

GAZETTE

H o l l y w o o d & W e s t w o o d

4TH OF JULY DAY OF FREEDOM

Independence day is the day the United States became independent from Great Britain. This day means a lot to the people of the United States; it means freedom. The 4th of July is also a public holiday in the U.S.

Most people celebrate outdoors by inviting family and friends to have a BBQ, going to the beach, and waiting until night time to see fireworks. It is very important for the people of this country to celebrate Independence Day, and to remember the day they got their freedom which is something humans need all over the world.

By Loay



FIREWORKS FESTIVAL IN JAPAN

There are so many fireworks festivals in Japan. It mainly starts in July and goes until September. There are big festivals and small festivals and show times are usually two hours. The average number of fireworks are ten thousand each festival.

The top three fireworks festivals in Japan are in Akita, Ibaraki and Niigata. The biggest number of fireworks launched is in Nagano. It's about forty thousand and it is so beautiful. Many people wear Yukata (traditional Japanese clothes). If you find people wearing Yukata, they may be holding a fireworks festival somewhere.

There is one more fun thing. There are many food stalls. For example: takoyaki, yakisoba, fried chicken, frankfurt, shaved ice, baby castella (Japanese sponge cake in the shape of a small ball), Choco banana, cotton candy, candy apples, etc. Food stalls vary by region so you can enjoy many different kinds of food. There are also game stalls. For example: water balloon fishing, bouncy ball scooping and goldfish scooping. You can take home what you scoop and fish. You can enjoy a lot of things at fireworks festivals in Japan.

By Saya





OUR SUMMER TIME IN JAPAN

By Fuka

We have a lot of special things in the summer time that you probably don't know about. First of all, most schools and universities start the summer vacation in late July. Summer vacation is one of the biggest events in a year.

Next is about our traditional festival which is really famous in Japan. It is a fireworks festival that takes place in August, but some of these take place at the end of July. There are food and entertainment stands at summer festivals: fried noodles, fried chicken, Japanese-style pancakes, banana chocolate, shaved ice, etc. Entertainment includes a shooting gallery, lottery, goldfish scooping, etc. These are very popular with children. The mask shops where popular character masks are sold are also popular with children. The best part of the festival are the fireworks that will be held on the last day of the festival.

Watermelon smashing is also famous in the summer season. We tend to do it when we're having a BBQ or when many people gather. A blindfolded person holds a stick and tries to break the watermelon. People around the blindfolded person advise him/her to break the watermelon.

The national high school baseball championship is one of the hottest baseball events during the summer and it will be held at Koshien Stadium in Osaka. It takes place there every year. People fly to come watch and many people shed tears while watching this game.

Lastly, I'll write about the Star Festival that is called Tanabata. Tanabata is based on the legendary meeting of two stars, Hikoboshi and Orihime, which are represented by Altair and Vega, respectively. Now, I will explain the outline of this story. After their marriage, Hikoboshi and Orihime idled away and didn't work. An angry god split Hikoboshi and Orihime apart from the two banks of the Milky Way. However, the god permitted Hikoboshi and Orihime to reunite once a year on July 7.

So, Tanabata is held on that day every year and it is said to be the day when lovers can reunite. On Tanabata day, people decorate bamboo trees with colorful pieces of paper to pray for Hikoboshi and Orihime to come together. Then people write their wishes on strips of paper and hang them from bamboo branches that are said to make their wishes come true. However, it is also said that a wish doesn't come true if Hikoboshi and Orihime can't meet because of the rain on July 7.





SUMMER IN JAPAN

Summer is a great time to enjoy going outside. I can tell that there are many activities we can do in the summer, but summer festivals in Japan are my favorite. Perhaps it is peculiar to Japan. First of all, there are many stalls with things such as shaved ice, candy apples, and goldfish scooping. People enjoy these every summer.

It is also a good time to see fireworks. Fireworks mark the end of the festival. I particularly like the atmosphere that the festival gives us. Also, I'm sure that it is unique to enjoy wearing a Yukata, which is like a casual cotton kimono. If you have a chance to go to Japan in the summer, I recommend enjoying the summer festival. You will make good memories.

By Kazushi





JAPANESE TRADITIONAL EVENT

In Japan, we have many traditional events. One event is called “Tanabata”. The day of Tanabata is July 7th. This Tanabata event originally came from China, but nowadays, it is a really famous and common event in Japan.

The story of Tanabata is that a long time ago, there was a star prince and princess. They could meet in person only once a year. That day was July 7th. So this day is said to be the day when lovers can reunite. Because of this story, people began to make wishes on this day.

Every July, people, especially children, write their wishes on pieces of paper and hang them on bamboo leaves because it is said that their wishes will come true. This event isn't a very important event but it's a traditional event that continues to be celebrated by people today.

By Ui



In summer, I like to swim in the warm lakes. It's good to lie on a mat in the grass. I always bring beverages and food with me. Sometimes I bring my air mattress and float on the water. This is very relaxing and I enjoy it a lot. Furthermore, I watch the children play and hear the birds singing. I like to be in nature as much as I can.

Sometimes I come by bike, but only when it's not too hot. I also put a high level of sunscreen on my body, because I have a sun allergy.

By Sandra



Summer is, for most people, the best season. You can do a lot of things during the summer like going to the beach, having an outdoor movie night, having a barbecue with friends and family, or having a battle with water balloons against your friends and siblings. There are a lot more activities you can do.

I like to do everything I've named. Especially in my childhood, I had a lot of water balloon battles with my brother and my neighborhood friends. It was so much fun. Some of these people had water guns. Others just had some water balloons, and the strongest person had a hose.

What I do more often these days in summer is have an outdoor BBQ with my family after swimming. We do this many times every year and it's so much fun. There is one more thing I really like to do during the summer. You could do this also in the other seasons, but in summer, it's the best because of the temperature. I'm talking about water skiing. I'm not sure if you can do it everywhere but I did it in my hometown and it's so much fun. You need a little practice, but if you can handle this, you won't want to stop.

By Oliver

WHAT IS EID AL-ADHA?

Eid Al-Adha is known as the Feast of the Sacrifice, and at the heart of it is the story of Prophet Ibrahim (known as Abraham in Christianity and Judaism). It is the second most important holiday on the Islamic calendar after Eid-Al-Fitter which comes after the holy month of Ramadan.

Usually lasting three to four days and celebrated by millions of Muslims worldwide, the holiday begins on the 10th day of the Muslim calendar lunar month of Dhul-Hijjah, at the time of Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

The celebration of Eid al-Adha begins on the first day with a special prayer, 'Al-Eid prayer', followed by a sermon called a khutbah. Traditionally, this is followed by the symbolic sacrifice of a lamb, goat, cow, camel, or other animal that is divided into threes to be shared equally among family, friends, and the needy. The rest of the day is devoted to visiting the houses of friends and family. Worshippers exchange the traditional Arabic greeting, 'Eid Mubarak' ('have a blessed Eid') and swap gifts.

By Abdul

