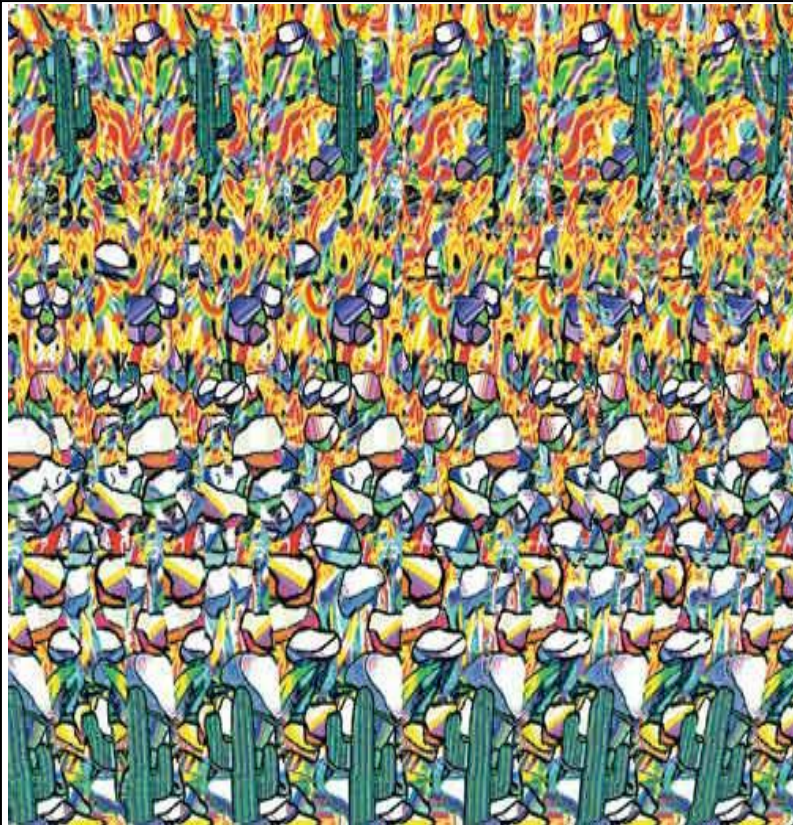


I made it. I bet you thought I would forget to come to school. I nearly did. I'm so used to Monday being a holiday. Today, some teachers from Taiwan are coming to look around our school. It is always interesting to meet people from other countries and talk to them. If you see them in the halls, or if they come into your classes, don't forget to say, "hello." And, of course, the third grade and fifth grade are gone this week. The third grade are in Canada and the fifth grade are in southern Japan and Cambodia. I'd like to go somewhere. I wonder if school would give me a sabbatical¹.

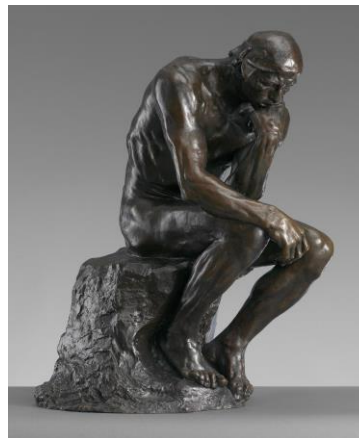
Something You Don't Know (Tsukiji)

1. Opened on 11 February 1935 to replace a market that was destroyed² in the 1923 earthquake.
2. \$8 billion of seafood is bought here every year. That's \$22,000,000 per day.
3. Edo originally had a fish market at Nihonbashi. Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa set up the market to sell fish that the people in Edo Castle couldn't eat. In 1923, the Great Kanto Earthquake destroyed much of Tokyo and the Nihonbashi market with it. The government took that as an opportunity³ to move the market, which was unsanitary⁴, to Tsukiji.
4. In 2013, sushi chain owner Kiyoshi Kimura paid \$1.76 million for a Bluefin tuna at the traditional New Year bidding war⁵. It is a publicity stunt⁶ for his business.
5. 1,630 tons of seafood are sold every day.



Last Week's Answers

This was last week's magic eye picture



Announcements

Taiwanese people are coming today.
The third grade leave for Canada.
The fifth grade leave for Cambodia and Japan.
I stay here. You all stay here.

Tsukiji Market Closes and Toyosu Market Opens

I'm sure you have been following this story on the news and it's not "news" for you, but, this week, the Tsukiji fish market finally closed and all of the shops and fish sellers moved to the new Toyosu building which is about 2km away. The governor⁷ of Tokyo, Yuriko Koike, green-lighted⁸ the project back in 2016 after a long delay. The new site is a converted gas plant and is much bigger, brighter and cleaner.



Tsukiji was opened in 1935. It began as a fish market but slowly grew into a major tourist attraction. If you got there early enough, at about 4 or 5 am, you could see the catch of the day being delivered by the fishing boats and you could watch the fish auctions. All of the famous restaurants in Tokyo, and many across Japan, would get there to be first to bid on the best fish. After that tourists would come to eat sushi and sashimi.

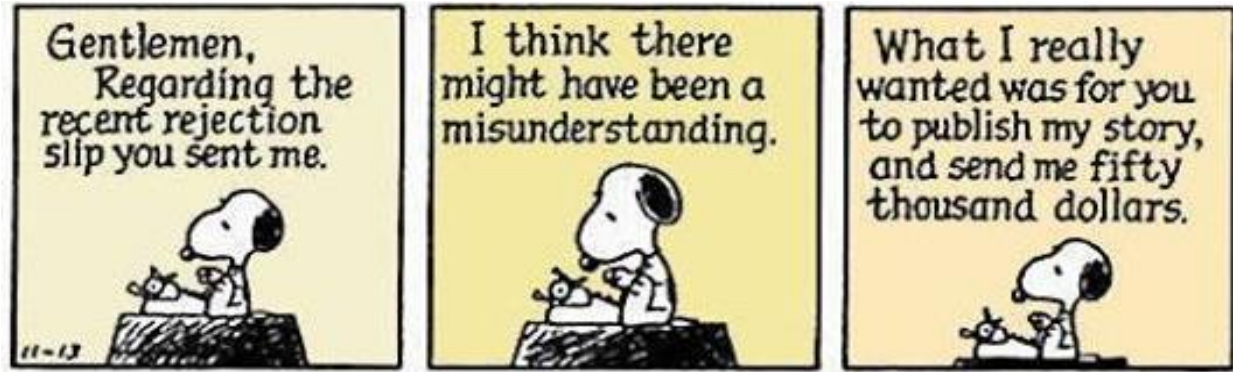
Around the main market were many small restaurants that served the tourists with fresh fish caught that day. However, Tsukiji was cramped⁹ and dirty. Rats roamed the alleys. The new place is open and cleaner. It might take the people that have worked at Tsukiji all their life time to get used to the change, but it is for the best.

The Tokyo government predicts that there will be an infestation¹⁰ of rats in Tokyo now Tsukiji has been closed.



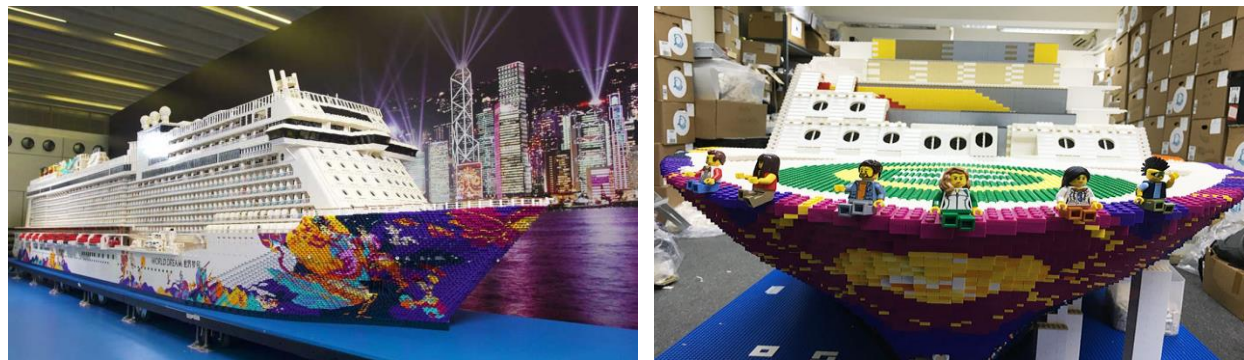
- 1.Sabbatical 長期有給休暇 2.Destroyed 倒壊した 3.Opportunity 機会 4.Unsanitary 倒壊した
5.Bidding war 入札合戦 6.Publicity stunt 売名行為 7.Governor 知事 8.Green-lighted 実
行許可を与える 9.Cramped 狭い 10.Infestation への侵入

★ English News Page 2 ★

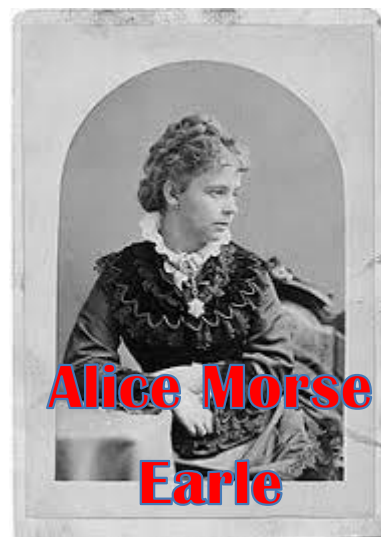


World Records

I love Lego. I always have. And now my daughter loves it, too. I bought her a few sets over the years and she probably has about 1,000 pieces. Not enough to make this week's world record. The largest ship made out of Lego. A very specific¹ record. It was made by a group of people in Hong Kong and was made to commemorate the launch of a real cruise ship. Altogether, they used 2.5 million Lego bricks! The model weighs 2,600kg!!



Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day.



★ Places you should visit ★

If you have the time and the money, you should definitely visit the Forbidden City in China. It is the former imperial² (belonging to the emperor) palace in Beijing. It was started in the Ming dynasty³ (1406) and was occupied until the revolution⁴ in 1912. It is called the "Forbidden" City because regular people were forbidden to enter. Now it is a tourist destination. There are 980 buildings surrounded by a wall. You can start at the main gate and it will probably take you most of a day to visit all of it. It is quite crowded in the high season months, but in winter, when I went, it was much quieter. You can walk around and imagine that you were a courtier⁵ to the Chinese emperor 500 years ago. It is an amazing place to visit.



★ An Interesting Sport ★

Chess Boxing

Some people think boxers are too violent and can't use their brain. Some people think that chess is too boring. Some other people decided to prove everyone wrong and created chess boxing. It is not difficult to explain. Two people start boxing. At the end of a round they start playing a game of chess. They keep going. You can win by checkmating⁶ your opponent in the chess game or knocking them out in the boxing match. You should try it.



1. Specific 特定 2. Imperial 皇帝の 3. Dynasty 王朝 4. Revolution 革命 5. Courtier 廷臣
6. Checkmate チェックメート