

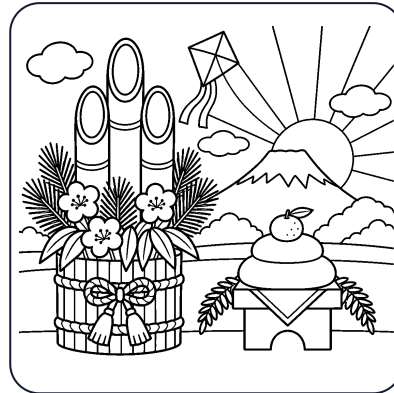


Shogatsu: A Visit from the New Year God

Read the story. 英文を読もう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

❶ On January 1, the busy cities of Japan become very quiet. Government offices close from December 29 to January 3, and many families stay home together. This is Shogatsu, the Japanese New Year. For most people, it is the biggest holiday of the year.



音声を聞こう

❷ Long ago, people believed that a god of the new year visited every home. To welcome this god, families put pine and bamboo decorations by the door. These decorations are called kadomatsu, and they help the god find the house. Families also make kagami mochi, two round rice cakes, one on top of the other.

❸ On New Year's morning, some people get up early to see the first sunrise. Some climb mountains, and some walk to the beach in the cold. Then families eat osechi, special food in beautiful boxes. Each food has a wish. Black beans are for good health, and shrimp are for a long life. People also eat ozoni, a soup with mochi, but the recipe changes from region to region.

❹ Many people send New Year cards called nengajo. The post office keeps the cards and delivers them all on January 1. Children love this day for another reason. Adults give them otoshidama, money in small and colorful envelopes.

❺ Before 1873, Japan used a moon calendar, and New Year came in late January or February. That is why many cards still say 'New Spring' in the middle of winter. So if a Japanese friend says 'Akemashite omedeto,' just smile and say it back. It means 'Happy New Year!'

Words 単語

decoration 飾り

pine 松

believe 信じる

welcome 迎える、歓迎する

sunrise 日の出

wish 願い

region 地域、地方

deliver 配達する、届ける

envelope 封筒

calendar 暦、カレンダー

tradition 伝統、しきたり

celebrate 祝う



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 the reading?

- (A) Japanese cities are very busy in winter.
- (B) Shogatsu is a big holiday with old customs and special food.
- (C) Children in Japan do not like New Year.
- (D) Japan still uses a moon calendar today.

2. When do government offices close for New Year?

- (A) From December 25 to January 1
- (B) Only on January 1
- (C) From December 29 to January 3
- (D) From January 1 to January 7

3. Why do families put kadomatsu by the door?

- (A) To help the New Year god find the house
- (B) To keep the house warm
- (C) To tell the post office to come
- (D) To make the door stronger

4. What is the wish of the shrimp in osechi?

- (A) Good health
- (B) A lot of money
- (C) A long life
- (D) Good grades

5. In paragraph 3, 'the recipe changes from region to region' means:

- (A) Ozoni is the same all over Japan.
- (B) People make ozoni in different ways in different places.
- (C) Ozoni is only eaten in big cities.
- (D) The recipe is a secret.

6. Which is true about nengajo?

- (A) People send them in February.
- (B) Only children send them.
- (C) They are a kind of soup.
- (D) They arrive together on January 1.

7. Why do New Year cards say 'New Spring' in winter?

- (A) Because spring comes early in Japan
- (B) Because New Year used to be closer to spring
- (C) Because the cards are sent in April
- (D) Because spring is the coldest season

8. In the dialogue, what kind of mochi does Kenta's grandma use?

- (A) Round mochi
- (B) Square mochi
- (C) Sweet bean mochi
- (D) She doesn't use mochi.

True or False? 正しいければ T、ちがえば F に○

- | | |
|--|-------|
| In Japan, January 1 is a national holiday. | T / F |
| Kadomatsu is a kind of soup. | T / F |
| Osechi is special food in beautiful boxes. | T / F |
| Ozoni is the same in every part of Japan. | T / F |
| Children get otoshidama from adults. | T / F |
| Japan has used the same calendar since 1600. | 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。



●

● soup



●

● lunch box



●

● sunrise



●

● kadomatsu



●

● party



●

● kite



●

● envelope



●

● shrimp

② Unscramble the words. 文字を並べ替えて単語にしよう。

1. N R S S U E I

2. P V N E L O E E

3. E P I N

4. H S W I

5. R N I O E G

6. A A C D N L E R

③ Fill in the blanks. 語群から選んで () に入れよう。

pizza

envelope

money

card

Year

snowman

beans

sun

January

boxes

mochi

cold

summer

Yuna's First Sunrise

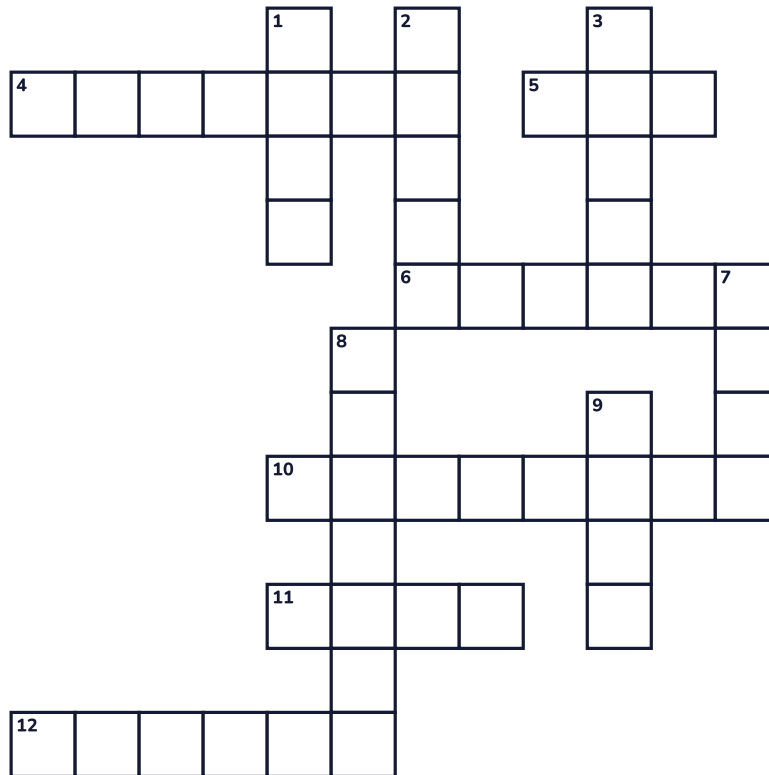
On (1) _____ 1, Yuna got up at five. It was dark and very (2) _____. She walked to the beach with her dad. Many people were waiting. At last, the (3) _____ came up over the sea. Everyone said, "Happy New (4) _____!" At home, her mom opened the (5) _____ of osechi. Yuna ate black (6) _____ for good health. Then she ate ozoni with two pieces of (7) _____. After lunch, her grandpa gave her a small (8) _____. There was (9) _____ inside! Yuna wrote a (10) _____ to her best friend.



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 →

- 4 The time when the sun comes up in the morning. (7)
- 5 People believed this kind of spirit visited every home at New Year. (3)
- 6 A small sea animal. In osechi, it means a long life. (6)
- 10 You put a letter or money in this paper case. (8)
- 11 People send this to friends to say Happy New Year. (4)
- 12 Your mother, father, brothers, and sisters. (6)

Down ↓

- 1 A toy that flies high in the wind on a long string. (4)
- 2 Black ones in osechi are for good health. (5)
- 3 A soft and sticky Japanese rice cake. (5)
- 7 A tree with needles. It is green in winter too. (4)
- 8 The first month of the year. (7)
- 9 A hot dish you eat with a spoon. Ozoni is one. (4)



Word Search

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Find these words! 14

- ☐ BEANS
- ☐ CARD
- ☐ FAMILY
- ☐ JANUARY
- ☐ KITE
- ☐ MOCHI
- ☐ MONEY
- ☐ OSECHI
- ☐ PINE
- ☐ SHOGATSU
- ☐ SHRIMP
- ☐ SOUP
- ☐ SUNRISE
- ☐ WISH

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

Secret Code 暗号を解こう！記号を文字に直すと、メッセージが出てくるよ。



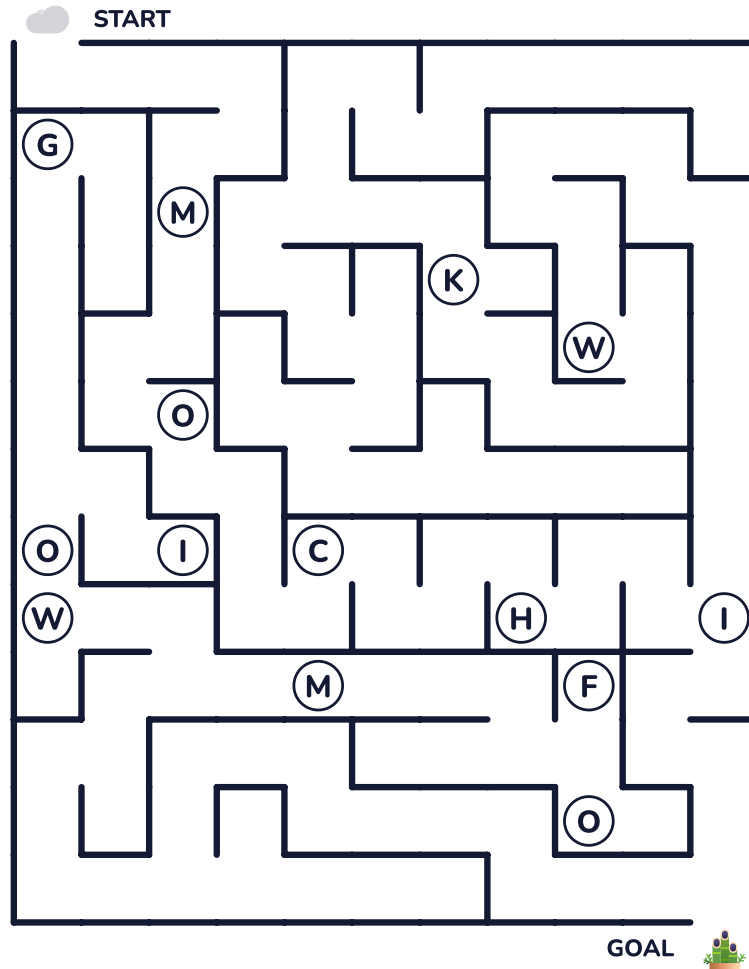


Maze & Sentences

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Help the New Year god find the kadomatsu!

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: _____

Put the words in order. 並べ替えて正しい文にしよう。

1. Shogatsu / the / holiday / in / is / biggest / Japan .

2. Year's / We / osechi / New / eat / on / Day .

3. Each / a / in / wish / food / has / osechi .

4. envelopes / get / in / Children / small / money .

5. sunrise / first / the / watch / people / Many .



Class Activity & Writing

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Find Someone Who... クラスで聞いて回ろう！ Ask: "Do you ...?" / "Have you ...?"

Find someone who ...	Name
... has seen the first sunrise of the year	
... likes black beans	
... can name three osechi foods in English	
... has flown a kite at New Year	
... knows how to make ozoni	
... has sent a New Year card to a friend	
... likes square mochi more than round mochi	
... knows what kadomatsu is for	

Let's Write! 英語で書いてみよう。

On January 1, my family usually _____.

My New Year wish is _____ because _____.

If I explain Shogatsu to a friend from abroad, I will say _____.



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 _____



sunrise



lunch box



shrimp



envelope

