

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #8

Pop and traditional culture

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KANJI

1. What are five examples of pop and traditional culture in Japan?
2. 1. 書道
3. 2. 祭り
4. 3. 初詣
5. 4. お盆
6. 5. 俳句

KANA

1. What are five examples of pop and traditional culture in Japan?
2. 1. しょどう
3. 2. まつり
4. 3. はつもうで
5. 4. おぼん
6. 5. はいく

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five examples of pop and traditional culture in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. shodō
3. 2. matsuri
4. 3. Hatsumōde
5. 4. O-bon
6. 5. haiku

ENGLISH

1. What are five examples of pop and traditional culture in Japan?
2. 1. Calligraphy
3. 2. Festival
4. 3. The first visit to a shrine of the year
5. 4. Bon Festival
6. 5. Haiku poetry

VOCABULARY

| Kanji | Kana | Romaji | English |
|-------|------|---------|--------------|
| 書道 | しょどう | shodō | calligraphy |
| 祭り | まつり | matsuri | festival |
| 俳句 | はいく | haiku | haiku poetry |

| | | | |
|----|-------|-----------|---|
| 初詣 | はつもうで | Hatsumōde | The first visit to a shrine of the year |
| お盆 | おぼん | O-bon | Bon Festival |

SAMPLE SENTENCES

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>小学生は、学校の書道の授業で習字を習います。</p> <p><i>Shōgakusei wa, gakkō no shodō no jugyō de shūji o naraimasu.</i></p> <p>Elementary school children learn calligraphy at school.</p> | <p>祭りがある時は、よく花火もあげられます。</p> <p><i>Matsuri ga aru toki wa, yoku hanabi mo ageraremasu.</i></p> <p>When there's a festival, fireworks are often also set off.</p> |
| <p>俳句には、限られた文字に深い思いが込められています。</p> <p><i>Haiku ni wa, kagirareta moji ni fukai omoi ga komerarete imasu.</i></p> <p>Haiku poetry expresses very deep thoughts with a very limited number of words.</p> | <p>初詣ではお守りを買ひ、古いお守りを返します。</p> <p><i>Hatsumōde de wa omamori o kai, furui omamori o kaeshimasu.</i></p> <p>At the first visit to the shrine of the year, people buy lucky charms and protective charms for the coming year and return those from the past year.</p> |

お盆は祖先をまつる期間なので、祖先の霊を迎える前にお墓を掃除するのは大切なことです。

O-bon wa sosen o matsuru kikan na no de, sosen no rei o mukaeru mae ni o-haka o sōji suru no wa taisetsu na koto desu.

Obon is a period of honoring one's ancestors, so it's important to clean the family graves before welcoming their spirits.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Calligraphy

In Japanese calligraphy, an ink brush is dipped in black ink produced from an inkstick. Calligraphy was the standard form of writing in ancient Japan, but it now remains as an art form.

2. Festival

Matsuri is a general term in Japanese for any kind of festival. At Japanese festivals, there are many stalls selling food and/or offering games. Such festivals are often held in warm or hot seasons and people go out at night wearing traditional summer kimono called *yukata*.

3. The first visit to a shrine of the year

Hatsumōde is the first visit to a shrine (sometimes a temple) of the year. People go to the shrine on one of the first three days in January to greet the gods and to pray for a good year.

4. Bon Festival

O-bon is a Japanese Buddhist custom which takes place in August, during which the spirits of deceased ancestors are said to revisit the altar in the family home. Typically, Japanese people welcome their deceased ancestors on the 13th of August and send them back to the afterlife on the 16th of August, but these dates vary in each region.

5. Haiku poetry

A haiku poem has only three lines, with 5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the second line and 5 in third line. It must usually include a word which represents a season.