



## Zimbabwe schools accept goats for tuition fees



Zimbabwe's new currency includes goats (pictured).

Families in Zimbabwe, Africa, who cannot afford school fees can offer animals such as goats or sheep as payment, a government minister has said.

The country's education minister, Lazarus Dokora, told the local Sunday Mail newspaper that, "Schools will have to show flexibility when it comes to demanding tuition fees from parents, and that they should accept not only livestock, but also services and skills. If there is a builder in the community, he/she must be given that opportunity to work as a form of payment of tuition fees."

## What's happening in the French election?



Emmanuel Macron or Marine Le Pen (pictured) are the 2 remaining presidential candidates for France.

France is about to get a new President!

The president is chosen by voters in the country and will stay in the job for five years, before voters get the chance to choose again. A president is only allowed to stay in the job for two lots of five years.

The system is different to the UK way of voting. After French voters have chosen their president, they later vote for members of parliament known as deputies to represent them.

### ***Why is this election different from others and why is it in the news so much?***

Both Emmanuel Macron and Marine Le Pen have made this one of the most interesting elections in France in a long time.

One of the main reasons for this is that neither of them belong to one of the two main political parties in France, which - between them - have been in charge of France for more than 50 years.

Also, Emmanuel Macron is 39 years old, which means that if he wins, he will become France's youngest-ever president.

### ***What will happen?***

We will have to wait to see who French voters choose on 7 May. Once the presidential election is out of the way, voters in France will vote again in June to choose the people they want to represent them in the National Assembly.



# Are flying cars about to become a reality?



An early prototype of what the flying car might look like.

An initial design for a flying car has been released; created by Kitty Hawk, a startup company funded by Google billionaire Larry Page. It looks a bit like a scaled-up version of the quadcopter drones a lot of people use for fun. It has pontoons on the bottom, and the idea seems to be that people will use it like a high-tech jet ski, flying 10 or 20 feet above the water.

Congestion and the numbers of cars on the road is a constantly increasing problem, in areas near bodies of water – this technology could be a viable alternative in the future.

## Could plastic eating caterpillars help with pollution?

A plastic eating caterpillar could be the secret to tackling plastic pollution according to scientists.

Cambridge University scientists have discovered that the larvae of the moth, which eats wax in bee hives, can also dissolve plastic.

Recent trials have shown the insect can break down the chemical bonds of plastic in a similar way to digesting beeswax.

Around the world, about 80 million tonnes of the plastic polyethylene are produced every single year.



Wax worm caterpillars.

The plastic is mainly used to make shopping bags and food packaging but it can take hundreds of years to decompose completely.

Even just one caterpillar of the moth, can make holes in a plastic bag in under an hour.

They want to speed up the process of discovering the chemical secrets behind the natural degradation of plastic.

It is likely that microbes in the caterpillar - as well as the insect itself - might play a role in breaking down plastic.

If the chemical process can be identified, it could lead to a solution to managing plastic waste in the environment.

*Do you think this is a good way to tackle excess use of plastic bags or do you think there are better alternatives?*

*Let us know!*



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