sui] more often and I feel like the supporters and the fans see it and they’re like ‘Cristiano, siiiiiiuuuu’. I’m like ‘wow! People are reminded of me because of it!’ So it’s good, and I’ll continue doing it like that.”’ This quote shows that he loves the support from his fans. Not only that but he is gaining more followers and fans through a simple, fun celebration. Cristiano Ronaldo will continue to perform his famous celebration… SUIIIIIIIIII!

**North Sentinel Island by Paula Buron Garcia**

Did you know that a tribe called the Sentinelese refuse any contact with the outside world and have remained the same for 60,000 years? North Sentinel Island is one of the Andaman Islands, an Indian archipelago in the Bay of Bengal which also includes South Sentinel Island. The island is about 8 kilometers long, and 7 kilometers wide. It is a small island which explains the small number of occupants.

North Sentinel is home to the Sentinelese, an indigenous tribe in voluntary isolation. The Sentinelese are the most isolated tribe in the world. There is not much known about the origins of the Sentinel island people but it is believed that they were among the earliest settlers to leave Africa. The Sentineleses have occupied this Andaman Island for approximately 60,000 years.

This island is very particular and uncommon because it’s illegal to go within 3 miles off the island. Although this is illegal and has been made a law, on November 17 2018, John Allen Chau, an American Christian missionary, was killed by the Sentinelese, after he illegally traveled to the island in an attempt to introduce the island to Christianity.

The Sentinelese have made it clear that they don’t want any contact with the outside world but this is not because they don't want to try anything new or refuse to meet other people. For these people, it is a wise choice. Neighboring islands have been wiped off by British colonies, and the tribe themselves lack the immunity to common diseases which would exterminate their people.

Observing this island could help other communities in need of sanitation to prosper. Because this island is isolated from the community and doesn't have any type of technology, their island remains clean and doesn’t have any pollution.

This island’s population is not exact because nobody has ever been able to deeply examine and explore the island. Although it’s impossible to know the exact number of inhabitants, the population is estimated to be from 40-500 Sentinelese.

Although in the past, human ancestors went from hunters to farmers, on the other hand, the Sentinelese stayed behind in the past and are still hunter-gatherers. They use spears with bows and arrows to hunt terrestrial wildlife and more methods to catch local seafood.

Their main food items are wild boars, sea turtles, different kinds of fish and molluscs, fruits, roots and tubers. These are some of the common wildlife on the island.

Personally, I think that it would be unnatural to have the same repetitive diet for 60,000 years like the Sentinelese but it can be much healthier than eating daily processed food such as the ones that you might eat daily.What’s best for this island and its inhabitants is to leave it isolated so it can develop its own way over time.

**Marginalized Communities in Haiti Facing Food Insecurity by Cali Felch**

Haiti is one of the countries with the highest rate of food insecurity. It is the poorest country in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Food insecurity occurs when people do not have enough food to eat, food is unavailable, or food is unsafe. Food insecurity can occur through poverty, neighborhood conditions, transportation, and distance to food source, but the cause with the most impact is marginalization. Marginalization is when a group of people are discriminated against.

Haitians are affected by food insecurity through fluctuating food prices and famine. This means that many people in Haiti are suffering from hunger. According to the World Food Programme, 4.97 million people in Haiti do not have enough to eat. 1.64 million people are experiencing emergency food insecurity levels. Haiti has a population of 11,562,675 people. This means that 4,970,000 people, almost half of the population, are experiencing food insecurity.

People in Haiti suffering from food insecurity are hungry. This is causing malnutrition which is when a person does not have enough to eat or is not eating the right foods. According to the World Food Programme, 7.2 percent of children under five in Haiti are affected by global acute malnutrition.

Along with malnutrition, food insecurity is also causing anemia. Anemia is a blood disorder that occurs when the human body cannot produce enough healthy blood cells. This causes the blood to not have enough oxygen. The lack of oxygen can cause headaches, dizziness, and fatigue. According to the World Food Programme, 66 percent of children under five are suffering anemia.

People might ask, what are others doing to help? Organizations such as the World Food Programme help with supporting Haiti in times of emergency crises by working with the government and other partners to create a sustainable food supply. Another organization is World Vision that delivers healthcare, food, and water for Haitian people in need.

Organizations all over the world are dedicated to helping with food insecurity. For example, food banks are charities that provide food for people who do not have access to food. Schools also help with food insecurity. Schools might start a food drive and donate the proceeds to an organization that can transport the food to people who need it. You can also help. You can start a garden and donate the food, sell lemonade and donate money, or organize a food drive with your neighborhood or school.

In conclusion, one of the countries with the highest rates of food insecurity is Haiti.

# **New York Yankees Performance Over the Past 4 Years by Nicholas Alesia**

# The New York Yankees are the first MLB team to make it to 10 wins in the 2024 season. They have not accomplished this since 2003 (per Sports Illustrated). The New York Yankees are a very historic baseball team and they are one of the first Major League Baseball teams in history. They have been a team since 1903 and have had many different changes throughout the years.

The Yankees have won 27 World Series but their last World Series win was in 2009 when that team had none of the current players on the team. There are different names across the board that would most likely sound familiar to you, Babe Ruth, Derek Jeter, and maybe Mickey Mantle. The New York Yankees have been significantly better this year than they have been the past three years, this can be because of many different reasons.

First of all the Yankees have made many different trades for many different players. For example, Juan Soto was traded to the Yankees this offseason and was most likely one of the best trades they could’ve made considering he has a 348 batting average, 2 home runs, 11 RBI’s (runs batted in), and a 978. OPS (on base percentage plus slugging) per ESPN. The Yankees are the richest team in the MLB and have been for awhile, this has happened because the yankees have had such a good franchise over the years because they had so many good players and used their money well. The yankees also have many other trades for worse players for cash considerations which means they did not get any players but they traded players and got money for them.

Another trade that the Yankees have made is the trade for the left fielder Alex Verdugo. He is a star outfielder not quite as good as Juan Soto but he is also a very good player with his stats and his fielding. He recently made a diving play to end the series against the Houston Astros and get the sweep. Alex Verdugo has a 218 batting average (per ESPN) which isn’t great but it’ll work and if he keeps playing the field well he will have no problem with anything.

A player that the Yankees have had since his rookie year in 2017 is Aaron Judge who is an outstanding player, he is in a bit of a hitting slump right now but if all of the other players keep performing like they are right now or even do better and Aaron Judge gets it together then the Yankees will will be the best team in the MLB. Aaron Judge is also the reigning home run champion in a single season with 62 home runs in his 2022 season when the yankees were not a good team when they just barely made it to the playoffs. Aaron Judge in the 2022 season carried the Yankees to the playoffs and he had no help with his job that he was doing. Considering the Yankees record was 99-63 (per MLB.com) which is okay but it could be better. Aaron Judge has not won a single World Series and he is one of the best players of all time. This year may be the year though they have a great team and everyone is performing well besides Aaron Judge at the moment considering his batting average is only 207. Which is very odd for him because he is a fantastic player, but again if he starts hitting well and performs better and everyone else keeps doing what they're doing then they will be unstoppable.

**The Story of Computers by Mari Eichenbaum**

The computer dates back all the way to 205 B.C.E when the Greeks made the first handheld computer, it was made by Archimedes on the island of Syracuse. Greek scientists made it out of brass gear wheels to predict the movement of the moon, the sun, and most likely many of the planets. It was found in an ancient shipwreck and what was left of its remnants is called the Antikythera Mechanism. The Antikythera is 2,000 years old and was discovered in 1901. The device also only has 82 parts, that are mostly eroded, left, so we don’t exactly know how it works. About a year ago the University College London (UCL) made a model of the mechanism. They say that their model is the first one to match up with the Antikythera. According to Jo Marchant from the *Smithsonian* magazine, says that the device was close to the size of a mantel clock. Its circular, clock-like face, and bejeweled hands depicted the motion of the planets.

The first technological computer was invented in 1822 by Charles Babbage, but wasn’t manufactured until 1991. After Babbage invented the computer he started to design the analytical engine, and then in 1847-1849 he began the designs for the Difference engines. From 1936 -1973 they worked on how a computer would be designed and what would be put on and into the computer to make it work. In 1973 and 1974 two successful PCs were made, 1975 the first portable computer was made, 1981 the first laptop was made and the first flip-form computer was made, 1983 was the first touchscreen computer, and then in 1984 was the first successful Mac.

The computer has done so many things to change and evolve human life. It has changed the way we work, communicate, and interact with the world. A benefit of more modern computers is that they have self-acting capabilities that used to only be manual. Such as data entry, record keeping, and storing information. Computers have also made it easier for people to communicate and connect from anywhere in the world. Computers also make education easier. Computers make education easier because now it is easier for students to access online classes and interactive learning tools that transfigure the classroom environment. Another achievement that computers have successfully done is that they play vital roles in medical treatment and research. Doctors and other medical professionals use computers to inspect data, develop new treatments, and improve the care that patients receive. Computers make it easier to work faster and more effectively, the outcome of this is leading to increases of productivity and success in many industries.

Finally, computers have shaped our lives and is how some history is being made. Starting in 205 B.C.E to now, computers will always be evolving, changing, and helping our lives to be easier and more productive.

**The Story of The Greatest Chess Player by John Jaworski**

About Magnus Carlsen:

Magnus Carlsen is a Norwegian chess grandmaster who holds 5 World Chess Champion titles, 7 World Blitz Chess titles, the reigning 5-time World Rapid Champion, multiple chess world records, and is the reigning Chess World Cup Champion.

Childhood:

According to Britannica’s Magnus Carlsen biography, Magnus first started to play chess at the age of 5. Magnus was taught by his father, Henrik Carlsen, an average club chess player. Besides not showing much interest at first, Magnus was a child prodigy in chess. By the time he was eight he got second place in a chess tournament for the under twelve division at the 2002 Fédération Internationale des Échecs youth chess competition held in Greece.

In January 2004, Magnus won his first tournament in the Netherlands. Although he was playing the lowest rated group of adults, his dominance in the tournament, best exemplified by a twenty five move checkmate, established him as a player with enormous potential, and led American chess player Lubomir Kavalek to dub him the “Mozart of Chess.” From the beginning of Carlsen’s career, Carlsen impressed his coaches with an incredible memory, which he has used to play a large variety of openings. He favors a positional style of play, in which having overall control of the board is more important than taking the opponent’s pieces.

In March of the same year, at a blitz chess tournament (where the game is played at a much faster pace than normal and with much less time than normal) in Iceland, Magnus defeated a former world champion Anatoly Karpov and drew another game against another former world champion Gary Kasparov. Keep in mind, Magnus accomplished all of this while still only being fourteen years old. In April of this same year, Magnus became a grandmaster after finishing second place at the Dubai open chess championship, in April of 2004, making him the third youngest grandmaster.

Magnus Carlsen’s Journey to Become the Best:

At the age of about fifteen, Magnus came in tenth at the 2005 World Chess Cup in Russia, thus becoming the youngest player to earn a place at the Candidate Matches in Elista, Russia, 2007, where the top four players received an FIDE World Chess Championship later that year, in Mexico City. However, he was defeated in the first round by Armenian chess player Levon Arnonion, who went on to place seventh in the world championship.

In 2009, Carlsen managed to achieve an 8 out of 10 possible points in the Pearl Spring Chess tournament. Later that year, in November, Magnus won the World Blitz Chess Championship in Moscow. Keep in mind that Magnus achieved this at the age of 19 and achieved everything and more in this article thus far, before he turned 20. In 2010, when Magnus was about 20 years old, the FIDE announced that Magnus was now the top player in the world. During his time he was the youngest player to be number one.

Magnus surprised the chess world in 2011, when he decided to not compete in the Candidate Matches to select a challenger to play against Indian chess player Viswanathan Anand for the world championship, arguing that the championship structure was flawed, and the reigning champion should not receive an automatic spot in the final round.

Magnus Carlsen in Present Day (2018-2024):

From 2018 to 2020 Magnus Carlsen had the longest undefeated streak in chess, either winning or drawing 125 games. He won the world championship title for the fifth time against the Russian player Ian Nepomnaichtchi in Dubai, 2021. He won 4 of 11 games and tied the rest. His first victory in the series, in the sixth game, was the longest game ever played in a world chess championship, and lasted 136 moves over 7 hours, and 45 minutes.

In July, 2022, Carlsen announced that he would not defend his championship title in 2023. He said that he was not motivated to defend his title, but that he would still continue to play competitive chess. Besides playing chess for an average of 3-4 hours a day, Magnus still keeps active by running on his treadmill, eating healthy, and playing sports like soccer. The blood pressure of chess grandmasters in tournaments has been measured to be about the same as a marathon runner. Also, in one tournament a GM (Grandmaster) can lose 12 to 15 pounds.

Nowadays Magnus plays on a website called Chess.com. According to Chess.com, Magnus holds the record for the highest rating ever on Chess.com in the classical chess category, with an elo of 2830, the record for the highest rating in the blitz chess category, with an elo of 3140, and the record for the highest rating in rapid chess category, with an elo of 2828. Magnus also has a 94% accuracy on Chess.com, meaning that he picked the best possible move to play in the position that he is in 94% of the time. This is likely due to the fact that Magnus has an IQ of nearly 180 making him one of the/the smartest people in Norway.

While Magnus plays on Chess.com, Magnus makes things more interesting by playing with debuffs, such as playing with loud music in the background, his friends talking and messing with him, and more. Even with all of these ways to make the game harder for himself, Magnus still wins nearly every game and if not, draws. For these reasons, even if Magnus might not be participating in the World Chess Tournament to defend his title, he is still the undisputed best chess player of all time.

**History of Super Smash Bros by Leonardo D. Muzzarelli**

As Mario walks through the Mushroom Kingdom, he hears footsteps behind him and turns around to see Pikachu! Pikachu uses his thunder against Mario and Mario uses his fists and fireballs! Mario shoots a giant fireball and Pikachu is flung out of there! Super Smash Bros. is one of the best selling game franchises. The game was made by Nintendo and a Japanese man named Masahiro Sakurai. Nintendo has many different best selling consoles and franchises alike. Masahiro Sakurai was the game director and creative force behind the Super Smash Bros. games and also created one of the most popular franchises: Kirby, who he added into the first Super Smash Bros. game.

In Super Smash Bros. Many different characters from many different games, mostly Nintendo games, fight in many unique environments. This concept and fighting game style was new at the time which made it so popular in the first place.

The first Smash Bros game, Super Smash Bros. 64, was released in 1999 on the Nintendo 64. The game consisted of twelve characters: Donkey Kong, Mario, Luigi, Captain Falcon, Link, Kirby, Pikachu, Fox, Samus, Yoshi, Ness, and Jigglypuff. These characters are regarded as the “Original Twelve.” The game sold 5.5 million copies and was accepted positively, gaining popularity quickly.

The next game, Super Smash Bros. Melee was released in 2001 on the GameCube and introduced fourteen new characters. However, since the game was rushed, some of the new characters were something called “echo fighters.” Echo fighters are characters that have similar movesets to already existing characters but have their speed, power, and other stats changed. Usually, they are from the same franchise as their character their based on, but there are some exceptions. For example, one of the characters named “Pikachu” got an echo fighter called “Pichu” who’s from the same series. This sequel picked up Smash Bros. popularity selling 7.09 million copies. This game was considered a worthy sequel that brought more fame to the series, which also started tournaments.

After seven years, the next Smash Bros game was finally released on one of the best-selling Nintendo consoles, the Wii. The next smash game, Smash Bros Brawl, also had eighteen new characters, two of which were not from Nintendo games: Solid Snake and the more recognizable Sonic. It sold 13.29 million copies and added the most new and still used mechanics to the game; however, it is mostly remembered for its remarkably amazing story mode with cinematic cutscenes and fun gameplay. It also added a mechanic to play with other players online.

The next smash game, Smash Bros. 4, came out in 2014 on the 3DS and the WiiU and had twenty-one newcomers. Even though the WiiU was one of the worst selling Nintendo consoles, there were 5.35 million sales on the WiiU. The 3DS however, sold 9.35 million copies and overall, there were 14.7 million sales. This game also brought even more third party game characters to the roster. Super Smash Bros. 4 introduced more single player content and had amazing lighting and a huge jump in graphics from the previous game. It also introduced DLC content, extra content available through purchase. The DLC included different fighters such as Cloud from Final Fantasy and Bayonetta from Bayonetta.

The newest smash game, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, released in 2018 and has 33.67 million sales and introduced twenty-four new characters. Like Smash Bros. Melee, there were some echo fighters, 5 to be exact. 11 of these newcomers were DLC, released in increments after the game came out. This game sparked the most popularity out of every game and added a new story mode: World of Light. It kept the single player content from Smash 4 and polished it.

It also has online play like Brawl and Smash 4 but it was much improved from the two. It has two modes: Quickplay, and Battle Arenas. Quickplay, instead of having seemingly random matchmaking, paired you with people by their GSP, a number that goes up and down depending on if you win or lose. Battle Arenas are a more casual option in which you can create an arena that others can join. You can put your arena under a specific category such as “Playground” or “Beginners Only.” Overall, the game was praised and has a huge cast beloved by many fans, some all the way back from Smash 64 to fans who found it because of Smash Ultimate.

The game now has an active fan base with many Esports teams competing in tournaments in real life. There are also many YouTubers who make videos on the game, from cool clips of something they did in game to guides on how to play different characters; the game is still thriving. According to an Event Hubs article, “Ultimate is still pulling in extremely large amounts of competitors for its tournaments with no real signs of slowing down.” The original game director for every Smash Bros. Game, Masahiro Sakurai, “retired,” he switched to content creation; However, he did mention that a new Smash game should be expected. Furthermore, he also mentioned that he would like to continue working with Nintendo, however possible.

**Trevor Rainbolt, an Online Phenomenon Whose Popularity Exploded by Caleb Sun**

Trevor Rainbolt is a 25 year old internet phenomenon who is able to guess exactly what region an image is located in less than a quarter of a second. What makes his skills even more fascinating is that he hadn’t even traveled outside of the United States until very recently. Because of this, his social media channels have reached hundreds of thousands of followers each, with his TikTok channel reaching over 2 million followers.

Born in 1998, Trevor Rainbolt, known on social media as just Rainbolt, became interested in the 2016 online game GeoGuessr starting recently during the COVID pandemic. During 2022, his social media profiles, views and followers skyrocketed and he became an overnight sensation.

GeoGuessr is an online video game which puts the player somewhere completely random in the world using Google’s Street View technology. The majority of people struggle to guess the location, but not Rainbolt.

Rainbolt began playing GeoGuessr as a “back of the classroom activity” which he said he was “terrible at” according to an interview with the Washington Post.

In early 2022, Rainbolt started social media accounts. He began sharing tips with players about how to identify certain countries, and he was famous overnight, gaining thousands of followers on his TikTok and Instagram.

That wasn’t the only thing he had done. Rainbolt became extraordinarily popular after starting his TikTok and YouTube series in which he showed off his best GeoGuessr guesses. He could identify what region and country something was in by looking at a patch of dirt in a tenth of a second while the image was black and white and distorted.

Many people were skeptical about his skills, but on his YouTube channel, he posted videos such as “Using an eye tracker to prove I don’t cheat”, further proving that his skills are in fact real.

His accomplishments vary, but in 2022 and 2023, some of the things he did were any of the following modifiers, sometime with them combined: 0.1 seconds to look at the location, no moving, no looking around, only using certain pieces of the image, having the image distorted, or even being blindfolded and having someone describe the color of the dirt to him. In the several competitions he has competed in, and hosted, he has won a large majority of the times.

Although his accomplishments seem superhuman, he has been open to accepting interviews with the Washington Post, New York Times, and VICE.

In the 2022 interview with VICE, he revealed that he memorizes certain features of the area and can immediately tell the region.

In an interview with the Washington Post, he shared how he was able to narrow down the region he was put in, using the dirt. He said, “What you see is the countries and their soil color and overall surrounding area, what the general field looks like. It’s a trained-eye type of thing.” In the quote, he is trying to show that he is able to take small amounts of detail such as dirt color and fence shape and identify where it is.

It isn’t superhuman skill, but more of a memory and matching game as he pieces together small clues that are provided.

That’s not all he’s accomplished. On his YouTube Shorts channel, he has reunited people with important and special moments of their family, locating places where old family pictures have been taken with his skills, so they can relive the moment. People from all around the world message Rainbolt on Instagram and TikTok to do so.

Rainbolt also has a sense of humor and is willing to go to great lengths to find things just for a joke. According to NBC, an online TikTok user described a bagel place as the “best bagel they’d ever had”, and posted a video, but did not reveal the location of the bagel shop. As a joke, Rainbolt spent 38 hours looking at places in Google Maps to find the location of the bagel shop. Rainbolt was able to identify the bagel shop and what the online user had ordered just based on the short online video. Along with the post, he added, “take this as a lesson. do not gatekeep food. i will find it”. Gatekeeping is the act of holding back information from other people. In this case, it was because the TikTok user did not share the location of the bagel shop.

He also is trying to help other GeoGuessr players in a funny way. According to the Boston Globe, Rainbolt paid money to put up a billboard that said “this is Boston” on the front. He hopes that in the time that it is up, a Google Street View car will be able to take a picture of the billboard, which enters it into the GeoGuessr system.

He hopes to be able to help other GeoGuessr players if they, by random chance, see the sign. Even if it doesn’t help anyone, it is still a funny gesture.

Rainbolt has impacted the online community a lot. According to online statistics from each social media website, Rainbolt has amassed almost 3 million followers on TikTok, 500 thousand on YouTube, and over 2 million on Instagram. He has been called the “GeoGuessr guy” by many all over social media because of how illustrious he is. Rainbolt has also revolutionized the strategies that GeoGuessr professionals use. He hosted the first ever GeoGuessr World Cup, a huge competition with many GeoGuessr professionals.

By the middle of 2022, Rainbolt had never been outside of the United States. He had done all of this in a small Los Angeles apartment. Therefore, he vowed to spend a month in each country in the world. He visited Laos, Spain, and many other countries all over the world. On January 28th, 2023, Rainbolt posted on Twitter, “living in thailand for a while! (ft. a thai pole)”, with an image of a Thai pole he had previously identified on GeoGuessr attached.

Overall, Rainbolt has been revolutionary to the GeoGuessr community, using strategies that nobody had used before and skyrocketing in social media fame. This shows that anyone can do anything if they put enough effort into it.

# **Ferrari Throughout History by Aiden Vilk**

Information on Ferrari’s History and Enzo Ferrari’s Legacy.

In **1947, Enzo Ferrari** was a very famous race car driver and was an even more famous car engineer. He got in a huge conflict with **Alfa Romeo** where he worked before starting his own company. Alpha Romeo was the best car company at the time, so he decided to build his company, which he called it after his last name **Ferrari,** as a competitor to **Alfa Romeo.**

He was born in the year 1898 and died in the year 1988 with his parents being **Alfredo Ferrari** and **Adalgisa Ferrari** and his children being **Alfredo (like his grandfather) and Pierro Ferrari.** Alfredo Ferrari, the first born child, died of muscle dysfunction in 1956, where the other son Pierro is still living and is the current owner of the company.

The race career of Enzo Ferrari started out by his enjoyment of racing. By the age of ten he wanted to be a race car driver. His racing career started in the year 1919 when he competed in his first race, where he finished and got a top 5 spot, being in 4th place. When he got fourth place he realized that anything other than first place was a loss and decided that no matter what he was going to be a winner. He wanted to bring pride to his family’s name. So he went on to win 13 more races.

He soon realized that he loved cars in addition to racing and went on from driving to building. He worked for Alfa Romeo building race cars, as the head engineer. He was also a driver for the Alfa Romeo team until he saw the racers treating cars disrespectfully. He did not like that and he did not like that it was supported by the company. So he left Alfa Romeo.

He went on from building cars to building war machines in WW2 for **Benito Mussolini.** After WW2, he pursued his car passion and went on to build one of the greatest if not the greatest car companies to this day.

From the history about his family to building the supergiant company now let's look back to the first models from Ferrari to the Alfa Romeo models that he made to the modern models of the 1% group. The first ever model that he made was the Auto Avio Costruzioni for Alpha Romeo. After the Auto Avio Costruzioni and after he left Alfa Romeo he went on to start Ferrari and the first car he made at Ferrari was the 125 s with a V-12 Engine and that car went on to **win Ferrari’s first Grand Prix** in 1947**.**

Today, the modern Ferrari company has from F1 race cars to luxury driving cars. Formula one is the most popular motor sport around the world and Ferrari is a big part of it. Its current drivers being Charles Leclerc number 16 and Carlos Sainz Jr. number 55 and have multiple races.

In the car buying world there is something called the the 1% group. The 1% group are people who have bought many new Ferrari cars then they get the option to buy limited edition cars from Ferrari that no other people get to buy but you can’t sell the cars that you get from the 1% group.

In conclusion, Enzo Ferrari built a legacy. He got his career inspiration from when he was 10. He worked for Alfa Romeo before he started Ferrari. Enzo Ferrari was a racer before he started building cars. Ferrari is still participating in motor sports today with their world famous drivers such as Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz Jr. winning multiple races. The first car Ferrari (as the company) built was the 125 s and is the car that led them to Ferrari's first win.

**Banaba Island’s Struggle to find Water Because of Foreign Miners by Stuart Skorewicz**

On the islands of Banaba, it has not rained in over a year! The Banaba Island is a small island located in the Pacific Ocean in the country of Kiribati, an island nation. The Banaba island is antiquated or they live a simple, non advanced lifestyle. It is over 400 kilometers away from civilization.

Before the mining, the Banaban elders relied on a complicated system of caves to survive large droughts. In the late 1900’s, an Australian mining company discovered that the Banaba had lots of phosphate. Phosphate is a type of mineral that is commonly used as a fertilizer. An estimated 20 million pounds of phosphate was mined from the caves and shipped to countries like the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Australia. The phosphate helped countries flourish but the mining left the Island of Banaba devastated.

The Island of Banaba has been relying on distillation plants to obtain water. In 2022 the distillation plant shut down, leaving over 300 people with no clean drinking water or any way to obtain clean water. People were forced to drink contaminated water causing an outbreak of skin diseases and diarrhea. The Banaban people tirelessly searched for a solution. Over three months after the plant shut down, a boat from the capital of Kiribati, Tarawa which was over 400 kilometers away eventually arrived with water. Although this was helpful, it was only temporary.

The mining company is in the process of making an agreement with the Umbi council of leaders to investigate the mining. The mining company now is facing lots of backlash from the Banban people. The mining company has been procrastinating and stunting the process of making an agreement with the Umbi council of leaders.

Unfortunately many people on the island live below the poverty line. They do not have enough money to move to different islands with more reliable water sources. To help the situation the elders of the island are writing letters to New Zealand petitioning for funds or support to help rebuild the system of sacred underground caves. Before, the outside company’s mined the island. The Banban people could survive droughts by the caves storing water for long periods of time.

All in all, the mining of the caves of Banaba had been detrimental to the island and their people. This situation is not only happening in Banaba but in many other places across the world. Organizations are raising awareness for this problem for example water.org has empowered more than 63 million people with access to safe and clean water across the world.

**How Does Overtourism Affect Indigenous Communities in Boracay Islands, Philippines?**

**by Mana Bilgutay**

Popular destinations like Amsterdam, Venice, Iceland, the Galapagos Islands, and Santorini are getting over 1 million tourists per year. Those are more famous, vacation spots with thriving, flourishing communities, but what about the more impoverished nations struggling to keep up with the fast shooting economy?

An article written by National Geographic describes overtourism as, “ In essence, overtourism is too many people in one place at any given time. While there isn’t a definitive figure stipulating the number of visitors allowed, an accumulation of economic, social and environmental factors determine if and how numbers are creeping up.” In short, overtourism is when one area or nation gets too many tourists that they can handle, leading to lots of pollution and a decrease of economy.

EcoBNB tells us some pros of ecotourism. Ecotourism is a way to travel with a reduced carbon footprint. EcoBNB says that some pros about ecotourism are that you can be one with nature, get away from the busy city life, and that it's budget friendly! Ecotourism is interesting from many different perspectives, such as children and senior citizens. This type of traveling also results in better economic situations for local communities and also promotes a healthier environment and health of humans. Ecotourism is a great way to help out the environment and avoid overtourism. Some obvious consequences of overtourism are the destruction of natural habitats and increase of waste and pollution. Other issues that overtourism can cause are that even though the country or city is receiving lots of money from tourists, not many of the citizens get some of the money, causing a decline in thriving economy. For example, according to EcoBNB, “In the Central Philippines, Boracay is facing a major problem of pollution and waste control. This island has 20, 000 daily tourists who cause damage to the local flora and fauna.” The Boracay Islands in the Philippines have been a very popular tourist destination since around the year 2018.

In 2018, Boracay Islands, Philippines closed due to overtourism and pollution. The indigenous communities were getting very badly affected by tourism, so the president of Philippines decided to focus on his people and protect the health of his citizens. The islands were getting lots of pollution in their crystal clear waters. This happened on April 26, 2018 when President Duterte was fearful of the destruction the environment was receiving, destroying thousands of valuable resources. They closed so that the island could rehabilitate from mass damage done by major tourism. The closure ended on October 26, 2018. During the six months, the city made new regulations that were required for the tourists to sign and say an oath. Some regulations are limiting the number of tourists per day to 6,400 and banning parties. At the reopening ceremony on the 26th, Tourism Secretary Puyat told people to this the island as a home and cherish it and keep it clean. They also prohibited drinking, smoking and littering on the beach.

Some ways you can help is to limit traveling to a city or country during its peak seasons. You can also help by making your traveling group a bit smaller, this way you’ll be able to go to famous landmarks without such a large group.