

It is Valentine's Day this week. Are you ready? Have you made lots of chocolate? I always buy my daughter and wife chocolate on Valentine's Day. I know that men are supposed to<sup>1</sup> wait for White Day, but we don't have a White Day where I come from. My daughter has realized that<sup>2</sup> she can get more chocolate this way because on White Day morning she always says, "Daddy, don't forget it's White Day today!" She gets double chocolate. Haha. What about you? Who are you going to give chocolate to? Or maybe you are going to give some other kind of snack. I'm sure whatever you make will taste wonderful. Good luck.



15 differences  
How quickly can you find them?

Last week:

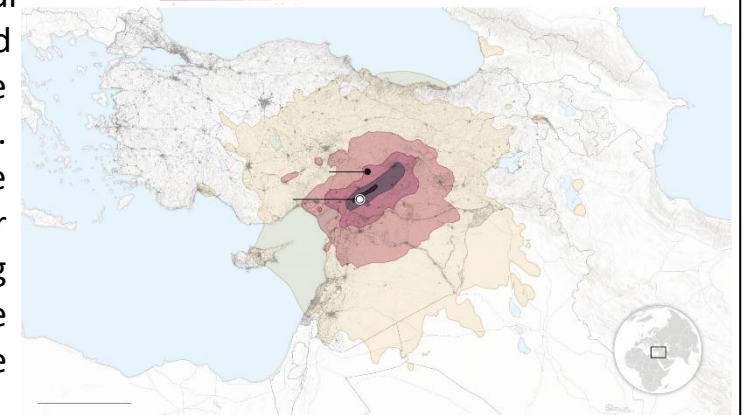


### Something interesting: Earthquakes

1. There are about 500,000 earthquakes a year. Humans only feel about 20% of those and only about 100 are big enough to cause any damage<sup>3</sup>.
2. The biggest ever earthquake was in Chile in 1960. It was a 9.5 magnitude quake.
3. An earthquake of 10.0 is not possible. The scale is related to the length of the faultline<sup>4</sup>. The Chilean earthquake was on a fault-line 1,600 km long. A 10.0 earthquake would need a Fault-line that stretched around the world, and that doesn't exist.
4. We cannot predict<sup>5</sup> earthquakes because they happen underground. Sensitive equipment can detect when one is starting. Animals are able to detect it as well.

### Huge Earthquake in Turkey and Syria

Last Monday, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck the region along the Turkish-Syrian border. So far, (Friday last week) 20,000 people have been confirmed dead<sup>6</sup>, but that number has been injured. International aid being mobilized<sup>7</sup> to help in the area, but it is taking too long. The people of Turkey have complained that their government is not doing enough to help. People were using Twitter to complain. The Turkish government

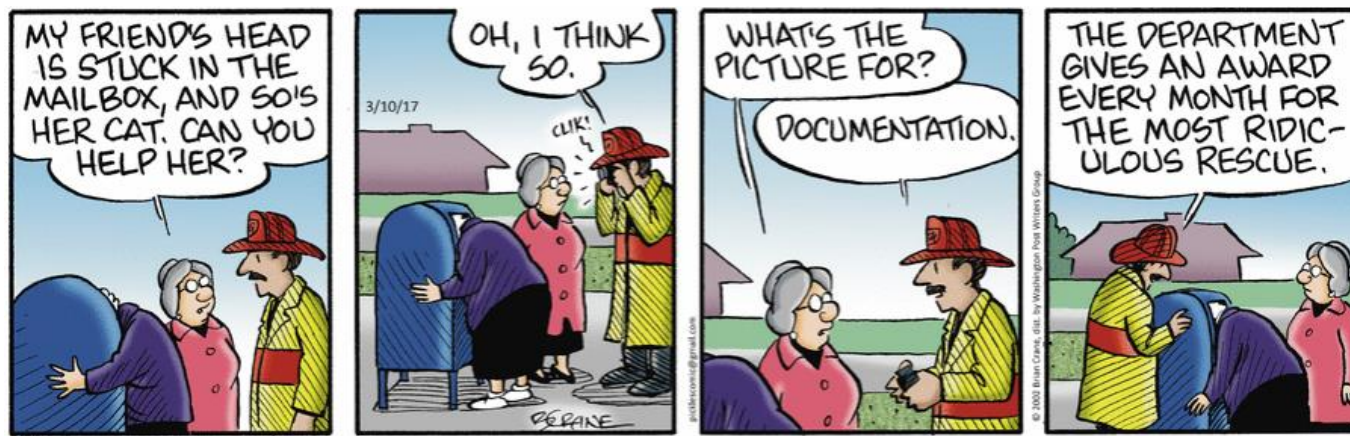


responded<sup>8</sup> by shutting down Twitter in Turkey. Syria is in an even worse situation because the civil war there has still not ended and a lot of the infrastructure<sup>9</sup> is broken. Syria also has many sanctions imposed<sup>10</sup> upon it because of the war. Maybe those sanctions will be lifted during this disaster. The international aid isn't able to go into Syria because a large part of the area that was affected is in opposition-held territory<sup>11</sup>, supported by the Russian Army. The people affected by the earthquake don't have food, clean water, or many places to shelter and the weather is very cold at the moment. They also don't have access to heavy machinery<sup>12</sup> and they are digging through rubble<sup>13</sup>



with their hands. Everyone hopes that aid can arrive quickly. Mexico says it is sending a team of dogs that can sniff out people stuck under the rubble. Japan has sent a team of experts as well. Let's hope more people can be saved.

- 1.supposed to するはずである 2.realize that 気が付く 3.damage 損害 4.fault-line 断層線崖  
5.predict 予想する 6.confirmed dead 確認された死者 7.mobilize 動員する 8.respond 反応する  
9.infrastructure インフラ 10.impose sanctions~に対して制裁を課す 11.opposition-held territory 敵が占領している領土 12.heavy machinery 重機 13.rubble がれき



### World record

LeBron James has broken the record for the most points scored in a basketball career. The record was 38,387 points and it had stood for 38 years. Basketball player Kareem Abdul-Jabbar scored had scored that many points when he retired<sup>1</sup> from basketball in 1984. He is 75 years old now. Last Wednesday,



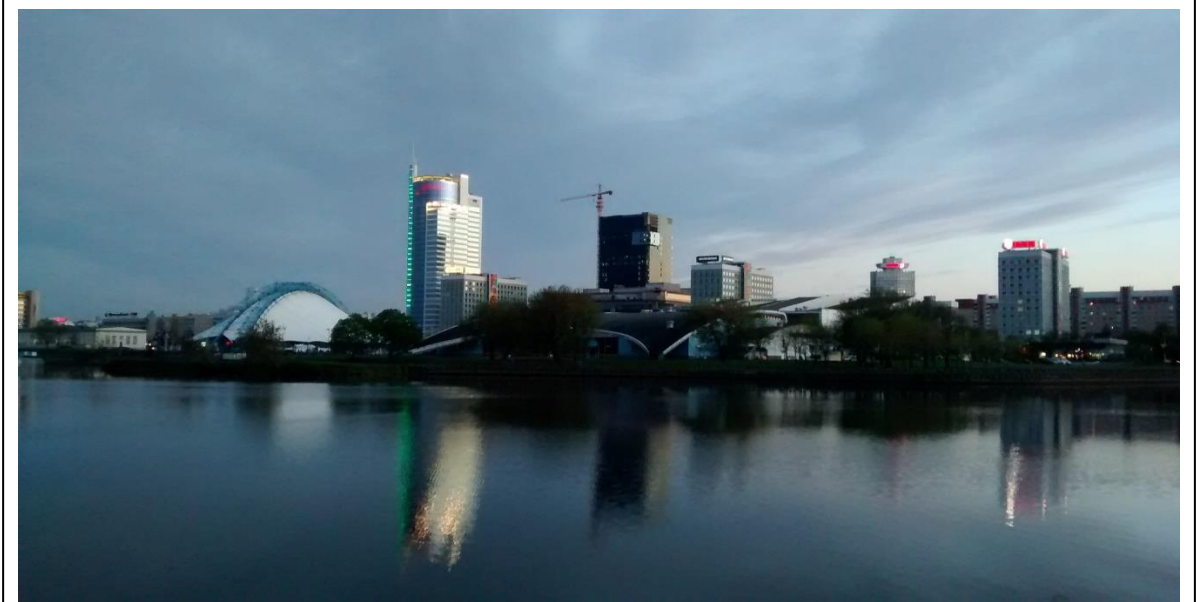
LeBron James scored 38 points in the game to take the record. He now has 38,388. The game was stopped at the moment he scored the basket that put him ahead of the record and the audience gave him a round of applause<sup>2</sup>. He is 38 years old, which is old for a basketball player in the NBA, but he is still playing at the top of his game<sup>3</sup>. He could go on to play for at least another 5 years, putting the new record very far out of reach. Players used to retire once they reached their early 30s, but sports science has improved a lot and injuries<sup>4</sup> aren't as debilitating<sup>5</sup> as they used to be.

**Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.**

– John R. Wooden

### A capital city – Minsk

Let's look at Minsk this week. Minsk is the capital of Belarus. Belarus didn't become an independent country until 1991, just before the Soviet Union<sup>6</sup> collapsed. People have lived in the area where Minsk is for over a thousand years, but Minsk was founded in 1067. The city was Polish-Lithuanian until 1655 when it was taken by Russia. 5 years later, the Lithuanians took it back again. About 2,000 people lived in the city. Russia took Minsk and all of Belarus back again in 1793 and it stayed a part of Russia until 1991. The main language in Belarus was Ruthenian (the language spoken by Lithuanians) until 1550 when Polish took over. In 1800 the official language was Russian. Today, most people speak Belarus (which is a form of Ruthenian) and Russian. Belarus and Minsk have been ostracized<sup>7</sup> by the international community since 2020 because the presidential elections held that year were not held fairly and because Belarus is supporting Russia in the Ukrainian war. Alexander Lukashenko has been the president of Belarus since 1994. He has never held transparent and fair elections<sup>8</sup>, but the ones in 2020 were even worse. He claimed that<sup>9</sup> he had won 80% of the vote. Russia is the only country that recognizes<sup>10</sup> him as president.



- 1.retire 引退する 2.a round of applause 一斉に沸き上がる拍手喝采 3.the top of one's game 絶好調で 4.injury けが 5.debilating 衰弱させる 6.Soviet Union ソ連 7.ostracize 追放する 8.transparent and fair elections 透明と公平な選挙 9.claim that と主張する 10.recognize 認める