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# TEACHING TUESDAY

## GOLDEN WEEK

MAY 2, 2017

The month of April is a sign of new beginnings in Japan. The academic school year begins, many recent college graduates enter into their first full-time job, and the Japanese fiscal year begins. To recuperate from these major changes, many Japanese citizens take a week-long vacation from late April to early May, known as Golden Week (ゴールデン・ウィーク). Golden Week is a collection of four national holidays that are spread over the course of one week.

Golden Week begins on April 29th with Showa Day. It is followed by three holidays in a row. The first Constitution Day, on May 3rd, followed by Greenery Day on May 4th and Children's Day on May 5th. These holidays celebrate the constitution, the environment, and the health and lives of children. These holidays are celebrated with festivals all over Japan, including special activities at national and local parks, as well as Hamamatsu's Kite Fighting (May 3-5) and Fukuoka's Hakata Dontaku Festival (May 3-4).

The weather during Golden Week is quite pleasant since temperatures remain quite cool in May. Thus, many Japanese people enjoy their holidays by traveling the country with their families or sometimes embarking on international travel. Factories and companies close down shop during the holidays but some will close even on days that are not national holidays since so many employees use their paid vacation time during the Golden Week holiday season.