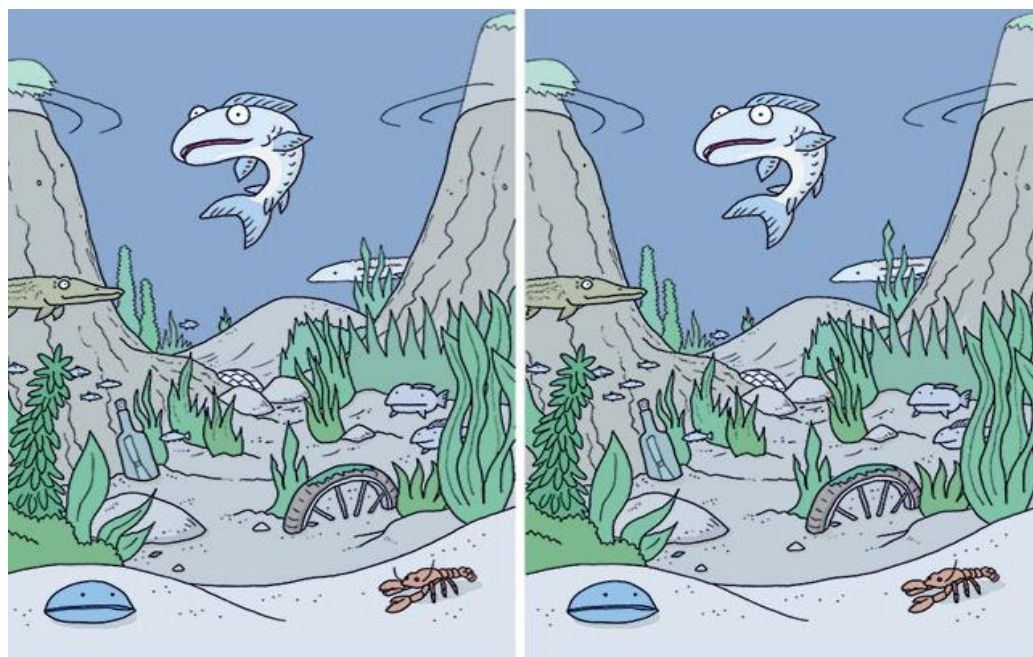
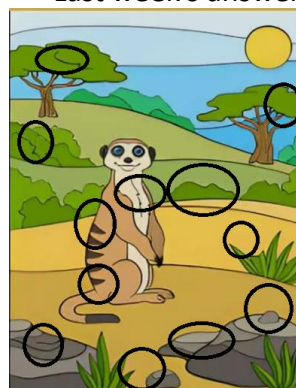


We had a couple of hot days last week and we got to use the spot coolers for the first time. What did you think of them? I think they look like robots. They don't cool the room down as much as air conditioning would, but, if we put the fans in the right place, I think we will be able to blow the cold air all around the classroom. You need to do some experimenting to work out the best place to put the spot cooler and the best place to put the fans. Although, in my classes, it won't matter¹ because I am going to stand in front of the spot cooler so that I get all of the cold air!! Haha. What do you think? Is that a good idea?



12 differences

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about chess

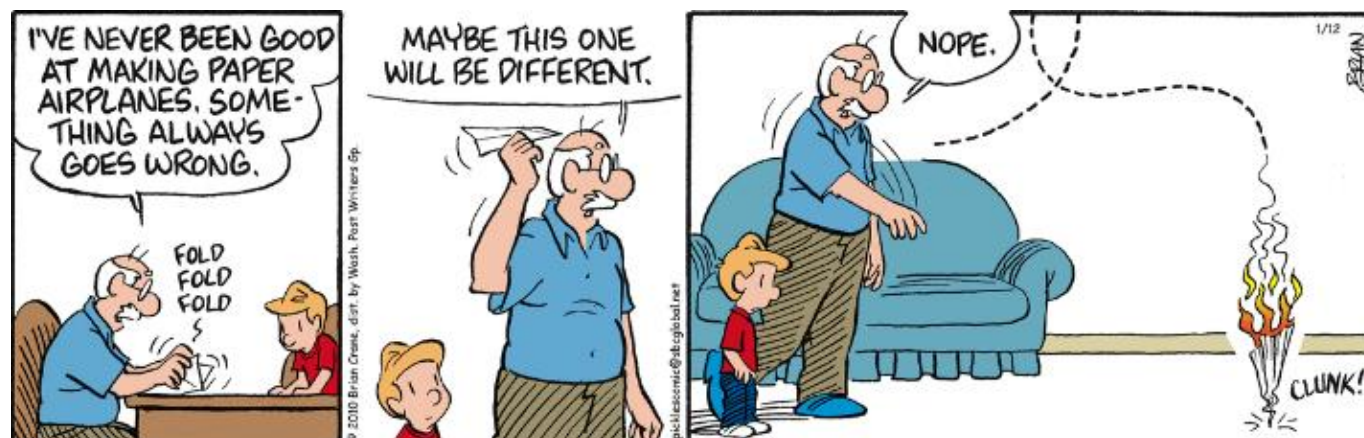
1. Chess comes from a game called chaturanga that was played in India for over 5,000 years.
2. The name chess and the term checkmate both come from Persian. In Persia², the game was called "shah" (king) and that became chess. "Shah mat" (the king is dead) became checkmate.
3. The shortest possible game in chess is called "Fool's Mate" and a person can win in just two moves.
4. IBM's Deep Blue supercomputer was the first computer to beat a Grand Master. It was a big milestone³, but these days a computer could easily win.

The Library of Things

Last month, researchers found a set of medieval⁴ game pieces beneath a castle in southern Germany. These pieces, estimated⁵ to be around 1,000 years old, show us the leisure activities of German nobles⁶ during the medieval period. There is a beautifully carved⁷ chess knight, a six-sided die, and four small tokens⁸ shaped like flowers. The chess knight is about 3 cm tall and has very fine carving. It shows that people played chess over 1,000 years ago, and probably even before that. The game pieces are made from carved antlers, which was a common material. Some of the pieces show signs that they may have been painted red. The discovery of the six-sided die also shows that dice games were popular among the nobility⁹. These findings offer a glimpse into the daily life and culture of medieval German nobles. Playing games was not only a way to pass the time but also a means of socializing and showing status and skill. All of the pieces are very worn¹⁰, so they were used a lot. The design of the chess knight and the unique flower-shaped tokens show that these games were more than just games; they were symbols of prestige¹¹ and refinement. The game pieces are currently undergoing more analysis to learn more about where they came from and how they were used. Researchers hope that they'll find more pieces.



- 1.does not matter 関係ない 2.Persia イランの旧称 3.milestone 節目 4.medieval 中世の
5.estimated to be ～と推定 6.noble 貴族 7.carve 彫る 8.token 点棒 9.nobility 貴族たち
10.wear すり減る 11.a symbol of prestige 尊敬の表象



World record

I write about world records every week and I have found some pretty strange ones over the years. I always ask you if you think we could break the record I am writing about. I don't think I'm going to ask you this week because we would be breaking too many health and safety rules. Do you know what the longest distance someone has run while being on fire¹ is? It is 272 m! Jonathan Vero is a firefighter in France. I don't know what he was thinking, but he decided to see how far he could run while he was on fire. He wore protective clothes² and stood on the start line of a race track. Someone set fire to him and he started to run. 272 m later someone used a fire extinguisher³ to put him out. He is

crazy. He also got the world record for the fastest 100 m sprint while on fire. That was 17 seconds. What do you think? Do you want to try? I don't think I do.



"There are years that ask questions and years that answer." — Zora Neale Hurston

An Unusual Job

A Food Stylist

You have probably never thought about this job. I know I hadn't. Do you know what a stylist is? If you go for a photoshoot for a magazine, the stylist will make sure your clothes, hair, and makeup look perfect. Well, a food stylist does the same thing. Have you ever bought a burger from McDonald's and thought that the burger you got doesn't look anything like the burger on the menu? Well, that is because a food stylist has worked on the burger in the picture and made it look perfect. They have to prepare and position the food so the photographer can take the best possible picture of it. They need to have a good eye⁴ and be able to think of what makes the food look delicious. Professional food stylists can earn a lot of money. Because their job is to make the food look as good as possible, they sometimes cheat⁵ a little. They have a lot of techniques⁶ that they can use to make the food look better than it actually does. They can space out the ingredients⁷, or use a frame to make the food look bigger, and they can add coloring or special effects. If you are artistic and you like working with food, this might be the job for you, but you don't get to eat the food.



- 1.on fire 火がついている 2.protective clothes 保護服 3.fire extinguisher 消火器 4.have a good eye 色彩感覚が優れている 5.cheat だます 6.technique 技術 7.ingredients 材料