

Welcome back. Did you have a good Golden Week? I had an absolutely wonderful week. 10 days was a very nice present. We must all be grateful to the Emperor. Thank you. The weather wasn't too bad as well. And now, back at school, we have one of my favorite events this week: The Long Walk!!!! I know many of you hate it, but I love it. Being outside, in the sunshine (I hope), walking for most of the day is wonderful. I hope that you all enjoy it. Maybe your legs will hurt, but just try to enjoy the walk with your friends. And, bring chocolate!

Something Interesting (The Japanese Emperor¹)

1. The current emperor comes from an imperial² line that can be traced, unbroken, back to 620BC. The current emperor is the 126th in a long line.
2. Japan is the only country in the world where the monarch³ is called "emperor".
3. Only males can inherit⁴ the Chrysanthemum throne, so the new emperor's daughter can never be empress. The line of succession⁵ will pass to the emperor's younger brother, and then to his son.
4. In Japan role of emperor is almost entirely ceremonial.
5. The exact wealth of the Royal Family is kept secret, but it has been estimated at over \$200 million. They used to own far more land, roughly 26% of all land, but after WW2, that was mostly given to the government. The Royal Family is more secret than those of other countries.

20 differences



Last week's answer:



Announcements

Long Walk on Friday. That's it. Oooh, it's going to be a good week.

The Emperor Abdicates, Long Live The Emperor

Last week, the Emperor of Japan abdicated⁶. He was the first emperor to abdicate in 200 years. He finished his duties on April 30th and his son took up the reins on May 1st. His reign⁷, the Heisei era, lasted for 31 years. His son's reign has begun and will be the Reiwa era. In celebration of his reign and to commemorate the occasion of the new Emperor being crowned, we had an extra long Golden Week this year. Thousand of people went to Tokyo to see it.



The Emperor was crowned in 1989 when his father, Hirohito, known as the Emperor Showa, died. This is the usual way of succession⁸. When one emperor dies, his son takes his place. So far, Japan only allows the male heir to inherit the chrysanthemum throne. Seeing as it is 2019 now, I think this is one law that Japan would do well to change. And, this is the way it has always been. When the father dies, the son becomes the next emperor. Until now.



Many people think that the emperor is not a person and being emperor is not a job. They think that it is not something you can just give up. It is so unheard of that the law had to be changed to allow the emperor to abdicate. However, he is a man and he is in his 80s, a time when most people are relaxing. He will be much happier now, and he will still be able to do good work, just not at such a hectic⁹ pace.



1. Emperor 天皇陛下 2. Imperial 帝国の 3. Monarch 国王 4. Inherit 王位を継ぐ 5. Line of succession 皇位継承 6. Abdicate 退位する 7. Reign 統治 8. Succeed to a throne 王位を継ぐ 9. Hectic 非常に忙しい

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Strange World Records

This is rather an odd record. This week's record is the record for the most people to run while dressed in sumo suits. In Ireland, in 2015, 239 people turned up in sumo suits to run a 5km course. The event is in aid of charity, and I have no idea what the connection to sumo is, but it seems like they are trying to help people. I can't help thinking, though, that donating¹ the money they spent on the sumo suits might have raised more money than they raised through donations. Still, shall we try?



Don't worry about failures.
Worry about the chances you miss when you don't even try.

★ Something Big ★

Have you ever sailed on the ferry from Hokkaido to Aomori? It's quite a big boat. But, it is nothing compared to the biggest boat in the world. It has been broken up now, but the world's biggest boat was built in 1979 and was called Seawise Giant. It was built by the Japanese company Sumitomo Heavy Industries. It was 458m long and, when fully loaded², weighed 650,000 tons. The ship was an oil tanker, but was bombed³ during the 1980-88 Iran Iraq war. It was re-sold four times and was finally broken up in 2009. Its anchor⁴, weighing 36 tons, has been saved in a museum. The ferry that sails from Hakodate to Aomori is 144m long, so the Seawise Giant is four times bigger! It is possible to build larger boats, but they aren't always economical⁵.



★ Something You Probably Didn't Know ★

The pencil was invented as recently as 1535. Before that, people used pens with ink, chalk, or carved into wood or wax. The pencil was only invented when a large deposit⁶ of graphite was discovered in England and people realized it would write on paper. Then, because of a war with England, France had to develop a way of compressing⁷ graphite powder. Then, because of a shortage of graphite, an Austrian man had to come up with a way of mixing it with clay⁸, giving us the HB system we have now. (H= Hardtmuth, B= Budejovice)



New words: 1. Donate 寄付する 2. Fully loaded 満タンした 3. Be bombed 爆弾落とされる 4. Anchor いかり 5. Economical 効率的な 6. Deposit 沈着 7. Compress つぶす 8. Clay 沈着