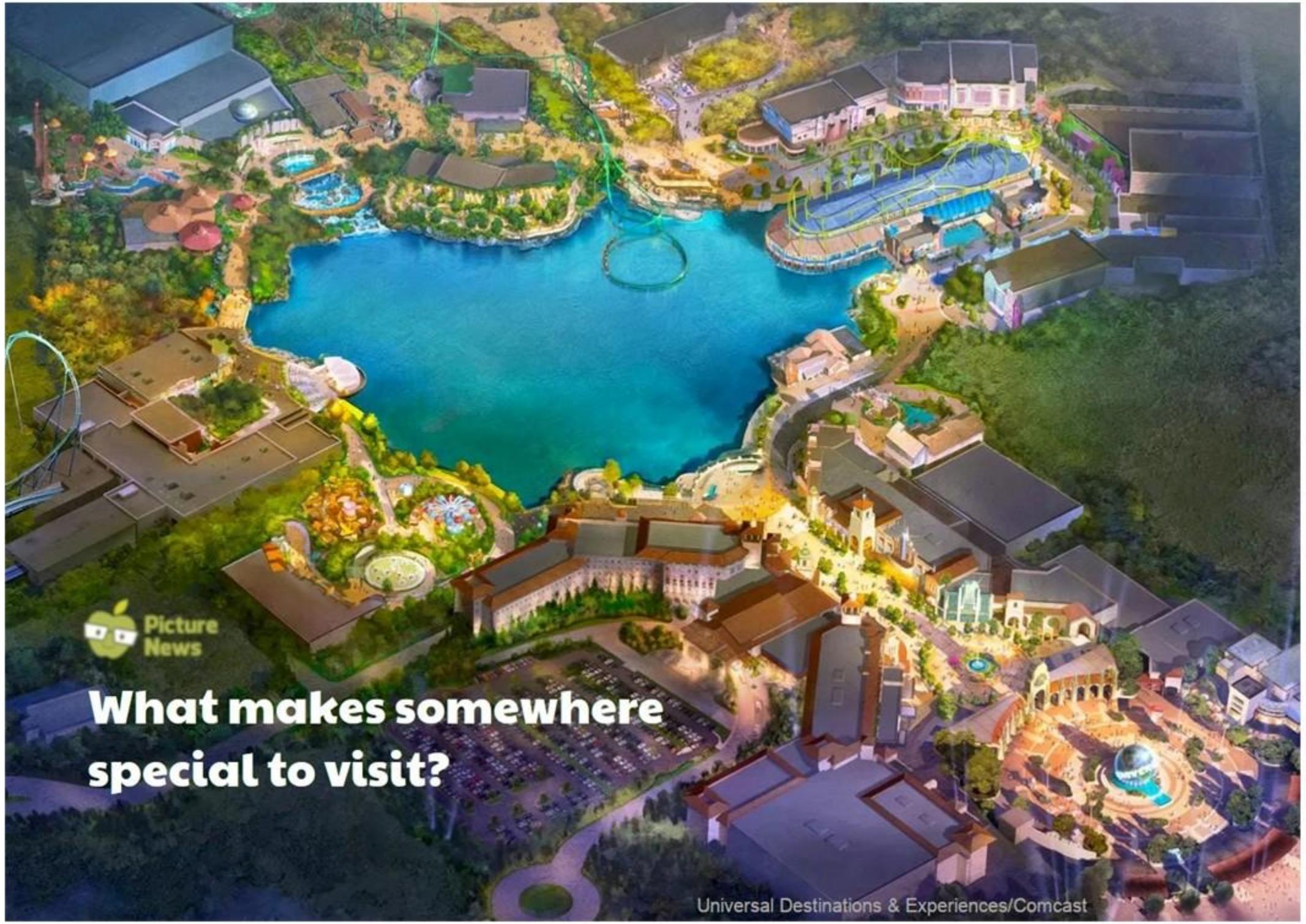


What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

5th - 11th May 2025



**What makes somewhere
special to visit?**

Universal Destinations & Experiences/Comcast



Let's look at this week's story

The government has recently announced that a theme park will be built in the UK, due to open in 2031. The brand-new Universal theme park will be the first in Europe, located in Bedfordshire, England. Universal Pictures is a US entertainment company, well known for creating movies such as Sing, Despicable Me, Shrek and The Grinch. It currently has five theme parks across the world, with plans to build more.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).

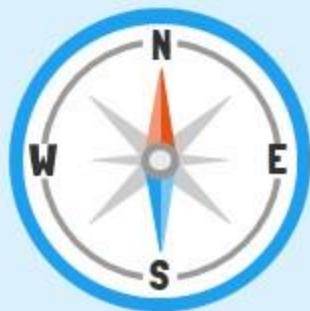


How does it make me feel?



sad despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	angry aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	happy beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	confused addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	excited animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	worried agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	overwhelmed engulfed inundated overburdened overloaded saturated submerged swamped	afraid alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified
guilty ashamed compunctions contrite culpable penitent responsible rueful	jealous bitter covetous desirous envious envying resentful wary	thankful appreciative grateful gratified indebted obliged relieved	shocked astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	disgusted affronted appalled horrified repelled repulsed revolted sickened	inspired activated encouraged exhilarated galvanised influenced motivated	embarrassed ashamed awkward chagrined demeaned discomposed humiliated self-conscious uncomfortable uneasy unsettled	interested absorbed captivated curious engaged enthralled fascinated gripped intrigued riveted

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read the information below, all about the plans for the new Universal Studios theme park.

What is Universal Pictures?

Universal Pictures is an American film company, which has made many popular and well-loved movies since it first began in 1912.

There are also five theme parks around the world, called Universal Studios, which are in Orlando and Hollywood (USA), China, Japan, and Singapore.

It's thought the new park in the UK will be similar and will have lots of film-themed rides and attractions!

This is not just about bringing great American creations to Britain; this is also about showcasing great British creations to the world. These are things like James Bond, Paddington Bear, these are things like Harry Potter... We've got so much to be proud of.

UK Culture Secretary, Lisa Nandy



Pictured above: Universal Studios Florida, in Orlando, USA, where there are parades and realistic film experiences and rides. **Source:** Picture News.

Will it be the biggest theme park in the UK?

Universal has said the new theme park will be one of the largest and most advanced theme parks in Europe, and believes that the park will see around 8.5 million visitors in its first year!

It's also thought around 28,000 jobs will be created: 20,000 during the building of the park, and 8,000 jobs once the park is open.



Do you believe the new theme park will be a success?



Look at the resource below, which shares some examples of places we might go to have fun!

soft play centre



swimming pool



beach



fairground



park for a bike ride



pump track



zoo



play park



library



Reflection

There are lots of places we can go that make us feel happy, excited, and full of fun! These places are fun because we can laugh, play, explore, and spend time with people we love!

Have you been to any of these places before? Did you have fun there?

Resource two



Look at the resource below, which explores some of the ways the new theme park could impact the local area and community.

The new Universal Studios theme park is expected to open in 2031. It will cost billions of pounds to build and will take several years to complete.

What sort of changes do you think the local community can expect during the building work?

How about when the park opens?
Read through the ideas provided. Can you add any more?



Might become expensive for families nearby

Tickets, food, and travel costs might mean not everyone in the local community can afford to go, even if they live close by.

More traffic and noise

A big attraction like this could lead to traffic jams on local roads and increased noise, especially during weekends and holidays.



More visitors to the area

Tourists coming to the park might also explore local towns, boosting tourism and encouraging new businesses like cafés, gift shops, and hotels to open.



New jobs for local people

Building and running a theme park needs lots of workers, from ride operators to cleaners and shop assistants, which could help reduce unemployment in the area.



Could harm local wildlife

Building on large areas of land might destroy natural habitats for animals, and the constant activity could scare them away.

Chance for fun days out

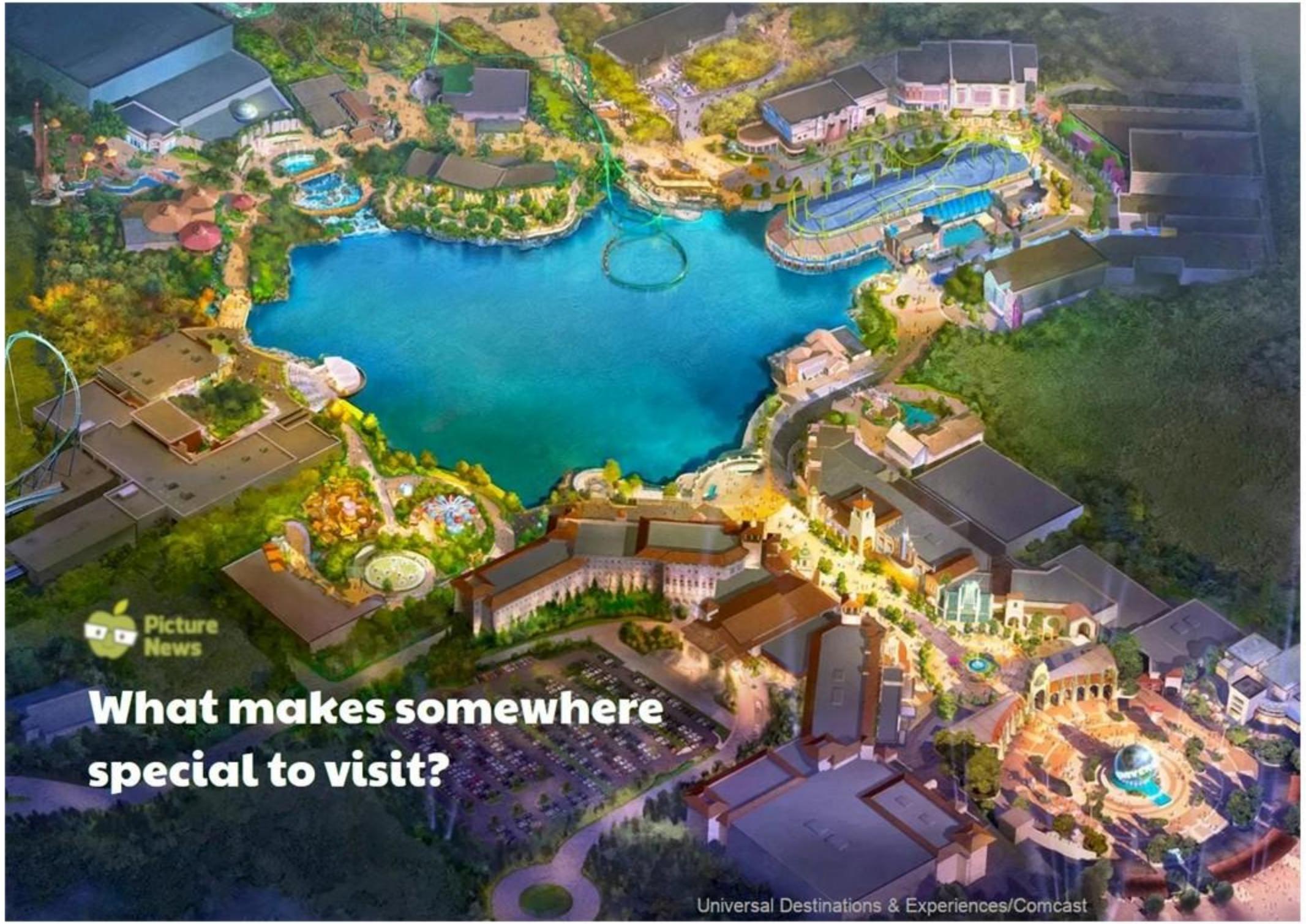
Families living nearby might enjoy having a new place to visit for birthdays, school trips, or special treats without travelling far.



Reflection

Big changes can bring both positives and challenges. It's important to listen to different voices and make choices that benefit as many people as possible.

Considering the potential challenges and benefits, do you think the new theme park is a good idea? Explain your views.



**What makes somewhere
special to visit?**

Universal Destinations & Experiences/Comcast

Reflection



Sometimes, places special to us aren't the biggest or the busiest - they're the ones where we feel happy, safe, and connected. It's not just about where you go, but how you feel when you're there, and who you share it with.



Media Literacy

Is this story news, entertainment or something else?



Explanation: Let's think about the purpose of this week's story, and why it has been shared.



Questions to Discuss

- What makes this story interesting or exciting to read?
- Does the story include facts and real information?
- Who might be interested in this story, and why?
- Could the story be doing more than one thing - like informing and entertaining?

Reflection

Stories can have different purposes. Some are written to inform, some to entertain, and some to spark interest or excitement. Thinking about the purpose helps us understand the story more clearly.



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



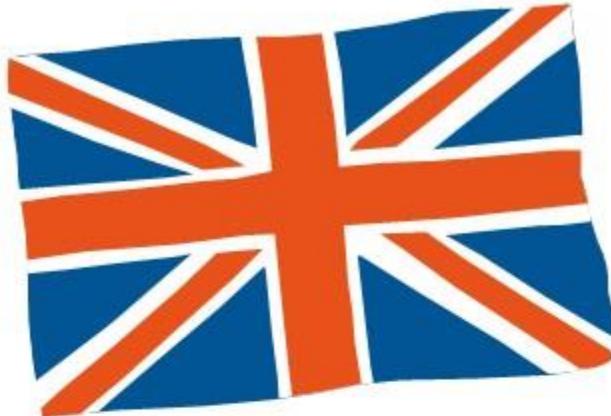
Act

Activity

Sort this week's story into one (or more) of the following categories:

- News
- Entertainment
- Promotion

Explain your choice. Can a story belong to more than one category?



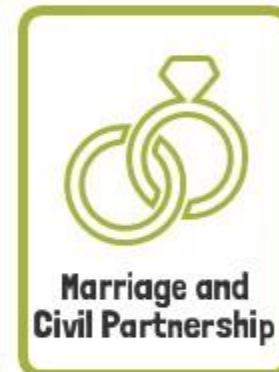
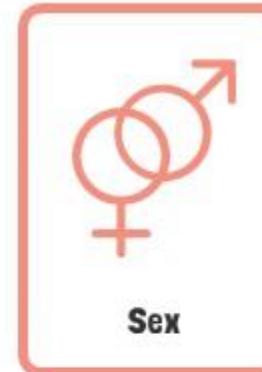
Individual Liberty

We are all different, and this is reflected in the different places we like to visit. We're free to visit the places we enjoy and share what makes them special to us.

Protected Characteristics



When new places like theme parks are built, it's important they're designed for everyone to enjoy. Everyone should be included and made to feel welcome, whoever they are.





UN Rights of the Child



Children have the right to share their views and have them taken seriously. When adults listen to what children think and feel, they can help to fulfil their wishes - for example, by taking children to places that are special to them.



Useful Vocabulary

Advanced

When something is high-level or developed.

Universal has said the new theme park will be one of the largest and most **advanced** theme parks in Europe.

Film-themed rides

Rides at a theme park based on films or movies, where you can feel part of the story!

It's thought the new park in the UK will be similar and will have lots of **film-themed rides** and attractions!

Attractions

Things or places that are interesting or fun to see or visit, like rides, shows, or special sights.

It's thought the new park in the UK will be similar and will have lots of film-themed rides and **attractions**!

Showcase

To show others how special or good something is.

'This is not just about bringing great American creations to Britain; this is also about **showcasing** great British creations to the world.'



Entertainment company

A business that makes things like movies, programmes, shows, or games, to help people have fun and enjoy themselves.

Universal Pictures is a US **entertainment company**, well known for creating movies such as Sing, Despicable Me, Shrek and The Grinch.

Theme park

A fun place with rides, games, and attractions, all based on a special theme such as films, adventures, or animals.

The government has recently announced that a **theme park** will be built in the UK, due to open in 2031.

Can you use them in your writing this week?



What makes somewhere special to visit?

The government has recently announced that a theme park will be built in the UK, due to open in 2031. The brand-new Universal theme park will be the first in Europe, located in Bedfordshire, England. Universal Pictures is a US entertainment company, well known for creating movies such as *Sing*, *Despicable Me*, *Shrek* and *The Grinch*. It currently has five theme parks across the world, with plans to build more.



- Look at this week's poster, and make a prediction about the story. Describe what you can see in the poster image. It shows what the newly-announced theme park might look like.
- Read the information found on the assembly resource, all about the plans for the new Universal Studios theme park. Do you believe it will be a success? Do you think it is a good idea? Why?
- Watch this week's useful video, which explains more about the plans for the theme park. What are some of the positives mentioned? Who will benefit? Will there be any downsides?
- How would you feel if a new theme park was going to be built in your local area? In your opinion, would it be popular with everyone?
- Reflect as a class on some of the places that are special or fun to you. What is it about them that makes them meaningful? Does everyone have the same special place?
- Discuss that there are many special places, and many different ways to also have fun that don't cost money.

Reflection

Sometimes, places special to us aren't the biggest or the busiest - they're the ones where we feel happy, safe, and connected. It's not just about where you go, but how you feel when you're there, and who you share it with.



KS1 focus

Where are some places we can go to have fun?



- This week, we are learning about the new Universal Studios theme park, which is going to be built in England. Has anyone ever been to a theme park before? Can you tell us about it?
- What does the word 'fun' mean to you? Share some of the children's ideas of what having fun means. How do you feel when you are having a good time? Can you show me your 'fun face'?
- Sometimes, we can go somewhere to enjoy ourselves! There are lots of different places we can visit. Can you share with a partner a place you like to go to have fun? Why is it fun there? Did you name the same or different places? Feedback some ideas and create a class list of fun places.
- Look at resource 1, which shows some places people might go for fun. Do any of the places match the ones on the class list? Were there any different places?
- Are there any places that you have not been to before? Would you like to go there? If so, why?
- Ask the children to choose the place they think would be the most fun. Have a class vote and write down how many children would like to go to each place. Which place is the most popular? Which is the least? Why? Can a place be fun for you but not for someone else?
- Can you remember the last place where you had fun? Were you on your own, or with your family or friends? Do you think you could have more fun there alone or with others? Does a place have to always cost money for it to be fun? Share your thoughts as a class.

Reflection

There are lots of places we can go that make us feel happy, excited, and full of fun! These places are fun because we can laugh, play, explore, and spend time with people we love!



KS2 focus

How might a new theme park affect the local community?



- What do you think a theme park is and why do people enjoy visiting one?
- Why might a new theme park attract visitors from other parts of the UK or even other countries?
- Consider the reality of planning, developing and running a large theme park. What might be some of the challenges faced by the local community? What benefits could there be?
- Look at resource 2, which explores some of the ways the new theme park might impact the local community. Can you sort the ideas into benefits and challenges?
- How could new jobs help families or individuals in the area?
- What types of business might do well once the theme park opens? Could some businesses be negatively affected? Which ones, and why?
- What problems might more traffic and visitors cause for people who live nearby?
- Could the environment or wildlife be affected by the construction or day-to-day running of the theme park? How?
- Why might some families not be able to visit the theme park, even if they live nearby?
- Can you think of any other ways the new theme park could affect the local area?
- Do you think everyone in the local community will feel the same about the new theme park? Why? Discuss your ideas with a partner or group.
- If you were in charge, what would you do to make sure the theme park helped the local area?

Reflection

Big changes can bring both positives and challenges. It's important to listen to different voices and make choices that benefit as many people as possible.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Carry out your own town hall meeting. Imagine your town is holding a big meeting to decide whether the new theme park should be built. Everyone has a different opinion. Work in small groups and each take on a different role, such as:

- A local resident who lives near the site
- A business owner who runs a shop or café
- A parent with young children
- A park manager from Universal Studios
- An environmental campaigner

Think about what your character might say. What are their hopes or worries? Then act out a short meeting where everyone shares their views. Try to listen carefully to others and explain your own ideas clearly. You might also like to respond to the concerns of others. Take a vote on whether the park should be built – what's the verdict?

Option 2

Design your own theme park – but with a twist! Your park needs to be fun while also supporting the local community.

Use a large sheet of paper or your exercise book to draw a map of your park. Include different zones or areas like rides, nature trails, picnic spots, or quiet zones. You could also add places that create jobs or help the environment, like local food stalls, recycling stations, or nature gardens.

Once you've finished your design, write a short explanation to go with it. Tell us how your park would make a positive difference to the people and wildlife living nearby.



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Option 1: Ticket Count! Imagine you have 10 tickets to spend at the new theme park. Different rides cost different numbers of tickets:

- Merry-go-round – 2 tickets
- Roller coaster – 6 tickets
- Teacups – 3 tickets
- Ferris wheel – 4 tickets
- Log flume – 5 tickets

Which rides could you go on with your 10 tickets? Could you choose two rides? Three rides? Can you find different combinations?

Extra Maths Challenges:

- If you wanted to go on the roller coaster twice, how many tickets would you need?
- If you saved 2 tickets for a snack at the end, how many tickets would you have left for rides?
- Make your own rides and prices - what would your dream day look like?

Option 2

Design a ride for the new Universal Studios theme park! Grab some pencils or pens and draw a new, exciting ride for the theme park.

You might like to think about:

- The type and shape of the ride. Will it be a rollercoaster? Could it be a spinning ride? Or a water ride?
- The name of your ride. Will it be based on a film? Perhaps it could be based on your favourite film!
- How old the people going on the ride will be. Will it be for young children, older children, or adults?
- How you will keep everyone safe. What safety features will be on your ride? Seatbelts, soft edges and the heights of the riders are important to remember!
- How long the ride will last. Will it be a quick ride, finished in 1 minute? Or a longer one, lasting 5 minutes?



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.com/news/articles/cz95n2837vgo

This week's useful video

The new Universal theme park in the UK
https://youtu.be/L46198e_04o

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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Theme park

A fun place with rides, games, and attractions, all based on a special theme such as films, adventures, or animals. The government has recently announced that a **theme park** will be built in the UK, due to open in 2031.

Sign, Smile, and Say Hello!

This week is very important, as it's Deaf Awareness Week! This week is a special time when we can learn more about deaf people's stories and experiences, including how they communicate, and lots of other amazing things about the deaf community! It's also a chance to think about how we can be good friends by making sure everyone feels included. Deaf people don't hear sounds in the same way as hearing people. Some people can hear a little bit, and others might not hear anything at all. Some people use hearing aids to help them, and some use sign language to communicate. Sign language is a brilliant way to talk using your hands, faces, and bodies instead of voices. It's a beautiful language you can see! There are schools where children use sign language all day, such as Doncaster School for the



Pictured: A Picture News session in action at Doncaster School for the Deaf.

Source: Picture News.

Deaf. Chloe, one of the Picture News education consultants, recently went there to learn a little more about the school, meet the wonderful students and staff, and to watch how Picture News is taught. 'It was great!' Chloe said after. 'I got to see Picture News in action and had some lovely chats with the students. I even learned how to sign 'role model' in British Sign Language (BSL) as part of their Picture News session!'

To sign 'hello' in sign language, you need to wave and smile!

Jet Zooms into the Zoo!

There's a new star at the Saint Louis Zoo in Missouri, USA – a baby elephant named Jet! Jet was born on 23rd November 2024, but was seen for the first time by many happy zoo visitors recently. Jet is unique, as he was born as part of a special 'Species Survival Plan' (SSP). This is where a big plan is made by zookeepers and scientists who work together as a team. Their job is to protect animals, and make sure they can have babies to keep their species strong. Jet is an Asian Elephant, and sadly, there aren't too many of these wonderful creatures left in the world, so Jet is extra special and super important!

'Jet is a curious young elephant. He loves to run around, play in the



Pictured: Jet, the baby Asian Elephant!

Source: Saint Louis Zoo, on Facebook.

dirt, and climb over logs,' said Katie Pilgram-Kloppe, Zoological Manager at Saint Louis Zoo. Jet is healthy, happy and full of energy and also loves to spend time with his mum, Jade, who lives at Saint Louis Zoo too. **Watch a video of Jet zooming and running around [here!](#)**

Should music be part of every school day?



We think that we should have music in every school day because it will help us follow our dreams.

St Philip's C/E Primary, Kite Class

Let us know what you think about this week's news



picture-news.co.uk/discuss



help@picture-news.co.uk



@HelpPicture

Space Bites

Astronauts might one day eat meals like steak and mashed potatoes made in space; not cooked but grown in a lab! The trial is led by the European Space Agency (ESA), which is exploring new ways to support future space missions. A new trial has launched to test lab-grown food in the orbit. Lab-grown food is made from animal or plant cells, instead of using traditional farming. Scientists hope this could help astronauts eat well without needing to send lots of supplies from Earth. The experiment was built by Frontier Space



Pictured: NASA astronaut, Tracy C. Dyson, shows food packets used on the International Space Station. Source: NASA on Facebook.



Pictured: The European Space Agency (ESA) Columbus laboratory. Source: @esaspaceflight on X.

and Imperial College London. It was sent into space inside a small satellite in the Phoenix capsule, which launched on 21st April. At the minute, astronauts eat freeze-dried meals. These are lighter to carry and last longer but sending food to space is very expensive. It can cost up to £20,000 per astronaut every day! Lab-grown meat is already used in pet food in the UK and is sold in some restaurants in the United States. Now, scientists want to know if it can be made in space too. **Would you eat food made in a lab? Can you imagine eating freeze-dried food for a week, or even a month straight?**

Let us know what you think about this week's news



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help@picture-news.co.uk



@HelpPicture

Minecrafting the famous Big Block Ben

A group of Minecraft players have spent the past five years building the whole of London inside the game! They are part of a global project called Build The Earth, where players work together to recreate real-life places using Minecraft blocks. The UK team has built famous landmarks, like the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace, along with streets and boroughs across London. The builders have spent over 15,000 hours on the project so far.



Pictured: Famous UK landmarks built by Minecraft players. Source: Build The Earth – UK, on YouTube.



Pictured: Someone playing Minecraft on their computer. Source: Canva.

Some even looked at planning documents and contacted real organisations to make sure their buildings were as accurate as possible. The team started in 2020, when the original idea was to recreate the entire Earth in Minecraft. That's now been scaled back but the project still encourages players to build places that matter to them. Minecraft is the

best-selling video game of all time. Players can explore an open world where they build almost anything they can imagine, including a full-sized city!

Check out the video of BTE UK's five-year build [here!](#)

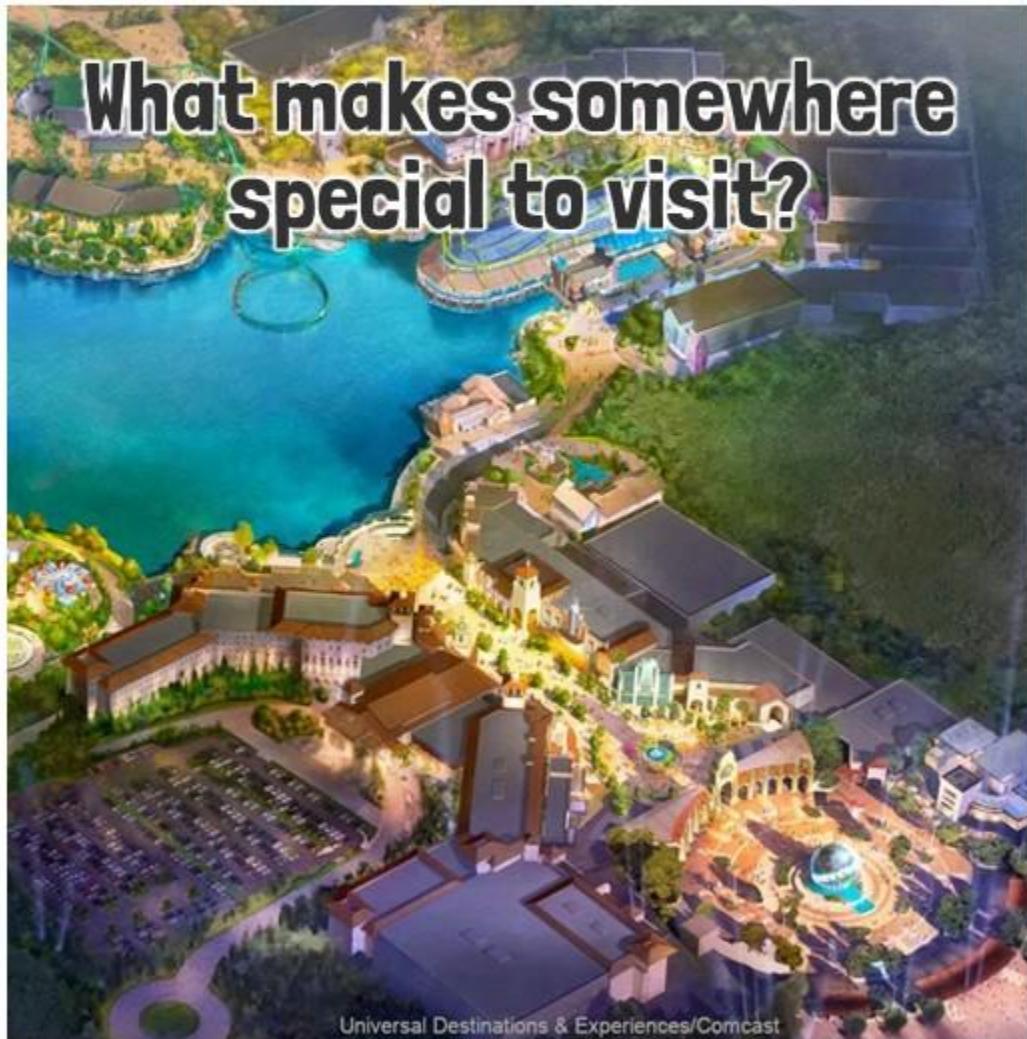
Should music be part of every school day?



We should learn about music all the time because it can help us to express ourselves.
Sasha

TAKE HOME

5th - 11th May



In the news this week

Things to talk about at home ...

- Share your response to the news about a new theme park in the UK with someone at home. Is it somewhere you would like to visit?
- Have you been to any other theme parks? Have others at home? If not, would you like to?
- Can you think of a place that is special to you? What makes it special?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

