

Setsubun

Japanese Language Activities

Task 1: How many words can you find associated with Setsubun? The words may be written backwards, forwards or diagonally. Use the clues below to help

R	V	I	W	O	V	M	I	H	M
N	R	T	N	T	Q	A	H	R	G
U	C	O	L	O	D	M	C	E	Y
B	Q	C	M	S	A	E	U	H	Y
U	I	N	A	A	G	M	A	O	B
S	H	I	M	W	O	A	W	M	E
T	S	C	V	I	E	K	U	A	Z
E	A	U	B	N	K	I	K	K	Y
S	W	R	K	O	S	P	U	I	E
Z	I	H	B	T	D	D	F	M	M

Clue 1: the devil

Clue 2: sushi rolls

Clue 3: throwing soy beans

Clue 4: luck / fortune

Clue 5: festival marking the beginning of spring

Task 2: T or F? Are the following facts about Setsubun true or false?

1. Setsubun takes place at the end of spring
2. Some people dress up as the devil and have beans thrown at them!
3. 'Oni' means 'beans' in Japanese
4. When you eat a sushi roll during Setsubun, you have to stay silent.
5. You should eat one sushi roll for every year of your age

Challenge:

Here are the words associated with Setsubun written in hiragana, which is the Japanese script used to spell out Japanese words. Can you use the 'Hiragana Chart' on the presentation to work out what they say, and match them to the words alphabet letters?

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|----------|-------------|
| 1. せつぶん | A. mame |
| 2. おに | B. mame |
| 3. まめまき | C. ehōmaki |
| 4. まめ | D. fuku |
| 5. えほうまき | E. setsubun |
| 6. ふく | F. oni |

Task 3: Oni Mask

Can you make your own Oni mask? Paint a paper plate blue or red and add horns and a scary mouth!

Challenge: Can you label your mask with the Japanese words for 'red', 'blue', 'demon'?

Red = aka = あか

Blue = ao = あお

Demon = oni = おに