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the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.
6,426,255 articles in English

- The arts
- Biography
- Geography
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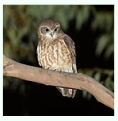
From today's featured article



The **Australian boobook** (*Ninox boobook*) is an owl native to mainland Australia, southern New Guinea, the island of Timor, and the Sunda Islands. Described by John Latham in 1801, its name is derived from its two-tone *boo-book* call. Eight subspecies are recognised; three further subspecies were reclassified as separate species in 2019. The smallest owl on the Australian mainland, the boobook is 27 to 36 cm (10.5 to 14 in) long, with predominantly dark-brown plumage and prominent pale spots. It has grey-green or yellow-green eyes. It is generally nocturnal, though it is sometimes active at dawn and dusk, retiring to roost in secluded spots in the foliage of trees. The Australian boobook feeds on insects and small vertebrates, hunting by pouncing on them from tree perches. Breeding takes place from late winter to early summer, and tree hollows are used as nesting sites. The species has a large range and apparently stable population, and is not threatened. (**Full article...**)

Recently featured: *Grey's Anatomy* (season 17) · *Dracophyllum fiordense* · Surrogate's Courthouse
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Did you know ...

Modern women's parka by Victoria Kakuktinniq

- ... that Inuk designer **Victoria Kakuktinniq** incorporates design elements from the traditional *amauti* parka into contemporary Inuit clothing *(example pictured)*?
- ... that the **Decision of 1789** was the first significant construction on the meaning of the United States Constitution in the U.S. Congress?
- ... that **3-hydroxyisonicotinaldehyde** has the lowest molecular weight of any dye which exhibits green fluorescence?
- ... that **I Putu Sukreta Suranta** refused to pursue an academic degree, despite repeatedly being given the opportunity to do so?
- ... that **Canon Computer Systems**'s NoteJet laptop came with a built-in printer?
- ... that **Kirsten Warner**, whose father was a Holocaust survivor, wrote a novel from the perspective of the child of a Holocaust survivor?
- ... that one journalist said that the proportions of the limbs of the statues at the ***Monumento a los Indios Verdes*** are a "sin against anatomical laws"?
- ... that the **giant hawker**, the largest living dragonfly, with a wingspan of 163 millimetres (6.4 in), has larvae that exhibit "ballistic defecation"?

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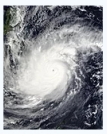
In the news



Typhoon Rai

- Gabriel Boric, leader of Apruebo Dignidad, **is elected** President of Chile.
- **Typhoon Rai** *(satellite image shown)* results in at least 375 deaths in the Philippines.
- **A building fire** in Osaka, Japan, kills 24 people.
- **Siaosi Sovaleni** is elected as prime minister by the Legislative Assembly of Tonga.
- **A fuel tanker truck explodes** in Cap-Haïtien, Haiti, killing at least 75 people.

Ongoing: COVID-19 pandemic
Recent deaths: Robert H. Grubbs · Richard Rogers · Doug Ericksen · Rusmono · Osagi Bascome · Chris Wilkinson

Nominate an article

On this day

December 21: **December solstice** (15:59 UTC, 2021); **Yule** begins

The Rochdale Pioneers' first store

- 1826 – Settlers from the United States in Mexican Texas made the first attempt to secede from Mexico, establishing the short-lived **Republic of Fredonia**.
- 1844 – The **Rochdale Pioneers** opened their store *(pictured)* in Rochdale, England, forming the basis for the modern co-operative movement.
- 1923 – Nepal and the United Kingdom signed **the first treaty that defined the international status of Nepal** as an independent and a sovereign nation.
- 1965 – The United Nations adopted the **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination**, which 88 member states have since signed.
- 1988 – The world's largest aircraft, the **Antonov An-225 *Mriya***, made its first flight.

Hugh, Margrave of Tuscany (d. 1001) · **William H. Osborn** (b. 1820) · **Adele Goldstine** (b. 1920)

More anniversaries: December 20 · **December 21** · December 22

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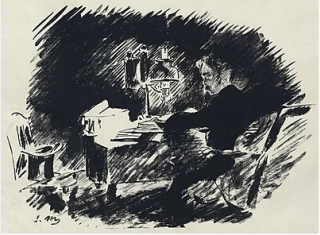
Today's featured picture



"**The Raven**" is a narrative poem by the American writer Edgar Allan Poe. This illustration by Édouard Manet was drawn for a French publication, and depicts the narrator half asleep, poring over ancient books at midnight on a drear winter night. He hears a tapping sound, and on investigation finds a raven at the window, which flies into his room and perches on a bust of Pallas Athena. The narrator asks the bird a series of questions, to which the bird replies only "Nevermore". Eventually, the narrator falls into despair and ends with his final admission that his soul is trapped beneath the raven's shadow and shall be lifted "nevermore". Originally published in 1845, the poem was widely popular and made Poe famous, though it did not bring him much financial success. "The Raven" has influenced many modern works and is referenced throughout popular culture in films, television and music.

Illustration credit: Édouard Manet; restored by Lise Broer

Recently featured: Supreme Court of the United Kingdom · Common house gecko · *The Contrabandista*
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Other areas of Wikipedia

- **Community portal** – Bulletin board, projects, resources and activities covering a wide range of Wikipedia areas.
- **Help desk** – Ask questions about using Wikipedia.
- **Reference desk** – Serving as virtual librarians, Wikipedia volunteers tackle your questions on a wide range of subjects.
- **Site news** – Announcements, updates, articles and press releases on Wikipedia and the Wikimedia Foundation.
- **Teahouse** – To ask your first basic questions about contributing to Wikipedia.
- **Village pump** – For discussions about Wikipedia itself, including areas for technical issues and policies.

Wikipedia's sister projects

Wikipedia is hosted by the Wikimedia Foundation, a non-profit organization that also hosts a range of other projects:

- **Commons** – Free media repository
- **MediaWiki** – Wiki software development
- **Meta-Wiki** – Wikimedia project coordination
- **Wikibooks** – Free textbooks and manuals
- **Wikidata** – Free knowledge base
- **Wikinews** – Free-content news
- **Wikiquote** – Collection of quotations
- **Wikisource** – Free-content library
- **Wikispecies** – Directory of species
- **Wikiversity** – Free learning tools
- **Wikivoyage** – Free travel guide
- **Wiktionary** – Dictionary and thesaurus

Wikipedia languages

This Wikipedia is written in English. Many other Wikipedias are available; some of the largest are listed below.

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