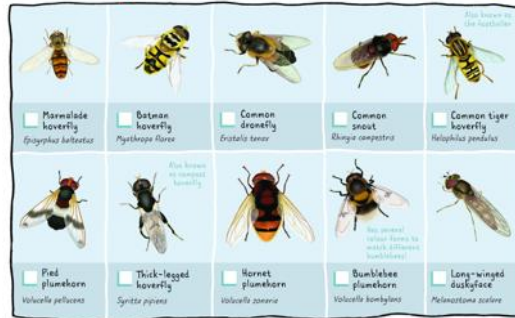


Identi-Fly

Now it is April, we can say that spring is officially here! You might have noticed pretty new flowers blooming, lovely green leaves on the trees and perhaps you've also seen more insects and wildlife.

One insect that might 'fly by and catch your eye' is the hoverfly. The hoverfly is a type of insect known for its ability to hover in place, just like a helicopter, and are often mistaken for bees and wasps because of their black and yellow striped bodies. Hoverflies, unlike bees and wasps, do not sting and are completely harmless. The Wildlife Trusts are a nature charity who share lots

Hoverfly identification



www.wildlifetrusts.org.uk Hoverflies can be difficult to identify. This is a rough guide to some common species.

Pictured: The many types of hoverflies.
Source: The Wildlife Trusts on X.

of information relating to creatures both great and small, plants and all things wildlife and have recently created a helpful guide to help identify the different types of hoverfly. 'Use this handy ID guide to spot species like the marmalade hoverfly & bumblebee plumehorn', the charity shared on their social media.

Can you use the guide to help identi-FLY a hoverfly?

Hoop, hoop hoopoe horray!

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has excitedly reported an increase in sightings of a very special type of bird – the Hoopoe, in the southwest of England. The Hoopoe is a medium-sized bird, about 25-32cm from its beak to its tail, so is about the same size as a small pigeon. They also have a very interesting crest (the feathered part on the top of their head), and a long, curved beak, which helps them to catch the insects they like to eat. This beautiful pinkish-brown bird, with black



Pictured: A hoopoe.
Source: Canva.

and white striped wings and tail, also has a very distinctive call, which sounds a bit like it's saying, 'hoop, hoop, hoop!' 'We're receiving reports of an unprecedented influx of Hoopoes across the southwest coast with lots spotted in Cornwall this week and a few in Dorset', the RSPB shared on their social media. **Have a listen to a Hoopoe calling here!**

Do world leaders have a duty to help other countries?



They could help other countries bring peace between countries.
Pip



King Blobfish!

Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust's annual poll to name New Zealand's Fish of the Year 2025 has been won by the blobfish! The deep-sea fish, found off the coasts of Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand, has famously been described as the world's ugliest animal! They have a bulbous head and loose, flabby skin, perfectly adapted to the crushing depths of up to 1,200m underwater, where they live. Unfortunately, when people remove the blobfish from their natural habitat, the water pressure isn't high enough for their gelatinous body to keep their shape. This means they turn into what has been described as 'a messy blob of



Pictured: The fish leader board during the competition. **Source:** Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust on Facebook.

a creature'! Of the final ten fish in the competition, nine are considered vulnerable by conservation groups. 'We have no *blem* with the blobfish winning,' said Aaron Packard, from the Environmental Law Initiative, who supported the orange roughy, the second-placed fish. 'It's still a win for deep sea ecosystems and raises awareness about the environmental impacts of destructive bottom trawling'. **Have you heard of the blobfish before? Do you know any facts about deep sea fish?**



Pictured: Fish of the Year 2025 – the blobfish. **Source:** Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust on Facebook.

Iron Age Haul

An incredible archaeological discovery has been made in North Yorkshire, UK, and named the Melsonby Hoard, after the village where metal detectorist, Peter Heads, made the discovery in two ditches. Archaeologists from Durham University excavated over 800 Iron Age items, including parts of wagons, ceremonial spears, and elaborate pony harnesses. The Iron Age, which followed the Stone Age and Bronze Age, started between 1200 B.C. and 600 B.C, depending on the region of the country. One of the ditches was excavated on-site, while another was preserved and extracted intact. Durham University professor, Tom Moore, said, 'The Melsonby hoard is of a scale and size that is exceptional for Britain and probably even Europe. Unusually it includes lots of pieces of



Pictured: An Iron Age artefact discovered in the Melsonby Hoard. **Source:** Durham University on X.

vehicles and items such as the wine mixing bowl which is decorated in both Mediterranean and Iron Age styles. Whoever originally owned the material in this hoard was probably a part of a network of elites across Britain, into Europe and even the Roman world.'

What do you already know about the Iron Age?

What is the most interesting find you have made whilst digging?

Do world leaders have a duty to help other countries?



I think leaders should help other countries. We don't know if we might need their help in return.
Connor