

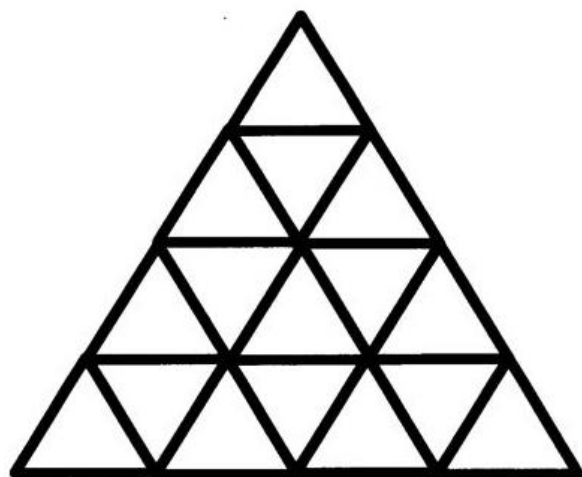
It is my daughter's birthday on Thursday this week. She will be four years old. I can't believe four years have already passed since she was born! Incredible. Every year I measure her and I draw a line on the kitchen doorframe¹. She seems to be growing by about 10cm a year. If she keeps it up² she'll be 2m tall before she's twenty. Ha ha. She has decided what presents she wants, but it is so soon after Christmas that it feels like we are constantly³ buying her toys. I think for this year I am going to give her a stone. She can play with it in the park.

Something You Don't Know (Sumo)

1. Sumo has been around for as long as Japan's recorded history⁴. A ring was used in the 16th century and current⁵ professional sumo began in the Edo period⁶.
2. When the Meiji government⁷ ordered⁸ samurai and all people to cut off their top-knots⁹, sumo wrestlers were the only exception¹⁰.
3. Sumo wrestlers are not allowed to drive cars.
4. Sumo wrestlers have a life expectancy¹¹ of 60-65 years. Ten years lower than the average.
5. Konishiki was the heaviest sumo wrestler at 287kg and Akebono was the tallest at 203cm.
6. The top ranked sumo referees¹² wear purple. They also carry a ceremonial dagger¹³ in their belt. This is show that they are willing to kill themselves if they make a wrong decision.
7. Most sumo wrestlers don't eat breakfast.

HOW MANY TRIANGLES?

How many equilateral triangles can you uncover in the pattern below?



Last Week's Answers



Announcements

JHS ski on Mon. IV grade ski on Tues.
JHS singing competition on Thurs. Niko chan's birthday on Thurs. The skiing is finished. Well done..

Kisenosato becomes Yokozuna

Last Wednesday, the Japan Sumo Association announced that sumo wrestler Kisenosato would be promoted¹⁴ to the rank of yokozuna. He will be the first Japanese born person to become yokozuna in 19 years. The last Japanese yokozuna was Wakanohana In 1998. Since then all of the top wrestlers have been Mongolian or Hawaiian. He will become the 72nd yokozuna.



Many people say that he will have a lot of pressure¹⁵. As the only Japanese born yokozuna in Japan's national sport he will have to try to raise flagging¹⁶ interest¹⁷. Due to some problems with match fixing¹⁸, connections to the mafia, and no Japanese people at the top, the number of fans has declined¹⁹. Very few young people go to watch matches.

This is shown in the fact that few young Japanese people become sumo wrestlers, compared with²⁰ a large number in Mongolia where it is seen as a way to riches. Hopefully Kisenosato can rise to the challenge²¹. We must not forget the other yokozuna. Just because they are not Japanese, they are equally good, if not better, and have worked just as hard to get where they are. Anybody, of any nationality²², who is at the top of their sport, deserves our admiration²³.



- 1.Doorframe** ドアの枠 **2.Keeps** __ up 続く **3.Constantly** いつも **4.Recorded history** 有史時代
5.Current 現在 **6.Period** 時代 **7.Government** 政府 **8.Order** ~を命令する **9.Top-knot** 丁髷
10.Exception 除外すること **11.Life expectancy** 平均余命 **12.Referee** 審判 **13.Ceremonial dagger** 儀式用の短剣 **14.Promted** 階級が上がる **15.Pressure** 圧力 **16.Flagging** 減退している **17.Raise interest** 興味を持たせる **18.Match fixing** 八百長 **19.Decline** 減る **20.Compared with** ~と比べたら **21.Rise to the challenge** 困難にうまく対処する **22.Nationality** 国籍 **23.Deserves admiration** 称賛に値する