

It is supposed to¹ snow this week. I'm not sure if it actually will, but the weather forecast says snow. What do you think? Will it snow? If it does, will it stick²? Do you like snow? I love snow. I try to make a snowman with my daughter every year, but the snow we get here is not the best snow for making a snowman. It is very dry, which is great for skiing, but you need wet, sticky snow to make a snowman. What about you? Do you make a snowman? My friend makes an igloo³ every year as well. He freezes water into blocks and then he sticks the blocks together. I am always a bit scared to get inside it, but he says that it is very safe. Would you try?



10 differences

Last week's answer

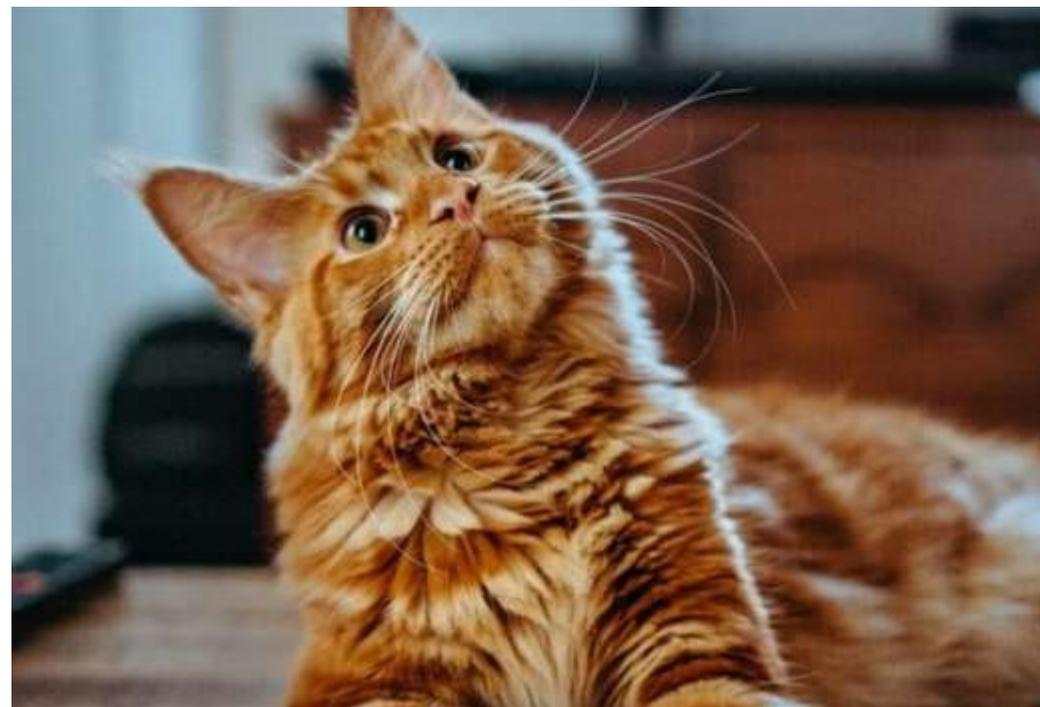


Something you didn't know about cats:

1. Cats have lived with humans for 12,000 years.
2. There are more than 100 different species of domestic cat.
3. Cats have fewer taste buds⁴ than humans and dogs. We have 9,000, dogs have 1,700, and cats have 473. They can't taste sweet.
4. Cats can feel with their whiskers⁵. They also have whiskers on their legs.
5. Cats are nearsighted. They can't see things closer than about 30 cm. (Me too!). However, they can see much better than we can in the dark.
6. The biggest domestic cat is the Maine Coon. They grow up to a meter long and they can weigh 9 kg!

Cat Facial Expressions

Do you like cats? They are so cute. Do you have a cat? I have a cat. I don't think he is very clever. He stares⁶ at me a lot and I don't know what he is thinking. He's probably thinking, "Wow! This guy is not very clever! He never feeds me when I want food!" Apparently⁷, we can understand what our cats are thinking if we pay more attention to their faces. We use a lot of facial expressions to communicate. You probably know when your mother is angry just by looking at her face. We have 43 muscles in our faces that we can move in different combinations to make over 10,000 expressions. Dogs have 27 muscles and can make a few hundred facial expressions. Up until recently, many people thought that cats couldn't make many expressions. However, researchers filmed a group of cats and discovered that they made 276 different facial expressions. The difference between their expressions and ours is that they also used their ears, whiskers, and pupils⁸ as well. The researchers were surprised because cats are not very social animals. They tend to⁹ hunt on their own, not in packs¹⁰ like dogs and early humans did. Facial expressions are very useful for social animals, but non-social animals don't need them. This study shows that cats are more social than we thought.



1. supposed to ~するはず 2. stick 積もる 3. igloo かまくら 4. taste bud 味覚芽 5. whisker ひげ 6. stare じっと見る 7. apparently ~らしい 8. pupil 瞳孔 9. tend to ~する傾向がある 10. pack 群れ



World record

I've written about chilis and spicy food before, but there is a new chili on the block¹! Have you ever heard of the Carolina Reaper? Until last month, it was the spiciest chili on Earth. Spiciness is measured in Scoville Heat Units (SHU). The Carolina Reaper is 2.2 million SHU. For comparison², a green pepper has 0 SHU. A jalapeno pepper has 10,000 SHU. Tabasco sauce has 50,000 SHU. A habanero pepper has 350,000 SHU. That means the Carolina Reaper is 44 times spicier than Tabasco sauce. Do you want to try the Carolina Reaper? Maybe? Well, you should try this new chili. It is called Chili Pepper X and it has 2.7 million SHU!! That is insane³. It was grown by Ed Currie who runs a pepper company. He was also the person who created the Carolina Reaper. He grows the spicy peppers by cross breeding⁴ them to increase the amount of capsaicin⁵ they contain. I think that pepper would kill me.



Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is to try just one more time. - Thomas Edison

One thing we can do to help the environment

#8 Buy things that are close to their expiration date

This is a solution that I do, but my wife really doesn't like. When I go shopping, I try to buy the thing that is closest to its expiration date⁶. This is easy to do, because the shop workers usually put it at the front of the shelf. My wife doesn't like it when I do that. She always reaches to the back of the shelf and takes the product that is the farthest away from its expiration date. She says that we won't eat the food straight away, so we need to get food that is "safe". I don't do that because of two reasons. The first reason is that if the store cannot sell the item by the date on the package, they have to throw it away. That adds to waste. The food is wasted, but also the time people have put into the product, and all of the water, and every other resource⁷ that has gone into growing it, making it, and getting it to the supermarket. My second reason is because nothing happens when a product⁸ goes past its expiration date. They are just a guideline. The shop is saying, "if you eat this food before this date, it will probably be at its best. If you eat it after this date, it will be fine, but it might lose a little of its taste." There is no danger in eating foods a short while after their expiration date. The supermarkets are just trying to protect themselves. So, I always buy the product that is closest to its expiration date.



1.new....on the block 新し〜が出てきた 2.for comparisson 比べるために 3.insane ばかげた 4.cross breed 異種交配 5.capsaicin カプサイチン 6.expiration date 賞味期限 7.resource 資源 8.product 品物