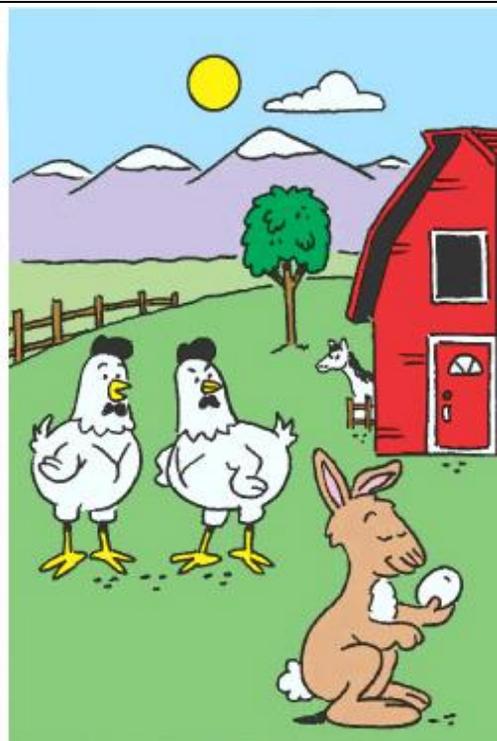
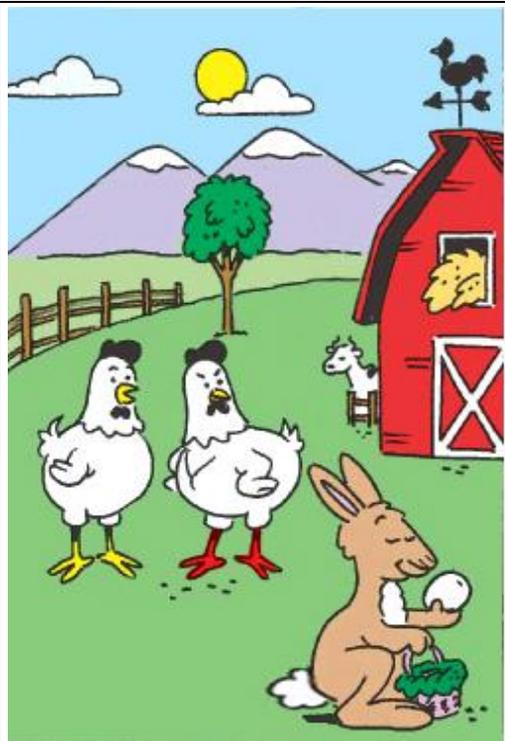


It's my daughter's birthday this week. She will be eight years old. I can't believe how quickly she has grown. The time really does fly¹. It seems like only yesterday that she was learning how to walk. She is getting taller each year as well. (Obviously².) My father thinks that she will be taller than me. What do you think? I don't think she will. I think she will probably end up somewhere between my height (182) and my wife's height (162). That would put her at 172cm tall. She says she wants to be over 2m tall though. Hmm.

Something Interesting (Shipwrecks³)

1. UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, estimates⁴ that there are about 3 million shipwrecks around the world. I have no idea how they know that.
2. The most famous shipwreck is obviously the Titanic.
3. Many ships are being intentionally⁵ sunk these days to make artificial reefs.
4. The oldest intact⁶ shipwreck was found in the Black Sea and is 2,400 years old.
5. The deadliest⁷ shipwreck was the sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff in World War 2. 9,600 people died when it was sunk by a Russian submarine.
6. The Nuestra Senora de Atocha is the most valuable shipwreck ever found. It was sailing from South America to Spain in 1622 when it sank in a hurricane. The wreck was found in 1975 and it had about \$400 million worth of gold, silver, jewels and other artifacts⁸.



Can you find the differences? There are 15 this week. Some are hard.

Last week's answer



Four Shipwrecks Found in Greece

In the fall of last year, divers off the coast of the Greek island Kasos, found four shipwrecks close to each other. It is not uncommon to find shipwrecks near Greece, but these ships were from four distinct⁹ time periods. The earliest one was from the Classical era, about 500 BC, the second one was from the Hellenistic era, about 100 BC, the third one was from about 100 AD and the last one was a fairly modern ship. The ships they found and the artifacts they were carrying will help the archaeologists¹⁰ to



understand the area a lot more because the island of Kasos has always been central to trade in that area. The hold of the ship from about 100 AD was full of Roman pottery. Many of them were amphorae (pots) that were filled with olive oil from Spain and Tunisia. This shows that Romans were importing¹¹ oil from northern Africa into Italy. The Greek civilization, and then the Roman Empire, imported goods from many different parts of the world.

It took the team of divers over 200 hours to bring all of these things to the surface. And they are going to be busy because they have already located other shipwrecks that they want to investigate¹². The clear, warm water makes diving on wrecks a lot easier than in other parts of the world. And, the extremely long history of the people that lived in the area mean that there are going to be many more discoveries. It is all very exciting.



- 1.Time flies 時間はあつという間 2.Obviously 当たり前 3.Shipwreck 船の沈没
4.Estimate 推定する 5.Intentionally わざと 6.Intact 失われた部分がない 7.Deadliest 歴史的に最悪な 8.Artifact 遺物 9.Distinct はっきりと異なる 10.Archaeologist 考古学者
11.Import 輸入 12.Investigate 調べる



World Records

This is a pretty amazing and expensive record. A jeweler¹ in Hyderabad, India, has got a world record for the highest number of diamonds set in one ring. Kotti Srikanth set 7,801 diamonds on the ring. The ring is being sold for 11,000,000 yen. I don't know how much money your parents gave you for Christmas and the New Year, but I would be surprised if you could afford² that. The ring is in the shape of a flower. In India, flowers are used as offerings³ to gods, and this is a very beautiful offering. When my wife and I got married, we chose wedding rings and she chose one with a single diamond in it. That diamond fell out. So, she has a zero diamond ring.



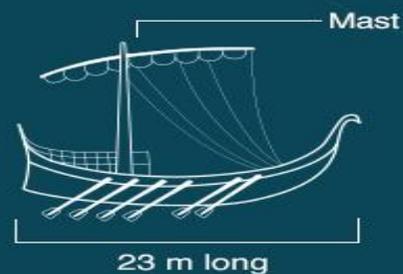
**Life is like riding a bicycle.
To keep your balance,
you must keep moving.**

Something interesting

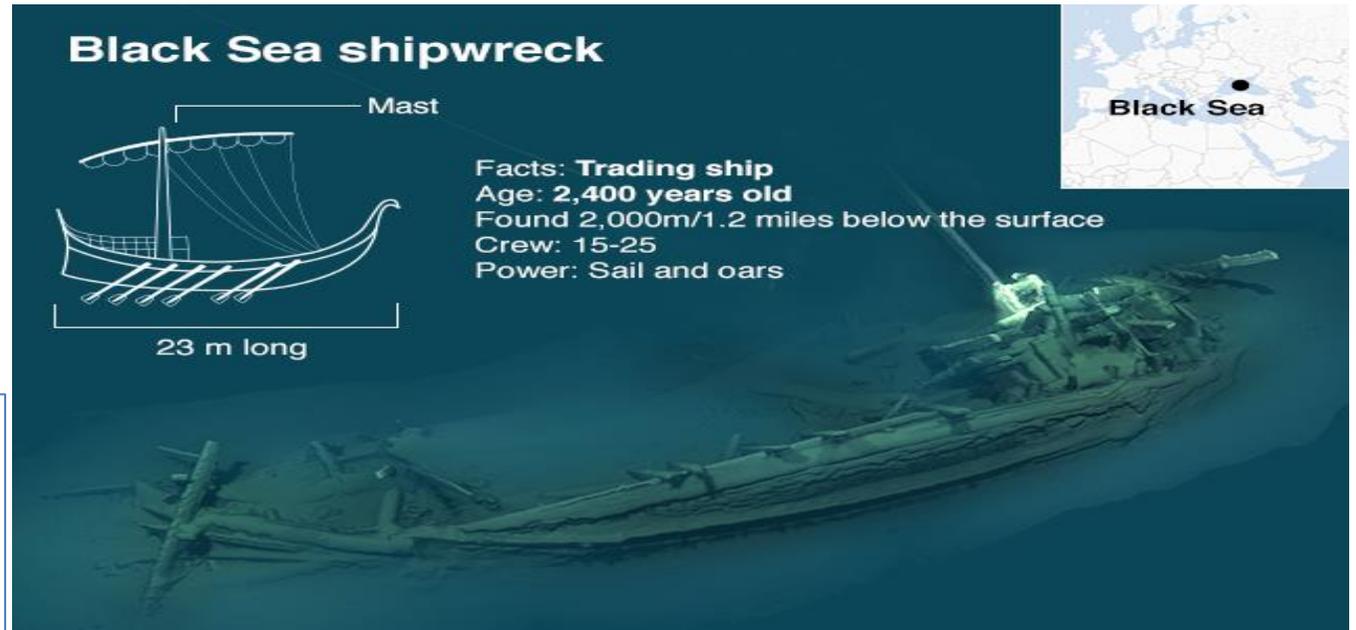
I thought I would continue writing about shipwrecks. There are two different things to write about here. The oldest shipwreck and the oldest intact shipwreck. The oldest shipwreck is the Dokos shipwreck. (It sank near the Greek island of Dokos.) It is a ship that sank in about 2200 BC. That means 4,400 years ago! The ship has long since biodegraded⁴, but there was a lot of pottery⁵ left in the place where the ship was. Archaeologists dated the pottery and think that the boat was trading between small coastal villages on the coast of Greece. It is the largest collection of Early Helladic II pottery ever found and was made before the invention of the pottery wheel⁶! The archaeologists also found lead ingots that the sailors would have used to trade.

The oldest intact shipwreck is another Greek ship that was found in the Black Sea. It sank 2,400 years ago but is almost completely whole. It hasn't biodegraded because the water is anoxic⁷ (it doesn't have much oxygen) and the living things that break down wood need oxygen to live. It's also very deep, 2000m, so it hasn't been damaged by treasure hunters. It is too deep for even modern divers to reach it, so the team that found it used a robotic camera to make a 3D image of the ship. Usually, archaeologists look at the contents of the ship to understand where it came from, but this ship is too deep so they cannot do that easily. They need more money to return with a submarine.

Black Sea shipwreck



Facts: Trading ship
Age: 2,400 years old
Found 2,000m/1.2 miles below the surface
Crew: 15-25
Power: Sail and oars



1.Jeweler 宝石商 2.Afford お金の余裕がある 3.Offering ささげもの 4.Biodegrade 生物分解する 5.Pottery 陶器 6.Pottery wheel ろくろ 7.Anoxic 無酸素症の