



Colegio Tecnológico Pulmahue  
Miss. Yorka Sepúlveda

### TERCERO MEDIO

Name:

El objetivo de esta guía es que los estudiantes identifiquen información general y específica acerca de las tradiciones japonesas. Para dudas que tengan pueden escribirme un correo a esta dirección: [yorka.sepulveda.pulmahue@gmail.com](mailto:yorka.sepulveda.pulmahue@gmail.com), escribiendo en el asunto el nombre de él o la estudiante y su curso, el horario para correos es de 9am a 7pm. Cualquier consulta sobre los contenidos y asignatura será respondida y también en caso de que necesiten material extra. Plazo para entrega de guía viernes 10 de julio hasta las 2pm

O.A: Identificar información general y específica en textos

**READING COMPREHENSION:** Read the following text about New year traditions in Japan and then answer the questions.

## New Year traditions in Japan

### Omisoka (大晦日)

Why is New Year's Eve called "omisoka" in Japanese? In the old calendar, the last day of each month used to be called "misoka". "Miso" can mean 30 in Japanese, and "ka" means day. The tradition of calling the last day of the month "misoka" remained, and the last day of the year became "omisoka" (great last day of the month).

### Osoji (大掃除)

At the end of the year, people clean their homes and offices. By cleaning your house, you can purify your residence and welcome the "Toshigami-sama" (god of the coming New Year).

### (門松)



"Kadomatsu" are made of three cut bamboo sticks and pine tree branches. The bamboo, which represent heaven, earth and humanity, are believed to attract the gods. The gods live in the pine until Jan 7, after which time the decorations are taken to a shrine to be burnt, letting the spirits go.

### Toshikoshi Soba (年越し蕎麦)

People eat soba at around midnight to keep evil spirits away. Some also wish for a long life by eating soba.



### (除夜の鐘)

"Joya no Kane" or purification bells are important at New Year. The priest rings the bell 108 times. The number 108 is the number of evil desires that we suffer from. It is believed that by listening to or ringing the bell 108 times, you can get rid yourself of those evil desires.

### **Hatsumode (初詣)**

The most popular activity on New Year's Day is "hatsumode" or first visit to the shrine. If you go, you'll see burning incense sticks. The smoke itself is called "zuko," and shrine visitors wave it over their heads to purify spirits and their bodies for the New Year.

### **Hamaya (破魔矢)**

You'll often see people leaving shrines, holding wooden arrows. These are given to shrine visitors to put somewhere in their homes to ward off evil spirits. The point of the arrow isn't sharp; it's just a decoration.

### **Otoshidama (お年玉)**

On New Year's Day, children aged 12 and under receive monetary gifts from their parents and grandparents in specially decorated envelopes called "Pochi Bukuro" (Pochi bag).

## **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE READING**

### **TRUE OR FALSE?**

1. Osoji takes place at the beginning of the year. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Misoka refers to the second day of each month. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Soba is eaten at midnight to keep evil spirits away. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The smoke of the incense sticks is called "Zuko" \_\_\_\_\_
5. "Pochi Bukuro are envelopes were parents and grandparents put monetary gifts for children aged 12 and under.  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **ANSWER ACCORDING TO THE READING:**

6. In Osoji, why do people clean their houses and offices at the end of the year?
7. Which of the traditions is the most popular activity in New year?
8. For what reason does the priest ring the bell 108 times in "Joya No Kane"?

**What others traditions can you find about Japan? Search information and write here your answers.**