

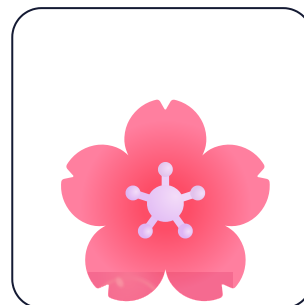


A Pink Line Across Japan

Read the story. 英文を読もう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

❶ Every spring, TV news in Japan shows a map with a moving line. It is called the sakura front. The line shows where cherry blossoms will open next. It starts in Okinawa in January. Then it moves north, and it reaches the north of Hokkaido in May. The trip takes about four months.



❷ How do people know when the flowers open? Each weather station watches one special cherry tree. It is called a sample tree. When five or six flowers open on it, the station says the cherry blossoms have opened. Until 2009, the weather agency also guessed the dates. Now private weather companies do that job.

❸ Cherry trees need a cold winter. The cold wakes up the sleeping buds. Then warm days make them grow. So a very warm winter can make the flowers late. In 2026, the cherry trees in Tokyo opened on March 19. But in Kagoshima, far to the south, they opened on March 27. So the south does not always come first.

❹ March 27 is also Sakura Day in Japan. A group that loves cherry trees chose it in 1992. Why this day? Three times nine is twenty-seven. In Japanese, three can be sa and nine can be ku, and saku means to bloom. Next spring, watch the pink line on TV and guess when it will reach your town.

Words 単語

front 前線

blossom (果樹の) 花

reach ～に着く、届く

station (観測などの) 署、局

private 民間の

bud つぼみ、芽

late 遅い

bloom (花が) 咲く



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 this story?

- (A) How to plant a cherry tree
- (B) Why Okinawa is warm
- (C) How the sakura front works and why March 27 is Sakura Day
- (D) How to read a weather map in English

2. How long does the sakura front take to travel across Japan?

- (A) About four months
- (B) About one week
- (C) About two years
- (D) About ten days

3. Why can a very warm winter make the flowers late?

- (A) Because people forget to water the trees
- (B) Because the trees need cold to wake up the buds
- (C) Because the sample tree is cut
- (D) Because it rains too much

4. In paragraph 3, "buds" are:

- (A) old leaves
- (B) small birds
- (C) tree roots
- (D) flowers before they open

5. In the dialogue, what does Hana want to do?

- (A) Go to Okinawa
- (B) Watch more TV
- (C) Have a picnic under the cherry trees
- (D) Plant a tree at school

True or False? 正しいければ T、ちがえば F に○

The sakura front starts in Hokkaido.	T / F
Cherry trees need a cold winter.	T / F
Sakura Day is on March 27.	T / F
In 2026, Kagoshima's cherry trees opened before Tokyo's.	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。



●

● snow



●

● cherry blossom



●

● tree



●

● TV



●

● map



●

● picnic basket

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

rocket

snow

picnic

morning

tree

flowers

bloom

buds

Waiting for Sakura

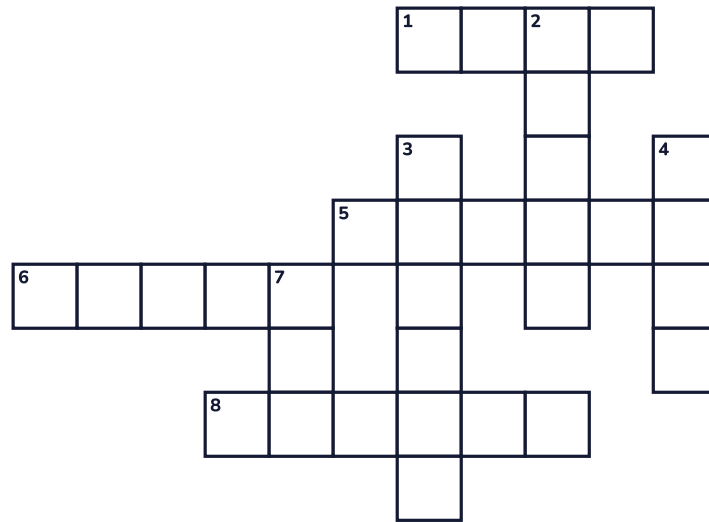
Every (1) _____, Mei walks past a big cherry (2) _____. In March, the (3) _____
get bigger and bigger. One warm day, she sees five pink (4) _____. "They are open!" she
shouts. A week later, the tree is in full (5) _____. Mei and her family have a (6) _____
under it.



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 →

- 1 A light red color. (4)
- 5 The coldest season of the year. (6)
- 6 Flowers do this when they open. (5)
- 8 The season after winter. (6)

Down ↓

- 2 The opposite of south. (5)
- 3 A meal you eat outside in a park. (6)
- 4 A tall plant with a trunk and leaves. (4)
- 7 A picture that shows places and roads. (3)



Word Search

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

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

Find these words! 10

☐ BLOOM

☐ BUD

☐ FRONT

☐ NORTH

☐ PICNIC

☐ PINK

☐ SAKURA

☐ SPRING

☐ TREE

☐ WINTER

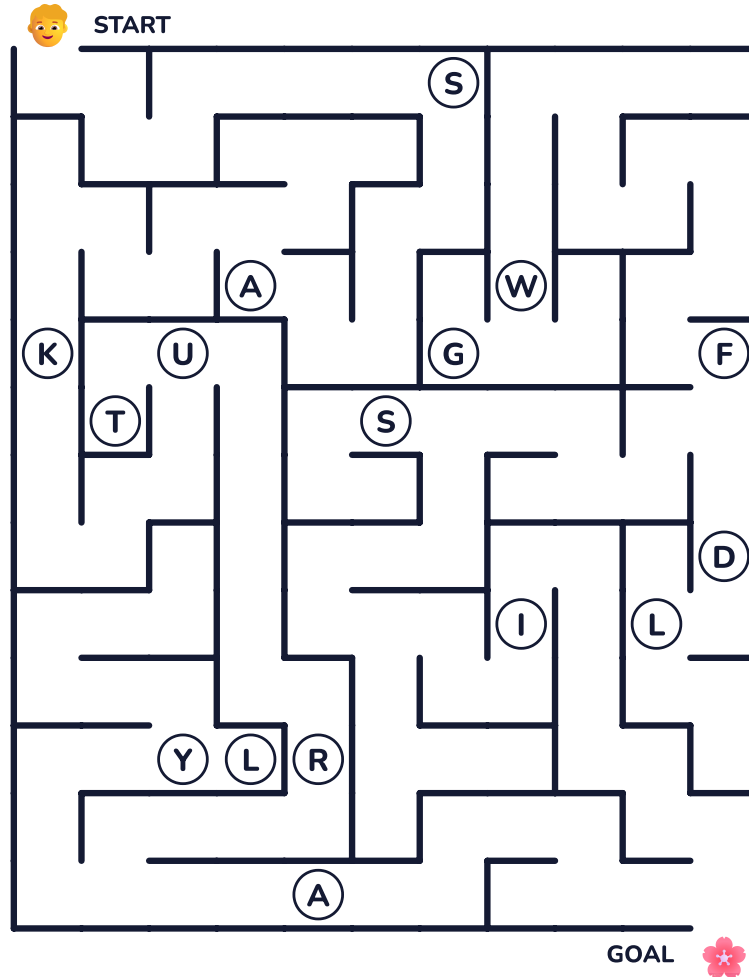


Maze & Sentences

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Help the boy follow the sakura front!

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。

The cherry trees in my town bloom in _____. I like to _____ under them.

If I could make a new memorial day for a flower, it would be _____ 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 _____



cherry blossom



tree



map



tv



snow

Draw your Sakura Day & the Cherry Blossom Front! さくらの日（3月27日）と桜前線の絵を描こう。