

This story is from page 7 of *First News*. Read the story, and then try the puzzle. To help you, we have underlined the answers to the crossword puzzle clues in the story – but you will need to match the correct word with each clue!



**BIG NEWS**

# PLASTIC-EATING BUG

A **BACTERIA** that can eat toxic plastic has been discovered by scientists.

Polyurethane is a type of plastic found in products such as sports shoes, nappies and kitchen sponges. It's almost always sent to landfill because it's too difficult to recycle.

That could be set to change however, following the discovery of a unique bacteria that can break it down.

Usually, when broken down, polyurethane releases chemicals that destroy the bacteria.

However, this new type, which was found at a polyurethane landfill, can attack the toxic plastic and break it down into a substance that can then be recycled.

It may take ten years before the bacteria can be used in industry, but scientists say that its discovery is an "important step" in being able to reuse hard-to-recycle polyurethane products.



Polyurethane plastic

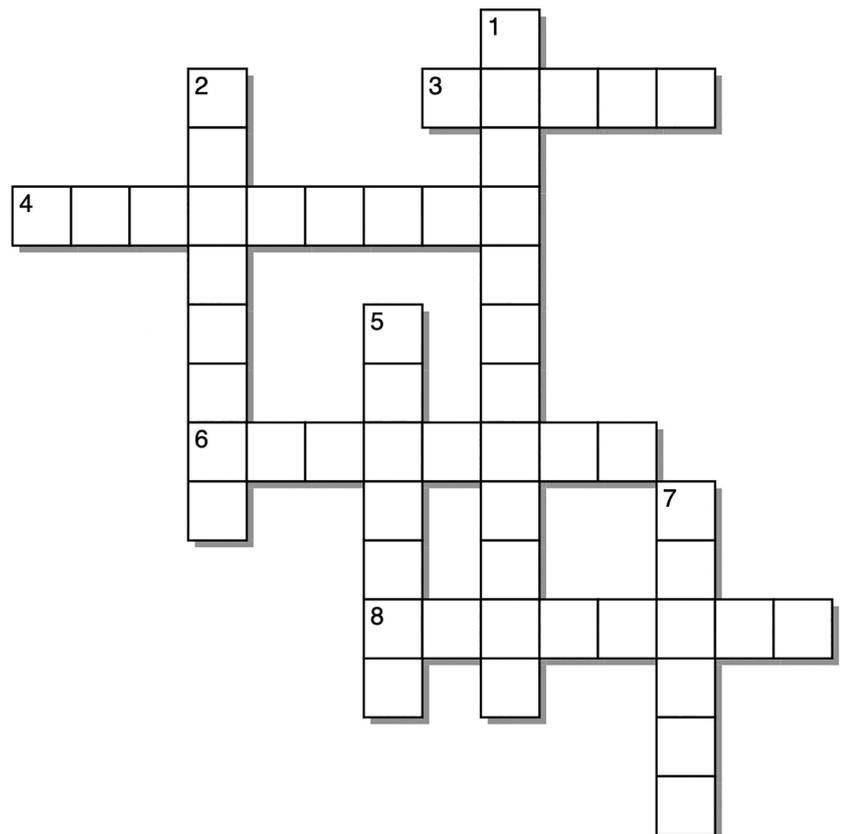
In times like these, we feel that the world needs to be reminded that it's not all doom and gloom out there! That's why we're promoting Happy News! If you like this story, and want some more positivity in your life, head to [first.news/happy](https://www.first.news/happy) now!

**ACROSS**

- 3) A poisonous and dangerous substance (adjective 5)
- 4) When you find out something new. It may just be new to you or, occasionally, to the whole world (noun 9)
- 6) When a manufacturer sets up a factory to make something on a big scale (noun 8)
- 8) Big holes in the ground where we bury rubbish that we cannot recycle (noun 8)

**DOWN**

- 1) A type of plastic that has two main forms – a flexible foam and rigid foam. It has many uses, including making shoes, nappies, kitchen sponges and aeroplane wings (noun 12)
- 2) Microscopic organisms that can be both useful and harmful to humans (noun 8)
- 5) Under normal conditions (adverb 7)
- 7) One of a kind, special (adjective 6)



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