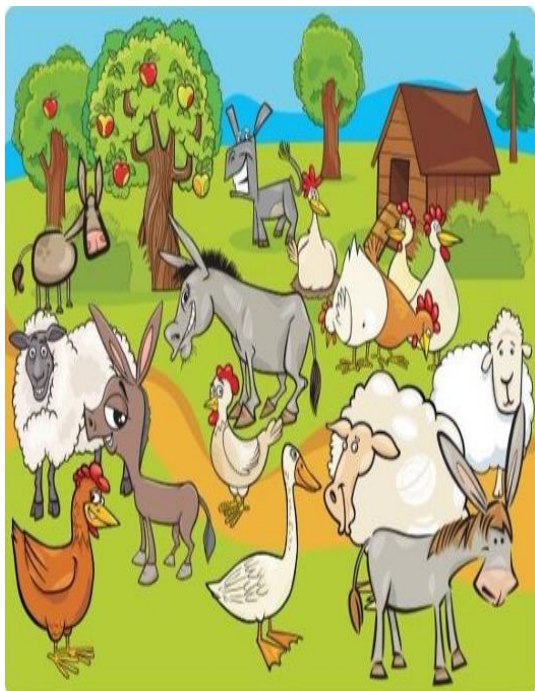
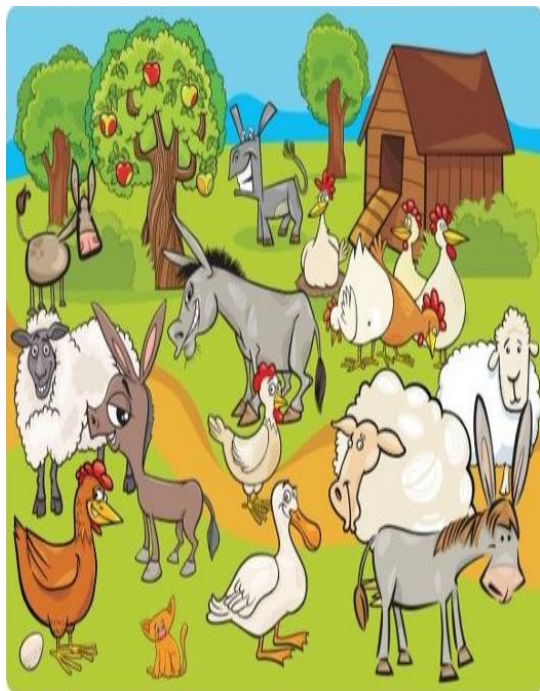


Welcome back after the summer vacation. Did you have a good time? I know I say this every year, but I think the vacation should be a little bit longer. In the UK, schools have about 6 weeks of summer vacation. My brother and I loved the summer vacation, but my mother hated it because my brother and I were at home all the time. She used to get really angry and just shout, "go outside! Both of you! Right now! Go and play outside!" So, we spent a lot of time playing outside in the park. Young people don't seem to go outside as much these days. People stay in and play games on their phones. I liked going outside in the summer.



10 differences

Here are last week's answers. There were 10 differences.



Something you didn't know about rain:

1. The place with the most rain every year is Mawsynram in India. It gets 11,000 mm of rain a year.
2. An average raindrop weighs 0.0034 g and an average raincloud weighs about 250,000 tons.
3. It takes about 2 minutes for a raindrop to fall to the ground.
4. Do you know the smell of rain? It has a name. It is called "petrichor"¹.
5. Some countries have colored rain. When rain picks up dust² or pollution³, it can be red, yellow, green, or black. This may be pretty, but it is not a good thing.

China Seeds Clouds

In China, the Chinese government is trying to make it rain. This year, because of climate change⁴, there are far more droughts⁵ and heatwaves⁶ than usual. In China, the Yangtze River has dried up in parts. Many people rely on the river for their drinking water, for crops, and for their livelihoods⁷. 150,000 people don't have enough drinking water and 400,000 hectares of crops⁸ have been damaged. There are many lakes and rivers across the world that are drying up at the moment.

One of China's solutions is to seed clouds⁹. A chemical, such as silver iodide¹⁰, is shot into the clouds. The silver iodide is usually in pieces that are about the size of a cigarette and they can be shot into the sky using regular guns.



When the silver iodide reaches the clouds, it breaks up and they can form ice crystals. The idea is that the ice crystals get bigger and heavier, and then fall as rain. However, there is no proof⁹ that cloud seeding really works. China also tried cloud seeding during the 2008 Olympics to try to make the rain fall before the clouds reached Beijing. The drought situation is becoming very



bad. China has also opened a dam and moved as many people and cattle away as they can. It doesn't look like the drought will get better very quickly. The forecast says it will last until at least August 26th. It looks like this will happen every year from now on.

- 1.petrichor 心地良い香り、芳香◆特に久々の雨が降ったときに草花から放出される香気。
- 2.dust ほこり 3.pollution 汚染 4.climate change 気候変動 5.drought 干ばつ 6.heatwave 熱波
- 7.livelihood 生計 8.crops 農作物 9.seed clouds 人工降雨 10.silver iodide ヨウ化銀



World record

Here are some Lego world records for you. The Lego set with the most pieces is the Lego Colosseum. It has 9,036 pieces. It takes about 30 hours to build. I am sure that if I had that, I would lose at least 200 pieces before I could finish. There is also a world record for the fastest time to build the Lego Colosseum. It is 13 hours and 37 minutes. That sounds like a record that would be fun to try and break. Vitalii Solovev from Belarus has the largest collection of Lego sets. He has 5,416 sets. I wonder if he has made them all. And the last Lego world record is one that we could beat if we tried. The world record for walking barefoot¹ on Lego bricks is 8,898 m. That would be an interesting challenge. The crystal sky road is about 30 m long (probably). If we covered it in Lego and walked up and down it 150 times, we would set a new world record! What do you think?



**If you hear a voice within you say “you cannot paint,” then by all means² paint and that voice will be silenced.
Vincent Van Gogh.**

A place

This week let's look at the Uyuni Salt Flat³. It is an area in Bolivia that is 10,000 km², (almost ten times bigger than Sapporo) and that is covered in salt. It is completely flat and when it rains, the whole place becomes like a mirror. It is high up in the Andes mountains and is at 3,656 m, which is almost the same height as Mt. Fuji. The salt flat formed about 13,000 years ago. There was a very large lake that dried up. It created two smaller lakes and two large salt deserts⁴. Uyuni is the



largest of those two deserts. There is an island in the middle of Uyuni that is left over from when the area was a lake. It is called Incahuasi Island. There is a picture of it at the bottom of this page. The white area around the island is salt. Many tourists visit the salt flats every year. Salt is also taken from the salt flats and sold. Every year, 25,000 tons of salt is extracted⁵ and sold. People estimate⁶ that the salt flats contain about 10 billion tons of salt. There is also a lot of lithium⁷ in the salt. American companies⁸ want to mine the area for the lithium, but the people who live near to Uyuni are against it. They think that the American companies will destroy⁹ the area.



- 1.barefoot はだし 2.by all means 何としてでも 3.salt flat 塩原 4.desert 砂漠
- 5.extract 抜き出す 6.estimate 推定する 7.lithium リチウム 8.company 会社
- 9.destroy 破壊する