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Level 3 – 2nd April, 2021

Earliest cherry blossoms in Japan city in 600 years

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

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

Cherry blossoms in Kyoto, Japan have bloomed at their earliest date in 600 years. Researchers from Osaka University say blossoms in the city of Kyoto peaked on the 26th of March. The previous record for Kyoto was set in 1409, when the season reached its peak on the 27th of March. Data on cherry blossoms blooming in Kyoto go back 1,200 years. As far back as the year 812, officials at Japan's imperial court in Kyoto wrote details on the blooms in documents and diaries. Japan experienced much warmer weather in the first few months of this year. Meteorologists say this is because of climate change. They say many plants are flowering and blossoming earlier than normal because of global warming.

Cherry blossoms are an important part of Japanese culture. People keep a close eye on the news of blossoming times from forecasts made by the Japanese Meteorological Agency. The blossoms are called "sakura" in Japan. Many people plan trips to famous cherry blossom areas and spend hours having picnics under the sakura. The cherry blossoms also provide Japan with an important economic boost each spring. People come from all over the world to view them. Japan's Mainichi newspaper explained the importance of sakura. It wrote: "Sakura has deeply influenced Japanese culture for centuries. It has regularly been used in poetry and literature. 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>

WARM-UPS

1. CHERRY BLOSSOMS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about cherry blossoms. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

cherry blossoms / researchers / Kyoto / record / season / peak / weather / climate / important / culture / news / forecast / picnics / boost / trips / literature / life / death

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. CLIMATE CHANGE: Students A **strongly** believe we can reverse climate change; Students B **strongly** believe we can't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. CULTURE: What part do flowers play in the culture of your country? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What Flowers?	Their Part in Your Culture
Music		
Literature		
Social activities		
Food		
Seasons		
Celebrations		

5. PEAK: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "peak". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. BLOOMS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Cherry blossoms
- Roses
- Orchids
- Lotus flowers
- Lilies
- Daffodils
- Plum blossoms
- Sunflowers

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. bloomed | a. Existing or occurring before in time or order. |
| 2. blossom | b. The warming of the global weather. |
| 3. peaked | c. The action of a flower or blossom opening. |
| 4. previous | d. Reached a highest point, either of a value or at a set time. |
| 5. officials | e. A flower or a group of flowers, especially on a tree or bush. |
| 6. meteorologist | f. People having a job in government or as a representative of an organization. |
| 7. climate change | g. A weather forecaster. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 8. keep a close eye on | h. A prediction or estimate of future events, especially coming weather or a financial trend. |
| 9. forecast | i. Make available for use; supply. |
| 10. provide | j. Hundreds of years. |
| 11. boost | k. Watch closely. |
| 12. influenced | l. Being easily broken or damaged. |
| 13. centuries | m. Changed something. |
| 14. fragility | n. Help or encourage something to increase or improve. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Cherry blossoms last bloomed so early in the year 600. **T / F**
- b. The last record for early blooming cherry blossoms was set in 1409. **T / F**
- c. Officials in Japan wrote details about cherry blossoms in the year 812. **T / F**
- d. Meteorologists say climate change is not why cherry blossoms are early. **T / F**
- e. Japanese people keep a close eye on cherry blossom forecasts. **T / F**
- f. People in Japan spend hours having picnics under *sakura* trees. **T / F**
- g. Cherry blossoms are very bad for Japan's economy. **T / F**
- h. Cherry blossoms are a symbol of life and death in Japan. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. bloomed | a. well known |
| 2. previous | b. usual |
| 3. experienced | c. watch |
| 4. meteorologists | d. frequently |
| 5. normal | e. flowered |
| 6. keep a close eye on | f. uplift |
| 7. famous | g. weather forecasters |
| 8. boost | h. earlier |
| 9. regularly | i. sign |
| 10. symbol | j. encountered |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. The previous record for Kyoto was | a. of Japanese culture |
| 2. As far back as | b. are flowering |
| 3. documents | c. boost |
| 4. They say many plants | d. and diaries |
| 5. blossoming earlier than normal because | e. eye on the news |
| 6. Cherry blossoms are an important part | f. set in 1409 |
| 7. People keep a close | g. picnics under the sakura |
| 8. spend hours having | h. of global warming |
| 9. an important economic | i. a symbol of life |
| 10. Their fragility is seen as | j. the year 812 |

GAP FILL

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

Cherry blossoms in Kyoto, Japan have bloomed at their (1) _____ date in 600 years. Researchers from Osaka University say blossoms in the city of Kyoto (2) _____ on the 26th of March. The previous record for Kyoto was (3) _____ in 1409, when the season reached its peak on the 27th of March. Data on cherry blossoms blooming in Kyoto go back 1,200 years. As (4) _____ back as the year 812, officials at Japan's imperial court in Kyoto wrote (5) _____ on the blooms in documents and diaries. Japan experienced much warmer weather in the (6) _____ few months of this year. Meteorologists say this is because of climate (7) _____. They say many plants are flowering and blossoming earlier than normal because of global (8) _____.

far
peaked
first
earliest
warming
details
change
set

Cherry blossoms are an important part of Japanese (9) _____. People keep a close eye on the news of blossoming (10) _____ from forecasts made by the Japanese Meteorological Agency. The blossoms are called "sakura" in Japan. Many people plan (11) _____ to famous cherry blossom areas and spend (12) _____ having picnics under the sakura. The cherry blossoms also provide Japan with an important economic (13) _____ each spring. People come from all over the world to (14) _____ them. Japan's Mainichi newspaper explained the importance of sakura. It wrote: "Sakura has deeply influenced Japanese culture for centuries. It has (15) _____ been used in poetry and literature. Their fragility is seen as a symbol of (16) _____, death and rebirth."

times
view
hours
regularly
culture
trips
life
boost

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Cherry blossoms in Kyoto, Japan have bloomed at _____
 - a. them earliest date
 - b. theirs earliest date
 - c. there earliest date
 - d. their earliest date
- 2) The previous record for Kyoto was set in 1409, when the season _____
 - a. reached its perk
 - b. reached its peck
 - c. reached its peak
 - d. reached its poak
- 3) Japan's imperial court in Kyoto wrote details on the blooms in _____
 - a. document and diaries
 - b. documents and diary
 - c. documents and diaries
 - d. document and diary
- 4) Japan experienced much warmer weather in the _____
 - a. first few months
 - b. first flew months
 - c. first phew months
 - d. first foo months
- 5) They say many plants are flowering and blossoming _____
 - a. earlier that normal
 - b. earlier than normal
 - c. earlier them normal
 - d. earlier thank normal
- 6) People keep a close eye on the news of blossoming _____
 - a. time from forecasts
 - b. times from forecasts
 - c. times for forecasts
 - d. times frame forecasts
- 7) trips to famous cherry blossom areas and spend _____
 - a. hours having picnics
 - b. hours have in picnics
 - c. hours heaving picnics
 - d. hours halving picnics
- 8) The cherry blossoms also provide Japan with an important _____
 - a. economic beast
 - b. economic boost
 - c. economic boast
 - d. economic baste
- 9) It has regularly been used _____ literature
 - a. in poet tree and
 - b. in poetry and
 - c. in poet try and
 - d. in poet tray and
- 10) Their fragility is seen as a symbol of life, _____
 - a. death and the birth
 - b. death and a birth
 - c. death and rib birth
 - d. death and rebirth

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Cherry blossoms in Kyoto, Japan have (1) _____ earliest date in 600 years. Researchers from Osaka University say blossoms in the city of Kyoto (2) _____ 26th of March. The previous record for Kyoto was set in 1409, when (3) _____ its peak on the 27th of March. Data on cherry blossoms blooming in Kyoto go back 1,200 years. As (4) _____ the year 812, officials at Japan's imperial court in Kyoto wrote details on the blooms in documents and diaries. Japan experienced much warmer weather in the (5) _____ of this year. Meteorologists say this is because of climate change. They say many plants are flowering and blossoming (6) _____ because of global warming.

Cherry blossoms are (7) _____ of Japanese culture. People keep a (8) _____ the news of blossoming times from forecasts made by the Japanese Meteorological Agency. The blossoms are called "sakura" in Japan. Many people (9) _____ famous cherry blossom areas and spend hours having picnics under the sakura. The cherry blossoms also provide Japan with an important (10) _____ spring. People come from all over the world to view them. Japan's Mainichi newspaper explained the importance of sakura. It wrote: "Sakura has deeply influenced Japanese (11) _____. It has regularly been used in poetry and literature. Their fragility is seen as a (12) _____, death and rebirth."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Which Japanese city is mentioned in the article?
2. When was the previous record for the earliest cherry-blossoms?
3. What year do cherry blossom records go back to in a Japanese city?
4. What did officials write details of cherry blossoms in?
5. What reason did meteorologists give for the earlier flowering blossoms?
6. What does the article say cherry blossoms are an important part of?
7. What do people in Japan keep a close eye on?
8. What do Japanese people spend hours doing under cherry blossoms?
9. Where does a newspaper say cherry blossoms have been regularly used?
10. What does the newspaper say fragile cherry blossoms are a symbol of?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) Which Japanese city is mentioned in the article?
 - a) Osaka
 - b) Tokyo
 - c) Kyoto
 - d) Sapporo
- 2) When was the previous record for the earliest cherry-blossoms?
 - a) in 1409
 - b) in 1904
 - c) in 1049
 - d) in 1094
- 3) What year do cherry blossom records go back to in a Japanese city?
 - a) the year 812
 - b) the year 1094
 - c) the year 1200
 - d) the year 600
- 4) What did officials write details of cherry blossoms in?
 - a) newspapers
 - b) documents and diaries
 - c) poems and novels
 - d) government records
- 5) What reason did meteorologists give for the earlier flowering blossoms?
 - a) fewer tourists
 - b) extra busy bees
 - c) more sunlight
 - d) climate change
- 6) What does the article say cherry blossoms are an important part of?
 - a) nature
 - b) Japanese culture
 - c) Japanese painting
 - d) Japanese cuisine
- 7) What do people in Japan keep a close eye on?
 - a) the news of blossoming times
 - b) their wallets
 - c) birds
 - d) glasses
- 8) What do Japanese people spend hours doing under cherry blossoms?
 - a) collecting cherry-blossom petals
 - b) staying out of the sun
 - c) having picnics
 - d) sleeping
- 9) Where does a newspaper say cherry blossoms have been regularly used?
 - a) in paintings and drawings
 - b) in cooking
 - c) in Japanese medicine
 - d) in poetry and literature
- 10) What does the newspaper say fragile cherry blossoms are a symbol of?
 - a) life, death and rebirth
 - b) Earth
 - c) success
 - d) beauty and kindness

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Cherry Blossoms

You think cherry blossoms are the best blooms. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their flowers. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): roses, sunflowers or lotus flowers.

Role B – Roses

You think roses are the best blooms. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their flowers. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): cherry blossoms, sunflowers or lotus flowers.

Role C – Sunflowers

You think sunflowers are the best blooms. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their flowers. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): roses, cherry blossoms or lotus flowers.

Role D – Lotus Flowers

You think lotus flowers are the best blooms. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their flowers. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): roses, sunflowers or cherry blossoms.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'cherry' and 'blossom'.

cherry	blossom
---------------	----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• earliest• city• season• 812• warmer• normal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• part• called• boost• view• deeply• symbol
--	--

CHERRY BLOSSOMS SURVEY

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

CHERRY BLOSSOMS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'blossom'?
3. What do you think of cherry blossoms?
4. Why do people love cherry blossoms?
5. What are your favourite blossoms?
6. What do you know about the Japanese city of Kyoto?
7. What blossoms and flowers are important in your country's culture?
8. How important are flowers?
9. How is climate change affecting plants?
10. What three adjectives best describe cherry blossoms?

Earliest cherry blossoms in Japan city in 600 years – 2nd April, 2021
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CHERRY BLOSSOMS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'Japan'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Why do you think cherry blossoms are so important in Japan?
15. What do you think of picnics to view cherry blossoms?
16. What flowers are a symbol of life and death?
17. What flowers do you look forward to seeing in spring?
18. What do you think cherry blossoms symbolize?
19. What flowers around the world would you like to go and see?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Cherry blossoms in Kyoto, Japan have bloomed (1) _____ their earliest date in 600 years. Researchers from Osaka University say blossoms in the city of Kyoto (2) _____ on the 26th of March. The (3) _____ record for Kyoto was set in 1409, when the season reached its peak on the 27th of March. Data on cherry blossoms blooming in Kyoto (4) _____ back 1,200 years. As far back as the year 812, officials at Japan's imperial court in Kyoto wrote details on the blooms in documents and diaries. Japan experienced much warmer weather (5) _____ the first few months of this year. Meteorologists say this is because of climate change. They say many plants are (6) _____ and blossoming earlier than normal because of global warming.

Cherry blossoms are an important part (7) _____ Japanese culture. People keep a close eye on the news of blossoming times from forecasts made by the Japanese Meteorological Agency. The blossoms are (8) _____ "sakura" in Japan. Many people plan trips to famous cherry blossom areas and spend hours having picnics under the sakura. The cherry blossoms (9) _____ provide Japan with an important economic boost each spring. People come from all over the world to (10) _____ them. Japan's Mainichi newspaper explained the importance of sakura. It wrote: "Sakura has (11) _____ influenced Japanese culture for centuries. It has regularly been used in poetry and literature. Their fragility is seen (12) _____ a symbol of life, death and rebirth."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) on | (b) at | (c) of | (d) to |
| 2. | (a) poked | (b) peaked | (c) parked | (d) perked |
| 3. | (a) following | (b) post | (c) previously | (d) previous |
| 4. | (a) do | (b) go | (c) have | (d) come |
| 5. | (a) in | (b) at | (c) so | (d) of |
| 6. | (a) flowers | (b) floral | (c) flowering | (d) flowered |
| 7. | (a) to | (b) as | (c) of | (d) from |
| 8. | (a) calling | (b) call | (c) called | (d) calls |
| 9. | (a) plus | (b) additional | (c) and | (d) also |
| 10. | (a) view | (b) look | (c) viewer | (d) looking |
| 11. | (a) deeply | (b) depth | (c) deepen | (d) depend |
| 12. | (a) has | (b) was | (c) as | (d) this |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. medbolo at their earliest date
2. blossoms in the city of Kyoto edepka
3. The eruivspo record
4. offcsial at Japan's imperial court
5. doutmcnes and diaries
6. this is because of tacleim change

Paragraph 2

7. blossoming times from afrcsseto
8. an important omieocnc boost
9. explained the aomtrcinpe of sakura
10. fdelcinnue Japanese culture for centuries
11. used in poetry and rateeirult
12. Their fgrtaiiyl is seen as a symbol

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**1**) Cherry blossoms in Kyoto, Japan have bloomed at their earliest date in 600 years. Researchers from
- () are flowering and blossoming earlier than normal because of global warming.
- () used in poetry and literature. Their fragility is seen as a symbol of life, death and rebirth."
- () back 1,200 years. As far back as the year 812, officials at Japan's imperial court in Kyoto wrote
- () record for Kyoto was set in 1409, when the season reached its peak on the 27th of March. Data on cherry blossoms blooming in Kyoto go
- () on the news of blossoming times from forecasts made by the Japanese Meteorological Agency. The blossoms are called
- () Osaka University say blossoms in the city of Kyoto peaked on the 26th of March. The previous
- () details on the blooms in documents and diaries. Japan experienced much warmer weather in the first few
- () the importance of sakura. It wrote: "Sakura has deeply influenced Japanese culture for centuries. It has regularly been
- () months of this year. Meteorologists say this is because of climate change. They say many plants
- () picnics under the sakura. The cherry blossoms also provide Japan with an important economic
- () "sakura" in Japan. Many people plan trips to famous cherry blossom areas and spend hours having
- () Cherry blossoms are an important part of Japanese culture. People keep a close eye
- () boost each spring. People come from all over the world to view them. Japan's Mainichi newspaper explained

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. years . earliest in Bloomed 600 at their date
2. Kyoto set 1409 . record The previous in was
3. 812 . As far year back as the
4. weather Warmer the in few months . first
5. global because warming . than earlier normal Blossoming of
6. are part an Japanese of Blossoms culture . important
7. eye the People keep on close news . a
8. trips areas . plan People cherry blossom to famous
9. has for influenced deeply centuries . Sakura Japanese culture
10. in has been poetry . regularly It used

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Cherry blossoms in Kyoto, Japan have *blooming* / *bloomed* at their earliest date in 600 years. Researchers from Osaka University say blossoms in the city of Kyoto *poked* / *peaked* on the 26th of March. The *previous* / *previously* record for Kyoto was set in 1409, when the season reached its *peak* / *pack* on the 27th of March. Data on cherry blossoms blooming in Kyoto *come* / *go* back 1,200 years. As far back as the year 812, officials at Japan's imperial *judge* / *court* in Kyoto wrote details on the blooms in documents and *diary* / *diaries*. Japan experienced much warmer weather in the first few months of this year. Meteorologists say this *is* / *be* because of climate change. They say many plants are flowering and blossoming earlier *that* / *than* normal because of *global* / *globally* warming.

Cherry blossoms are an *important* / *importance* part of Japanese culture. People keep a close *eye* / *see* on the news of blossoming times from *forecasts* / *forecast* made by the Japanese Meteorological Agency. The blossoms are called "sakura" in Japan. Many people plan *falls* / *trips* to famous cherry blossom areas and spend hours *doing* / *having* picnics under the sakura. The cherry blossoms also provide Japan *for* / *with* an important economic *boast* / *boost* each spring. People come from all over the world to view them. Japan's Mainichi newspaper explained the importance of sakura. It wrote: "Sakura has *deeply* / *deep* influenced Japanese culture for centuries. It has regularly been used in *poetry* / *poem* and literature. Their fragility is seen *has* / *as* a symbol of life, death and rebirth."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Cherry blossoms in Kyoto, Japan have bloomed at their earliest date in 600 years. Researchers from the University of Kyoto packed in the 26th of March. The previous record for Kyoto was set in 1409, when the season reached its peak in the 27th of March. Date in cherry blossoms blooming in Kyoto go back 1,200 years, as far back as the year 812, officials at Japan's Imperial Court in Kyoto wrote details in the blooms in documents and diaries. Japan experienced much warmer weather in the first few months of this year. Meteorologists say this is because of climate change. They say many plants are flowering and blossoming earlier than normal because of global warming.

Cherry blossoms are an important part of Japanese culture. People keep a close eye on the news of blossoming times from forecasts made by the Japanese Meteorological Agency. The blossoms are called "sakura" in Japan. Many people plan trips to famous cherry blossom areas and spend hours having picnics under the sakura. The cherry blossoms also provided Japan with an important economic boost each spring. People come from all over the world to view them. Japan's Ministry of Culture explained the importance of sakura. It wrote: "Sakura has deeply influenced Japanese culture for centuries. It has regularly been used in poetry and literature. Their fragility is seen as a symbol of life, death and rebirth."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

cherry blossoms in kyoto japan have bloomed at their earliest date in 600 years researchers from osaka university say blossoms in the city of kyoto peaked on the 26th of march the previous record for kyoto was set in 1409 when the season reached its peak on the 27th of march data on cherry blossoms blooming in kyoto go back 1200 years as far back as the year 812 officials at japans imperial court in kyoto wrote details on the blooms in documents and diaries japan experienced much warmer weather in the first few months of this year meteorologists say this is because of climate change they say many plants are flowering and blossoming earlier than normal because of global warming

cherry blossoms are an important part of japanese culture people keep a close eye on the news of blossoming times from forecasts made by the japanese meteorological agency the blossoms are called sakura in japan many people plan trips to famous cherry blossom areas and spend hours having picnics under the sakura the cherry blossoms also provide japan with an important economic boost each spring people come from all over the world to view them japans mainichi newspaper explained the importance of sakura it wrote sakura has deeply influenced japanese culture for centuries it has regularly been used in poetry and literature their fragility is seen as a symbol of life death and rebirth

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Cherry blossoms in Kyoto, Japan have bloomed at their earliest date in 600 years. Researchers from Osaka University say blossoms in the city of Kyoto peaked on the 26th of March. The previous record for Kyoto was set in 1409, when the season reached its peak on the 27th of March. Data on cherry blossoms blooming in Kyoto go back 1,200 years. As far back as the year 812, officials at Japan's imperial court in Kyoto wrote details on the blooms in documents and diaries. Japan experienced much warmer weather in the first few months of this year. Meteorologists say this is because of climate change. They say many plants are flowering and blossoming earlier than normal because of global warming. Cherry blossoms are an important part of Japanese culture. People keep a close eye on the news of blossoming times from forecasts made by the Japanese Meteorological Agency. The blossoms are called "sakura" in Japan. Many people plan trips to famous cherry blossom areas and spend hours having picnics under the sakura. The cherry blossoms also provide Japan with an important economic boost each spring. People come from all over the world to view them. Japan's Mainichi newspaper explained the importance of sakura. It wrote: "Sakura has deeply influenced Japanese culture for centuries. It has regularly been used in poetry and literature. Their fragility is seen as a symbol of life, death and rebirth."

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. CHERRY BLOSSOMS: Make a poster about cherry blossoms. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. PICNICS: Write a magazine article about us all having picnics in spring to celebrate trees blossoming. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on cherry blossoms. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on cherry blossoms. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c 2. e 3. d 4. a 5. f 6. g 7. b
8. k 9. h 10. i 11. n 12. m 13. j 14. l

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F b T c T d F e T f T g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. e	2. h	3. j	4. g	5. b
6. c	7. a	8. f	9. d	10. i

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Kyoto
2. In 1409
3. The year 812
4. Documents and diaries
5. Climate change / Global warming
6. Japanese culture
7. The news of blossoming times
8. Having picnics
9. In poetry and literature
10. Life, death and rebirth

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Bloomed at their earliest date in 600 years.
2. The previous Kyoto record was set in 1409.
3. As far back as the year 812.
4. Warmer weather in the first few months.
5. Blossoming earlier than normal because of global warming.
6. Blossoms are an important part of Japanese culture.
7. People keep a close eye on the news.
8. People plan trips to famous cherry blossom areas.
9. Sakura has deeply influenced Japanese culture for centuries.
10. It has regularly been used in poetry.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. d 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. d 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)