

What did you do last Tuesday when the school was closed? The snow was crazy! I cannot remember the school ever being closed because of snow. It has been closed because of typhoons, earthquakes, a bomb threat<sup>1</sup>, the corona virus, and even floods<sup>2</sup>, but never for snow. It was insane<sup>3</sup>. Looking out my window, I couldn't see anything. Just white. Up until that point, we hadn't had much snow at all. It is almost as though a whole month's worth of snow fell in one day. Maybe we won't have any more snow until the end of the season. What do you think? I am a little worried. It seems like climate change is getting worse year by year.



10 differences

Last week's answer



### Something you didn't know about Cuckoo clocks

1. Nobody knows who invented the first cuckoo clock<sup>4</sup>, or when, or why.
2. The first description<sup>5</sup> of a cuckoo clock comes from 1629, so they must have been invented long before that date.
3. Cuckoo clocks come from the Black Forest area of southwestern Germany.
4. When the clock strikes the hour<sup>6</sup>, the cuckoo comes out and makes a "cuckoo cuckoo" sound. The wooden bird is pulled out by a series of weights<sup>7</sup> that move when the hour hand of the clock reaches 12. The sound is made by a bellows<sup>8</sup>. The weights pull the bellows, and they send a puff of air<sup>9</sup> through some small pipes that make the sound of the bird. They are very clever clocks.

### Cuckoo Clock Heir

Do you like cuckoo clocks? Have you ever seen one? They are usually made of wood and they usually have a pendulum<sup>10</sup>. Most cuckoo clocks are very ornate. They have a clock in the middle and a little door at the top. Every hour, the clock strikes, but it makes a cuckoo sound instead of a bong. At the same time, the door opens and a little cuckoo comes out. They are usually bigger than normal clocks. What do you think? Would you like to have one at home? If you would, then you should get in touch with Roman and Maz Piekarski. They own 750 cuckoo clocks of many different designs and they display them in their museum, which they have called "Cuckooland". The two brothers are getting old now, Roman is 71 and Maz is 69, and they don't have any children. They are both unmarried and they are worried about what will happen to Cuckooland after they are gone. They are searching for an heir<sup>11</sup>. They want to find somebody who can look after the clocks and give guided tours. Looking after the clocks is not easy because most of them are not battery powered and they need to be wound<sup>12</sup>. They also need to be set so their time is accurate. The brothers have many antiques in their collection and all of the clocks are probably worth a lot of money, but they don't want to sell. What do you think? Do you want to be the owner of Cuckooland?



- 1.bomb threat 爆弾脅迫 2.flood 洪水 3.insane おかしい 4.cuckoo clock カッコウ時計  
 5.description 記述 6.strike the hour 時計が正時を知らせる 7.weight 重り 8.bellows ふいご 9.puff of air 空気をひと吹き 10.pendulum 振り子 11.heir 相続人 12.wind a clock 時計のねじを幕



**World record**

Here is a record we could beat, if we had help from parents and brothers and sisters. Youngstown State University in the USA has the world record for the largest gathering<sup>1</sup> of people dressed as penguins. On 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, 972 people came to the university dressed as penguins. We don't have enough students to beat that, but if you got your parents and your brothers and sisters to join in, we could smash<sup>2</sup> that record. I don't know how much a penguin costume costs, but we could make our own. Of all the animal costumes you can get, a penguin costume must be the easiest to make. If you feel like a different challenge, there are many records like this. We could have the largest

gathering of santas, Einsteins, witches, Ghandi, or anything we want really. The largest gathering of people dressed like Sara Smith might be interesting.



The question isn't who is going to let me; it's who is going to stop me. – Ann Rand

**One thing we can do to help the environment**

**#13 Go Paperless**

I am thinking that I need to start producing my English News as a digital version<sup>3</sup> only. I put it on the school's homepage every week, but I print out copies for all of the students in the English department, the students that request it, and for all of the teachers. That is about 260 copies a week. This is edition number 522.  $522 \times 260 = 135,720$ . I have used one hundred and thirty-five thousand seven hundred and twenty pieces of paper!!!! That's ridiculous!<sup>4</sup> One tree makes (roughly<sup>5</sup>) 10,000 pieces of paper. That means, because of me, 13.5 trees have died. Wow! I am a tree killer! And then I have to think about the ink. I don't know how much printer ink I have used to print my 135,720 pages of English News, but it must be a staggering<sup>6</sup> amount. And printer ink is not very good for the environment. Pollution<sup>7</sup> is produced when printer ink is made and printer ink contains a lot of chemicals<sup>8</sup> that make it harmful<sup>9</sup> when the paper is thrown away. I am glad that I have thought about this. I will finish this school year with paper and then I will go digital from 2024. That is something I can do.

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**Cuckoo Clocks**  
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**Secrets you wouldn't know about Cuckoo clocks**

1. Nobody knows who invented the first cuckoo clock<sup>13</sup>, or where, or why.
2. The first description<sup>14</sup> of a cuckoo clock comes from 1629, so they must have been invented long before that date.
3. Cuckoo clocks come from the Black Forest area of southwestern Germany.
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- 1.gathering 集まり 2.smash (記録)を破る 3.digital version デジタル版 4.ridiculous ばかばかしい 5.roughly 大体 6.staggering 圧倒する [非常に驚かせる] ほどの 7.pollution 汚染 8.chemicals 化学物質 9.harmful 有害な