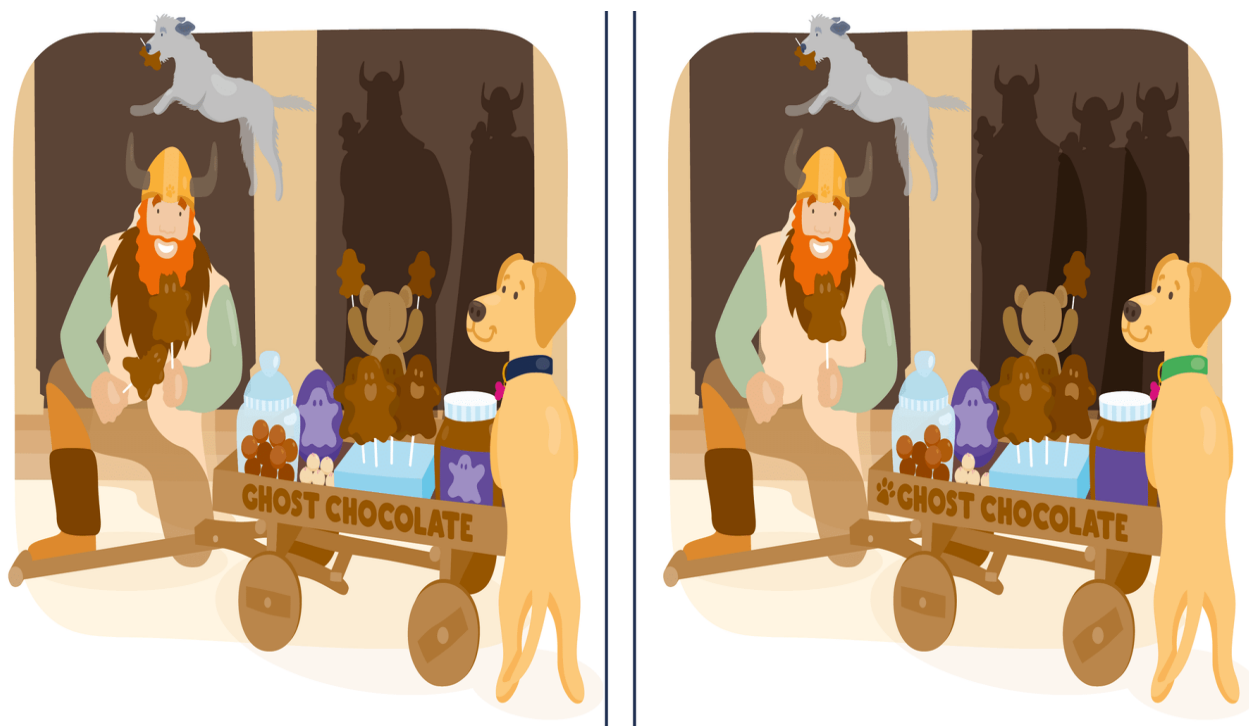


I really wanted to hold my trash pickup¹ last week, but it got rained off². I've moved it to this Thursday but, according to³ Yahoo weather, there is going to be rain and lightning! What do you think? Could we do the trash pickup in a lightning storm? I think we'll be all right, just as long as we don't hold the metal trash pickers up above our heads! Zap!

12 differences



Something you didn't know about volcanoes:

1. There are 1,350 active volcanoes⁴ in the world at the moment.
2. Indonesia has the most active volcanoes of any country. It has 129 active volcanoes, and 200 million Indonesians are living with 100 km of an active volcano.
3. The word "volcano" comes from Vulcano, the name of a small volcanic island near Sicily. It had four active volcanoes and the Romans mined alum⁵ and sulfur⁶ here. They named the island after the Roman god of fire, Vulcan. The Romans said that the island was the chimney⁷ of Vulcan's workshop. They said that earthquake came when Vulcan was making weapons.

Mt. Aso Erupts

Last week, Mt. Aso, a volcano in Kyushu erupted. It erupted⁸ at 11:43 AM on Wednesday. The volcano shot a plume⁹ of ash about 3.5 km into the sky. The area up to 2 km around the volcano was evacuated. Rocks were falling up to 900 m away from the



eruption and volcanic ash rained down several kilometers away. There was a pyroclastic flow¹⁰ up to 1.3 km west of the volcano as well. Pyroclastic flow is when volcanic ash and hot gases flow down the side of a volcano. They can move at up to 100 km/h and temperatures inside them can reach 1,000°C. More people are killed by pyroclastic flows than

anything else when a volcano erupts. Luckily, nobody was injured at Mt. Aso. 16 people were hiking on the mountain at the time of the eruption, but they all came back safely.

The Japan Meteorological Agency don't think that the volcano is a risk. There are 110 active volcanoes in Japan. 47 of those have erupted recently or show signs of seismic activity¹¹. Mt. Fuji is the biggest active volcano in Japan. It last erupted in



1707. The eruption followed an earthquake that was 8.1 on the Richter scale. The 2011 earthquake in Japan caused the internal pressure of Mt. Fuji's magma chamber to increase and scientists say there is a possibility of an eruption. But that could be next year, or it could be in a thousand years. There is no way of predicting¹² it.

1.trash pickup ゴミ拾い活動.rained off 雨で中止 3.according to によると 4.active volcano 活火山 5.alum ミヨウバン 6.sulfur 硫黄 7.chimney 煙突 8.erupt 噴火する 9.plume 渦巻く煙 10.pyroclastic flow 火砕流 11.seismic activity 地震活動 12.predict 予想する

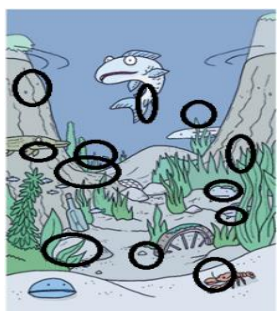


World record

Here's a record that we might be able to beat, if we can lock Joe in a room. The record is the M&M stacking¹ world record. We'd have to lock Joe up because he would eat all of the M&Ms and we wouldn't have enough to stack. Sharks can smell blood from about 500 m away. Joe can smell M&Ms from about the same distance. This record is surprisingly small. It is only 5. The world record for stacking M&Ms is held by Will Cutbill from the UK. He managed to stack 5 M&Ms in January of this year. 5 doesn't sound like a lot, but apparently, they are incredibly difficult to stack. They are not evenly shaped, and their sugar coating means they don't grip² each other. It is difficult to find their center of balance³ and then they slip. Still, 5 doesn't sound like a lot. I want to go out and buy a bag of them right now to see. But I know that I would just eat them. This week, I am going to try. Watch this space to see how I do.



Last week's answer.



Some days, you just have to create your own sunshine.

A monument

Let's have a look at Stonehenge this week. It is a monument in the south of the UK. It has an outer ring of standing stones, about 4 m high, that have horizontal stones resting on top of them. Some of the stones have fallen over, but a lot are still standing. Archaeologists⁴ think that the stones were probably raised⁵ about 2400 BC, but there was a monument at the site from 8000 BC. The first thing to be built at the site was a ring of pine⁶ posts. In



about 3100 BC, a ring of banks⁷ and ditches⁸ was made. The people who made them



buried bones and tools at the bottom of the ditches, which is how they can be dated. In 3000 BC, a ring of wooden stakes was made. In 2600 BC, a double ring of 80 stones was built. Only 43 of these stones are still there. These stones were

bluestones, made from dolerite⁹, and were brought from 240 km away. In 2400 BC, the stones we now know as Stonehenge were brought and erected. The stones came from 25 km away and they weigh about 25 tons each. Stonehenge is aligned¹⁰ with the sunset of the winter solstice¹¹ and the sunrise of the summer solstice¹², but there is no evidence of what the site was built for.

- 1.stack 積み重ねる 2.grip 握る 3.center of balance 均衡の中心 4.archaeologist 考古学者 5.raise 立つ 6.pine 松 7.bank 堆積 8.ditch 溝 9.dolerite 粗粒玄武岩 10.align 一直線にする 11.winter solstice 冬至点 12.summer solstice 夏至点