

Did you have a good vacation? I had a wonderful one. I went back to the UK and I spent Christmas with my family. I ate six meals every day! I think my body is now about 80% mince pie¹. (A minced pie is a sweet pie with a lot of sugar.) And it is 2019. Is this going to be a good year for you? Whatever grade you are in, big and important things are going to happen this year. Whatever you do, try as hard as you can and everything will be ok. Did you make any new year's resolutions²? I made 10, but I have already broken 7 of them. Ha ha.

Something You Didn't Know (Saturn³)

1. Saturn is a gas giant. That means it is a spinning ball of gas. In the center of the planet, where the pressure is the greatest, the hydrogen⁴ that the planet is mostly made of could become metallic hydrogen and it is possible that the planet has a rock core, but it's impossible to tell.
2. Saturn has 62 moons. Some of them have collided⁵ in the past and made the famous rings.
3. Saturn spins very quickly and a day only lasts 10 hours and 32 minutes.
4. Most of Saturn's rings are only about 10m thick. They stretch out over 120,000km from the planet. That is about half the distance from Earth to the Moon.
5. Saturn is very windy, just like Jupiter. Some of the winds can reach up to 2,000km/h. The strongest winds every registered on Earth were 408km/h.

Spot The Fifteen Differences



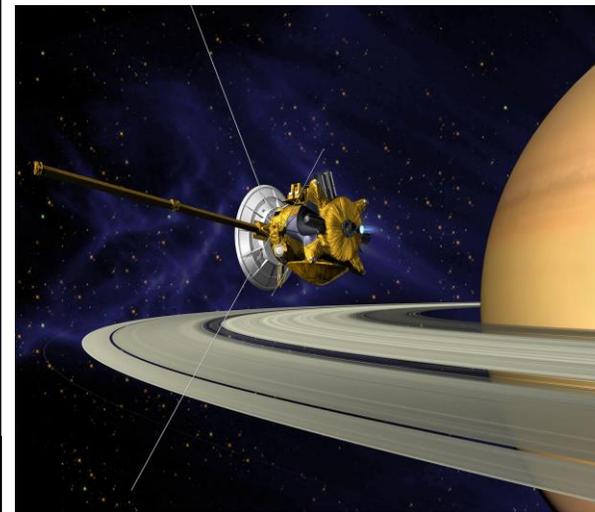
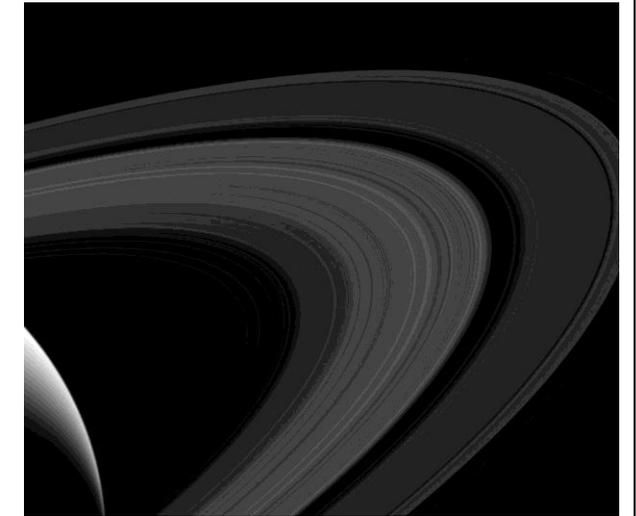
Last Week's Answers



Announcements
Skiing all week for the 5th grade on Mon, 4th grade on Tues, JHS on Thurs and 5th grade again on Fri. The 6th grade come in on Wed for the club show. I wonder what the teachers will do.

Saturn's Rings Younger Than Expected

Last week, NASA's Cassini Spacecraft sent back lots of data about Saturn. The spacecraft was on a mission to test Saturn's rings before diving to the planet. The scientists at NASA have learned a lot more about Saturn and its rings than they ever knew before. Scientists thought that the rings developed with the planet and were about 4 or so billion years old. However, the probe has found information that disputes⁶ this idea.



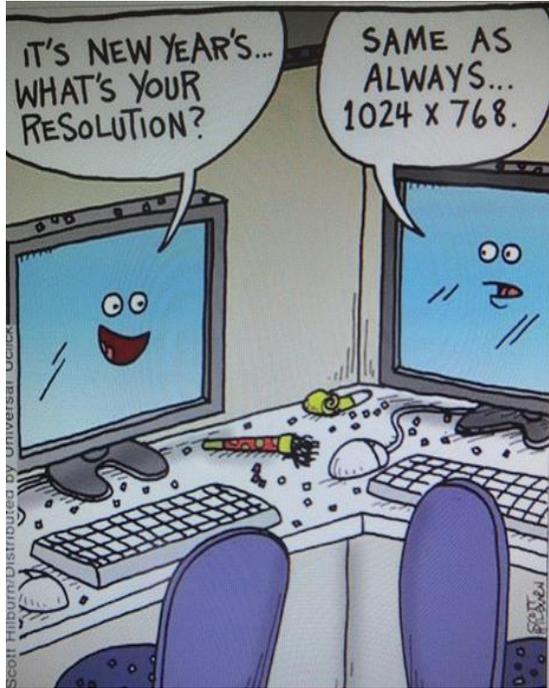
Cassini was launched 20 years ago and it has been flying steadily⁷. It finally reached Saturn, which is 1.2 billion KM from Earth, a few weeks ago and has been diving through the rings. It will finish its mission in April and will take a suicide dive into Saturn's atmosphere. When it travelled through the rings, which are made of ice, dust and small rocks, the probe discovered that they were far younger than previously thought.

The scientists worked out the mass⁸ of the rings and they worked out how much of the rings was falling to the planet each year. From that, they could calculate how old the rings were. They calculated that they are only 100 million years old. That means Saturn has spent 4.9 billion years without rings. That means, if the dinosaurs had been able to use a telescope, they wouldn't have seen rings around Saturn. Also, they discovered the rings will disappear in another 100 million years.



1.Mince pie クリスマスや新年の時期にデザートとして食べるタルト。中身はひき肉ではなく、ドライフルーツが入っていて甘い。英国では直径3~5cmほどのものであるが、米国ではもっと大きなサイズが一般的 **2.New Year's resolutions** 新年の抱負 **3.Saturn** 新年の抱負 **4.Hydrogen** 水素 **5.Collide** ぶつかる **6.Dispute** 議論する **7.Steadily** 順調に **8.Mass** 重さ

★ English News Page 2 ★



World Records

Do many of you dream of getting married? I'm sure many people do. Well, Glynn Wolfe married 29 times before he died in 1999. His shortest marriage was only 19 days and his longest lasted for 11 years. From his 29 wives he had 40 children. Some people might think that the more wives and the more children you have the happier you will be, but I don't think this was true in his case. When he died at the age of 89, not one of his wives and only one of his 40 children attended his funeral¹. Nobody claimed his body². That's quite sad.



★ Where did it come from? ★

I have a chocolate chip cookie in my bag. I bought it from 7-11 this morning. It is my snack for after I finish making this English News. Now, you probably wouldn't think of the chocolate chip cookie as being invented, but it was. There was a time when people could only eat cookies. Without chocolate chips. The poor unfortunate³ people. Then, in 1930, Ruth Wakefield invented the chocolate chip cookie. She wanted to make chocolate cookies, but she didn't have any baker's chocolate⁴. She broke sweetened chocolate up into small pieces and dropped it into the dough, expecting it to melt, but it didn't. What it did is stay there, like little pieces of Heaven. So, next time you bite into a chocolate chip cookie, stop and think of Ruth Wakefield.



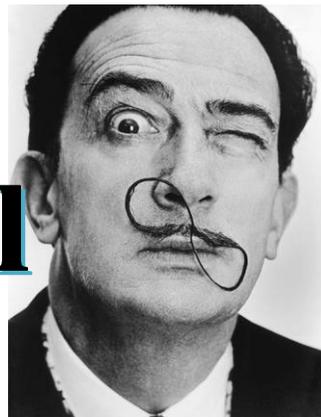
★ An Interesting Sport

Snail Racing

When I first read "snail racing", I had an image of people sitting on giant snails. That's not right, though. Races started hundreds of years ago in France. Snails are placed in the center of a circular wheel, about 1m across. The first snail to reach the edge wins. Fast races can be over in an hour, but sometimes they can last a whole day. People tend to eat and drink while watching the match. As it is France, presumably⁵, the loser are all eaten. Ha ha.



Have no fear of perfection. You'll never reach it.



Salvador Dali

1.Funeral お葬式 2.Claim a body 身体を主張する 3.Unfortunate 不幸な 4.Baker's chocolate 溶けるチョコ 5.Presumably 恐らく