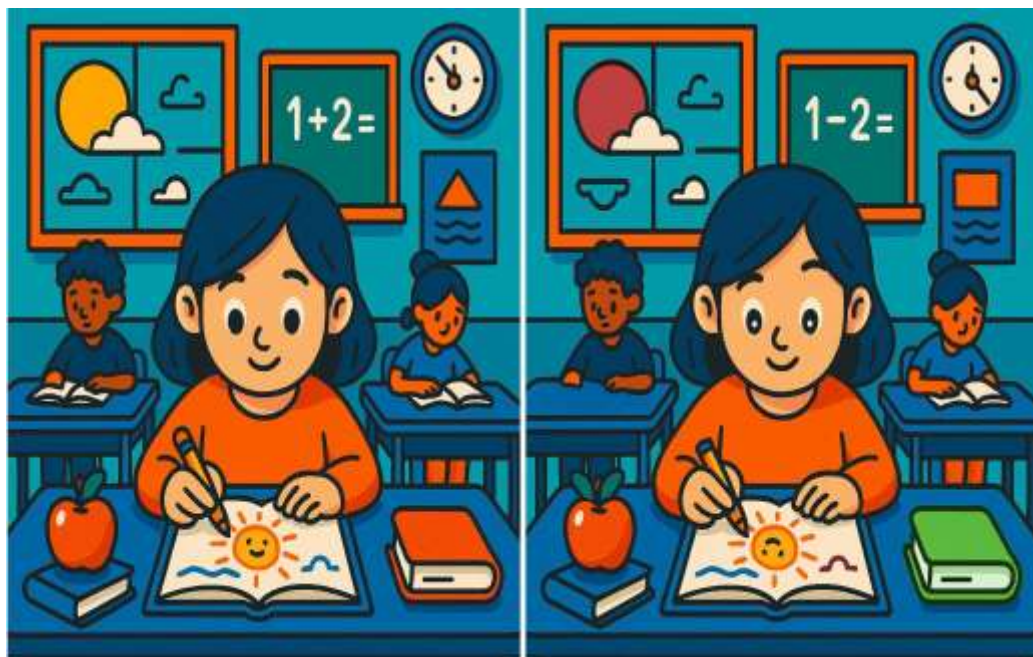


Wow! The English Play last week was wonderful! It was an incredible performance. The sixth grade students have worked very hard for a long time and all their effort paid off<sup>1</sup>. It was amazing. And the teachers have worked very hard to help them as well. Good job to everybody!! This week is a regular week. 1C have their Midori no Kyoshitsu on Monday and Tuesday. And we have Easter on Friday. I like the Easter assembly<sup>2</sup> because it means that Golden Week and spring are close. I love Golden Week and I love spring as well. What about you? Do you have any plans? Hopefully the weather will be very nice because I want to go out somewhere. It would be great if we could have a barbuce. What do you think? Will it be warm enough?



15 differences!

Last week's answer



### Something you didn't know about solar power

1. Solar power is an amazing resource<sup>3</sup>. The sun gives us more energy in one hour than our whole world uses in a year.
2. The first solar panel was invented in 1954. It was only 6% efficient<sup>4</sup>. Modern solar panels are about 20% efficient and in laboratories<sup>5</sup> they can reach 40%.
3. Solar power is the cheapest form of<sup>6</sup> energy and it doesn't need any water.
4. New solar panels are much more flexible<sup>7</sup> and they can be shaped. There is even a solar panel paint that is coming soon.
5. Solar panels can bring electricity to areas that don't have any access to their country's electricity infrastructure<sup>8</sup>. They are a game changer<sup>9</sup>.

### Solar Tricycles Helping Women in Zimbabwe

A company called Mobility for Africa has started leasing<sup>10</sup> solar powered electric tricycles to women in Zimbabwe. The tricycles are called Hambas, and cost \$15 a month (about 2,000 yen). 70% of them are reserved for women. They are solar powered, so they don't need any expensive fuel. There is a lot of sunlight in Zimbabwe, so there is never a problem with power. When the batteries get old, the women can replace them for \$5. The tricycles can carry about 500 kg, which makes them very useful. They can carry produce<sup>11</sup> to sell. They can drive their family to hospital. They can drive their children to school. They can pick up water.



These tricycles are changing the role of women in Zimbabwe and changing how they are treated by<sup>12</sup> men. Before these tricycles, women and girls had to carry heavy containers of water for long distances, and they were usually confined to<sup>13</sup> the house.

Now, they can fetch water easily, and they can carry produce themselves. In many families, the women have become the bread winners<sup>14</sup>. The tricycles also give women a lot more freedom than they had before. Thanks to technology, their lives are improving. The goal of MFA is to introduce a system like this to all countries across Africa.

- 1.effort paid off 努力が報われた 2.assembly 集会 3.resource 資源 4.efficient 効率  
 5.laboratory 実験室 6.form of~の種類 7.flexible やわらかい 8.infrastructure インフラ  
 9.game changer 革命的な存在 10.lease 貸し出す 11.produce 農産物 12.treated by~による扱い 13.confined to~に閉じ込められる 14.bread winner 稼ぎ手



### World record

Let's look at kendama world records. In English, we call that a cup and ball game. Have you ever tried to do it? I'm sure you must have. They are very difficult. Well, there are several kendama world records. Here are some of them. The longest line of people catching a kendama ball consecutively<sup>1</sup> is 128. You may have seen this because it was done live on air<sup>2</sup> on the NHK Kouhaku Utagassen program. There must be a lot of stress for people who are near the end of the line. The most kendama spike catches in one minute is 32. The spike is the pointy bit<sup>3</sup> at the end of the kendama and the most difficult catch to make. I don't think I could do one spike catch in an hour. The most catches in a row on a kendama using one cup is 450. The record for the most kendamas used at the same time by one person is ten. All of the kendamas were fastened together<sup>4</sup>. It's a very impressive video.



“Just one small thought in the morning can change your whole day.” The Dalai Lama

### An Interesting Fact

#### Sharks are older than trees!

That sounds like a very strange thing to say, but I don't mean that sharks live longer than trees. The longest lived shark is the Greenland shark and it lives about 300 years. The oldest tree is about 5,000



years old. No, what I mean is that sharks have been here on Earth for longer than trees have. The first sharks evolved<sup>5</sup> about 400 million years ago and the first trees appeared about 350 million years ago. That means sharks were already ancient<sup>6</sup> when the first trees started growing. Sharks evolved during the Silurian period, which was long before there were any dinosaurs. The first trees evolved from the first plants, which were like ferns<sup>7</sup>. Over 50



million years, they developed seeds, grew taller, and developed woody stems<sup>8</sup>. The wood stems meant they could grow taller. It is thanks to these plants and trees that we are here because they produced a lot of oxygen. The next time you go to an aquarium, have a look at the sharks. They are some of the oldest animals on our planet and they have survived five different extinction events<sup>9</sup>. They are perfect.

1.consecutively 連続 2.live on air 生放送で 3.pointy bi とがった部分 4.fastened together くっつく 5.evolve 進化する 6.ancient 古代の 7.fern シダ植物 8.woody stem 木質の茎