

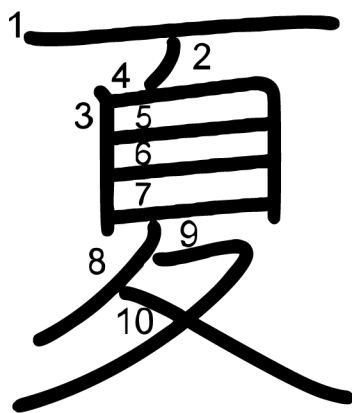


JAPAN INFORMATION
AND CULTURE CENTER
在米国日本大使館広報文化センター

TEACHING TUESDAY

KANJI - SUMMER

It's time for the seasonal kanji lesson! Summer is hot, so let's learn about the history of the kanji for summer, natsu 夏. The connection of the kanji to the season of summer is a bit more roundabout than other seasons. The kanji 夏 itself originally was meant to depict a person with a large, upturned face dancing. Likewise, the original meaning for this kanji was "great," and summer was a later associated meaning. The kanji's first connection with the season began around 770~403 BCE, when people noted that the large, upturned face was similar to the way plants act in summer — they are in full bloom, turning their face to the sun, and full of life. In addition, dances (especially at festivals), were often held during the summertime. Ever since then, the kanji 夏 has meant "summer."



Meaning: Summer

Kun'yomi: Natsu なつ nah-tsoo

On'yomi: Ka; Ga; Ge カ;ガ;ゲ

kah;gah;gay