

So, what is happening this week? It's the last week of classes. Next week we have sports days, a junior high graduation¹, cleaning and other things. So, enjoy your last week of lessons in whatever grade you are in. In a few weeks, you are going to be in the next grade, and you will be older, wiser² and more responsible³. Ha ha. And of course, Tuesday is White Day. Did you make someone chocolates on Valentine's Day? If you did, then you can look forward to getting some delicious chocolates back. I wonder what I will make. Maybe one M&M per⁴ student.

Something You Don't Know (Malta⁵)

1. Malta is a small island in the Mediterranean Sea⁶. It is 80km off the coast of⁷ Sicily.
2. 17,000 years ago, Malta was part of mainland⁸ Europe.
3. A bee called the Maltese Honey Bee lives on the island. This could be where the name for Malta came from. In Greek, "meli", means honey and "melite" means honey-sweet.
4. People started to live on the island in 4000 BCE⁹. Since then the island has been colonized¹⁰ by the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Moors, Normans, Sicilians, Spanish, Knights of St. John, French and British. The Maltese got independence¹¹ in 1974.
5. Cars in Malta drive on the left, the same as in Japan.
6. The population is 425,000 and there are 365 churches! It is a very religious¹² country.
7. Malta has been in many movies, only you didn't know it was Malta. E.g. Gladiator.

15 differences



Malta's Azure Window Collapses

Last Wednesday, Malta's Azure Window¹³, that had stood for¹⁴ thousands of years, finally collapsed¹⁵ into the sea. The rock formation¹⁶ was a famous landmark in Malta and has been used in many movies and TV dramas. Over the years, the sea, rain and wind had eroded¹⁷ it. Tourists also walked on top of it and jumped into the sea. Last year a law was passed¹⁸ to stop people walking on it.



Last Week's Answers

Three of the glasses are filled with cool drink; the other three are empty. By moving only one glass, can you arrange them so the full and empty glasses alternate??



A week of heavy storms¹⁹ proved too much²⁰, and the arch²¹ collapsed. People are very sad. Some tourists are asking the Maltese government to rebuild the arch, but that probably won't happen. Joseph Muscat, the prime minister of Malta, said that it is heartbreaking. The arch was formed from limestone²², which is not a very hard rock. Geologists²³ knew it would fall, the only question was when. Now they know.

- 1.Graduation 卒業式 2.Wise 賢い 3.Responsible 責任がある 4.Per につき 5.Malta マルタ
6.Mediterranean Sea 地中海 7.Off the coast of ~沖に 8.Mainland 本土 9.BCE 西暦紀元前
10.Colonize 植民地にする 11.Independence 独立 12.Religious 宗教的 13.Azure Window 空
色窓 14.Stood for ~年間に立った 15.Collapse 倒れる 16.Rock formation 岩石層 17.Erode
浸食される 18.Pass a law 法律を通過させる 19.Heavy storm ひどい嵐 20.Prove too much
~になりすぎ 21.Arch アーチ 22.Limestone 石灰岩 23.Geologist 地質学者