



## Volcano's 'flank' eruption



*Pictured: Mount Etna is thousands of years old and has erupted hundreds of times in its history*  
*Source: Canva*

Although Mount Etna on the island of Sicily has been erupting since December, volcanologists have said that there is no need to worry. At 3329 metres above sea level, the mountain is the largest active volcano in Europe. It erupts often but rarely causes real danger to human life. 500,000 people live around its base and it is a popular tourist destination. Visitors flock to the area to watch the dramatic fiery lava waterfalls, which look spectacular against the night sky. The craters span an area of 459 square metres, and this is increasing all the time. The current eruption has expanded the reach of the volcano because for the first time, lava has spewed out of one of its sides. This is known as a 'flank eruption'. Locals have spotted plumes of smoke, which have reached 10 kilometres into the sky and this closed Sicily's Catania Airport for a while. Mount Etna has been active for thousands of years. In 122BC, Romans records show that smoke from the volcano blocked the sun for several days.

## Photographer becomes role model

Alfie Bowen, aged 22 from Suffolk, has always been fascinated by animals. He says that his first word was 'mallard'. He often found school life difficult and he felt that he did not fit in. His classmates laughed at him because all he was interested in was animals. As a youngster, he developed a love of photography and enjoyed taking photos of animals. 'Photography was my escape', he says. He was diagnosed with autism at the age of nine and he believes that his autism helps to make him an excellent wildlife photographer. He explains, 'Autism helps me visualise what I want to capture and gives me the determination and the obsession to create that.' His story is being made into a film and he hopes that it will help to inspire other young people with autism to achieve their dreams.



*Pictured: Alfie's photo of the baby giraffe against its mother's skin*  
*Source: @decubitusrex*



## Jockey from Senegal rides to glory

19-year-old jockey, Fallou Diop, has dreamed of becoming an international horse racing champion since he was a little boy. He comes from a horse-riding family and has been winning races for years, but he says that he wants to make his parents proud and one day hopes that his success will mean that he can buy a house of his own. In Senegal, horse-racing is a popular national sport, so this makes Fallou a national hero at such a young age. He trains for hours at a time and likes to ride his horse on the beach. Fallou puts some of his success as a jockey down to the relationship he has with his horse, Raissa Betty. He said, 'I took care of her mother before she gave birth, and she has recognised me ever since. We have a special relationship.' Fallou longs for international glory. 'I want to be the best jockey in a country other than mine,' he says. 'In Morocco or France, anywhere



Pictured: Fallou training his horse, Raissa Betty in Senegal Source: @DPAQreport  
there is horse racing.' His dream may not be that far away. His trainer has given him the opportunity to travel to France next year to compete there. He will put in hours of training to make sure that he has the best chance of winning. He left school at the age of 12 and walked 10 miles (16 kilometres) to enrol in his training programme and has been dedicated to horse riding ever since.

## Your thoughts on last week's news...

*Walls are there to  
separate our  
classrooms, so we don't  
get confused and  
distracted when we are  
working.*

*Bethany – age 9*

*They keep us warm also  
in cold weathers.*

*Sienna – age 10*



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to share your thoughts!

*Zoo walls protect  
people visiting the zoo  
from dangerous  
animals but can also  
keep animals from  
their natural habitat  
and keep them locked  
up in their enclosures.*

*Mason – age 7*

/ think...



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