

# What's happening in the news this week?



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

22nd - 28th September 2025



## Can anyone break a record if they try hard enough?



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





# Can anyone break a record if they try hard enough?



Guinness World Records is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The book was first published in 1955, and is now sold in over 100 countries. Each year, it collects unusual and amazing records, from the fastest runners to the tallest buildings and silliest challenges. To mark its birthday, the 'global authority' on record-breaking achievements shared some records that no one has tried yet and is encouraging people to have a go.

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





# Do you have an emotional response you would like to share?



## 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  
compunctious  
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



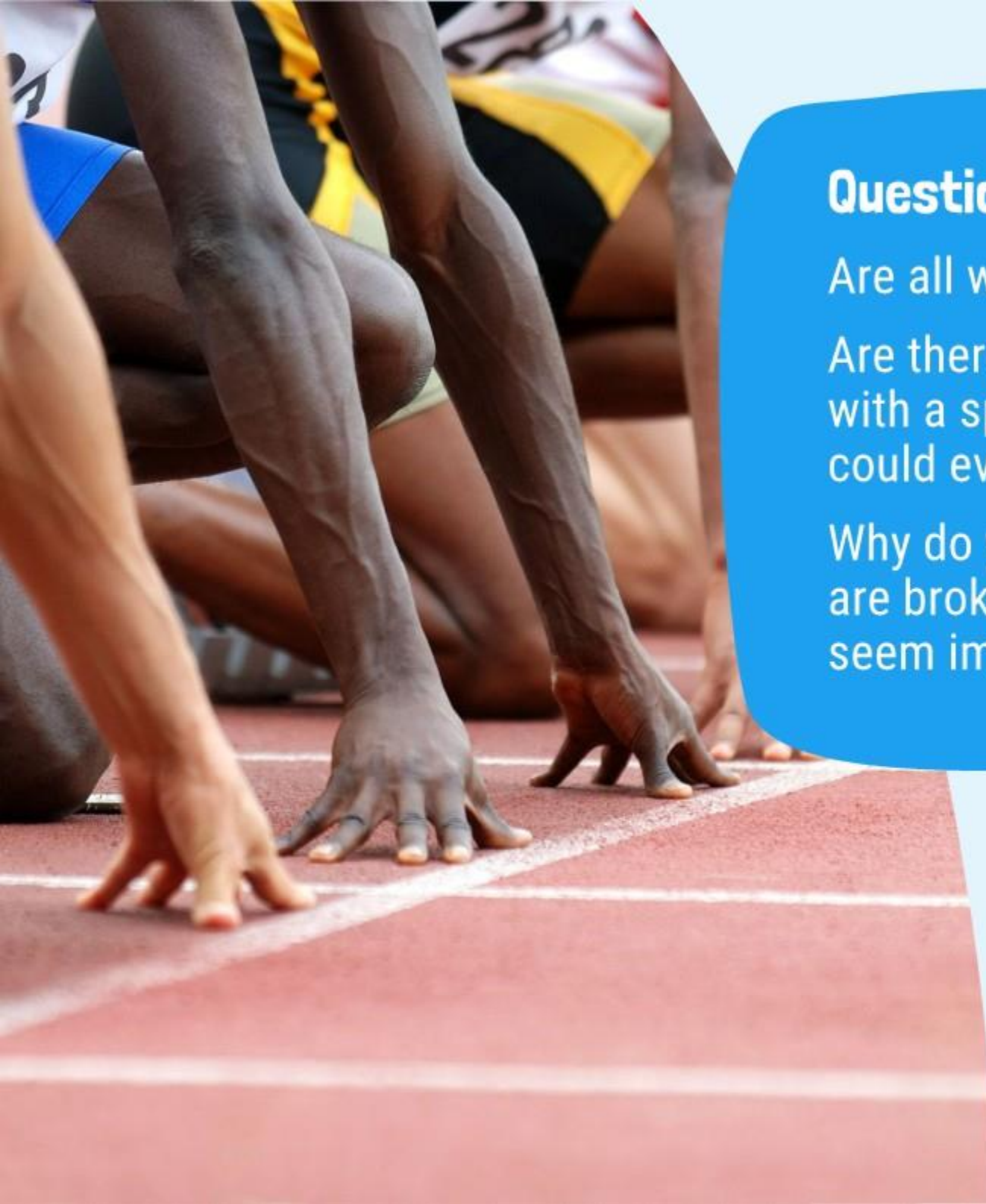


## Questions

Are all world records equal?

Are there some records only a person with a special talent or natural ability could ever break?

Why do you think some world records are broken all the time, yet others seem impossible to beat?



Can anyone break a record if they try hard enough?





- Is perseverance always a good thing? Is it ever best to stop trying? How might perseverance differ from stubbornness? Does perseverance mean you'll always be successful in the end? How so?
- Can you learn to persevere, or is it something innate within us? Do we need to fail to truly learn how to persevere? Why? Does a world of instant access affect perseverance? How so?
- Does putting in a lot of effort make success feel more rewarding than if it came easily? How so? Can talent be a disadvantage? Why?







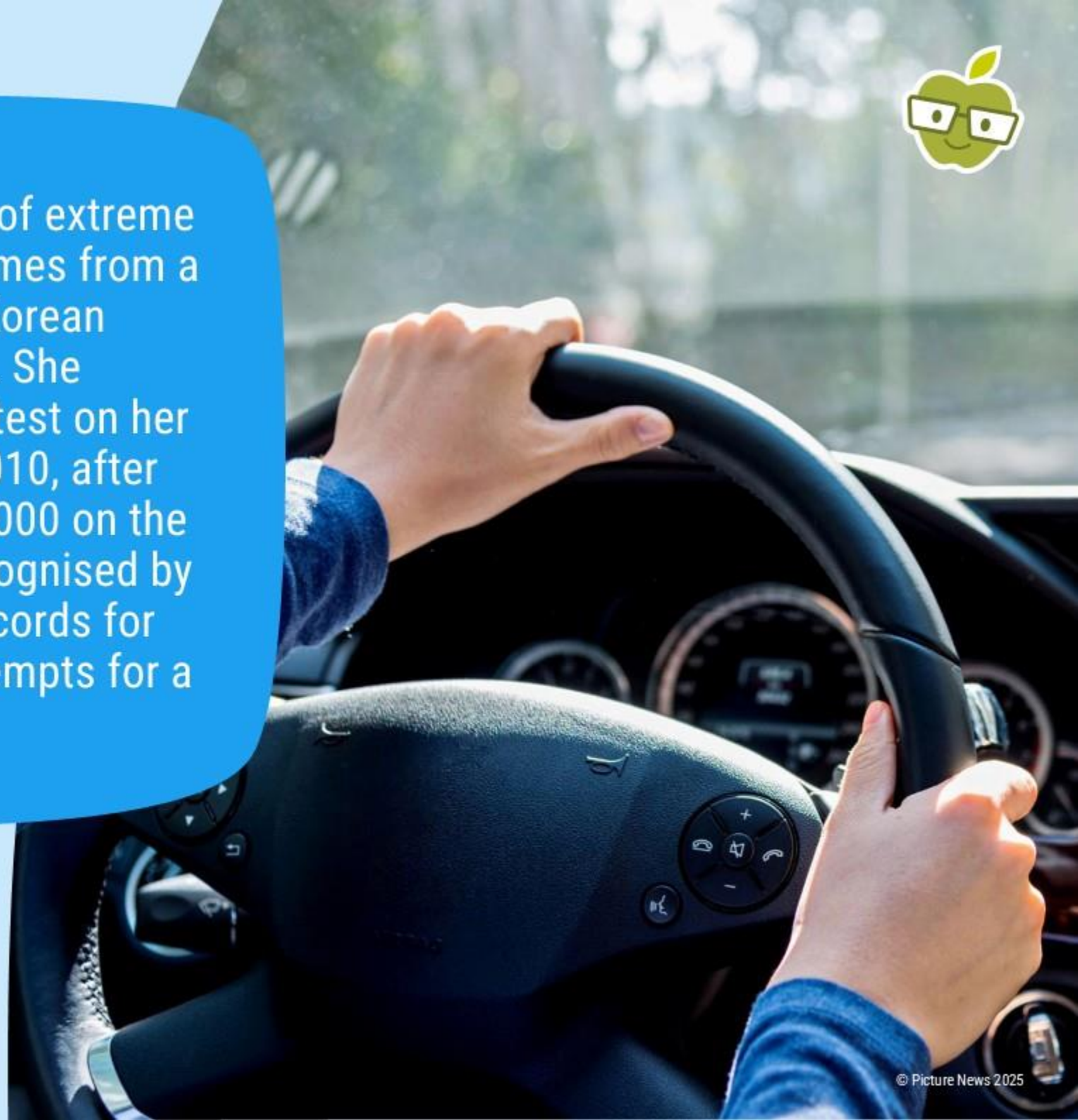
## Vital statistics

Ashrita Furman has the most Guinness World Record titles. Since 1979, he has set over 600 records and currently holds more than 200 standing records across a wide range of physical and quirky challenges. He is known as the most prolific record-breaker by Guinness Word Records.





A notable example of extreme repeated failure comes from a 69-year-old South Korean woman, called Cha. She passed her driving test on her 960th attempt in 2010, after spending over £11,000 on the process. She is recognised by Guinness World Records for the most failed attempts for a driving test.







## What others think

Read through and talk about what these quotes mean and share your responses to the two quotes below.

***"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop."*** Confucius, Chinese philosopher.

***"Perseverance - a lowly virtue whereby mediocrity achieves an inglorious success."*** Ambrose Bierce, American writer, journalist and poet.

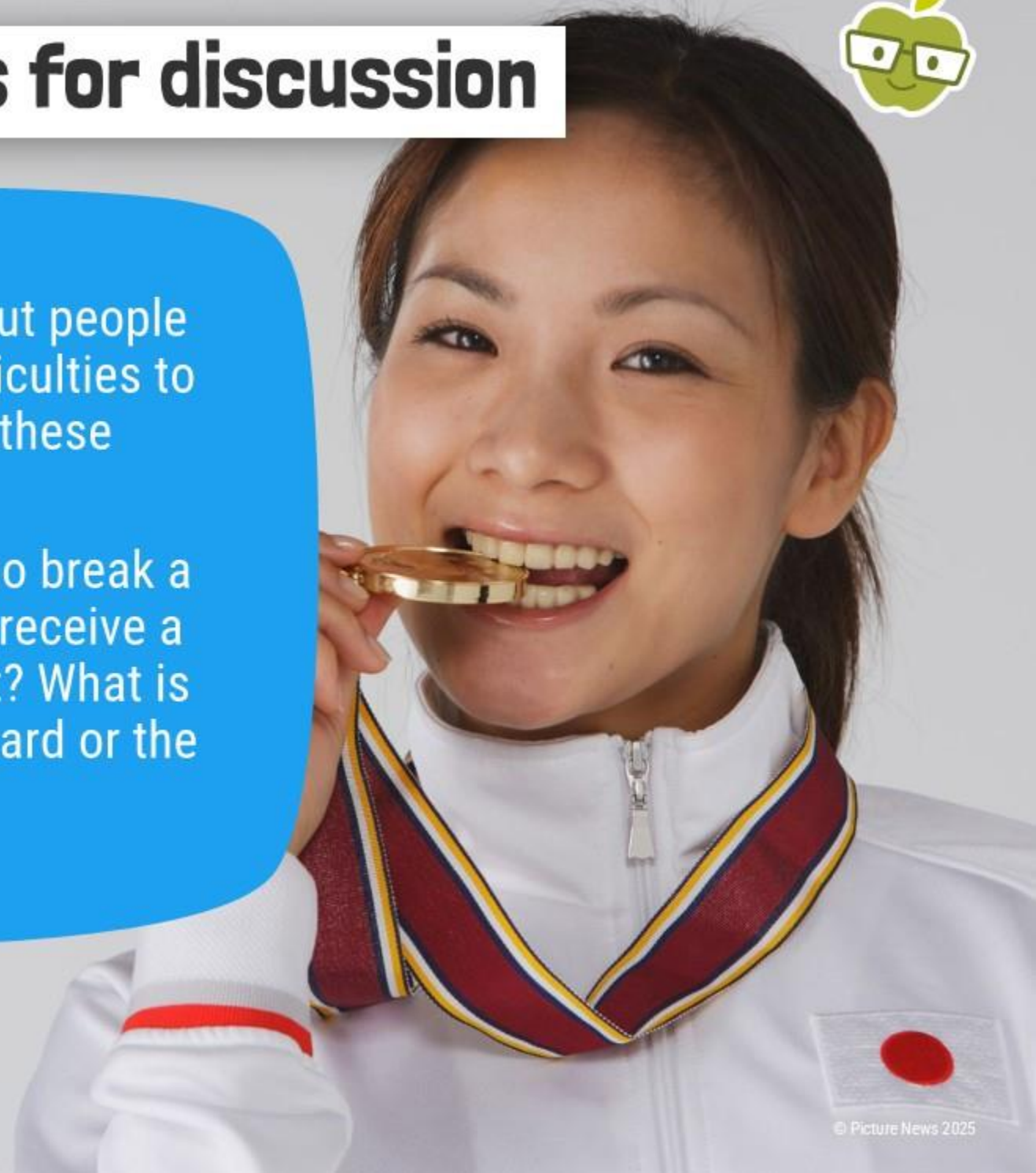




# Further questions for discussion



- Do you enjoy stories about people who overcome great difficulties to succeed? Why? What do these stories teach us?
- Why might someone try to break a record even if they don't receive a medal or certificate for it? What is more important – the award or the achievement? How so?





## Can anyone break a record if they try hard enough?





# Reflection



Guinness World Records shows us the amazing and inspiring things humans can do. Whilst some records may need special talents, often determination and effort can go a long way for achieving incredible things!







## Individual Liberty

For 70 years, Guinness World Records has celebrated the many ways people shine. It shows us that we all have the freedom to follow our passions, try new things, and share what makes us unique.



# Protected Characteristics



Guinness World Records show that people of all ages can achieve wonderful things. From the very young to the very old, we can celebrate each person's talents and remember that age should never limit us.



Sex



Sexual  
Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender  
Reassignment



Marriage and  
Civil Partnership



Pregnancy  
and Maternity



Race



Religion  
or Belief





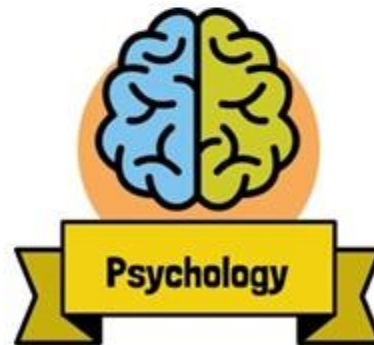
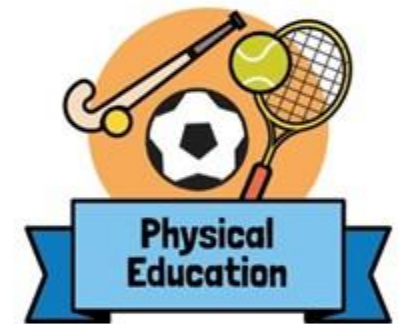
# UN Rights of the Child



The Guinness World Records highlights people's talents and achievements. Children have the right to play, explore and show their talents. Adults should support and encourage them, helping children enjoy the activities and challenges that inspire them most.



# Cross Curricular Links



**This week's story looks at the perseverance required to break records.**





# Who Does This Work?



## Job of the Week

### Sports performance analyst

Performance analysts are specialists who support the improvement of performance and decision-making in sports. They provide athletes, coaches, and teams with objective feedback through data and video, helping them to reflect and build up their skills.



## Did you know?

In 2021, the sport sector directly contributed to approximately 1.25 million jobs in the UK. This equals 3.9% of total employment in the UK during 2021.



## Pathways Into This Career

- Undergraduate degree in Sports Science, Maths or Data Science
- Internships and placements
- Volunteering
- Coaching or playing experience



## Skills Needed

- An understanding of data analysis
- Teamwork
- Attention to detail
- Adaptability
- Work to strict deadlines
- Strong communication skills



## Discussion Prompt

Do things like new training techniques or data analysis make it easier to break records now than in the past? How so?

# LET'S DISCUSS

22<sup>nd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>  
September



## This week's news story

<https://news.sky.com/story/guinness-world-records-turns-70-and-highlights-some-unclaimed-records-13419120>

## This week's useful video

<https://youtu.be/jhAKrFRcjPM>

## In the news this week

**G**uinness World Records is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The book was first published in 1955, and is now sold in over 100 countries. Each year, it collects unusual and amazing records, from the fastest runners to the tallest buildings and silliest challenges. To mark its birthday, the 'global authority' on record-breaking achievements shared some records that no one has tried yet and is encouraging people to have a go

## Notes

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Source: Xinhua/Shutterstock

Xinhua/Shutterstock

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)





# Can anyone break a record if they try hard enough?

## Questions

- > Are all world records equal? Are there some records only a person with a special talent or natural ability could ever break? Why do you think some world records are broken all the time, yet others seem impossible to beat?
- > Is perseverance always a good thing? Is it ever best to stop trying? How might perseverance differ from stubbornness? Does perseverance mean you'll always be successful in the end? How so?
- > Can you learn to persevere, or is it something innate within us? Do we need to fail to truly learn how to persevere? Why? Does a world of instant access affect perseverance? How so?
- > Does putting in a lot of effort make success feel more rewarding than if it came easily? How so? Can talent be a disadvantage? Why?

## Vital statistics

- > Ashrita Furman has the most Guinness World Record titles. Since 1979, he has set over 600 records and currently holds more than 200 standing records across a wide range of physical and quirky challenges. He is known as the most prolific record-breaker by Guinness World Records.
- > A notable example of extreme repeated failure comes from a 69-year-old South Korean woman, called Cha. She passed her driving test on her 960th attempt in 2010, after spending over £11,000 on the process. She is recognised by Guinness World Records for the most failed attempts for a driving test.

## What others think

- > **"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop."** Confucius, Chinese philosopher.
- "Perseverance - a lowly virtue whereby mediocrity achieves an inglorious success."** Ambrose Bierce, American writer, journalist and poet.

## Further questions for discussion

- > Do you enjoy stories about people who overcome great difficulties to succeed? Why? What do these stories teach us?
- > Why might someone try to break a record even if they don't receive a medal or certificate for it? What is more important – the award or the achievement? How so?

 **Listen**

 **Think**

 **Share**

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)





## Activity 1

### Role Model Report

*This activity encourages pupils to learn about perseverance from real-life examples.*

Ask each pupil to choose a role model. It might be someone famous, or perhaps someone from their local community

Pupils should research their role model to find specific examples of when they had to persevere. They should find out about a time their role model failed or faced a setback and how they worked through it.

Have pupils present their findings in a short report or presentation.

The focus should be on the story of perseverance, rather than just the person's final success. This shows that everyone, even the most successful role models, sometimes experience setbacks.



## Activity 2

### Build a Bridge Team Challenge

*This activity requires pupils to work together and persevere through unexpected failures.*

Divide the class into small teams. Give each team a set of limited, simple materials (e.g., straws, tape, paper clips, string). Their challenge is to build a bridge that can hold a certain amount of weight.

At various points, introduce 'disasters.' For example, a teacher might accidentally knock over their bridge, or you might tell teams one of their materials is no longer available.

This activity supports teams to adapt and problem-solve on the spot.

It provides a real-world, collaborative example of how to persevere when things go wrong, and initial plans change. Then, discuss what strategies helped them and how they felt when they faced a setback.

