

I didn't get to do my trash pickup last week. It rained and so I cancelled it. The rain stopped the second I announced I was cancelling it! Hopefully we can do it today. And tomorrow is a holiday. It is Labor Day¹. We all have to be grateful for the people that are working hard for us. I know that we all work hard, but it is a day to appreciate² the people that we don't see. This paper you are reading, for example. Who runs the machine that made the paper I use? Who packed it? Who shipped it to Japan? Who brought it to our school? Who carried it up to the teacher's room?



15 differences

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about chicken:

1. The modern chicken is descended from³ the red junglefowl.
2. Chickens were raised for fighting and not for food originally.
3. The first evidence of chicken being eaten is a Babylonian⁴ carving from 600 BC.
4. Chicken was more expensive than other meats in America. It became cheaper and popular during World War 2 because there was a shortage of⁵ beef and pork.
5. There are approximately 23 billion chickens on Earth today.

FamilyMart Running out of Fried Chicken

You might not think this is news if you don't eat fried chicken, but it is an interesting look at the global supply chain⁶. FamilyMart, the convenience store, has had to stop selling their friend chicken "famichiki" recently because they cannot get enough chicken. This is particularly alarming⁷ for the store in the run up to⁸ Christmas because a lot of people (my wife included) buy their Christmas chicken at FamilyMart. Chicken is a staple⁹ of Christmas for Japanese people. The reason that FamilyMart is running out of chicken is the Corona Virus. They buy two thirds of the chicken they use from Thailand. Right now, the number of Corona cases in Thailand is rising and a lot of meat processing plants don't have enough staff to run. FamilyMart is the first to announce a problem, but I expect other convenience stores will follow suit¹⁰.



KFC may also have trouble and 5% of KFC's sales are made at Christmas. In 1970, Takeshi Okawara, the manager of Japan's first KFC restaurant, knew that it was difficult to get turkey in Japan, so he sold buckets of chicken at Christmas with the slogan "Kentucky for Christmas". This advertising campaign was so popular that now a lot of Japanese people have KFC at Christmas. Hopefully, for them and for the people of Thailand, the rising Corona cases in Thailand will start to fall. It is interesting to see how disasters and things in other countries can affect us so much.



1. Labor Day 労働者の日
2. appreciate 感謝する
3. descended from~の血筋を引いている
4. Babylonian バビロニアの
5. shortage of~の不足
6. global supply chain 国際的な供給網
7. alarming 警戒すべき
8. run up to~までの日にち
9. staple 必需品
10. follow suit 同様の措置を講じる



World record

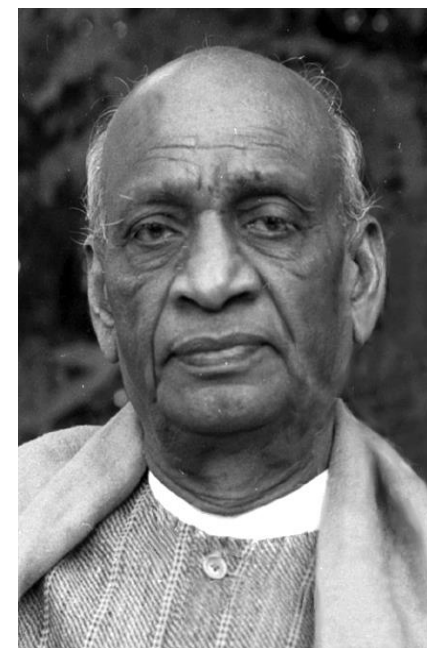
This is a record I would like to have the time and money to try and break. Taylor Demonbreun, an American, visited every sovereign country¹ in 1 year and 189 days, the fastest time ever. She was 22 years old. A sovereign country is a country that has one government that controls one geographic area. The UN says that there are 195 sovereign countries in the world now, but there were 196 when Taylor got her world record. She started with the Dominican Republic and ended with Canada. Japan was country number 101. She was sponsored by over 100 companies because it cost a lot of money. She wrote a blog the whole time. You can find it at trekwithtaylor.com. It is actually quite interesting. She finished on December 7th, 2018. She is lucky that she finished before the Corona pandemic. This would be great to try. I wonder if Hokusei would sponsor me to do it. Alex can cover all of my classes.



The secret of getting ahead is getting started. Take the first step.

A monument

Let's have a look at the Statue of Unity in India this week. It is the world's tallest statue. It is 182m tall, 250m with the base included². For comparison³, the Statue of Liberty is 93m tall and Sapporo Tower is 147m tall. It is a statue of the Indian statesman⁴ Vallabhbhai Patel. He was the deputy prime minister⁵ from 1947 to 1950 and played an important role in India's struggle for independence⁶ from Britain. When they achieved independence, he also played a big part in uniting all of the states. The statue is in the state of Gujarat. There is an elevator that travels up each leg and there is a viewing deck in the chest. The views from the deck are spectacular.



It cost about \$450 million to build and there was quite a lot of criticism⁷ because of the level of poverty⁸ in Gujarat. People said that the money could be put to a better use. Another criticism was that in order to find enough iron for the project, and to involve the local community, farmers were asked to donate⁹ their used farming tools. 135 tons of scrap iron¹⁰ was collected. A third criticism is that when it rains, the wind blows the rain into the viewing gallery and it floods. Whatever the complaints, it certainly is a very impressive statue. I would like to visit it. Maybe I can see it on my round the world record attempt.

1. sovereign country 主権国 2. included 含んで 3. for comparison 比べるため 4. statesman 政治家 5. deputy prime minister 副総理大臣 6. independence 独立 7. criticism 批判 8. poverty 貧困 9. donate 寄付 10. scrap iron くず鉄