



Whose Day Is It?

Read the passage and answer the questions. (CEFR B1–B2)

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1 For centuries, May 5 in Japan was associated with boys. Families displayed armor and warrior dolls, partly because the word for the iris-like shobu plant sounds the same as a word meaning respect for martial values. When lawmakers created a new holiday on this date in 1948, they faced an awkward question: could a boys' festival become a day for every child?



2 Some members of the upper house worried that girls would feel left out and that the date carried a military image. They even proposed October 1 instead. One member also pointed out that the court festival of the Heian period, about a thousand years earlier, had no such warlike meaning. In the end, May 5 won because of its pleasant weather and long tradition, but the law was written for all children and added gratitude to mothers.

3 Other countries answer the question differently. Turkey lets children sit in the seats of national leaders for a day, while Taiwan once celebrated children together with women. A holiday's name may change quickly, yet the customs people practice at home often change much more slowly.

Comprehension

1. What is the main question the passage discusses?

- (A) How to make carp streamers at home
- (B) Whether a festival that was once for boys could become a day for all children
- (C) Why Turkey has more holidays than Japan
- (D) When the Heian period started

2. Why did some members of the upper house propose October 1?

- (A) Because October 1 was the emperor's birthday
- (B) Because children in Kobe asked for October 1
- (C) Because they worried that girls would feel left out and that May 5 had a military image
- (D) Because the weather in May was too hot

3. According to the passage, what did the 1948 law add to Children's Day?

- (A) Gratitude to mothers
- (B) A parade of samurai
- (C) A day off for fathers
- (D) A rule to display armor

4. Why did one member mention the court festival of the Heian period?

- (A) To show that May 5 had always been a military day
- (B) To argue that the holiday should move to the Heian capital
- (C) To explain why carp streamers are black
- (D) To show that the date did not originally have a warlike meaning

5. In paragraph 1, the word "awkward" in "an awkward question" is closest in meaning to

- (A) easy and simple
- (B) difficult to deal with
- (C) funny
- (D) old-fashioned

6. What does the writer suggest in the last sentence?

- (A) Holiday names never change.
- (B) Families stopped displaying armor right after 1948.
- (C) Even when a law changes a holiday's meaning, home customs may stay the same for a long time.
- (D) Turkey and Taiwan should copy Japan's customs.



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

Match the words with the definitions. Then rewrite and summarize.

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| 1. associate | a. the feeling of being thankful |
| 2. armor | b. to do something regularly as a custom or habit |
| 3. martial | c. to connect one thing with another in your mind |
| 4. awkward | d. a hard covering, often made of metal, that soldiers wore long ago to protect their bodies |
| 5. left out | e. connected with fighting or war |
| 6. propose | f. difficult to deal with and making people feel uncomfortable |
| 7. gratitude | g. not included in a group or activity |
| 8. practice | h. to suggest a plan or idea for people to think about |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “For centuries, May 5 in Japan was associated with boys.”

Hint: Start with "For hundreds of years, people thought of".

2. “In the end, May 5 won because of its pleasant weather and long tradition, but the law was written for all children and added gratitude to mothers.”

Hint: Split it into two sentences. Use "was chosen" and "also says".

3. “Turkey lets children sit in the seats of national leaders for a day, while Taiwan once celebrated children together with women.”

Hint: Use two sentences. Start the second one with "In Taiwan".

Summary

Summarize the passage in about 50 words.



Debate & Opinion Essay

Prepare for a debate. Then write your opinion (100–150 words).

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Motion: March 3, the Doll Festival, should also become a national holiday.

FOR 賛成

- May 5 was a boys' festival for centuries, so making March 3 a holiday too would treat girls and boys equally.
- In 1948, lawmakers worried that girls would feel left out, and a March 3 holiday would answer that worry.
- A day off would give families time to display dolls and enjoy the festival together, helping the tradition survive.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- The 1948 law already made May 5 a day for all children, so another holiday for one group is not needed.
- Japan already has many national holidays, and adding one more in March would make the school and work calendar harder to plan.
- Hinamatsuri has continued at home for a long time without being a holiday, so it does not need a day off to stay alive.

Add your own reason:

Opinion	<i>I believe / I think that ...</i>
Reason 1	<i>First, ... For example, ...</i>
Reason 2	<i>Second, ... In fact, ...</i>
Counter	<i>Some people say ... However, ...</i>
Conclusion	<i>In conclusion, ...</i>