

## Police Cars in Game

According to the Wall Street Journal, Fortnite, a game which has more than 350 million players worldwide, has removed all police cars from the game's **imagery** in its latest update.

There has been a growing number of reports that police cars were no longer appearing in the game to which Epic Games, Fortnite's developer, **declined** to comment.

Police cars are one of many vehicle types used in Fortnite; however, news outlets and fans speculate that the move is a response to widespread **outrage** over the death of George Floyd in police custody and to ongoing protests.

Epic Games has not formally announced the change. However, on its blog earlier this month, the company said that recent events were a heavy reminder of **ongoing injustices** in society. Epic Games was one of many companies that issued a statement in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Difficult words: **imagery** (visual images), **decline** (to refuse), **outrage** (a strong, angry reaction), **ongoing injustice** (when something unfair happens to people for a long time).

You can watch the video news lower on this page.

## **Backflip over Thames**

A professional motorbike **stuntman** backflipped over a 23-metre wide gap between two **barges** floating on the River Thames in London. It was the first-ever motorcycle backflip over the River Thames.

After the successful stunt, the **daredevil**, Travis Pastrana, said that this was one of his most nerve-wracking stunts, as he had to deal with so many variables out of his control. The weather was fine, though, the boat had dried up, and he had no **traction issues**. He was blown a little to the right, but he managed to land almost **spot on**.

Difficult words: **stuntman** (a person who does stunts – activities that are dangerous), **barge** (a long flat-bottomed boat for carrying something), **daredevil** (a person who enjoys doing dangerous things), **traction** (the grip of a tyre on a road), **issue** (a problem), **spot on** (perfectly).

## Hot Years

very single month of 2020 has been either the hottest or the second hottest on record for that month. Therefore, there is nearly 50% chance that 2020 will be the hottest year on record.

Some of the most **significant** warming has been in Northern Asia, which averaged 6.3 degrees Fahrenheit above the average so far. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration expects the higher-than-usual heat trend to continue through summer.

It is certain that 2020 will **rank** in the top 5 hottest years in history, and it is a part of an **alarming** trend of broken heat records. 2019 was the second hottest year since 1880, and the hottest year on record was 2016.

Difficult words: significant (important or noticeable), rank (to have a position within a grading system), alarming (worrying).

## Fishermen Catch a Big Fish

A group of fishermen in Peru working in the northwest of the country discovered a huge manta ray which local media said weighs just over a tonne.

People said that the ray swam into the fishermen's net as they **trawled** for fish in a homemade wooden boat.

The **enormous**, 8-metre **creature** was found in the La Crove cave in waters near the border with Ecuador. A fisherman said that it was so big, that it could not be loaded onto their boat and had to be transported by a **tow truck**.

In ancient Peru, the manta ray, which is in the same biological order as smaller stingrays, was often represented in art where they were feared because of their size. People believed that they ate fish and sank boats, and it was not until the late 1970's that **perceptions** began to change. This was when people realised that they were actually pretty **placid** and harmless to humans.

Difficult words: trawl (pull a trawl net – a large fishing net), enormous (very big), creature (an animal), tow truck (a truck for moving heavy things), perception (the way people think about something), placid (calm and peaceful).

## Coronavirus and Blood Type

Four types of blood exist. The blood types are A, B, AB and O. Every type is different. The blood type can affect some diseases.

In the past, scientists discover that many people with **SARS** have blood type A. Scientists think that the blood type can affect the coronavirus, too. Scientists in the UK study thousands of people with COVID-19. 2,000 people have serious COVID-19. Thousands of other people have only mild COVID-19.

Scientists **compare** these people's blood types. The result is very interesting. People with blood type A have more health problems and more serious COVID-19. People with blood type O do not have so many health problems. Sometimes, people with blood type O have no COVID-19 **symptoms** at all.

Difficult words: [SARS](#) (a serious disease that makes problems with breathing), [compare](#) (to check more things and see how similar or different they are), [symptom](#) (when you can tell that you have a certain disease because of how you feel or look).