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Article :**[Hidden Wonders of Japan] ‘Back to the Future’ with a DeLorean Replica in Wakayama**

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

High school students in Wakayama Prefecture have built a replica of the DeLorean time machine from the classic movie “Back to the Future” (1985), placing it outside the school’s front entrance as a monument.

The replica – which rotates four times every weekday to the sound of the “Back to the Future” theme song – was made by students at Tanabe Technical High School, in the city of Tanabe. The project lasted over four years.

“Having something they made on display at their old school should be a special memory for the students,” said Mr. Takai, 51, the teacher who oversaw the project.

The replica is about 4.2 meters long, and weighs approximately 500 kilograms. It consists of roughly 20 rust-resistant aluminum plates, designed to achieve a long-lasting display.

The team referred to information from sources such as the internet to create an elaborate recreation of the famous time-machine car. The base, which is about 4 meters long, is also made of aluminum.

The Wakayama DeLorean rotates for about three minutes every weekday at 9 A.M., 12 P.M., 3 P.M. and 6 P.M. The evening rotation includes an illumination.

Previously, the area in front of the school’s front entrance was thick with tall leafy plants. However, they were cut down in 2015 because there was a risk of collapse due to insects eating away at the foliage.

In 2016, the school wanted to place something symbolic in the vacant area, inspiring Mr. Takai to suggest the DeLorean replica: “The automobile is Japan’s major manufacturing asset. Having a car that features in an inspiring movie would be ideal.”

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The team started work in 2016. From about September onward, students in Mr. Takai's senior-year class began construction using aluminum plates. After completing the exterior, the replica was revealed at a school festival later that year.

However, the team had not managed to recreate the fine details, and the inside of the car was hollow. Soon after, the students who had worked on the project graduated from Tanabe Technical High School.

Subsequently, members of the school's craft and technical drawing club took over the mantle. They worked with other students across all grades, and managed to complete the car body and stand by the spring of 2020. With only the driving mechanism and electric wiring remaining, the team had planned to finish the project by Golden Week 2020.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the school was temporarily closed between spring and mid-June 2020, ruling out further work. Moreover, summer vacation was shortened considerably. Nevertheless, the team found time after school hours and on weekends, and managed to complete the project in December 2020.

The team members were particularly pleased when they reached their goal. "I'm glad we managed to complete something that our senior students worked on for years," said 16-year-old Yoshiaki Hashimoto.

Meanwhile, Ryo Tanimae, 17, revealed that "there were some things I didn't understand, but I learned those as I worked." Meanwhile, Masaki Hirohata, 16, said: "We have completed something our senior students worked hard on."

Source: [Hidden Wonders of Japan] 'Back to the Future' with a DeLorean Replica in Wakayama
<https://japan-forward.com/hidden-wonders-of-japan-back-to-the-future-with-a-delorean-replica-in-wakayama/>

2 Key phrases and vocabulary

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. **inspiring** (人に)刺激・活力を与える、(人を)奮い立たせる・元気づける、想像を掻き立てる

His inspiring speech motivated me to pursue my dream seriously.

2. **last** 続く、持続する、持ちこたえる

Electronic devices don't last very long because they want us to keep buying new products.

3. **from ~ onward** ~以降

From today onward, our new website will be online.

4. **manage to** ~ なんとか~をする・できる

We managed to get there on time despite terrible traffic.

5. **work on** ~

~(制作や開発、プロ時ジェクトなど)に取り組む、~に取り掛かる・手配をする、~(課題や問題・改善点など)に取り組む

I'm very busy because I'm working on this report that has to be sent by 5pm today.

3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What movie is this time machine form?

2. How often does the car rotate during the weekdays?

3. Were the students who started working on the replica able to complete their project?

4. What prevented the students from working on the replica in spring and early summer in 2020?

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日本語関連記事：

米映画の「デロリアン」高校生4年以上かけ完成 和歌山

1985(昭和60)年の米映画「バック・トゥ・ザ・フューチャー」に登場する乗用車型タイムマシン「デロリアン」を模したモニュメントが、和歌山県立田辺工業高校(田辺市)の正面玄関前にお目見えした。生徒たちが4年以上かけて製作した力作で、平日の4回、映画のテーマソングが流れて回転する。指導した高井正人教諭(51)は「生徒が作ったものが母校に残り、大きな思い出になるはず」と期待している。

(張英壽)

デロリアンのモニュメントは長く人々に見てもらえるよう、さびにくいアルミ板を約20枚使って作られ、長さ約4・2メートル、重さ約500キロ。ネット情報などをもとに映画の車体を精巧に再現している。長さ約4メートルの土台もアルミ製。

月～金曜の午前9時、正午、午後3時、午後6時にテーマソングとともに約3分間、回転。午後6時には地上のイルミネーションが車体を照らす。

かつて正面玄関前には高さ十数メートルの観葉植物が植えられていたが、中を虫に食べられて倒壊の危険性があったことから、平成27年に伐採。28年に跡地にシンボリックなものをつくることになり、高井教諭が「日本を代表する工業製品といえば車。夢を持てる映画に出ているものがない」とデロリアンを提案した。

28年から製作に着手。高井教諭が担任していた3年生学級の生徒が9月ごろから、アルミ板を使って作り始めた。外観はいったん完成し、同じ年の学園祭で披露。ただ、細部は再現できておらず、車の中も空洞だったが、製作した生徒たちは卒業した。

その後、工作製図部(現・ものづくり研究部)の部員が引き継ぎ、機械科の各学年の生徒も協力して昨年春までに車体と土台部分が完成。駆動装置や電気配線が残るだけとなり、春の大型連休には完成する見込みだった。

ところが、新型コロナウイルスの影響で春から6月半ばまで臨時休校となり、製作を続けられない状況が続き、夏休みも大幅に短縮された。それでも、ものづくり研究部の部員は放課後や土・日曜に作業を続け、12月に完成させた。

製作した部員は感慨深げで、部長の橋本佳明(よしあき)さん(16)＝2年＝は「先輩たちが何年もかけて作ったものを完成させ、うれしかった」、谷前怜(りょう)さん(17)＝2年＝は「わからないこともあったが、勉強しながら作った」、廣畑匡規(ひろはた・まさき)さん(16)＝2年＝は「先輩の苦労が詰まったものを完成させた」と語った。