

## Lesson 67

## 1 TOPIC QUESTION

今日のトピック

# Are there any special ceremonies for spirits in your country?

あなたの国には鎮魂祭がありますか？

## 2 ARTICLE

記事

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

課題：以下の記事をはっきりとした声で音読しましょう。



## Obon in Japan

Mostly Japanese people get a weeks holiday around August 15<sup>th</sup> for Obon. It's different for each region, but generally it begins from the 13th and ends on the 16th of August.

Obon is one of the most important traditions in Japan's culture. People believe that their ancestors' spirits come back to their home town to visit their family during the Obon period. The customs and the way Obon is celebrated are different for each region. The basic ritual is to clean the house and prepare some nice food and flowers in front of a Buddhist altar. In this way, families can prepare to welcome the spirits of their ancestors back into their home.

Obon begins with the family visiting the graves of their ancestors. They lay joss sticks on the grave that give off a mysterious scent. They remember their dead relatives and welcome them back home. At the end of Obon floating lanterns are put into rivers and lakes to guide the spirits back to their own world. Obon is a time to remember your ancestors and spend time with your family.

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## 3 VOCABULARY

語い

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

課題: 先生の後が続いてくり返した後、今度はひとりで発音してみましょう。

**ancestors** 先祖、祖先**ritual** 儀式、監修**altar** 祭壇、供物台**grave** 墓**joss stick** 線香**floating** 浮かんでいる、浮遊の

## 4 QUESTIONS

質問

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

課題: 質問を声に出して読んだ後、答えてみましょう。

1. What is Obon?
2. What do people do during the Obon period?
3. How does Obon end?
4. Have you ever felt the existence of the spirits of ancestors during Obon?