

That was a great Golden Week. Did you have a good time? I know that we couldn't really go anywhere, but that wasn't a bad thing. It was nice spending time at home with my family. I did a lot of things with my daughter. I taught her how to play Monopoly. She likes the children's version and she wanted to know how to play the adult version. I said to her, "It's difficult, takes a long time, and you will probably lose!" She said ok and then slaughtered me. By the end she had 11 hotels, most of the property and all my pride!

15 differences



Are these puzzles too easy? If you want, I can try to find some really difficult ones. Just tell me.

Last week's answer



### Something you didn't know about squid

1. There are about 500 different species of squid.
2. Squid can swim very fast. They push water through their body, almost like a jet engine. They can swim at about 40km/h. They have to keep swimming or they sink.
3. They eat fish, crabs, shrimp, and smaller squid.
4. The biggest squid is the Colossal Squid. Smaller ones at 500kg have been found, but the larger ones have never been caught. They are eaten by sperm whales. The beaks of some giant squid have been found in the stomach of sperm whales and they are estimated to be 700kg and 10m long.

### Giant Squid Statue

The town of Noto in Ishikawa is in trouble for building a 9m long statue of a squid. Why does that make people angry? Because they have used money that was given to them to help boost local economies. The Japanese government has money to lots of towns to try to help them during this pandemic. Noto received a grant of 800 million yen. They used 25 million of that grant to build this squid. Noto is famous for squid fishing and they want to use this statue to raise awareness of the town. They also hoped that it would increase



tourism. I'm not sure how many people would travel that far to look at a large squid statue, even if there wasn't a corona virus pandemic right now. A lot of people said that the money was meant to help people and the town's

economy, not to make a statue. The Japanese government didn't specify what the money

was for, but many people think that Noto should return the money. What do you think? Would you go and visit it? Do you think other towns should take a leaf out of their book and make giant statues of their own? There is a saying that "no publicity is bad publicity" and Noto might



prove this. Even if people are angry, a lot more people know about the town now than they did before. Maybe we should try something like that here at school? What do you think? A 20m high student? Hmm. I'll ask the principal.

- 1.the longest running play 一番長い上演 2.shortest run 一番短い上演 3.scene change 場面変化 4. thatched roof わらぶ期屋根 5.ban 禁止される 6.subtitles 字幕 7.camera tricks 編集トリック 8. special effects 特殊効果 9.edit 編集する 10. pay off 努力や投資などが利益を生む



World record

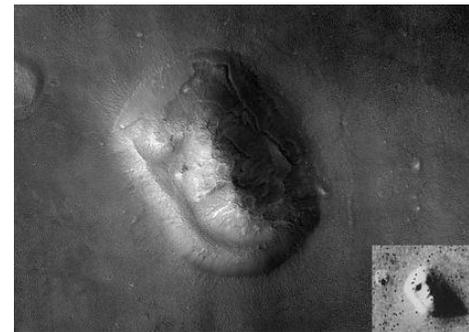
I went to the beach with Joe and our daughters over Golden Week. We were looking for fossils, but it was too sandy and there were no rocks. Our daughters dug in the sand. I think they would have liked to make a sandcastle. Maybe we could go back and try for this world record. A team of artists in Germany have made the world's tallest sandcastle. It is 17.66m tall! That makes it taller than our school! They had to use 11 tons of sand and it took them three and a half weeks. They were lucky that the wind wasn't very strong. Should we try? Maybe we could get the school to buy 11 tons of sand and have it dumped in the garden. What do you think?



You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.

A mystery

Have you ever seen the picture of the "face on Mars"? This is not really a mystery, but it does show something interesting about human minds. In 1975, NASA's Viking 1 sailed past Mars and took lots of photographs. One of them, looked like a face. Can you see it? When people saw the photograph, they began to think that this was evidence of alien life on Mars. Some people said that it was a giant alien. Other people said that aliens had made enormous statues of themselves. People went crazy speculating about what it is. What do you think it is? It turns out that it is just a hill



that, when photographed from a certain angle, looks like a face. This is the same hill in different light. What does it look like now? It looks like a hill. Also, the Viking 1 probe didn't have a very high-resolution camera. There are no aliens on Mars. But, this is an interesting example of something called "pareidolia". This is where people see patterns where there aren't

any. Good examples would be seeing animals in clouds, hearing music in the noise made by an air conditioner.

Here are some examples: Pareidolia is interesting because it shows how our brains work. We see hundreds of faces every



day. We have to be able to judge if these are friendly faces or dangerous faces in a few seconds so that we can react. That means our brains are always looking for faces. Some companies make use of this and put smiling faces on the fronts of cars.



- 1.handstand 逆立ち 2.cause 大義のために 3.applause 拍手 4.express 表す 5.impress 人を感心させる 6.time-lapse photography 低速度撮影の写真 7.imaginative 想像的 8.freeze 凍る 9.long-standing 長く続いている