



If You Ran Things

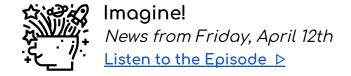
News from Friday, April 26th Listen to the Episode ▷

In April, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued new rules to compensate stranded air passengers. The rules help fliers with canceled or delayed flights—or lost bags—receive timely refunds. They also require airlines to publish add-on costs, also known as "junk fees," earlier in the buying process. The rules will take effect in October 2024.

If you were in charge of air transportation, how would you ensure a fair and

oleasant flying experience for passengers? Create a set of rules that airlines mu follow. Be sure to explain why the rules are helpful to fliers.				

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A Navy plane spotted something unexpected last month: on a small island in the Pacific Ocean, the word HELP was spelled out using palm leaves. Three fishermen had written the message after becoming stranded on the island when rough seas rocked their boat and damaged the engine. Their radio was also out of power. After making their distress sign, they survived on fish and fresh water from a nearby well for a week before they were rescued by the Coast Guard, who had been summoned by the Navy pilot.

survive, and how would you get help? Write a story about your experience. Be surto include details about the setting, the problems you faced, and how you solved them.				

Pros and Cons News from Thursday, April 25th Listen to the Episode ▷

Nearly 40 scientists have signed a Declaration on Animal Consciousness, urging more humane treatment of every type of animal, from reptiles to insects to sea creatures. Why? Experiments by researchers have confirmed something that many pet owners have long suspected: animals may be sentient, meaning they think and have feelings just like people. Bees, fish, octopi and other animals have demonstrated their self-awareness by posing in front of mirrors, recognizing and acknowledging different humans, and having feelings, emotions, curiosity and even dreams. The scientists aren't alone in thinking animals deserve more rights: Oregon, Washington, and California all have different laws based on the same idea.

What are the pros and cons of creating laws that protect the rights of animals? Write a list in the space below, including at least two benefits of such laws and two downsides.

Pros:	
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Cons:	
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Researchers from Denmark have found a way to make blue jeans more environmentally friendly. The classic color of denim comes from the indigo plant, which is broken down by strong chemicals to turn the fabric blue. The process results in chemical-laced water being dumped into nearby streams. Fortunately, scientists at the Technical University tweaked an enzyme in the plants to make it break down more easily, no chemicals needed. They were able to turn denim into its classic blue hue through a cleaner, less polluting process.

Imagine that you are in charge of designing environmentally friendly clothing.

What would the clothes be made of? What would they look like? Draw some samples of the clothing in the space below. Be sure to add labels to identify how the clothes are eco-friendly.				



Hawaii may soon have its own official hand gesture: the shaka. Also known as the "hang loose" or "hang ten" symbol, the shaka is made by extending the pinky and thumb while curling down the other three fingers. The gesture is a symbol of respect that can mean hi, bye, thanks, or aloha. It has been written into a bill by Hawaii's lawmakers, who hope to vote in November on whether to make it the first official state gesture. It should be a slam dunk, even though there is an ongoing debate over whether to "shake" the Shaka. Locals tend not to, and say those who do are obviously tourists.

What gestures do you use to say hello, goodbye, or other friendly messages? Selif you can learn at least two new cultural gestures by asking classmates, teacher and family members about their greetings, or by reading about different culture at your school library. In the space below, describe the new gestures, what they mean, and who typically uses them.