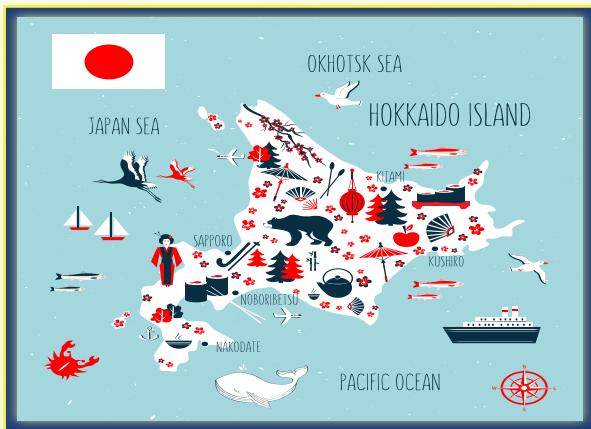


Massachusetts x Hokkaido 30th Sister State Anniversary

October 19, 2020 marked the 30th Anniversary of a special Sister State Agreement between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Hokkaido, Japan.

To celebrate this relationship, we themed this newsletter after Hokkaido and its wintery essence.



From skiing to snowboarding to snowshoeing, winter is a time when many of us look forward to the snow. This time around we partnered with the JET Alumni Association to bring you a few Hokkaido specific terms, as well as an interview of one of our language school instructors who spent 13 years living in Hokkaido!

雪 (yuki) associated common words

雪見 (ゆきみ) Snow viewing

雪合戦 (ゆきがつせん) Snowball fight

初雪 (はつゆき) First snow of the season

Let's study! 勉強(べんきょう)しましょう!

今月の漢字

snow



訓読み: ゆき
音読み: セツ



11 strokes



Formation of the character 雪



Capital city of Hokkaido, Sapporo

四字熟語 -よじじゅくご- (4 character idiom)

豪雪地帯 (ごうせつちたい)
Snow country! 雪国 (yukiguni)

This 4 character idiom is used to brand areas of Japan characterized by their heavy, longlasting snowfalls. Hokkaido would fit perfectly in this category.

例文。。

北海道は豪雪地帯である。

Hokkaido wa "gousetsu chitai" de aru.



ことわざ (proverb)

柳に雪折れなし (やなぎにゆきおれなし)

The pliable Yanagi tree is able to withstand the weight of heavy snow sitting in its branches. This proverb goes on to apply to flexible things and people. Yielding is sometimes a better option than resisting.

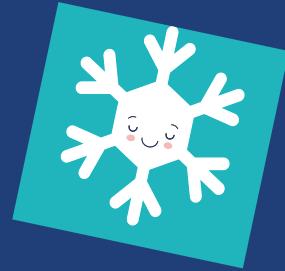
例文。。

彼女は、柳に雪折れなしという言葉のように、人とぶつかることのない性格だったので、一緒にいて心地が良かった。

Kanojo wa "yanagini yuki orenashi" to iu kotoba no youni hito to butsukaru kotononai seikaku dattanode isshoni ite igokochiga yokatta.

クイズタイム!

1. きのう ともだち () いつしょに ゆきがっせんを しました。
(Yesterday, I had a snowball fight with my friends.)
A. へ C. と
B. で D. に



2. 今 150円 () もっていません。 (At the moment, I only have 150 yen.)
A. だけ C. あまり
B. でも D. しか

3. 日本人ですら敬語の使い方をよく () 。
A. 覚える C. 間違える
B. 知っている D. わかる

ポップセンター

ネット用語! Internet Buzz Word

ガチ (gachi)

ガチ:本気で・本当に・真剣に

Another way to express
emphasis such as “really.”

This term is commonly used by both
men and women alike.

*ガチでアイススケートがすき!。(I really like ice skating!)



Dialect discovery with JET Alumni Phylicia Bishop

なげる (nageru; to throw away (garbage))
とうきび (toukibi; corn)
なまら (namara; “very”)

For more from Phylicia's experience living and
teaching in Hokkaido, tune in to our
general newsletter!



What part of Japan are you originally from?

I am originally from Toyama Prefecture located in the Chubu region of Honshu. “Toyama” means “rich with mountains”. The prefecture offers stunning views of a series of 3,000 meter peaks belonging to the Northern Japan Alps. I later moved to Sapporo, Hokkaido and worked as an elementary school teacher for 13 years.

Tell us something you like about Hokkaido

I love the food! Hokkaido is blessed with a rich bounty of delicacies, such as fresh seafood, high-quality farm products, and a wide array of local foods. It is one of the most popular destinations for delicious food even amongst people in Japan. Hokkaido is also best known for good quality wine, sake, and whiskey.

What areas in Hokkaido do you recommend to visit and why?

If you are a winter sports lover, you can't miss Niseko! Niseko is regarded as Japan's premier ski resort for its heavy snowfall and a powder snow called “JAPOW (Japan Powder Snow)”. Niseko is quickly becoming one of the most popular winter destinations in the world!!

Instructor Spotlight!



Hall Sensei



Join us online for “Let’s Write in Japanese! 日本語でかこう” Japanese workshops this winter!



With our new **4-week workshop** format, perfect your Japanese writing skills while exploring various topics! Students at the Beginner and Intermediate levels are welcome to [register today](#).

Our first installment will be offered in **February 2021**, with meetings on:

- * Monday, **February 1st, 2021**, 7-8PM
- * Monday, **February 22nd, 2021**, 7-8PM

One session includes...

- * **Week 1:** A one-hour meeting on Zoom. The instructor will explain the course's expectations, goals, and give guidance on how to write about the specific workshop topic in Japanese.
- * **Week 2:** Students can submit their first drafts directly to the instructor for proofreading via email.
- * **Week 3:** Students can submit their final drafts.
- * **Week 4:** A meeting on Zoom to conclude the workshop. The instructor will review the students' final compositions. Students who choose to do so may present their composition in class.

Requirements:

- * A minimum of 4 students are required to hold the workshop.
- * Students need to be able to type in Japanese. (Handwriting is OK for Beginner level!)
- * Students need to be able to correspond with the instructor via email.

* **\$75** *

for 4-week session
(2 meet-ups and 2 correspondences)

Topic examples include...

Beginner:

- * Hiragana from Scratch (February 2021)
- * Katakana from Scratch (March 2021)
- * に or で? Wonders of Japanese Particles

Intermediate:

- * Write a Simple Self-Introduction (February 2021)
- * Connecting to the World: Introducing your Business
- * I Went to Japan!: Travel Journals

Advanced (as requested):

- * Topic chosen by teacher.

For more information,
please visit us at
japansocietyboston.org.