

1. The Beauty of the Seasons

四季の描写、日本とアメリカ

冬



春



夏



秋



1. Vocabulary Support: 次の文を読み、語句から適切なものを選び、その記号を入れてみよう。

(A) festivities 「お祭り騒ぎ」

(B) habit 「習慣」

(C) monsoon season 「台風の季節」

(D) New Year's resolution 「新年の決意」

(E) severe 「厳しい」

(F) the air is fresh 「空気が新鮮です」

(G) tornadoes 「竜巻」

1. Biting your nails is a bad _____.
2. Today _____ and clean.
3. For my _____, I will lose five kilos.
4. There were huge _____ across the USA.
5. The winter storm was very _____.
6. In the _____, it rains a lot.
7. Once the _____ ended, everyone left.

2. Reading: 季節ごとに異なる様子を考えながら、文章を読んでみよう。



1. Each year has four seasons: winter, spring, summer, and fall. Each season lasts about three months.
2. **Winter** has the coldest, shortest days. The sun feels weak and far away. Outdoors it is cold, but people often snowboard, ski, ice skate, and play hockey. In January when New Year comes, many Americans make a New Year's resolution, which is a promise to improve or get rid of some habit. Many Japanese visit relatives and friends and go to shrines or temples to pray for a good year.
3. **Spring** is warmer. It is a time for a new beginning and growth. Plants and some animals wake up from a long winter's sleep. Many places have the most severe weather—high winds, thunderstorms, floods, and even tornadoes. In Japan, cherry blossoms appear mostly in late March and early April and last about a week. Nearly every public park in the country has festivities, with singing, outdoor cooking, parties, and other events. The days are often cool. The sky is blue. For many, this is the favorite time of year.
4. **Summer** is hot and humid. The days are the longest and hottest. Many people stay indoors and use air-conditioners. Much of Japan has a monsoon season when it rains very hard. It is common to go to the beach, enjoy the warm ocean breezes, and get a suntan.
5. **Fall** brings nice weather, a change from warm to cool. The air is fresh. Leaves change color. During this short time, nature is perhaps most beautiful and offers many colors as the leaves fall off the trees. Many people take long walks in parks and woods or hike up into the mountains. Children may study the many colors on a single leaf.

“For everything there is a season.”

— **Proverb**

3. Active Outline: 本文のアウトラインを読んで、()内の正しい方を選びその答えを下線に書きましょう。

1. There are _____ seasons. (three / four)
2. Winter has the _____ and coldest days. (longest / shortest)
 - a) New Year's is in _____. (January / February)
 - b) For a New Year's resolution, many will _____ become a better person. (try to / not)
3. Spring is a time for _____. (growth / sleeping / leaves changing colors)
 - a) Spring may have the _____ severe weather. (most / least)
 - b) However, for many it can be the _____ time of year. (best / worst / coldest)
4. Summer has the _____ and hottest days. (longest / shortest)
 - a) People will go to the _____ and get a suntan. (mountains / beach)
 - b) The monsoon season brings a lot of _____. (rain / wind / sun)
5. Fall air is clean and _____. (gets warmer / fresh / humid)
 - a) The leaves become beautiful when they _____ their color. (keep / become / change)

4. Comprehension Questions: 本文の内容をよりよく理解するために、以下の質問に答えましょう。

1. In Japan, when is the sun most distant from Earth?
(A) Winter (B) Spring (C) Summer (D) Fall
2. When is air-conditioning used?
(A) Winter (B) Spring (C) Summer (D) Fall
3. When do the leaves change colors?
(A) Winter (B) Spring (C) Summer (D) Fall
4. Which of the following is a fall activity?
(A) Going to the beach (B) Walking in the woods
(C) Skiing (D) None of the above
5. When is the season for cherry blossoms?
(A) Winter (B) Spring (C) Summer (D) Fall

5. Critical Thinking: 答える場合、自分自身の考えを生かさない。

Which is your favorite and least favorite season?

Favorite season _____ Least favorite season _____

Opinion: Why did you choose these seasons?

Make three New Year's resolutions for yourself for next year.

Opinion: Of these resolutions, which is most important? Why do you feel this way?

6. Writing: 質問に対して自分の考えを書き入れましょう。

1. **Question:** Which season most reminds you of your childhood? Why do you feel this way?

Answer: The season that reminds me most of my childhood is _____. This is because _____.

2. **Question:** Name a special activity that you have done during one of the seasons?

Answer: The activity I did was _____. This was during the _____.

This was special to me because _____
_____.

7. Class Discussion: クラス・ディスカッション。

1. What traditional seasonal event do you like most? Why?
2. What was your favorite school event relating to a season? Why?
3. Add one sentence to each paragraph in the reading about the seasons (winter, spring, summer, fall).
4. Which do you like more—summer or winter sports? Why?
5. When was your most memorable New Year's event? What happened?