

## Ninja to help promote tourism in Japan

15th December, 2018



Japan will use ninja to help boost tourism over the next few years. Ninja will promote Japan and ninja culture in the run-up to the 2019 Rugby World Cup and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Ninja are a famous symbol of Japan and many people

around the world know about these dark-clothed figures who are great at fighting and can run across rooftops at great speed. Several ninja gave an example of their skills on Wednesday when a group of them "sneaked" into the office of Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. This was the start of the ninja tourism campaign. Mr Abe joked with the ninja. He said: "Even though you're all wearing such bright colors, you were still able to slip through the tight security of my office."

A ninja was a kind of secret agent, spy and fighter in Japan. He or she was a specialist who was skilled in many areas. The main functions of a ninja included assassination, fighting, infiltration (getting into an enemy area or building), sabotage and spying. The first ninja appeared in the 15th century when they helped warlords win land and get more power. In the 19th century, ninja became popular figures in art, literature and early manga. Artists and writers surrounded them in mystery and gave them legendary abilities, such as invisibility, walking on water and being able to control the natural elements. Today we see them around the world in movies, cartoons, comics, games and manga.

Sources: [japantimes.co.jp](http://japantimes.co.jp) / [nhk.or.jp](http://nhk.or.jp) / [mainichi.jp](http://mainichi.jp)

### Writing

Write about **ninja** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

ninja / tourism / culture / famous / symbol / fighting / skill / speed / bright colors / secret agent / specialist / enemy / power / 19th century / literature / cartoons

### True / False

- a) Japan will use ninja to help promote the Rugby World Cup. T / F
- b) The article says ninja run fast across rooftops. T / F
- c) A group of ninja secretly got into the Japanese Prime Minister's office. T / F
- d) The Prime Minister was angry the ninja got into his office. T / F
- e) The article said ninja were skilled in one area. T / F
- f) The article said ninja originated in the 19th century. T / F
- g) Writers gave ninja special powers like being invisible. T / F
- h) The article says ninja are no longer seen in comics. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>boost</b>      | a. well-liked |
| 2. <b>symbol</b>     | b. crept      |
| 3. <b>figures</b>    | c. vandalism  |
| 4. <b>sneaked</b>    | d. image      |
| 5. <b>tight</b>      | e. expert     |
| 6. <b>specialist</b> | f. films      |
| 7. <b>sabotage</b>   | g. promote    |
| 8. <b>popular</b>    | h. like       |
| 9. <b>such as</b>    | i. strict     |
| 10. <b>movies</b>    | j. people     |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Would you be a good secret agent?
- c) What do you think of the ninja's functions?
- d) What are your favourite ninja movies or manga?
- e) What would you do if you could make yourself invisible?
- f) What would you do if you could control the natural elements?
- g) What is the best thing about Japanese culture?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Japan's Prime Minister?

## Phrase Match

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. in the run-up to the           | a. elements              |
| 2. Ninja are a famous             | b. security of my office |
| 3. a group of them sneaked        | c. of secret agent       |
| 4. Even though you're all wearing | d. them in mystery       |
| 5. slip through the tight         | e. symbol of Japan       |
| 6. A ninja was a kind             | f. in the 15th century   |
| 7. a specialist who was skilled   | g. such bright colors    |
| 8. The first ninja appeared       | h. in many areas         |
| 9. Artists and writers surrounded | i. into the office       |
| 10. control the natural           | j. 2019 Rugby World Cup  |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about ninja?
- What are the best things to see and do in Japan?
- Which is better - the Rugby World Cup or the Olympics?
- What are the symbols of your country?
- What training do ninja need?
- Have you ever sneaked into anything?
- How successful do you think the ninja tourism campaign will be?
- What activities might there be in the ninja tourism campaign?

## Spelling

- use ninja to help toso tourism
- Ninja are a famous mybols
- dark-clothed igsfeur
- run across rfstopoo at great speed
- the start of the ninja tourism gcapmani
- slip through the tight tursicy
- secret agent
- a itlcipeass who was skilled in many areas
- getting into an nemye area
- ninja became popular igseurf in art
- abilities such as nbiyiislivit
- natural emtneels

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Invisibility

You think invisibility is the best ability to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their abilities. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): X-ray vision, hypnosis or flying.

### Role B – X-ray vision

You think X-ray vision is the best ability to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their abilities. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): invisibility, hypnosis or flying.

### Role C – Hypnosis

You think hypnosis is the best ability to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their abilities. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): X-ray vision, invisibility or flying.

### Role D – Flying

You think flying is the best ability to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their abilities. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): X-ray vision, hypnosis or invisibility.

## Speaking – Abilities

Rank these legendary abilities with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| • Hypnosis       | • Invisibility     |
| • Flying         | • Walking on water |
| • Great strength | • X-ray vision     |
| • Mind reading   | • Controlling fire |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.