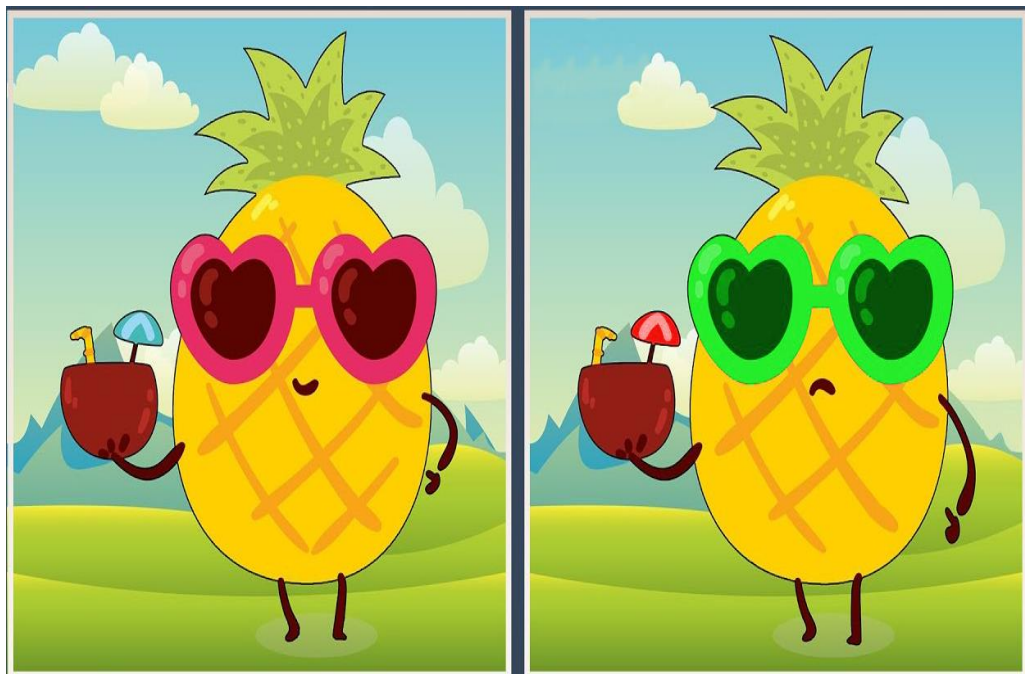


1/17/2022 (#22 this year)

We had a crazy week of snow, and now we haven't had any snow for a week. And the roads are so icy. I have fallen over three times in one week! I always ride my bicycle and I have spiked tires, so I feel pretty safe, but this year I got caught in¹ soft snow and fell off my bicycle twice! I hurt my knee. I decided to stop riding my bicycle and walk to school because my bicycle is too dangerous. And can you guess what happened? The first day I walked to school, I slipped on the ice and fell over. I hurt my other knee! Now, I don't know what to do. I think I need to cover myself in bubblewrap² for safety. How about you? Have you fallen over?



10 differences
People said last week's puzzle was too difficult, so this week should be easier.
Last week's answer



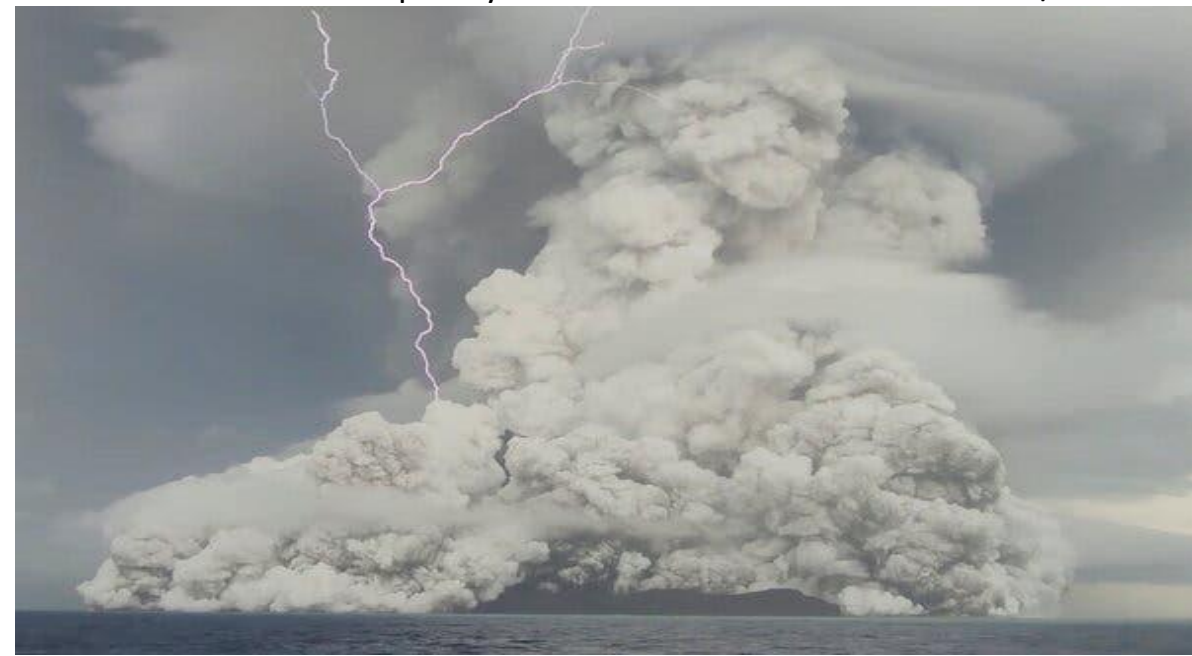
Something you didn't know about Tonga:

1. Tonga has 169 islands and people only live on 36 of them. The population of the country is 104,494.
2. The total land area is 748km², which is smaller than Sapporo.
3. The word *tonga* comes from *fakatonga* and means "southwards"³ in Polynesian⁴.
4. People in Tonga speak Tongan and English, but Tonga is the only Pacific nation⁵ that wasn't colonized⁶ by Europeans.
5. The Tongan alphabet only has 17 letters. a e f h l k l m n ng o p s t u v
6. More Tongans live in Australia, New Zealand, and America than live in Tonga.

Tonga Volcano Eruption

On Saturday 15th January, there was a huge eruption⁷ of the Hung-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano. It is the largest volcanic eruption in the world since the 1991 eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines. The Tongan eruption sent an ash⁸ cloud 32km into the sky, caused earthquakes and a tsunami. There is extensive damage⁹ across all 170 islands in Tonga. The eruption also cut the undersea Internet cable, so it is very difficult to communicate with Tonga. Also, the airport is closed because it is unsafe to fly through an ash cloud, so it is very difficult to get aid¹⁰ there as well. Most aid will be arriving by ship. Safe drinking water is one of the biggest priorities because the drinking water supplies have been contaminated¹¹ by seawater from the tsunami and ash from the volcano. Volcanologists¹² think that the volcano hasn't finished and might erupt again over the next few weeks.

The eruption hasn't sent as much ash into the sky as the Pinatubo eruption did, but it was an incredibly powerful explosion because it erupted underwater. The eruption happened about 200m underwater. The molten rock¹³ hit the seawater and the seawater instantly became steam. When water become steam it expands¹⁴, and this steam added power to the explosion. The shockwave travelled completely around the Earth at about 1000 km/h.



- 1.get caught in～に挟まる 2.bubblewrap バブルラップ 3.southwards 南方向 4.Polynesian ポリネシアの 5.Pacific nation 太平洋諸国 6.Colonize 植民地にさせる 7.eruption 噴火する 8.ash 灰 9.extensive damage 多大な損害 10.aid 援助 11.contaminated 汚染された 12.volcanologist 火山学者 13.molten rock 溶岩 14.expand 広がる



© Brian Crane.

World record

This is a record that we could probably break if we tried. A Nigerian man called Boyade Treasures-Oluwunmi has broken the world record for longest continuous¹ reading. He read non-stop² for 122 hours, which is just over five days. He says that he did it to encourage³ people to read more books. I don't know how many books he managed to read in all that time. He had a two hour break every twenty-four hours throughout his marathon. I don't know how he did that. If I'm even just a little bit sleepy, I can't focus on a book or concentrate. How did he manage to keep his eyes open? Do you think we should try to break this record? I think, first, we need to see if we can actually stay awake for five days, only having a 2 hour break every day. Do you think you can? Once we can do that, we can start trying to break the reading record. Come and find me if you are interested in trying.



This week's quote: It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.

A building

Let's have a look at the Petronas Towers this week. They are twin skyscrapers⁴ in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and they are famous because of their shape. They are joined together by a bridge on the 41st and 42nd floors. They were the tallest buildings in the world from 1998 to 2004. Today, they are the 7th tallest building in the world. Construction⁵ was started in 1993 and it was finished in 1996. The building was built on soft bedrock⁶, so the world's largest concrete raft was made to hold the building. Concrete was poured non-stop for 54 hours to make it. The Towers are owned by KLCC Holdings, but they are called Petronas because their biggest tenant is the Malaysian state oil company, Petronas.

One of the reasons that the Towers are famous is because of their skybridge. It is on the 41st floor and is 58m long. It was not built at the same time as the two towers but was added after they were finished. It isn't actually connected to the towers. It is designed to slide in and out of both towers so that it doesn't break when the strong winds make the towers sway⁷.

The two towers were built by different companies. Tower 1 was built by the Japanese Hazama Corporation and Tower 2 was built by the South Korean Samsung C&T Corporation. They are amazing. If you ever get a chance to go, I recommend it.



1.continuous 連続した 2.non-stop 止まらず 3.encourage 励ます 4.skyscraper 超高層ビル 5.construction 建造 6.bedrock 基盤岩 7.sway 揺れる