

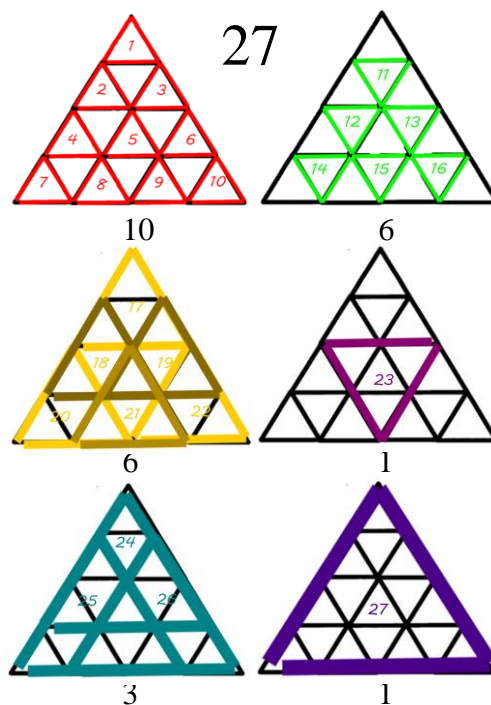
We've had a lot of snow this week. I love snow. I guess it comes from growing up in a country where there isn't much. In England, at least¹ where I live, it snows a little bit every year, maybe a few centimeters. Sometimes we get about 30cm for a day and all of the schools close. I loved days like that. The local radio station (this is before the Internet) would announce² which schools were closed and, if our school was one of them, we could grab our sledges³ and head for⁴ the park! Happy memories. We should do that here.

Something You Don't Know (Pac-Man)

1. Pac-Man was designed⁵ in 1980 by Toru Iwatani.
2. Pac comes from the Japanese paku-paku, meaning to eat.
3. The game has four cute ghosts because Toru wanted to attract girls to⁶ arcade centers⁷.
4. The four ghosts appear to be⁸ random⁹, but they are not. The red one chases Pac-Man, the pink and blue ones try to get in front of Pac-Man, and the orange ghost chases Pac-Man until it gets close, then it moves to the bottom left of the screen.
5. The last level is 256. At this point a bug¹⁰ causes the game to crash¹¹ and there is no way to pass this level¹². There is a prize of \$100,000 for anyone who can.
6. The highest possible score is 3,333,360. The world record time to get this is 3hrs 28mins.
7. The Pac-Man machines have taken¹³ nearly \$8 billion so far.



Last Week's Answers



The Father of Pac-Man Dies

Last Tuesday Masaya Nakamura died. He was widely known as¹⁴ the father of Pacman. He was 91 years old. In 1950 he founded Nakamura Manufacturing¹⁵. His company made children's rides for department stores. (Like a small train that moves up and down when you put a coin in.) In the 1960s he put a ride on the rooftop¹⁶ of Mitsukoshi Department store.



His rides were very popular and his company was commissioned¹⁷ to put rides on other department store. He changed the company's name to Nakamura Amusement Machine Manufacturing Company (NAMMCO for short¹⁸, which became Namco). His company branched out¹⁹ into arcade games²⁰ which were just starting to become popular.

Pac-Man was created in 1980. The game was created by Toru Iwatani but Nakamura came up with²¹ the name. Namco became bigger and created many other games. Nakamura managed a chain of theme parks across Japan, but these weren't successful. Because of all the work he did for video games, Nakamura is called the father of Pac-Man. Nakamura was awarded²² the Order of the Rising Sun²³ and, when he died, he was Japan's 68th richest person.



1. At least 少なくとも 2. Announce 発表する 3. Sledge そり 4. Head for ~ へ 向かう 5. Design 設計する 6. Attract...to ~ を...に引き付ける 7. Arcade center ゲームセンター 8. Appear to be ~ であるように見える 9. Random ランダム 10. Bug 欠陥 11. Crash 機能が停止する 12. Pass a level 次のレベルになる 13. Take 利益になる 14. Widely known as ~ として広く知られている 15. Manufacture 造る 16. Rooftop 屋上 17. Commission 委任する 18. For short 短く言うと 19. Branch out 手を広げる 20. Arcade game ゲーム機 21. Come up with 思いつく 22. Awarded 受ける 23. The Order of the Rising Sun 勲一等旭日大綬章