



Stories from Around the World

民話で学ぶ世界の文化

by

Masakazu Someya

Fred Ferrasci

Paul Murray



NAN'UN-DO

Stories from Around the World

Copyright© 2014

by

Masakazu Someya

Fred Ferrasci

Paul Murray

All Rights Reserved

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without written permission
from the authors and Nan'un-do Co., Ltd.

World Stories

The majority of English textbooks offered to Japanese students are concerned with countries where English is the native language. To broaden their outlook, however, it seems that there is a need to study and understand countries where English is not the native language. These members of the global community have fascinating cultures that will stimulate Japanese students.

World Stories offers a window through which Japanese students can view the whole world, not just countries like the United States and England. The world is globally entwined as never before: economically, socially, religiously, environmentally, militarily and on and on. If Japan wants its future leaders to be players on a worldwide scale, they must understand the varied cultures and different viewpoints of other countries.

World Stories will also develop students' English. English is the password that will open up their knowledge of the global community. Consider this: English is the official language of over 50 countries around the globe, including such large countries as India, Pakistan, Nigeria, and the Philippines. With the ability to speak English comes the chance for interaction with people of other cultures.

Understanding our global community requires that students have facility in speaking English. When that is accomplished, they can begin to understand other cultures.

With the above in mind, our book, *World Stories* is a collection of fascinating and engaging stories from the four corners of the globe. These stories are easy to understand, intriguing and humorous; and all teach valuable moral lessons. Various exercises are provided to maximize mastery of the content.

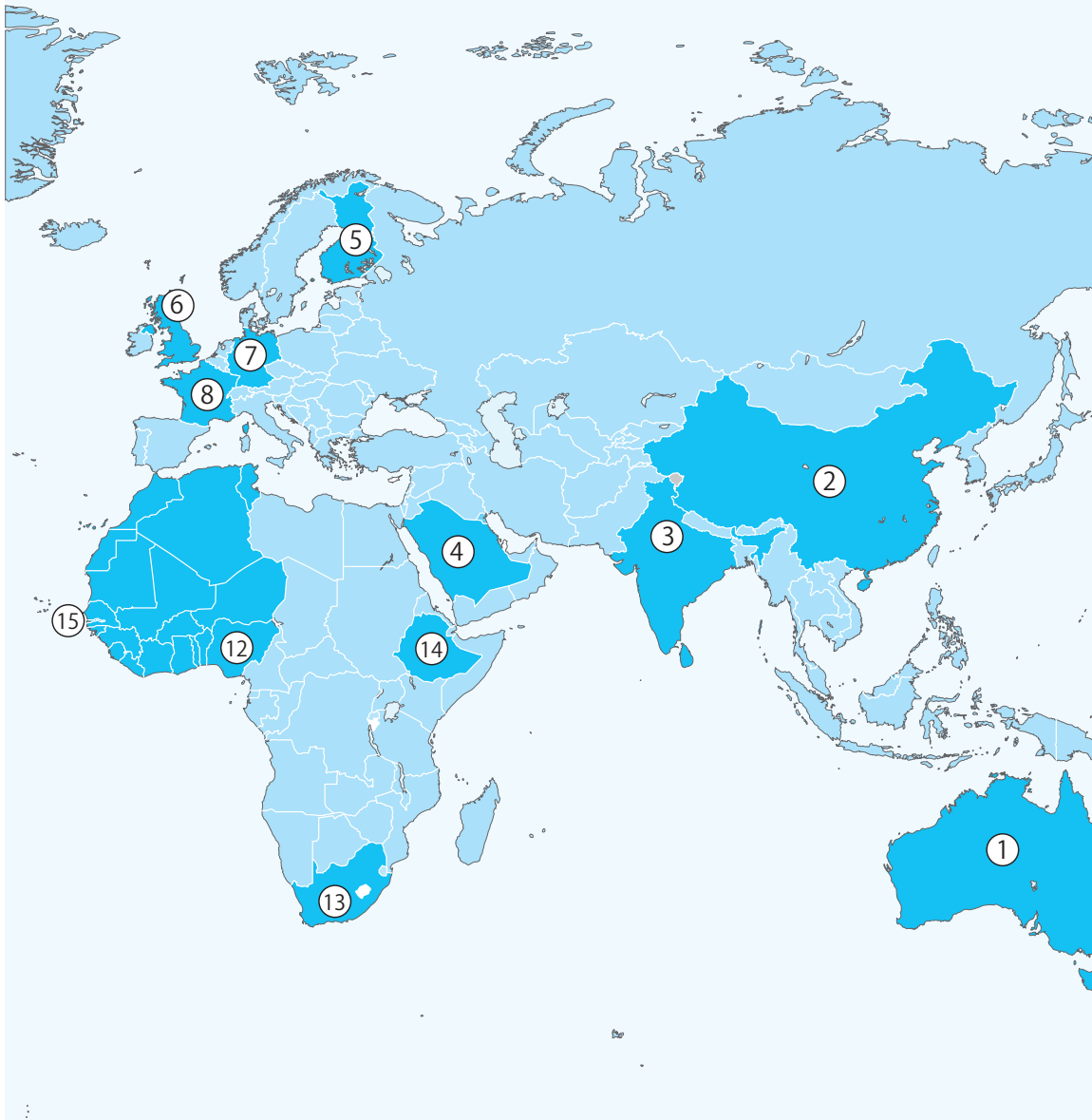


Table of Contents

Asia

- Unit 1 Why Koalas Don't Go Looking for Water [Australia](#)
- Unit 2 The Magic Carpet [China](#)
- Unit 3 Ghost Husband [India](#)
- Unit 4 The Lemon Princess [Saudi Arabia](#)

Europe

- Unit 5 The man who Married a Mouse [Finland](#)
- Unit 6 Lazy Jack [United Kingdom](#)
- Unit 7 The Shoemaker and the Elves [Germany](#)
- Unit 8 How a Duck Became King [France](#)



America

- Unit 9 The King and the Carpenter [Caribbean Islands](#)
- Unit 10 The Magic Lake [Ecuador](#)
- Unit 11 The Enchanted Coffee Beans [Brazil](#)

Africa

- Unit 12 The Proud Mosquito [Nigeria](#)
- Unit 13 The Giant Elephant [South Africa](#)
- Unit 14 The Bragging Hyena [Ethiopia](#)
- Unit 15 The Talking Potato [West Africa](#)

Unit 1

Australia

Why Koalas Don't Go Looking for Water



1

Warm-Up

Fill in each blank with a word below.

Australia is called “the Land of Down Under” since it is located in the _____ Hemisphere. Its capital, Canberra, is less than _____ as big as its largest city, Sydney. Another interesting thing about Australia is that there are more _____ than people. Among the unique animals found in Australia is the koala. It spends most of its life _____ in trees and _____ leaves.

eating

sheep

kangaroos

one-twelfth

sleeping

Southern

Why don't Koalas need to look for water? The answer lies far back in Australia's **Aboriginal days**. In fact, it all started with a lazy boy named Koala. Australia can get very hot and dry in the summertime, and water was, therefore, very important to the people of Koala's village. They had to ① _____ to search for water. Water is very heavy to carry, and so Koala **wanted no part of** carrying it. He ② _____ and sleep all day on the branch of a cool tree.

One summer, it was unusually dry and Koala began to get very thirsty. He asked the people in the village for water but they refused because Koala was so lazy. He waited until they left their homes to look for water, and then Koala stole water from the houses of his neighbors. He drank and drank ③ _____ any more, and he carried the rest of the water up into a tall tree to hide it.

When the villagers returned home, they soon noticed that all their water was gone. They immediately suspected Koala and ④ _____. They found him high up in the tree and shouted for him to come down. They **shook** their **fists at** Koala and threatened to **punish** him, but he just **thumbed his nose at** them and ⑤ _____. Several of the men attempted to climb up after him but he pushed them down with his feet. He felt safe and even **went so far as to** throw water onto the heads of the villagers.

The gods were very angry at Koala for stealing and wasting water and decided to punish him. While he was laughing, Koala ⑥ _____ his skin slowly turning to fur, and his nose becoming small and black. He had been **transformed into** an animal!

This happened long ago, but still, to this day, koalas refuse to go looking for water. They prefer, instead, to satisfy their **thirst** by chewing on the leaves of **eucalyptus** trees. And just as the lazy boy did so long ago, koalas still sleep most of the day high up in trees.

Notes

Aboriginal days アボリジニ (オーストラリアの先住民) の時代 **want no part of** ~ ~に全く興味がない **suspect** ~を怪しいと思う **shake one's fist at** ~ (人に向かって) 拳を振る **punish** (人) を罰する **thumb one's nose at** ~ ~を軽蔑する **go so far as to** ~ ~しさえする **fur** 毛皮 **transform into** ~ になる **thirst** のどの渇き **eucalyptus** [*] 《植物》ユーカリ

A**Understanding the Story**

Listen to each question and choose the best answer.

1. When did this story take place?
 - a. Before Aboriginals came to Australia.
 - b. When there were no people in Australia.
 - c. When Aboriginals were the only people in Australia.
 - d. Shortly after Westerners came to Australia.

2. What kind of person was Koala?
 - a. He was lazy and greedy.
 - b. He was lazy but generous.
 - c. He was hard-working but greedy.
 - d. He was hard-working and generous.

3. How was Koala punished by the gods for stealing water?
 - a. He was shot by the villagers.
 - c. He had to carry water for the villagers.
 - d. He was not allowed to drink any water for the rest of his life.
 - d. He was turned into an animal.

4. How do koalas get their water?
 - a. By drinking it out of lakes and ponds.
 - b. By getting it from people.
 - c. By eating eucalyptus leaves.
 - d. By eating fruit.

5. What is the moral of this story?
 - a. Don't be bad or you'll be punished.
 - b. Be honest and you will be rewarded.
 - c. There's little water in Australia.
 - d. Don't drink too much water or you'll get sick.

B**Dictation-Cloze**

Listen to the story again and fill in the blanks.

3 Guess the Word

Read the hints and write the words described. Change the form of a verb or a noun, if necessary. All the words are taken from the notes.

1. You have this feeling on a hot summer day. You want to drink water or a cold glass of juice.

2. Animals have this around their body to protect them from the sun and keep them warm in winter. This is like hair.

3. When the villagers found that their water was gone, they did this to Koala. That is, they thought that he had stolen their water.

4. Koalas eat the leaves of this tall tree that grows everywhere in Australia.

4 Put into English

Translate the Japanese sentence into English using the given expression.

1. **want no part of** ～に全く興味がない
彼は走るのが得意ではないから、陸上競技をすることには全く興味がない。
Since he is () (), () **wants no part of** () ().
2. **thumb one's nose at** ～を軽蔑する
トムはたとえ虐待されても、ほかの人を軽蔑することのないように教わった。
Tom was () () **thumb his nose at** others () () he is ().
3. **go so far as to** ～しさえする
彼女は、投資としての美術に興味があり、高価な絵画を購入するのに自分の土地を売却したりもする。
She was () art () and () **went so far as to** () to () paintings.

Unit 2

China

The Magic Carpet



1

Warm-Up

Fill in each blank with a word below.

China has the largest _____ of any country on earth. In fact, one out of every _____ people in the world is Chinese. China has a long _____ during which gunpowder and the compass were _____. Many goods were _____ to the West along the famous Silk Road.

area
history

carried
invented

five
population

Long ago in China there lived a poor woman who had three sons. She was a **weaver** and **supported herself** and her three boys by weaving **tapestries**. One day she had just finished selling a carpet at the market, and then ① _____ shop. There she saw a beautiful painting of a white house **surrounded by** red flowers and next to a **charming** lake. She was so fascinated by the picture that she used all the money she had ② _____ to buy it.

When she returned home, her three sons asked her for the **proceeds** from the sale of the carpet. However, she showed them the piece of art she had bought instead. The two older sons were **furious** and complained that now they would not have ③ _____ food to eat. However, the youngest son felt sorry for his mother, and to cheer her up, he advised her to try weaving a carpet with a picture **identical** to the one in the painting she had bought. So, the mother began weaving a carpet of a white house with red flowers around it by a **picturesque** lake. She worked ④ _____ and finally produced the most beautiful carpet that anyone had ever seen. But then, the **very** night she finished her masterpiece, it mysteriously **vanished**.

The two oldest son **set out** to find the missing **tapestry**. They learned that it was being kept by **fairies**, who offered them gold to let them keep the carpet. The selfish boys took the gold, soon wasted it, and never returned home. Some time later, the youngest son ⑤ _____ his mother's masterpiece.

When he was offered gold by the fairies, he refused, **snatched** the carpet and raced back to his mother. Suddenly, the carpet grew and grew until it changed into a beautiful lakeside house ⑥ _____ she had admired in the painting. The mother and her youngest son lived happily for the rest of their lives in the beautiful house.

Notes

weaver はた織り **support oneself** 自活する **tapestry** タペストリー **surrounded by** ~ ~に
 囲まれている **charming** 魅力的な **proceeds** 収益 **furious** 激怒した **identical** 全く同じの
picturesque 絵のような **very** まさに **vanish** 消える **set out** 出発する **fairy** 妖精 **snatch** ~
 をつかむ

A**Understanding the Story**

Listen to each question and choose the best answer.

1. How did the woman support herself and her three sons?
 - a. By working at a tapestry factory.
 - b. By weaving tapestries and selling them.
 - c. By painting beautiful pictures and selling them.
 - d. By renting out her lakeside house.

2. What did the woman do one day?
 - a. She bought a lot of food for her sons.
 - b. She stopped weaving carpets.
 - c. She bought a beautiful painting.
 - d. She bought a beautiful carpet.

3. What did the woman's youngest son tell her to do?
 - a. To sell her lakeside home.
 - b. To paint pictures of beautiful scenery.
 - c. To buy a carpet with a beautiful picture of a lake.
 - d. To weave a carpet just like the one in the painting.

4. What happened one night to the woman's masterpiece?
 - a. It mysteriously disappeared.
 - b. The woman's oldest son sold it.
 - c. The woman's youngest son took it to his house.
 - d. A fairy took it to a lakeside house.

5. What happened after the woman got her carpet back?
 - a. The carpet soon disappeared again.
 - b. The carpet turned into gold.
 - c. The carpet changed into the lakeside house she loved.
 - d. Her eldest son sold the carpet back to the fairies.

B**Dictation-Cloze**

Listen to the story again and fill in the blanks.

3 Guess the Word

Read the hints and write the words described. Change the form of a verb or a noun, if necessary. All the words are taken from the notes.

- The woman's two older sons were this way when they found out that she had bought the painting. This word means "very angry."

- The woman wove this kind of thing. This is a large piece of cloth that can be hung on a wall or put on a floor.

- The woman couldn't find her masterpiece since it had done this. This word means "disappear."

- The woman used this money to buy a painting. She got this money by selling a carpet.

4 Put into English

Translate the Japanese sentences into English using the given expressions.

- surrounded by ~** ~に囲まれている

私の兄が通っている大学は、大きな楓の木で囲まれている。

The () () () () ()
surrounded by big maple trees.

- identical** 全く同じの

教授は二人の学生の試験問題の答えが全く同じだったので、二人がカンニングしたことを疑った。

The professor () () () ()
() were **identical**.

- set out** 出発する

私たちは日本への帰りの飛行機に間に合わないといけなかったので、非常に早く出発した。

We **set out** () () () () ().