



A Birthday Nobody Can Prove

Read the story. 英文を読もう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

❶ February 11 is National Foundation Day in Japan. But here is a puzzle. Nobody knows the real birthday of Japan. So why do people celebrate on this day?

❷ The date comes from an old history book called the Nihon Shoki, finished in 720. The book says the first emperor, Jimmu, became emperor

on New Year's Day long ago. People later said that this year was 660 BC. In 1873, the Meiji government changed this date to the new calendar and got February 11. The holiday was called Kigensetsu.

❸ After World War II, Japan stopped this holiday in 1948. Some people wanted it back because they felt every country needs a day to celebrate its beginning. But others were against the idea. They said the story of Jimmu was a myth, not history. They also said the holiday had been used to support the war. The debate went on for about 18 years.

❹ In 1967, the day became a holiday again with a careful new name. The Japanese name has a small word, no, in the middle. Because of this word, the name does not say that Japan began on February 11. It is a day to remember that Japan began at some time.

❺ Today, it is a quiet day off for most people. Some groups hold parades to celebrate, and other groups hold meetings to question the holiday. The government does not hold an official ceremony. So the day gives everyone a chance to ask one big question: how did my country begin?



Words 単語

foundation 建国、創設

emperor 天皇、皇帝

myth 神話

history 歴史

calendar 暦

celebrate 祝う

debate 議論、論争

against ～に反対して

official 公式の

remember 思い起こす、記念する

opinion 意見

puzzle など、パズル



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) Japan was founded on February 11 for sure. (B) National Foundation Day is a holiday for skiing.
(C) National Foundation Day has a long and debated history. (D) The holiday started after the year 2000.

2. Where does the date February 11 come from?

- (A) From an old history book (B) From a law made in 2000
(C) From the Fourth of July (D) From a weather report

3. When did Japan stop the holiday?

- (A) In 720 (B) In 1873
(C) In 1967 (D) In 1948

4. Why were some people against bringing the holiday back?

- (A) Because February is too cold (B) Because the story was a myth and the holiday had supported the war
(C) Because they wanted more holidays in summer (D) Because the book was lost

5. In paragraph 5, 'question the holiday' means:

- (A) ask a quiz about the holiday (B) cancel the holiday
(C) answer a test (D) think about whether the holiday is right

6. Which is true according to the reading?

- (A) The government holds a big ceremony every year. (B) The holiday was called Kigensetsu before the war.
(C) The Japanese name says Japan began on February 11. (D) Everybody agrees about the holiday.

7. Why did the new name need a careful word like 'no'?

- (A) Because the true date of the founding cannot be proved (B) Because the name was too short
(C) Because foreign people asked for it (D) Because the old book used that word

8. In the dialogue, what is Daiki going to do tomorrow?

- (A) Watch fireworks (B) Go to a ceremony
(C) Go skiing (D) Teach English

True or False? 正しいければ T、ちがえば F に○

- National Foundation Day is on February 11. T / F
Everyone knows the exact day when Japan was founded. T / F
The holiday was called Kigensetsu before the war. T / F
The government holds a big ceremony on this day. T / F
The holiday came back in 1967. T / F
February 11 has been a holiday every year since 1873. 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。

JP ●

● flag



●

● drum



●

● skiing



●

● crown



●

● map of Japan



●

● shrine



●

● scroll



●

● calendar

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

1. Y T M H

2. E R P E M O R

3. E E A D T B

4. N O N I P O I

5. N I N T A O

6. Z U Z E P L

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

sure

red

beach

pizza

founded

summer

grandfather

calendar

holiday

notebook

school

homework

book

Sota's History Homework

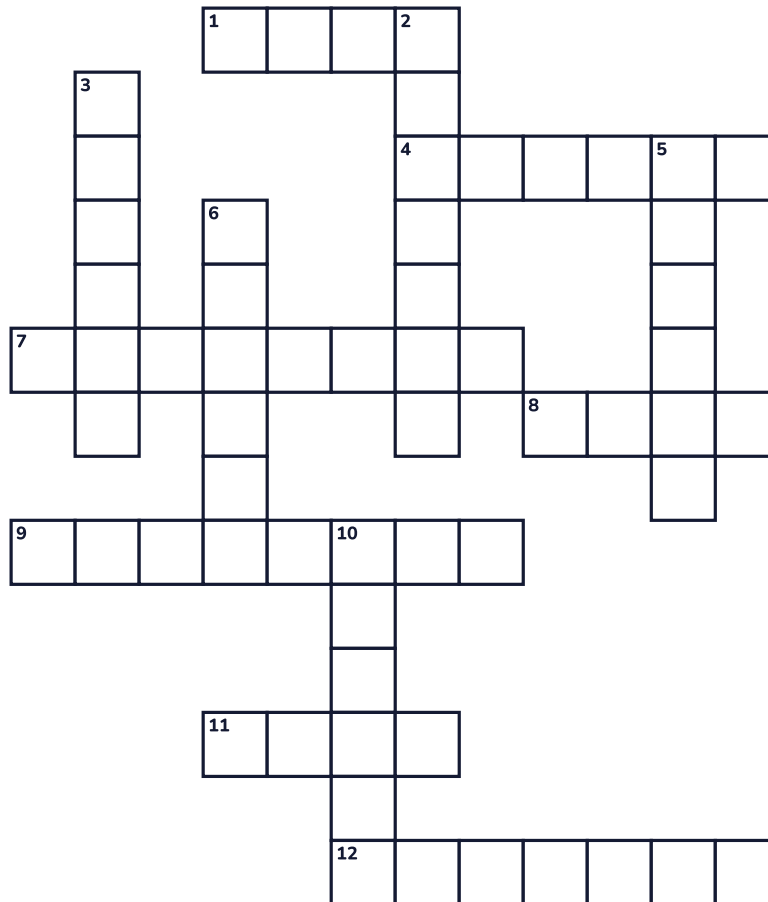
On February 11, Sota had no (1) _____. His teacher gave him (2) _____ about the holiday, so he visited his (3) _____. "Grandpa, when was Japan (4) _____?" Grandpa laughed. "Nobody knows for (5) _____. The date comes from a very old (6) _____." Then he showed Sota an old (7) _____ from 1960. On that page, February 11 was not (8) _____. "It was not a (9) _____ back then," Grandpa said. Sota was surprised. He wrote everything in his (10) _____ and smiled.



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 An old story about gods or heroes. It may not be true. (4)
- 4 A Shinto place where people pray. It often has a gate. (6)
- 7 The second month of the year. (8)
- 8 The Nihon Shoki is an old one of these. (4)
- 9 It shows the days, weeks, and months of a year. (8)
- 11 A piece of cloth with colors. Each country has one. (4)
- 12 The title of Jimmu in the old story. (7)

Down ↓

- 2 The study of things that really happened in the past. (7)
- 3 The coldest season of the year. (6)
- 5 Another word for a country. (6)
- 6 People march down the street with music and flags. (6)
- 10 A long talk where people share different opinions. (6)



Word Search

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

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

Find these words! 13

- ☐ BOOK
- ☐ CALENDAR
- ☐ DEBATE
- ☐ EMPEROR
- ☐ FEBRUARY
- ☐ FLAG
- ☐ HISTORY
- ☐ HOLIDAY
- ☐ MYTH
- ☐ NATION
- ☐ PARADE
- ☐ SHRINE
- ☐ WINTER

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。



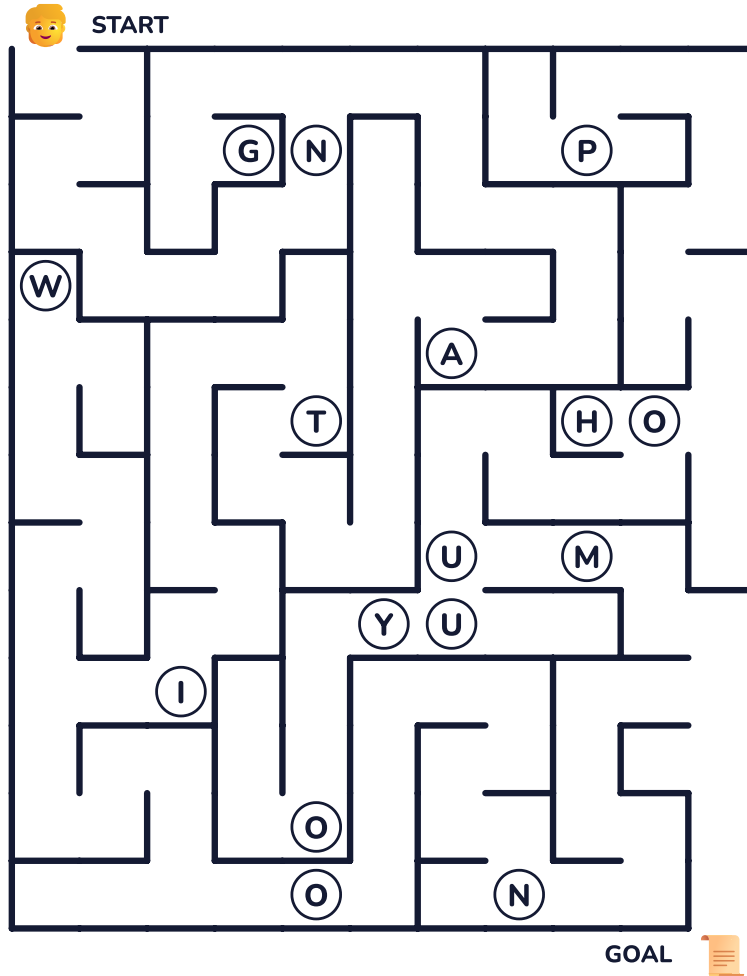


Maze & Sentences

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Help Sota find the old history book!

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. a / February / is / 11 / national / holiday .

2. book / from / an / date / old / The / comes .

3. birthday / knows / of / the / Nobody / Japan / real .

4. day / this / opinions / People / different / have / about .

5. came / holiday / The / back / in / 1967 .

**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
... knows the date of National Foundation Day	
... knows the national day of another country	
... has been to a big shrine in Nara	
... likes reading old stories	
... can name one myth from another country	
... has seen a parade	
... likes history class	
... went skiing in February	

Let's Write! 英語で書いてみよう。

If I explain National Foundation Day to a friend, I will say _____.

I think a national day is important because _____.

On February 11, I want to _____.



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 _____

JP



flag

scroll

shrine

drum

