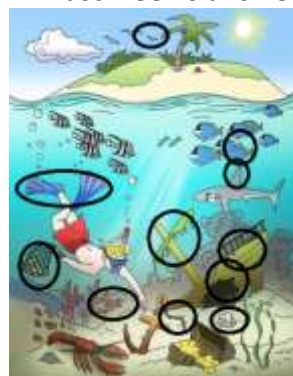


We had another Monday off. I like four-day weeks. What about you? What did you get up to¹ yesterday? It was sea day. Did you go to the sea? I didn't do anything. The weather is going to start getting hotter this week. I bought an air conditioner this year, but I haven't used it yet. I think the first time we use it is probably coming. My wife, my daughter, and I can stand² the hot weather. Our cat is the one that suffers the most. He has a fur coat that he just can't take off. I offered to shave him at the same time I shave my own hair, but my wife won't let me. He lies on the floor in the genkan because it is the coolest place in the house and he just looks uncomfortable for the whole summer.



12 differences!

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about polyester

1. Polyester was invented in 1930 by a chemist³ called Wallace Carothers.
2. Polyester is made from petroleum⁴.
3. Currently, China is the largest producer of polyester.
4. 65 million tons of polyester is produced every year. In 1975, it was 8 kg per person. In 2022, it was 14.6 kg per person.
5. Polyester is very bad for the environment, but it is a very useful material. It's strong, it keeps its shape, it's easy to clean, it dries quickly, and it is very light.
6. Polyester clothes don't only release microplastics⁵ when we throw them away. They release microplastic each time we wash them.

Fast Fashion Might Become Recyclable

Many of the clothes we wear are fast fashion. We buy them because they are cheap and they are made of light, modern materials⁶. However, most fast fashion items are made from polyester, which is a huge problem. Polyester is a type of plastic and it is one of the biggest sources⁷ of microplastics. Obviously, the best thing to do is not use plastics, but that is not really an option. If there was a way to recycle these clothes it would help the environment a lot. The problem is that most fast fashion is made from a mix of different materials. You can recycle polyester, you can recycle cotton, you can recycle nylon, and you can recycle wool. However, you cannot recycle them when they are mixed together. Scientists from the University of Delaware, USA, have worked out a way to separate the materials. They have found a solvent⁸ that can break the bonds⁹ between the polyester and the other materials. Once it has done that, the materials come apart and can both be recycled. There are a few problems. The solvent is expensive and some of the polyester is destroyed in the process. Still, it is better than nothing¹⁰. It is a start and maybe we will find a way to recycle all of these materials in the future.



- 1.What did you get up to 何したの 2. stand 我慢する 3. chemist 科学者 4. petroleum 石油
5. microplastic 小さいプラスチック 6. material 材料 7. source 源 8. solvent 溶媒 9. bond
化学結合 10. better than nothing 何もないよりましだ



World record

Do you have any pets? I have a cat called Mirin. He is mostly friendly, but I don't think he is very smart. He is about the size of an average housecat and he weighs about 5 kg. Do you know how big the biggest house cat is? It is called Fenrir Antares Powers and it is 47.83 cm tall. That is pretty big for a housecat, but it is not the biggest cat. You might think the biggest cat is a lion or a tiger, but it is actually a liger, which is a mix between a lion and a tiger. The father has to be a lion and the mother has to be a tiger. This liger is called Hercules and he is 3.33 m tall when he stands up on his rear¹ legs. He weighs 418 kg. Would you like one of those in your house? Maybe we could get one here at school? It could walk around the corridors² during class and then we could feed it. Hercules eats about 14 kg of meat a day, so we'll need to take turns buying it.



An Unusual Job

Odor Tester

Do you have a good sense of smell? If someone asks you to smell something, can you analyze³ what it smells like? If I give you a cup of fresh coffee to smell, do you say, "It smells like caramel, nuts, chocolate, citrus blossoms, roast beef, and honey." Of, do you say, "Dunno⁴. Smells like coffee." If you are the former⁵, then odor⁶ tester is the job for you. An odor tester has to smell lots of things and decide what they smell like. Everything we own has a smell of some kind. Your pen, your microwave, your shampoo. Before these things went to the shops, an odor tester smelled them to decide if their smell was ok or not. If the odor tester says the smell is bad, the company can make changes so that it smells nicer. There are many levels of odor testing and as people get better and more experienced⁷, they are able to smell more complex⁸ aromas⁹. These people can earn¹⁰ a lot of money and companies where smell is important look for them. That could be you.



“You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have” — Maya Angelou

1.rear 後 2.corridor 廊下 3.analyze 分析する 4.dunno “I don't know”の
やく 5.former 前の 6.odor 香気 7.experience 経験 8.complex 複雑な
9.aroma 香 10.earn 稼ぐ