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The Standard 英文虎報

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英語樂

Goodies

Wednesday
LS World

40 years of Hello Kitty



SAY hello to Hello Kitty! This year is the 40th anniversary of the cartoon character. Hello Kitty is an icon of Japanese popular culture. Many people around the world like her.

In the United States (美國), super fans turned their garage into a showroom for their Hello Kitty collection! As the character has been so popular over the years, some researchers in universities even began studying the 'Hello Kitty phenomenon'. The Goodies Family are great fans of the cartoon character too.

Hello Kitty is so cute. 'Kawaii!'

'Kawaii' is a Japanese word. It means 'cute'.

Editor's Note

I went to Japan in 2000 for a memorable trip. But there was one thing I thought was odd: I did not see Hello Kitty at all! In Hong Kong I was used to seeing Hello Kitty everywhere but not in her country of origin. In Hong Kong, Hello Kitty rules! Turn to G02 to learn more about her. On G05 is a football card game based on the English Premier League. Whoever gets Chelsea's Diego Costa will surely win any game!



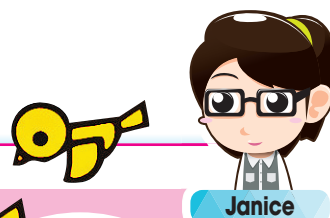
Simon



Cover Feature

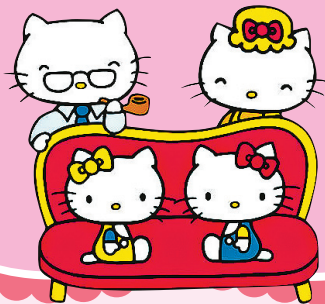
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• Photos: AFP, AP, Sing Tao Daily, Xinhua



Hello Kitty's origin

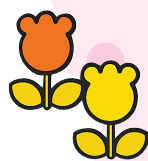
Hello Kitty was designed by Japanese cartoonist Yuko Shimizu. Although the character was created in Japan, her creator decided to make her a British (英國的) girl because **foreign** items were considered cool and **trendy** back then. She was given a British name: Kitty White. So when you see Hello Kitty next time, maybe you could consider calling her Miss White?



The Kitty report

Q: Is Hello Kitty a cat?

A: No. According to her creators, she is a **personification** of a cat. Despite her cat ears and whiskers, she walks and sits just like us. She is not from Japan either. She lives in London (倫敦), the capital city of the United Kingdom (英國), with her family.



Thanks Pony!

Miss White, I love your bow!



Q: When is Hello Kitty's birthday?

A: Hello Kitty just had her birthday last month. It is on 1 November!



Q: How tall is Hello Kitty?

A: She is about five apples tall and weighs about three apples. Go home and try stacking up some apples to see for yourself!

Q: What does Hello Kitty like to do?

A: Hello Kitty has lots of hobbies: baking, **origami**, and playing the piano. She likes playing tennis too.

Q: Why is Hello Kitty's mouth missing? Did the creators forget to draw a mouth for her?

A: No, not at all! According to her creators, Hello Kitty "speaks from her heart". She is not **bound** to any particular **language**.



Multimedia

Are you a fan of Hello Kitty? You could visit this website to download a bunch of e-goodies including wallpapers, emoticons and calendars.
www.sanrio.com/egoodies



Game

Hello Kitty and her twin sister Mimmy were in the 40th anniversary parade held in Japan. Find three differences between the two pictures.



Answers on G12

Vocabulary

foreign (adj) 外國的
trendy (adj) 潮流的

personification (n) 擬人化
origami (n) 摺紙

bound (adj) 受約束
language (n) 語言



Challenge

