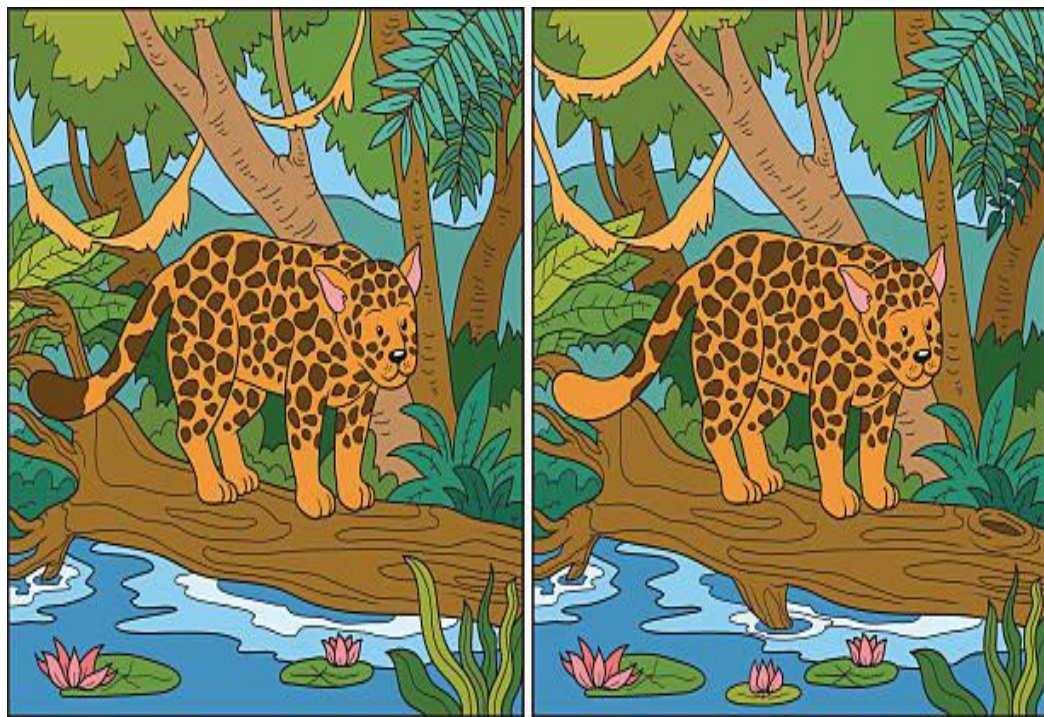


Did you have a great four-day weekend? I hope so. I had a wonderful time. I know that I say this all the time, but I think it would be very nice if we had four-day weekends more often. Maybe every second week could have a four-day weekend. What do you think? The fifth grade have come back from their school trip. They are at home today and they don't come back into school until Wednesday. I hope they had a great time. I have never been to Okinawa. I saw all of their photographs and it looks like a wonderful place. I would love to go there one day. There is a direct flight<sup>1</sup> from Chitose, so I don't really have any excuse not to<sup>2</sup> go.



10 differences

Last week:



### Something interesting about phone boxes:

1. The first phone box was opened on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1881, in Berlin. You had to buy paper tickets to use it and you could only talk for a few minutes. The telephone had only been invented about five years earlier, so there weren't many people to call.
2. In 1889, in America, the first payphone<sup>3</sup> was opened.
3. Payphones and phone boxes have pretty much disappeared from every country because so many people have mobile phones. America had 2 million phone boxes in 1999 and now there are less than 100,000 across the whole country.
4. One American company is converting<sup>4</sup> its phone boxes into wifi spots.

### Phone Boxes

I suspect that most of you will have never used a phone box. You were all born after the invention of mobile phones and all of the junior high school students were born after the invention of the iPhone. So, you will never have needed to use a phone box, but I am sure you have seen them around. The UK, where I am from, is famous for its phone boxes. Many of them are bright red. A new style of phone box was introduced in the 1990s and by 1995 there were 100,000 phone boxes across the UK. Now, there are fewer than 20,000 and many of them have been scrapped<sup>5</sup>. However, people are trying to save the red phone boxes. A lot of people are adopting<sup>6</sup> the phone boxes and repurposing<sup>7</sup> them. British Telecom will let people adopt a phone box for £1 (160 yen) because it is probably cheaper for them than having to dispose<sup>8</sup> of it. People that have adopted phone boxes have done some pretty interesting things with them. Here are some examples.



A cocktail bar.



An AED device.



A book exchange.



A convenience store.

- 1.direct flight 直便 2.no excuse not to やらな言い訳がない (なのでやる)  
 3.payphone 公衆電話 4.convert 変える 5.scrap 捨てる 6.adopt 養子にする  
 7.repurpose 別の目的で使う 8.dispose 捨てる



### World record

Here is a peculiar<sup>1</sup> world record that I don't think we would want to try and break. Jonathan Lee Riches has the world record for the most lawsuits filed<sup>2</sup>. He is a convicted conman<sup>3</sup> who has spent a number of years in prison for his crimes. He is famous for having filed over 4,000 lawsuits. He has tried to sue<sup>4</sup> many famous people, including Bill Gates and former president George Bush. Most of the reasons he puts on his lawsuits are very difficult to believe and it could be that he is just doing it for publicity. However, it does seem likely that he has some kind of mental illness, perhaps paranoia<sup>5</sup>. He heard in 2009 that the Guinness Book of World Records was going to include him as the most litigious man, and he sued them. The lawsuit was dismissed<sup>6</sup> by a judge, the same as all of his other lawsuits. The only thing his lawsuits seem to do is cost the state time and money. The courts have moved to stop frivolous<sup>7</sup>



lawsuits like this, and people like Riches can now be fined. Riches appears to have stopped filing lawsuits and is now trying to become famous on SNS. He has also written an autobiography. I'm not sure I want to read it.

**The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary. -Vidal Sassoon.**

### A capital city – Helsinki

Let's look at Helsinki, the capital of Finland. Finland has only been a country since 1917. People have lived there for over 5000 years, but it was never a country. It was part of Sweden until Russia captured it in 1809 and it was part of Russia until it gained independence on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1917. Helsinki was founded in 1550 by King Gustav I of Sweden. He wanted people to live in his city, so he ordered people to move. The city was never very popular and not many people lived there. It was destroyed many times by fires, wars, and plagues<sup>8</sup>. It was only when Russia defeated Sweden and took Finland that Helsinki became popular. Alexander I of Russia moved the Finnish capital to Helsinki in to move it away from Sweden and closer to Russia. Finland was a very rural country until the end of World War 2 when the population of Helsinki suddenly trebled<sup>9</sup> as people moved from the countryside to the city. Helsinki is in a northerly city, so days are only 5 hours and 48 minutes long in the winter, but they are 18 hours and 57 minutes long in the summer. One interesting thing is that Helsinki's water is provided by a 120 km long rock tunnel. The tunnel carries water from Lake Paijanne, the second largest lake in Finland.



- 1.peculiar 変 2.file a lawsuit 裁判を起こす 3.convicted conman 有罪判決を受けた詐欺師
- 4.sue 訴える 5.paranoia 偏執症 6.dismiss a lawsuit 訴えを取り下げる 7.frivolous 不真面目
- 8.plague 伝染病 9.treble 3倍にする