

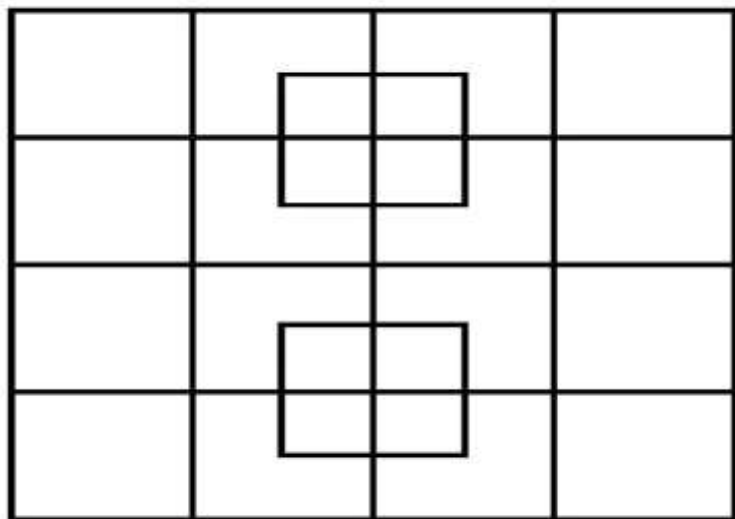
12/7/2015 (#28 this year)

Now we have the tests behind us<sup>1</sup> we can concentrate on<sup>2</sup> Christmas. We have one normal<sup>3</sup> week, this week, and then the mayhem<sup>4</sup> of Christmas starts. I love this time of year. Everyone is making stained glass, getting ready for the pageant<sup>5</sup>, making Christmas cards, decorating<sup>6</sup> their classrooms and getting into the Christmas spirit<sup>7</sup>. Have you all written your letters to Santa this year? What have you asked him for? Have you been good or bad? My daughter has asked Santa for about a billion<sup>8</sup> things. I have a feeling he won't be able to bring all of them.

## Something You Didn't Know (Basketball<sup>9</sup>)

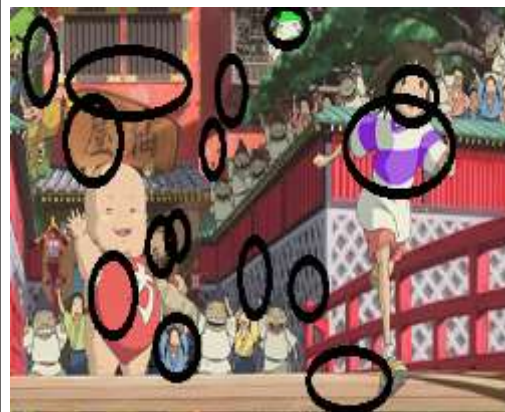
1. Basketball was invented<sup>10</sup> in 1891 by Canadian, Dr. James Naismith. He was a PE teacher in Springfield, Massachusetts (the town Joe comes from!) and he needed a way for his students to keep fit<sup>11</sup> on rainy days. He nailed<sup>12</sup> a peach bucket<sup>13</sup> to a wall, 3.05m high and the game of basketball was born. He took some of the rules from a children's game called "duck on a rock".
2. It was originally<sup>14</sup> played with a soccer ball and there was no dribbling<sup>15</sup> until perfectly round<sup>16</sup> balls were made in the 1950s. The ball was also changed to orange at the same time.
3. The basket used to be nailed to a balcony<sup>17</sup> at each end of the court<sup>18</sup> but the backboard<sup>19</sup> was introduced<sup>20</sup> because spectators<sup>21</sup> would lean over<sup>22</sup> and block shots<sup>23</sup>, or help the ball in.
4. The average height<sup>24</sup> for an NBA<sup>25</sup> player now is 7 feet (213cm)!!

## HOW MANY SQUARES?



I found \_\_\_\_\_ squares.

## Last Week's Answers



## Announcements

Hallelujah on Monday. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Eng dept have a meeting on Thurs 5 and 6. 4<sup>th</sup> grade long term study abroad people have a meeting on Friday after school.

## News

### Kobe Bryant Announces Retirement

Last week, Kobe Bryant announced<sup>26</sup> he would retire<sup>27</sup> from basketball at the end of this season. He is the star player for the Los Angeles Lakers and he has played for them for his entire<sup>28</sup> 20-year career. He came to the NBA straight out of high school, when he was 17 years old. He is 37 now and he says that his body is too old to keep up with the stress of basketball. He's a year younger than me!



He is probably one of the most famous basketball players. He has helped his team to win the championship 5 times, he is the third highest scorer in NBA history, he has been MVP (most valuable player) 7 times and he has won gold medals at the Beijing and London Olympics. He has done a lot in his 20 years and he thinks it is time to step down<sup>29</sup>.



Kobe Bryant is 198cm tall. He lived in Italy as a child and speaks fluent<sup>30</sup> Italian as well as some Spanish. He is named after Kobe beef, which his parents saw on a restaurant menu. He is probably one of the greatest basketball players of all time. It will be interesting to see who can fill his shoes<sup>31</sup>.



1. Have~behind~がも終わった 2. Concentrate on に集中する 3. Normal 普通の 4. Mayhem 騒乱 5. Pageant ペイジェント 6. Decorating 飾りを掛ける 7. Christmas spirit クリスマスの気分 8. Billion 十億 9. Basketball バスケットボール 10. Invent 発明する 11. Keep fit 健康を保つ 12. Nail~をくぎで打ちつける 13. Peach bucket 桃のバケツ 14. Originally 最初は 15. Dribbling ドリブル 16. Perfectly round 完全に丸形 17. Balcony バルコニー 18. Court コート 19. Backboard バックボード 20. Introduce 導入する 21. Spectators 観客 22. Lean over~に身を乗り出す 23. Block a shot シュートを止める 24. Average height 平均身長 25. NBA プロバスケットボール協会 26. Announce 発表する 27. Retire 引退する 28. Entire 全部の 29. Step down 引退する 30. Fluent 流ちょうな 31. Fill his shoes 彼の代わりに出る