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Level 0 – 2nd April, 2021

Earliest cherry blossoms in Japan city in 600 years

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210402-cherry-blossoms-0.html>

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Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210402-cherry-blossoms-0.html>

Cherry blossoms in Kyoto bloomed at their earliest in 600 years. They peaked a day earlier than the previous record set in 1409. Data on Kyoto's cherry blossoms go back 1,200 years to the year 812. Japan had warmer weather this year. Weather forecasters say climate change made the blossoms come earlier than normal.

Cherry blossoms are called "sakura" in Japan. People go to famous cherry blossom spots to have picnics. The blossoms help Japan's economy. A Japanese newspaper wrote: "Sakura has deeply influenced Japanese culture for centuries....Their fragility is seen as a symbol of life, death and rebirth."

Sources: <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20210331/p2g/00m/0na/038000c>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-56574142>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/climate-change-japan-cherry-blossoms-b1824373.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210402-cherry-blossoms-0.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Cherry blossoms in Kyoto bloomed | a. change |
| 2. They peaked a | b. set in 1409 |
| 3. the previous record | c. to the year 812 |
| 4. Data on Kyoto's | d. day earlier |
| 5. go back 1,200 years | e. forecasters |
| 6. Japan had warmer | f. at their earliest |
| 7. Weather | g. weather this year |
| 8. climate | h. cherry blossoms |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Cherry blossoms are called | a. culture |
| 2. famous cherry blossom | b. economy |
| 3. have | c. and rebirth |
| 4. The blossoms help Japan's | d. picnics |
| 5. A Japanese | e. "sakura" in Japan |
| 6. deeply influenced Japanese | f. symbol |
| 7. Their fragility is seen as a | g. spots |
| 8. life, death | h. newspaper |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210402-cherry-blossoms-0.html>

Cherry blossoms in Kyoto bloomed (1) _____ in
600 years. They (2) _____ earlier than the
previous (3) _____ 1409. Data on Kyoto's cherry
blossoms go back 1,200 (4) _____ year 812.
Japan had (5) _____ year. Weather forecasters
say climate change made the blossoms
(6) _____ normal.

Cherry (7) _____ "sakura" in Japan. People go to
famous cherry blossom spots (8) _____. The
blossoms (9) _____. A Japanese newspaper
wrote: "Sakura (10) _____ Japanese culture for
centuries....Their (11) _____ as a symbol of life,
(12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210402-cherry-blossoms-0.html>

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CHERRY BLOSSOMS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210402-cherry-blossoms-0.html>

Write five GOOD questions about cherry blossoms in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210402-cherry-blossoms-0.html>

Write about **cherry blossoms** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
