

The junior high school first grade are doing their midori no kyoshitsu this week, and the 4th grade had their rookie's camp last week. They are always a lot of fun. I saw so many people making new friends and talking to people they wouldn't usually talk to. It was wonderful. It is good to make as many friends as you can because we learn so much talking to new people. I can't really remember my first day at school because it was so long ago, but we didn't have any activities like this. School started, the teacher said, "hello", and then we had classes. That was it. Nothing as exciting as a midori no kyoshitsu or a rookie's camp.



Spot 10 differences

10 differences

Here are last week's answers. How many did you find?



Something you didn't know about the Rice:

1. There are 120,000 different varieties¹ of rice around the world.
2. Humans domesticated² rice about 9,000 years ago.
3. Rice is a grass. It comes from the grass called Oryza Sativa. The English word "rice" comes from this. Greek: Oryza ⇒ Italian: Riso ⇒ French: Ris ⇒ English: Rice
4. People in Myanmar eat the most rice in the world. The average consumption³ is 306kg per person per year. Japanese people eat 51kg per year.
5. India grows and exports⁴ the most rice in the world, followed by Thailand, Pakistan, the United States, and Vietnam.

Rice Farming Robot

A Japanese company called Hatake Hotke has developed a robot that can help with the backbreaking⁵ work of rice farming and make the rice that is grown healthier. The main problem with rice farming at the moment is that the number of farmers is declining⁶. Japan has an aging and declining population⁷.



Young people don't want to be farmers and when the old farmers die, there is no one to replace them. Because of this, rice producers use more pesticides⁸ on their rice because there aren't enough people to do the traditional work. Traditionally, rice farmers have to

weed⁹ their rice fields every week to protect the rice crops. This is done by dragging a chain through the rice paddy. The chain mixes up the mud and kills the weeds. It is hard to do and 1000m² takes about 2 hours. It usually has to be done in the hot summer. Farmers spray weedkiller¹⁰ and pesticide instead. However, the new robot can do all of that for the farmers. It does 1000m² in about 20 minutes. I think there will be more robots like this in the future because there will be fewer and fewer farmers. Do you want to be a farmer?



- 1.variety 種類 2.domesticate 環境に適応させる 3.average consumption 平均消費
4.export 輸出する 5.backbreaking 骨の折れる 6.decline 減る 7.aging population 高齢化
8.pesticide 殺虫剤 9.weed 雑草 10.weedkiller 除草剤



World record

Here is a world record that I don't think we will be able to beat: The World's Largest Yo-yo. I'm sure you all know what a yo-yo is. The yo-yo was actually invented by the Greeks in 500BC, but the modern yo-yo was invented by a Philippine man living in America in 1920. "Yo-yo" means *come come* in Ilcano, one of the languages in the Philippines. Well, most yo-yos are not very big. In 2012, Beth Johnson in America made a yo-yo that is 3.62m in diameter¹ and weighs 2095kg. She suspended² it from a crane on a 36m long rope and used it. It rebounded³ once. That is amazing, but I have no idea how she managed to wrap the string around it. There are other yo-yo

world Records. There is a Competition in Japan Called the "longest sleeper contest". A sleeper is when the Yo-yo goes to the bottom of the string and spins until it stops. The record is 30 minutes. I don't know how they managed to do that. Amazing.



This week's quote: You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.

A building

This week, let's have a look at the Sagrada Familia. It is a very famous church in Barcelona, Spain. It is famous because of its incredible design, its famous architect⁴, and also because it still isn't finished. In 1872, a Spanish bookseller called Josep Maria Bocabella visited the Vatican and came back to Spain determined⁵ to build a church. He managed to raise donations⁶ and the architect Francisco de Paula del Villar started work on the church. It was started in 1882. In 1883, Villar quit. He was replaced by Antoni Gaudi, who was a very famous Spanish architect. His work is very individual⁷ and original. He redesigned the whole church and work started again. Gaudi died in 1926 and the church was only about 20% finished. But he didn't mind. He knew it would be incredible when it was finished. The inside of the church was finished in 2000. In 2015, the chief architect said that the building was 70% finished. The last stage is to build 6 giant steeples⁸ on top of the church. The church was opened to the public in 2010, but it won't be completely finished until probably 2030. That means it will have taken 148 years to build! If you look at close up pictures of the church, the stonework⁹ is incredibly detailed. It is not just a church, it is a work of art. I would love to go and see it.



- 1.diameter 直径 2.suspend つるす 3.rebound 跳ね返る 4.architect 建築者
5.determined 断固とした 6.donation 寄付 7.individual 個性的 8.steeple 教会などの尖塔 9.stonework 石細工