

1. Spring Fever

Between April 29th and May 5th the hard-working Japanese aren't working hard at all. In fact, most of them can be found enjoying one of the country's longest national holidays, Golden Week. Learn all about it in this week's A/B 'wh- questions' worksheet. There are two pages to print. Click here to get your copies.

<http://www.insideout.net/warehouse/worksheets/apr/IO094S-goldenweek.pdf>

Level

Intermediate and upwards

How to use the lesson

1. Start the lesson by asking your students whether they know any Japanese festivals. (The Japanese have many festivals, but the main ones are: New Year (1st Jan), Valentine's Day (14th Feb), Doll Festival (Girl's Festival)(3rd March), Hanami (Cherry blossom viewing) (early April), Children's Day (5th May), Tanabata (7th July), Bon Festival (13th-15th Aug) and the end of the year event, Bonenkai.)

2. Divide the class into Group A and Group B. Give one copy of Worksheet A to each student in Group A and one copy of Worksheet B to each student in Group B.

3. Tell your students they are going to read about a Japanese holiday. They have the same text, but there is some information missing from each worksheet. Explain that they are going to ask a member of the other group some questions to help them complete the text, but first they need to prepare the questions.

4. Ask the students to work together to prepare and write down the questions they need to ask to complete the text.

5. When all the students have prepared their questions, ask a student from Group A to work with a student from Group B. They should take it in turns to ask and answer the questions they have prepared and write the answer in the space in their text.

6. When both students have finished asking and answering, allow them to compare worksheets.

7. Check answers in open class.

Suggested questions:

1. What is this particular week known as?
2. How often does it happen?
3. What do the roads fill with?
4. What do the airports fill with?
5. Whose birthday used to be on this day?
6. When did he (Emperor Showa) die?
7. Who had been deeply committed to environmental issues?

8. When was the newly amended constitution put into effect?
9. What is this national holiday called?
10. What is this holiday also known as?
11. What do families pray that their sons have?
12. What do the families hang outside?
13. What do the families display in their living rooms?
14. When is Girl's Festival celebrated?

As a follow-up to the worksheet, your students may like to do some project work on festivals from around the world. If so, they may get some inspiration from the links below.

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://gojapan.about.com/library/weekly/aa042199.htm>

See the carp streamers and samurai dolls

<http://www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Towers/2060/culture2.html>

More information about Japanese festivals

http://www.internet-at-work.com/hos_mcgrane/holidays/festivals_menu.html

Check out some festivals from all around the world