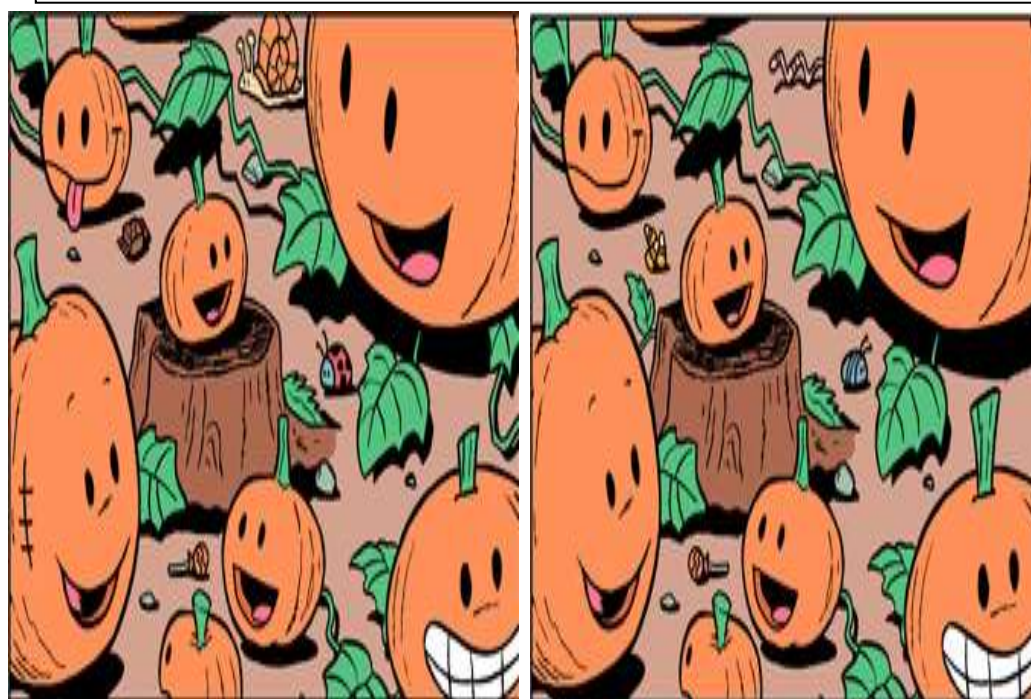


Did you have a nice three-day weekend? We seem to be having a lot of them recently. Not that I am complaining¹. Last Friday, I went to Maruyama Zoo with the junior high second grade. It was a lot of fun and everyone enjoyed it. It was also a very educational day. The 2nd grade have just started doing biology in their science class and they had a lot of information to find while they were at the zoo. It is so much better to go and look at real things than to just read about them in the textbook. It would be even better if we could go and see the animals in their wild habitats², but I'm not sure we could afford to do that. It would be quite a trip.



10 differences!

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about the International Space Station³

1. The ISS was launched⁴ in 1998. It will be used until 2030 and then deorbited⁵ so that it safely burns up in the atmosphere⁶.
2. It is moving at 28,000 km/h and goes round the Earth once every 90 minutes. It is at an altitude⁷ of 400 km and astronauts see 16 sunrises and sunsets every day.
3. It is an international space station and was built by the USA, Russia, Japan, European countries, and China.
4. It has room for 6 astronauts.
5. All of the water the astronauts use has to be recycled and used again.
6. One astronaut spent 355 days there in 2021 to 2022.

Astronauts Come Home

Four astronauts that were stuck on the International Space Station (ISS) arrived back on Earth last Friday. They had been on the ISS for 8 months. 3 of them are Americans and one of them is Russian. They are very happy to be back, but there are still two more astronauts stuck up there. The four astronauts that have just come back went to the ISS in March. They were supposed to⁸ stay there until June, when a space shuttle would arrive. The space shuttle that went to pick them up was a Boeing Starliner. The Starliner had a crew of two pilots. It arrived perfectly and the two pilots entered the ISS. The idea was that the two pilots would stay there for eight days while everybody got ready, then the four astronauts and the two pilots would return to Earth 8 days later. Unfortunately, the Starliner developed a problem. The astronauts tried to fix it with NASA's help, but they couldn't do it, so the Starliner returned to Earth in September. It was empty. The four astronauts and now the two new pilots were stuck⁹. NASA couldn't help them, so they asked SpaceX, which is Elon Musk's company, to send up a space shuttle to get them. Elon Musk's shuttle picked up the four astronauts last week, but it didn't have enough room for the two pilots, so they are still stuck on the ISS. They were only supposed to stay there for eight days, but now they will have to stay there until February, which is when the next space shuttle can arrive! Wow! Half a year in space!



- 1.complain 文句を言う 2.habitat 生息地 3.International Space Station 国際宇宙ステーション 4.launch 発射する 5.deorbit 軌道離脱 6.burn up in the atmosphere 大気圏で燃え尽きる 7.altitude 高度 8.supposed to～することになっている 9.stuck 動けない



World record

This week's news was about astronauts, so here are some space world records. I guess, if they were made in space then they are not world records but space records. OK. The record for the first person in space was the Russian Yuri Gagarin in 1961. That is a record that cannot be beaten. The first woman in space was another Russian, Valentina Tereshkova in 1963. She is 87 years old now, but still works in the Russian government. She was the person who proposed¹ to change the Russian constitution² so that President Putin could serve more terms³. She is banned⁴ from traveling to the US or the EU. Another Russian, Oleg Kononenko has the record for the longest total time spent in space. He has travelled to the ISS five times and he has accumulated⁵ 1,111 days in space. The fastest human made object in space is NASA's Parker Solar Probe. It is moving at 635,266 km per hour. That means it could go to from Earth to the moon and back to the Earth in 1 hour and 12 minutes!



“Amateurs⁶ wait for inspiration⁷. The rest of us just get up and go to work.” - Chuck Close

An Unusual Job

Rodeo Clown

This is actually a very dangerous job and it doesn't pay very much. Most rodeo clowns⁸ do it because they like the excitement and the adrenalin⁹. A rodeo clown is someone who distracts¹⁰ the bull during a rodeo. You may have seen them on TV, but a rodeo is a traditional event where a cowboy rides a wild bull for as long as they can. The timer stops when the bull throws them off. The bulls are very wild, very angry, and very heavy. A large bull can weigh 1.5 tons! They are very fast as well. They can run at 56 km/h, which is much faster than we can. When the bull throws the cowboy off, he looks around for the cowboy so he can continue the attack. This is where the rodeo clown comes in. They have to distract the bull for long enough for the cowboy to get out of the ring, or to be carried out if they are injured. Rodeo clowns work in groups of three and they wear very bright clothes to attract the bull's attention. They also have a rubber barrel each that they can jump into to hide from the bull. Between the bull riding events, the rodeo clowns also have to entertain the spectators. It sounds like a very risky and very hard job. Rodeo clowns get paid about 10,000 to 50,000 yen per show, depending on how good they are. They often break bones and have to go to hospital. What do you think?



- 1.propose 提案する 2.constitution 憲法 3.serve terms 任期を務める 4.banned 禁止された 5.accumulate 蓄積する 6.amateur アマチュア 7.inspiration インスピレーション 8.rodeo clown ロデオピエロ 9.adrenalin アドレナリン 10.distract 注目をそらす