

A Dreamy Train Ride with Glowing Goldfish in Aomori

弘南鉄道・大鰐線では夏の間、竹と和紙を用いて作られた「金魚ねぶた」が車内を彩ります。LEDでライトアップされた車内はとても幻想的。夏の暑い日には涼しさも演出してくれるそう。生活を彩るような伝統工芸品や伝統的なイベントなど、みなさんの身近にもありますか？



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

The Owani Line of the Konan Railway, which **runs** through Hirosaki City in Aomori Prefecture, **features** a unique train decorated with around 350 goldfish lanterns **known as** *kingyo neputa*. The train will **run** until the end of August.

On weekends and holidays, the train operates at night with only the lanterns' lights illuminating the interior, creating a calm and refreshing ambiance during the hot summer days.

The **tradition** of *kingyo neputa* dates back to the Edo period (1603–1868). Since commoners could not afford to keep goldfish as pets, they crafted these decorations from bamboo and Japanese paper as a **substitute**.

The lanterns on the Konan Railway train are approximately 15 centimeters (about 6 inches) in size. When illuminated, the LED lights inside make the red Japanese paper glow, casting a magical ambiance throughout the two-car train.

A high school student from Sapporo traveling with their family remarked, "I'm a railway enthusiast, but I've never been on such an atmospheric train ride before. It really captures the essence of Tsugaru, and I enjoyed it a lot."

The train travels between Chuo Hirosaki Station and Owani Station, covering a distance of 13.9 kilometers (8.6 miles) in about 35 minutes. It makes eight round trips a day. There are no additional fees to board this special train.

Source : A Dreamy Train Ride with Glowing Goldfish in Aomori
[JAPAN Forward](#)

2. Key phrases and vocabulary

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

1. **run** (列車、車などが) 運行する、走る、駆ける

The company will **run** a new marketing campaign.

2. **feature** 特徴とする、呼び物とする、(俳優を) 主演させる

The new smartphone **features** a high-resolution camera.

3. **known as** ~ ~として知られている

This dish is **known as** the best in the region.

4. **tradition** 伝統、慣例、(芸術上の、古来の) 型、伝説、言い伝え

It is a **tradition** to eat mochi on New Year's Day in Japan.

5. **substitute** 代用品、代理人、補欠(者)

You can use honey as a **substitute** for sugar.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What is unique about the train on the Owani Line of the Konan Railway?
2. Why did commoners in the Edo period create *kingyo neputa* lanterns?
3. What is the distance covered by the train between Chuo Hirosaki Station and Owani Station, and how long does it take?
4. Have you ever been on a train with unique decorations or themes? If so, what was it like?
5. Do you have any traditions in your community that are similar to the *kingyo neputa*?

4. 日本語関連記事： 「金魚ねぷた」ゆらゆら、列車涼やかに 青森・弘南鉄道

青森県弘前市などを走る弘南鉄道・大鰐線で、津軽地方の夏を代表する工芸品「金魚ねぷた」約350個を車内に飾った列車が8月末まで運行中だ。土日祝日などの夜には、ねぷたの明かりだけを車内照明に走行。暑さが続く日々に涼やかな雰囲気を出している。

金魚ねぷたは江戸時代、庶民が高級魚だった金魚を飼う代わりに竹と和紙で作ったのが由来とされる。飾り付けたのは一つ約15センチで、ライトアップ時は、内部の発光ダイオード（LED）ライトが金魚の赤い和紙を通して2両編成の車内を幻想的に照らす。

家族と旅行に来た札幌市の高校生（17）は「鉄道ファンだが、こんなに風情のある電車は初めて。津軽らしさが出ていて楽しめた」と声を弾ませた。

中央弘前駅から大鰐駅までの13.9キロを約35分で結び、1日8往復する。追加料金はない。

出典：「金魚ねぷた」ゆらゆら、列車涼やかに 青森・弘南鉄道
[JAPAN Forward](#)