



Why Does the Year Start in Winter?

Read the story. 英文を読もう。

Class _____

No. _____

Name _____

❶ Why does the new year start on January 1, in the middle of winter? For a long time, it did not. In ancient Rome, the year started in March, when spring came. That is why September means "seventh month" in Latin, but today it is the ninth month.



音声を聞こう

❷ In 153 BC, there was a war in Spain. Rome needed its new consuls, the top leaders, to start work early. So they started their year on January 1. Later, Julius Caesar made a new calendar, and January 1 became New Year's Day. The name January comes from Janus, a Roman god with two faces. One face looks back at the old year, and the other looks forward.

❸ But the story did not end there. In the Middle Ages, many places in Europe started the year on other days, like Christmas or March 25. England moved its New Year to January 1 only in 1752. Because of this change, the year 1751 in England was very short. It had only 282 days.

❹ Today, people spend January 1 in many different ways. In California, crowds watch the Rose Parade, and every float is covered with flowers and seeds. In Vienna, a famous orchestra plays happy waltzes, and the audience claps along to the last march. In the Netherlands, thousands of people run into the cold North Sea.

❺ Food is important, too. In the southern United States, people eat black-eyed peas, because each pea looks like a coin. In Haiti, families eat soup joumou, a pumpkin soup. Long ago, enslaved people there were not allowed to eat it. On January 1, 1804, Haiti became free, and the soup became a symbol of freedom. So for many Haitians, the first meal of the year tastes like freedom.

Words 単語

calendar 暦、カレンダー

ancient 古代の、大昔の

consul (古代ローマの) 執政官

god 神

forward 前へ、前方に

Middle Ages 中世

float (パレードの) 山車

orchestra オーケストラ、管弦楽団

audience 観客、聴衆

clap along (音楽に) 合わせて手拍子する

enslaved 奴隷にされた

symbol しるし、象徴



Reading Check

Choose the best answer. 正しいものを選ぼう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1. What is the main topic of the reading?

- (A) How Japanese people spend New Year's Day
(B) How January 1 became New Year's Day and how people spend it
(C) Why the Rose Parade never happens on Sunday
(D) How to cook soup joumou at home

2. In ancient Rome, when did the year start at first?

- (A) In January
(B) In September
(C) In March
(D) In December

3. Why did Rome start the consuls' year on January 1?

- (A) Because of a war in Spain
(B) Because January was warm
(C) Because Janus was born that day
(D) Because the king said so in 1752

4. How many days did the year 1751 have in England?

- (A) 365 days
(B) 445 days
(C) 153 days
(D) 282 days

5. In paragraph 4, what does "float" mean?

- (A) A boat on the sea
(B) A decorated car in a parade
(C) A kind of soup
(D) A cold drink

6. Which sentence is true about the reading?

- (A) Janus had three faces.
(B) England used January 1 as New Year's Day before Rome did.
(C) In Vienna, the audience claps along to the last march.
(D) People in the Netherlands swim in a warm lake on January 1.

7. Why do Haitians feel the soup "tastes like freedom"?

- (A) Because the soup is free at restaurants
(B) Because pumpkins grow only in free countries
(C) Because Julius Caesar loved the soup
(D) Because people once could not eat it, and they eat it on Independence Day

8. In the dialogue, why does the parade move to Monday when January 1 is a Sunday?

- (A) Because people did not want to scare horses outside churches
(B) Because everyone is too sleepy on Sunday
(C) Because flowers do not bloom on Sunday
(D) Because the TV station is closed on Sunday

True or False? 正しいければ T、ちがえば F に○

- In ancient Rome, the year once started in March. T / F
The name January comes from a Greek cake. T / F
England moved its New Year to January 1 in 1752. T / F
Every Rose Parade float is covered with plastic. T / F
In the southern United States, peas mean coins on New Year's Day. T / F
Haiti became free on December 25, 1804. 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。



●

● cake



●

● coin



●

● violin



●

● calendar



●

● pumpkin



●

● sunrise



●

● rose



●

● pig

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

1. C L D A A N E R

2. R E A D P A

3. C K Y L U

4. Z W L T A

5. M E D E R O F

6. C T I N E N A

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

house

oldest

angry

coin

cake

shouts

pocket

spoon

start

carefully

cuts

lucky

summer

The Coin in the Cake

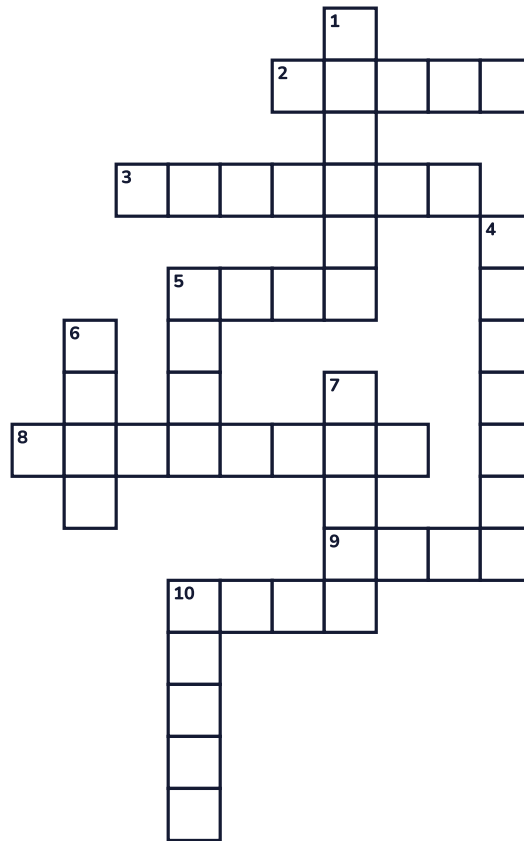
On December 31, Eleni's family in Greece makes a round (1) _____. Her grandmother puts a small (2) _____ inside it before baking. At midnight, her father (3) _____ the cake into pieces. One piece is for the (4) _____. Then everyone gets a piece, from the (5) _____ to the youngest. Eleni eats slowly and (6) _____. Suddenly, she feels something hard. "I found it!" she (7) _____. Everyone claps and laughs. Her grandmother says, "You will have a (8) _____ year." Eleni puts the coin in her (9) _____ and smiles. It is the best (10) _____ of the year.



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 →

- 2 A Roman god with two faces. (5)
- 3 The first month of the year. (7)
- 5 A red flower with a sweet smell. A famous parade has its name. (4)
- 8 It shows the days, weeks, and months. (8)
- 9 Round money made of metal. (4)
- 10 You make one when you hope something good will happen. (4)

Down ↓

- 1 A long line of people and floats moving down a street. (6)
- 4 A big orange vegetable. Haitians make soup with it. (7)
- 5 The capital city of Italy. Julius Caesar lived there. (4)
- 6 Small round green or black-eyed beans. (4)
- 7 The old Roman year started in this spring month. (5)
- 10 A dance with three beats. Vienna is famous for it. (5)



Word Search

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

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

Find these words! 14

- ☐ CALENDAR
- ☐ COIN
- ☐ JANUARY
- ☐ JANUS
- ☐ LENTILS
- ☐ PARADE
- ☐ PEAS
- ☐ PIG
- ☐ ROME
- ☐ ROSE
- ☐ SOUP
- ☐ SUNRISE
- ☐ WALTZ
- ☐ WISH

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。



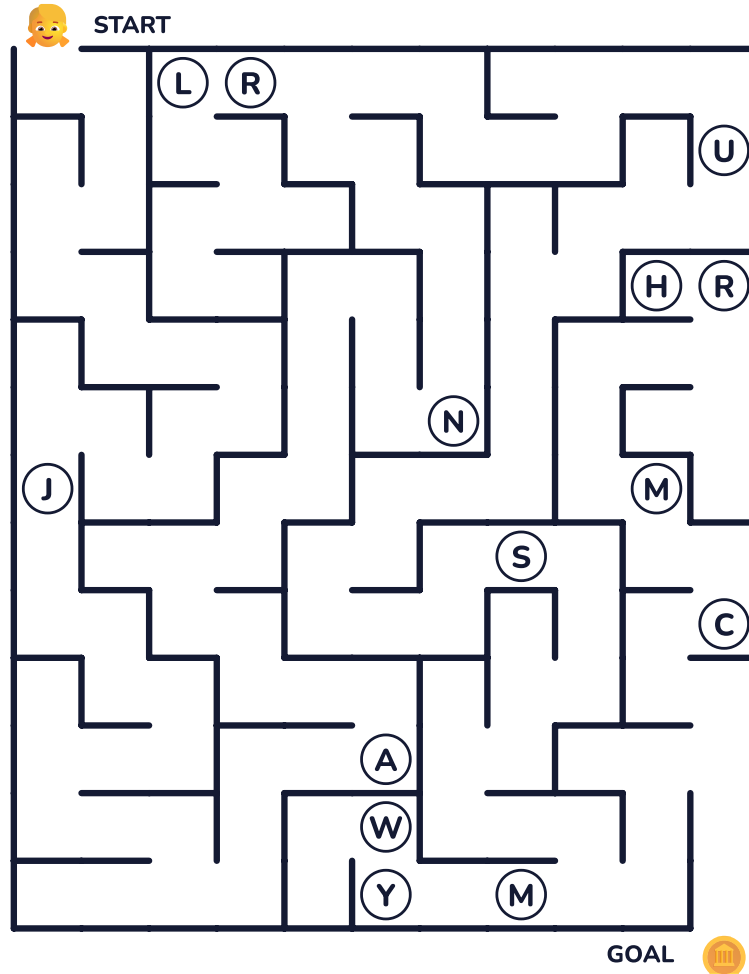


Maze & Sentences

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Help Eleni find the lucky coin!

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. comes / from / January / Janus / name / The .

2. Roman / March / in / started / year / The / old .

3. covered / flowers / with / Every / float / is .

4. eat / People / peas / luck / for / good .

5. of / soup / became / a / freedom / symbol / The .



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 seen the first sunrise of the year	
... has eaten zoni on New Year's Day	
... knows what September means in Latin	
... likes waltz music	
... has swum in the sea in winter	
... can say Happy New Year in three languages	
... has made a New Year's resolution this year	
... likes beans or peas	

Let's Write! 英語で書いてみよう。

Like Janus, I look back at last year. Last year, I _____.

This year, my New Year's resolution is to _____ because _____.

If I could spend New Year's Day in another country, I would go to _____ and _____.



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 _____



calendar



rose



pig



coin

