

113-1 高二克漏字比賽文章

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According to a study on gender equality, Taiwan ranks first in Asia and eighth worldwide. The fact that nearly 40% of leadership positions are filled by women means the government has been so ambitious in taking on equal rights for both sexes. New policies are developed to prevent gender-based violence, defend working women's rights, and promote equal access to education and employment, which in turn, enables women to obtain higher education and financial independence. As a result, women are able to insist on equal opportunities at work as well as equal responsibilities at home. Married women who work to support the family as their husbands do are no longer fully responsible for all of the domestic chores. Additionally, being financially independent gives women the choice to remain single, get married later in life, or get divorced. Taiwan's achievement has been a revolutionary approach to protect women's rights, giving them more freedom and choice to have the kind of life they want.

(2)

Fennec foxes, the world's smallest foxes and among the tiniest canines, are fascinating creatures. With their large ears, dark eyes, and button noses, they are undeniably cute, yet their charm hides their true nature as efficient predators well-suited to desert life. One of the most notable adaptations of the fennec fox is its oversized ears. These not only enhance their hearing—crucial for hunting—but also help dissipate heat, keeping them cool in the hot desert. Additionally, their fur-covered paws protect them from the scorching sand, enabling them to move comfortably across their arid environment. A remarkable aspect of fennec foxes is their ability to survive without actively seeking water. These omnivores obtain moisture from their diet, which includes insects, small rodents, and plants. They also lick condensation that forms in their dens overnight, further sustaining their hydration needs. Fennec foxes are highly social animals. Pups often stay with their family unit even after maturing, and neighboring families may interact and cooperate. Interestingly, these foxes retain their playful behavior well into adulthood, a trait not commonly seen in many wild animals. Their social nature and adorable appearance have made fennec foxes increasingly popular as exotic pets. However, it's important to remember that they remain wild animals. Unlike domesticated dogs and cats, fennec foxes are not as cuddly or trusting. Their nocturnal and energetic nature means they are most active at night, often when their owners are asleep. While their cuteness is undeniable, it doesn't necessarily make them ideal pets for everyone.

(3)

In our high-tech workplaces, the constant influx of emails and digital notifications can add to the stress of an already busy day. Psychologists refer to this as "technostress," a term describing the anxiety that arises from the pressures of adapting to rapidly changing technology in modern offices. This stress can lead to issues like burnout, anxiety, and overall poorer mental health. Researchers from the University of Nottingham studied British office workers to explore how mindfulness might counteract these negative effects. Mindfulness, the practice of being fully aware of the present moment, can be both a natural and learned skill. The study found that employees who were naturally more mindful were less prone to experiencing burnout and other negative consequences of digital workplace stress. Participants shared simple mindful practices that helped them manage their stress, such as regularly checking in with their mental and physical state, taking breaks from technology, or just pausing to take a deep breath. The study also revealed that employees who were more confident in their use of digital technology experienced less stress and burnout. Elizabeth Marsh, one of the study's authors, emphasized the importance of being "mindfully and confidently digital" as key components of maintaining a healthy work-life balance in today's digital age. The findings suggest that integrating mindfulness into our approach to technology could be crucial for reducing technostress and promoting well-being in the workplace.

(4)

The Three Wise Monkeys are widely recognized across the globe, typically depicted as three monkeys each covering a different part of its face: one covers its ears, another its eyes, and the third its mouth. These figures are commonly associated with the proverb, "Hear no evil. See no evil. Speak no evil." While some sources trace the origins of these monkeys to the ancient teachings of Confucius, they are most often linked to Japan. In Japan, the monkeys are known as Mizaru, Kikazaru, and Iwazaru, all of whom are Japanese macaques. However, different cultures have their own versions of the monkeys, with local names like Bapu, Ketan, and Bandar in India. The proverb represented by the Three Wise Monkeys varies depending on cultural and contextual interpretations. In the Buddhist tradition, the proverb advises against focusing on evil thoughts as a way to alleviate suffering. Others interpret it as a call to ignore or avoid confronting evil. In more sinister contexts, such as within criminal organizations, the monkeys serve as a reminder to remain silent if captured by authorities. Regardless of their true origin, the Three Wise Monkeys have left an enduring impact on global culture. They appear in various forms of art, including paintings, drawings, and cartoons, symbolizing different meanings across cultures. As a powerful symbol that has persisted through time, the reminder to see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil remains relevant in today's world.

(5)

On the road from Glasgow through the hills of Argyll, the landscape may seem empty at first, but it's full of hidden history. As you pass Loch Fyne and Lochgilphead, Kilmartin Glen appears. This area was once part of the ancient Gaelic kingdom, Dál Riata, with hills, sheep fields, and oak forests.

When you look closer, you realize Kilmartin Glen is rich in prehistoric history. The area is home to more than 800 ancient relics, including stone circles, standing stones, burial sites, and rock carvings. These were built long before the Romans, Greeks, the pyramids, or even Stonehenge, making it one of Britain's most important archaeological treasures. Despite its significance, Kilmartin Glen was largely forgotten for centuries.

People only started rediscovering the area in the 1800s, but it wasn't until the 1960s that two local volunteers, Marion Campbell and Mary Sandeman, carried out the first archaeological survey. They found many forgotten sites and collected ancient artifacts from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, including pots, axes, and arrowheads.

Today, Kilmartin Glen's history continues to be uncovered. Over 22,000 artifacts are now displayed in the local museum, which started in the 1990s thanks to Campbell's donation. The museum tells the story of the region and its prehistoric past, and locals still find new artifacts while walking around. Most of Kilmartin Glen's historical sites are within a six-mile area, making it a truly unique and concentrated treasure trove of prehistoric history.

(6)

The World Choir Game, previously known as the Choir Olympics, is the world's largest choral festival and competition. Organized by the Interkultur Foundation, it invites choirs globally, regardless of origin, race, music genre, or artistic goals, under the motto "Singing together brings nations together." The Games originated from the idea of uniting people through singing in a peaceful competition, demonstrating how the arts can foster international unity. The focus is on participation over winning, encouraging people to experience the collective power and joy of singing.

Held biennially in selected cities worldwide, the World Choir Games welcome amateur choirs from all continents and musical genres. In 2012, there were 23 categories, expanding to 29 in 2016, including "Senior Choirs" and "University Choirs." The competition features two classes: Champions and Open. Choirs compete for gold, silver, bronze, or "Successful Participation" awards. Medals are awarded in the Champions Competition, with the highest-scoring choir earning the "Champion of the World Choir Games" title in their category. Diplomas are given in the Open Competition.

Participating in the World Choir Games means contributing performances, comparing with others, and experiencing the collective enthusiasm for singing. The Games aim to inspire people to sing together, emphasizing that participation alone is the greatest honor. Every two years, choirs worldwide come together to celebrate this grand festival of music, song, and joie de vivre!

(7)

Few directors are so instantly recognizable by their aesthetic as Tim Burton. Since the unexpected success of *Beetlejuice* in 1988, Burton's style has captivated audiences, and his influence in filmmaking remains strong. His work draws heavily from gothic inspirations, including medieval architecture, famous literary monsters, and goth subculture fashion.

Burton's characters often stand out with their gothic appearance. For example, in *Beetlejuice*, Lydia, played by Winona Ryder, is a complex heroine dressed entirely in black, contrasting with her emotionally distant, power-dressed mother. Similarly, *Edward Scissorhands* reflects the 1970s goth-punk style, clashing with the pastel-colored 1950s suburban world. Such characters reflect Burton's own feelings of childhood alienation and connect with the broader goth culture.

Catherine Spooner, a professor specializing in Gothic culture, explains how *Beetlejuice* deeply impacted her as a young goth, especially through Lydia's sympathetic portrayal. Burton's work has both shaped and been influenced by goth fashion, embracing a hybrid style. This reflects the evolution of gothic aesthetics over centuries, from its roots in Germanic and medieval architecture to its appearance in art, fashion, and film.

In 2022, Burton's character Wednesday became an icon for young people rejecting traditional femininity, though goth fashion still faces backlash. Just this month, a school in Texas came under fire for banning all-black outfits, citing concerns over students' mental health. Burton's *Beetlejuice* and its sequel explore the chaos and emotion of gothic culture, with Michael Keaton's character representing a rebellious creativity that challenges societal norms.

(8)

The platypus is one of Australia's oddest and most famous creatures. With a furry body, webbed feet, and a duck-like bill, it seems like an animal composed of various parts of other creatures. When Europeans reached Australia and started sending descriptions of platypuses back to Europe, people thought they were joking. The platypus, known to Australian natives by many names, including "boondaburra" and "tambreet," was simply too strange to be true. Needless to say, this unusual creature raised eyebrows when disbelievers eventually saw one.

To find out more about the platypus and how it evolved, scientists looked at its DNA. They wanted to learn when it diverged from other animals. Platypuses, as well as echidnas, are monotremes. They share ancestors with mammals but are different in important ways. The most obvious thing that distinguishes monotremes from mammals is that they lay eggs while other mammals do not. After studying platypus DNA and other pieces of evidence, scientists believe that monotremes split off from the mammal lineage long ago. It was during the time of the dinosaurs that some reptiles became birds, while others turned into early mammals. Some of these mammals split off again and became monotremes, including the odd but lovable platypus.

(9)

The body position known as the Asian squat has many advantages. As anyone who has needed to use an Asian squat toilet knows, this particular squat is sometimes a necessity. The position involves squatting down with your feet flat on the ground and legs apart until your bottom is at your ankles. People who have studied the Asian squat say it also has other benefits. Some say that the Asian squat is a healthy thing to do because it is a good posture for your organs and helps to improve digestion. In addition, it assists in keeping your muscles flexible, stretching various parts of the lower body such as thighs and calves. Others even claimed that by doing Asian squats, you may be able to live a longer life.

It's no secret that Asians are much better than Westerners at doing this squat. Two French vloggers certainly proved that in a humorous way. They encouraged people in the French city of Montpellier to try to do the Asian squat. Most of the volunteers who attempted to do the special squat failed, with many falling backwards. One might wonder why Asians are so much better at it than other people? There is no bodily difference that would give Asians a special advantage over Westerners. The ability to perform the Asian squat, therefore, appears to be the result of continued practice, which builds the flexibility required to do it effectively. Thus, it seems that like most things, practice makes perfect.

(10)

Humans may have been enjoying cacao, the substance used to make chocolate, for much longer than previously believed. Researchers from the University of British Columbia discovered that people began growing cacao trees and consuming cacao around 5,300 years ago in southeastern Ecuador. They found small pieces of cacao tree remains in ancient containers, along with genetic material from the tree. This evidence suggests that humans cultivated cacao for food.

There isn't much historical evidence showing that indigenous people in South or Central America used cacao to make chocolate in the same way we do today. However, some indigenous groups in the upper Amazon region still use cacao to create special drinks. By the time Spanish explorers arrived in Central America in the late 1400s, people were already making hot and cold chocolate drinks with spices. It remains unclear how the use of cacao spread between South and Central America.

In the 1580s, Spain began importing cacao and sharing it with other European countries. By the 1800s, advancements in technology in the Netherlands allowed for the production of solid chocolate. This transformation of cacao into chocolate has continued over the years, leading to the many varieties we enjoy today.

Chocolate has clearly evolved over time, reflecting changes in culture and technology. As researchers continue to study its history, we may learn even more about how this beloved treat has developed throughout the ages.

(11)

Scientists have made an exciting discovery in the ruins of ancient Pompeii: a sensual drawing on a wall. This painting depicts a naked girl named Leda sitting with a Swan that prevents her from escaping. Experts believe this image of Leda and the Swan is quite special. Massimo Osanna, the director of the Pompeii archaeological park, described the fresco as exceptional because Leda appears to be gazing out from the artwork.

The owner of the house where the fresco was found might have been a wealthy trader. It's possible he wanted to impress visitors with his cultured taste by choosing mythological themes for his home's decorations. This choice reflects the importance of art and mythology in ancient Roman society.

Due to safety concerns, the areas of the house that have not yet been excavated will likely remain untouched for now. However, for the parts that are accessible, archaeologists are considering moving the fresco to a safer location. Osanna mentioned that this would allow the artwork to be better protected and displayed for the public to enjoy.

This discovery not only highlights the artistic achievements of ancient Pompeii but also provides insight into the lives of its residents. As more excavations continue, we may learn even more about the culture and history of this fascinating city.

(12)

In a recent flight over California's Mojave Desert, a rocket ship called SpaceShipTwo VSS Unity soared to an impressive height of over 82 kilometers. This achievement marked the spacecraft's first journey beyond the boundary of space, according to Virgin Galactic, the company behind the mission.

On board the spaceship were not only the pilots but also four research payloads from NASA and a mannequin named Annie. Annie's presence demonstrated that the spacecraft is capable of carrying tourists in the future. Richard Branson, the head of Virgin Galactic, expressed his ambition to launch the company's first flight with passengers, including himself, by March 2019.

Despite the high ticket price of \$250,000 for a 90-minute suborbital flight, more than 600 people have already signed up. Among these future space tourists are celebrities like actor Leonardo DiCaprio and music star Justin Bieber, all eager to experience this unique journey.

Richard Branson is not the only entrepreneur venturing into space tourism. Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, has launched a company called Blue Origin, which also aims to take tourists on suborbital trips. However, Blue Origin plans to use a more traditional method by launching a spacecraft attached to a rocket from the ground.

As space tourism gains popularity, it will be exciting to see how these companies develop and what adventures await those who wish to travel beyond our planet.