



Kinugawa Hot Springs

Located 120 km north of Tokyo in Tochigi Prefecture rests the resort town of Kinugawa. The area is well known for hot springs and was once considered one of the most famous resort towns in the Tokyo area. Kinugawa is in reference to the river valley where the hot springs are found and means 'angry demon' in English. Roughly 2 million tourists still come to enjoy the springs every year. The water of the springs is soft alkaline which is said to be good for the skin, and especially effective in the treatment of burns.

The first hot springs were discovered in 1691 along the west bank of the river. This hot spring was called Taki and was reserved for lords and Buddhist priests of that era. The springs were eventually opened for commoners and in 1869 more hot springs were discovered on the east bank of the Kinugawa River. This area is known as Fujiwara. The combination of Taki and Fujiwara hot springs is today known as Kinugawa Hot Springs. During the 1950s and 1960's the area became very popular with tourists. In the 1970's and 1980's massive hotels were built alongside the river in an attempt to cater to the sites growing popularity.

Unfortunately, the Japanese economy crashed in the 1990's leaving many of the local businesses and hotels bankrupt. Today abandoned buildings still stand in the Kinugawa area, although many have been removed. The town was even rated by Japan's most senior urban planner as the 3rd biggest eyesore in Japan because of the uninspired concrete architecture which was built during Japan's economic boom and shows little regard for design or style.

There are still hot springs for bathing in Kinugawa but the natural appeal that must have existed in the area many years ago may be difficult to find. A few tourist attractions such as Tobu World Square, which has over 100 miniature models of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and Nikko Edomura, an Edo period styled amusement park hope to entice future visitors.

Source:

<https://spikejapan.wordpress.com/2010/06/14/983/>

<https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3875.html>

Vocab Match

Name: _____

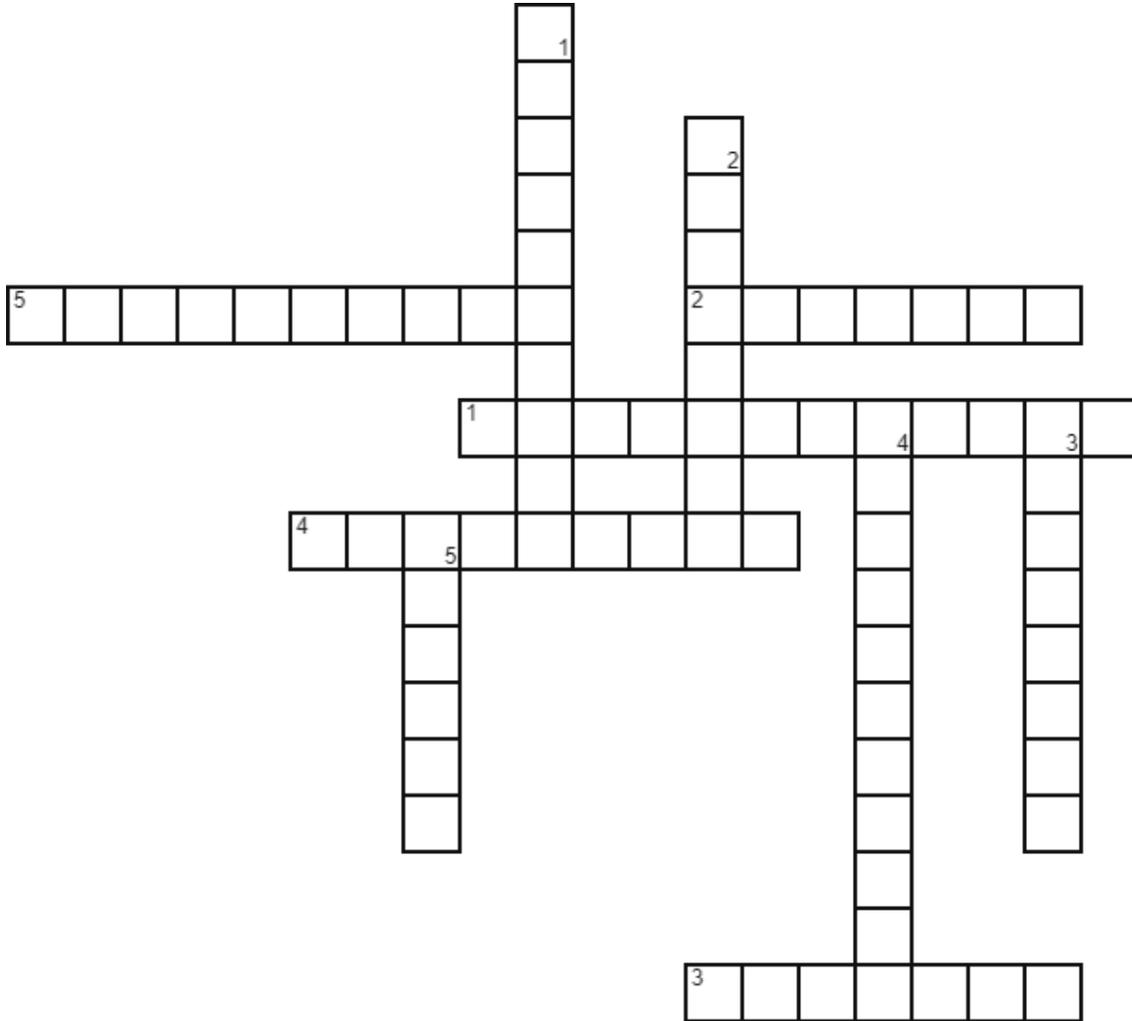
Word	Answer	Definition
1. considered	1. ____	a. adjective - kept for special use
2. alkaline	2. ____	b. adjective - not creative
3. reserved	3. ____	c. verb - agreed to be
4. combination	4. ____	d. noun - effort made to do something
5. attempt	5. ____	e. adjective - without people/deserted
6. economy	6. ____	f. verb - pleasing, interesting, enjoyable
7. abandoned	7. ____	g. noun - buildings
8. uninspired	8. ____	h. adjective - opposite of acidic
9. architecture	9. ____	i. noun - adding things together
10. appeal	10. ____	j. noun - management of resources

Discussion Topics

1. What's the best resort town you have been to or where do you want to go to?
2. Do you know of any eyesores? Is it important for buildings to have style?
3. Do you like hot springs? Where do you go? How often do you go?
4. Have you ever been to a UNESCO World Heritage site? Which one? Where would you like to go?
5. What do you know about the Edo period in Japan?

Name: _____

Kinugawa Hot Springs



Across	Down
1. noun - buildings 2. noun - effort made to do something 3. noun - management of resources 4. adj - without people/deserted 5. adj - not creative	1. verb - agreed to be 2. adj - opposite of acidic 3. adj - kept for special use 4. noun - adding things together 5. verb - pleasing, interesting, enjoyable

Quiz

1) What does "Kinugawa" mean in English?

a. river demon b. angry demon c. windy river d. angry apple

2) What are the springs good at treating?

a. cuts b. heart ache c. bruises d. burns

3) When were the hot springs discovered?

a. 1961 b. 1400 c. 1592 d. 1691

4) Who were the hot springs reserved for?

a. Dalai Lama and Hindu priests' b. lords and Buddhist priests c. pilgrims and tourists d. domino lads and Christian priests

5) When did the springs become popular with tourists?

a. 1950's b. 1940's c. 1970's d. 1990's

6) Why did many local businesses and hotels lose their money?

a. Japan's economy crashed b. Japan's economy rode c. Japan's economy boomed d. Japan's economy laughed

7) Why was Kinugawa rated Japan's third-biggest eyesore?

a. ugly buildings b. ugly elephants c. ugly statues d. ugly mascot

8) What can be seen at Tobu World Square?

a. miniature models b. many hot springs c. millions of minions d. Edo Samurai

9) What is Nikko Edomura?

a. a European bakery b. an Edo styled amusement park c. an edgy skate park d. an eddy

Key

Crossword	
Across	Down
1. architecture 2. attempt 3. economy 4. abandoned 5. uninspired	1. considered 2. alkaline 3. reserved 4. combination 5. appeal

Matching	Quiz
1. c	1. b
2. h	2. d
3. a	3. d
4. i	4. b
5. d	5. a
6. j	6. a
7. e	7. a
8. b	8. a
9. g	9. b
10. f	

PROJECT:
Students make a presentation about a UNESCO site they would like to visit.