

I finally went to see the snow festival last weekend. Have any of you been to see it? I'm always amazed at the amount of detail they can carve¹ into snow. It was very impressive². And I also like all of the food stalls³ they have there. It seems to me that there are more and more each year. I love being able to try so many different foods, but they are rather⁴ expensive. We went to the festival because my daughter wanted to go, but there were so many people that she got scared. I spent most of the time carrying her. Still, we had a good time.

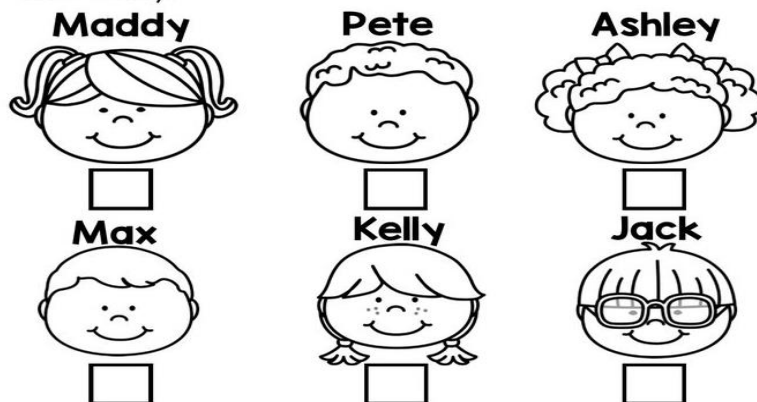
Something You Don't Know (Valentine's Day)

1. Valentine's Day is named for⁵ Saint Valentine, but we have no evidence⁶ which one. There were three Christian priests⁷ called Valentine who were martyred⁸ by the Romans on February 14th, but we don't have many details⁹ about their lives.
2. Approximately 1,000,000,000 Valentines cards are sent every year.
3. Teacher's receive most of these cards.
4. In America and Europe men and women both give gifts on Valentine's Day. In Japan women give gifts on Valentine's Day and men give gifts on White day.
5. Hallmark (a card company) has over 2000 different Valentine's cards.
6. The oldest surviving¹⁰ Valentine's card was sent in 1415 by the Duke of Orleans¹¹ to his wife.
7. 220,000 couples will get engaged¹² on Valentine's Day in the US.

How Old Am I?

Directions: Read the descriptions of the kids to find out their ages.
Write the kids' ages below.

- *Kelly is 3 years older than Pete.
- *Jack is the same age as Ashley.
- *Max is 2 years older than Kelly.
- *Pete is 9 years old.
- *Ashley is 3 years younger than Max, and 2 years older than Maddy.



Last Week's Answers



Announcements

Tuesday is Valentine's Day. Thursday you have classes 1 and 2, followed by cleaning 3. You all have to be home by 12:15. On Thursday and Friday we have entrance exams. Next Monday you have a holiday.

Pokemon Go Valentine Event

I don't know how many of you still play Pokemon Go but, if you do, Nintendo and Niantic, the companies that created it, are starting a special Valentine event. I don't play Pokemon Go. I wasn't interested in it in the first place. I know that it was hugely popular¹³ to begin with but, like any craze¹⁴, the number of people who still play it has dramatically fallen¹⁵.



The Valentine event runs¹⁶ from February 8th to February 15th. It has introduced some pink Pokemon and, apparently¹⁷, the eggs now hatch a little faster. However, a lot of people are disappointed¹⁸. The game has been around¹⁹ for months now, and the people still playing have caught all of the Pokemon and they don't know what to do.

Fans of the game are hoping that Niantic reinvests²⁰ some of the billions of dollars it has made from the game and creates new characters, goals and things to do. Until that happens, they will be losing players day by day²¹. Anyway, I hope you have fun this Valentine's Day and can find the pink Pokemon. Or, if you don't play the game, maybe you can dress up as²² a giant pink Pokemon and try to scare people who are walking around glued to²³ their phones. Ha.



- 1.Carve 彫る 2.Impressive 印象的 3.Food stall 屋台 4.Rather かなり 5.Named for ~の名付けられる
6.Evidence 証拠 7.Christian priest キリスト教神父 8.Martyred 殉教する 9.Detail 情報 10.Oldest surviving 現存する最古の~ 11.Duke of Orleans オルレアン公 12.Get engaged 婚約する 13.Hugely popular すごく人気 14.Craze 流行 15.Dramatically fallen 劇的に減った 16.Run 行う 17.Apparently ~のようである 18.Disappointed がっかり 19.Be around がある 20.Reinvest 再投資する 21.Day by day 日ごとに 22.Dress up as ~の格好をする 23.Glued to ~にくぎ付けになる