

It's the last day of September today and it is also the first day of the second semester<sup>1</sup>. Did you have a good autumn vacation? Haha. A lot always happens in the second semester and it is going to be exciting. The first things coming up, though, are the junior high 3<sup>rd</sup> grade leaving for Canada and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade leaving for Okinawa, Taiwan, and Cambodia. I'm sure everybody is going to have a great time. I have never been to Okinawa, Taiwan, or Cambodia. I would love to go one day. Maybe I can get myself put in that grade so I can go on the study tour next year. I have talked to students that went and they always seem to have a wonderful time.



8 differences!

Last week's answer



## Something you didn't know about the van Gogh

1. Van Gogh was a self-taught<sup>2</sup> artist and he didn't start painting until he was 27.
2. Most of his famous paintings were painted in the last 2 years of his life.
3. He only sold one painting while he was alive. "The Red Vineyard".
4. He was very interested in Japanese ukiyo-e prints.
5. He didn't have much money and he lived on bread, coffee, and absinthe<sup>3</sup>. His brother helped him.
6. Van Gogh wrote hundreds of letters to his brother Theo, which show us his state of mind<sup>4</sup> and what he was doing and thinking throughout his life.



## Van Gogh's Painting is Scientifically Accurate

I'm sure you all know the painter Vincent Van Gogh. He was born in the Netherlands in 1853. He had a lot of mental issues<sup>5</sup> throughout his life and he killed himself in 1890, when he was only 37 years old. In his short life, he produced more than 2,100 paintings, drawings, and sketches. 5 of the top 50 most expensive paintings of all time are by Van Gogh. Today, we are going to look at his painting called "The Starry Night". I am pretty sure you have all seen it. It is a painting of the night sky over Saint Remy de Provence that Van Gogh could see from the window of the asylum<sup>6</sup> he was staying in. Van Gogh was an impressionist painter<sup>7</sup>, which means that he tried to paint what he could see, to show the essence<sup>8</sup> of a scene, instead of painting details. However, scientists have analyzed<sup>9</sup> his painting "The Starry Night" and they have discovered that it is actually accurate<sup>10</sup> in two ways. The first way are the stars that he has painted in the sky. They are real stars that were in the sky at that time of day and in that year and over the town he was in! The bright star at the bottom is the planet Venus<sup>11</sup>. The second thing is the air and the atmosphere<sup>12</sup> actually moves in the way that he has painted it. Van Gogh's brush strokes are larger



where there was more wind and smaller and shorter where there is less wind. Computers looking at weather patterns produce the same kind of image. There is more to Van Gogh's paintings than we thought.

- 1.semmeester 学期 2.self-taught 独学 3.absinthe アブサン (お酒) 4.state of mind 精神状態 5.mental issues 精神的問題 6.asylum 精神病院 7.impressionist painter 印象派の画家 8.essence 本質 9.analyze 分析する 10.accurate 正確な 11.Venus 金星 12.atmosphere 大気





### World record

I was feeling old the other day, so I thought I would look at a few age-related sports records. These are all records achieved<sup>1</sup> by people who are over 100 years old. Some of them are actually faster than me! Ha ha. The world record for the 100 m race by a person over 100 years old is 26.34 seconds. The 200 m is 77.59 seconds. The 400 m is 3 minutes 40 seconds. The 800 m is 8 minutes 9 seconds. The 1,500 m is 16 minutes 26 seconds. The 3,000 m is 22 minutes 52 seconds. There are no verified<sup>2</sup> records past this distance. An Indian man called Fauja Singh has run many distances and he says that he is over 100 years old. He ran a marathon in 8 hours and 25 minutes. However, he says that he was born in 1911 but he cannot prove<sup>3</sup> it. Guinness World records want to see his birth certificate<sup>4</sup> to make sure he is as old as he claims<sup>5</sup> to be. The problem is, India didn't make it compulsory<sup>6</sup> to register births<sup>7</sup> until 1969. Mr. Singh may be over 100, but there is no way he could have a birth certificate.



“Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.” — Babe Ruth

### An Unusual Job

#### Wind Turbine Technician

If you like being high up then this could be a good job for you. Recently, we are turning away from fossil fuels<sup>8</sup> and moving towards sustainable energy<sup>9</sup> sources. Those can be things like solar power and wave power. Wind power is a big source of sustainable energy. If you live outside Sapporo, you might have seen these giant wind turbines<sup>10</sup> all over the place. There are some in Ishikari that I can see from my house at night. Wind turbines have three propeller blades<sup>11</sup> that are turned by the wind. Inside they have a generator and the turning propeller powers the generator making electricity. Well, wind turbines have to be serviced<sup>12</sup> because they move a lot and it can be bad if they break. A wind turbine technician climbs up a ladder inside the leg of the wind turbine. When they get to the top part, they can repair the generator if it is broken. If it isn't broken, they can clean it. Then they have to climb through a trapdoor<sup>13</sup> to get out onto the top of the wind turbine. This is probably the scary part. They have to wear a harness and they are tied on by a rope, but it is still scary. When they have checked everything, they climb down and go to the next wind turbine. What do you think?



- 1.achieve 達成する 2.verified 確認された 3.prove 証明する 4.birth certificate 出生証明書 5.claim 主張する 6.compulsory 義務的な 7.register a birth 出生を登録する 8.fossil fuel 化石燃料 9.sustainable energy 持続可能なエネルギー 10.turbine タービン 11.propeller blade プロペラの歯ね 12.service 整備する 13.trapdoor 隠しドア