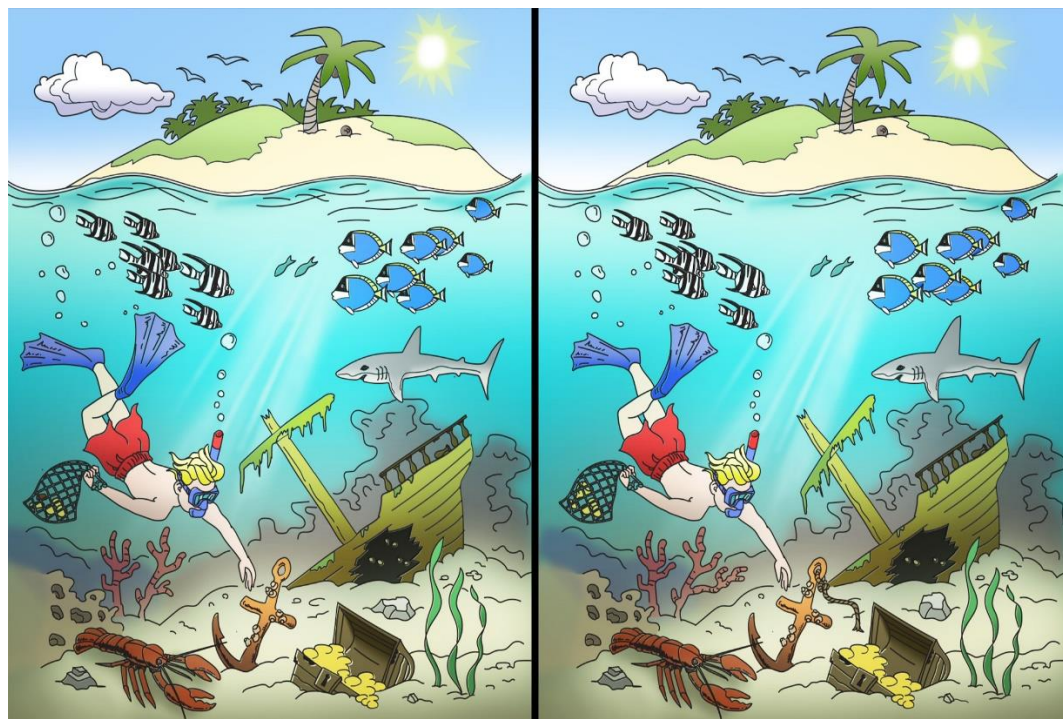


It's February this week. The year is flying by already. I think I say this every year. I must be getting old. Ha ha. It's my daughter's birthday this week. She will be ten years old. I can't believe how quickly that time has gone by as well. My Dad always says, "treasure¹ every moment," and he is right. I spend so much time looking forward to the weekend, or the holidays. We need to learn how to treasure every moment more. I wonder if this week will be as cold as last week. It was SO cold last week! At home, the outside of all of our windows froze. The ice crystals were beautiful, but we couldn't see out of the windows.



11 differences

Last week:



Something interesting: Microsoft

1. The name Microsoft comes from **micro** computer + **software**.
2. In 1997, Microsoft saved Apple from bankruptcy². Apple had run out of money and was facing bankruptcy. Microsoft invested³ \$150 million in Apple to help them. Apple fans were very unhappy, but it allowed Apple to keep going.
3. Microsoft owns 211 other companies. Many tech companies are being bought up by the few Big Tech⁴ companies. Some people say this is a problem.
4. Microsoft is currently the third most valuable company in the world, behind Apple in first place and the Saudi Arabia oil company in second place.

People Can't Use Teams

Last week, Microsoft's servers failed⁵ in large parts of Asia and Europe. That meant that a lot of people couldn't access Teams, Outlook, Xbox, and online Word, Powerpoint, and many other Microsoft products. A lot of you probably think that is wonderful. If you can't access Teams, you can't do online classes, and you can't submit⁶ online homework. I'm sure many students around the world were happy with the situation. However, a lot of businesses use Microsoft products and it has caused them a lot of problems. Over 280 million people around the years use Teams. A lot of businesses depend on⁷ it. The problem with the software also stopped a lot of other things from running. The train service that runs between England and France was cancelled because they depend on Microsoft for their trains to run. I think it is interesting that something like Microsoft having trouble with their network becomes worldwide news. It is also interesting that we depend on the Internet so much now that when there are problems, we can't do our work. Microsoft blamed⁸ the problem on a change it had made to its "Wide Area Network". I have no idea what this is. A lot of people were upset⁹, but many more people were happy to have a day off work. Some people were angry that Teams was still working in their office. Microsoft say that the problem is fixed. That is a relief¹⁰. What do you think? Would you be upset if there were any problems with Teams or any of the Microsoft products? No? I didn't think so.



- 1.treasure 大事にする
- 2.bankruptcy 破産
- 3.invest 出資する
- 4.Big Tech 大手テクノロジー企業
- 5.fail 故障する
- 6.submit 提出する
- 7.depend on～に頼る
- 8.blame～のせいにする
- 9.upset 苦しめる
- 10.relief 安心



World record

This is a record that I don't think any of us will ever be able to break. Well, I shouldn't say that. Maybe some of you will turn out to be epic mountain climbers. Maybe one of the members of the wandervogel club. Although, it won't be easy. Kami Rita has the record for the most ascents¹ of Everest. He has climbed the mountain 26 times so far. His last ascent was in May of 2022. He is 53 years old now, but he thinks that he will be able to keep climbing for a few more years. He is a Sherpa, which means he guides paying climbers up the mountain, carries their things, and sets up ropes and ladders² on the mountain. His wife, Lakpa Jangmu, wants him to retire³ from mountain climbing. She says that it is dangerous and they could start a business with the money he has made. She says that she won't let their children become Sherpas. Kami Rita has also climbed the other highest mountains in the world. His first summit⁴ was in 1994. It is very dangerous, so I hope he stays safe.



Learning never exhausts⁵ the mind. – Leonardo Da Vinci

A capital city – Dublin

Let's look at Dublin this week. Dublin is the capital of Ireland. The name Dublin comes from the Irish word *Duibhlinn*. *Dubh* means "dark" and *linn* means "pool". Dublin is by the sea and there was a dark tidal pool⁶ there when the town was founded. Ireland is the island to the west of the UK. People have lived in the area for 6,000 years. In 841, the Vikings started to colonize⁷ Ireland. In 1171, England started to colonize Ireland, although it remained a separate country. In 1800, Ireland became part of the UK. In 1916, Ireland fought the War of Independence to break away from the UK. They gained independence in 1922. The UK divided Ireland up and kept Northern Ireland as part of the UK. A lot of people in Northern Ireland want to be part of a unified⁸ Ireland, but a lot of other people want to stay in the UK. It is a difficult situation. A lot of Dublin was destroyed⁹ during the War of Independence. The city was largely rebuilt. Ireland is part of the EU and they use the Euro. The population is 2 million people, which is about 40% of the population of Ireland. Here's something very interesting: Handel's Messiah was first performed in Dublin in 1742. Handel was British, but he first performed it in Dublin. You all know Handel's Messiah because it ends with the Hallelujah Chorus.



- 1.ascent 上昇 2.ladder はしご 3.retire やめる 4.summit 登頂する 5.exhaust 疲れ果てさせる 6.tidal pool 潮だまり 7.colonize 植民地にする 8.unified 統一 9.destroyed 壊れた