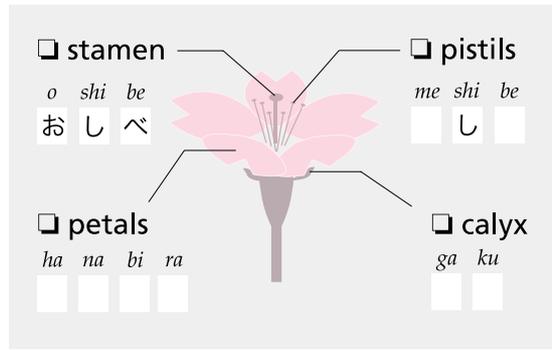


Activity on Cherry Blossom

Science

理科

- (1) The structure of the cherry blossom
- The parts of the cherry blossom are written in roman letters. Try to complete the blanks with the proper hiragana character.
 - How many petals does a cherry blossom have?
- (2) The cherry blossom “seasonal front”; the cherry blossom forecast.
- Check the map in page10-11, and answer the questions below.
 - a. What day of what month did the cherry blossoms begin to bloom in Tokyo in 1999?
 - b. What days did the season begin in Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima?
 - c. Where do the cherry blossoms open first, Sapporo or Fukuoka? How many days apart?



The structure of the cherry blossom

Music

音楽

The song, “Sakura” has been treasured and passed down since ancient times. Write the reading of the words in roman letters below the hiragana and try singing the song.

さくら さくら やよいの そらーは
みわたす かざーり かすみか くもーか においぞ
いずーる いざや いざや みにゆーかん

“Sakura”
Cherry blossoms, cherry blossoms
As far as you can see
Across yayoⁱ* skies
Is it mist? Is it clouds?
Ah, the fragrance!
Let us go, let us go, and see!

*Yayoⁱ = third month of the lunar calendar, i.e., March-April

Let's discuss and think

(1) Using the articles and pictures from page 10 to page 12, see if you can answer the questions in the following dialogue.

- Q: When do the cherry blossoms flower in Japan?
A: They blossom in _____.
- Q: About what month is that?
A: It's about _____. In Japan, the school year, too, begins in _____. When the cherry blossoms bloom, people go for _____mi then.
- Q: _____mi? What does that involve? What kinds of things do they do?
A: They _____ beneath the cherry trees. The cherry blossoms bloom for about _____ days. The cherry blossoms are beautiful, too, when the petals are falling.

(2) Q & A about flowers

1. あなたの好きな花はなんですか。
What flowers do you like?
2. その花はいつ咲きますか。
When does that flower bloom?
3. どんな色ですか。どんな形ですか。
What color is it? What shape is it?
6. あなたの国の国花はなんですか。
What is the national flower of your country?
7. あなたの国や地域で人びとに人気のある花はなんですか。
What flowers are popular in your country or region?
8. あなたの国や地域で、日々の生活や特別な行事に欠かせない花がありますか。
Is there any flower that is closely related to daily life or important events in your country or region?



Sakura Goods Present

Please send your comments on TJF Newsletter!



A “yoku dekimashita” teacher’s stamp, like that introduced in this article, and assorted cherry-blossom motif stationery items, will be sent to the first five persons to reply.

Under the subject line “Sakura Present,” send e-mail to: forum@tjf.or.jp or send fax to +81-3-5322-5215. Give your name, e-mail address, affiliation (school where you are employed), postal address, telephone and fax number. Please include your comments about the TJF Newsletter.



Photo:Hongô Jin

Answers: 2. I-c-O, 3. E-d-Q, 4. H-a-R, 5. B-h-N, 6. G-i-J, 7. D-e-K, 8. F-b-P, 9. A-g-M