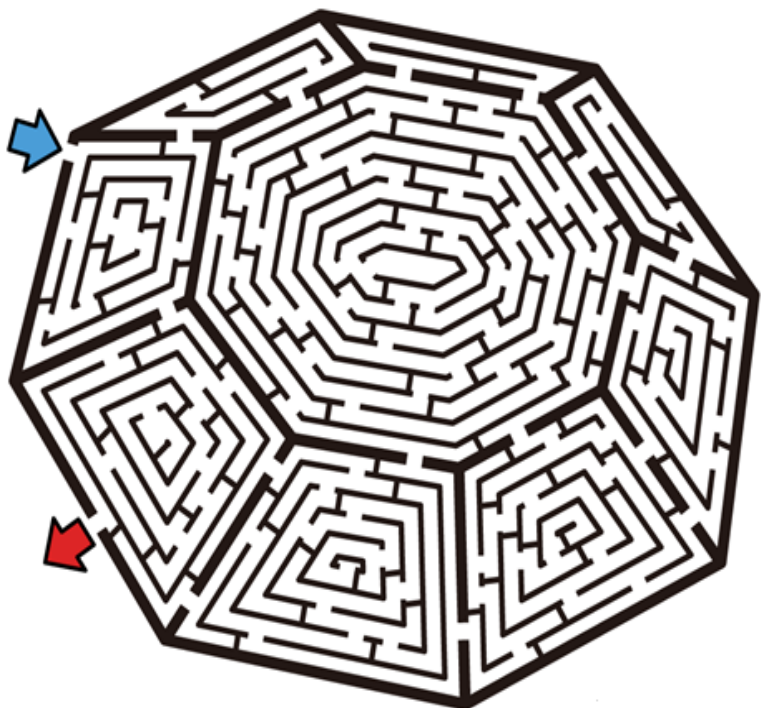


Wow! What a wonderful day Friday was! I really enjoyed walking to the lake. I don't know why, but I love being outside. What about you? Did you enjoy it? (Actually, to be honest¹, I am writing this on Thursday and I don't know how the walk was. But I'm sure that I will enjoy it.) I challenged my class to beat me to the goal. I said that I will buy an ice cream for every student that is faster than me. I hope that not too many of them will beat me because I don't have much of my pocket money² left. I may have to borrow³ some money off another teacher.

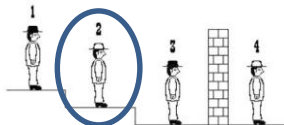
Something You Didn't Know (Solar power⁴)

- Obviously⁵ we can't catch it all but 193 petawatts⁶ of energy from the sun hits our atmosphere⁷ every hour. That's enough to make 120 trillion⁸ light bulbs⁹ shine for 24 hours.
- Germany is the country that gets the most of its power from solar power. Japan is number 5.
- In 1970 it cost \$96 to get 1 watt¹⁰ of power from solar power. Now it costs \$0.68.
- The largest solar power plant is in the Mojave Desert in California and is 1000 acres¹¹.
- Oil, gas and other fossil fuels¹² are limited¹³ and may run out¹⁴ at some time. Solar power is also limited. The sun is half way through its life and may only last for another 5 billion years! LOL¹⁵.
- Solar energy is environmentally friendly and produces no pollution¹⁶. Some people say it is harmful¹⁷ when we make the cells, but this is nothing compared to other power sources.
- Many governments¹⁸ give tax incentives¹⁹ to encourage²⁰ people to use solar power.



Last Week's Answers

The answer is man #2. They all know there are 2 black and 2 white hats. If #3 and #4 were both black, then #1 would know his hat was white and he would shout. Here #1 can't know his hat color so he is silent. #2 knows that if #1 is silent then his hat must be a different color to #3. So he knows that his hat is white. (Ask me if you don't understand).

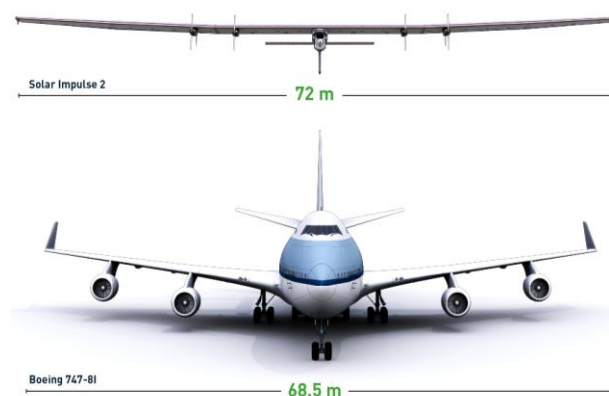


Announcements

The long walk to Shikotsuko for the High School and to Jyozankei for the Junior High School is on Friday. It's going to be hot so bring a hat and lots of water to drink.

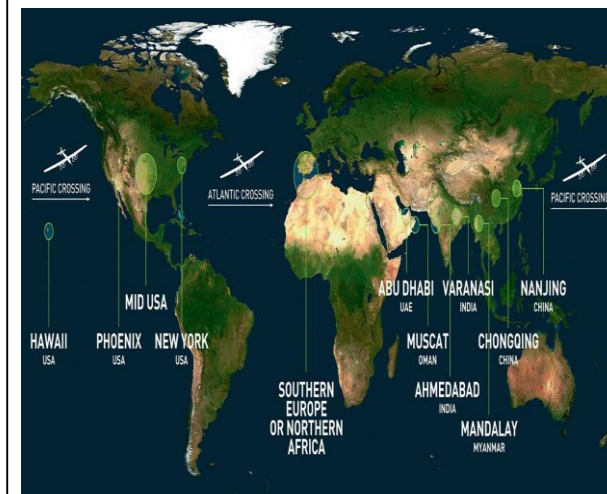
Solar Impulse 2 Takes Flight

Solar Impulse 2 which, as the name suggests²¹, is entirely²² solar powered, is nearing²³ the halfway point of its round the world flight this week. The journey started last year in Abu Dhabi and this week the plane is making the journey across America. Once it reaches the east coast of America it will have to make a long flight across the ocean and then head back to the start.



The plane has 17,284 photovoltaic cells²⁴ across its wings. Even though its wingspan²⁵ is greater than that of a 747, the plane only weighs 2,300kg. That is about the same as a Toyota Land Cruiser. The plane has a top speed of 140km/h but it usually flies much slower than that. Also, because of its light weight, the weather affects²⁶ it a lot.

The plane was supposed to²⁷ return to its starting point last summer but, owing to²⁸ numerous²⁹ technical problems³⁰, its journey has been severely³¹ delayed. It is only just halfway through. Still, despite³² the setbacks³³, the plane has set many records for solar powered flight. One day, maybe the largest passenger carrying jets will also be solar powered. This would be good because jets are a major cause of global warming.



- 1.To be honest 正直に言うと 2.Pocket money お小遣い 3.Borrow 借りる 4.Solar power 太陽光発電 5.Obviously 明らかに 6.Petawatt^{10¹⁵}ワット 7.Atmosphere 大気 8.Trillion 一兆 9.Light bulb 電球 10.Watt ワット
11.1Acre=4046m² 12.Fossil fuel 化石燃料 13.Limited 限られる 14.Run out なくなる 15.LOL (Laugh Out Loud) 大笑い 16.Pollution 汚染 17.Harmful 有害な 18.Government 政府 19.Tax incentive 政策減税 20.Encourage 促す 21.As the name suggests その名の通り 22.Entirely 全て 23.Nearing 近づく 24.Photovoltaic Cell 光電池 25.Wingspan 翼長 26.Affect 障害される 27.Supposed to ~のはず 28.Owing to のせいで 29.Numerous 色んな 30.Technical problems 技術上の問題 31 Severely 強く 32.Despite なのに 33.Setbacks 妨げ