

Did you have a good Golden Week? The weather could have been a little bit better, but it was great to have a full week off school. I managed to decorate my daughter's bedroom. I made a lot of mistakes, but we did it together and it turned out<sup>1</sup> better than I thought it would. And this is going to be an exciting week. We have our long walk on Friday. The junior high are going to walk to Jyozankei and the high school are going to walk to Lake Shikotsu. Both groups are going to walk for 20 km. I hope the weather is going to be good. I love the long walk. I enjoy it every year. What about you? And if it is your first time, you're going to love it too.



10 differences

Last week's answer



### Something you didn't know about trees:

1. It takes 450 trees to absorb<sup>2</sup> all of the CO2 that one person creates a year. (That's 10 tons and it is known as our carbon footprint<sup>3</sup>.)
2. It is estimated<sup>4</sup> that there are 3 trillion trees on Earth. There used to be more.
3. We cut down 15 billion trees every year and there are 46% fewer trees now than there were at the beginning of human civilization<sup>4</sup>.
4. The oldest tree in the world is about 5,000 years old.
5. The tallest tree is a redwood that is 115 meters tall.
6. The shortest tree in the world is the Dwarf Willow. It is about 6 cm tall.

### AI Designed City

Manas Bhatia, an architect<sup>5</sup> in India, asked an AI illustrator to make designs for a city of the future. He thought the image would have a great cityscape, but the AI made a picture of skyscrapers and buildings covered in trees and plants. The image was beautiful. It filled Manas with hope as well because the AI learns from the Internet before it makes its images. That must mean that a large part of the Internet thinks that we will have sustainable<sup>6</sup> buildings like this in the future. Buildings covered in greenery and vegetation like this have been talked about for a long time. They could be one solution to the climate change problem. Modern cities are mostly made of concrete and tarmac<sup>7</sup>. The black and dark roads and buildings absorb so much more heat that they warm up the air around them. This makes heat islands and cities can be much hotter than the countryside around them. Cities with a lot of vegetation would cool the air and it would absorb huge amounts of CO2. That is one benefit<sup>8</sup>, but another benefit is that people feel happier and more positive when there are plants and trees around. We can relax more and we find it easier to breathe. Hopefully, this image created by the AI image software is a picture of the way cities will really become in the future.



- 1.turn out 結局～になる 2.absorb 吸収 3.carbon footprint 炭素の足跡 4.human civilization 人類文明 5.architect 建築家 6.sustainable サステナビリティ 7.tarmac ターマック 8.benefit いいところ





**World record**

Do you like fast food? I love it. I don't want it every day, but I wouldn't mind<sup>1</sup> having it two or three times a week. I love the sugar, the fat, and the salt. What about you? What is your favorite? McDonald's? Burger King? KFC? Two Americans, Nick DiGiovanni and Lynn Davis, managed to eat in 69 fast food restaurants in 24 hours. They had to eat one food item or drink one drink in each place. They started at 8:30 AM in the McDonald's in Times Square and they had a McGriddle with hashbrowns. It took them 7 hours and 15 minutes to visit all 69 restaurants. After I started researching this world record, I realized that it isn't as impressive<sup>2</sup> as I thought. They didn't have to eat everything they bought themselves, so they gave a lot of the food to people waiting in line in the restaurants. I'm not sure why this is a record? It shouldn't be difficult to break this record if all you have to do is visit fast food restaurants, buy something and give it to someone. Odd<sup>3</sup>.



The joy of life is becoming the person you are proud<sup>4</sup> of. – Bill Orender

**An invention**

Have you ever wondered who invented the wristwatch? Most of you probably wear a wristwatch. It might surprise you to know that people have only really worn wristwatches for the last hundred years. The wristwatch was invented by a Swiss watchmaker called Patek Philippe in 1868. He made it for Countess<sup>5</sup> Koscowicz of Hungary. She wanted a nice jeweled<sup>6</sup> strap with a clock on it. It became a popular fashion item. Most people had a pocket watch, which is a small clock on a chain. The small pocket in the inside of your jeans pocket is for a pocket watch. Most people didn't use a watch because knowing the time wasn't that important. That all changed with World War 1. In a war, an attack usually happens in many places at the same time. The attack could be signaled<sup>7</sup> with a whistle<sup>8</sup>



or a flag. In World War 1<sup>9</sup>, it was too big and too noisy, so they had to think of another way to attack at the same time. People started tying a pocket watch to their wrist. After a while, they started to make watches just for the wrist. This left their hand free for their gun and they could see the time. After the war, these watches became popular and more people started to buy them.



1.wouldn't mind～が欲しい 2.impressive 素晴らしい 3.odd 変 4.proud 誇りに思う  
5.countess 伯爵夫人 6.jeweled 宝石で飾られた 7.signal～の合図 8.whistle 笛を吹く  
9.World War 1 第1次世界大戦