What's happening in the news this week?

Picture News



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

16th – 22nd November 2026


#COP31
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 9-20,2026
ANTALYA, TÜRKİYE
Picture News
Is it fair that some countries have to do more than others?
AA

Let's look at this week's story

Leaders from around the world are meeting in Türkiye for COP31, to discuss how to protect our planet from climate change. They will talk about how countries can work together and whether richer countries should help those affected by floods, droughts and rising seas.



Learn more about this week's story here.
Watch this week's useful video here.
This week's Virtual Picture News here.



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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
discomposed
humiliated
self-conscious
uncomfortable
uneasy
unsettled

interested
absorbed
captivated
curious
engaged
enthralled
fascinated
gripped
intrigued
riveted

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



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ASSEMBLY RESOURCE

Read the information found below, which explains more about COP31. Share your thoughts on the event, and what changes you think might come from the meetings.

What is COP31?

COP31 is a big meeting, during which leaders from around the world come together to discuss climate change and how to protect our planet. COP stands for Conference of the Parties, and this is the 31st meeting.

This year's meeting runs from 9th - 20th November and is being held in Türkiye.

Are children involved?

Saturday 14th November is dedicated to children, young people and education. Young people will have opportunities to share ideas about protecting the planet and discuss how schools can help.

Photo source: Renew Europe

What will be discussed?

Countries will discuss how to reduce pollution that warms the world, protect people from floods, droughts and extreme weather, and help communities prepare for changes in the climate.

What are different countries doing?

Some countries have more money, technology and resources than others. Countries also produce different amounts of pollution. One important question is whether wealthier countries should do more to help countries that are struggling with the effects of climate change.



Pictured left: Over 40 young people from across the Maldives took part in the 'Youth Track to COP31' in September, ahead of COP31, to share their thoughts on the future of the planet.

Source: UNICEF

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Resource one

Look at the resource below, which shows three moments in COP's history.



2015

An agreement in Paris

Paris, France

At COP21, countries agreed to make their own plans to help stop Earth getting much hotter. This became known as the Paris Agreement.



1995 — 2015 — 2026

1995

The first meeting

Berlin, Germany

People representing different countries met at the first COP. They discussed how to work together to tackle climate change.



2026

Meeting again

Antalya, Türkiye

COP31 brings countries together again. They will discuss what to do next and how to help people affected by climate change.

Why do you think countries keep meeting?

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Resource two

Look at the resource below, which shares details of three global initiatives.

Choose two initiatives.
What is similar about how they work?
What is different?

Countries work together to tackle problems and protect things that matter. These organised efforts are sometimes called global initiatives.



Working to end a disease

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative

Who? Governments, health workers and organisations, including the World Health Organization and UNICEF.

What? They work to end polio everywhere. Polio is a disease that can stop people moving parts of their body. Ending a disease worldwide is called **eradication**.

How? Health workers give children vaccines to protect them against polio. Teams also look for cases of the disease and work with communities to reach children who have missed vaccinations.

Protecting special places

The UNESCO World Heritage Convention

Who? Countries working with UNESCO, the United Nations organisation for education, science and culture.

What? An agreement to protect places that are especially important to the world, such as historic buildings and remarkable natural landscapes. **Heritage** is something passed down from the past.

How? Countries identify and look after these places. They can also receive help from other countries through money, training or advice from experts.



Machu Picchu, in Peru, is a World Heritage Site.



Setting goals for a better world

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Who? The United Nations (UN), an organisation that brings countries together. All 193 member countries agreed to these goals.

What? Seventeen goals to work towards by 2030, including reducing poverty, helping children get a good education and protecting the planet.

How? Countries make plans and take action towards the goals. This could include improving schools or helping more people get clean drinking water. They check progress to see what still needs doing.

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Reflection

Fairness doesn't always mean everyone doing exactly the same thing. Some countries have more money and resources than others, so working together and helping those who need it most could make a bigger difference for us all.








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Media Literacy

Analyse

Evaluate

Research

Act

I can look for the date and who wrote it.



Explanation: Let's think about why it's important to know who wrote a news story and when it was published or last updated.



Questions to Discuss

- Why do news stories include the writer's name?
- How can the date help us decide if a story is up to date?
- What is the difference between when a story is written and last updated?
- Why might a news story be updated after it is published?

Activity

Become a media detective and investigate the news story to find out who wrote it and when it was written or last updated.

- Find the author: Can you find the writer's name?
- Find the date: Can you find when the article was last updated?

Challenge: Can you find the name of the organisation or website that published the article?

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British Values

I Really Do Matter!

- Individual Liberty
- Rule of Law
- Democracy
- Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Which British value do you think this week's story highlights?



COP31 gives countries the opportunity to use Democracy by sharing ideas, listening to different opinions and working together, to make decisions about how to tackle climate change.

Understanding that climate change affects countries in different ways, and respecting the experiences and needs of others, shows Mutual Respect and Tolerance.



Do you agree with either person, or think something different?

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Protected Characteristics

Which protected characteristic do you think this week's story highlights?



COP31 will include a day for children and young people to share their views on climate change. This shows that all voices can be heard, no matter a person's age.

Share your thoughts. Do you agree?

- Sex
- Who People Love
- Age
- Disability
- Being Yourself
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Religion or Belief

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UN Rights of the Child



Every child has the right to grow up in a safe, healthy environment with clean air, water and food. Climate change can threaten this through floods, droughts and extreme weather.



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Useful Vocabulary



Circumstances

The conditions that affect someone or something, such as where they live or what they have.

Should all countries take equal responsibility, or should their different **circumstances** be considered?

Climate change

Long-term changes in Earth's usual temperatures and weather patterns.

Leaders from around the world are meeting in Türkiye for COP31, to discuss how to protect our planet from **climate change**.

Dedicated

Set aside for a particular person, group or purpose.

Why do you think a special day has been **dedicated** to children?

Droughts

Long periods with very little or no rain, which can cause water shortages.

They will talk about how countries can work together and whether richer countries should help those affected by floods, **droughts** and rising seas.

Goals

Things people aim to achieve.

Often, lots of the discussions at COP are on deciding common **goals** and the actions countries might take.

Resources

Things people have available to use, such as materials, money or equipment.

Some countries have more money, technology and **resources** than others.

Can you use them in a conversation this week?

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Listen Think Share

- Look at the poster image and describe what you can see. Share any prior knowledge you have about COP. Have you seen or heard anything about this year's event?
- This year, there is a children's day as part of the event. Why do you think a special day has been dedicated to children? How might they get involved?
- Watch this week's useful video about the UNICEF Youth Conference ahead of COP31. What could be the benefits and challenges of involving young people in decisions about climate change?
- Read the information found on the **Assembly Resource**, which explains more about COP31. Share your thoughts on the event, and what changes you think might come out of the meetings.
- Often, lots of the discussions at COP are on deciding common goals and the actions countries might take. Do you think it is easy for leaders to agree? If not, what would be a fair way to help them make decisions?
- Explore this week's big question. Should all countries take equal responsibility for climate change, or should their different circumstances be considered? Why?

Reflection

Fairness doesn't always mean everyone doing exactly the same thing. Some countries have more money and resources than others, so working together and helping those who need it most could make a bigger difference for us all.

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KS1 focus

What is the history of COP?

Listen Think Share

- Think about something your class decided together, such as choosing a game, story or activity. How did you share ideas and make a decision?
- People representing different countries get together every year at a special meeting called COP to talk about climate change. This year's meeting is called COP31, because it's the thirty-first yearly meeting.
- What do you already know about climate change? Why might countries need to work together to look after our planet?
- Look at **Resource 1**, which shows a timeline of three important moments in COP's history. Find the first COP meeting. When and where did it happen? What might it have been like to go to the first meeting?
- Follow the timeline to 2015. Countries agreed to make plans to help stop the Earth warming. How important is it for people to keep agreements once they've been made? Explain your thoughts.
- Think about future COP meetings. If you attended a meeting, what ideas would you suggest to help look after our planet?
- Lots of agreements are made at COP meetings. Why might countries meet again after making an agreement?
- When have you made an agreement with someone, e.g., to tidy your bedroom or look after someone's plants while they're on holiday?

Reflection

COP started before many of us were born. Looking back helps us find out what countries agreed in the past, understand what leaders are talking about today, and think about the future.

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KS2 focus

What other global initiatives are in place to help improve things around the world?

Listen Think Share

- Think of a time you worked with others to improve something at school or in your local area. What were you trying to do? How did different people help?
- Have you heard of any organisations or projects that help people or protect places around the world? What do you know about their work?
- At COP31, countries are meeting to discuss climate change. What other things might countries work together on to improve or protect? Gather some ideas.
- A global initiative is an organised effort involving people or countries around the world to achieve something. Explore the three examples on **Resource 2**. Which have you heard of before? What have you discovered?
- Why might countries want to get involved, even if the problem or place is far away?
- Look at how each initiative works. What might countries achieve together that might be more difficult for one country to do alone?
- Imagine a country can offer money, another can offer trained workers, and another can share useful knowledge. How could each contribution make a difference? Do countries need to contribute in the same way for their efforts to be fair?
- If you could bring countries together to tackle one more issue, what would you choose and why?

Reflection

Countries can work together on many different issues. Sometimes, they can achieve things together that they could not achieve alone.

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KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Hold your own initiative meeting! In a group of four, choose one initiative from **Resource 2**. Each person takes on a role: someone organising the initiative's work, someone helping to pay for it, someone carrying out the work, and someone whose community it affects. Each person prepares one suggestion and one question from their character's viewpoint.

Hold a short meeting to agree on one next step. Each person must explain their suggestion and respond to someone else.

Step out of character and think about: Whose viewpoint changed your thinking? Was anyone important missing? Explain how your proposed action supports the initiative's aim.

Option 2

Did you know, there are over 1,200 UNESCO World Heritage Sites around the world! Some examples include Machu Picchu, the Taj Mahal and the Great Barrier Reef. Explore UNESCO's World Heritage map and choose three sites that interest you.

Find each site's country and continent.

Think about: Which is closest to the UK? Which is furthest away?

Make a simple world map sketch, or use a printable map, and mark your chosen sites. Add labels and drawings to show what is being protected.

Share your maps in groups. What makes these places worth protecting? Why might people from other countries care about them?

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KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Make your own class agreement! Discuss all the things you would like to do to help protect the world or slow down climate change. Pick one thing and together make an action plan for how you will achieve your goal. Pin up your action plan and in a few weeks, come back together to discuss if your goal has been achieved.

Option 2

Explain that 1995 was 31 years before 2026. Together, make a line of 31 cubes or counters, with each representing one year. Count them in groups of tens and ones.

Make another line showing your age. Which is longer? How many more years does the COP line show?

With adult support, split the 31 counters into 20 years (1995 to 2015) and 11 years (2015 to 2026). Which period is longer? How do you know?

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This week's useful websites

This week's news story

https://eciu.net/insights/cop31-what-lies-ahead

This week's useful video

https://youtube.com/shorts/kUp2An9401c?si=adz0CSBRx-Y39ldM

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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TAKEHOME

16th – 22nd November

In the news this week



Leaders from around the world are meeting in Türkiye for COP31, to discuss how to protect our planet from climate change. They will talk about how countries can work together and whether richer countries should help those affected by floods, droughts and rising seas.

Things to talk about at home ...

- What do you think is the biggest problem facing our world?
- Do you feel it is important for countries to work together to tackle climate change?
- Should richer countries help poorer countries? Explain your view.
- Is there anything families could do at home?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT 1 NEWSPAPER 16th-22nd November

Snap, Crackle and...

A popular breakfast cereal has changed its recipe, after dry weather affected the crops used to make it. Kellogg's has announced that its UK Rice Krispies and Coco Pops are no longer made using rice grains. Instead, the company is using ingredients called corn flour and rice flour. The change comes after dry weather in some parts of Asia affected rice crops, making it harder for companies to get enough rice to make their products. Some people have noticed that Rice Krispies now make much quieter 'Snap, Crackle and Pop' sounds when milk is poured over them! However, Kellogg's says the new recipes have been carefully checked. The cereal packets will now also include a warning that the products contain wheat gluten, which can make some people with coeliac disease or a wheat allergy feel unwell. The recipe change only affects products sold in the UK. Rice Krispies sold in the United States and Canada will continue to be made using rice grains.

Would you notice if your favourite breakfast cereal changed its ingredients?



Pictured: Puffed rice cereal.
Source: Canva.

A Wild Future for Rothbury!

A huge area of land, called The Rothbury Estate in Northumberland, has been bought by The Wildlife Trusts and Northumberland Wildlife Trust. More than 25,000 people helped raise money over two years, with famous wildlife presenter Sir David Attenborough also supporting the campaign.



Pictured: Northumberland, UK.
Source: Canva.

The estate covers 9,500 acres, about the same size as the city of Athens! The Wildlife Trusts want to make it a special place where animals and plants can thrive. They plan to protect wildlife, restore habitats and help people enjoy the area. Sir David Attenborough said, 'This will be a place where nature, community, farming and heritage can combine to create something very special for generations to come.' Local people, farmers and volunteers will work together to care for the land and protect it for the future.

Is the journey more important than the destination?



Journeys can help you to get somewhere.

Lenny

Let us know what you think about this week's news picture-news.co.uk/discuss help@picture-news.co.uk /picturenewsprimary/

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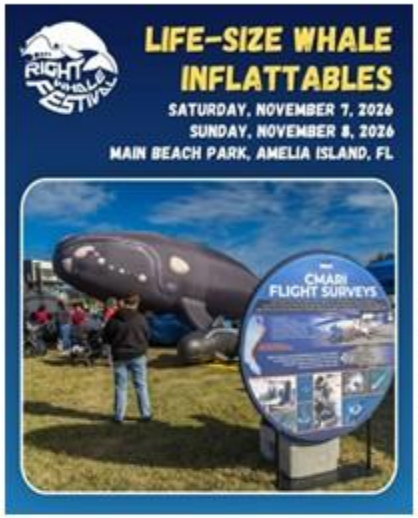
IN THE SPOTLIGHT 2 NEWSPAPER 16th–22nd November

A Whale of a Time!

Have you ever wanted to see how big a whale actually is? That is exactly what visitors to the Right Whale Festival on Amelia Island in Florida, USA, were able to do! They could experience the ginormous size of these marine mammals, by standing next to life-sized inflatables. Represented in inflatable form were the North Atlantic right whale, a right whale calf, a Rice's whale, a sperm whale, a pilot whale, and a manatee. The Right Whale Festival described the event as, 'a hands-on educational experience for all ages and one of the best ways to truly appreciate the incredible size of whales… These larger-than-life displays give visitors a unique opportunity to compare species, learn about their biology and adaptations, and discover more about the marine mammals that live along our coast and beyond.' This annual event celebrates the return of the endangered North Atlantic right whale to the area, raises awareness of their plight, and teaches people about the conservation projects in place to help them multiply their numbers. **Do you know *any facts about right whales? Would you like to stand next to a life-sized whale inflatable?***



Pictured: A right whale. **Source:** Canva.



Pictured: A poster for the Right Whale Festival. **Source:** Right Whale Festival on Facebook.

Skateboarding School

Xie Junwu, from Nanchang in China's Jiangxi Province, who is famous for his wheelchair capabilities, is opening a wheelchair skateboarding training centre! Xie has been 'breaking records and barriers' for a very long time. He set a Guinness World Record for the longest wheelchair wheelie, travelling 25.8km on just the two rear wheels of his wheelchair, in 2012. He learned to climb stairs, dance and then skateboard, using a specially-customised board that locks onto his wheelchair. In addition to completing 32 marathons, the inspiring athlete is also a climber. He has reached the summit of Mount Huangshan (often described as the 'loveliest mountain of China') four times! He now wants to help others build their confidence by passing on his knowledge, impressive wheelchair manoeuvres, and teaching his skateboarding skills at what is being described as, 'almost certainly China's first wheelchair skateboarding training centre'. Xie Junwu shares his story online to inspire others and says that 'skateboarding is for everybody!'

Do you know how to skateboard? Would you like to learn?



Pictured: Junwu Xie skateboarding. **Source:** xiejunwu1970 on Instagram.

Is the journey more important than the destination?



Journeys are important as they give us the chance to learn new things and make mistakes along the way.
Jacob

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