



A Holiday That Moves

Read the story. 英文を読もう。

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

❶ February 23 is a national holiday in Japan called the Emperor's Birthday. The present Emperor was born on this day in 1960. But this holiday has a strange secret: its date can move.

❷ The holiday has a very long history. In 775, an emperor told people to celebrate his birthday with a big party. He called the day Tenchosetsu.

The name comes from an old Chinese saying about heaven and earth lasting for a long time. Japan used this name until 1948.

❸ When a new emperor comes to the throne, the holiday moves to his birthday. From 1989 to 2018, it was on December 23. Then a new emperor came to the throne on May 1, 2019. February 23 had already passed, and December 23 was not his birthday. So in 2019, Japan had no Emperor's Birthday at all!

❹ Some old birthdays are still holidays with new names. November 3 was the birthday of Emperor Meiji, and it is now Culture Day. April 29 was the birthday of Emperor Showa, and it is now Showa Day. So the calendar keeps a little piece of each past emperor.

❺ On February 23, many people visit the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. In the morning, the Emperor and his family come out onto a balcony, and people wave small flags. The Emperor gives a short speech to thank them. In the afternoon, visitors can sign a special book to send their good wishes. Japanese people do not call him by his name. They say Tenno Heika, which means His Majesty the Emperor.



音声を聞こう

Words 単語

emperor 天皇、皇帝**throne** 王座、皇位**palace** 宮殿**balcony** ベランダ、バルコニー**wave** (手や旗を) 振る**speech** スピーチ、お言葉**history** 歴史**saying** ことわざ、言いならわし**official** 公式の**past** 過去の、以前の**celebrate** 祝う**majesty** 陛下 (敬称)、威厳



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) The Emperor's Birthday is a long-loved holiday whose date can change.
- (B) The Emperor's Birthday is always on December 23.
- (C) The Emperor's Birthday is a new holiday from 2019.
- (D) The Emperor's Birthday is only for children.

2. When was the present Emperor born?

- (A) On December 23, 1933
- (B) On April 29, 1901
- (C) On February 23, 1960
- (D) On May 1, 2019

3. Where does the name Tenchosetsu come from?

- (A) From an English song
- (B) From an old Chinese saying
- (C) From the name of a palace
- (D) From a Japanese mountain

4. Why did Japan have no Emperor's Birthday in 2019?

- (A) Because the Emperor was sick
- (B) Because the government forgot it
- (C) Because people wanted to work
- (D) Because the new date had passed and the old date was not his birthday

5. In paragraph 3, 'came to the throne' means:

- (A) sat on a chair
- (B) became emperor
- (C) left the palace
- (D) traveled abroad

6. Which is true according to the reading?

- (A) Culture Day was once the birthday of Emperor Meiji.
- (B) Showa Day is on November 3.
- (C) Japanese people usually call the Emperor by his name.
- (D) The Emperor comes out onto the balcony at night.

7. What can we guess about the next Emperor's Birthday after a new emperor?

- (A) It will stay on February 23 forever.
- (B) It will move to the new emperor's birthday.
- (C) It will be on January 1.
- (D) It will be cancelled forever.

8. In the dialogue, when is the King's real birthday in Sophie's story?

- (A) In February
- (B) In June
- (C) In December
- (D) In November

True or False? 正しいければ T、ちがえば F に○

The Emperor's Birthday is on February 23 now.

T / F

The holiday has always been on February 23.

T / F

In 2019, Japan had no Emperor's Birthday.

T / F

December 23 is still a national holiday.

T / F

Culture Day was once the birthday of Emperor Meiji.

T / F

Japanese people usually call the Emperor by his first name.

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。



●

● Mount Fuji



●

● wave



●

● crown



●

● birthday cake



●

● flags



●

● microphone



●

● train



●

● castle

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

1. R E M E P R O

2. A C A L E P

3. T E O H N R

4. A Y L O N C B

5. F I F L O A C I

6. S A T Y M J E

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

Palace

morning

beach

happy

people

balcony

grandmother

cake

swimsuit

speech

wave

flag

snowball

A Trip to the Palace

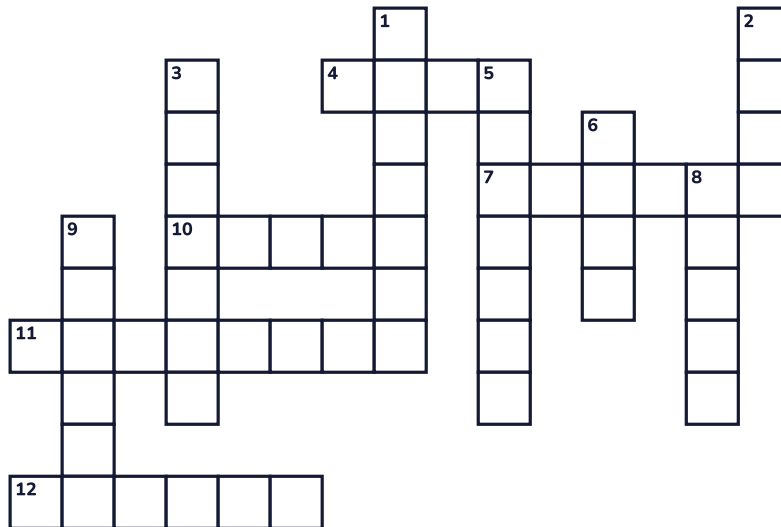
On February 23, Hana and her (1) _____ went to Tokyo by train. They walked to the Imperial (2) _____. There were many (3) _____ in a long line. Everyone had a small paper (4) _____. At ten in the (5) _____, the Emperor and his family came out onto the (6) _____. People began to (7) _____ their flags. The Emperor gave a short (8) _____. Hana could not hear every word, but she felt (9) _____. On the way home, they bought (10) _____ to celebrate.



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** To move your hand from side to side to say hello. (4)
- 7** A very large and grand home for a king or queen. (6)
- 10** The capital city of Japan. (5)
- 11** The month of this holiday now. (8)
- 12** The special chair of a king. Also means the royal position. (6)

Down ↓

- 1** A small open area outside an upper window. (7)
- 2** A sweet food with candles for a birthday. (4)
- 3** Things that happened long ago. (7)
- 5** The title of Japan's head of the Imperial family. (7)
- 6** People wave a small paper one with a red circle. (4)
- 8** A gold thing a king wears on his head. (5)
- 9** A short talk to a crowd of people. (6)



Word Search

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

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

Find these words! 14

- ☐ BALCONY
- ☐ BIRTHDAY
- ☐ CAKE
- ☐ CROWN
- ☐ EMPEROR
- ☐ FEBRUARY
- ☐ FLAG
- ☐ HISTORY
- ☐ HOLIDAY
- ☐ PALACE
- ☐ SPEECH
- ☐ THRONE
- ☐ TOKYO
- ☐ WAVE

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。



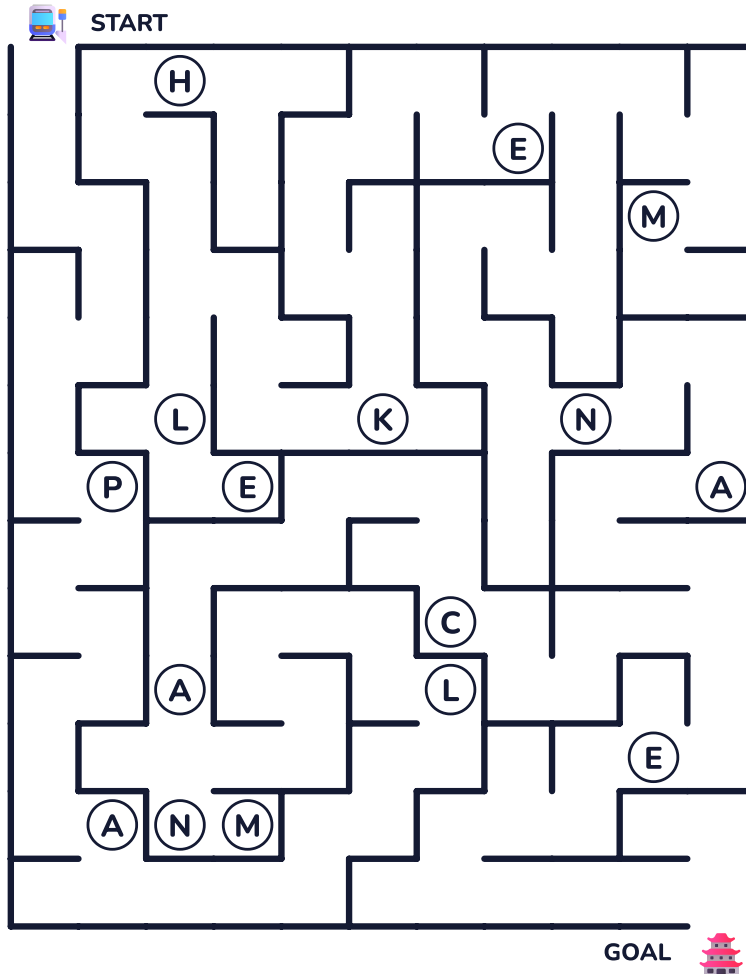


Maze & Sentences

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Help Hana get to the palace!

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. The / born / was / 1960 / in / Emperor .

2. emperor / The / date / changes / a / new / with .

3. Many / Palace / people / the / visit / Imperial .

4. in / flags / the / morning / People / wave / small .

5. Birthday / Japan / in / 2019 / had / no / Emperor's .

**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 a birthday in February	
... has been to the Imperial Palace	
... knows the birthday of the present Emperor	
... can name a holiday that was an old emperor's birthday	
... has seen Mount Fuji	
... knows a king or queen in another country	
... likes birthday cake	
... can say 'His Majesty the Emperor' in English	

Let's Write! 英語で書いてみよう。

If I explain the Emperor's Birthday to a friend, I will say _____.

My favorite way to celebrate a birthday is _____ because _____.

If I had an official birthday, I would choose _____ 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 _____



birthday cake



crown



castle



flags

