

Did you enjoy your tests? I expect you did. I expect you all got 100 points in every test. Well done! I spent last week driving around schools in Kushiro and Nemuro. It is a beautiful area! The countryside¹ and the views of the sea were incredible! The weather was not so incredible, though. It was wonderful on the Monday and then it rained on every day after that. The fog² around Nemuro was very spooky³. There were no other people around and occasionally giant buildings would loom out⁴ of the clouds. I was happy when I came in to a town again. I would love to live somewhere like this. I've asked my wife but she said, "No." Ha ha.

SPOT 20 DIFFERENCES



20 differences

Here are last week's answers. I'm sorry. I used the wrong picture. There were only 5. I made 10, but I didn't save it!



Something you didn't know about Queen Elizabeth II:

1. She only became queen because her uncle, Edward VIII, abdicated⁵, making the Queen's father king.
2. She doesn't have a passport even though she travels. A passport is issued⁶ in her name⁷, so she doesn't need one.
3. Since she became queen, she has visited 110 countries.
4. During World War 2, she volunteered as a truck driver.
5. She speaks French fluently.
6. She receives over 70,000 letters a year. I don't think she personally replies to them.

Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee

Last week, Queen Elizabeth II of Britain, celebrated her Platinum Jubilee⁸. That means she has been on the throne for 70 years! She became Queen on the death of her father, George VI, on February 6, 1952. She is the longest living reigning monarch. There were four days of celebrations for her in the UK, but she is having mobility⁹ problems and didn't appear in all of them. She is 95 years old now and she cannot walk as easily as she used to. She is being replaced in a lot of the ceremonies by her son Charles, the Prince of Wales. Some people think that this may be a sign that the queen is thinking of abdicating, but she has always said that she will continue until she dies.

There are going to be parades and a flyby by the Red Arrows, which is the British version of the Blue Impulse. Community beacons¹⁰ are going to be lit across the country. Beacons were a system of warning about an invasion¹¹ in years gone by, but this year, they are being used in celebration. The first beacon will be lit in front of Buckingham Palace. There will be many parties, and a final ceremony. Ed Sheeran and a choir of famous British singers are going to finish the ceremony by singing the national anthem. It is going to be an amazing performance. Apparently, the queen will watch it on TV. The next jubilee will be in five years, when the queen turns 100!



- 1.countryside 田舎 2. Fog 霧 3.spooky 薄気味悪い 4.loom out～から浮かび上がる
5.abdicate 退位する 6.issue 発行する 7.in someone's name 誰かの名前に (責任)
8.jubilee 記念行事 9.mobility 運動 10.beacon 灯台 11.invasion 侵入



World record

Do you like dogs? Do you have a dog? There seems to be a trend¹ to have smaller and smaller dogs these days. What do you think? Do you like small dogs or big dogs? I like big dogs, but I don't think I would like a dog as big as Freddy. Freddy was a Great Dane, and he was 227 cm tall when he stood up on his hind legs²! Actually, that probably makes him the longest dog in the world because dogs are not usually measured when they stand on their hind legs. Freddy was only 1 meter tall when he was standing on all fours³. This is a difficult record to pin down⁴. There is another record for the longest dog in the world. That is held by an Irish Wolfhound called Farrell. He is 2.36 meters long from his nose to the end of his tail. Difficult. Do any of you have a dog that can get this world record? Probably not. Most people don't have the space for a dog that large.



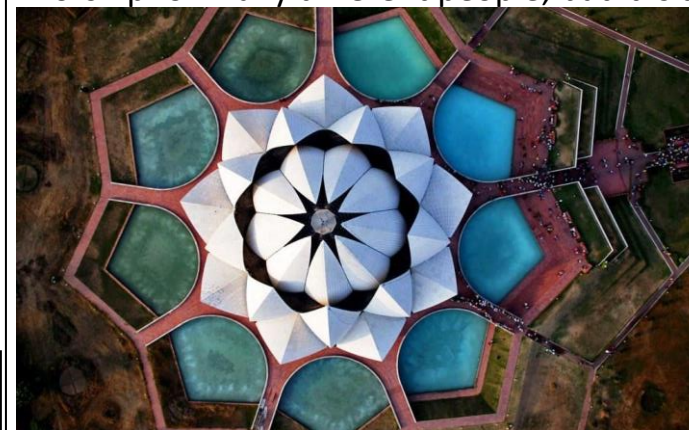
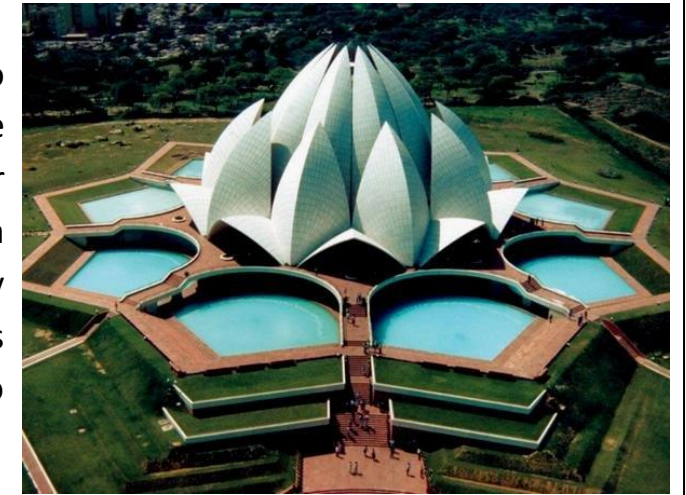
As my knowledge of things grew, I felt more and more the delight of the world I was in.” — **Helen Keller**

A building

This week let's have a look at the Lotus Temple in New Delhi, India. It was opened in 1986 and is obviously called the Lotus Temple because it looks like a lotus⁵. It is a temple for the Bahá'í faith⁶. The Bahá'í faith is very interesting. It teaches that all religions have equal worth⁷, and that the unity⁸ of people is important. In Bahá'í temples, anybody with any religion can come and worship. It is a place of peace and respect. The faith says that there is one god who speaks to different people through different gods. The faith started in Iran in the 1840s.

All Bahá'í temples have to have similar things. They all have to have a nine-sided circular shape. They have to have a dome. There cannot be any pictures, statues, or images inside the temple. There also cannot be altars⁹ or pulpits¹⁰.

The Lotus Temple has 27 free-standing¹¹ marble petals. They are arranged into nine groups of three to give the nine sides. The temple has nine doors, and the inside of the dome is 34 meters high. There are also nine ponds and nine gardens around the temple. 2,500 people can fit inside the temple. The temple is a point of worship for many different people, but it is also a tourist destination. Since it



was built, over 100 million people have visited it. That is a lot of people! Also, interestingly, it is the first temple in India to use solar power. I would love to go and visit this one day. It must be a very impressive building.

- 1.trend 流行 2.hind legs 後ろの脚 3.all fours 四つの脚で 4.pin down はっきりわかる 5.lotus ハス 6.faith 教義 7.equal worth 同じ大切さ 8.unity 結束 9.altar 供物台 10.pulpit 説教壇 11.free-standing 自立つ