

It was incredibly cold last week! And the sidewalks were so icy walking was lethal¹. I had to waddle² everywhere. Have you fallen down yet this season? I haven't so far, but I'm sure I will soon. Joe usually goes down a couple of times every year, but he hasn't this year. or, at least, if he has, he's too embarrassed to tell me and is keeping it secret. My daughter slips over every now and again, but she seems to be made of rubber and just bounces right back up again. The older I get, the harder it seems to be to get back up off the floor.

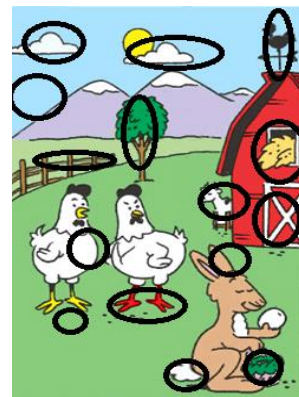
Something Interesting (Amazon)

1. Jeff Bezos started Amazon in 1994. He started by selling books.
2. He thought about calling his company "relentless"³ but realized that the word has a negative image. If you type relentless.com into your internet browser, you will go to Amazon.com.
3. Amazon employs 1 million people and delivers to about 1.5 billion people. This number will probably increase yearly.
4. A large part of Amazon's profits⁴ don't come from retail⁵. The company has an online cloud computing service. AWS (Amazon Web Services) made 63% of the company's profits. Amazon sees the retail industry as limited and wants to branch out⁶ into other areas.
5. In America, and probably Japan too, 50% of every dollar spent online is spent at Amazon.
6. Amazon is partly responsible for a huge shortage of cardboard this year.



Can you find the differences? There are 10 this week. Do you know the Mr. Men and Little Miss characters?.

Last week's answer



Jeff Bezos Steps Down As Amazon CEO

Jeff Bezos has decided to step down from his position as Amazon CEO⁷. He is not quitting the company entirely because he will still stay on as the executive chairman⁸. The difference is, he will no longer be in charge of the day to day running⁹ of the company. As executive chairman, he will still have a lot of say over what happens to the company, but he will have a lot more time to work on his other interests. His other passions are his Blue Origin space venture¹⁰ company, the Washington Post newspaper, and the several

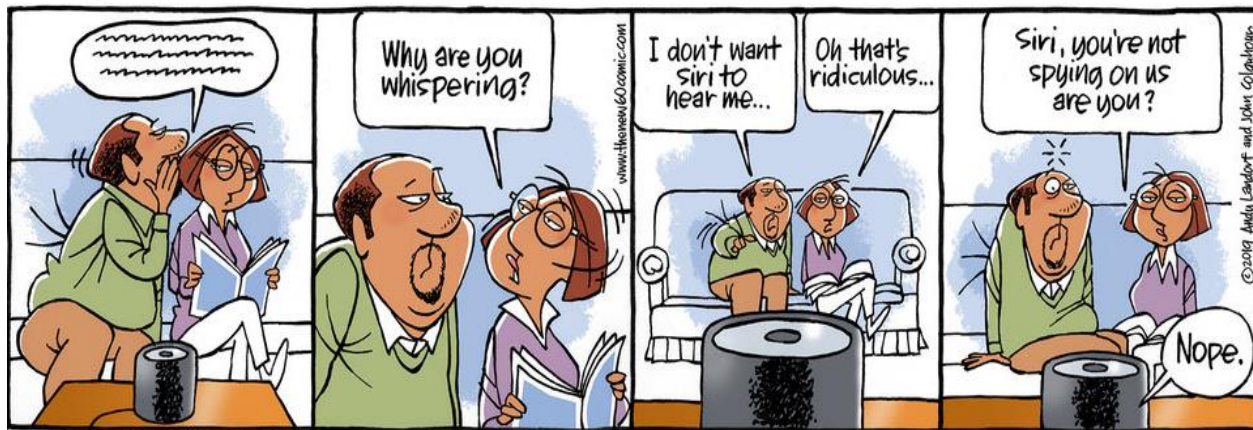


environmental organizations he has started. Many people have criticized¹¹ Jeff Bezos for not doing more to help people with his money. He is currently the world's richest man and is worth 20,600,000,000,000 yen. Now that he will have more time, I think he intends to help more people and to help the planet. In American dollars, he is worth 196 billion. His fortune increased by about 20% in 2020 because of the corona virus pandemic.

Many countries used lockdowns and made people work from home. This meant that they couldn't go shopping and they used online stores more often. The most common online store is, of course, Amazon. Most of Jeff Bezos' money comes from stock¹² he holds in Amazon so, more money for Amazon means more money for Jeff. There is some speculation¹³ that Jeff Bezos will one day be the world's first trillionaire¹⁴. He is rich, but that is still a long way off.



- 1.Lethal 致死の 2.Waddle よたよた歩く 3.Relentless 無慈悲な 4.Profit 利息 5.Retail 商売業
6.Branch out 手を広げる 7.CEO Chief Executive Officer 最高経営責任者 8.Chairman 会長
9.Day to day running 毎日の運営 10.Venture 冒険 11.Criticize 文句を言う 12.Stock 株
13.Spectulation 結論 14.Trillionaire \$ 1 兆を持つ人 (日本円は 100 兆ぐらい)



World Records

I am connecting¹ everything in this week's news. Martin Strel, from Slovenia, has the world record for swimming the length of the Amazon river. It took him 66 days. I'm pretty sure that wasn't continuous². He swam with the current³. Also, Ed Stafford, from the UK, has the record for walking the length of the Amazon river. He started at the source⁴ in the mountains of Peru and walked all along the river until it ended in the Atlantic Ocean. It took him 860 days. The river goes through thick jungle and it is not very easy to walk through. There are also records for rowing and sailing. Maybe we could try to get one. How about we go to the Amazon for next year's school trip?



A flower does not think of competing with the flower next to it. It just blooms.

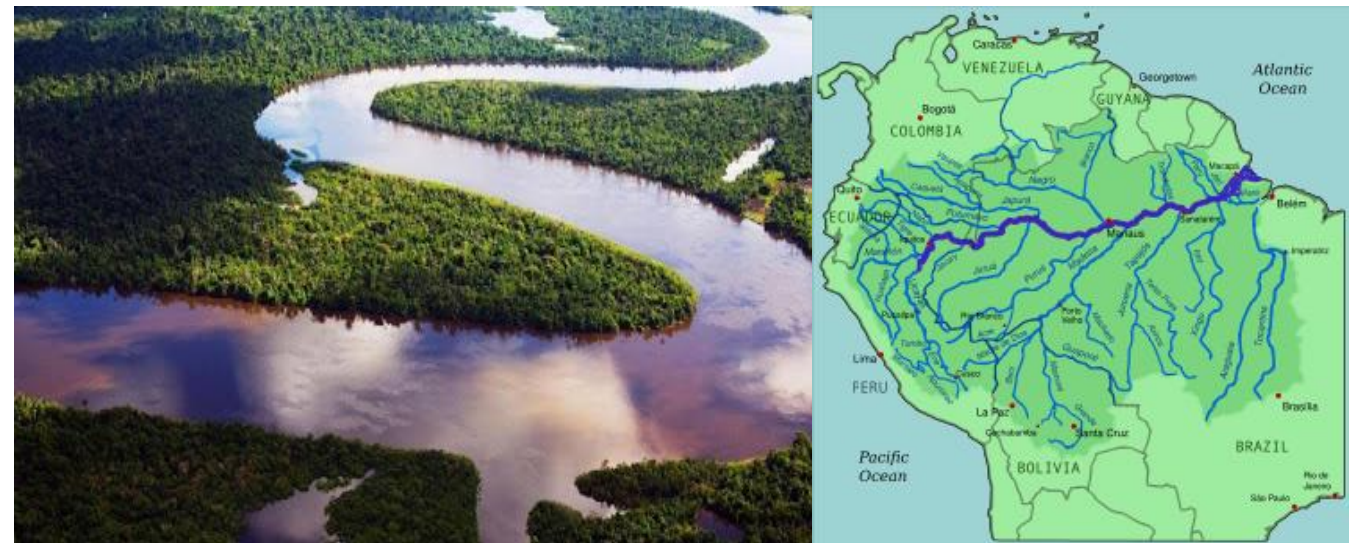
Something interesting

I'm writing about Amazon's boss, Jeff Bezos, this week, so I thought I'd write about the Amazon river. The Amazon is said to be the world's second longest river and the Nile the first. There is some argument⁵ about where the source of each river is, but the Nile is about 200km longer. The Amazon is 6,400km long. The Amazon might be shorter, but it has more water. The Nile flows⁶ at 300 million m³ per day, but the Amazon flows at about 18 billion m³! That is hard to imagine. Basically, it is larger than the next 7 longest rivers combined. 20% of all freshwater⁷ that flows into the oceans comes from the Amazon!

The river flows through nine South American countries and completely crosses the continent. It flows through the Amazon rainforest, which is the home of about 30% of all the species⁸ on Earth.

Despite it being so long and going through so many countries, there are no bridges over the river. Because of the thick jungle, no major cities have been built close to the river. If you need to cross the river for any reason, you will have to swim across or get a boat.

The Amazon river and the Amazon rainforest are under threat⁹ more now than ever before. The president of Brazil has relaxed laws¹⁰ on clearing the forest and about 17% of the forest has been destroyed so far. People sell the wood from the trees and then use a lot of the land to raise cows on. Often, when you eat meat in a burger or at a restaurant, it has been raised in the Amazon rainforest. Cutting down on how much meat we eat is one thing we can do to help.



- 1.Connect 繋がる 2.Continuous 連続 3.Current 川の流れ 4.Source 根本 5.Argument 対話
6.Flow 流れ 7.Freshwater 淡水 8.Species 種 9.Threat 危険な状況 10.Relax a law 法律を緩くする