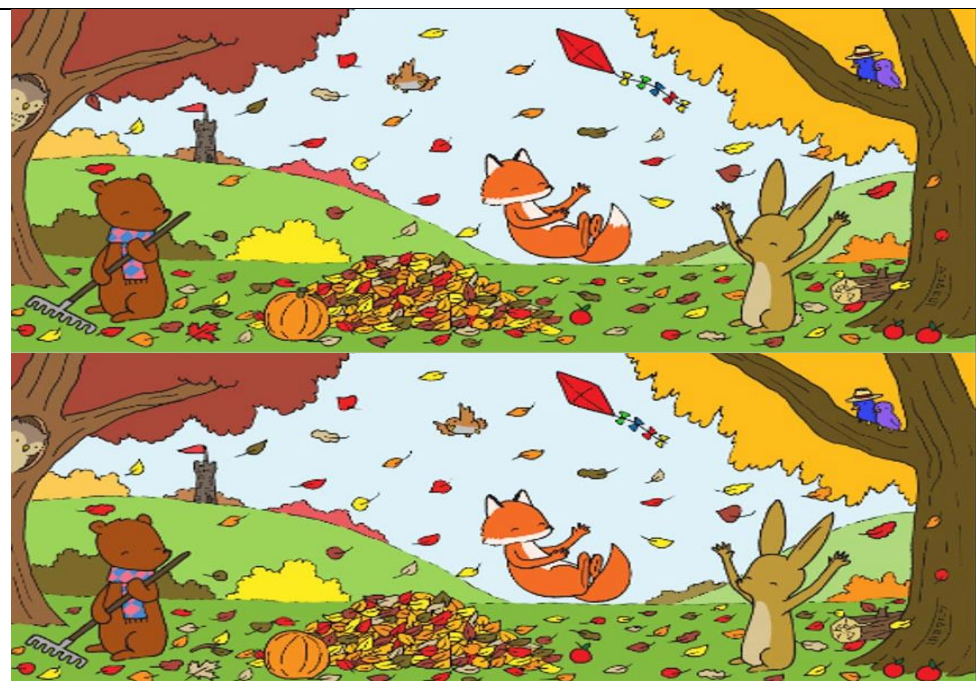


All of the school elections¹ were last week. Did you stand² for an election? Did you vote³ for your friends? Good luck to all of the new school council members. It is a tough job, especially when so many things are being changed because of the Corona virus. It is very difficult to know what is coming and what is going to be happening because so many things are up in the air⁴. Hopefully, everything will start to settle down during the term of the current council members.



10 differences
Last week's answer

Something you didn't know about prehistoric people:

1. They chewed the bark⁵ from some trees to keep their teeth and gums healthy.
2. About 12,000 years ago, a few thousand years after these footprints were found, humans stopped being hunter-gatherers⁶ and started farming. This could be because their population sizes became too big to survive on hunting and gathering only. Being located around farms made it possible for communities to grow.
3. Stone age people⁷ moved into the Americas by walking across the frozen land bridge between Russia and Alaska. During the last ice age⁸, sea levels were lower, and the two continents were connected.

Early Humans In The Americas

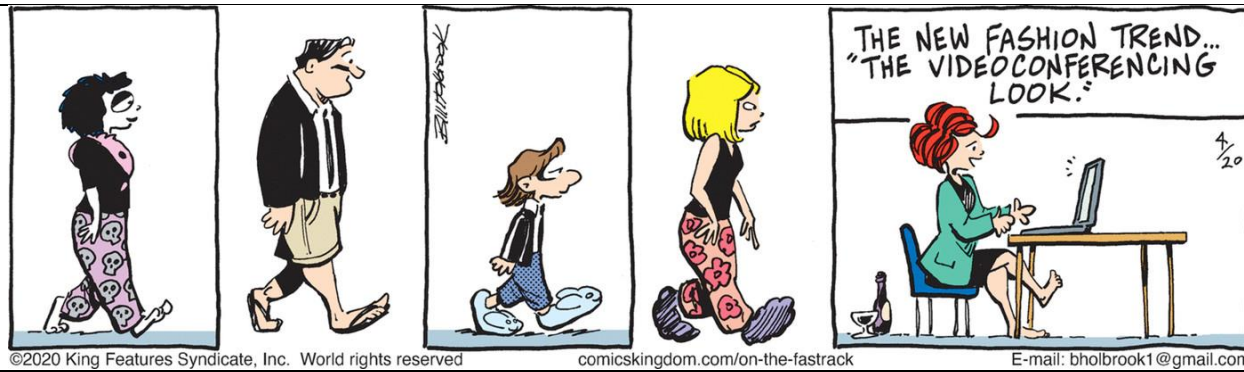
Last week, lots of footprints of early humans were found in New Mexico. Many people thought humans arrived in the Americas about 16,000 years ago, but these footprints have been dated to about 23,000 years ago. The footprints were made on the edge of a shallow lake which is now a sand flat⁹. There were seeds trapped under the footprints and the team that found them were able to radiocarbon date¹⁰ the seeds. The footprints



seem to be young children travelling back and forth with the occasional adult. I don't know about you, but the thought of having the footprints of people going about their lives 23,000 years ago is absolutely astounding. I wonder what they were doing. Researchers think they might have been helping the adults to hunt buffalo and then finding firewood to cook the buffalo fat. This discovery means that early humans started to live in the Americas much earlier than people thought. A lot of stone tools have been found, but they are hard to date because they can move up and down in the soil layers.



1.election 選挙 2.stand 立候補する 3.vote 投票する 4.up in the air 未決定で 5.bark 木の皮 6.hunter-gatherer 狩猟採集民 7.stone age people 石器時代人 8.ice age 氷河期 9.sand flat 干潟 10.radio carbon dating 放射性炭素年代測定法



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World record

This is rather an odd¹ world record, and I don't think we have any chance of beating this at school. How many combine harvesters² do you think could work in one field at the same time? Well, the answer is 303. This record was set in Manitoba, Canada. It makes sense that³ it is in Canada because you would need to have a very big field to set a record like this and Canada has some very big fields. You couldn't do it in Japan because you couldn't fit that many combine harvesters in. The field was 300 acres⁴ (1.2km²), and the combine harvesters were cutting wheat.



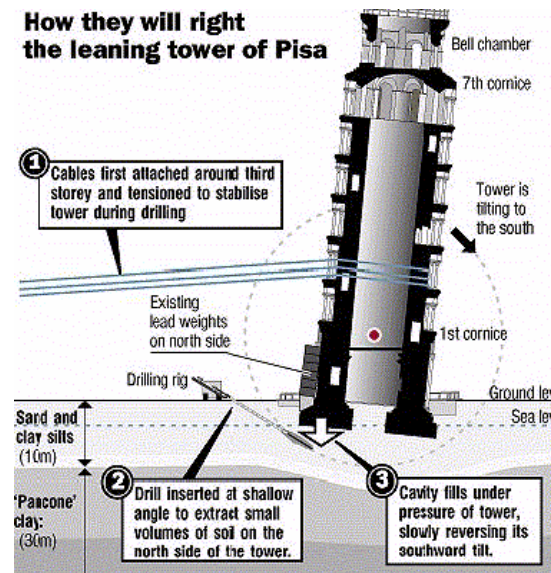
Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond to it.

A monument

This week's monument is the Tower of Pisa, or, to give it its more common name, the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Construction on the tower was started in 1173 when the foundations were laid⁵. By 1178, the builders had reached the second floor and the building started to lean. It turned out that the subsoil⁶ under the tower was very weak, something they should have discovered before they started to build. Work on the tower was halted and didn't start again until 1233. Part of the reason for stopping was the weak subsoil, but a bigger reason was war. There were on and off⁷ wars through the next few centuries in this region. Construction was then halted again and didn't start until 1272. This time, the new architect tried to compensate for⁸ the



How they will right the leaning tower of Pisa



leaning tower by building the top part straight up. This means the tower is actually curved⁹. Building was halted again until 1319 when the 7th floor was added and 1372 when the bell tower was built. The tower continued to tilt and was in danger of collapsing completely. Between 1990 and 2001, the foundations were strengthened, and the tower was stabilized¹⁰. The engineers could have straightened the tower, but they were asked to keep it leaning because of its cultural significance¹¹. The tower is supposed to be stable for the next 300 years now.

1.odd 変 2.combine harvester コンバイン収穫機 3.it makes sense that は筋が通っている 4.acre エーカー ◆=4,046.86 平方メートル=約 1,224 坪 5.lay foundations 基礎固めをする 6.subsoil 底土 7.on and off 断続的に 8.compensate for の設計に当たって補正される 9.curved 曲がっている 10.stabilize 安定させる 11.cultural significance の設計に当たって補正される