



1 Article : Arrows Fly at Spectacular Fire Festival in Wakayama

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

An enchanting festival unfolded on January 27 at Cape Shionomisaki, the southernmost tip of Honshu in Kushimoto town, Wakayama Prefecture. Approximately 100,000 square meters of Boro no Shiba ("watchtower lawn") overlooking the Pacific Ocean were [set ablaze](#). As dusk fell, members of the local Kushimoto Koza High School archery club initiated the event by launching flaming arrows into the air toward the field.

The festival, promoted by the local tourism association as Honshu's Southernmost Fire Festival, serves a dual purpose. [Apart from](#) the visually stunning display, it aims to [eliminate](#) pests by burning the old grass. This [stimulates](#) the growth of new [shoots](#).

Visitors also enjoyed purchasing local products and watching dance performances. The festival served shorasan-nabe, a regional hot pot with minced fish balls, to the approximately 800 people in attendance.

When the arrows descended onto the grass, the flames danced and soared, engulfing the vast lawn. Kazuya Nagai, an office worker from Minabe, Wakayama Prefecture, attended the event with his wife. Expressing his awe, he said, "I was amazed by the fantastic, magnificent sight. My wife was also deeply moved. We want to see it again next year."

2 Key phrases and vocabulary

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. set ablaze 火をつける、燃やす

The campfire was **set ablaze** to keep us warm during the night.

2. eliminate 除去する、排除する、除く、排出する

The new policy aims to **eliminate** poverty in the region.

3. stimulate 刺激する、促進する、活気づける

The bright colors in the painting **stimulate** the senses.

4. shoot 芽、新芽

The bamboo **shoot** has just started to peek out of the ground.

5. apart from ~は別として、~を除いて

Apart from the rainy weather, the picnic was a success.

3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. Where did the festival take place and on what date?
2. What was the purpose of setting the Boro no Shiba ablaze?
3. What activities did the visitors enjoy at the festival?
4. What was the most memorable festival you've ever attended and why?
5. Have you ever participated in a festival as a performer or organizer?

4 日本語関連記事： 芝焼きの炎、幻想的に 和歌山・串本の潮岬

本州最南端の和歌山県串本町の潮岬で1月27日、太平洋を望む約10万平方メートルの「望楼の芝」を焼く火祭りが行われた。夕闇が迫る中、地元の県立串本古座高の弓道部員が点火用の火矢を芝生広場に放ってスタート。

火矢が芝生に落ちると炎がゆらゆらと上がり、広大な芝生が炎に包まれた。同県みなべ町から夫婦で訪れた会社員長井和也さん（48）は「幻想的で壮大な光景に驚いた。妻も感動していた。来年も見たい」と話した。

古い芝生を焼いて害虫を駆除し、新芽の生育を促す手入れを地元の観光協会が「本州最南端の火祭り」としてイベント化。地元の物産販売や踊りが披露され、名産のトビウオを使った「しょらさん鍋」と呼ばれるつみれ汁800人分がふるまわれた。