

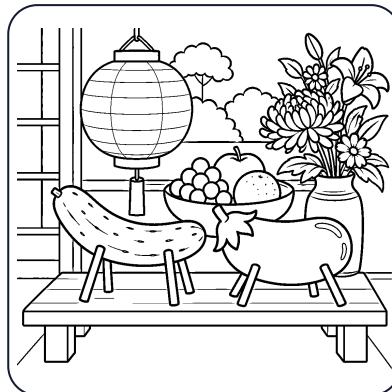


A Summer Visit from Home: Obon in Japan

Read the story. 英文を読もう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

① In the middle of August, many Japanese homes have strange little animals on the family altar. One is a cucumber with four legs made of sticks. Next to it stands an eggplant with legs, too. They are a horse and a cow for the spirits of the family's dead.



音声を聞こう

② This is Obon, a Buddhist summer festival for ancestors. People believe the spirits of their family come home for a few days. The fast cucumber horse brings them home quickly. The slow eggplant cow takes them back slowly, so they can stay longer.

③ In most places, Obon lasts from August 13 to 16. On the first evening, families light a small fire at the gate to welcome the spirits. They clean the family grave and offer food, flowers, and incense. On the last evening, they light another fire to send the spirits back.

④ Obon is also a time for dancing. At night, people in light summer kimono dance in a big circle around a tall wooden stage. A drummer plays on top of the stage. In Kyoto, on the night of August 16, five giant fires burn on the mountains to say goodbye to the spirits.

⑤ Obon is not a national holiday, but many companies close for a few days. Many people go back to their hometowns, so trains and roads are packed. In parts of Tokyo, families hold Obon in July, and Okinawa still follows the old moon calendar. But the idea is the same everywhere. For a few summer days, the people we miss come home.

Words 単語

ancestor 先祖

spirit 霊、魂

altar 祭壇、仏壇

Buddhist 仏教の／仏教徒

grave 墓

incense 線香、お香

offer 供える、差し出す

welcome 迎える、歓迎する

gate 門、門口

packed ぎゅうぎゅうの、満員の

hometown ふるさと

calendar 暦、カレンダー



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 reading?

- (A) Obon is a summer festival when families welcome back the spirits of their dead.
- (B) Obon is a national holiday for eating cucumbers and eggplants.
- (C) Obon is a dance contest held only in Kyoto.
- (D) Obon is a festival to welcome the new year.

2. What does the cucumber horse do?

- (A) It takes the spirits back slowly.
- (B) It carries food to the grave.
- (C) It brings the spirits home quickly.
- (D) It dances around the stage.

3. In most places, how long does Obon last?

- (A) One day, on August 15.
- (B) One month, all of August.
- (C) From July 1 to July 31.
- (D) From August 13 to 16.

4. What do families do on the first evening of Obon?

- (A) They light a small fire to welcome the spirits.
- (B) They watch five fires on the mountains.
- (C) They send the spirits back.
- (D) They go to work early.

5. In paragraph 5, what does "packed" mean?

- (A) Closed.
- (B) Very full of people.
- (C) Very quiet.
- (D) Free of charge.

6. Which sentence matches the reading?

- (A) Obon is a national holiday in Japan.
- (B) Everyone in Japan holds Obon in July.
- (C) Okinawa uses the old moon calendar for Obon.
- (D) The Kyoto fires are on August 13.

7. Why is the eggplant cow slow on purpose?

- (A) Because cows are easy to make.
- (B) Because the family wants the spirits to stay longer.
- (C) Because eggplants are cheap in August.
- (D) Because the spirits do not like horses.

8. In the dialogue, what does Kenta tell Sophie to do at the Bon dance?

- (A) Wear a white kimono.
- (B) Learn the steps at home first.
- (C) Play the drum on the stage.
- (D) Follow the person in front of her.

True or False? 正しいければ T、ちがえば F に○

In most places, Obon is from August 13 to 16.	T / F
Obon is a national holiday in Japan.	T / F
The eggplant cow is slow.	T / F
Families light a fire to welcome the spirits.	T / F
Everyone in Japan holds Obon in July.	T / F
Obon is a festival to celebrate the new year.	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。



● horse



● eggplant



● lantern



● drum



● fire



● cucumber



● flowers



● cow

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

1. I P T S R I

2. E V R A G

3. A E L T R N N

4. O C A R T E S N

5. I C N E S N E

6. E U M S R M

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

spirit

airplane

dance

August

Christmas

goodbye

grave

fire

circle

snow

quickly

flowers

horse

Yuto's Obon at Grandma's House

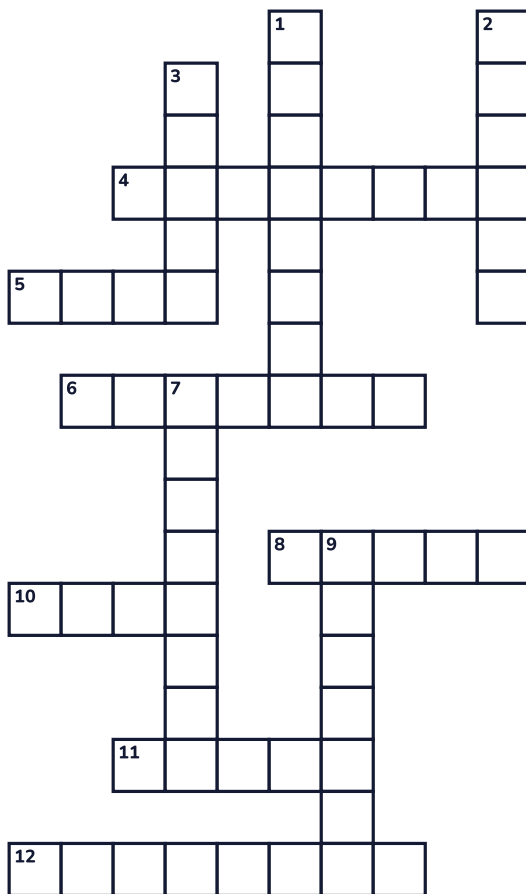
Every (1) _____, Yuto visits his grandma in the countryside. This year, he helped her make a (2) _____ from a cucumber. "It brings Grandpa home (3) _____," she said. In the evening, they lit a small (4) _____ at the gate. The next day, the family cleaned Grandpa's (5) _____ and put (6) _____ on it. At night, Yuto went to the Bon (7) _____. He moved in a big (8) _____ with his cousins. On the last day, Grandma said (9) _____ to Grandpa's (10) _____ with a smile.



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 →

- 4 A family member who lived long, long ago. (8)
 5 It is hot and bright. It burns wood. (4)
 6 Sticks that make a nice smell when they burn. (7)
 8 A special table or shelf for prayers and offerings. (5)
 10 A music instrument you hit with sticks. (4)
 11 The place where a dead person rests. (5)
 12 A purple vegetable. At Obon it becomes a cow. (8)

Down ↓

- 1 The town where you were born and grew up. (8)
 2 The soul of a person who has died. (6)
 3 People move to music in a big circle at night. (5)
 7 A long green vegetable. At Obon it becomes a horse. (8)
 9 A paper light that you can carry. (7)



Word Search

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

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

Find these words! 13

- ☐ ALTAR
- ☐ COW
- ☐ DANCE
- ☐ DRUM
- ☐ FAMILY
- ☐ FIRE
- ☐ GRAVE
- ☐ HORSE
- ☐ INCENSE
- ☐ LANTERN
- ☐ OBON
- ☐ SPIRIT
- ☐ SUMMER

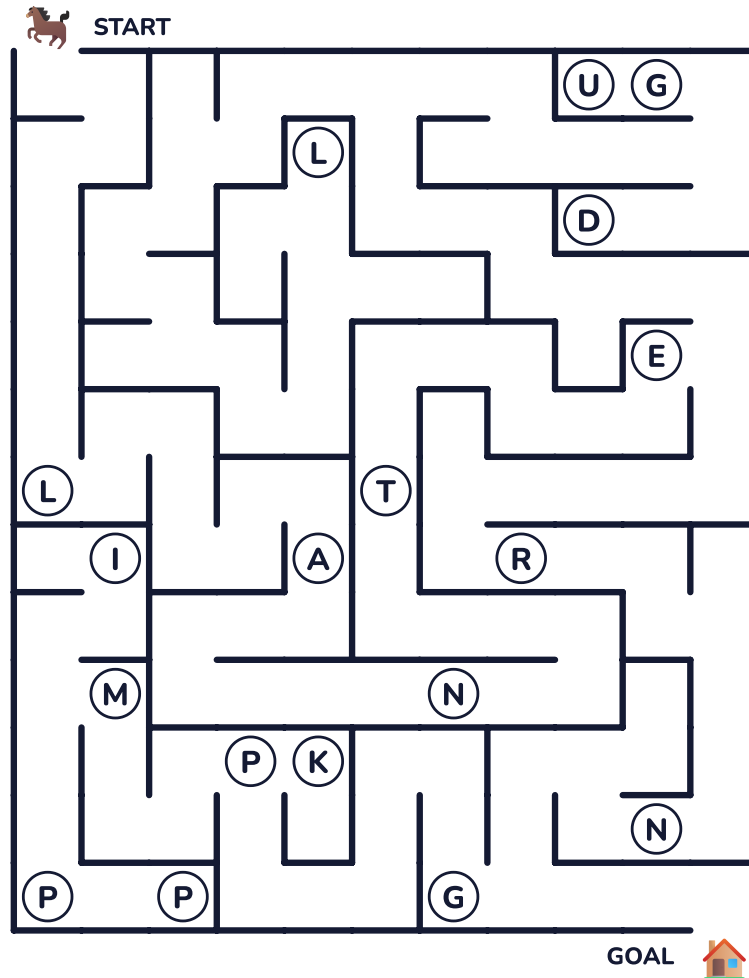
Secret Code 暗号を解こう！記号を文字に直すと、メッセージが出てくるよ。





Help the cucumber horse bring Grandpa home!

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. festival / for / ancestors / is / Obon / our / a .

2. home / August / The / in / come / spirits .

3. We / fire / light / a / the / at / gate .

4. cucumber / runs / The / very / horse / fast .

5. People / night / big / dance / circle / a / in / at .



Find Someone Who... クラスで聞いて回ろう！ Ask: "Do you ...?" / "Have you ...?"

Find someone who ...	Name
... has made a cucumber horse	
... has danced at a Bon dance	
... goes to a grandparent's house for Obon	
... has seen a floating lantern	
... knows the English word for 先祖	
... likes wearing a yukata	
... can play the taiko drum	
... knows a festival like Obon in another country	

Let's Write! 英語で書いてみよう。

During Obon, my family usually _____. I like it because _____.

If I could meet one ancestor, I would like to meet _____ and ask, "_____?"

Obon is like _____ in _____ 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 _____



cucumber



eggplant



horse



cow

