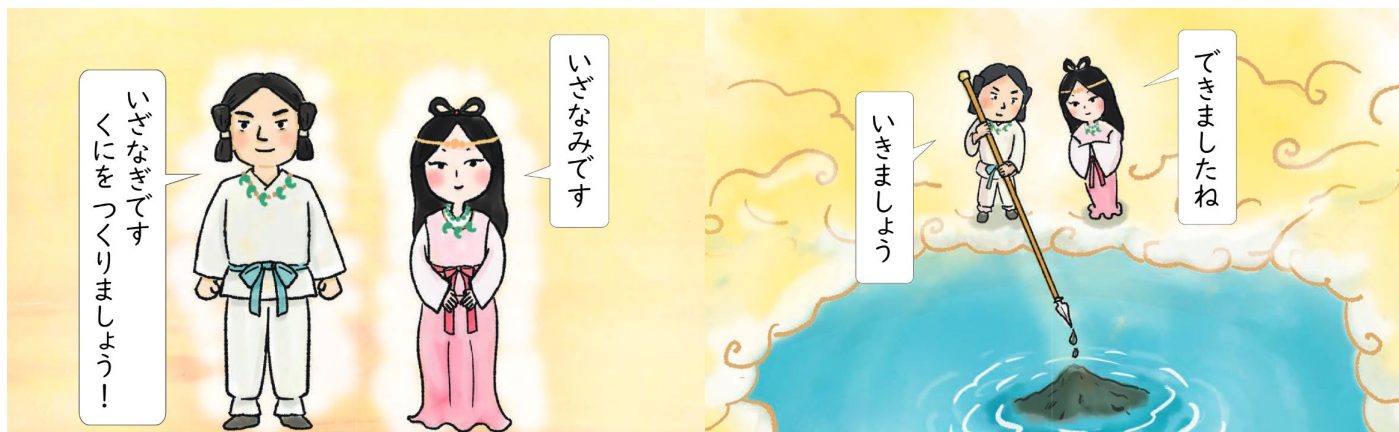
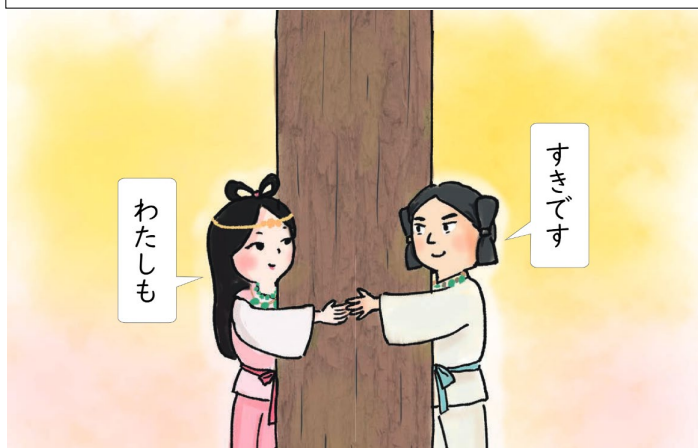


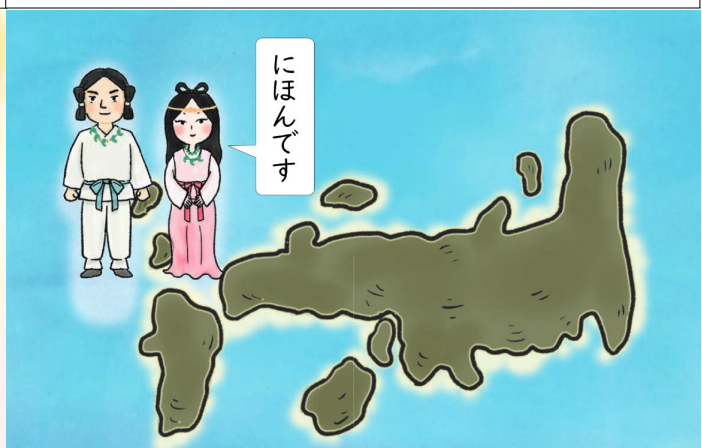


This is a Japanese myth of how the country was created. Once upon a time, there were two gods named いざなみ and いざなぎ.

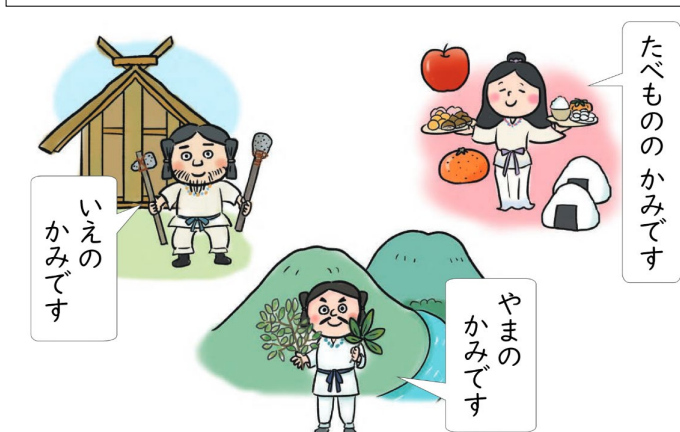
いざなぎ stirred the sea with a sacred spear and droplets fell down to form an island, so they decided to go to the island.



いざなみ and いざなぎ lived together on that island, and they got married.



They had many children. Some of them would become the islands of Japan.



Then, many different gods were born.



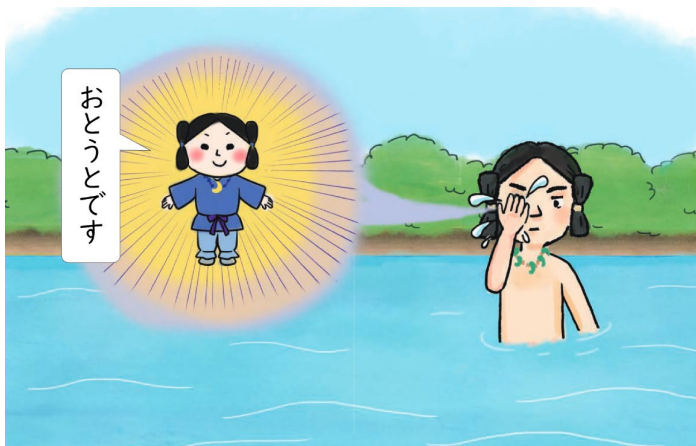
Finally, the god of fire was born. Because of the flames, いざなみ died.



Grief-stricken and holding back tears, いざなぎ went to the river to wash and purify his body.



When いざなぎ washed his left eye, the goddess Amaterasu Oomikami was born.



When いざなぎ washed his right eye, the god Tsukuyomi no Mikoto was born.



When いざなぎ washed his nose, the god Susanoo no Mikoto was born.



いざなぎ instructed them to observe the night, the sea, and the heavenly world where the gods reside.



In this way, Japan was created.