

How did Valentines Day go last week? Did you get a lot of chocolates? Did you give a lot of chocolates? I hope you were happy with what you made. I talked to one student who said she had a lot of accidents¹ while she was cooking hers. I hope everything went ok. There are two holidays this week. Three-day weeks are always very good. Do you have anything planned? I have a photoshoot for the school pamphlet on Thursday. It is always hard to choose which students to use because there are so many of you we'd like to put in it. It's also hard asking students to come in on one of their days off, but it's difficult to do a photoshoot on a regular² day.



15 differences
How quickly can you find them?

Last week:



Something interesting: Early humans

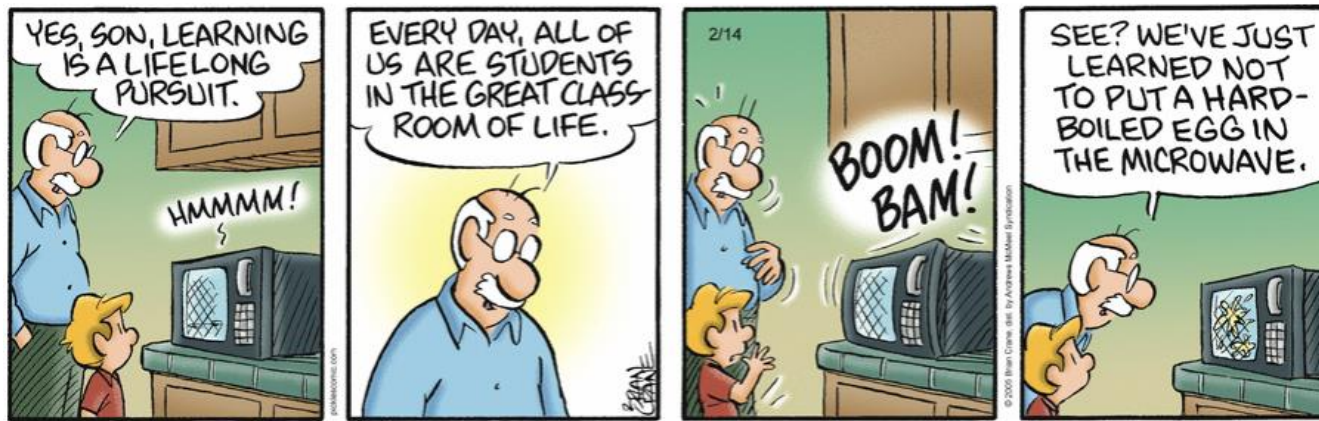
1. There have been at least 21 different species³ of humans. There may have been more, but it is difficult to know because they don't always leave skeletons⁴.
2. The first animal in the human tree appeared about 7 million years ago. It was the first animal to walk upright⁵. It still looked like an ape.
3. Homo erectus was the first human species that looked something like us. They appeared about 1.9 million years ago.
4. The last species of human to exist⁶ (other than us, of course) disappeared about 15,000 years ago. They were called Denisovans. They were similar to us.

3 Million-Year-Old Tools Found

Stone tools that are three million years old have been found in Kenya. The tools are pieces of stone that have been hammered on one side to give them a sharp edge. The other side is rounded and was the handle. The tools were found next to some hippo bones, so paleontologists⁷ think that they were used to cut up hippo meat. Early humans didn't learn how to control fire until about one million years ago, so they would have eaten the meat raw. They could have used the tools to cut up the tough hippo hide and to tenderize⁸ the meat so it was easier to eat. The paleontologists looked at the tools and saw marks where they had been worn⁹ down. These marks showed that the tools had been used to cut, scrape, and pound animals and plants. The next question to ask is which group of humans used them? It certainly wasn't us. We are homo sapiens, and we didn't appear until about 300,000 years ago. Two fossil teeth were found near the tools and they were teeth from a group of early humans called Paranthropus. They were around until about 1.2 million years ago and they were closer to apes than they are to us. They also used bone tools, which have been found in other places. Another group of early humans at that time was Australopithecus. They were closer to us than they were to apes and we might have descended from¹⁰ them. It is incredible to think that these tools were shaped to do a task over three million years ago.



1. accident 事項・失敗
2. regular 普通
3. species 類
4. skeleton 骨格
5. walk upright 直立歩行する
6. exist 存在する
7. paleontologist 古生物学者
8. tenderize 柔らかくする
9. wear 薄くなる
10. descended from への血筋 [系統] を引いている



World record

My cat is 11 years old this year. I'm not sure if that is old for a cat. The oldest cat in the world is currently 27 years old. The oldest cat ever was 38 years old when she died. Dogs usually don't live as long as cats. Bobi, a Portuguese dog, has just become the oldest dog in the world. He is 30 years old. He is a Rafeiro do Alentejo, and they usually don't live past 14 years. People have asked his owners what the secret to his long life is. They don't know, but they think it might be because he lives in a very calm and peaceful environment. They don't give Bobi any special food. They feed him the same food that they eat, although they wash it to remove the seasonings. Bobi had to be hospitalized¹ in 2018, but other than that, he is healthy for a dog of his age. However, he has trouble walking and he is starting to lose his eyesight. I hope he lives for many more years to come.



Anyone who stops learning is old, whether² at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young.
– Henry Ford

A capital city – Washington DC

Let's look at Washington DC. It is the capital city of the United States of America. The DC stands for District of Columbia. Washington became the capital city of the USA in 1800. The capital before that was Philadelphia, although there was no official capital. The capital of the country was wherever the congress³ met and they moved around the country during the War of Independence⁴. Congress decided that they needed a capital that was independent of any single state, so the states of Virginia and Maryland donated⁵ land for the city, and this became the District of Columbia. The site was chosen by George Washington and the city was named after him. He decided to build it on the Potomac River because it would make it easy for boats to sail up to the city. The city also had to be equidistant⁶ between the south and the north because there were already tensions⁷ developing. The south wanted to keep owning slaves and the north didn't. It was decided to have a new capital in 1790, and the government first met there in November of 1800. Unfortunately, George Washington died in 1799, so he never got to live in his new city. Some people want to change the name DC from District of Columbia because "Columbia" means "of Columbus (Christopher). He was the first European to discover the Americas so he was partly responsible for wiping out the indigenous people⁸. They want to rename it Douglass Commonwealth, after Frederick Douglass who was an abolitionist⁹.



1.hospitalize 入院 2.whether かどうか 3.congress 国会 4.the War of Independence 独立戦争 5.donate 寄付する 6.equidistant 等距離 7.tension 緊張 8.indigenous people 先住民 9.abolitionist 奴隸廃止者