

The school festival is this week. Well, the high school festival. It's going to be amazing. I was walking around school last week and everyone is putting in so much effort¹! There were so many interesting things in classrooms. I kept asking people what they were, but I got "it's a secret!!" so many times. Haha. Everyone was very happy. I am looking forward to seeing what all of those secret things are. At the same time, the junior high school students are going to different places. I am going to Otaru with the third grade. It is going to be a lot of fun. They have to find tourists and interview them. That is going to be a good way to practice their English. The first grade are going to JICA, which is always interesting. I don't know where the second grade are going. I'll find out.



12 differences!

Last week's answer.



Something you didn't know about nihonbashi

1. Nihonbashi is technically² the center of Japan, at least it used to be. Today, it is taken as the center of Tokyo. All distances on roads that point to Tokyo are measured from Nihonbashi. It has a 0 km plaque³ on it.
2. The original bridge was built in 1603, the same year that Edo (Tokyo) became the capital⁴ of Japan and the Tokugawa Shogunate started.
3. The bridge and the area around it used to be the center of commerce⁵ in Japan. You can still see this. The Bank of Japan is located there and it is the location of the original Mistukoshi department store, which started out as a kimono shop.
4. The bridge was made out of stone in 1911.

Nihonbashi to be Rebuilt



Tokyo's oldest bridge, Nihonbashi, was built in 1603 by shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu. It was the starting point for all roads in Japan. Back then, people could even see Mount Fuji from the bridge. It was so famous that a whole area was

named after it. In 1911, the bridge was rebuilt⁶ in a European style. It survived World War II⁷, which is amazing because nearly all of Tokyo was destroyed⁸. However, in 1964, the famous bridge with the views of Mt. Fuji was covered by a concrete highway⁹. At the time, Japan was rebuilding after the war and trying to rapidly modernize¹⁰ in time for the Tokyo Olympics. The bridge is still there, and you can walk over it, but the only view is the concrete highway. A local group called Meikyo Nihonbashi Hozonkai began a grassroots campaign¹¹ to bring light back to the area. They organized events, spoke to the public, and collected 442,000 signatures on a petition¹² to remove the overpass. The efforts of the local group paid off¹³. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Chuo Ward, the national government, and the highway agency launched a \$2.2 billion plan. They will reroute¹⁴ the highway into a tunnel under the river, and restore the bridge. The plan also includes building a 1 km riverside walkway with green spaces for people to enjoy. Tunnel work will begin soon, and full renovation is expected to finish by 2040. I will be 63! I will go and see it? What about you?



- 1.put in effort 努力する 2.technically 一応 3.plaque 記念板 4.capital 首都 5.commerce 商業
6.rebuilt 再建された 7.survived World War 2 第2次世界大戦を延びた 8.destroyed 破壊された
9.concrete highway コンクリートの高速道路 10.modernize 近代化する 11.grassroots campaign 草の根運動 12.petition 嘆願書 13.paid off 効果があった 14.reroute 迂回させる



World record

Here are some domino world records this week. And I don't mean the pizza company¹. The largest domino tower was 10.128 m tall. There is a video on YouTube, [here](#), and watching it fall is fun. They used 20,336 dominoes to build it and they had to use a cherry picker² to reach the top. The longest domino wall was 51.7 m long and it took them six days to build it. There is a video of that [here](#). The most dominos toppled³ is 4,491,863. I couldn't find a video of that, but it took them weeks to set up. Maybe we should try for a record like this. If we started in the cafeteria, went down the stairs, and doubled back along every floor, I bet we could make a pretty impressive domino chain. I'm not sure who much it would cost to buy that many dominos, though. There is even a record for the most dominos toppled underwater. It is 11.466. There is a video of that [here](#). Should we try that? Let me know. I'm not sure I could handle the stress⁴.



“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.”⁵ John Dewey 5.教育は人生の準備ではない。教育こそが人生である

An Interesting Fact

When soldiers march⁶ over a bridge they have to change their pace
When you drive over a bridge in a car, you probably don't think much about it. Bridges seem very strong, but they can fall down. This has been known for thousands of years. For example, when Roman soldiers marched across a bridge, they had to fall out of step⁷. If they all marched in step⁸, it could shake the bridge dangerously. This is because of something called resonance⁹. Everything has a natural frequency¹⁰. This is the speed at which something naturally vibrates¹¹. When people or things move in a rhythm that matches this frequency, the vibrations can grow stronger and stronger. That's what resonance is. If it gets too strong, the structure—like a bridge—can collapse. Something similar happened to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in the United States. It was a large suspension bridge¹² that opened in July 1940. It crossed a deep, windy valley. The wind made the bridge move in strange ways. On November 7, 1940, just four months after it opened, the bridge collapsed. This was not exactly resonance, but something related called aeroelastic flutter¹³. In this case, the wind caused the bridge to move. That movement changed the wind flow, which then made the movement worse. The motion kept feeding itself until the bridge broke apart. You can even watch a video of the collapse [online](#). Luckily, no people were hurt.



1.company 会社 2.cherry picker 高所作業車 3.topple 倒す 4.handle the stress ストレスを乗り越える 6.march 進行 7.out of step 足並みが乱れている 8.in step 足並みをそろえて 9.resonance 共鳴 10.natural frequency 固有振動数 11.vibrate 振動する 12.suspension bridge 吊り橋 13.aeroelastic flutter 空力弾性フラッター