

Wow! It was hot this weekend. We had an open day at school at hospital and it was very hot. Maybe that was because I was moving so much. Although, I shouldn't complain because Sapporo is one of the cooler parts of Japan. I saw a city in Japan had temperatures over 40°C on Saturday! Hopefully, the weather will be nice today as well because I have one of my trash pick ups after school. It is always so much fun walking around the neighborhood with the students picking up trash. It is very relaxing. We find a lot of cigarette butts<sup>1</sup>, but we find some interesting things as well. Students have found shoes, a credit card, and a security card for a company.



10 differences

Here are last week's answers. There were 12 difference.

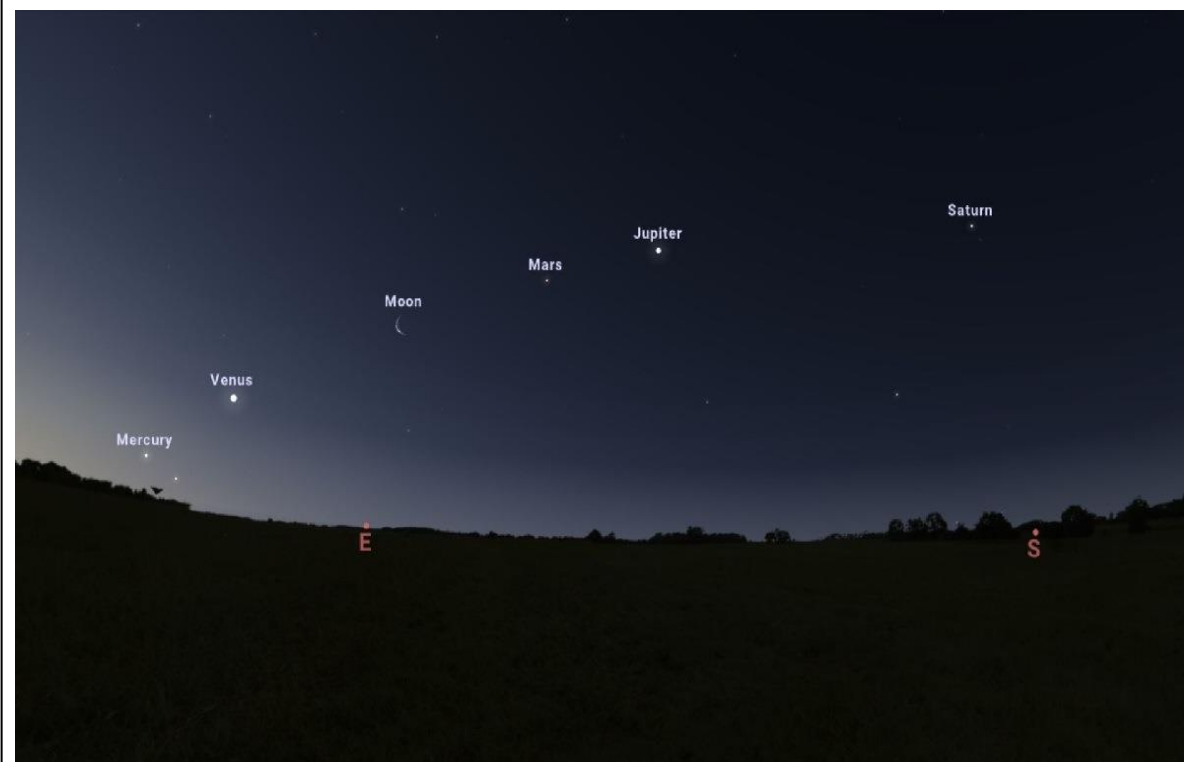


### Something you didn't know about the solar system:

1. The edge of the solar system<sup>2</sup> is about 18.4 billion km away from the sun. It is the point where the wind from the sun stops.
2. 99.8% of all the mass<sup>3</sup> in the solar system is in the sun. The remaining 0.2% is all the planets. The sun is very very big.
3. The solar system is 4.57 billion years old.
4. Our solar system orbits<sup>4</sup> the Milky Way Galaxy at 828.000 km/h. It takes us 230 million years to orbit the galaxy once. That means we have only orbited the galaxy about 20 times.

### The Planets Align

Last Friday, five planets and the moon were visible<sup>5</sup> in the sky at the same time. This is very rare<sup>6</sup>, and it hasn't happened since 2004. It won't happen again until 2040. They were still visible until this morning. Did any of you see them? You needed to get up before sunrise, which is 03:57. That's maybe a little early to get up. It is unusual to be able to see Mercury as well because it is usually impossible to see because of the bright light from the sun. Another unusual fact about the event is that all of the planets appear in the order that they are positioned from the sun. A lineup<sup>7</sup> of five planets happens about every 20 years. A lineup of six planets happens about once every hundred years. The last time was in 200, so I won't see another one of those. You all might. It is very rare for all of the planets to line up. If you want to set a reminder on your phone, all seven of the planets (obviously not Earth as well because we have to be on that to see the other seven) will line up on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2492. Coincidentally<sup>8</sup>, that is my 515<sup>th</sup> birthday. If the weather is clear, all of the planets are visible with the naked eye<sup>9</sup>.



1.cigarette butt たばこの 2.solar system 太陽系 3.mass 重さ 4.orbit 軌道を回る 5.visible 見える 6.rare 珍しい 7.lineup 並び 8.coincidentally 偽善で 9.naked eye 眼だけ





### World record

Do you like tea? I love tea, but these days I don't drink much. I drink a lot more coffee than tea. I am going to have a cup of Earl Grey today! Here are some tea records for you. The largest tea party was held in India and 32,681 people came. They had to hold it in a sports stadium. I expect some people's tea was cold before they started. The largest tea bag was made in Russia and it weighs 250kg! I don't know how big the cup it goes in would be. The most expensive tea in the world is Puer Hong Yin Yuan Cha, grown in China. It costs 2,500,000 yen for 340g! I wonder how good it tastes. The is very old and it is fermented<sup>1</sup>, so it probably has an unusual taste. You can buy a cup to try for about 15,000 yen.



Folks are usually about as happy as they make up their minds<sup>2</sup> to be.

**Abraham Lincoln.**

### A building

This week let's look at the Roman forum<sup>3</sup>. The Roman forum was the seat of the Roman government<sup>4</sup>. People from this building controlled an empire that stretched from Africa, through Europe, to the edge<sup>5</sup> of Russia. The forum was started in about 650 BC. Many different kings added to it over the years. Rome became a republic<sup>6</sup> in 509 BC and the forum became more important. It was the main court for Rome and all the laws were made here. Building on the forum finished in 312 AD when Emperor Constantine made the last change to it. By this time it was less important and a lot of government work had moved to other buildings and other towns. The Roman Empire fell in 476 AD and the forum was no longer used. It started to fall down and a lot of the bricks were used to build other buildings. By the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the area had become a dumping ground<sup>7</sup>. In 1550, Pope Paul III used a lot of the bricks to build St. Paul's Basilica, the most famous church in the Vatican. It was only in 1803, that people started to excavate<sup>8</sup> and take care of the building again. The Industrial Revolution<sup>9</sup> increased education levels and gave people more of an interest in history. A lot of countries start to care for their old buildings from about this time. By 1898, the forum had been restored<sup>10</sup> as much as possible.



- 1.ferment 発酵する 2.make up one's mind 決める 3.forum フォーラム、公共広場◆公開討論会や市場が開かれた場所。 4.seat of the government 中央政府の所在地 5.edge はじ 6.republic 共和制 7.dumping ground ゴミ捨て場 8.excavate 掘り出す 9.Industrial Revolution 産業革命 9.restore 直す