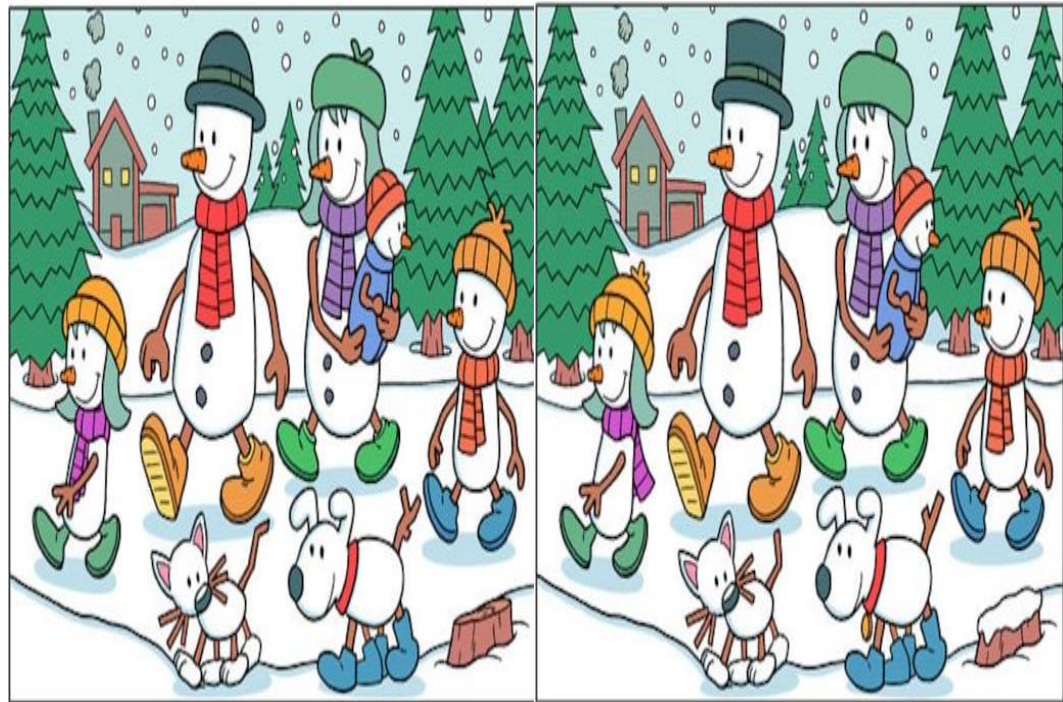


Ooh! Tests this week! Are you excited? Just do your best. That's all you can do. I know that nobody likes tests. Students don't like studying and taking them. Teachers don't like making and marking¹ them. And we have the graduation² this week as well. I can't believe that three years, or six years have passed since you all came to our school. That is amazing. I feel that I am getting very old. And now you are going on to the next chapter of your life. I'm sure you are apprehensive³, but don't worry. Everything will go well. And we are always here. Come back and see us anytime. We are always here!



10 differences
How quickly can you find them?

Last week:

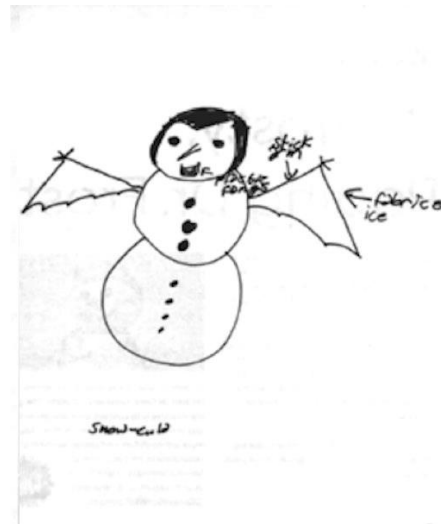


Something interesting: Snow

1. Snow forms when tiny ice crystals stick together to form snowflakes.
2. Snow is very heavy. 1m³ of snow weighs about 50 kg.
3. It is very quiet when it is snowing because snowflakes absorb⁴ soundwaves.
4. It doesn't snow over most of the south pole, which is why the Antarctic is the world's largest desert. It looks like it is snowing, but that is snow being blown by the wind.
5. Snow is 95% trapped air, which is why it is warm inside an igloo⁵ or a snow hole.
6. All snowflakes are individual, but there are 35 distinct⁶ types of snowflake.
7. Some snowflakes can grow up to 40 cm.

Build a Snowman

A children's hospital in Colorado, USA, has had a great idea to try and make the children in the hospital happy this winter. The hospital has started a "build a snowman" campaign. The children in the hospital draw a snowman and then someone in the world where there is snow tries to make a snowman that looks like the drawing. It is a great idea. The hospital came up with the idea in 2020 and this will be the third year. Last year, 200 families created snowmen for the children. The hospital say they have never had any families make snowmen from outside of Colorado. I think I am going to try with my daughter. The campaign runs to⁷ the end of March. It sounds like a lot of fun. I think it would be fun if some of our students did it as well. I'm going to start



with a few students this year and if it goes well maybe we can do it with a lot more students next year. It would be great if we could make lots of snowpeople. I wonder if there are any other

things we can do to help children that are in hospital. If you think of any ideas, please come and tell me. I think it is a wonderful thing if we can help people in any way, even if it is just building a snowman to make them smile.

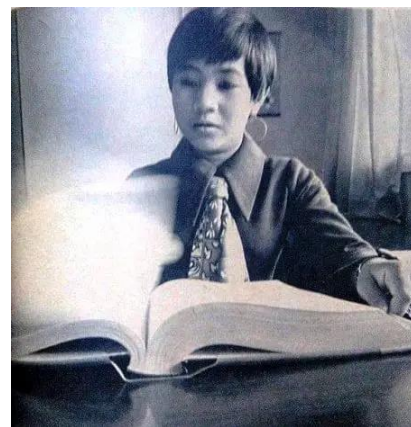


- 1.mark○付け 2.graduation 卒業 3.apprehensive 心配をしている 4.absorb 吸収 5.igloo かまくら 6.distinct はっきりわけた種類 7.run to まで続く



World record

Do you like to read? I love to read, but I don't have time to read for more than 30 minutes a day. I would love to be able to read much faster so that I can read more, but I haven't managed yet. There are many people who are speed readers¹ and there is an annual² speed reading competition. Anne Jones has won the competition 6 times in a row³ and she can read at a speed of 4,200 words per minute. My English News has about 1,000 words, so she can read four of these every minute. How long did it take you to read this one? However, speed readers can read quickly, but they don't understand everything they read. The speed readers are tested after they finish and Anne Jones had 67% comprehension⁴. That is pretty impressive. Maria Teresa Calderon from the Philippines claims to⁵ be able to read 80,000 words per minute and to be able to understand 100% of it. She uses a system where she glances⁶ at the page and then fills in the things she misses from her general knowledge. I can't really understand how this is possible.



Nine-tenths of education is encouragement⁷. – Anatole France

A capital city – Ottawa

Let's look at Ottawa, Canada this week. Ottawa was named after the Ottawa River, which is was built on. That river was named by the Algonquin people who lived in the area and their word was *adawe*, which meant "trade"⁸. Indigenous⁹ Algonquin people have lived in the area for over 6,000 years. In the 15th century, Europeans started to colonize North America. They traded with the indigenous people to start with, and then took more and more land. A businessman called Philemon Wright came up from the state of New England, USA, in 1800 and started the first town in the area. In 1827, a town called Bytown, was built on the other side of the river to Wright's town. Bytown grew and it was renamed Ottawa in 1855. It was not easy choosing a capital city for Canada. Many people wanted it in different places and the government spent two decades¹⁰ trying to decide. Finally, in 1857, Queen Victoria (Canada was still a British colony at this point – Canada gained independence in 1867) decided that Ottawa should be the capital. She decided Ottawa because it was equidistant¹¹ between Montreal and Toronto, and because it would be a very difficult place for America to invade. Ottawa began to get larger and richer. It was the first Canadian city to have electricity. These days, 1.5 million people live in Ottawa, making it the 6th largest city in Canada. It is often said to be the best Canadian city to live in.



- 1.speed reader 速読する 2.annual 年に1度 3.in a row ~回連続 4.comprehension 理解率 5.claim to be ~だと主張する 6.glance ちらりと見る 7.encouragement 激励
- 8.trade 売買 9.indigenous 原産の 10.decade 十年間 11.equidistant 等距離