

I can't believe it is July already. This year is certainly flying by. And the school festival is suddenly upon us. It's going to be wonderful. I'm always excited to see how you decorate your classrooms and design your shops. The fourth grade are also working hard on their displays. All of the classes seem to be working hard every day until very late in the evening. Except my class. Ha ha. They tell me that everything will be ok, but I have yet to see them do anything. We still only have one empty cardboard box at the back of the classroom. I'm getting a little bit nervous.

Something You Didn't Know (Kimono)

1. The kimono became fashionable in the Heian period, which started in 794. They were too heavy, making them hard to wear, but they gradually started to be made of lighter fabric¹.
2. Kimono used to be decorated with a family crest².
3. In the Meiji era, people were discouraged³ from wearing kimono and encouraged to wear western clothes. The government thought the kimono was a symbol of old Japan.
4. The most expensive kimono are layered and you can wear up to 12 layers.
5. Young, unmarried women wear kimono with longer and looser sleeves⁴ than married women.
6. At a wedding, a man will wear a black kimono with a white belt and at a funeral⁵ he will wear a black kimono with a black belt.
7. Sumo wrestlers have to wear kimono whenever they appear in public.



Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.

Last Week's Answer:



Kim Kardashian Releases Kimono Underwear

The American TV star Kim Kardashian has released her new line of underwear and she has decided to call it "Kimono". The underwear is a range of body-hugging⁶ items. She decided on the name because it has her name "Kim" in it. I don't know why, but if she was trying to find an Asian name, she could have gone for "Kimchee". (Kimchi? I don't know how to spell it.) Or, seeing as it's underwear, what about "skimpy"⁷? I think I should send her these ideas. She might pay me.



After she named the product, she then tried to trademark "kimono". This would have meant that other people and companies couldn't use the word. Many Japanese people pointed out that Kimono is a type of clothing and not a name. It would be like trying to trademark⁸ the word "shirt" or "sock". People were also angry that she is trying to use "kimono" for underwear. Kimono is a very culturally significant garment in Japan.



Kim Kardashian was a stylist of Paris Hilton. She became famous in 2007 when she accidentally on purpose released a private video she had made with her boyfriend. She has appeared on many different reality shows and is said to be the highest paid reality TV star. She has hundreds of millions of Twitter and Instagram followers and has created many products tied to her name⁹. She is very rich.



- 1.Fabric 布 2.Family crest 家の紋章 3.Encourage/Discourage 励ます・思いとどまらせる
 4.Sleeve 袖 5.Funeral 葬式 6.Body-hugging 体にぴったりくっつく 7.Skimpy 小過ぎる
 8.Trademark 登録商標 9.Tied to her name 名前と連携する

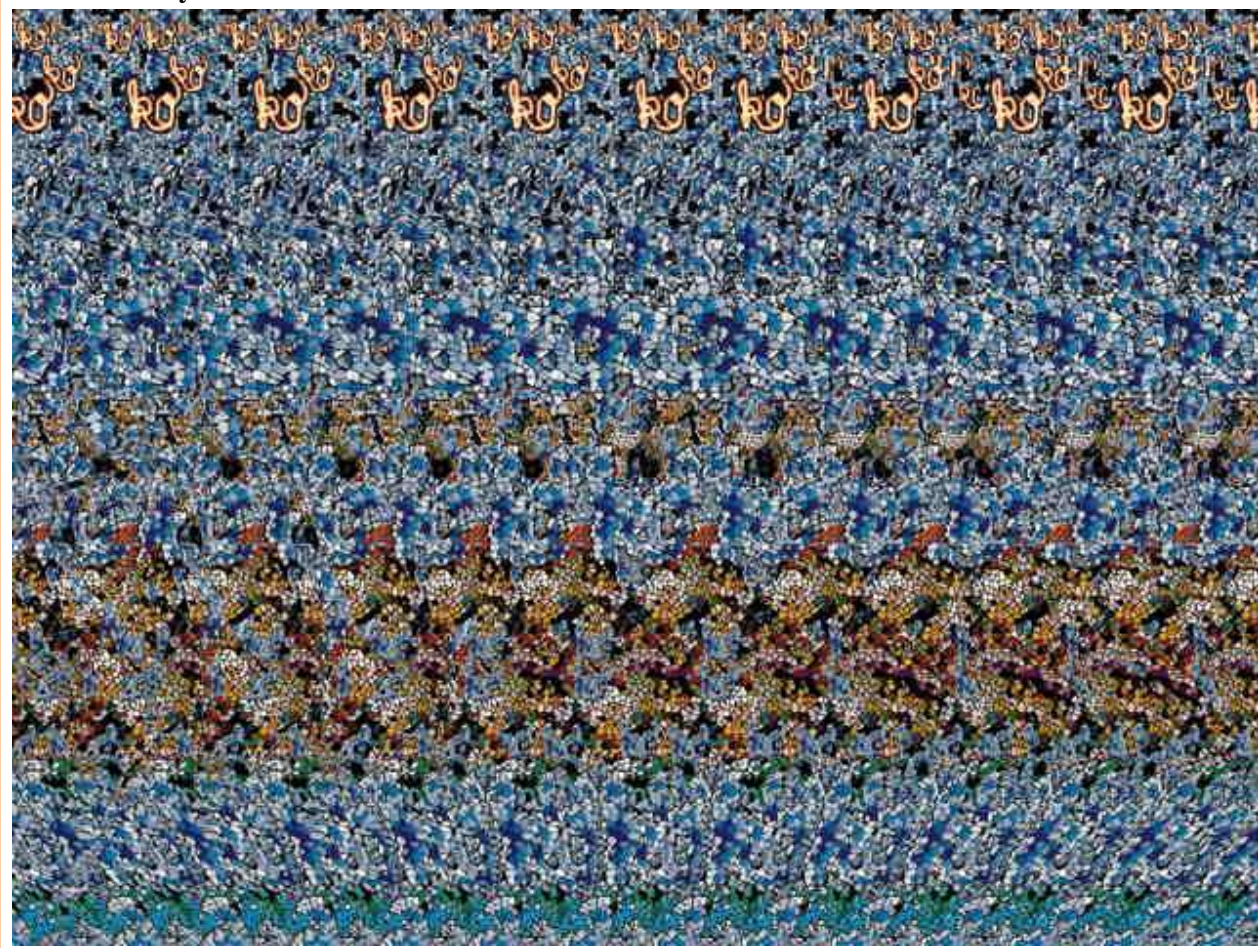
★ English News Page 2 ★

World Records

I went to my daughter's school festival last week and it was so loud my ears hurt for a full day. But, that's nothing compared to the loudest scream in the world. Jill Drake of the UK has a scream that reaches 129 decibels. An ambulance siren is 100 decibels and a rock concert is 115 decibels. I wouldn't want to be next to her when she screams. This might be one of the records we can actually beat. I know some of you are pretty loud. The school's PS is coming up this Friday, so I think we have a chance.

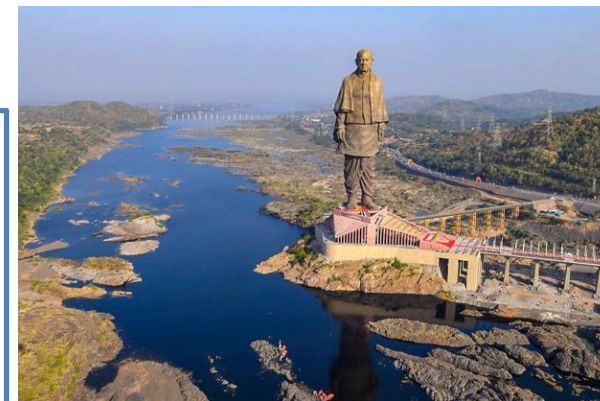


What can you see?



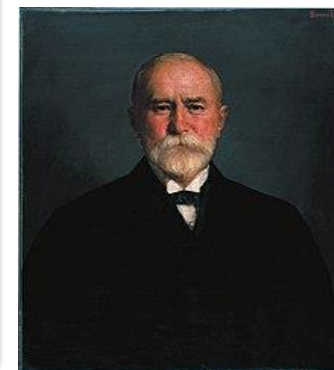
★ Something Big ★

The Statue of Liberty used to be the tallest statue in the world, but it has been overtaken¹ by a few others. Now, the tallest statue is in India. It is called the Statue of Unity and is a statue of the peace activist² Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. It cost almost \$500 million to build and many people criticized³ the governor of Gujarat, where it has been built, because there is still a lot of poverty⁴ in the area and the money could have been better spent. However, 1.5 million people have visited the statue in just 5 months since it was open, so it could help the area. The statue is 240m high, almost three times taller than the Statue of Liberty. The base was built by asking farmers to donate their used farming tools. The statue took five years to build and was opened in November of 2018.



Cowboy hats

When you see this hat (picture over here at the edge) you automatically⁵ think "cowboy hat". But these hats were not popular in the American West Frontier⁶ until after the American Civil War. Most people wore bowler hats before then. In 1865, John B. Stetson invented the hat we know as a cowboy hat, and that is where the word "Stetson" came from. He worked with cowboys and he knew they wanted a waterproof⁷ hat that kept the rain off their faces and the sun out of their eyes. He designed his hat to accomplish⁸ that. Stetson heavily marketed his hat and pushed the image of the frontiersman, or cowboy, wearing his hats. He managed to get famous entertainers and politicians to wear them. Towards the end of his life, he donated all of his money to charities and the community.



- 1.Overtake 追い越す 2.Peace activist 平和活動家 3.Criticize 批判する 4.Poverty 貧困
5.Automatically 自動的 6.Frontier [特にアメリカ西部開拓時代の] 辺境 7.Waterproof 嚙防水
8.Accomplish 成功する