The National Cherry Blossom Festival
by Liana Mahoney

Lots of people visit Washington, D.C. to tour the capital of the United States. But when spring is in the air, Washington, D.C. becomes an even more popular place to visit. Every year in late March, more than one and a half million people visit Washington, D.C. for the Cherry Blossom Festival.

More than three thousand blooming cherry trees put on an amazing natural display in the capital city during this festival. When they are in full bloom, the trees are stunning! They are covered with pale pink blossoms that are a feast for the eyes. But they also hold a special place in American history. The trees were originally a gift from Japan, given to the United States in the year 1912. Today, the trees are a symbol of a close bond between the United States and Japan. Some of the trees include those planted by former First Ladies, such as Helen Taft and Michelle Obama.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is a three-week long celebration. The date changes from year to year, but it usually begins in late March and ends in mid-April. The festival includes events held all over the city. People can come to take in the beauty of the beautiful blossoms. They can learn about the history of the trees, and the friendship between the countries of Japan and the United States. But they can also enjoy many other events, such as fireworks, music, dancing, and artistic performances by American and Japanese artists. There is also a Blossom Kite Festival and a Cherry Blossom Parade. There is so much to celebrate and enjoy at the National Cherry Blossom Festival!
The National Cherry Blossom Festival

1) Which countries are associated with the National Cherry Blossom Festival?
   a) Japan and America
   b) Japan only
   c) America only
   d) None of the above

2) What do you mean by ‘A feast for the eyes’? What does it refer to here?

3) What is the historical importance of this festival?

4) What do the cherry trees symbolize?

5) Underline the adverbs in the following sentences.
   
   The cherry trees were originally a gift from Japan.

   The festival generally begins in late March.
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2) What do you mean by ‘A feast for the eyes’? What does it refer to here?
   ‘A feast for the eyes’ means a very beautiful sight. Here, it refers to the cherry trees in full bloom.

3) What is the historical importance of this festival?
   The trees were originally a gift from Japan to the United States, in the year 1912.

4) What do the cherry trees symbolize?
   The cherry trees symbolize the close bond between the Japanese and American cultures.

5) Underline the adverbs in the following sentences.
   The cherry trees were originally a gift from Japan.
   The festival generally begins in late March.