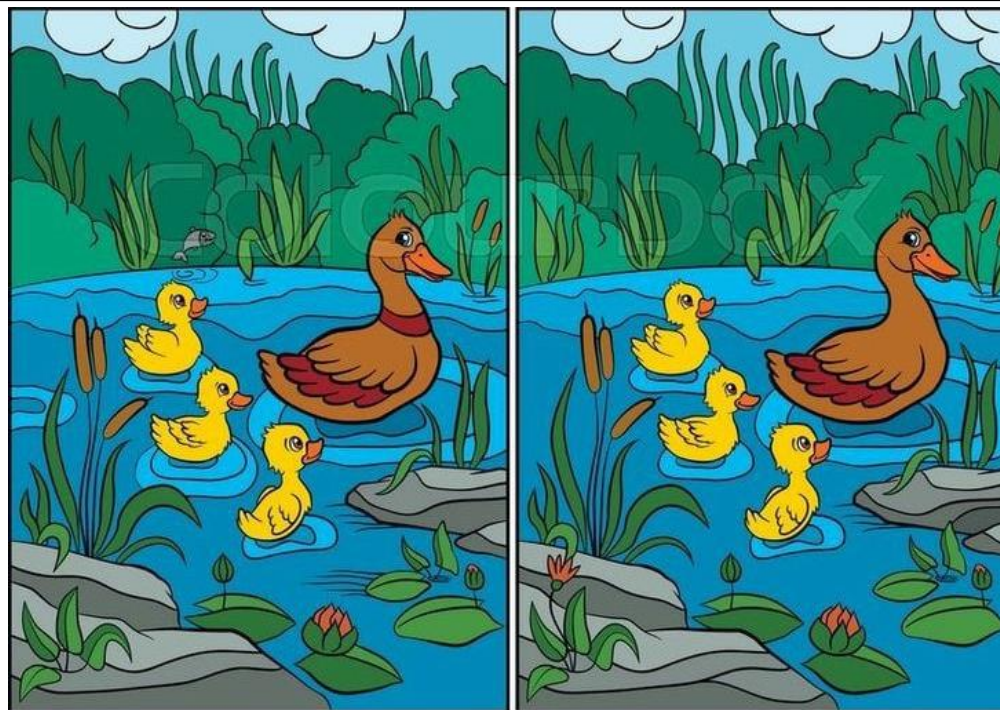
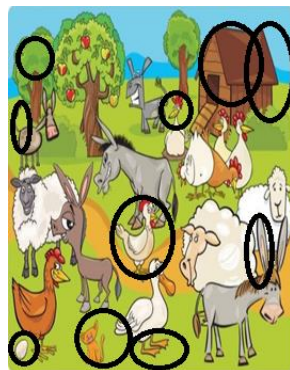


I was thinking a lot about the floods in Pakistan last week. Climate change¹ is becoming worse and the areas that are most affected² are the areas that have produced the least CO2. Things are only going to get worse in the years to come. We use about 9.5 tons of CO2 every year in Japan. I have been trying to think of ways that I can cut my carbon footprint³. There are some things that I already do, but there must be more. What about you? Are you trying to cut your carbon footprint? If you have any ideas, can you come and tell me what they are? I am stuck. We think the problem is too big, but we can all make a difference.



12 differences

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



Something you didn't know about data storage:

1. The first types of data storage were punch cards. Holes in a piece of card would tell a machine such as a steam loom⁴ what to do.
2. In 1837, the first calculator also worked using punch cards.
3. In the 1960s, magnetic storage was invented. Data was stored on cassettes.
4. RAM (Random Access Memory) was invented in 1948.
5. The CD was invented in the 1960s and sold in 1980.
6. Flash drives (like a USB memory stick) were invented in 2000.
7. Cloud data storage started with the invention of the internet.

Japan government told to stop using floppy disks

Do you know what a floppy disk is? I expect most of you have never seen one. There are two types of floppy disks⁵, but we are talking about the ones in the picture. They can store about 720KB of data. They were invented in 1986 and they stopped being produced in about 2010. Do you know how much 720KB of data is? This English news is 1,400KB, so it would not fit on a floppy disk. Well, last week, a committee⁶ formed by the Japanese government found out that there are 1,900 processes in the government that still use floppy disks. That means some paperwork and some jobs have to be done with a floppy disk. That means they need to buy special floppy disk readers⁷ because there are no



computers that can read floppy disks. My computer cannot even read CDs. The government has demanded⁸ that these processes are modernized⁹. The government is also trying to stop using fax machines because they are an outdated¹⁰ technology. As the quality of technology gets better, the size gets



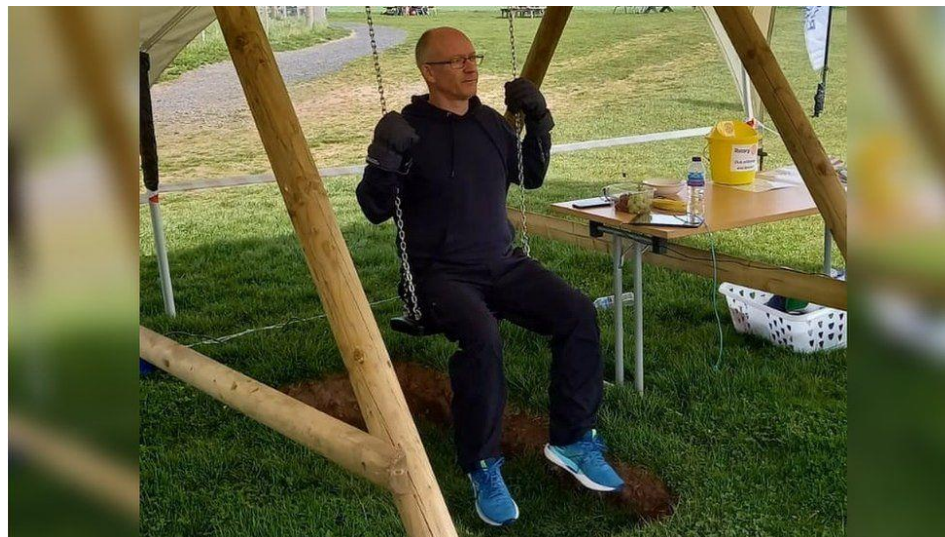
bigger and a floppy disk is just not big enough any more. I have a 32GB usb drive. That is the same size as 46,603 of those floppy disks. One day soon, my 32GB usb will be too small to hold anything as well. I wonder what will come next. Probably just online saving.

- 1.climate change 気候変動 2.affect 響く 3.carbon footprint 炭素の足跡 4.loom 勝機 5.floppy disk フロッピーディスク 6.committee 委員会 7.reader 読み取り機械 8.demand 命令する 9.modernize 近代化にする 10.outdated 古い



World record

Here's a peculiar¹ world record that we could probably break if we wanted to. A man in the UK has set a world record for the longest time swinging on a swing². He managed to swing for 36 hours. He was allowed³ a 5 minute break every hour so that he could use the toilet, but he had to keep swinging for the rest of the time. He said the hardest part was at night because it was very dark and he couldn't see anything. He hit a wall⁴ after 18 hours, but managed to keep going. I'm not sure that I would be able to beat this world record because I get motion sickness⁵ just going on a swing for thirty seconds. Some of you might be able to do it though. One of the worst things, he said, is that he couldn't feel his legs. What do you think? Shall we try?



You miss 100% of the shots you never take.

-Wayne Gretzky

A place

This week let's look at the Mano del Desierto. That means "the hand in the desert" in Spanish. This is a large sculpture of a hand in the Atacama desert in Chile. It was built in 1992, by a sculptor called Mario Irarrazabal and he made it to represent the terrible human rights⁶ that Chileans were going through in the past. He said that he made it this big to emphasize the vulnerability⁷ and helplessness⁸ of people. It is 11 meters tall. A lot of people write graffiti on it and it has to be cleaned quite often. The artist doesn't mind the graffiti because it is usually people writing their names or messages of support. The hand is made of cement and the desert is very dry, so it will probably last for a long time. It is slowly getting covered with sand. The Atacama desert is very large and empty. The sculptor wanted to show the Loneliness⁹ and fragility¹⁰ of people. He wanted to show the suffering and injustices¹¹ that happen around the world. All of the artworks by the sculptor show human sorrow and helplessness. He has taken it as his life mission. The hand is a little difficult to get to, but there are some bus tours if you are in the area. I would love to go and see it. I think it would be very awe inspiring because of the emptiness of the desert.



1.peculiar 変な 2.swing ブランコ 3.allow 許可する 4.hit a wall 限界になる 5.moton sickness 乗り物酔い 6.human rights 人類 7.vulnerability 脆弱性 8.helplessness 無力 9.loneliness 寂しさ 10. Fragility 脆弱 11.injustice 不正