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Level 1 – 2nd April, 2021

Earliest cherry blossoms in Japan city in 600 years

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210402-cherry-blossoms-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210402-cherry-blossoms-1.html>

Cherry blossoms in Japan bloomed at their earliest in 600 years. Blossoms in Kyoto peaked on the 26th of March. This was 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's imperial court wrote about the blooms in diaries. Japan had much warmer weather this year. Meteorologists say this is because of climate change. They say this is making plants blossom earlier than normal.

Cherry blossoms are important in Japanese culture. People look at cherry-blossom forecasts. The blossoms are called "sakura" in Japan. People go to famous cherry blossom spots to have picnics. The blossoms give Japan an important economic lift each spring. A Japanese newspaper explained their importance. It 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-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. bloomed at their earliest | a. earlier |
| 2. This was a day | b. than normal |
| 3. the previous record | c. in diaries |
| 4. go back 1,200 years | d. in 600 years |
| 5. wrote about the blooms | e. climate change |
| 6. Japan had much warmer | f. to the year 812 |
| 7. this is because of | g. weather this year |
| 8. plants blossom earlier | h. set in 1409 |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Cherry blossoms are important | a. their importance |
| 2. cherry-blossom | b. "sakura" in Japan |
| 3. The blossoms are called | c. lift |
| 4. famous cherry blossom | d. of life |
| 5. an important economic | e. in Japanese culture |
| 6. A Japanese newspaper explained | f. spots |
| 7. deeply influenced Japanese | g. forecasts |
| 8. a symbol | h. culture |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210402-cherry-blossoms-1.html>

Cherry blossoms in Japan (1) _____ earliest in 600 years. Blossoms in Kyoto (2) _____ 26th of March. This was (3) _____ than the previous record set in 1409. Data on Kyoto's cherry (4) _____ 1,200 years to the year 812. Japan's imperial court wrote about the blooms in diaries. Japan had much warmer (5) _____. Meteorologists say this is because of climate change. They say this is making plants blossom (6) _____.

Cherry blossoms (7) _____ Japanese culture. People look at cherry-blossom forecasts. The (8) _____ "sakura" in Japan. People go to famous cherry blossom (9) _____ picnics. The blossoms give Japan an important economic (10) _____. A Japanese newspaper explained their importance. It wrote: "Sakura (11) _____ Japanese culture for centuries....Their fragility is seen as a (12) _____, death and rebirth."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210402-cherry-blossoms-1.html>

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CHERRY BLOSSOMS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2104/210402-cherry-blossoms-4.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-1.html>

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