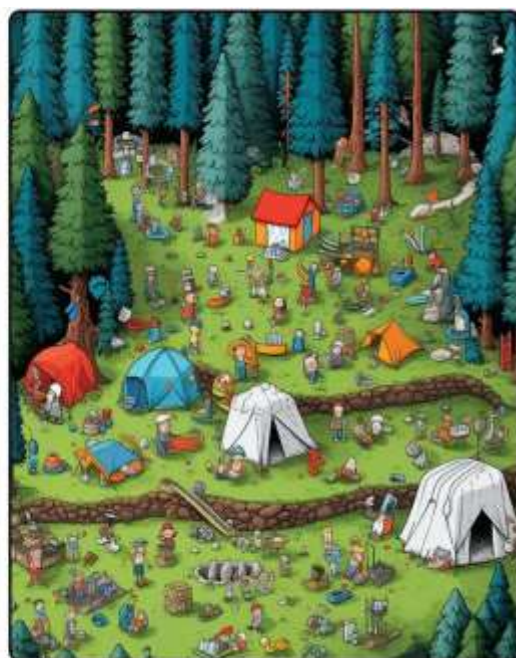
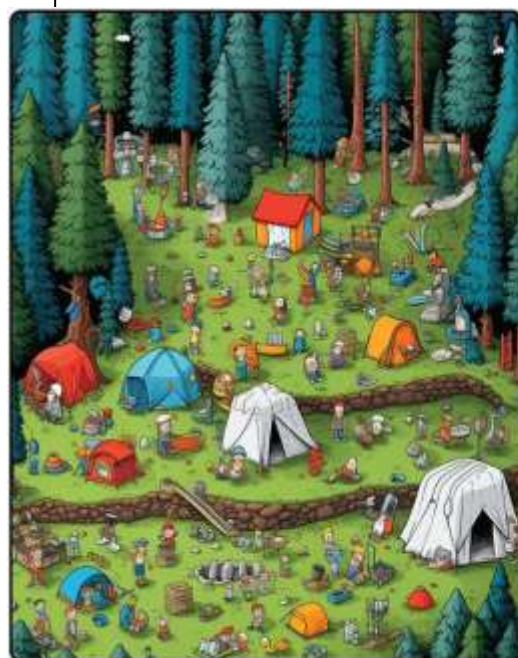


It is November 25th today! That is exactly one month until Christmas!! Are you excited? I love Christmas. Are you going to play Whamageddon this year? The game starts on December 1st. You lose the game when you hear Wham's "Last Christmas" song. If you can make it to midnight on Christmas Eve (December 24th) without hearing the song, you win. I don't think it is possible to survive¹ that far. I will be very surprised if I can survive for more than two days. What do you think? I think we should have a schoolwide² competition and see who can go the longest without hearing the song. I'm going to have to buy myself a pair of noise cancelling³ headphones!



10 differences!

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about the Yukon

1. Canada has 10 provinces⁴ and 3 territories⁵. Yukon is the 9th smallest, and it is still bigger than both Japan and South Korea together.
2. Yukon is huge, but it only has a population of 40,000 people. Most of the people live in the capital city, which is Whitehorse.
3. The Yukon is the best place in the world to see the Aurora.
4. There are 14 First Nations tribes⁶ living in the Yukon.
5. The Yukon has Canada's highest mountain, Mount Logan, 5,959 m.
6. There was a gold rush⁷ in the Yukon in the 1890s.
7. The Yukon river is 3,190 km long, the 3rd longest in North America.

Frozen Hair Competition

I am writing about this week's news because it is very interesting, and funny, but it is not a competition I can ever take part in. Not without spending a lot of money on hair implants⁸. Ha ha. There is a town called Whitehorse, which is in the Yukon territory in Canada. If you wanted to get there from Vancouver, which is somewhere a lot of our students have visited, then it is a 26-hour car ride north. People forget just how enormous⁹ Canada actually is. Whitehorse isn't a big city. It has about 30,000 people and it is so far north that summer days are 19 hours long and winter days are only 5 hours long. It is a beautiful city, but it gets very cold in the winter. In the summer, the temperature doesn't usually go about 20°C, but in the winter it is usually below -16°C. The coldest temperature ever recorded there was -56.2. These cold temperatures are the reason they can have this contest. A spa called Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs has a yearly frozen hairstyle contest. Contestants have to freeze their hair into the best hairstyle they can, and the winners get \$2000, which is a little over 200,000 yen. What do you think? You could try and win!



- 1.survive 生き残る 2.schoolwide 学校全体の 3.noise cancelling 消音 4.province 州 5.territory 地域 6.First Nations tribe 先住民部族 7.gold rush ゴールドラッシュ 8.hair implant 紙の移植 9.enormous 巨大な



World record

My daughter said she wanted a new scooter last week because hers is too small. So, here are some scooter world records. I bet¹ you can't guess what the fastest 5 meters on a scooter by a parrot is? Well, it's 14.58 seconds. The parrot is called Chico and he has his own little bird-sized scooter. He is very fast and very cute. On the other end of the scale², the world record for the biggest scooter is held by Oliver Tree in the USA. The scooter is 4.16 m tall and 3.13 m long. Oliver cannot ride it normally because it is too big. He wears stilts³ to ride it. It is actually as dangerous as it looks and when he was getting the world record, he fell off and hurt himself. We need to be careful if we are going to try to break this record at school. Unless any of you know how to walk on very tall stilts. The last record is the fastest 30 m by a dog on a scooter. It is held by Norman the Scooter Dog, in the USA. 20.77 seconds.



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“Children learn more from who you are than from what you teach.”

An Unusual Job

Foley Artist

You have probably never heard of a Foley artist⁴, but if you have watched a movie to the end, you will have seen their name on the screen. A Foley artist makes sounds and sound effects for movies, TV shows, video games, and many other things. Quite often, when people make a movie, all of the sound doesn't get picked up by the mics, or maybe there is too much background noise, or maybe the sound (even though it is real) doesn't sound real. The job of a Foley artist is to recreate⁵ these sounds in a sound studio. They use any materials they can think of and a high-quality microphone to make sounds. A good Foley artist can recreate any sound you might hear with some objects that you would never think of. For example, the sound of fire is made by crumpling up⁶ cellophane or a bag of potato chips. The sound of walking on snow is made by squashing cornstarch⁷ in a leather pouch. The sound of rain on an umbrella can be made from frying bacon. And, how do you think they make kissing sounds? Quite often the romantic sounds you hear are the Foley artist kissing their own arm! Foley artists work in a studio with lots of these props, but they are constantly⁸ finding more things to make sound with. It sounds like a very interesting job. What do you think?



- 1.bet 賭ける 2.at the other end of the scale その反対の立場では 3.stilts 竹馬
4.Foley artist フォーリーアーティスト 5.recreate 再現する 6.crumpling up くしゃくしゃにする 7.cornstarch 澱粉 8.constantly 絶えず