

Our school is going to be on TV twice today! We are going to be famous. The first program is going to be on NHK at 19:30. The staff followed Hayashi Yuan in 6B because she is 18 years old and it is her chance to vote¹. That should be pretty interesting. The second program is on THV at 21:54 and it is about the Japanese archery club because they are going to the all Japan tournament! This is awesome. We have so many amazing students in the school and it is always wonderful when they get recognized for the things that they do. I wish more of you could be on TV. Let's try to get one student on TV at least once a week! What do you think?



10 differences!

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about autumn leaves

1. Leaves change color in the autumn because the tree doesn't need its chlorophyll² anymore. Chlorophyll is the green pigment³ that trees use to photosynthesize⁴. In the autumn, there is less sun, so they break down the chlorophyll and store it in their roots. When the chlorophyll is gone, the leaves are full of pigments called carotene and xanthophylls, which are yellow and orange.
2. The leaves fall off because when the tree has taken all of the chlorophyll and nutrients⁵ out of the leaf, it seals off⁶ the leaf at its stem⁷ so that nutrients cannot flow⁸ back into it. This means the leaf dies and the seal is a weak point. When the wind blows, the leaf breaks off at the sealed place.

Leave the Leaves!

Autumn is here and the leaves are starting to fall from the trees. One thing I have noticed about Sapporo is the leaves are swept up pretty quickly and they never really accumulate⁹. When I was growing up in the UK, often the leaves would be left and they would pile up on the sidewalk. I think that is probably because the city couldn't afford to pay anyone to move them. If you have a house with a big garden, it can be a lot of work to sweep the leaves up all the time. However, recently, there is a movement¹⁰ to leave the leaves. This movement started a few decades ago, but it is only just becoming popular. The idea is that people should leave the leaves where they are and not sweep them up. Why? The first reason is that if we sweep them up, put them in bags, and send them to a landfill site¹¹, they don't decompose¹² properly and they release methane gas, which is a greenhouse gas. The second reason is when we leave them on the ground, they become a habitat¹³ for animals and insects. The third reason is that they are a food for many insects, plants, and creatures like snails and slugs. There are many organisms¹⁴ that live off dead plants. And the fourth reason is that when they decompose naturally, the nutrients in the leaves goes back into the soil and can be used by other plants and organisms. What do you think? Should we leave the leaves here at school?



- 1.vote 投票 2.chlorophyll クロロフィル 3.pigment 色素 4.photosynthesize 光合成する
5.nutrients 栄養素 6.seal off 封じ込める 7.stem 茎 8.flow 流れる 9.accumulate 蓄積する
10.movement 変革運動 11.landfill site 埋立地 12.decompose 分解する 13.habitat 生息地
14.organisms 生物



World record

This week's world record is the world's longest train. There are several different categories. The world's longest passenger train was 2 km long and had 100 carriages¹. They needed 25 engines to make it move as well. This is not a regular train because it is too long for any station. It was a special event for the Swiss Railways' 175th anniversary. The longest freight train² is in Australia. It is 7.352 km long and it has 682 wagons with 8 engines. It carries iron ore³. The longest possible train journey in the world is 18,755 km and takes three weeks. If you try it, you don't have to do the whole journey in one. The trains go from Lagos in Portugal to Singapore city. You go through 13 different countries. It looks like it would be a great way to spend a vacation. Incidentally⁴, the shortest train journey in the world is in Japan. It is 2.2 km and it goes from Higashi-Narita to Shibayama-Chiyoda.

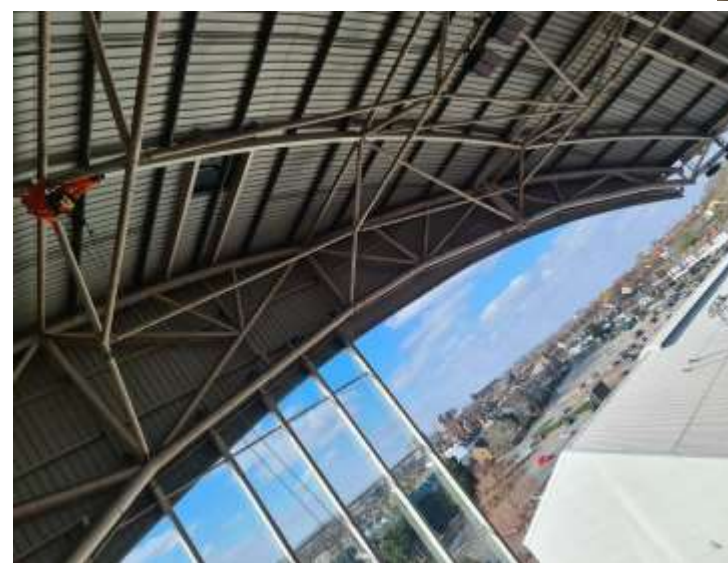


“Life is really simple, but we insist on⁵ making it complicated⁶.” Confucious

An Unusual Job

Rope Technician

Do you like really high places? Do you like rock climbing? Do you like hanging from a really high place on a really thin rope? If your answers to all of these questions are yes, then this might be the job for you. A rope technician⁷ is someone who climbs down the side of a very tall building to do tasks⁸ that can't be done from the inside of the building. They have many different jobs, such as cleaning hard to reach windows, or fixing things that are broken. They don't only climb on skyscrapers. You can find them in many high and hard to reach places⁹. Many of the jobs that have to be done are not very difficult, but there are not many people brave enough to get to them. Most of the people who do this job are rock climbers and they are trying to earn some money so that they can keep climbing. They have all of the equipment and they have a lot of experience.



If you are interested in this kind of job, it is easier to find than you might think because there are not a lot of people that want to do it. This means that the pay is quite good as well. Plus, you get a great view while you are working and there are not many jobs that have that.

- 1.carriage 車両 2.freight train 貨物列車 3.iron ore 鉄鉱石 4.incidentally ちなみに 5.insist on 主張する 6.complicated 複雑な 7.technician 技術者 8.task 仕事 9.hard to reach place 到達しにくい場所