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Sweeping Out the Old Year

Read the story. 英文を読もう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

① At the end of December, homes, schools, and offices across Japan get a big cleaning. This is called oosouji, which means big cleaning. People wash windows, wipe floors, and throw away things they do not need. The goal is to start the new year in a clean place. Students clean their classrooms, too, before the winter break begins.



音声を聞こう

② This custom is very old. Long ago, houses had open fires, so the ceilings turned black with soot. Before New Year, people swept the soot away to welcome the New Year god. This was called susuharai, or soot sweeping. It was done on December 13, the day to start getting ready for New Year.

③ In the Edo period, shops in old Tokyo had a funny custom. After the cleaning, workers threw people up into the air to celebrate. Then everyone ate a hot soup with whale meat. Some people found old pictures and news sheets inside paper sliding doors, and they stopped cleaning to read them!

④ The end of the year is busy in other ways, too. Government offices finish work around December 28 and open again in January. People also write New Year cards, called nengajo. If you mail them by about December 25, they arrive on the morning of January 1. After all this work, people say goodbye with a special phrase, Yoi otoshi o, or have a good New Year.

Words 単語

cleaning 掃除

wipe ふく

throw away 捨てる

soot 煤 (すす)

sweep はく、はらう

ceiling 天井

celebrate 祝う

mail 郵便で送る、投函する



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 passage?

- (A) Japanese people clean only in spring. (B) Year-end cleaning in Japan started as a way to get ready for the New Year god.
(C) Whale soup is the most popular food in Japan. (D) Japanese offices are open on January 1.

2. Why did ceilings in old houses turn black?

- (A) Because people painted them. (B) Because of soot from open fires.
(C) Because of rain. (D) Because of old news sheets.

3. When was susuharai done in the past?

- (A) On December 31. (B) On January 1.
(C) On December 25. (D) On December 13.

4. In paragraph 3, what does "threw people up into the air" show?

- (A) The workers were very happy after the cleaning. (B) The workers were angry with each other.
(C) The shop was too small. (D) The cleaning was dangerous.

5. In the dialogue, when do people in England usually do a big cleaning?

- (A) In winter. (B) In summer.
(C) In spring. (D) In autumn.

True or False? 正しいければ T、ちがえば F に○

Oosouji is a big cleaning at the end of the year.	T / F
In the past, susuharai was done on December 31.	T / F
In the Edo period, people ate whale soup after the cleaning.	T / F
Government offices in Japan are open on January 2.	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。



●

● window



●

● bucket



●

● broom



●

● trash



●

● mailbox



●

● whale

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

come

kitchen

photo

papers

windows

clean

summer

pizza

house

beach

Cleaning Day

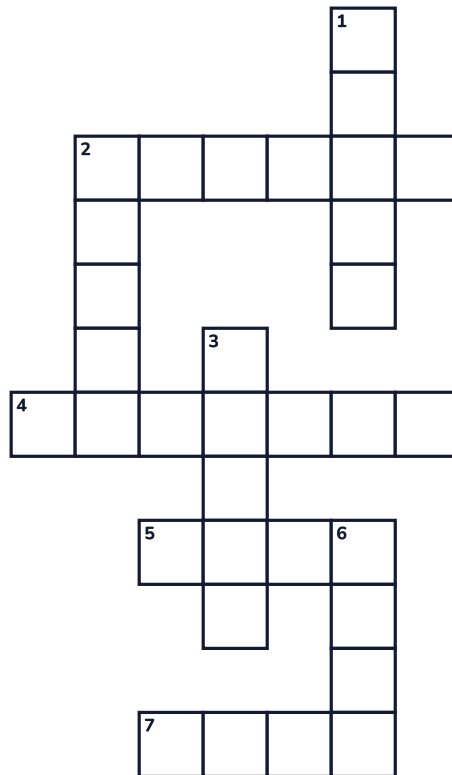
It is December 28. Kaito and his family clean the whole (1) _____. His father washes the (2) _____. His mother cleans the (3) _____. Kaito throws away old (4) _____ from his desk. He finds a funny (5) _____ from first grade and laughs. In the evening, everything is (6) _____. His grandmother says, "Now the New Year god can (7) _____!"



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 You can see outside through this glass. (6)
 4 The top of a room, above your head. (7)
 5 A small piece of paper you send to say hello. (4)
 7 Black powder from fires. (4)

Down ↓

- 1 A tool with a long handle for sweeping the floor. (5)
 2 A very big sea animal. (5)
 3 Not dirty. (5)
 6 Small dry dirt on shelves and floors. (4)



Word Search

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

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

Find these words! 10

- ☐ BROOM
- ☐ CARD
- ☐ CLEAN
- ☐ DUST
- ☐ FLOOR
- ☐ SOOT
- ☐ SWEEP
- ☐ TRASH
- ☐ WINDOW
- ☐ WIPE



Maze & Sentences

Class	No.	Name

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。





Class Activity & Writing

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Let's Write! 英語で書いてみよう。

Before New Year, I want to clean _____ because _____.

In my New Year card, I will write, "_____."



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 _____



broom



bucket



window



mailbox



trash

Draw your Year-End Cleaning & Customs! 大掃除と年末の行事（仕事納め・年賀状）の絵を描こう。