

These stories are from pages 2, 8 and 13 of *First News*. Read the stories, and then try the puzzle. To help you, we have underlined the answers to the crossword puzzle clues in the stories – but you will need to match the correct word with each clue!



WORLD NEWS

TANZANIA



Gemstone jackpot

A Tanzanian mining boss has earned £2.7 million (7.74bn Tanzanian shillings) after discovering two record-sized tanzanite gemstones. The stones, found only in a small northern region of the East African nation, have been bought by the government to be put on show in Tanzania’s national museum. The boss will share 10% of the money among the miners who found it, and the rest will go towards building a new shopping centre and school for the local area – after he’s thrown a party!



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PACIFIC OCEAN



Garbage patch clean-up

After 48 days at sea, the crew of the Ocean Voyages Institute ship S/V Kwai successfully removed a record 93.4 tonnes of fishing nets and other plastic junk from the sea.

The operation was carried out in the part of the Pacific Ocean commonly known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, or North Pacific Subtropical Convergence Zone, to give it its official name. This area is the centre of what’s known as a gyre, which is a circular current. The way the current moves leads to a build-up of rubbish in the middle, which can be targeted by clean-up expeditions like this one.

“The oceans can’t wait for these nets and debris to break down into microplastics,” said Mary Crowley, the founder of the Ocean Voyages Institute. “There is no doubt in my mind that our work is making the oceans healthier for the planet and safer for marine wildlife, as these nets will never again entangle or harm a whale, dolphin, turtle or reef.”



JAPAN



Ultra-rare Pokémon

An ultra-rare Pokémon card is expected to ‘catch’ a whopping £88,000 at auction next week.

The card is one of seven given to the first-place winners of a Pokémon card tournament in Tokyo, Japan, way back in August 1999 – which means the card itself is very likely older than you! It’s so rare that Heritage Auctions has referred to the Pokémon Super Secret Battle No 1 Trainer card as the “holy grail” for Pokémon collectors.

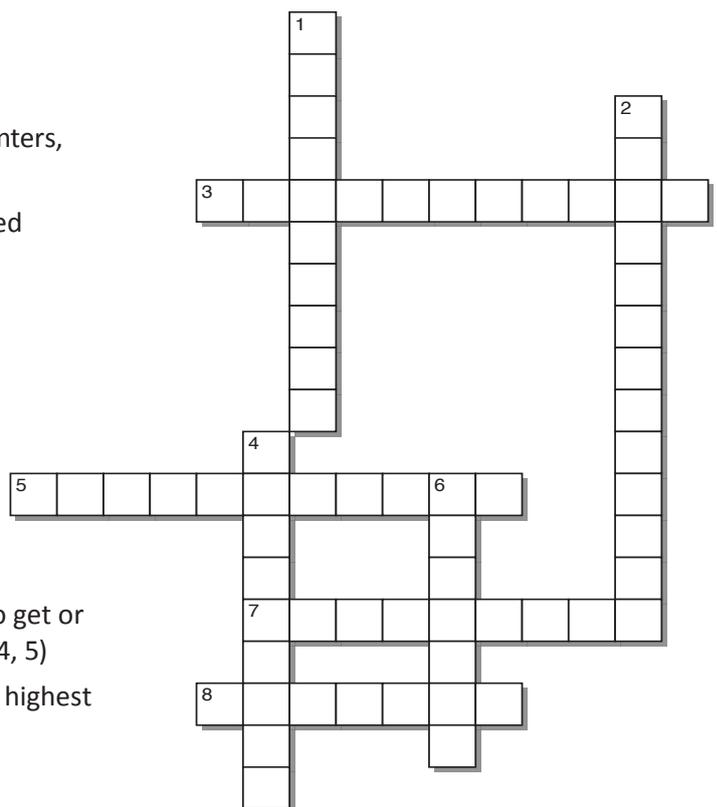


ACROSS

- 3) Joining; intersecting; connecting (noun 11)
- 5) Geographic climate zones with hot summers and mild winters, located north and south of the equator (adjective 11)
- 7) Pieces of mined, mineral crystal that are cut and polished (plural noun 9)
- 8) The chief prize, usually in a game or contest (noun 7)

DOWN

- 1) A series of contests between a number of competitors, competing for an overall prize (noun 10)
- 2) Very small pieces of artificial material that pollute the environment (plural noun 13)
- 4) Something that is highly sought after, but is very hard to get or achieve. It is said to have been used by Jesus Christ (noun 4, 5)
- 6) A public sale in which goods or property are sold to the highest bidder (noun 7)



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