

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Fun and Festivity in Japan: A Glimpse into Recreational Events

### Short Answer Key

1. The central theme of the Obon Festival is to honor deceased ancestors' spirits. Families gather to clean and decorate their ancestors' graves and offer food and lanterns as offerings. Bon Odori, traditional dances, are performed during the festival to welcome the spirits and celebrate their presence.
2. The Koshien tournament is a prestigious high school baseball tournament in Japan. It contributes to the popularity of baseball by providing a platform for young players to showcase their talent. The tournament is widely followed, and it instills a sense of excitement and pride in high school baseball, fostering a deep passion for the sport among students and fans alike.
3. The primary purpose of Bon Odori during the Obon Festival is to welcome the spirits of deceased ancestors. It is a traditional dance performed in a circle to honor and celebrate the presence of these spirits. The dance is accompanied by festive music and is an essential part of the Obon Festival's cultural and spiritual significance.
4. Tanabata, or the Star Festival, celebrates the meeting of two celestial lovers, Orihime and Hikoboshi, represented by the stars Vega and Altair. People write their wishes on colorful paper strips and hang them on bamboo branches. The festival symbolizes making wishes and the hope that they will come true. It is a day of celebrating love and the power of wishes.
5. The Gion Matsuri festival in Kyoto is celebrated with grandeur and tradition. It honors the Gion Shrine and its rich history. The festival features massive floats adorned with intricate tapestries, parades, and traditional performances. People from all over Japan and tourists gather to witness this cultural spectacle. The festival showcases the deep cultural roots and traditions of Kyoto.

