

Japan's Vibrant June 2026: Festivals, Ancient Rituals & Unique Celebrations U

Japanese Festivals · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which significant festival, dating back to the Edo period, involves a grand procession of approximately 500 people in Heian-era costumes and is scheduled for June 12, 2026, in Tokyo?

- A) Torikoe Matsuri
- B) Sanno Matsuri**
- C) Aizen Matsuri
- D) Kanazawa Hyakumangoku Matsuri

2. The Nagoshi no Harae ritual, observed on June 30th, involves participants passing through a large ring made of thatch or straw. What is the primary purpose of this purification ritual?

- A) To celebrate the rice planting season
- B) To pray for good health in the second half of the year**
- C) To honor the spirits of ancestors
- D) To mark the beginning of the summer solstice

3. In June 2026, Tokyo will host the Tsukiji Lion Festival, featuring a parade of town mikoshi. What mythical creatures, believed to repel evil spirits, are central to this festival's theme?

- A) Kitsune (foxes)
- B) Tanuki (raccoon dogs)
- C) Shishi (imaginary beasts resembling lions)**
- D) Kappa (water imps)

4. The Yosakoi Soran Matsuri, a vibrant festival in Hokkaido, is scheduled for June 10-14, 2026. What is a key characteristic of this festival's performances?

- A) Sumo wrestling matches
- B) Sumptuous tea ceremonies
- C) Energetic dance performances with chanting**
- D) Competitive crying baby contests

5. Which Osaka festival, dating back over 1,400 years, is dedicated to the Buddhist god of good luck, charms, love, and marriage, and features a unique Hoekago Parade?

- A) Izawanomiya Otaue Matsuri
- B) Aizen Matsuri**
- C) Himeji Yukata Matsuri
- D) Chagu Chagu Umakko

6. In June 2026, the Kanazawa Hyakumangoku Matsuri will take place. The 'Hyakumangoku' in its name refers to the historical wealth of the Kaga domain, equivalent to approximately how many bushels of rice?

- A) 100,000 koku
- B) 500,000 koku
- C) 1 million koku**
- D) 10 million koku

7. The Tamagotchi Exhibition, marking 30 years since its 1996 launch, will be held in Sapporo from June 6-28, 2026. What was a primary demographic that embraced Tamagotchi upon its release?

- A) Elderly individuals
- B) Young children under five
- C) High school girls**
- D) Office workers

8. The Izawanomiya Otaue Matsuri on June 24th in Mie is one of Japan's major festivals celebrating 'otaue'. What does 'otaue' specifically refer to?

- A) A Shinto ritual of rice planting and sowing**
- B) A traditional sword-making ceremony
- C) A festival of the sea gods
- D) A purification ritual for warriors

9. In June 2026, what is noted as a significant feature of the Sanno Matsuri's Jinkosai procession, making its debut in that year's event?

- A) A samurai battle reenactment
- B) The introduction of the Ebi float**
- C) A performance by crying sumo wrestlers
- D) A traditional kite-flying competition

10. The Kifune Festival, held on June 1st at Kifune Shrine in Kyoto, honors deities for bringing rain and bountiful harvests. What type of ritual dances can be observed during this festival?

- A) Kabuki dances
- B) Bugaku ritual dances**
- C) Noh dances
- D) Bon Odori dances