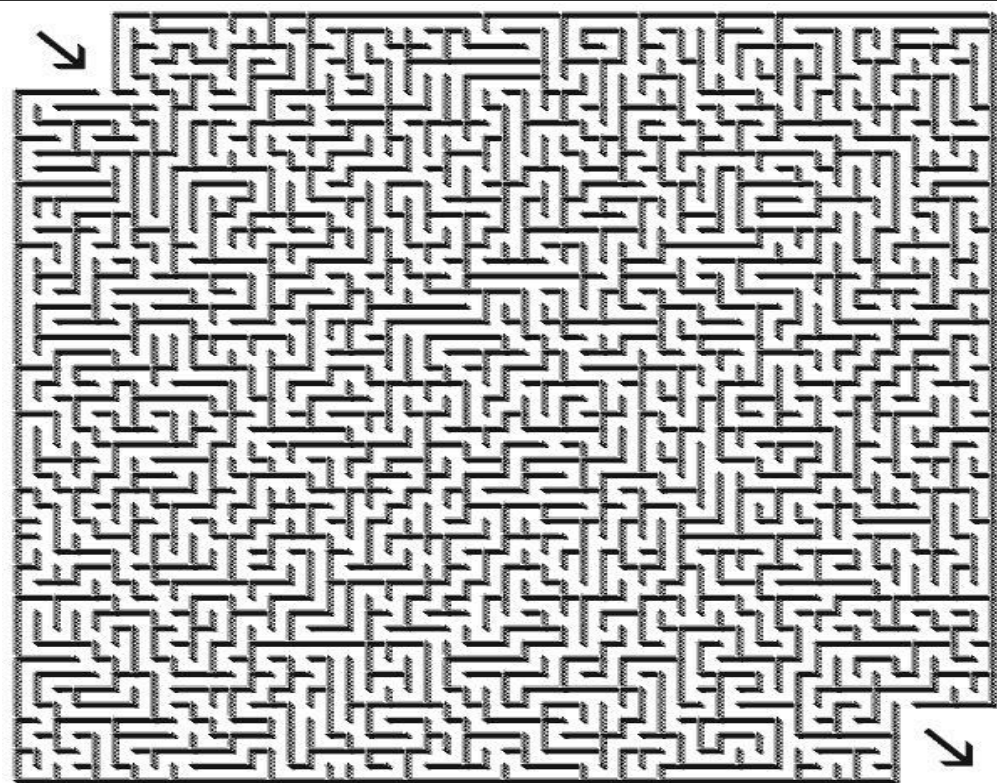


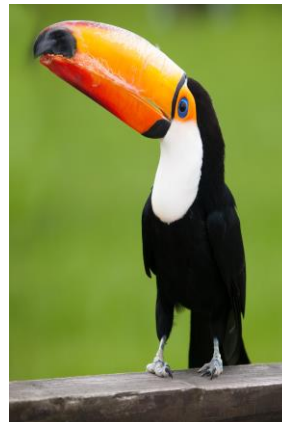
The Junior High 3rd grade had an English camp last week. It is one of the things they do to prepare for Canada. We have a lot of overseas¹ trips at our school these days: Canada, Taiwan, Cambodia, America, and New Zealand. I wonder what countries we will introduce in the future. More people seem to be going abroad than ever before. I used to hear many teachers say that they don't have a passport, but that is becoming rarer². Where are you going to next? Do you have any plans to go to another country? Come and tell me about them.

Something You Didn't Know (Plastic shopping bags)

1. The modern plastic shopping bag was invented by the Swedish engineer³ Sten Gustaf Thulin in the 1960s. The bags were not popular to begin with.
2. Over 1 trillion⁴ (1,000,000,000,000) plastic bags are used every year. That's almost 2 million plastic bags every minute!
3. Plastic bags are so strong and durable⁵ that they can take 500 years to decompose⁶.
4. On average we use about 1,500 bags a year, each. How about you?
5. 12% of all household trash⁷ is plastic from plastic bags.
6. The solution is not paper bags because they are more harmful⁸. The solution is cloth bags and a high fee for plastic bags.



Last week's answer:

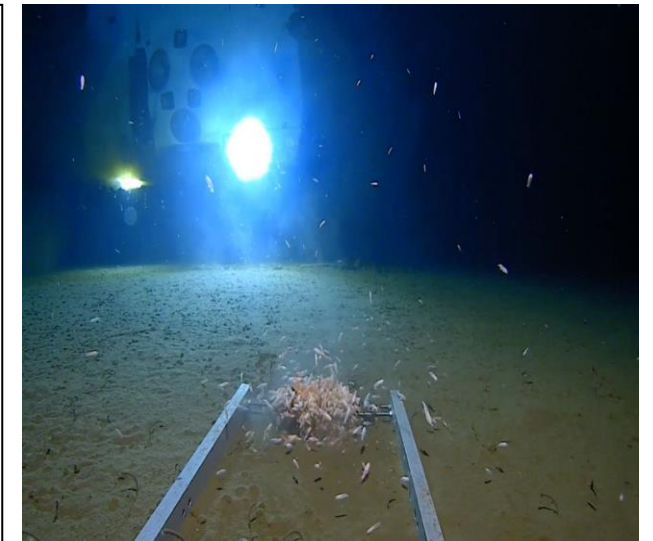


Announcements

A lot of clubs are away for sports competitions this week. Good luck to them.

Plastic Found at the Bottom of the Mariana Trench

Last week, Victor Vescovo descended⁹ almost 11km in a submarine to the bottom of the Marian Trench. The Mariana Trench is the deepest point on Earth and, at its deepest point, is 10,996m deep. This point is a small valley at the bottom of the trench and is known as Challenger Deep. Down there, the water pressure is 1,000 times greater than on the surface, so the submarine had to be incredibly strong. Any cracks in its hull¹⁰ and it would be crushed like a can.



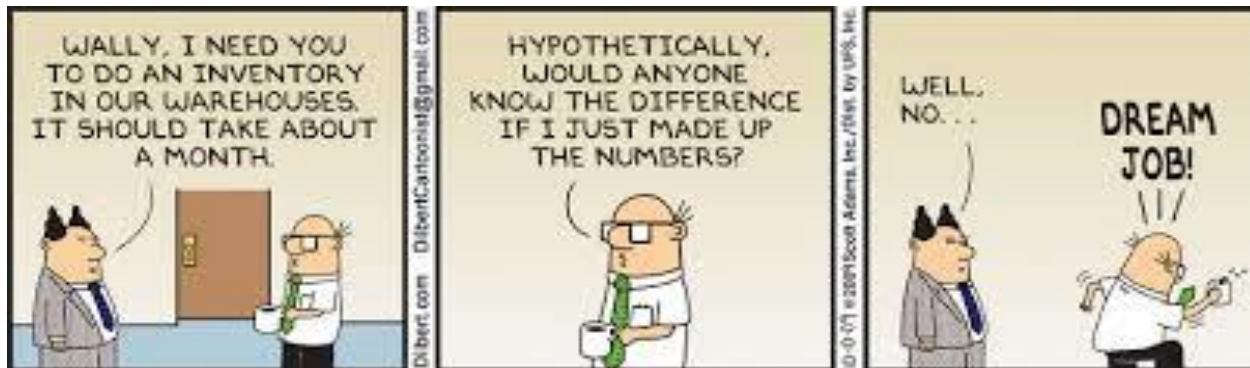
Mr. Vescovo is the third person to descend to such a great depth. The first time was in 1960. Because the pressure is so great, scientists didn't believe there would be any living organisms down there, but the submarines discovered shrimp and other small crustaceans¹¹ that were adapted to the high pressure. This expedition took samples of the mud, rock, and the water at the bottom to see what was there. They discovered a new species of shrimp as well.

Unfortunately, they also discovered evidence of our impact on Earth. Even at 11km under the sea, they found plastic trash. Mr. Vescovo found a plastic bag and some candy wrappers. It is scary to think that the damage we are doing to the Earth has even sunk that far. If there are no parts of the Earth left untouched by us, is there any way we can fix the damage we have done? What can we do? Do you have any ideas?



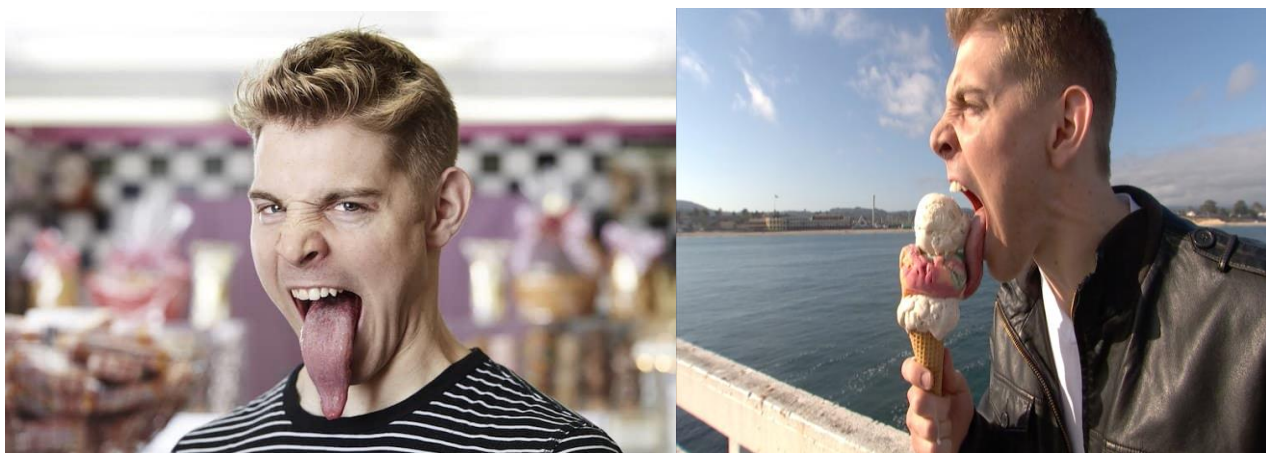
1.Overseas 海外 **2.Rare** 珍しい **3.Engineer** エンジニア **4.Trillion** 1兆 **5.Durable** 長持ちのよい **6.Decompose** 分解する **7.Household trash** 家庭ごみ **8.Harmful** 有害な **9.Descend** 下がる **10.Hull** 船体 **11.Crustacean** 甲殻類

★ English News Page 2 ★



Strange World Records

My mother had a tongue that was so long she could lick inside her nose. That was always fascinating¹, yet a little disgusting. Nick Stoeberl's tongue is over 10cm long and he has the world record for the world's longest tongue. That measurement is from the tip² of his tongue to his closed top lip. Wow! That would be useful. I bet he doesn't have any trouble getting the last pringle out of the pot! Maybe I can stretch my tongue. Give me a couple of years and this world record will be mine, although I might not be able to talk anymore.



Integrity³ is doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

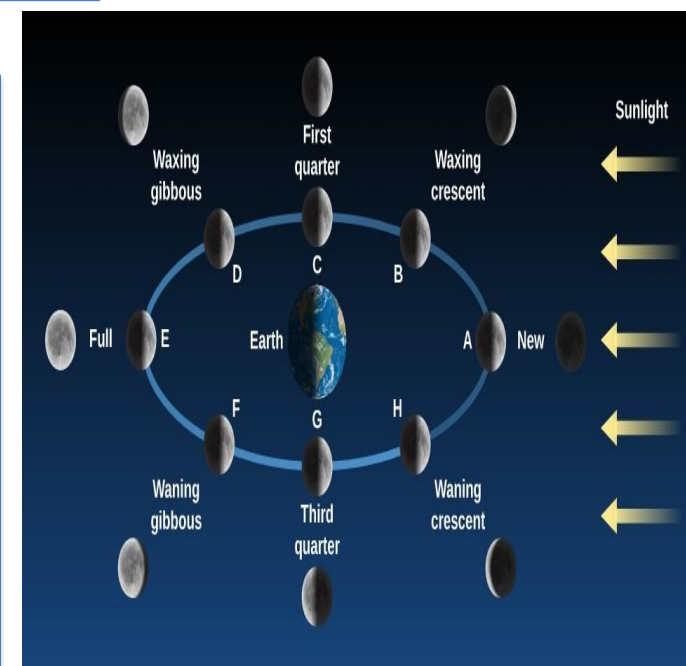
★ Something Big ★

My cat likes to bite my legs. He does it for fun, but sometimes he bites quite hard and it hurts. However, he is just a regular sized housecat. The largest housecat species⁴ in the world is the Maine Coon. They are native to North America but can now be bought all over the world. My brother had two. Male cats can weight 8kg and be 42cm high and 120cm long. They come from a cold place, so their fur, tails, and feet are adapted⁵ for the snow and cold. They are very intelligent animals and are very gentle. However, they are formidable⁶ hunters and able to catch prey⁷ that a regular housecat could not. Because they are larger than average cats, they tend to suffer more from diseases and don't have a very long life expectancy. On average they live for 12 years.



★ Moon Phases ★

Many people think that moon phases⁸ are caused by Earth's shadow, but they are not. If they were, as the moon goes around Earth once a day, we would see the shadow move very quickly. The phases are caused by the angle of the moon to the sun. The moon is locked to Earth. That means it rotates⁹ as it goes around us. Because of this, we only see one face of it. It takes one month for one moon day. We see as the sun lights the near side, but we don't see when the sun lights the far side.



New words: 1.Fascinating 魅力的な 2.Tip への先 3.Integrity 高潔 4.Species 種
5.Adapt 適応させる 6.Formidable 恐ろしい 7.Prey 捕食 8.Moon phase 地球から見た、月の明るい部分と暗い部分の形の変化 9.Rotate 回転