おおみそか

New Year’s Eve



About 「おおみそか」

おおみそか is New Year's Eve in Japan.

Let's say it in Japanese

12がつ31にち

おおみそか is an important time to be thankful for the year past and to prepare to welcome the new year. What do you think people do in the lead up to おおみそか and on the day?



Before
おおみそか

「おおそうじ」

End-of-the-year thorough cleaning

おお + そうじ

おおきい：big

cleaning









The whole house is thoroughly cleaned to clear out the dirt and bad energy before おおみそか.

Before
おおみそか

「おしょうがつ」のかざり

New Year’s ornaments



しめかざり



かどまつ



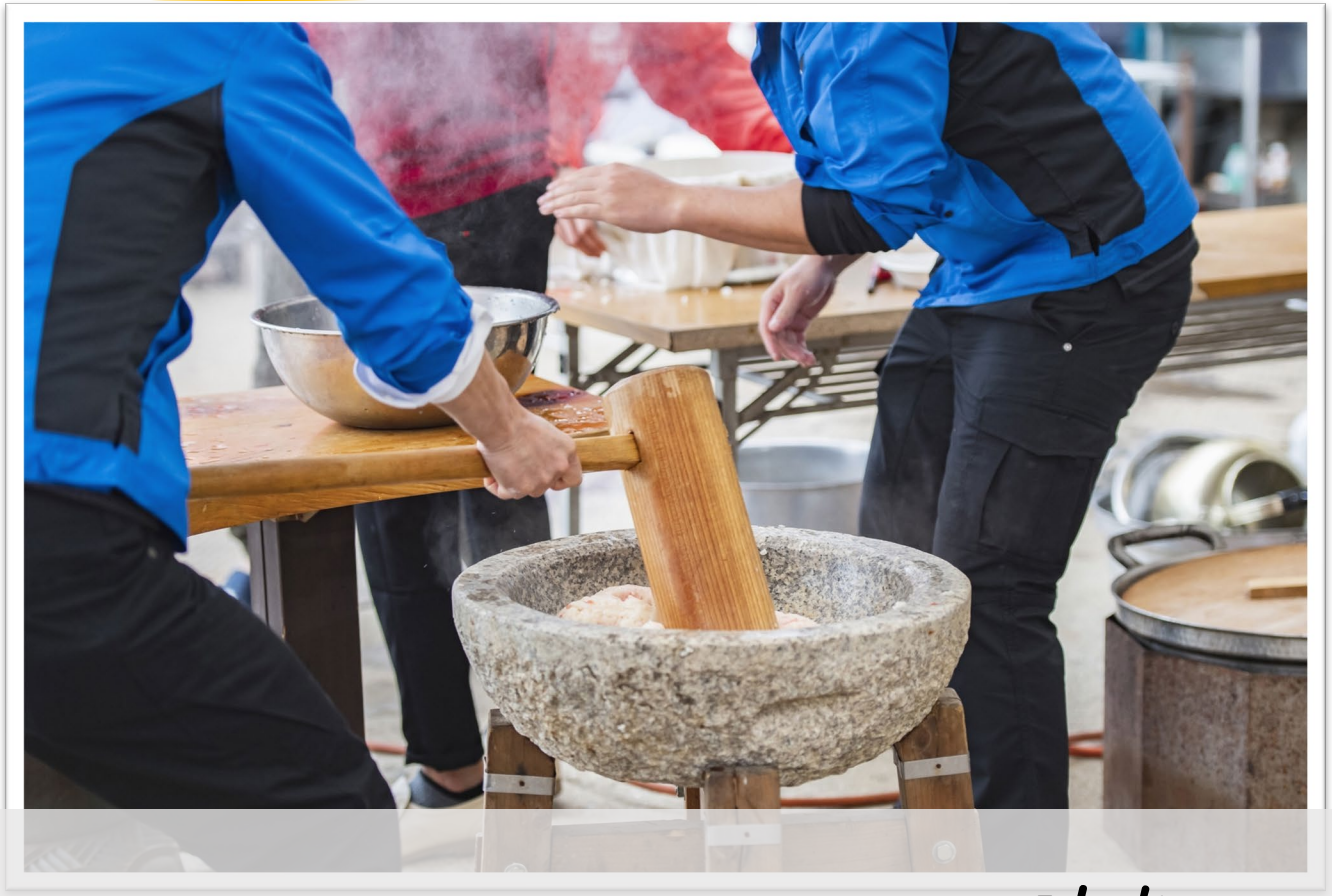
かがみもち

After「おおそうじ」，people display these ornaments to invite the gods of the New Year.

Before
おおみそか

「もちつき」

Making rice cake







People prepare「もち」for the new year.

Before
おおみそか

「ねんがじょう」

New Year's Greeting Cards





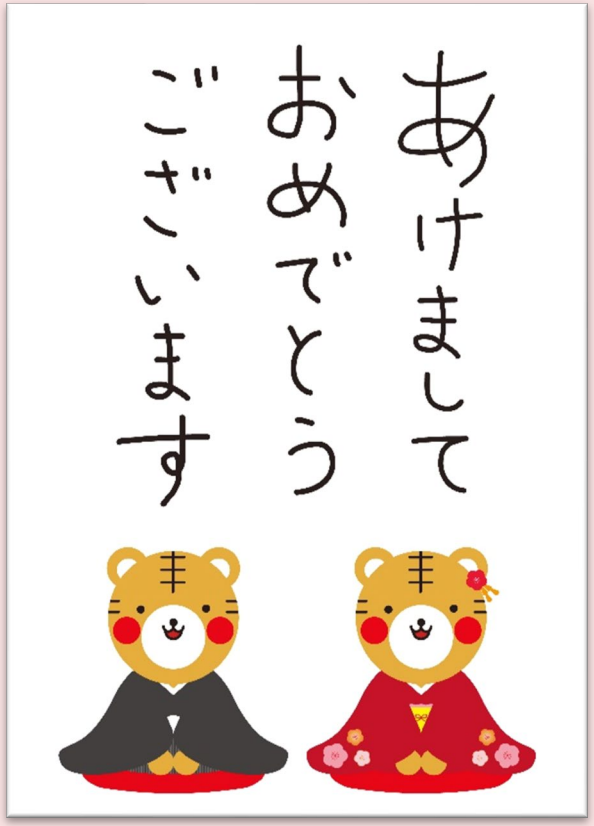
ねんがじょう is a greeting card to celebrate the new year. They should be sent out before おおみそか so that people can read them in the first week of January.

About「ねんがじょう」

What can you see？







About「ねんがじょう」

What can you see？

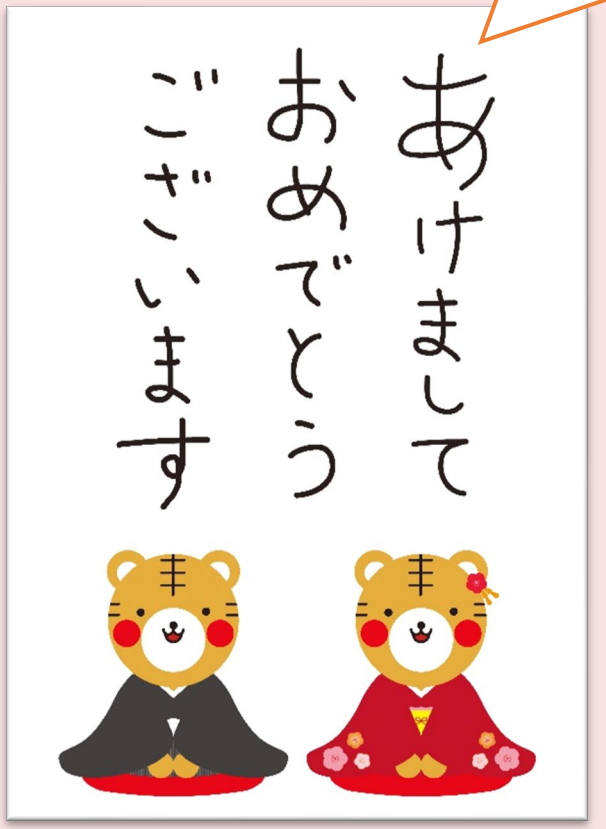


Zodiac animal of the year, “*juni-shi*”

Year



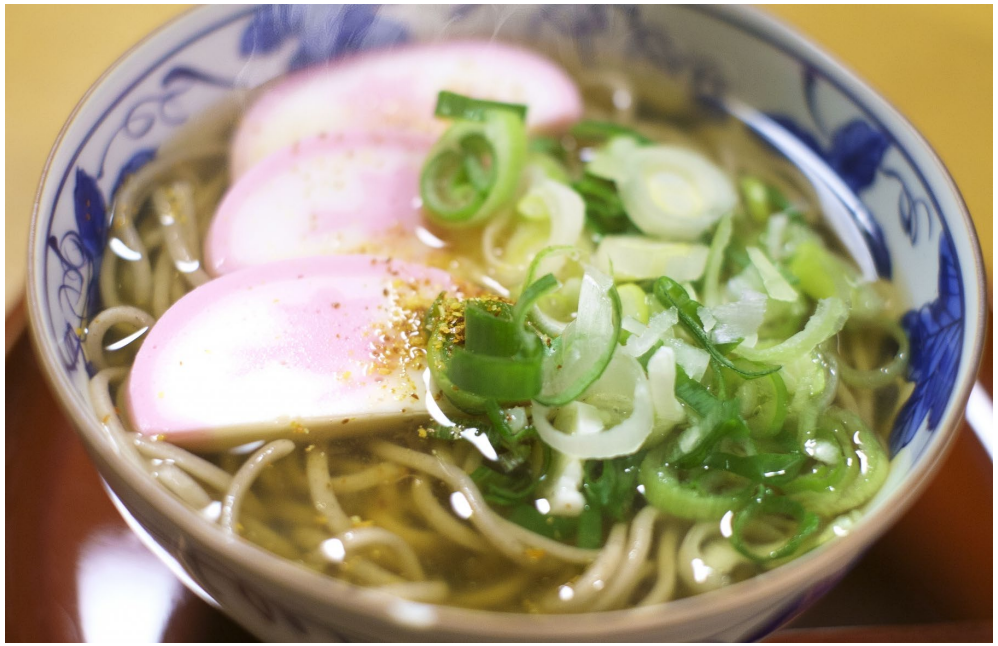
Greeting



On
おおみそか

「としこしそば」

Eating Year-Crossing Noodles





Long soba noodles represent a long life and people hope their family and themselves have longevity by eating soba.

On
おおみそか

かぞく

Spending the day with family









Many people spend time at home with their families having dinner, watching TV, etc.
Transport congestion is common around this time of the year due to people rushing to their hometowns.

On
おおみそか

じんじゃ・おてら

Visiting shrine/temple



Many people go to shrines/temples with friends and family in time for midnight on おおみそか.

On
おおみそか

じょやのかね

New Year's Eve Bell







At midnight on おおみそか, people strike/ listen to/ watch じょやのかね.
The bell is rung 108 times to expel negative desire and clear the air for the New Year.

おおみそか ○×クイズ

	おおみそか is New Year’s Day.
	Many people eat そば on おおみそか.
	Many people visit shrines on おおみそか.

おおみそか ○×クイズ

×	おおみそか is New Year’s Day.
○	Many people eat そば on おおみそか.
○	Many people visit shrines on おおみそか.

They eat としこしそば.
もち is for New Year’s Day.



「よいおとしを」

Have a great year!

