

Hey Smart Scoopers

Hope you had a great week!

This time, we've packed five scoops that takes you from snowy surprises and climate questions to a hidden hero of modern technology, and finally to India's biggest money plan, made easy. There's also a little brain teaser waiting at the end. Here are your fresh picks for the week:

Scoop 1: Big snow storm, Big question: If earth is warming, why is it snowing?(I)

Scoop 2: Big snow storm, Big question: If earth is warming, why is it snowing?(II)

Scoop 3: The girl behind the GPS: Remembering Gladys West [1930-2026] (I)

Scoop 4: The girl behind the GPS: Remembering Gladys West [1930-2026] (II)

Scoop 5: Union Budget 2026: An easy explanation

Bonus Scoop: Puzzle of the Week: Corner to Corner

Dig in and enjoy!

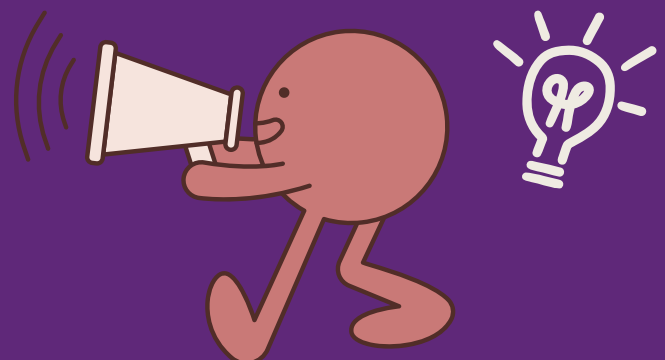
Happy Reading,
The SmartScoop Team

Our mascot, Blurt
will follow us
along the way.

Blurt /blurt/

noun:

A loud, round, super-curious character who just can't keep a fact in.



Big Snow Storm, Big Question!

IF THE EARTH IS WARMING, WHY IS IT SNOWING?

In January 2026, a massive winter storm hit much of the United States. President Trump of US posted on social media asking "WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GLOBAL WARMING???", suggesting the freezing weather proves that climate change is a "hoax."



The post echoed Trump's long-standing scepticism of climate change. He has repeatedly dismissed global warming as a hoax and accused scientists of advancing a political agenda.



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Record Cold Wave expected to hit 40 States. Rarely seen anything like it before. Could the Environmental Insurrectionists please explain — WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GLOBAL WARMING???

It's a fair question. if the Earth is getting warmer, why is it snowing so much?



But here's the thing: scientists say President Trump's statement is completely misleading. Let me explain, why that makes sense.

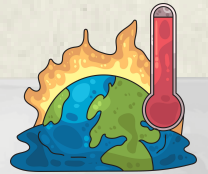
Let's first understand the difference between...



Weather

Think of it this way: weather is what's happening outside your window right now. Is it sunny? Rainy? Freezing cold?

VS



Climate

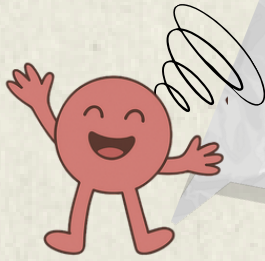
Climate is the pattern of weather over many years across the entire planet. It shows what the weather is usually like over a long time, like 30 years or more.

So one cold day or one big storm doesn't tell us what's happening to the planet overall. You can still have snowstorms in a world that is slowly getting warmer. Dr. Steven Decker from Rutgers University explains that unusually cold air hitting the United States is just weather, while climate looks at temperature averages across the world over time and that show the warm areas are beating out the cold ones.

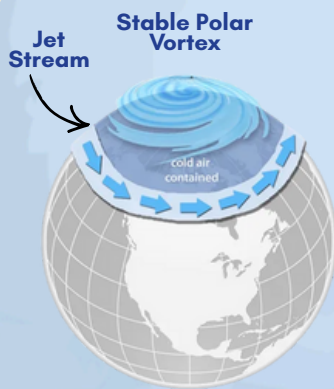


Looks like the president mixed up weather and climate. That's like judging the whole school year of a student by only one surprise test!

IF THE EARTH IS WARMING, WHY IS IT SNOWING?



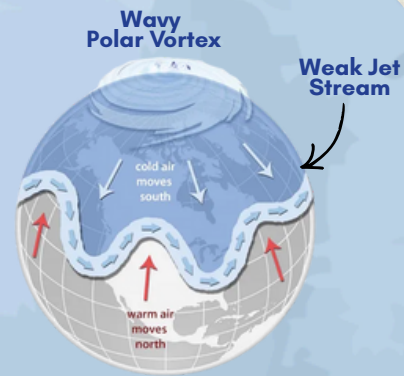
Now that we've cleared up the weather vs climate mix-up, it's time to dive in deeper.



The "Wobbly" Polar Vortex

You've probably heard of the **Polar Vortex**. It's a spinning pool of freezing air that usually stays trapped at the North Pole by a "fence" of strong winds called the **Jet Stream**.

Because the Arctic is warming four times faster than the rest of the planet, that "fence" is getting weak and wobbly. When the fence breaks, the freezing Arctic air spills south into places like Texas or New York.

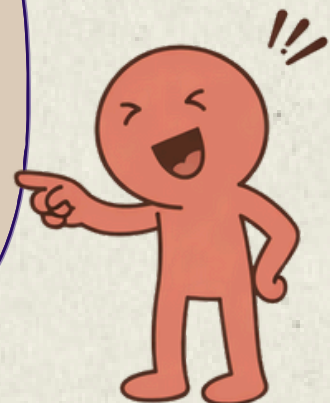


Warmer Air = More Snow

It sounds weird, but a warmer planet can actually lead to heavier snow.

Warm air can hold more moisture. When that moist air meets cold air, it can drop a lot of snow. It's like squeezing a very full sponge! The more water inside, the more comes out when you squeeze it. Warmer air holds more moisture (water vapor). So when a storm forms, it has more "fuel" to work with. If the temperature drops below freezing, all that extra moisture falls as massive amounts of snow instead of a light dusting.

When leaders call climate change a "hoax" because of a snowstorm, it can be confusing. However, 2025 was one of the hottest years ever recorded. Scientists agree that human activity like burning oil and gas is the main cause. Understanding the difference between a single storm and a long-term trend helps us make better decisions for the future.



REMEMBERING GLADYS WEST (1930–2026)

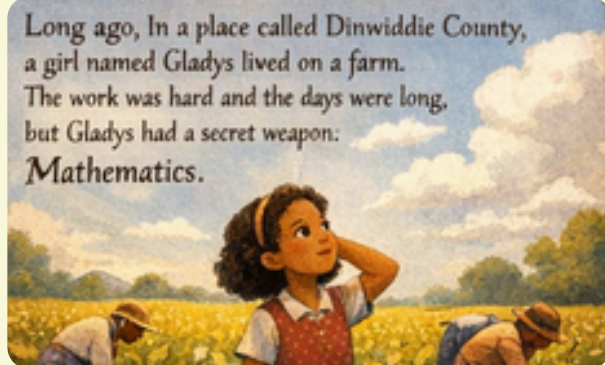
Have you ever used a phone to find the nearest pizza place? or watched a blue dot move across a map while riding in a car? If you have, you should say a quiet "thank you" to Gladys West. Gladys West, the brilliant mathematician who helped invent the technology behind GPS (Global Positioning System), passed away on January 17, 2026. She was 95 years old. For a long time, almost no one knew her name. She was a "Hidden Figure": a secret hero whose math changed the world.



Story of Gladys West

From a Virginia Farm to Making History

Gladys West was born in 1930 in rural Virginia and grew up working on farms. Seeing how hard the work was, she decided early on that education would be her way to a different future. Her plan worked. She graduated at the top of her class and earned a scholarship to study math at college, an uncommon path for Black women at the time.



Breaking Barriers at a Navy Base

In 1956, Gladys began working at a U.S. Navy base, becoming one of the very few Black women there. The field was male-dominated, but she focused on the work, not the barriers.

She solved complex equations and programmed early computers: huge machines that filled entire rooms and were brand new to most people.

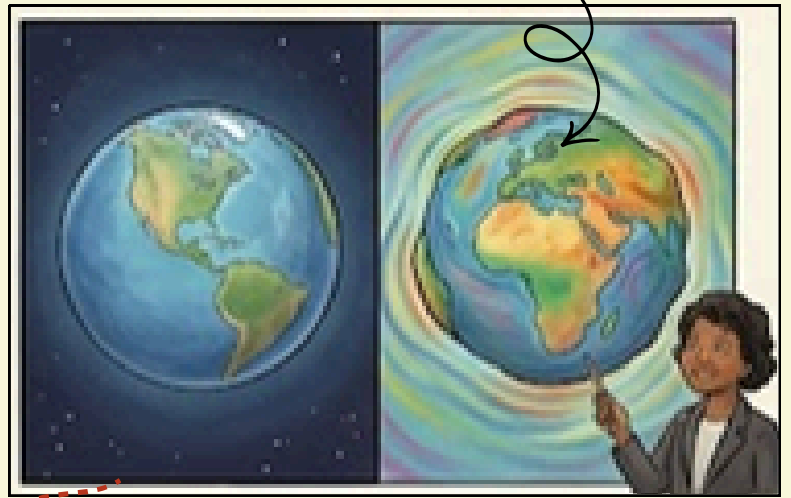
REMEMBERING GLADYS WEST (1930–2026)

The Work That Would Guide the World

Here's where it gets really cool. In the 1970s and 1980s, Gladys began working on an ambitious project: creating an extremely precise model of the shape of the Earth.

"Wait," you might be thinking, "isn't Earth just a sphere?" Well, not exactly. Our planet is actually lumpy and irregular. Using satellite data and advanced math, she helped create a detailed Earth model called a **geoid**. This work became essential to GPS, allowing locations to be pinpointed accurately.

The Lumpy Planet



Ms. West gets an award and is named to the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Hall of Fame in 2018.

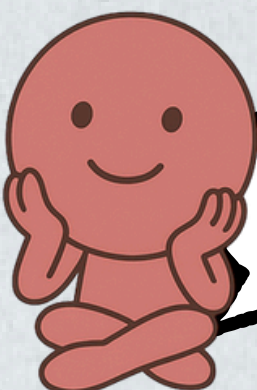
A Secret Success Story

For many years, Gladys's work remained mostly unknown outside her job. She helped change the world, but her name stayed out of textbooks and headlines.

Only in 2018 was she widely recognized, when she was inducted into the Air Force Hall of Fame and her story began to spread.

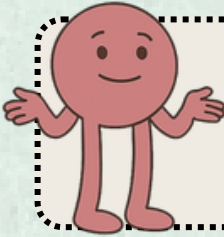
Gladys West's journey shows us the power of determination. From a tobacco farm in Virginia to helping create technology that billions of people use every day, that's the impact one person can have when they refuse to let barriers stop them.

Today, every time you use GPS to find a restaurant, navigate to a friend's house, or explore a new city, you're benefiting from Gladys West's mathematical genius. Her calculations help guide airplanes, ships, emergency responders, and yes, even those food delivery drivers bringing pizza to your door.



Even though Gladys West spent her life perfecting the tech that powers Digital Maps, she preferred using a paper map when she traveled. She told reporters that she still trusted her own brain and a physical map more than the machine!

AN EASY EXPLANATION



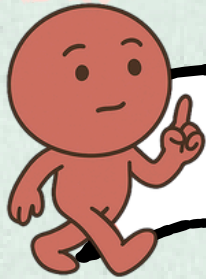
Imagine your family sits down once a year to plan how to spend money for the whole year ahead. Your parents will figure out: How much money will we earn? How much do we need to spend on groceries, electricity, school fees, house repairs? Do we have enough, or will we need to borrow some money? The Union Budget is exactly this, but for the entire country of India!

Every year (usually on February 1st), India's Finance Minister presents a plan to Parliament that shows:

How much money the government expects to collect (mainly from taxes)

How much it plans to spend (on roads, schools, hospitals, defense, helping poor people, etc.)

Whether it needs to borrow money to cover the gap



It's called "Union" Budget because it's for the whole Union of India (the central government), not just one state.

Nirmala Sitharaman



The Big Themes of 2026: "Three Kartavyas"

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented this budget on February 1, 2026. The 2026 Budget focuses on three Kartavyas (which means "Duties"). It's like having three main goals.

- **Speed Up Growth:** Making sure India stays one of the fastest-growing countries in the world.
- **Youth Power (Yuva Shakti):** Helping young people get the skills and jobs they need for the future.
- **Leave No One Behind:** Making sure that even people in the smallest villages get help.

The Budget Focuses On...

Help India make more things (Manufacturing)

Medicine factories so India makes its own medicines. Manufacture Electronics & semiconductors. Mine rare earth metals needed in tech gadgets. All this helps the country create more jobs.

Helping farmers earn more

Farming still employs lots of people. The government wants farmers to grow high-value crops (like coconut or special fruits) that earn more money. It also plans a digital AI tool so farmers can get advice in their own language on farming.



Skilling Students (Orange Economy)

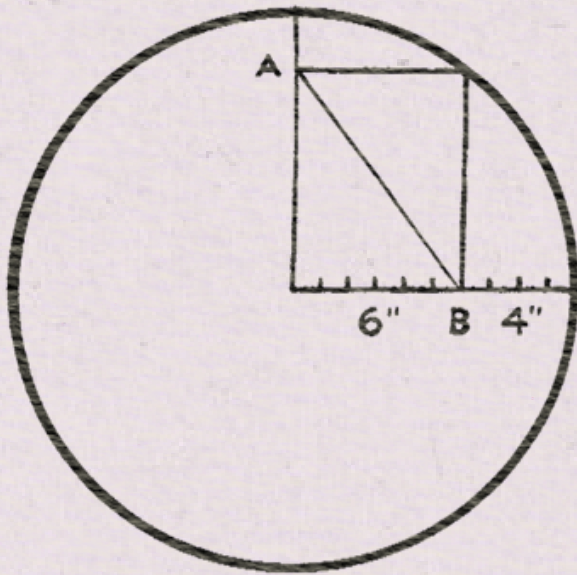
The budget talked about something called the orange economy, which is about jobs in creative fields like: Animation, Games, Art and design. The government wants to help schools set up labs so students can learn these skills.

Things about money, banks and taxes

There is no change in income tax, so people will pay the same tax as before. Buying and selling shares may cost a little more because some trading taxes increased.

CORNER TO CORNER

Many times a geometrical problem is enormously difficult if it is approached the wrong way. Tackle it another way and it is absurdly simple. This problem is a classic example.



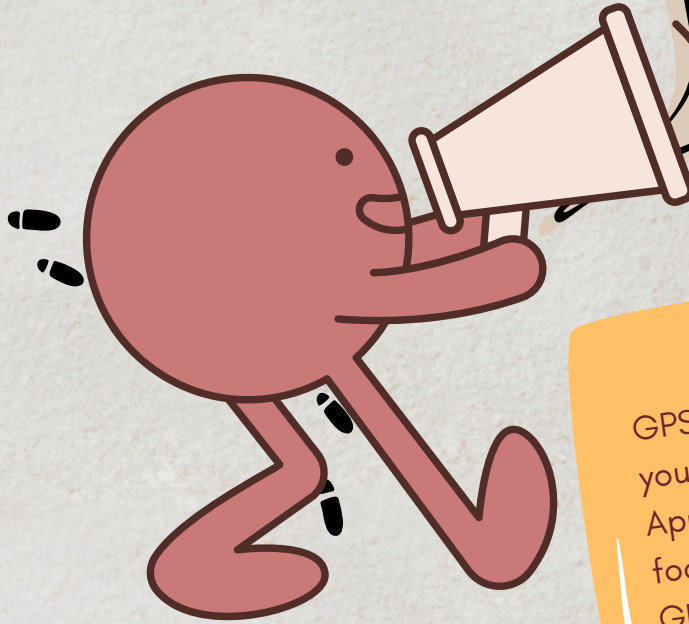
Given the dimensions (in inches) shown in the illustration, how quickly can you compute the length of the rectangle's diagonal that runs from corner A to corner B?

SOLUTION

Draw the other diagonal of the rectangle and you will see at once that it is the radius of the circle. The diagonals of a rectangle are always equal, therefore the diagonal from corner A to corner B is equal to the circle's radius, which is 10 inches.

Blurt's

Did you know...?



GPS doesn't track you. Satellites only send out the time and their location. Your phone listens to signals from a few satellites, checks how long they took to arrive, and then uses smart math to figure out where you are.

GPS is like a compass that helps you find yourself. But remember Apps like Google Maps, Uber, food delivery apps - they use GPS to find your location, and they store this information!

That's all for this week folks! Until next time, keep your brain gears turning!

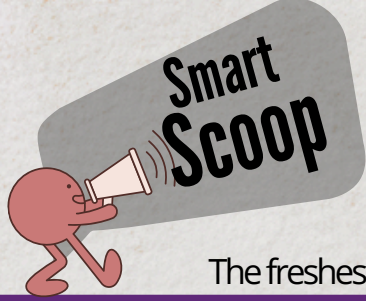


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smartscoopteam@gmail.com

We'd love to hear from you! Mostly Blurt tbh..



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