

Wow! We had a lot of snow last week. It didn't snow for ages¹, then it all fell at once. Ha ha. Although, I still think we have had less snow this winter than usual. What do you think? I don't know where to find that information. I will see if I can. And we have a public holiday on Tuesday (tomorrow). It is national foundation day². Apparently, February 11th is the date that the legendary³ first Emperor of Japan, Emperor Jimmu, came to the throne⁴ in 660 BC. There has to be a lot of guesswork⁵ here because we have used several different calendars between then and now, and there weren't twelve months in a year. There is no evidence⁶ for Emperor Jimmu and historians think he is a legend. The first verifiable⁷ emperor is Emperor Kinmei in AD 539.



10 differences!

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about London

(I couldn't find any interesting facts about hedge trimming.)

1. London was called Londinium when it was founded by the Romans.
2. London only became the capital city of England in 1066.
3. Greater London is very big, but the City of London is only 2.9 km², which is tiny.
4. The famous red London buses weren't always red. They used to have a different color for different routes, but they were all made red to make them easier to see.
5. The famous Big Ben is not really called Big Ben. Big Ben is the name of the bell. The actual tower is called the Elizabeth Tower.
6. Buckingham Palace was built for the Duke of Buckingham and not the royal family.

Bushe the Hedge Artist

A hedge artist in the UK called Tim Bushe has been going around and artistically⁸ cutting his neighbor's hedges. What is a hedge? A hedge is a fence or a boundary⁹ made out of closely grown bushes or shrubs. They are usually about head height, but they can be taller. They are very common in the UK and people grow them between houses. They are usually cut so that they are square, but sometimes they go a little bit wild. Tim Bushe used to be an architect before he retired. One day, his wife looked at their wild hedge and wondered if they could cut it into a cat shape. Tim thought that was a little bit difficult, so he cut it into a train, which is much easier to cut because it has straight lines. He realized that the train was very good, so he asked his neighbor if he could cut their hedge. They said yes, so he cut it into the cat shape that his wife had asked for. He didn't stop there. He has started cutting hedges all over London and he has become very famous. He also makes a lot of money for doing commissions¹⁰, but he gives all of the money to charity. He sounds like a very kind person. He has raised thousands of pounds for charity. It is lucky he is good at cutting hedges, because his name is Bush(e)!



- 1.for ages 長い間 2.national foundation day 建国記念日 3.legendary 伝説的な 4.come to the throne 即位する 5.guesswork 推測 6.evidence 証拠 7.verifiable 検証可能な 8.artistically 芸術的に 9.boundary 境界 10.commission 委託



World record

Here are some tree records. The world's tallest tree is called Hyperion and it is a coast redwood. It is 116.07 meters tall. It is estimated¹ to be about 800 years old. Several years ago, one of its branches broke off and made a crater² in the road! The branch had a diameter of 2 m! 800 years is very old, but that doesn't make Hyperion the oldest tree in the world. The oldest tree is the Great Basin bristlecone pine, and it is estimated to be 4,856 years old. That tree grows pretty slowly. The fastest growing tree in the world is the hose tamarind. It can grow 6 m a year! Bamboo grows very quickly as well, but bamboo is a grass and not a tree. Here is another record. These days, many people are planting trees to try and help the environment. Well, there are several tree planting world records. Here are some of them. The most trees planted in 24 hours by one person is 23,060. The most trees planted at the same time by multiple people³ is 2,294,629! They actually planted over four million trees, but Guinness only counted 2.3 million of them.



“The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade⁴ you will never sit.” Old proverb⁵

An Unusual Job

Tree Surgeon

This job is not that rare, but it is interesting. A tree surgeon⁶ is a person who tries to cure⁷ sick and dying trees. They are called surgeons because a surgeon is a doctor who tries to cure people by operating on them. Tree surgeons are also called arborists⁸. Tree surgeons have several jobs. The first is to try and diagnose⁹ what is wrong with a tree. It might have picked up a parasite¹⁰, it might have a disease, and it might be dying from another cause. If they can cure it, they will try. Sometimes they can't cure the tree and then they have a few options¹¹. The first option is to cut off the part of the tree that is diseased and hope that it hasn't already spread. If that doesn't stop the spread of the disease, then they might have to cut down that tree so the disease doesn't spread to other trees. They are experts in tree removal. They have other jobs as well. They have to trim trees if they are too top heavy¹² and look like they might fall down. They have to relocate trees sometimes. And they have to move trees that get blown over in storms. They have many other jobs as well. It sounds like a very interesting job. You have to be ok with heights, though, because they climb a lot of trees.



1.estimated to be 推定される 2.crater クレーター 3.multiple people 複数の人 4.shade 日陰 5.proverb ことわざ 6.surgeon 外科医 7.cure 治療 8.arborist 樹木医 9.diagnose 診断する 10.parasite 寄生虫 11.options 選択肢 12.top heavy 上重心 (樹幹が大きすぎる)