

THEME 7 FOOD AND FESTIVALS LISTENING SKILL (SPICE UP)

A. Listen to the podcast and choose the correct answer. (Track 7.1 Workbook)

1. The Hamamatsu Kite Festival has a _____ history.
a) 415-year b) 450-year
2. The festival lasts _____.
a) three days b) a week
3. The kites are flown _____ the city.
a) inside b) outside
4. The kite battles are held in order to _____.
a) bring down others' kites b) win a prize
5. _____ make up the majority of kite teams.
a) Men b) Women

B. Listen again and write Yes or No. (Track 7.1 Workbook)

1. The kites are flown for the well-being of children.
2. The kites used in kite battles are sold in toy shops.
3. The kites are big enough for one person to carry.
4. Music is played by the women and children at the festival.
5. During the festival, only kite wars are held.

Track 7.1 (Workbook)

Gerard: Hello, everyone. Today, Michael and I will talk about the Hamamatsu Kite Festival, which is one of Japan's biggest events.

Michael: Well, it all started about 450 years ago when the lord of the region sent a huge kite into the sky with his child's name on it. Every year between the 3rd and 5th of May, the local people fly colourful kites to wish their children good health, strength and courage.

Gerard: The festival is held on a large open field just outside the city, near the ocean. The sky is filled with colourful kites on the first day. They're not like the ones you can easily find in a toy shop. It takes 10 to 15 people to lift one of these giant kites into the air.

Michael: Wow! The festival is well-known for its kite battles, but the goal isn't to win a prize, is it?

Gerard: That's right. The teams show their skills by knocking the other teams' kites out of the sky.

Michael: Although the kite teams are largely made up of men, the event attracts thousands of women and children. They joyfully wave flags, play flutes and bang the drums. What about the festival's remaining two days?

Gerard: Oh, it's such a lively festival that everybody wants to join in. People enjoy walking around the city centre, tasting traditional foods and watching the brightly coloured floats.