

THE PEACH COBBLER

Vol 2 Issue 3 | June 2025

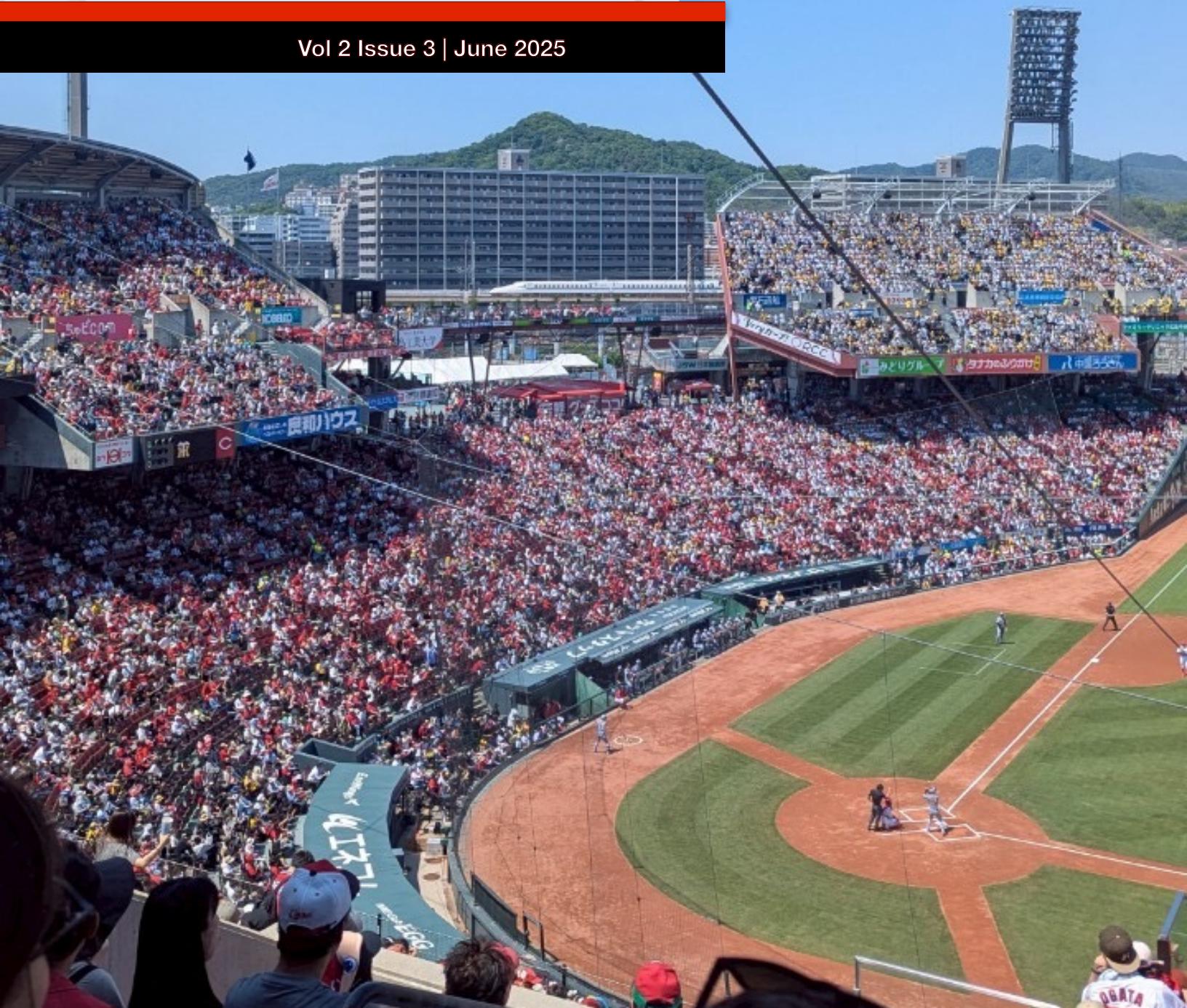


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Note from the Editor~



Greetings, peaches!

We've hit June which means rainy season (梅雨) is upon us, after this weekend it's seems as if there are stormy skies ahead so make the most of the clear weather while you can!

Alongside some info on the rainy season, we're bringing you baseball, F1, and a brand-new recurring gaming section starting this month! A big thank you again to everyone who contributed.

Of course we have the prefectural events along with the usual puzzles as well.

On a personal note, we did it, we held our first event *outside* of Okayama! And we couldn't have done it without you.

Of course, there were a few bumps along the way and things we'd like to improve next time, so we'd love to hear your thoughts. Keep an eye on your email next week for a short survey, whether you attended or not, let us know what your opinion on events like these.

As always, we're looking for contributors! If you have photos of cool places you've explored, events you've attended within the prefecture, stories from your time on the JET Programme, or even book and movie recommendations, we'd love to feature you.

If you're interested in contributing, don't hesitate to reach out to us at:

✉️ newsletter@okayama-ajet.com

✉️ okayama.rose@gmail.com



Rainy Season

It's that time of year where the people of Japan are put to the ultimate test. Enduring extreme humidity and rainfall in tandem. This is given the highly original name of 'Rainy Season', or, if you're a fellow Brit, business as usual. In the UK, we're said to have four seasons, but it's more like two. Grim, and not as grim. Okayama is quite the contrast, with more sun that any of us can really handle.

Temperatures remain consistently high from around May to September. Last year, the unpleasantness even stuck around until late October. If we are to put a timeline on this transition from Spring to Summer here, I'd say stay on your toes, umbrella in hand, from early June to mid-July.

Of course, the real question is, how do we deal with the weather without showing up to work looking like we've preheated ourselves at 150 degrees Celsius? Quick answer, unless you have a car, you don't. Stock up quickly on an umbrella or two, buy a thinly layered raincoat, and turn your morning commute into a mad dash to dryness.



I remember fondly walking to my base school on a miserable, sticky Monday morning last year with no protective gear, turning up like a wet dog scrambling to dry my hair in the bathroom for the first twenty minutes of my shift. Ah... Memories.

It's also worth noting that Japan's notorious umbrella bandits will be out in full swing during this time. Be prepared to part with any 2000 yen umbrella you choose to leave in the Konbini stand. There are a few ways to prevent them being snatched, a mildly tempered note with just enough of a veiled threat to avoid police questioning being the first that comes to mind. Some even go as far as buying small locks. I would say that any that look sort of unique tend to be safer, as it's far easier for them to make off with any of the black or clear ones you'd find in a FamilyMart without too much notice.

Handheld electric fans might be a worthy investment, found anywhere but typically cheapest in Don Quijote.

Also, pray that your school doesn't have a strict start date for air conditioning. Things are already heating up but some of the more stubborn VP's may insist on a very specific start date. Not so fun in the teacher's office, even less so in the classroom.

And what, might you ask, is the reward for making it through the next month? Blistering sun and bright blue skies. Some people's worst/ nightmare, other's idea of paradise.

Enjoy!



Spring in Suzuka

Although Japan is geographically much smaller than many of our respective home countries, there is still an endless amount of niche activities and places to see. I'm not sure how many of you readers are motorsports fans, but once a year Suzuka, Japan hosts a Formula 1 grand prix. This year, it was held on the first weekend of April, from the 4th to the 6th.



For a grand prix weekend, we begin with Friday. During this first day, we have practice session 1 & 2. Each practice session is one hour long, with various activities spread throughout the rest of the day. My one recommendation for Friday is, get there early if you want any of the limited merchandise special to that race, as it will sell out quickly. I arrived on track at about 9:30am on Friday, and the limited hat I wanted was already sold out, so fair warning. On Saturday, we have practice session 3 and the Qualifying session. Each of these sessions also last 1 hour. Finally, on Sunday, we have the race. Depending on how smoothly the race carries out, they last from about 1.5 to 2 hours.

First, let's dive into the logistics of the travel to and from the circuit. Now getting to Suzuka from Nagoya, you had basically 3 options: take a cab (expensive), take the kintetsu line from Nagoya station to Shiroko station, then catch a dedicated bus to the circuit, or take a variety of trains from Nagoya station to Ino station, followed up by a 25 min walk to the station. I opted for the trains and walk option, being the cheapest. By far, the transport was my least favorite aspect of the weekend. People PILED onto the trains, and it was definitely the most crowded transit I've ever been on.



As for the trip back to Nagoya from Suzuka, I chose to leave early both Friday and Saturday to avoid the big crowds. However, I later saw and heard stories of those who left at the normal time, waiting in lines for up to 3 hours trying to return to Nagoya. So my one tip is, either leave early to avoid crowds, or be mentally prepared to wait in an abhorrent line. Now for Sunday (race day) I did not want to leave before the race ended.

So, I walked the 1.5 hours to Shiroko station, and immediately hopped on a train back to Nagoya. Shiroko station is much bigger than Ino, and has IC capability, as well as some limited and rapid express, as well as normal trains. The journey was long, but at least I was moving rather than stuck in a 3 hour long line.

As for the actual events, Suzuka has many food options, with stalls all around the circuit. There is also a small amusement park, which you get free access to with your track ticket. I chose to ride the ferris wheel once, and it gave me a great view of the track.

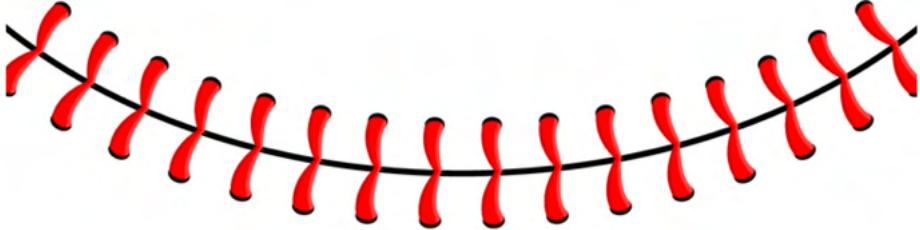
There are a ton of shops to buy merchandise for each of the teams, as well as Suzuka track specific items. There was a wide range of food options, from yakisoba and karaage, to burgers, sausages and fries. I found the track easy enough to navigate, and there were beautiful cherry blossoms around parts of the track creating beautiful scenery.



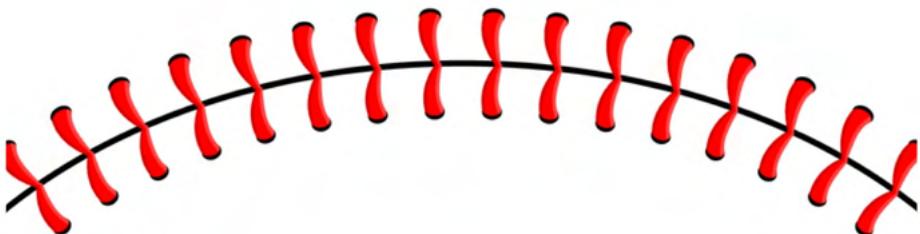
The atmosphere of the event and attendees was amazing, as many people dress up and come in extravagant costumes and other memorabilia, to celebrate their favorite teams/drivers, or even just the sport. As we are in Japan, there were many supporters of the only current Japanese F1 driver, Yuki Tsunoda.



If you have any interest in Formula 1 at all, I'd recommend this race, for its general experience, the food, and the ticket prices being some of the best in the whole season.



Baseball in Japan...and how NPB is objectively more *lit* than MLB



On May 31st, 2025, Okayama AJET gathered and went out to the ball game. For many, it was their first time to attend an NPB, 日本プロ野球, Nippon Professional Baseball, match; and for some it was their first time attending a baseball game in general. After a cloudy and bipolar week of blazing hot or cloudy and rainy days, the stage was set for a beautiful and perfect show down as the sun came through and brought with it adequate breeze for the Saturday match.

The stage was set for an amazing match. Okayama ALTs and friends converged on Mazda Stadium in Hiroshima to watch the second game of the series between the Hiroshima Toyo Carp, Chugoku's only baseball team, and the, currently on an unstoppable war path, Hanshin Tigers - two teams with their own extreme followings and strong fan bases. With all seats in this massive stadium completely sold out, it felt as though the entirety of West Japan was present to watch red and white attempt to defend their home from black and yellow; a fish trying to avoid being lunch for a massive feline with an insatiable hunger.

The Teams



The Hiroshima Toyo Carps (広島東洋カープ)

The pride of Hiroshima, and the sole professional baseball team, in either the Central or Pacific League, in Chugoku, the Carps are one of Japan's seasoned baseball organizations. True and proper Carps fans, even the foreign ones, will assert and remind you that the team is Hiroshima Toyo "Carp", not the "Carps", as a result of how the team is pronounced in Japanese - 「カーブス」じゃなくて、「カープ」. Yes this is true, as a JTE, a Carp fan, also made sure to point this out to me after I had mistakenly put 「広島東洋カーブス」 as an answer choice on a Kahoot quiz.

In 2025, as of the match, the Carps ranked 4th in the Central League. Although they have had several notable displays of power, progressing far in the series and entering the playoffs several times in recent years, Hiroshima has also been suffering a drought of series wins. As of 2025, they are the only team that has not won the Japan Series Championship in the 21st century.

While Koi fish, Carps, are greatly associated with Japan in general, they are especially associated and revered in Hiroshima. Koi, in Japan, are revered particularly for being observed swimming upstream, against strong currents, as in despite what struggles life throws at them. They are resilient. Carps were a symbol of hope for Hiroshima, particularly following the Second World War, when Hiroshima had to face extreme hardship to rebuild from ashes. To add on to that, the Carps, the team, were founded in 1949, five years after the war, and has become a symbol of the city's resilience and amazing postwar recovery.



The Hanshin Tigers

Hailing from the base of Mount Rokko are the pride of the Kansai Region, particularly Osaka, the Tigers. Based at the legendary Koshien Baseball Stadium, the Tigers are one of the two most well known and storied teams in all of Japanese baseball, with the other being their true rivals, the Yomiuri Giants of Tokyo. They are the second oldest team to be founded in Japan, being founded in 1935, originally debuting as the Osaka Tigers. Especially in 2025, they have become even more known around the world in the scope of professional baseball, as they are the team that had toppled both the Chicago Cubs and the former World Series Champions, the Los Angeles Dodgers, in the Tokyo Series at the beginning of both the NPB and MLB's seasons; being the only team in those four exhibition games to come out undefeated and gaining the mantra among Tigers fans as the "World's Number One Team".

As of June 4th, 2025, the Tigers have continued along a rampage on their baseball war path as the NPB's seemingly unstoppable juggernaut; leading their league in first place with 31 wins, the most wins so far this season, as well as the least losses, in both Central and Pacific Leagues. Fans, across Japan and the world, have begun to call that it is high time for the Tiger's **二次会**, second time, to win the Japan Series as they had just recently won back in 2023.

Beyond the team's outstanding match performance, the team is also very well known for its wide spread, avid, vocal, loyal, active, and lively fan base. If there was one group of baseball fans in Japan, possibly the world, you could label as fanatical, it would be those of the Hanshin Tigers. Whether it be pouring rain or burning sun, whether at home or far away, Tigers fans show up and show out with the numbers of an army. They are known to outnumber their opposing team's fans, even when they are away from their home turf; and begs the question by opposing team fans, "How are there so many of them, this far away from Osaka?"

Match Highlights and Outcome

The match started out calmly, as both Tigers and Carps shut each other out for the first several innings. Carps pitcher, #19 Tokoda, achieved several strikeouts against the Tiger's batting line up. Additionally, early on in the match in the bottom of the 3rd inning, the Carps manage to put pressure on Hanshin's defense, managing to put players on both 1st and 3rd bases, before the Carps were outed with an unfortunate pop fly to first.

At the top of the 5th inning, the Tigers offense drew first blood as first shortstop, #0 Kinami, hits a timely base hit allowing 3rd baseman, #96 Hernandez, to score a run and take the score up to 1-0.

The Carp's counterattack chance would come in the bottom of the 8th inning, as Hiroshima pinch hitter, #7 Dohbayashi, slams a two-base hit deep into left field, creating a chance for the Carps to catch up the Tiger's lead, however this would be for nought as in the next at-bat centerfielder, #37 Noma, would hit an unfortunate grounder towards 3rd base, getting Dohbayashi tagged out for the third out.

Finally the top of the 9th inning when Tigers 1st baseman, #3 Ohyama, hits another base hit and brings 2nd baseman, #51 Nakano, home to up the score 2-0, leading to a Tigers victory for the day.

Hanshin would then go on to win again the following day, with a final score of 8-0, sweeping the Carps in the series. This would be the first time the Tigers swept the Carps in their home stadium in, apparently, the past 12 years.



The NPB Experience



Flags, banners, bats, blaring trumpets, and the chants of the masses, what sets NPB games apart from their MLB counterparts are the crowd interaction and the cheering. Where games in the US tend to rely fully on crowd hype, and can get comparatively quiet if there is no action (see Ohtani dozing off while the Dodgers seal club the Yankees). At an NPB match there is really no such thing as a lull in the crowd, it is always maximum volume and energy from one team's fans or the other, with no break in between.

Each team has their own unique chants and songs. Beyond that, every single player has their own unique chant for when they are at bat, and the fans know them all to heart. The passionate chants of encouragement echo throughout the stadium to the beat of the drums and handheld baseball bats, and the sounding of trumpets.

For first time fans, is knowing every player's chant necessary? No. Even just being among the crowd, with adequate beverages is great already. You can ride the high energy without knowing specific chants and cheering when your team makes a run. For those of you that have a favorite team, or have started to lean more towards a certain team that could possibly become your team, I'd say: learn the team's theme song/fight song first. That song is usually always played on the speakers and sung at the beginning of the match, during the team's at-bat in the 7th inning, known as "Lucky Seven", and at the end if the team happens to win. Depending on the team, it may be sung with a faster rhythm upon every run the team successfully completes; and in the case of the Tigers, Rokko Oroshi is sung upon every score.



**Scoring Chance:
Wasshoi chant**

Japanese	English
勝利～目指せ～！おお～タイガース～	Aim for victory, Tigers!
わっしょいわっしょい！ ワッショイワッショイ！	Here we go, here we go!
	Here we go, here we go!
わっしょいわっしょい！ ワッショイワッショイ！	Here we go, here we go!
	Here we go, here we go!
(ドンドンドン)オー！ (ドンドンドン)オー！	(Bang bang bang) OH!
	(Bang bang bang) OH!
(ドンドンドンドン) oooo !	(Bang bang bang bang) _____ (player's name)
oooo倒せ～オー！	Kick _____'s butt!

Personally, having studied up on the Tigers chants leading up to the game, and this being the first game that I knew pretty much all the chants for Hanshin's offensive line up (I'm sure you remember the one single ALT that was actually fully committed and learned in the Tiger's chants), I will say: adequate beverages + knowing all the chants adds to the overall experience ten-fold. Chants may not be on par with British football (read: soccer) chants, but they are energetic, invigorating, and can be sharp and pointy towards the other team as well. The Tigers chants calling, 「かっとばせタイガース！ 広島倒せ！」, “Knock it out of the park Tigers (or whichever player is batting at the moment)! Topple/Fall/Crush Hiroshima!” to the rhythm of the drums and trumpets of war, is certainly a mood especially when surrounded as a small speck of black and yellow among a sea of red and white.



Of course, being surrounded by a group of 30 of your fellow friends, and ALTs adds to the experience too. Third year ALT Blair Evans, when asked about how his first ever baseball game experience was, stated, “I enjoyed going in a big group. I've never been to a baseball game, even in the states, so experiencing it for the first time was great. (It) made me wanna learn Hanshin cheers too.”

And while baseball can be (incorrectly) thought of as a boring sport initially, NPB baseball would immediately correct that thought with its high energy atmosphere and its passionate fan bases. As third year ALT Liam Bewsher stated, “I thought the game was alright (pronounced as: amazing). Knowing absolutely nothing about baseball, I expected it to be really boring. Though I think the crowd was a big part of what made it pretty fun.” First year ALT Ernest Iam closely follows Liam’s statements saying, “the novelty was (pretty) fun. I think going in a big group is a nice idea.”



Hopefully AJET continues to organize further baseball outings to official NPB matches. Games in Japan are less talked about in comparison to typical average ordinary touristy things, but are equally enjoyed and looked forward to for the unique experience they provide. What's more, general unreserved seating is quite cheap, especially compared to ticket prices in MLB matches, albeit slots sell out in the blink of an eye. If you were unable to attend, or haven't had the chance to, even if not initially a baseball fan, why not try going to, or taking someone out to the ball game? It is an unforgettable experience with its own unique-to-Japan flavor.





Happy Friday, all! This is the first of a new (hopefully regular) entry into our ever fabled newsletter. I'll do my best to cover all of the latest information on games and the industry in general, provided you can get past the general layer of British cynicism.

I jest, of course. Most of us here in Okayama find ourselves relishing the escapism of games and stories in one way or another. The goal is to highlight some of what's in store for the rest of 2025 and beyond.



Where better to begin than Nintendo's brand new hybrid system, incorporating their classic handheld and home console experiences into one, bursting onto the scene with Mario Kart... Hang on a second, I think I'm paraphrasing an article from 2017.

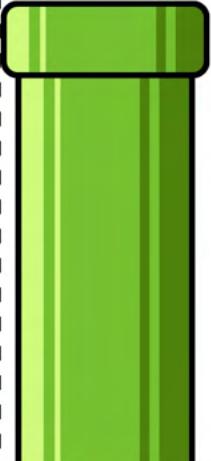


Okay, okay, I know. The Switch 2 is a marked improvement over its predecessor, especially in the technical sense, with games playable at 4k/120FPS, 256GB internal storage, and a larger LCD just to name a few things. It's aptly named, with Nintendo having realised they had struck gold with the format of the console. No major deviations were necessary, just a newer system with more up-to-date technology. They aren't making the same mistake as the Wii U, which failed in part due to Nintendo's inability to market it as an effective successor to the Wii. This time, they've quite literally just said: "Yeah, we know the Switch was good. Here's a better one."



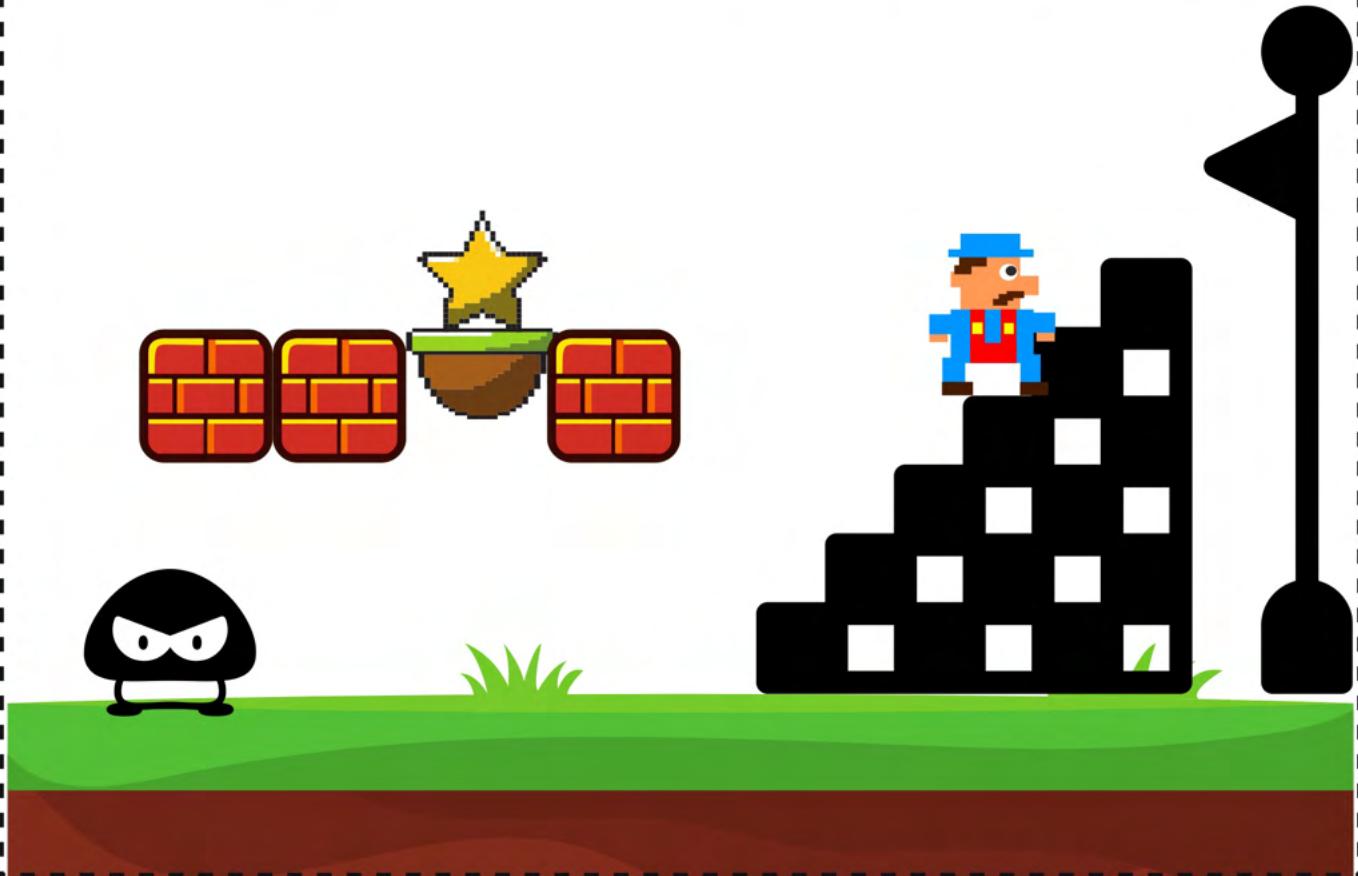
In other news, the second trailer for Grand Theft Auto VI released with a whopping 100 million views in less than a week. Now I am no expert, but I reckon a few people might be excited for that one. Though I must confess, as much of a fun time waster with friends GTA V was, I don't share the same hype as many others for the next installment, but everybody and their mum is 100% buying it anyway. It will be the biggest game launch of all time without question.

It's gotten to a point where people are genuinely concerned about other franchises releasing around May of 2026. Marvel 1943: Rise of Hydra has been pushed back another year without any other news about it recently. Some are debating what the content of it will actually be. The premise is intriguing, but I fear it may end up being another Star Wars: Eclipse situation.



Ghost of Yotēi is still on track to arrive in October 2025, if there is any game I'm excited about, it's that. Ghost of Tsushima was one of the greatest games ever made, and though all of our fondness of Japan isn't exactly well hidden, I don't even think you can claim that I'm biased here. If anyone is still yet to experience that one, get on it as soon as possible. It's pure cinema, so much so that they're reportedly going to make it into an actual movie.

That should wrap things up for now, but if anyone has any suggestions on what to talk about, or what they'd like to see, please let me know!



GAME
OVER

Written by



@lewischissio

Events in Okayama

JUNE - EARLY JULY 2025

第5回宴joy備中地酒フェスSAKEべ！！ -

5th banquet joy Bitchu local sake festival SAKE!! -



Date: June 7th and 8th

Location: Kurashiki Geibunkan Square

Time: 11:00 - 17:00

Admission: Free

*Sake and food by **cash** payment*

[More info: 日本語](#)

湯郷温泉 ホタル観賞 -

Yugo Onsen Firefly Viewing

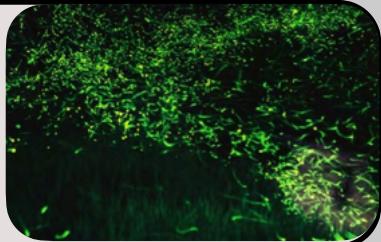
Date: Late May - Early June

[More Info: 日本語](#)

Location: Otani River Park

Time: 19:30 - 21:00

Admission: Free



第16回 備前市大滝山西法院 あじさい祭り -

16th Bizen City Ōtakisan Saihōin Hydrangea Festival



Date: June 14th - 22nd

[More Info: 日本語](#)

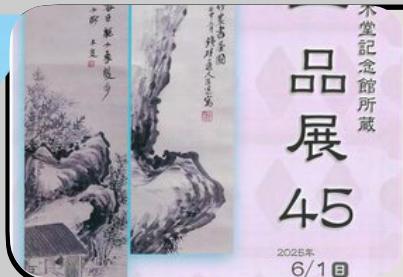
Location: Ōtakisan Saihōin

Time: 9:00 - 16:00

Admission: Free

犬養木堂記念館所蔵 一品展45 -

Inukai Kido Memorial Museum Collection: Special Exhibition 45



Date: June 1st - 30th

*closed Tuesdays

[More Info: 日本語 | English](#)

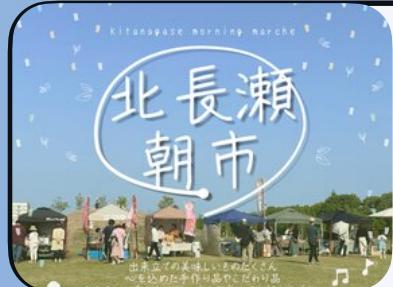
Location: Inukai Kido Memorial Museum

Time: 09:00 - 17:00

Admission: Free

北長瀬朝市

Kitanagase Morning Market



Date: June 22nd

Location: Kitanagase Mirai Fureai General Park

Time: 07:30 - 12:30

Admission: Free

More info: [日本語](#)

聴竹亭茶席 (6月)

Tea at Chōchikutei (June)



Date: June 21st and 28th

Location: Kibibi Museum Tea Room

Time: 12:00 - 16:00

Admission: ¥1200

(Includes Matcha + sweets and admission to museum)

More Info: [日本語](#)

亀岩まつり

Kameiwa Festival

Date: July 9th

Location: Kameishi Shrine

Time: 19:00 - 22:00

Admission: Free

More Info: [日本語](#)



OTHER

International Meet Up Party 「せかつく」



Date: Saturday June 7th and July 5th

Location: Matador (Bar in Okayama City)

More info: [Instagram](#)

Time: 20:00 - 22:00

Admission:

Men ~ ¥4000

All you can drink and buffet style food included

Women ~ ¥3500



OKAJET

Hydrangea Viewing at Kibitsu Shrine

Saturday, June 21st

From 2pm~

931 Kibitsu, Kita Ward,
Okayama, 701-1341



Want to be part of
The Peach Cobbler!!?!



If you want to
contribute photos or
stories please contact
us at
newsletter@okayama-ajet.com
OR
okayama.rose@gmail.com



more info available on www.okayama-ajet.com

ANSWER KEY

Difficulty: Easy

Monthly Sudoku

MAY 2025

1	5	7	2	6	4	9	3	8
4	6	3	9	8	7	1	5	2
8	2	9	3	1	5	4	7	6
2	9	8	6	5	3	7	4	1
6	1	5	7	4	8	3	2	9
7	3	4	1	2	9	8	6	5
3	7	6	5	9	1	2	8	4
5	4	1	8	7	2	6	9	3
9	8	2	4	3	6	5	1	7

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

漢字クイズ
熟語パズル

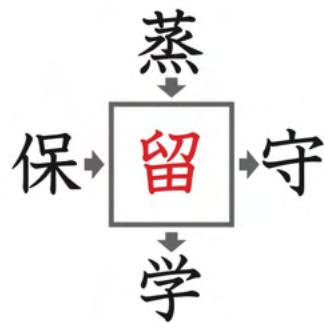
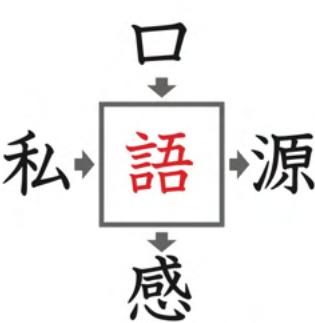
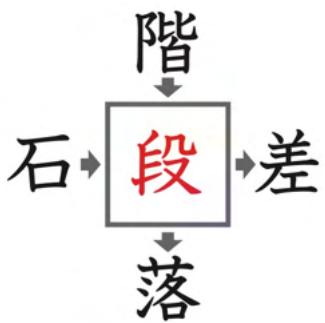
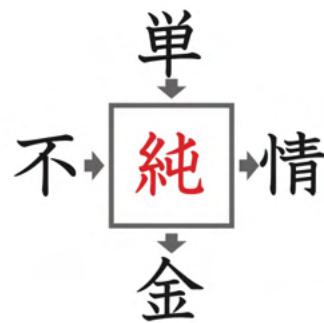
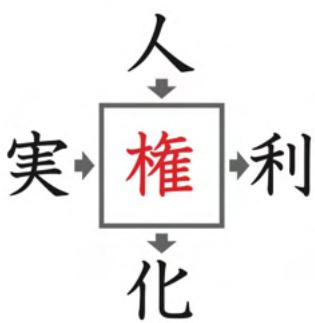
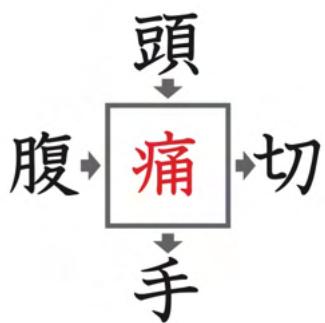
小学6年生の漢字
ねらい：習った漢字で
出来る熟語を覚える

名前

□に入る漢字を下の□の中から選んでね。四つの二字熟語
が出来るよ！



二つの漢字を
組み合わせただけで、
たくさんの
言葉が出来てるね！



痛 段 障 語 願 留 権 解 純 異

Difficulty: Evil

Monthly Sudoku

JUNE 2025

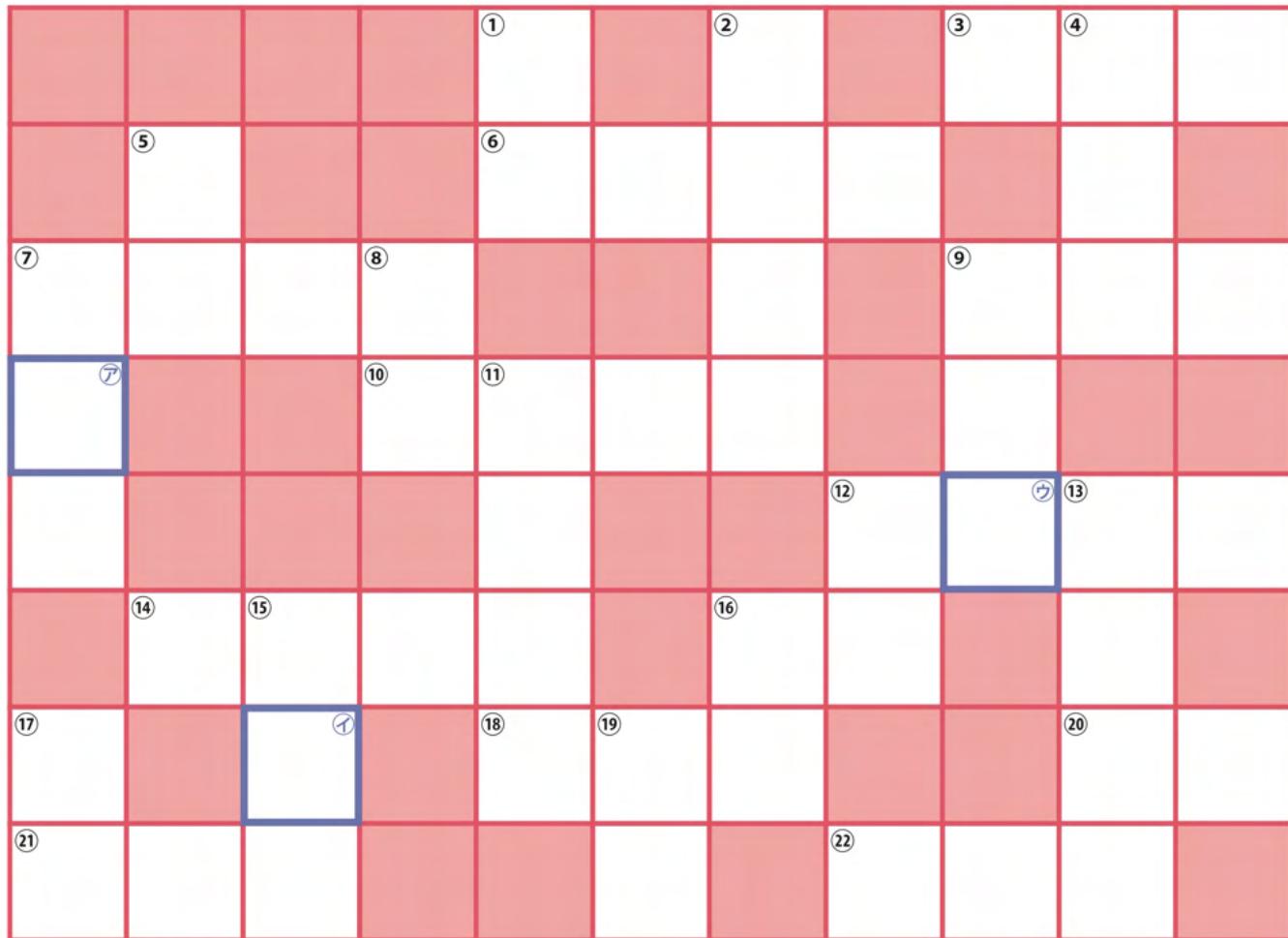
			8		9			1
			2					
	9				7			2
6	8					2	3	
					8	1	4	
			8					
3	1			9				6
8			3					5

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

クロスワードパズルだよ！全部書けたら、Ⓐ～Ⓑの文字を使って言葉を作ってね。

ヒント：上から二番目

答元



タテのかぎ

① 一人一人、それぞれに。
② 車が止まつて、安全を確認する事。
③ 能力が足りない事。
④ 一発○○サヨナラホームラン！
⑤ ちとせあめを食べて長生きしよう。
⑥ ○○！礼！着席！
⑦ 下の学年の生徒。
⑧ 運動会の一一番最初。音楽に合わせて
⑨ ○○○が始まります。
⑩ 六角柱型のガラスのような宝石。
⑪ 動くものを見る能力。
⑫ ○○○に一年生から並んでください。
⑬ みんなで考えて○○を出す。
⑭ 有るのか、無いのか。
⑮ アンモナイトの○○。
⑯ お客様を乗せて、人が引いて動かす車。
⑰ 好きな事が出来る。
⑱ 失敗にくじけず、何度もやり直す事。
⑲ くつを入れるたな。
⑳ 入っちゃダメ！
㉑ 水中で生活する動物。
㉒ 昼間は色々見学して、夜はまくら投げ。
㉓ 同じ形は一つも無い、雪の○○。
㉔ ダークインがとなえた。
㉕ ダークインがとなえた。
㉖ 目で見て いる方向。○○をそらす。
㉗ よく考えず軽はずみな事。○○○な行動。
㉘ バケツをふり回して水が落ちないのは、
㉙ この力のおかげ。