

Wow! Today is hot! I can't believe it. I always work on the assumption<sup>1</sup> that August will be the hot month and then things will start to cool down. I figure that<sup>2</sup> if I can survive<sup>3</sup> through that one month, I'll be ok. But this year seems to be different. And today, September 8<sup>th</sup>, is supposed to get up to 34 degrees! I know I'm writing a lot about the weather, but it really is all that I can think about. I don't know how teachers can think about their classes and how students can concentrate. Still, we'll do our best. And then I'm going to buy myself an ice cream!

### Something You Didn't Know (Pipe Organ<sup>4</sup>)

1. Pipe organs are the largest instruments in the world played by a single person.
2. The world's largest pipe organ is in Atlantic City, USA and has 33,112 pipes!
3. Organists play the pipe organ with their hands and feet. The pedals are actually another 30 keys<sup>5</sup>. Organists wear special shoes so they can play the pedals easily.
4. The pipe organ was invented in ancient Greece in about 300 BC. Wind was used to make the sound. By the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD, bellows<sup>6</sup> were used to make the sound.
5. The first organ in the UK was in Winchester Cathedral. It had 400 pipes and it needed 2 people to play it and 70 people to work the bellows!
6. The word "organ" comes from the Greek "organon", which means an instrument or tool.
7. Pipe organs are very expensive, so many people use electric organs these days.

## Say the Color of each Word!

(Don't read the word)

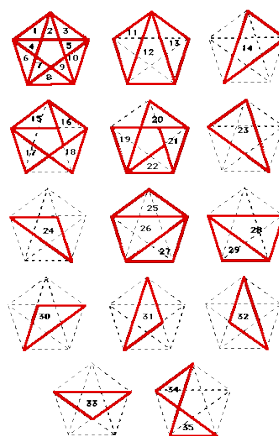
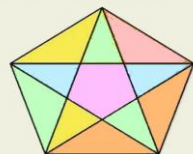
How Fast can you say it?

black white yellow green red blue  
 yellow red black green white red  
 white green red black yellow green  
 black white yellow green red blue  
 white green red black yellow green  
 yellow red black green white red  
 white green red black yellow green

Last week's answer

35

How Many Triangles Can You See In The Figure Below?



### New Note in Longest Organ Piece

Last week, the pipes on an organ in a church in Germany were changed so that the organ could play the next notes<sup>7</sup> in the longest musical piece in the world. The piece is "Organ – ASLSP" by John Cage. ASLSP stands for "As SLOW as Possible." The piece was written in 1993 and was started on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2001, just after John Cage died. There were no notes until February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003! What? Why? This organ piece is set to last<sup>8</sup> 639 years! That means it will finish in 2640! Assuming that<sup>9</sup> the organ and the church it is in can last that long.



The organ is inside a medieval<sup>10</sup> church in Germany. It plays the same note for years, until the musical score calls for the next note. To play a new note, the pipes that come out of the organ are changed. The next chord change will be on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022. These note changes are a big deal<sup>11</sup> for fans of John Cage and a lot of people turned out to watch the event. Unfortunately, none of them (or anybody alive today) will be able to see the end of the piece. I wonder what the world will be like then.

John Cage was a composer<sup>12</sup> and a musical theorist<sup>13</sup>, as well as a philosopher<sup>14</sup>. He composed many normal pieces as well, but he liked to create pieces that make people think. What does a 639-year long piece make you think about? The impermanence<sup>15</sup> of human life? The upholding of long traditions? The fact that art outlasts life? Or something else? Let me know.



1. Work on the assumption that という想定の下に行動する 2. Figure that だと思った  
 3. Survive 生き残る 4. Pipe organ パイプオルガン 5. Key 鍵盤 6. Bellows 送風機 7. Note 音符  
 8. To last かかる 9. Assuming that と仮定して 10. Medieval 中世の 11. Big deal 大したもの  
 の 12. Composer 作曲家 13. Musical theorist 音楽理論の研究者 14. Philosopher 哲学者  
 15. Impermanence of human life 人間の無常性



© 2018 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication  
11-13-18



### World Records

This is the perfect record for a hot day like today. Austrian Josef Koeberl spent 2 hours 30 minutes and 57 seconds in a large glass box filled with 200kg of ice cubes. At any other time, I would say, "Wow!" But today, that doesn't seem so impressive<sup>1</sup>. I think that I would probably be able to go at least ten hours. Ha ha. Koeberl was in a lot of pain and he said, "I'm fighting the pain by visualizing and drawing on<sup>2</sup> positive emotions so I can dampen<sup>3</sup> this wave of pain." That's something we can all learn from. He has the world record, but he is intending to try and break it again next year. He also said that when he came out of the box, "the sun felt really warm." Yes. I think it probably does after spending two and a half hours in ice.



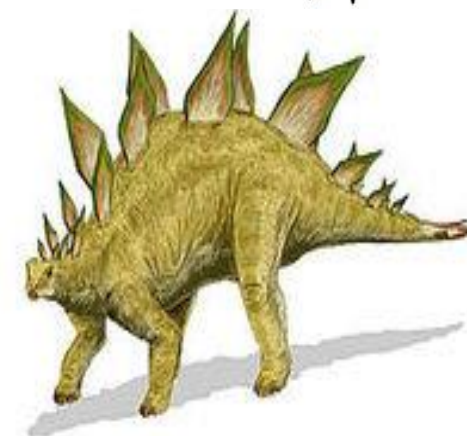
Hope, but never expect<sup>4</sup>.  
Look forward, but never wait.

## The ~est in the world

The other day, I was telling the junior high first grade that some of them would probably live to be over 200. That doesn't seem to farfetched<sup>5</sup>. However, an animal that often lives even longer than that is the giant tortoise. A tortoise from Aldabra was 255 years old when it died and was the oldest known tortoise. Some may live even longer. Giant tortoises are making a comeback<sup>6</sup> now, but when they were discovered in the 1800s, they were hunted and caught for food. They were eaten in such large numbers that they were almost extinct<sup>7</sup> by 1900. They are now protected and are rebounding<sup>8</sup>.



## Something You Probably Didn't Know



Many people think of the "time of the dinosaurs" without realizing that the dinosaurs were spread out over hundreds of millions of years. For example, many dinosaur movies show dinosaurs like Tyrannosaurus Rex attacking a dinosaur like Stegosaurus. In fact, we are closer in time to Tyrannosaurus Rex than T-Rex is to a Stegosaurus. The T-Rex lived about 68 million years ago and the Stegosaurus lived about 155 million years ago. That means, from T-Rex to us is 68 million years and from T-Rex to the Stegosaurus is about 80 million years! In fact, Tyrannosaurus Rex wasn't even alive in the Jurassic Period, so the movie "Jurassic Park" had no right to use it! Altogether, the first dinosaurs evolved about 245 million years ago and they disappeared about 66 million years ago. That is a span of 179 million years. Humans have only been here for about 200,000 years.

**New words:** 1.Impressive 印象的な 2.Draw on ~を利用する 3.Dampen そぐ 4.Expect 期待する 5.Farfetched ありそうもない 6.Comeback 回復 7.Extinct 絶命する 8.Rebound 回復する