



# From New Rice to Thank You

Read the story. 英文を読もう。

Class \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

① On the night of November 23, a very old ceremony takes place inside the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. By the light of torches, the emperor offers the year's new rice to the gods. Then he eats some of it himself. This ceremony is called Niinamesai, and it is more than 1,000 years old.



音声を聞こう

② Long ago, the date changed every year. It was held on the second Day of the Rabbit in the eleventh month of the old calendar. In 1873, Japan started using a new calendar. That year, the second Day of the Rabbit in November was the 23rd, and the date never moved again.

③ After World War II, Japan made new national holidays. Lawmakers talked a lot about a new name for November 23. Ideas included New Grain Festival and simply Thanks Day. But some said, thanks for what? In 1948, they chose Kinro Kansha no Hi, or Labor Thanksgiving Day. The law says it is a day to respect work, celebrate production, and thank each other.

④ Today, many children write thank-you cards for police officers, firefighters, and their own parents. In Nagano, people enjoy a big fireworks show on this night. In Japan, people often say otsukaresama to each other after work. It is hard to translate, but it means something like thank you for your hard work.

⑤ Some people compare this day to Thanksgiving in the United States. Both started with thanks for the harvest. In 2028, they will even fall on the same day, November 23. So this year, why not say thank you to someone who works for you?

## Words 単語

ceremony 儀式

offer 供える、差し出す

harvest 収穫

grain 穀物

calendar 暦、カレンダー

labor 労働、勤労

thanksgiving 感謝、感謝祭

respect 大切にする、尊重する

production 生産

firefighter 消防士

translate 翻訳する、訳す

fireworks 花火



# 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 cook new rice (B) The history of American Thanksgiving  
(C) The story of Labor Thanksgiving Day in Japan (D) Fireworks shows in Nagano

**2. What does the emperor do in the Niinamesai ceremony?**

- (A) He offers new rice to the gods and eats some. (B) He writes thank-you cards.  
(C) He watches fireworks. (D) He plants rice in the field.

**3. Why did the date become November 23?**

- (A) Because it was the emperor's birthday (B) Because American Thanksgiving was on that day  
(C) Because it was a Monday (D) Because it was the second Day of the Rabbit in November 1873

**4. When did lawmakers choose the name Labor Thanksgiving Day?**

- (A) In 1873 (B) In 1948  
(C) In 2028 (D) More than 1,000 years ago

**5. In paragraph 4, the word translate is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_.**

- (A) forget (B) change into another language  
(C) say loudly (D) write by hand

**6. Which is true about the passage?**

- (A) The ceremony is held in the morning. (B) Japan started a new calendar in 1948.  
(C) Some lawmakers asked, thanks for what? (D) Americans and Japanese eat turkey on November 23 every year.

**7. Why might people compare this day to American Thanksgiving?**

- (A) Both began with thanks for the harvest. (B) Both have turkey dinners.  
(C) Both are always on Thursday. (D) Both were made by the emperor.

**8. In the dialogue, what idea does Grace have for her students?**

- (A) Cooking turkey at school (B) Visiting the Imperial Palace  
(C) Watching fireworks in Nagano (D) Making thank-you cards in English class

**True or False? 正しいければ T、ちがえば F に○**

- Labor Thanksgiving Day is on November 23. T / F  
People in Japan eat turkey on this day. T / F  
The holiday started from an old rice festival. T / F  
The date of Niinamesai changed every year long ago. T / F  
The name of the holiday was chosen in 1873. T / F  
The emperor no longer holds Niinamesai. T / F



## Word Work

Words &amp; 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。



●

● farmer



●

● hospital



●

● fire truck



●

● police officer



●

● rice plant



●

● letter



●

● bus



●

● fireworks

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

1. T H R A E V S

2. A N K T H S

3. R R M F E A

4. A I R G N

5. B A L O R

6. E C R I

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

early

turkey

smiled

driver

card

rice

snow

hospital

angry

happy

work

bus

mother

## Ren's Thank-You Card

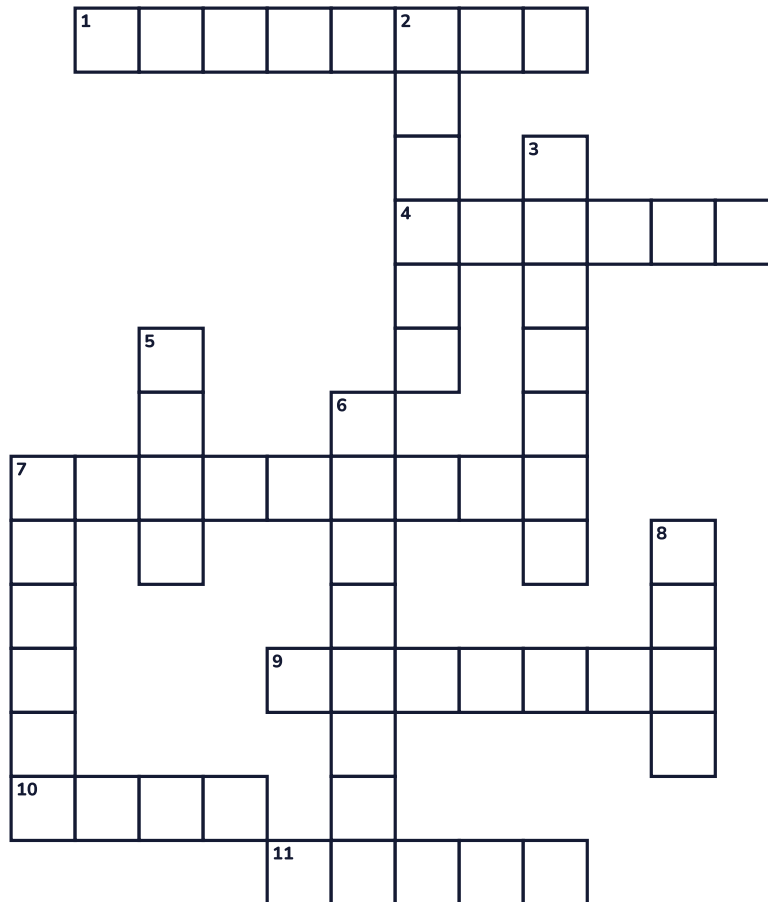
On Labor Thanksgiving Day, Ren made a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for his father. His father is a bus (2) \_\_\_\_\_ . He gets up very (3) \_\_\_\_\_ every morning. Ren drew a big green (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and wrote, Thank you for your hard (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Then he made a card for his (6) \_\_\_\_\_, too. She works at a (7) \_\_\_\_\_. In the evening, the family ate new (8) \_\_\_\_\_ together. His father read the card and (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Ren felt warm and (10) \_\_\_\_\_.



# 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 It shows the days and months of a year. (8)
- 4 Words you say when someone helps you. (6)
- 7 Colorful lights that explode in the night sky. (9)
- 9 He offers new rice to the gods at night. (7)
- 10 Japanese people eat this white grain every day. (4)
- 11 Rice, wheat, and corn are all this. (5)

## Down ↓

- 2 A person who helps sick people at a hospital. (6)
- 3 The time when farmers gather their crops. (7)
- 5 What people do at their jobs. (4)
- 6 The eleventh month of the year. (8)
- 7 A person who grows food in fields. (6)
- 8 A small paper with a message on it. (4)



# Word Search

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

Class \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Find these words! 13

- ☐ CARD
- ☐ DOCTOR
- ☐ DRIVER
- ☐ FARMER
- ☐ GRAIN
- ☐ HARVEST
- ☐ HELP
- ☐ JOB
- ☐ NURSE
- ☐ RICE
- ☐ TEACHER
- ☐ THANKS
- ☐ WORK

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。



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

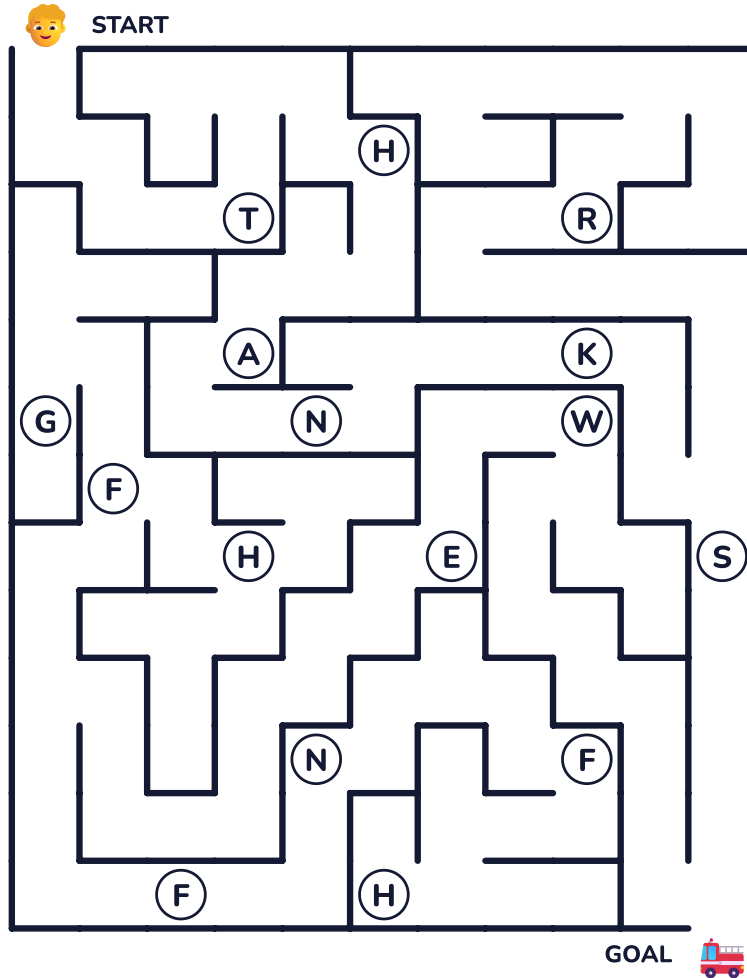


# Maze & Sentences

Class \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Help Ren bring his card to the fire station!

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. Day / is / 23 / Labor / November / on / Thanksgiving .

2. a / to / day / It / thank / is / workers .

3. a / as / rice / festival / It / harvest / started .

4. for / a / made / my / father / I / card .

5. every / for / your / work / Thank / hard / day / you .



# 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 written a thank-you card        |      |
| ... has helped with housework this week |      |
| ... knows a farmer                      |      |
| ... likes new rice                      |      |
| ... can name five jobs in English       |      |
| ... wants to be a doctor or nurse       |      |
| ... has visited a fire station          |      |
| ... knows the meaning of otsukaresama   |      |

Let's Write! 英語で書いてみよう。

On Labor Thanksgiving Day, I want to thank \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

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In the future, I want to work as a \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

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One job that helps my town is \_\_\_\_\_. They \_\_\_\_\_.

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# 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 \_\_\_\_\_



rice plant



fire truck



police officer



farmer

