

Japan: Seasonal Series

February Setsubun

Katy Simpson (2019) edited by the Japan Society

Learning Objectives:

- To learn about the food, decoration and customs associated with the Setsubun Festival; a celebration marking the change in seasons.
- To learn some Japanese vocabulary for seasonal food, decorations and customs.

Curriculum Links:

National Curriculum Guidelines for MFL Key Stage 2:

- Explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words
- Show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing
- Broaden vocabulary and recall phrases from memory.

Keywords:

setsubun	Festival celebrating change of season
oni	Demon/monster
mamemaki	Bean throwing ceremony
oni wa soto	Out with the demons
fuku wa uchi	In with good luck
ehōmaki	Sushi roll
mamemaki	Roasted soy beans

Resources:

- Setsubun Presentation
- Vocabulary Challenge & Setsubun Quiz
- Setsubun Background Notes

Additional Resources:

- Setsubun Mask Template
- [Ready Steady NihonGo](#) (Lesson 9 Spring) Lesson Plan; Flashcards: Animals, Setsubun Characters

Japan Society Loan Resources (Activity Chest):

- Setsubun Mask

Task 1

1. Discuss seasonal celebrations, or celebrations signifying a change of season in the culture/country of the children. How do we know when spring is on its way and the winter is ending? Elicit: new life,

lambs being born, flowers and leaves starting to appear. In what ways do we celebrate at this time? What customs do the students have? Elicit: Easter, Pancake Day.

2. Explain that you will give the pupils some information about a traditional celebration in Japan that marks the changing of season from winter to spring. The celebration is called 'Setsubun', and literally means 'separate season'.
3. Explain how Japanese people celebrate with games, food and special customs during the Setsubun Festival using the information on the PowerPoint presentation.

Estimated Time: 10 minutes

Task 2

1. Vocabulary Challenge & Setsubun Quiz: as a class, use the animated quiz on the presentation to complete the Vocabulary Challenge to recall words associated with the festival and Setsubun quiz to decide whether the facts on the sheet are true or false.
2. Check the pupils' answers as a class using the answers provided on the presentation.

Estimated Time: 15 minutes

Task 3

1. 3-2-1 Activity: Provide the pupils with paper, or small cards. Ask pupils to write down 3 things they remember about Setsubun on one card, 2 Japanese words on another, and 1 thing they would like to find out more about on their final card.
2. Pupils put their cards in the centre of their table in piles 3 / 2 / 1. Ask each table to pick an example from each pile to share with the class. Pupils should build on the information shared by the previous table.

Estimated Time: 10 minutes

Extension Activities

1. Ask students to create their own 'oni' (demon) mask. They can either copy the drawing on the template, Setsubun Oni Mask or stick this image on a card and cut out.
2. Check out the Japan Society & Japan Foundation's language resource, Ready Steady NihonGo!, Lesson 9 (Spring) <https://www.japansociety.org.uk/rsn/>