



The Day That Comes Every Four Years

Read the story. 英文を読もう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

❶ February usually has 28 days. But every four years, it gets one extra day, February 29. We call this day Leap Day, and the year is a leap year. The next one is in 2028.

❷ Why do we need it? The Earth takes about 365 and a quarter days to go around the sun. That extra quarter adds up. After four years, it is almost one full day. So we add February 29 to keep our calendar in time with the seasons. Without leap years, summer would slowly move into winter months over hundreds of years.

❸ But a quarter is not exact. So the rule has a twist. Years like 1900, which end in 00, are not leap years. But if you can divide the year by 400, like 2000, it is a leap year. This rule comes from a calendar made for Pope Gregory XIII in the 1500s.

❹ Leap Day has some fun traditions. In Ireland, an old story says women can ask men to marry them on this day. If the man says no, he should buy her gloves or a silk dress. People born on February 29 are called leaplings. They have a real birthday only once every four years. One family in Britain has three people born on this day, a grandfather, a father, and a daughter. In Japan, the law says leaplings become one year older at the end of February 28.



Words 単語

leap 跳ぶ、跳躍
extra 余分の、追加の
quarter 4分の1

add up たまる、積み重なる
season 季節
divide 割る、分ける

tradition 伝統、言い伝え
propose 結婚を申しこむ、提案する



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 text?

- (A) Leap Day is a holiday in Ireland. (B) February 29 keeps the calendar in time with the seasons and has fun traditions.
- (C) Leap Day happens every year in February. (D) February 29 was made by a Japanese law.

2. How long does the Earth take to go around the sun?

- (A) Exactly 365 days (B) About 366 days
- (C) About 360 days (D) About 365 and a quarter days

3. Which year was NOT a leap year?

- (A) 1900 (B) 2000
- (C) 2024 (D) 2028

4. In paragraph 2, "adds up" is closest in meaning to:

- (A) disappears (B) gets bigger little by little
- (C) stops (D) goes back

5. In the dialogue, when does Haruka usually celebrate her birthday?

- (A) On March 1 (B) On February 29 every year
- (C) On February 28 (D) Only on New Year's Day

True or False? 正しいければ T、ちがえば F に○

- A leap year comes every four years. T / F
- The year 1900 was a leap year. T / F
- In an Irish tradition, women can propose on February 29. T / F
- The Earth goes around the sun in exactly 365 days. 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。



● sun



● gloves



● frog



● ring



● birthday cake



● Earth

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

calendar

twelve

party

summer

rain

born

year

early

birthday

Ben's Real Birthday

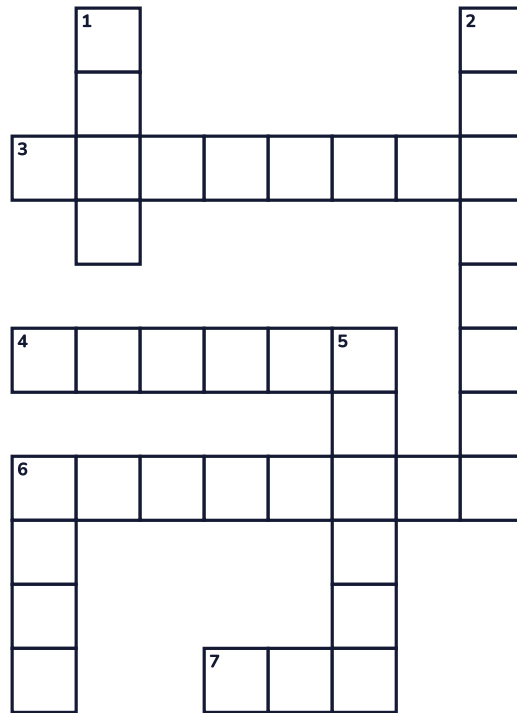
Ben was (1) _____ on February 29. Most years, his (2) _____ is not on the calendar. So his family has a (3) _____ on February 28. But this year is a leap (4) _____! Ben wakes up (5) _____ and looks at the (6) _____. There it is, February 29! "I am finally (7) _____... or only three!" he laughs.



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 →

- 3 It shows all the days of the year. (8)
- 4 You wear them on your hands in winter. (6)
- 6 The second month of the year. (8)
- 7 The Earth goes around it. (3)

Down ↓

- 1 A big jump. A frog can do this. (4)
- 2 The day you were born. You get a cake. (8)
- 5 Spring, summer, fall, or winter. (6)
- 6 The number after three. (4)



Word Search

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

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

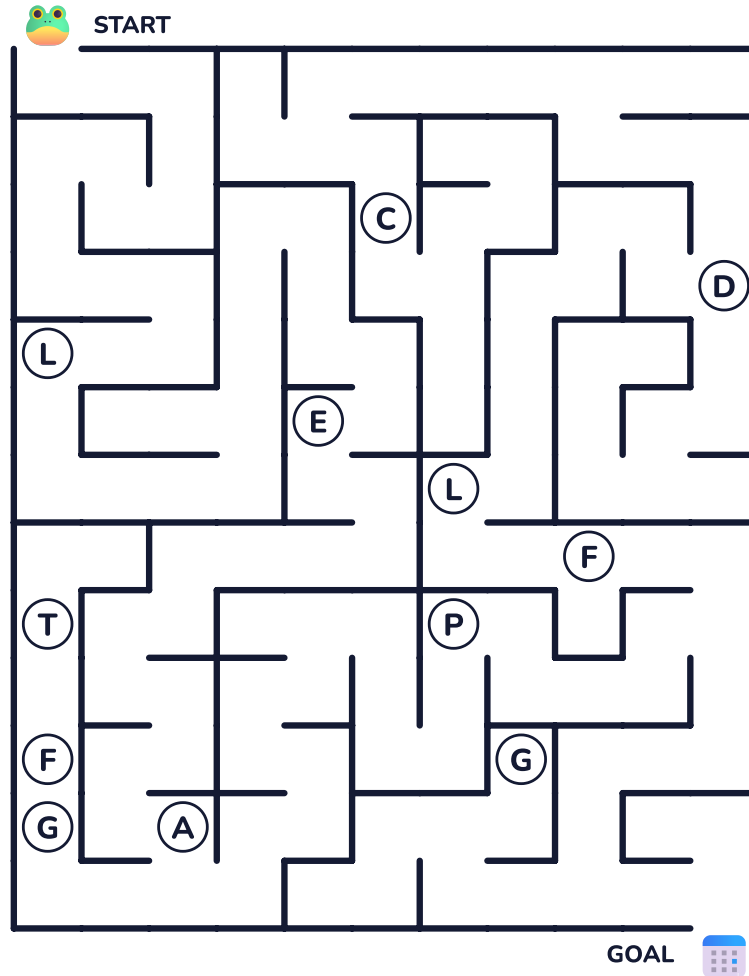
Find these words! 10

- ☐ BIRTHDAY
- ☐ EARTH
- ☐ EXTRA
- ☐ FOUR
- ☐ FROG
- ☐ GLOVES
- ☐ LEAP
- ☐ SEASON
- ☐ SUN
- ☐ YEAR



Help the frog leap to February 29!

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: _ _ _ _



Class Activity & Writing

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Let's Write! 英語で書いてみよう。

On my extra day, I want to _____.

If I were born on February 29, I would celebrate on _____ 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 _____



frog



sun



earth



birthday cake



ring

Draw your Leap Day! うるう日（2月29日）の絵を描こう。