

This is the first full school week of 2022. Did you have a good winter vacation? I hope so. Are you ready and raring to go¹? I think 2022 is going to be a good year. A lot is going to happen. I'm hoping that we'll see the end of the corona virus this year, but I hoped that last year as well, so fingers crossed². Are you ready for your ski lessons next week? We have had a lot of snow recently, so the ski slopes should be good for you. I took my daughter skiing during the winter vacation, but I think I am getting old because I don't enjoy it as much as I used to. I'd rather be in a warm house with a good book. Ha ha. Old man Steven.



12 differences

Last week's answer

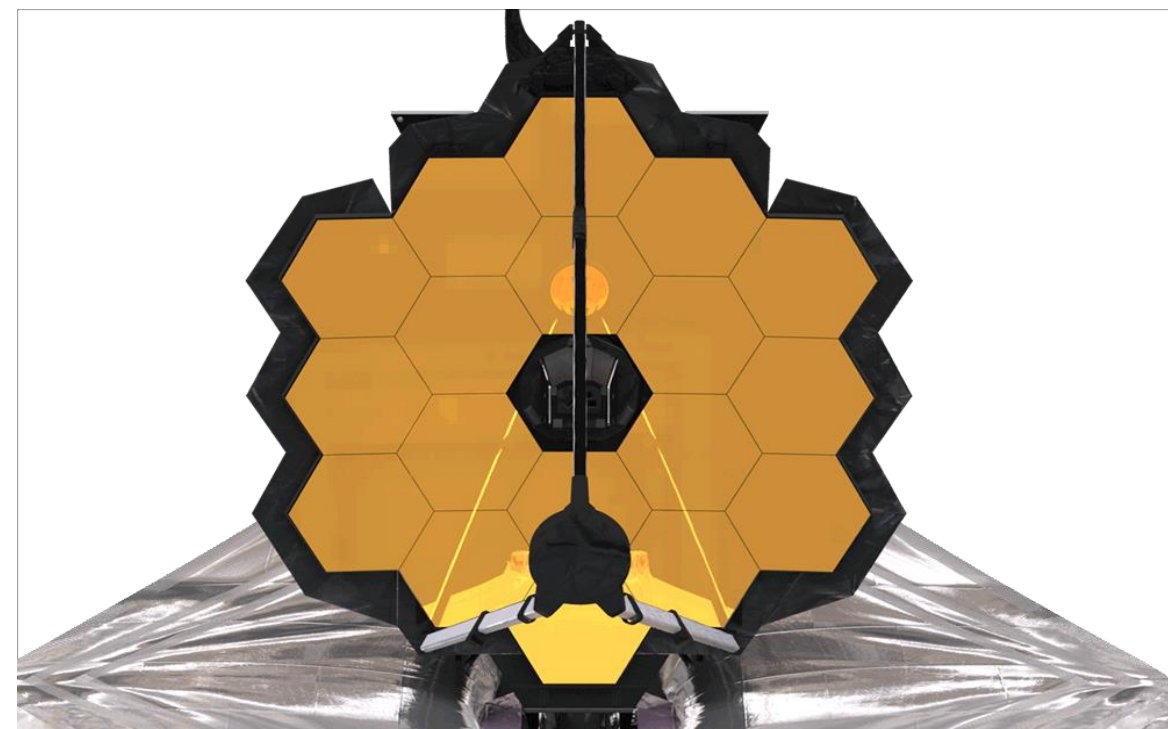


Something you didn't know about the James Webb Space Telescope:

1. It is named after James Webb, who was the administrator³ of NASA during the start of the Apollo space program.
2. The telescope has a 6.5 meter diameter⁴ mirror. It is meant to replace the Hubble Space Telescope and it will be able to see 6 times more than Hubble.
3. The telescope must be kept at below -223°C so its own heat doesn't cause interference⁵. It is cooling down as it flies.
4. The telescope is expected to be used for 20 years and will show us parts of the universe that nobody has seen before.

The James Webb Space Telescope Starts To Unfold Its Mirrors

The James Webb Space Telescope was launched by NASA on Christmas Day. It was launched by an Ariane 5 launch vehicle and has been floating in space since then. It is heading for the L2 point, which is a Lagrange point⁶. That is a place where the gravity of the Earth and the sun cancel each other out⁷ and the telescope can float there without moving. The L2 point is about 1.5 million km from Earth. The telescope is one week away from its destination. Three days after it was launched it unfurled⁸ a giant sunshield. To be able to see clearly, the sunshield will block out all of the heat, light, and radiation⁹ coming from the sun, moon, and Earth, which will be behind the telescope. Then, last week, the telescope started to unfold its giant mirror made of gold sheets. There are 18 pieces of the mirror and they have to open because they are folded up at launch so that the telescope can fit into the rocket. The mirrors move automatically, but it will take about ten days before they are all in position. Once the mirrors are unfolded and in place, controllers will have to start testing and focusing¹⁰ the mirror. That will take about 3 months.



- 1.raring to go 今か今かと待ち切れない 2.fingers crossed [中指を曲げて人さし指の上に重ねて十字架のような形を作って] 幸運 [成功] を祈る、うまくいくように願う、神頼みする ◆手の指と足の指を同時に交差させて二重にお祈りすることもある 3.administrator 管理者 4.diameter 直径 5.interference 干渉 6.Lagrange point ラグランジュ点 7.cancel each other out お互いに打ち消し合う 8.unfurl 広げる 9.radiation 放射 10.focus 集点に合わせる



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World record

I think I have been writing about world records for years now. I thought I would run out of records to write about after a while, but there are thousands of them. It seems that whatever you can think of doing can become a world record. Anyway, this week, a man balanced 735 eggs on his hat to get the world record for the most eggs balanced on a hat. I'd like to say we could beat this one, but I think it might be a waste of¹ eggs because we would definitely drop them. Although now I look into it, he didn't balance the eggs individually. He spent three days attaching² them to the hat and then balanced the hat with all of the eggs attached on his head. It weighed 5.6kg, but it's not as impressive³ as I first thought. A man called Jack Harris managed to balance 18 eggs on the back of his hand, which is a little more impressive. I don't think my wife will forgive me if I try that one at home.



This week's quote: You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter⁴ than you think.

A building

Let's have a look at Big Ben this week. It is a building that many people know because its image is used a lot. However, its name is not really Big Ben. It is called Elizabeth Tower. Big Ben is the nickname for the large bell that is inside it. The clock tower is an iconic symbol of⁵ London and it features in a lot of movies and pictures. It is probably the most famous and well-known British landmark.

The tower was built in 1859 and at the time it was the most accurate⁶ clock in the world. The tower is 96m tall and Big Ben (the bell) weighs 13.7 tons. The tower is part of the Palace of Westminster, which is where the government of the United Kingdom meets.

The Palace of Westminster was the home of kings of England until the 1700s when the government started to use it. It was built as a palace and didn't really have any meeting rooms or offices. Meetings took place in the bedroom of King Henry III. In 1834, a fire started, and the palace was destroyed⁷. King William IV tried to get the government to use Buckingham Palace because he didn't like it, but the government took the fire as an opportunity⁸ to build a new seat of government⁹. They rebuilt the Palace of Westminster and they added the clock tower.

The clock tower didn't have a name in the beginning and journalists called it St Stephen's Tower because it was near to St Stephen's Hall (a room in the building). In 2021, the government changed the name to Elizabeth Tower, in honor of¹⁰ Queen Elizabeth II. However, the name Big Ben has stuck and I think that is the name by which most people know the clock.



- 1.waste of~の無駄 2.attach 付ける 3.impressive 印象的な 4.smart 賢い 5.iconic symbol of~の象徴的なシンボル 6.accurate 正確な 7.destroy 破壊する 8.opportunity チャンス 9.seat of government 政府の所在地 10.in honor of of~に敬意を表して