



Where Does the Holiday Go?

Read the story. 英文を読もう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

① Japan has 16 national holidays. But what happens when a holiday falls on a Sunday? Sunday is already a day off, so people lose a holiday. To stop this, Japan made a new rule in 1973. If a holiday is on a Sunday, the next day that is not a holiday becomes a day off. In English, this day is called a substitute holiday.



② The first one came on April 30, 1973. That year, the Emperor's Birthday was on Sunday, April 29. So Monday became a holiday. At first, the substitute holiday was always the next day, a Monday. Many families got a long weekend.

③ Golden Week made the rule tricky. Since 2007, May 3, 4, and 5 have all been holidays. So if May 4 is a Sunday, Monday is already Children's Day. Now the day off moves to the first day that is not a holiday. In 2025, it was Tuesday, May 6. In 2026, it was even a Wednesday.

④ There is one more rule. A day between two holidays also becomes a day off. Some people call it an Othello holiday, like the board game. In Othello, a piece between two others changes color. On Tuesday, September 22, 2026, this rule gave people a day off. With the weekend, many people enjoyed five days off in a row. Before you plan a trip, check the calendar carefully!

Words 単語

national holiday 国民の祝日

fall on (日付が) ~に当たる

day off 休みの日

rule 決まり

substitute 代わりの

tricky ややこしい、むずかしい

between ~の間に

in a row 連続して



Reading Check

Choose the best answer. 正しいものを選ぼう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1. What is the main idea of this story?

- (A) How to plan a trip for Golden Week
- (B) How Japan's rules for substitute holidays work
- (C) Why Japan has 16 holidays
- (D) How to play Othello

2. When was the first substitute holiday in Japan?

- (A) May 6, 2025
- (B) April 29, 1973
- (C) September 22, 2026
- (D) April 30, 1973

3. Why was the substitute holiday in 2025 on a Tuesday?

- (A) Because Monday was already a holiday
- (B) Because Tuesday is always a holiday
- (C) Because the law changed in 2025
- (D) Because it rained on Monday

4. In paragraph 3, "tricky" is closest in meaning to:

- (A) easy
- (B) difficult
- (C) funny
- (D) short

5. In the dialogue, what is the day off called in the U.K.?

- (A) An Othello day
- (B) A Golden day
- (C) A substitute day
- (D) A long Monday

True or False? 正しいければ T、ちがえば F に○

- | | |
|--|-------|
| Substitute holidays started in Japan in 1973. | T / F |
| A substitute holiday is always on a Monday. | T / F |
| A day between two holidays can become a day off. | T / F |
| In Japan, a Saturday holiday moves to Monday. | T / F |



Word Work

Words & phrases. 単語のれんしゅう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

① Match the pictures and the words. 絵と単語を線で結ぼう。



●

● suitcase



●

● calendar



●

● school



●

● national flag



●

● sleep



●

● soccer

② Fill in the blanks. 語群から選んで () に入れよう。

happy

holiday

winter

soccer

substitute

calendar

tomorrow

pencil

Sunday

A Surprise Day Off

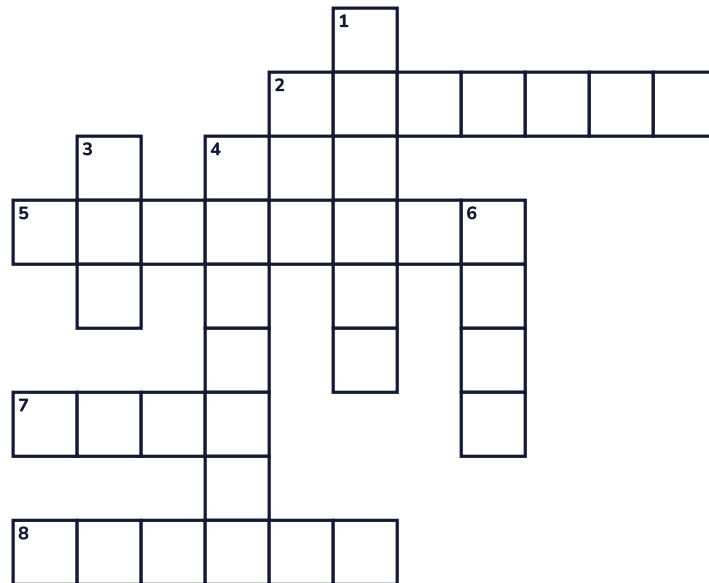
On Sunday night, Taro looks at the (1) _____. "Oh no, I have a test (2) _____," he says. His sister laughs. "No, you don't! Tomorrow is a (3) _____. The holiday was on (4) _____, so Monday is a (5) _____ holiday." Taro is very (6) _____. He decides to study and play (7) _____ on Monday.



Crossword Puzzle

Read the clues and fill in the puzzle. ヒントを読んで、クロスワードを完成させよう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____



Across →

- 2 A special day when school is closed. (7)
- 5 It shows all the days and months of the year. (8)
- 7 Something you must follow, like no running in the hall. (4)
- 8 The day before Monday. (6)

Down ↓

- 1 The first day of the school week. (6)
- 3 The fifth month of the year. (3)
- 4 Saturday and Sunday together. (7)
- 6 To relax and not work. (4)



Word Search

Find the hidden words. かくれた単語を探そう (→ ↓ ↘ ↗)。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

F	R	J	D	E	I	W	S	U	E	L	O	W
M	E	F	D	W	E	E	K	E	N	D	W	H
O	S	P	S	C	A	L	E	N	D	A	R	O
N	T	K	E	F	N	N	S	N	L	R	B	E
D	S	I	P	Y	U	E	J	S	A	R	M	N
A	D	U	A	B	O	J	U	F	W	Y	G	Y
Y	U	M	N	W	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	C
T	U	E	S	D	A	Y	T	C	O	U	T	S
R	Y	I	I	S	A	F	W	Y	M	N	F	F
N	P	U	J	S	U	Y	E	C	Y	P	I	F
L	D	I	C	T	R	V	M	D	R	I	V	C
J	G	J	G	M	K	R	P	I	G	S	T	W
J	M	H	R	R	U	L	E	G	U	E	G	R

Find these words! 10

- ☐ CALENDAR
- ☐ HOLIDAY
- ☐ LAW
- ☐ MAY
- ☐ MONDAY
- ☐ REST
- ☐ RULE
- ☐ SUNDAY
- ☐ TUESDAY
- ☐ WEEKEND

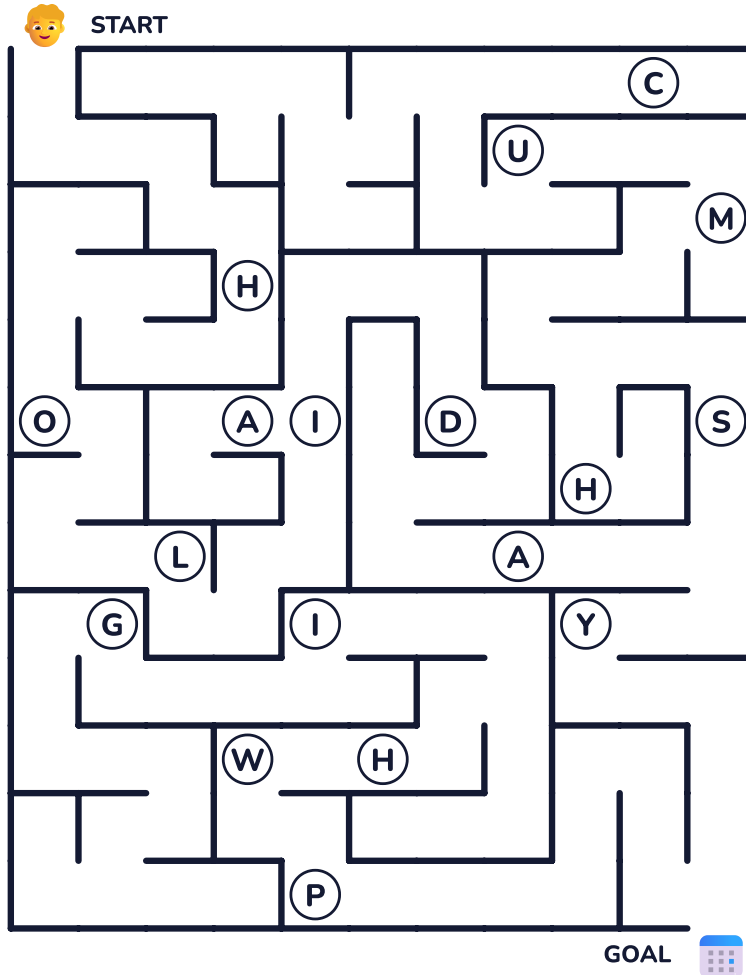


Maze & Sentences

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Help the boy get to his day off!

Collect the letters on the right path. What is the secret word? 正しい道の文字を集めると、ひみつの言葉になるよ。



Secret word: _____



Class Activity & Writing

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Let's Write! 英語で書いてみよう。

On my next day off, I want to _____ because _____.

If I could make a new holiday, it would be on _____ because _____.



Trace & Color

Trace the words. Then color the picture! なぞって書こう。絵に色を塗ろう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____



calendar



sleep



suitcase



school



soccer

Draw your How Japan's Substitute Holidays Work! 振替休日と国民の休日のしくみの絵を描こう。