

SUMMER NEWS

June 2025

1 Nintendo Switch 2, the Mario- and-Zelda company's first new gaming console in eight years, was released on June 5. It sold more than 3.5 million units in the first week, becoming the fastest-selling game console of all time.

2 Kraft Heinz announced that it would eliminate all chemical dyes from its food products over the next two years.

Kraft Heinz is the first major food company to officially announce plans to stop using artificial colors. In April, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, said he had reached "an understanding" with food manufacturers to remove commonly used artificial food dyes from their products by 2026.

The candy industry, including the makers of M&M's, are holding out, arguing that American consumers like bright sweets.

3 This summer thousands of people took part in protests against police brutality and government corruption in cities across Kenya. Dozens were killed and hundreds were hurt in clashes with security forces.

4 The spectacular blowup between President Trump and Elon Musk ended a nearly yearlong partnership, during which the tech titan helped propel Mr. Trump to the White House and became one of the president's top advisers.

5 An extraordinary series of demonstrations in Los Angeles erupted over the first weeks of June, spurred by federal immigration raids.

In response, the Trump administration ordered the deployment of Marines and National Guard troops in L.A., a rare use of active-duty military forces on U.S. soil.

6 Labubu, a grinning fuzzy toy made by a Chinese company, has become wildly popular, selling out instantly online and in stores around the world.

The doll has in recent months been toted by celebrities, including Rihanna and David Beckham; set off brawls among competing shoppers in England; and prompted overnight stakeouts in Los Angeles. The Labubu has even shaped the travel itineraries of some devotees, who have planned trips to China around hopes of buying one there.

7 A generational debate has started over "Gen Z Stare" or Gen Z's tendency to respond to various social situations with a long and intentional stare. The stare seems to have supporters and detractors, and even Gen Z-ers themselves can't seem to decide exactly what it is.

8 At least 135 people, including 37 children, died in the torrential downpour in Central Texas over the July 4 holiday weekend.

The dead included several girls as young as 8 who were at Camp Mystic, a summer camp on the banks of the Guadalupe River; 27 campers and staff members were reported dead there.

9 On July 10, Nvidia, the world's leading provider of computer chips for artificial intelligence became the first public company worth \$4 trillion.

Nvidia's rise is among the fastest in Wall Street history, and a testament to investors' belief that artificial intelligence will deliver an economic transformation that rivals the Industrial Revolution.

10 The British government said on July 17 that it would allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote, in what it called a landmark moment for democracy; some opponents decried the plan as an attempt to tilt the electoral playing field.

Britain has more than 1.6 million people of ages 16 or 17, in a total population of roughly 68 million, and the plan has been described as the country's largest expansion of voting rights in decades. The last nationwide reduction in voting age, to 18 from 21, came more than 50 years ago.

11 In July, more than 100 aid agencies and rights groups, including Save the Children and Doctors Without Borders, warned famine was spreading across Gaza.

International anger over starvation in Gaza has left Israel increasingly isolated. Some of Israel's most important Western allies, under political pressure from voters appalled by images of malnourished children, now say that they will recognize a Palestinian state.

12 The Lionesses won Euro 2025.

Chloe Kelly fired in the decisive spot-kick as England beat Spain 3-1 in a penalty shootout to win Euro 2025, after an enthralling game that ended 1-1 after extra time.

13 The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic committee has barred transgender women from Olympic women's sports, telling the federations overseeing swimming, athletics and other sports it has an "obligation to comply" with an executive order issued by President Trump.

14 Nigeria won its 10th Women's Africa Cup of Nations, confirming their status as the most successful women's team in Africa.

Nigeria staged a remarkable fightback from two goals down to beat hosts Morocco 3-2 and win the Women's Africa Cup of Nations.

15 On Aug. 7, President Trump's sweeping tariffs took effect, targeting imports from dozens of U.S. trading partners in a major escalation of a global trade war

In the hours before the import taxes took effect, the president signaled there would be more to come, as he doubled down on a strategy that has driven up prices, constrained growth and spooked consumers and businesses around the world.

16 On August 11, in an extraordinary exertion of federal power over an American urban area, President Trump took federal control of Washington's police force for 30 days. 800 National Guard troops were mobilized to fight crime in a city that he claimed was overrun with "bloodthirsty criminals," even though crime numbers in Washington had been falling.

17 On August 26, Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce announced that they were engaged. "Your English teacher and your gym teacher are getting married," their Instagram post announced, adding a dynamite emoji and a snippet of Ms. Swift's song "So High School."

The news came 13 days — Ms. Swift's lucky number — after the couple had appeared on Mr. Kelce's "New Heights" podcast to reveal details about Ms. Swift's forthcoming album, "The Life of a Showgirl," which will be released in October.

18 BBC 18 August 2025

"Skibidi", "tradwife" and other slang terms popularised on social media are among thousands of new words to be added to the Cambridge Dictionary this year.

Skibidi is a gibberish term which gained popularity via a viral animated video series on YouTube, while tradwife is a shortening of "traditional wife" – a married mother who cooks, cleans and posts on social media.

More than 6,000 new words have been added, including those that relate to tech giants and remote working.

19 At least 70 people died after a boat capsized off the coast of Mauritania. According to survivors, the boat left The Gambia six days before the accident, carrying around 160 people on board, mainly Gambian and Senegalese nationals. The dugout canoe was heading towards Spain's Canary Islands.

The perilous journey over the Atlantic Ocean has become an increasingly common route for African migrants trying to reach Europe.

Match the pictures below with the news they illustrate.

