

# SPOTTING SHARKS FROM THE SKY

**BEACHES in Australia are going to be patrolled by drones to keep swimmers safe from shark attacks.**

The idea was tested successfully in New South Wales last year. More than 8,000 drone flights patrolled 1,300 miles of beach. Shark attacks halved to just four.

The drones spot sharks swimming too close to the shore and trigger an early warning alarm. This gives swimmers time to get safely out of the water. Drone flights will now become a permanent part of Australia's plans to survey sharks.

Five hundred large sharks have also been tagged. Some of the largest sharks in the world can be found in Australian waters. The tags track the sharks and also trigger an alert if they swim too close to beaches.



In other shark news, a team of scientists have found two new species (types) of sixgill sawsharks in the Western Indian Ocean. This shark is rarely seen and the new discoveries show how much there is still to discover about our oceans.



One of the two new shark species

## Questions on: 'Spotting sharks from the sky'

1) Why is the last paragraph different to all the others?

2) Which country is using drones to prevent shark attacks?

Australia

Wales

India

3) The idea was tested last year. Why was it judged to be a success?

4) These **three** steps explain how the system works. Can you match the two halves of each sentence?

A drone

is triggered.

A warning alarm

have time to get out of the water safely.

Swimmers

spots a shark too close to a beach.

5) What other method is being used to stop shark attacks?

6) Why are the two methods similar?

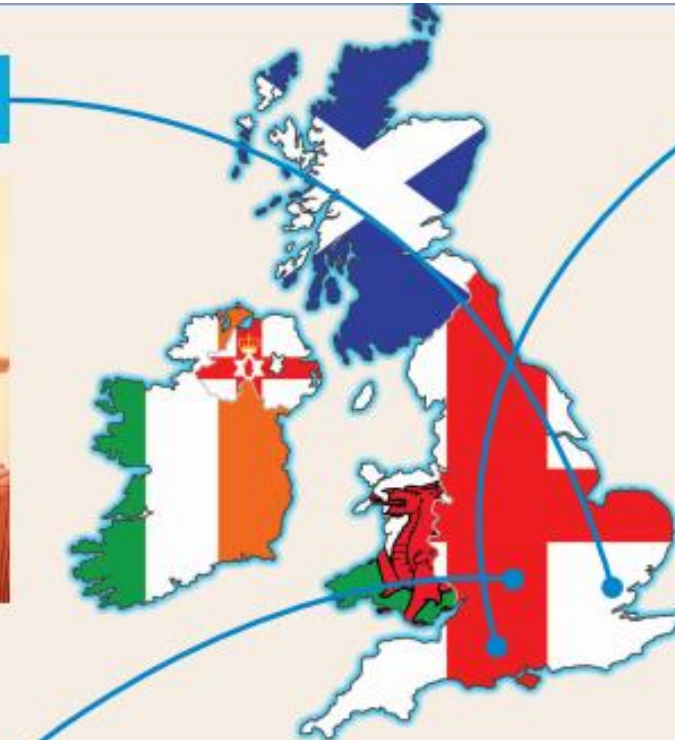
7) Find and copy the unusual **name** of the new sharks.

8) These systems must take a lot of time and effort. Why don't Australians just shoot sharks if they come close to the coast?

## ESSEX

### 100 YEARS YOUNG

Marion Watson is 100 years old and still teaches keep fit! The former gymnast teaches exercise classes three times a week at her retirement home in Essex. Marion says: "I just love the joy of movement and seeing people improve."



## SALISBURY

### GUM CLEAN UP

Salisbury City Council has used chalk to circle all the chewing gum that litters their streets. They say it is going to cost £36,000 (36 thousand) to steam clean the gum to remove it from pavements. A person from the council said: "It costs 3p per stick [of gum] to buy and 10p to prise off the streets. It's a blight on our beautiful city."



## OXFORDSHIRE

### TINY FOREST PLANTED

A tiny forest the size of a tennis court is being planted in Witney. Some 600 trees will be planted by the local council, a charity and volunteers. The idea of tiny forests is to bring a slice of woodland into urban (built up) areas. The trees will attract wildlife, improve air quality and soak up water to reduce flooding. A win-win-win situation!



## Questions on: 'UK News'

1) Fill the gap with the correct place.

In \_\_\_\_\_, a mini forest is being planted.  
In \_\_\_\_\_, the council is having to spend a lot of money to clean up chewing gum.  
In \_\_\_\_\_, a 100-year-old lady is still teaching keep fit.

Look at the news from Essex.

2) What do you know about Marion Watson?

Age: .....  
Where she lives: .....  
What she used to do: .....  
What she does now: .....

Look at the news from Oxfordshire.

3) How does the writer help you understand the size of this mini forest?

4) Why is the forest a good idea? Can you find three **benefits**?

1: ..... 2: ..... 3: .....

Look at the news from Salisbury.

5) How much does it cost the council to remove one piece of gum?

6) Why do you think the council has circled all the gum with chalk?

7) The person from the council says: "It's a blight on our beautiful city."

What do you think **a blight** means here?

- Something that spoils
- Something that cleans
- Something that is sticky

Consider all the news.

8) Which two stories would you describe as '**good news**' stories? Is the other story '**bad news**'? Explain your thoughts.