

It's going to be a pretty short week. We are only at school for three days. That's my kind of¹ a week. What do you think? Would you like it if every week was like this? Three days of school and four days of holiday? It might be nice, but I think you would drive your parents up the wall². Do you know what all of the national holidays we have coming up are for? Tuesday 29th is Showa day. That celebrates the birthday of the Emperor Showa. May 2nd is just a holiday for our school. The 3rd is Constitution Memorial Day and celebrates the writing of the constitution³. The 4th is Greenery Day, a day to commune with⁴ nature. The 5th is children's day, a day to think about children. And the 6th is a holiday because the 3rd is a Sunday. Interesting.



15 differences!

Last week's answer



Something you didn't know about bridges

1. The longest bridge in the world is in China. It is the Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge and it is 164.8 km long. It is a bridge for a train.
2. There is a bridge in London called the rolling bridge. When it is not being used it curls up⁵. You have to press a button to make it uncurl. I'll put a picture here.
3. The oldest still standing bridge was built in 1300 BC in Greece. It is called the Arkadiko Bridge and you can still walk across it.



The World's Tallest Bridge

This summer, the world's tallest bridge will open in China. That is only a few months away and the workers are building as fast as they can to meet the deadline. Construction began on January 18th, 2022, and the bridge is 95% complete. When it is finished it will be the tallest bridge in the world. It is 625 meters above the river below it. The bridge spans⁶ a valley between two mountains, across an area called the Huajiang Grand Canyon. Right now, people that want to cross the valley have to drive around for two hours. The roads are very steep⁷ and there are a lot of dangerous drops. It can be lethal⁸. The new bridge is 3 km long, which will shorten the journey across the canyon



From 2 hours to about 4 minutes! That is much faster, but it is also much safer as well and the new bridge will save a lot of lives. The enormous bridge is made of 93 individual steel trusses⁹ and it weighs about 22,000 tons. China has been making a lot of mega-projects like this

recently. Most of the biggest, tallest, and fastest buildings and vehicles can be found in China. The new bridge is going to have a walkway out to the middle and a restaurant so you can eat and enjoy the view of the waterfalls in the valley. There will be a bungee jump as well.

- 1.that's my kind of 私にぴったりの〜だ 2.drive ... up the wall〜をイライラさせる
3.constitution 憲法 4.commune with〜と心を通わせる 5.curl up 丸くなる 6.span〜をまたぐ 7.steep 急な 8.lethal 命に係わる 9.trusses トラス



World record

How good is your balance? This might sound strange, but I try to stand on one leg when I brush my teeth. Apparently, it is good for your health. It only takes me a few minutes to brush my teeth, so I am not going to get any world records. The longest time spent balancing on one foot is 76 hours and 40 minutes! Arulanantham Suresh Joachim, from Sri Lanka, got this world record in 1997. Nobody has broken the record since then. Do you want to try? That is almost three days standing on one foot! Here is another balancing record. Can you stand on a tightrope¹? I can't. Well, there is a record for the longest time balancing on a chair on a tightrope! A stuntman called Freddy Nock balanced on a chair on a tightrope for 8 hours and 30 minutes! That is incredible.



“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.” C. S. Lewis (he wrote the Narnia series)

An Interesting Fact

Octopuses have blue blood!

What color is your blood?

Obviously², it is red. We all know that blood is red. However, that is not true for octopuses. They have blue blood.



Our blood is red because of the hemoglobin³ in it. Hemoglobin has iron in it and that iron sticks to oxygen⁴, carrying it around our bodies. A protein⁵ called heme⁶ inside the hemoglobin is red and when it is attached⁷ to oxygen it is a light red and when there is no oxygen it is a dark red. Octopuses don't have hemoglobin, they have something called hemocyanin⁸. Our blood has iron, which looks red, but octopuses use copper⁹, which looks blue. They use hemocyanin because it works better in the cold, deep sea. Octopuses also have three hearts. They have one heart to pump blood around their body and they have another two hearts to pump blood to their gills¹⁰ where it picks up oxygen. When octopuses swim,



their main heart actually stops beating, which means they can't swim very far. They prefer to crawl¹¹ along the sea bed or just float. Octopuses are incredible.

- 1.tightrope 綱渡り 2.obviously 明らかに 3.hemoglobin ヘモグロビン 4.oxygen 酸素
5.protein タンパク質 6.heme ヘム 7.attach 取り付ける 8.hemocyanin ヘモシアニン
9.copper 銅 10.gills 鰓 11.crawl 這