

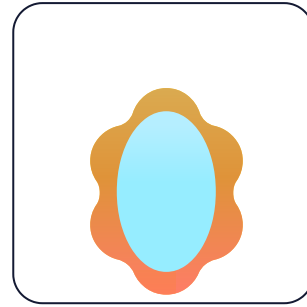


Opening the Mirror

Read the story. 英文を読もう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

❶ In early January, many homes in Japan have a strange decoration. Two round rice cakes sit on top of each other, with a small orange on top. This is kagami mochi. Kagami means mirror, and the cakes have this name because old mirrors in Japan were round like them. People offer the cakes to the god of the new year.



音声を聞こう

❷ Around January 11, families take down the rice cakes and eat them. This custom is called kagami biraki, or opening the mirror. By then, the cakes are very hard. But people do not cut them with a knife. Long ago, samurai thought cutting with a blade brought bad luck. So people break the cakes with a wooden hammer or with their hands.

❸ At first, samurai did this on January 20. Then in 1651, the shogun Tokugawa Iemitsu died on the 20th day of a month. Many people say this is why the day moved to the 11th. But the date is still different in some areas, like January 15 or 20.

❹ Today, people often put the pieces in sweet red bean soup. This warm dessert is called oshiruko. Judo and kendo schools also hold kagami biraki to start the year. And at weddings, guests sometimes open a big barrel of sake with wooden hammers. That is called kagami biraki, too, because the round lid was once called a mirror.

Words 単語**decoration** 飾り**mirror** 鏡**offer** (神仏に) 供える、ささげる**blade** 刃**luck** 運**hammer** 金づち、ハンマー**barrel** 樽**lid** ふた



Reading Check

Choose the best answer. 正しいものを選ぼう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1. What is the passage mainly about?

- (A) How to make a new mirror for New Year
- (B) Why Japanese people buy new knives in January
- (C) A custom of breaking and eating New Year rice cakes
- (D) The history of judo in the United States

2. Why is the rice cake called kagami mochi?

- (A) Because old mirrors were round like the cakes.
- (B) Because people can see their faces in it.
- (C) Because it is kept next to a mirror.
- (D) Because it was first made by a mirror maker.

3. What happened in 1651?

- (A) The first kagami mochi was made.
- (B) Judo schools started kagami biraki.
- (C) People started eating oshiruko.
- (D) The shogun Tokugawa Iemitsu died.

4. In paragraph 4, what does lid mean?

- (A) the bottom of a box
- (B) the top cover of a container
- (C) a kind of drink
- (D) a large hammer

5. Why does Mai say they open the rice cake?

- (A) Because a knife is too heavy.
- (B) Because cutting sounds unlucky.
- (C) Because the cake is soft.
- (D) Because her teacher told her to.

True or False? 正しいければ T、ちがえば F に○

- | | |
|--|-------|
| Many people in Japan do kagami biraki around January 11. | T / F |
| People usually cut the rice cake with a knife. | T / F |
| Kagami means mirror. | T / F |
| The date is the same in every part of Japan. | 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。



●

● judo



●

● mirror



●

● hammer



●

● knife



●

● sake



●

● orange

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

hammer

hard

soup

rice

knife

pizza

snow

open

lucky

The Hard Rice Cake

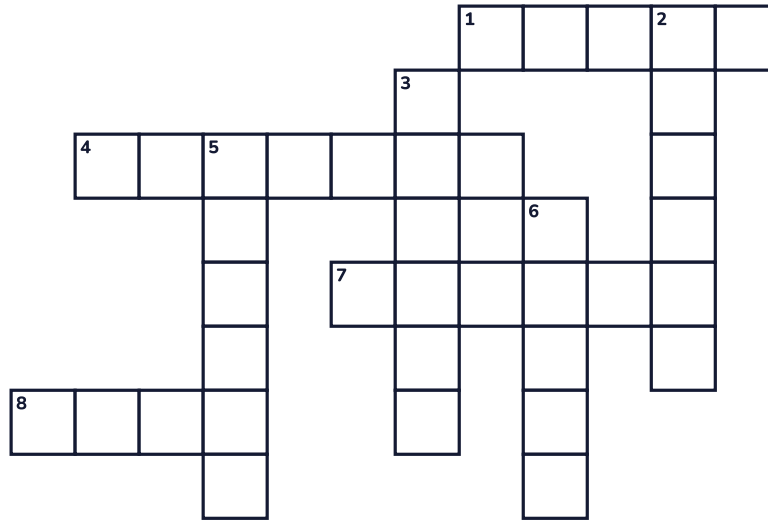
In January, Mika's family takes down the (1) _____ cake. It is very (2) _____ now. Her father does not use a (3) _____. He uses a wooden (4) _____. Mika puts the pieces in sweet bean (5) _____. Her mother says, "We do not say cut. We say (6) _____." Mika thinks it is a (7) _____ day.



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 →

- 1 A sticky Japanese rice cake. (5)
- 4 A Japanese warrior with a sword. (7)
- 7 A round fruit. A small one sits on top of the cakes. (6)
- 8 A Japanese sport. You throw your partner. (4)

Down ↓

- 2 A tool for hitting things. (6)
- 3 A big round wooden box for sake. (6)
- 5 You look into it to see your face. (6)
- 6 A tool for cutting food. People do not use it on this day. (5)



Word Search

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

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

Find these words! 10

- ☐ BARREL
- ☐ HAMMER
- ☐ JUDO
- ☐ LID
- ☐ LUCK
- ☐ MIRROR
- ☐ MOCHI
- ☐ OPEN
- ☐ SAMURAI
- ☐ SOUP



Class _____ **No.** _____ **Name** _____

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。



START

GOAL



Secret word: _____



Class Activity & Writing

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Let's Write! 英語で書いてみよう。

On kagami biraki, I want to eat the rice cake in _____ because _____.

One lucky word I know is _____. It is lucky 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 _____



mirror



hammer



knife



orange



sake

Draw your Kagami Biraki! 鏡開きの絵を描こう。