



How a Tree Holiday Traveled the World

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____



- 1 Greenery Day may look like a purely Japanese invention, but its roots stretch back to the American prairie. In 1872, J. Sterling Morton persuaded the state of Nebraska to hold the first Arbor Day, and an estimated one million trees were planted in a single day. In 1895, the educator Birdsey Northrop carried the idea to Japan, where it grew into school tree-planting days and later into a national tree-planting festival.
- 2 Other countries reshaped the idea to fit their own needs. China turned March 12 into Tree Planting Day in 1979, and a 1981 resolution asked able-bodied citizens, roughly between 11 and 60, to plant three to five trees a year. South Korea made April 5 a public holiday for planting, yet removed its day-off status in 2006, although many people still plant trees on that day.
- 3 Japan took a different path. Its holiday asks people not to plant a certain number of trees, but simply to enjoy nature and feel grateful for it. Every spring, it also opens public parks for free and honors scientists who study plants and forests. Whether such a gentle goal changes behavior is an open question worth discussing.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Japan invented the idea of a tree-planting holiday.
- (B) A tree holiday that started in the United States spread to other countries, and each country shaped it in its own way.
- (C) China plants more trees than any other country.
- (D) South Korea stopped planting trees in 2006.

2. Who brought the idea of Arbor Day to Japan?

- (A) J. Sterling Morton
- (B) Emperor Showa
- (C) Birdsey Northrop
- (D) A Chinese scientist

3. According to the passage, what did China's 1981 resolution ask people to do?

- (A) Visit public parks for free once a year
- (B) Plant one million trees in a single day
- (C) Give prizes to scientists who study forests
- (D) Plant three to five trees a year if they were able-bodied and roughly between 11 and 60

4. What can we infer from the fact that many South Koreans still plant trees on April 5?

- (A) A custom can continue even after a day stops being an official day off.
- (B) The government still forces everyone to plant trees on that day.
- (C) South Korea made April 5 a holiday again in 2006.
- (D) Trees can only be planted on public holidays.

5. In paragraph 2, the word "reshaped" is closest in meaning to

- (A) forgot
- (B) copied exactly
- (C) changed the form of
- (D) sold

6. Why does the writer call Japan's goal "gentle"?

- (A) Because Japan plants only small trees.
- (B) Because Japan's holiday does not ask people to plant a certain number of trees but only to enjoy and appreciate nature.
- (C) Because the holiday is in the middle of spring.
- (D) Because Japanese scientists are kind.



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. purely | a. feeling or showing thanks |
| 2. stretch back | b. to show public respect for someone, for example by giving a prize |
| 3. persuade | c. completely and only |
| 4. estimated | d. to have a history that goes back to a time in the past |
| 5. resolution | e. to make someone agree to do something by giving good reasons |
| 6. able-bodied | f. guessed by calculating, not counted exactly |
| 7. grateful | g. an official decision made by a group after a vote |
| 8. honor | h. physically strong and healthy enough to do work |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “Greenery Day may look like a purely Japanese invention, but its roots stretch back to the American prairie.”

Hint: Start with "Many people may think" and use "actually".

2. “Other countries reshaped the idea to fit their own needs.”

Hint: Use "changed" and "so that it matched".

3. “Whether such a gentle goal changes behavior is an open question worth discussing.”

Hint: Use "We do not know yet if" and "it is a good topic".

Summary

Summarize the passage in about 50 words.



Debate & Opinion Essay

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Motion: Japan should ask people to plant trees on Greenery Day, as China does.

FOR 賛成

- A clear goal, like China's three to five trees a year, turns a gentle idea into real action that people can see and measure.
- Planting trees on the same day every year can become a family or school tradition, as it did with Arbor Day in Nebraska.
- Enjoying nature is good, but planting trees gives something back to nature instead of only using it.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- Japan's holiday asks people to enjoy nature and feel grateful, and this simple goal lets everyone take part in their own way.
- Asking every citizen to plant trees is difficult in big cities, where there is little space to plant.
- South Korea shows that people keep planting trees even without the day off, so a request from the government is not needed to keep the custom 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>