

What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

16th - 22nd March 2026



**What makes
something fun?**





Let's look at this week's story

This week's news is about Pokémon, which is celebrating 30 years since it was first created. First released as a video game in 1996, it has since grown into TV shows, films, trading cards and apps enjoyed by millions of people around the world. Today, both children and adults continue to enjoy Pokémon in many different ways.

Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



AI Image

How does it make me feel?



sad

despondent
disconsolate
dismal
doleful
downhearted
forlorn
gloomy
melancholic
miserable
woeful
wretched

angry

aggrieved
annoyed
discontented
disgruntled
distressed
exasperated
frustrated
indignant
offended
outraged
resentful
vexed

happy

beaming
buoyant
cheery
contented
delighted
enraptured
gleeful
glowing
joyful

confused

addled
baffled
bemused
bewildered
disorientated
indistinct
muddled
mystified
perplexed
puzzled

excited

animated
elevated
enlivened
enthusiastic
exhilarated
exuberant
thrilled

worried

agitated
anxious
apprehensive
concerned
disquieted
distraught
distressed
disturbed
fretful
perturbed
troubled
uneasy

overwhelmed

engulfed
inundated
overburdened
overloaded
saturated
submerged
swamped

afraid

alarmed
apprehensive
daunted
fearful
frantic
horrified
petrified
terrified

guilty

ashamed
compunctious
contrite
culpable
penitent
responsible
rueful

jealous

bitter
covetous
desirous
envious
envying
resentful
wary

thankful

appreciative
grateful
gratified
indebted
obliged
relieved

shocked

astonished
astounded
disconcerted
distressed
dumbfounded
horrified
staggered
startled
stunned
surprised

disgusted

affronted
appalled
horrified
repelled
repulsed
revolted
sickened

inspired

activated
encouraged
exhilarated
galvanised
influenced
motivated

embarrassed

ashamed
awkward
chagrined
demeaned
discomposd
humiliated
self-conscious
uncomfortable
uneasy
unsettled

interested

absorbed
captivated
curious
engaged
enthralled
fascinated
gripped
intrigued
riveted

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read through the information below, all about Pokémon's 30th anniversary.

Pokémon turns 30!

What is Pokémon?

Pokémon was first created in Japan in 1996 as a video game. Its name comes from 'Pocket Monsters', as the creatures were designed to be collected, trained, and traded.



Left: Pokémon at 30, showing Jigglypuff and Pikachu, released on the 30th anniversary.

Source: Eurogamer/The Pokémon Company.



AI Image

Why is Pokémon so popular?

It is thought that Pokémon is popular because it can be enjoyed in many different ways, such as games, shows, and cards. It is also enjoyed by both children and adults, which helps it stay popular across generations. Over time, it has continued to change and grow while still feeling familiar to fans.

How is the 30th anniversary being celebrated?

- A special global livestream, called Pokémon Presents, was held to share updates and future projects celebrating the anniversary.
- The Pokémon Trading Card Game is releasing special anniversary cards, collectibles, and themed products for fans.
- Special community events and family-friendly celebrations, sometimes called 'Day Out' events, are taking place throughout 2026 so fans can play, trade, and celebrate together.

What do you think it is about Pokémon that makes it so popular with people all over the world?



Look at the resource below, which shows different things we can do to have fun.

playing games
with family



listening to
music



going on a
nature walk



Which of these things do
you like to do for fun?

Are there any other
things you enjoy doing?

playing outside



drawing a picture



dancing



reading a story



cooking



role-playing





Look at the resource below, which shares some information about how Pokémon has changed over time.

1996

Pokémon started in Japan as a video game on Game Boy. Players could catch, train, and battle different Pokémon.



1997

The Pokémon TV show began. It follows Ash and Pikachu on their adventures to become Pokémon Masters.



1998

The Pokémon Trading Card Game launched in the US and became very popular around the world.



2000s

New Pokémon games were released and hundreds of new Pokémon characters were added in different generations.



2013

Pokémon introduced full 3D graphics, making the game bigger and more detailed.

2016

Pokémon GO was released as a mobile app. Players could catch Pokémon in real-life places using their phones. It became popular worldwide.



Today

Pokémon continues to release new games, TV shows, and trading cards for fans all over the world.



All Pikachu images have been created with AI.

What are some of the biggest changes to Pokémon you have noticed over time?

Why do you think Pokémon is still popular today?

How do you think Pokémon might change in the future?



**What makes
something fun?**



Reflection



Fun can look different for everyone. The things we enjoy can help us relax, learn and use our imagination.



Media Literacy

I know that people may see the story differently.



Explanation: Let's explore how the same story can feel different to everyone because our own feelings and experiences change how we see the world.



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

Questions to Discuss

- Can two people look at the same thing and see it differently? How?
- If you have seen something many times, can you view it differently from someone who is only seeing it for the first time? Explain.
- Can people feel differently about the same thing at the same time? Why?

Activity

Explain that our experiences can change how we see the same news story. Read through the news story. Get into groups, and assign each with a character.

- **Character A:** an adult who remembers trading cards at school 25 years ago.
- **Character B:** a professional collector who wants to trade Pokémon cards to earn money.
- **Character C:** an excited 7-year-old who has just got their first pack of cards.

Using the headline, 'Pokémon at 30: Why is the craze still so big?', write a short sentence with a reaction from the viewpoint of your character.

Why do the characters have different feelings towards the news article?



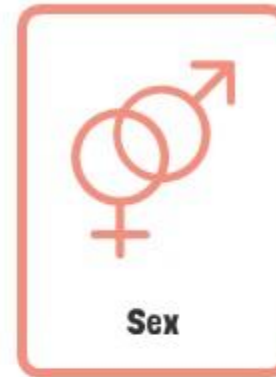
Rule of Law

We often come across rules, whether in games or laws we need to follow. When we all follow the same rules, we create a fair and fun environment that helps every person feel included and valued.

Protected Characteristics



Pokémon is popular with both children and adults all over the world. It shows that age doesn't matter when it comes to having fun.



Sex



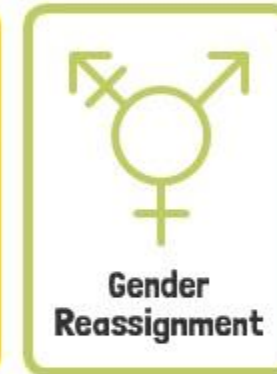
Sexual Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender Reassignment



Marriage and Civil Partnership



Pregnancy and Maternity



Race



Religion or Belief



UN Rights of the Child



Whether trading cards or teaming up for a Pokémon battle, every child has the right to join and set up groups, organisations and meet with others.



Useful Vocabulary



Anniversary

A special date that marks exactly one or more years since an important event happened.

Pokémon at 30, showing Jigglypuff and Pikachu, released on the 30th **anniversary**.

Familiar

Something you recognise because you have seen, heard, or experienced it before.

Over time, it has continued to change and grow while still feeling **familiar** to fans.

Fans

People who really like, admire, or support a specific person, team, or hobby.

The Pokémon Trading Card Game is releasing special anniversary cards, collectibles, and themed products for **fans**.

Generations

A group of people who were born and lived around the same time.

It is also enjoyed by both children and adults, which helps it stay popular across **generations**.

Popular

Someone or something that is liked, enjoyed, or supported by a large number of people.

It is thought that Pokémon is **popular**...

Trading

Giving something you have to someone in exchange for something they have.

The Pokémon **Trading** Card Game...

Can you use them in a conversation this week?

Picture News



What makes something fun?

This week's news is about Pokémon, which is celebrating 30 years since it was first created. First released as a video game in 1996, it has since grown into TV shows, films, trading cards and apps enjoyed by millions of people around the world. Today, both children and adults continue to enjoy Pokémon in many different ways.



- Look at this week's image. Share any prior knowledge you have about this week's topic, Pokémon.
- Read through the information on the **assembly resource**, all about Pokémon's 30th anniversary. What do you think it is about Pokémon that makes it so popular with people all over the world?
- Is Pokémon something you enjoy?
- Watch this week's useful video, all about how Pokémon has changed over the past 30 years. Why do you think it has managed to stay popular all this time?
- What are some of the things that you find fun to do? Do you do these things by yourself or with others? Think about what it is that makes it fun – is it the activity, the people, the feeling it gives you?
- What is your definition of 'fun'? Are our definitions all the same?
- Do you think it's important to make time to have fun? Why?
- Do you think children and adults have fun in different ways?
- Explain that we may not all find the same things fun, and that our idea of fun may change over time.

Reflection

Fun can look different for everyone. The things we enjoy can help us relax, learn and use our imagination.

Picture News



KS1 focus

What are some different things we do to have fun?



- Draw or write a list of three things that make you happy or that you enjoy doing. What are those things? How do they make you feel? Can you tell the class about what's on your list?
- Look at **resource 1**, which shows different things we can do for fun. Which do you enjoy the most? Are there any new ideas you would like to try? Are there any you would not find fun? Why?
- Why do you think some people enjoy these activities? How do you feel when you see someone else having fun? Does it make you feel happy or want to join in too?
- If someone does not enjoy an activity at first, what could we do to help make it more fun for them? Think together and share your ideas.
- Can you think of a time when an activity didn't feel fun? What happened? What could be changed to make it more enjoyable for you next time?
- Imagine you are planning a fun day for your friends or classmates. What activities would you include? How would you make sure everyone feels included and has fun?

Reflection

Fun is something that makes us smile, laugh, or feel excited. What feels fun can be different for each of us, and that is okay.

Picture News



KS2 focus

How has Pokémon changed over time?



- Pokémon is 30 years old this year! Have you ever played a Pokémon game, watched the TV show, or collected the cards? What do you already know about Pokémon?
- Look at **resource 2**, which shows how Pokémon has changed over time. What differences can you see between the earlier versions of Pokémon and newer ones?
- Think about what has changed the most. Is it the characters, the way people play, or the technology? Why do you think that might be?
- Why do you think Pokémon has stayed popular for so long? What keeps people interested in it?
- Do you think games, shows, or toys need to change to stay popular? Why?
- Think of and share other examples of things that have changed over time to stay fun, interesting or relevant.
- Imagine the creator of Pokémon, Satoshi Tajiri, has asked you for ideas for a brand-new Pokémon. What would your Pokémon look like? Think about its powers, and how it would be different from Pokémon in the past.
- How do you think Pokémon might change in the future? Think about how technology could influence these changes.

Reflection

Over time, the things we enjoy can develop and change. New ideas can keep them exciting, while familiar parts help us feel connected. Change can help something stay fun for many years to come.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Conduct an experiment to test different activities to see which one is the most fun. Set up different activity stations around the classroom. You could include:

- A joke telling station
- A paper aeroplane competition
- A dance off
- A drawing challenge

Then, on a large piece of paper give the activity a 'fun score' between 1-10, with 1 being the least fun and 10 the most.

Once everyone has completed the activity, calculate your individual mean 'fun score'. Then calculate the mean 'fun score' for each activity station.

Think about: Is it easy to score things based on fun? Why? Which activity was the class favourite? Did anyone give a 1 to an activity that everyone else gave a 10 to? Why might that have happened?

Option 2

Using a computer for research, explore how fun has changed (and stayed the same) over time. You may wish to look at Victorian toys vs. 1980s toys vs. modern gaming.

Think about: Is what we consider fun today different from a long time ago? Why? How do you think technology has shaped how we have fun today, compared with a few decades ago? If we took away every screen and every plastic toy in the world tomorrow, would fun disappear? How? Do you find the same things fun that you did three years ago? Why?



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Explain that in order for everyone to have fun, games often contain rules for everyone to follow.

Think about a game like 'tag' or 'hide and seek'. Write down some rules to make sure everyone is able to have fun.

Think about: If it was decided there was going to be no rules for a day at school, do you think people would have more fun? Why? If you were allowed to keep only one rule for the whole school day to ensure everyone has fun, which one would you pick? Why? Do we need rules to have fun? Explain.

Option 2

Discuss some persuasive language techniques and why they are used.

Give out an everyday object to each group, e.g., a grey sock, a paperclip, a cardboard tube. Each group should create a 30-second TV advert to convince the class the object is fun, using persuasive language.

Think about: Is fun something that is found within an object, or is it a feeling that you bring to life? What does that tell us about fun? Can anything be fun? How?



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cpw0xw5nqglo>

This week's useful video

Pokémon at 30

www.youtube.com/shorts/YdxMyVxtJDc

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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Giving something you have to someone in exchange for something they have.

The Pokémon **Trading** Card Game...

TAKEHOME

16th - 22nd
March



What makes something fun?



In the news this week

This week's news is about Pokémon, which is celebrating 30 years since it was first created. First released as a video game in 1996, it has since grown into TV shows, films, trading cards and apps enjoyed by millions of people around the world. Today, both children and adults continue to enjoy Pokémon in many different ways.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Why do you think Pokémon has stayed popular for 30 years?
- How do games, stories, or hobbies bring people together at home?
- Do you think something can be fun for both children and adults? Why?
- What are some of the things you find fun to do?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Spring Has Sprung!

In the village of Inkpen in Berkshire, England, a small field has turned bright purple! It does so each spring, when around 400,000 crocus flowers bloom across the grass. Crocuses are small flowers that appear early in the year. Their purple petals open to show bright yellow centres covered in pollen, which insects like bumblebees collect. The meadow, called Inkpen Crocus Field, is now a nature reserve cared for by the Wildlife Trust. It is also the largest display of wild spring crocuses in Britain! A meadow is a field where wildflowers grow naturally, and this one has not been ploughed or changed for modern farming. No one is



Pictured: Purple crocus flowers!
Source: Canva.

completely sure how the flowers first arrived there. Some people think they were brought back by knights returning from long journeys hundreds of years ago. Others believe they may have spread from old cottage gardens nearby. One writer described the field by saying, 'Inkpen crocus field is where spring happens first!' **What signs of spring have you noticed where you live?**

Waste Not!

What do you do with an empty cereal box or a finished jam jar? Do you throw it away, or could it become something new? On 18th March, people around the world celebrate Global Recycling Day. It is a day to think about how we can look after our planet by recycling the things we use every day. This year's theme is 'Don't Think Waste. Think Opportunity!' This means that instead of seeing something as rubbish, we can think about what it might become next. Recycling bins have become a familiar sight in many places – at home, at school, and even in parks and on streets. Bottles, cans and



Pictured: Items that could be recycled!
Source: Canva.

paper are often collected so they can be used again, but you might find ways to reuse things yourself, like turning a jar into a pencil pot. Ranjit Baxi, who helped start Global Recycling Day, said, 'Recycling is not just a choice. It is something we must all do to help protect our planet.' **Learn more about Global Recycling Day with this week's Picture News Global resource on the Members Area!**

Should school uniforms be the same for everyone?



I don't think it's fair. Some girls might like to wear skirts. We are taking away their choice.

Alfie

A Bear-y Special Mural!

A brand-new, colourful mural has appeared at Fossato Lounge in Kenilworth. It's the very first piece of art in a big project called Blank Canvas, and it's all about celebrating what makes our towns special. The Blank Canvas project is travelling across Warwickshire to put up ten murals. Each one will be different because they are all designed by local artists and people living in the community. However, there is one important rule for every mural: it must include a Warwickshire Bear!



Pictured: Fossato Lounge in Kenilworth.
Source: Street Art Cities website.

Created by artist Tim Robottom and local young people, the mural features bears representing the town's community, shown enjoying hot chocolate to celebrate local cafes. In the background, fireworks explode over the famous Kenilworth Castle, while the rest of the scene is filled with local Kenilworth Ivy. The buzzing bees remind everyone that the town is a nature-friendly place that looks after its environment.

Councillor Rob Howard said, 'Blank Canvas is a great project for our towns, creating artwork representative of the local community and adding vibrancy to our town centres.'

What would you include in a mural to represent your local community?



Pictured: The Bear Mural in Kenilworth.
Source: Street Art Cities website.

The Ultimate Snow Battle!

Did you know that a snowball fight has become a professional sport? It's called Yukigassen (pronounced *yoo-kee-gas-sen*), which is Japanese for 'snow battle.'

Originating 37 years ago in a small town called Sobetsu in Hokkaido, Japan, this game was created to help bring tourists back after a local volcano erupted in the area.

Today, it is a serious competition with its own rules, helmets, and even a dream of joining the Olympic Games! The sport has grown far beyond Japan. It is now played in 13 different countries, including Australia, Finland, Canada, and the USA.

To make it a year-round sport (and to help get it into the Olympics), inventors have even created artificial



Pictured: Snowballs.
Source: Canva.

snowballs so people can play in gyms or on the beach when there is no snow! Yukigassen is a strategic team sport, where the objective is to eliminate all seven opponents with snowballs or capture their flag. Matches take place on a field filled with icy shelters for cover, using 90 machine-molded snowballs per round. Once you're hit, you're out of the game!

Would you like to play Yukigassen?

Should school uniforms be the same for everyone?



I think there should be more choice in the uniform, so that we can feel proud of the school we're at.

Cece