

Do you like cafes? Do you like snuggly animals?
Check out page #18

# **History**

Interested in magic, battles & creatures of Japan?

Go to page #6

# **Sports**

Curious about sports in Japan?

Run, don't walk to page #16

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Did you just delete everything?!

It wasn't me...
it was Canva!

Behind the Scenes ft. the Senior Editors

FUN TO READ, RAD TO REMEMBER

**RAD MAG** was created and published by the Yokosuka Homeschool Literature + Writing Club Members.

SCAN the QR code to see a digital copy of **Rad Mag Zine** at the Yokosuka Lit Club Portfolio website.



\*References available upon request.

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# meel



#### BENJAMIN CLARK, YOKOSUKA

Ben is a a serious writer with big ideas and a sharp imagination. When he's not delving into classic fantasy realms, he's practicing martial arts, exploring with scouts, diving into all things medical, or playing outside with friends.



#### **AUDREY COVELL. YOKOSUKA**

Audrey mixes brains with creative energy-she's all about concocting yummy desserts, smiley faces, and snuggling up with her diary. Her talent for graphic designs and visual space makes things pop off the page.



#### JARED KIM. YOKOSUKA

Jared is all about friends, his cool cuddly cat, Pepper and a brand-new fascination with dragonflies. Equal parts kind and silly, he turns everyday moments into little adventures.



Isaac is a clever kid who loves Lord of the Rings, soccer, and spinning stories of his own. When he's not writing plays or kicking goals, you can find him drawing his next epic adventure.



ISAAC LANGLEY, YOKOSUKA

JONAH MELENDEZ, YOKOSUKA

Rac

Jonah loves Pokémon, collecting fun facts, and sharing his endless ideas with friends.

When he's not trading cards or chatting about his latest discoveries, he's dreaming up a new and exciting adventure.



Kala is a freespirited artist and dancer with a soft spot for her cute, cuddly dog. When she's not painting or twirling to music, she's probably cuddling up to her furry sidekick.



Sao is an animal lover who's equally obsessed with soccer and Harry Potter. When he's not on the field or in a wizarding world, he's probably imagining his next magical encounter.

KALA MILETTE-WINFREE, YOKOSUKA

SAO NORIEGA-MILLER, YOKOSUKA



#### SOL NORIEGA-MILLER, YOKOSUKA

Sol is a clever and kind soccer fan who loves Harry Potter almost as much as scoring goals.

When he's not on the field or taking a deep dive into action fantasy books, he's ready to lend a helping hand.



#### **SWAYZE NGUYEN**

Swayze is quiet and thoughtful, the kind of kid who notices things other people might miss. He loves history and enjoys playing football. When it comes to writing, he's fast, focused, and he knows how to get things done!



#### DAVID SISTO, YOKOSUKA

David is full of curiosity and energy. He loves traveling, building in Minecraft, and swapping Pokémon cards. In his writing, he enjoys sharing imaginative ideas that reflect his adventurous spirit.

AUTHORS



RYAN SISTO, YOKOSUKA

Ryan finds her spark in theme parks, movies, and filling pages with her colorful drawings.

She loves spending time with her friends, owls, unicorns, and all things sparkly—and if she had her way, she'd be living the Disney life every day.



EMMA STILLER, YOKOSUKA

Emma is a published author and senior editor with a secret superpower: bingelistening to Audible in every free moment. Between stories and deadlines, they're always plotting their next literary masterpiece.

# AUTHORS



MARIE STILLER, YOKOSUKA

Marie is a pixel princess who can't resist cuuuute plushies and anything squeaky or squishy. When she's not creating colorful designs, she's sipping her favorite boba tea and cuddling her collection.



SOPHIE STILLER, YOKOSUKA

Sophie is an illustrator who can't resist manga, Monster High, or a good mystery. When she's not bringing cool characters to life with her pencil, she's busy hunting down salty snacks.



# WANNA CATCH

**Author** Jonah Melendez

Photographer Maxi Melendez

## WHAT DO BUGS AND POKÉMON HAVE IN COMMON?

They look the same, but they may not have the same powers. What's cool about bugs in Pokémon is that they look exactly like bugs in real life. I believe that the creator of Pokémon had a surprising success that all started with his love of bugs.





Funny story, his parents thought he was not going to be successful. Who am I talking about? Meet Satoshi Tajiri, creator of Pokémon! It all started with a gaming magazine called, Game Freak. Satoshi and his friend wanted to turn their magazine into a gaming company. First they called the game Pocket Monsters- because their poke ball can fit in their pocket. Later on, they shortened the name to Pokémon. I think this was because Pokémon was easier to say. What do you think?



Surprisingly, Pokémon started with 151 creatures...and now they have 1,025! You might not know this fun fact, but there are 10 regions where humans can become trainers when they are 10 years old. Trainers have to go on a journey to catch many different Pokémon and then they keep them- and when they are done with their Pokémon they battle. #FIERCE



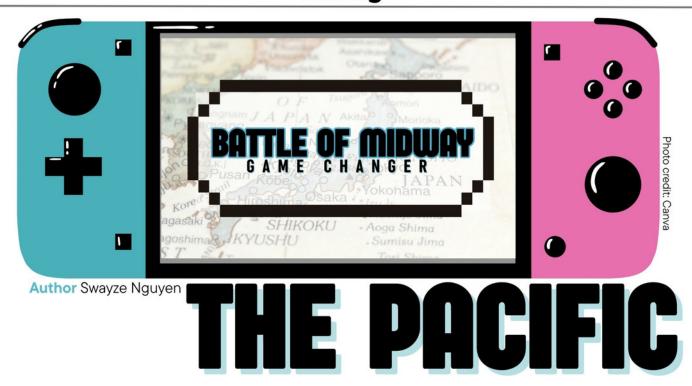


In the end, people went crazy for the cards! So, the next time you wonder about Pokémon, remember it is bugs and animals that started as a simple magazine and evolved into cards, shows, games, and movies!

By you're probably now, wondering how this all turned into a mega, super, awesome game. Satoshi started by launching trading cards, then a TV series, and lastly films (The Week Jr., 2024).



Rad Mag



Did you know that the battle of Midway was one of the most important battles of WW2? There are also many surprising facts about Japan's role in World War II. For example, did you know that Japan was allies with Germany and Italy? Another fun

fact is that Japan's chances of winning the war were very high before the battles of Midway and Pearl Harbor.

What was Japan doing before Pearl
Harbor and Midway? Most people
don't know what was happening before those
major events! Japan was at war with China. At the
same time, the United States of America and
China partnered defensively.

The United States cut off imported resources like oil, steel, and rubber to Japan- which made the country more vulnerable. Without oil, Japan's

Navy, Air Force, economy would

USR NAME: JP@theWay

USR NAME: USA\_WW2

and grind to a

Y or N?

halt. The goal was to Navy by striking Pearl weaken the US Harbor.

#### LOADING



- 1930's USA and China are friendly, but not formal allies
- 1940's Japan, Germany, and Italy are allies
- 1940's USA and China become allies
   UNLOCKED



Pearl Harbor most likely resulted in Japan's loss. The strategic attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan used over 100 different planes to take out the U.S. Military ships in the harbor. The goal was to weaken the U.S. Navy. The consequence of the attack on Pearl Harbor is that it influenced the U.S.A.'s decision to push back on Japan's move. In my opinion, if Japan never attacked Pearl Harbor they would have won.

# **FAST FACTS**

PEARL HARBOR
WAS THE TURNING
POINT OF WWII
FOR JAPAN

# TURNING

POINT

What Do You Remember

**Circle Your Answers** 

In the 1930's, the U.S.A. and China were friendly, but not yet allies.

IMPORTANT CODE BREAKERS send a decoy message from the Midway Atoll that fresh water is running out.

Japan takes the bait and tries to attack! Spoiler alert...American ships are in wait and attack.

ΕB

TRUE

TRUE | FALSE

The goal of striking Pearl Harbor was to:

- A) Steal all the SPAM
- B) Weaken the U.S. Navy
- C) Join forces with Nigeria

The U.S.A. cut off resources (like oil and rubber) to Japan, making them more vulnerable.

TRUE I FALSE

Japan only used 50 planes to launch the attack on Pearl Harbor

TRUE | FALSE



JAPAN NEVER
ATTACKED PEARL
HARBOR - WOULD
WWII'S OUTCOME BE
DIFFERNT?





🛂 A's: True, B, True, False

# Medical Technology

**Author** Benjamin Clark

ave you ever wondered how doctors help investigators solve crime? Previously, medical professionals meticulously used normal cameras, their own powers of observation, and took notes to document what happened to a victim. This has been an invasive process with many limitations. For instance, detecting small details can be difficult and collecting specimens within the patient's personal space is time consuming and unpleasant for the patients.

HELLO Cortexflo 4k/8k Camera

Less than a month ago, the naval hospital in Yokosuka, Japan received a cutting-edge system to greatly assist forensic

medical examinations. The Cortexflo 4k/8k Canon forensic camera system allows doctors to see four to eight times more detail than the naked eye.







It can zoom incredibly close and measure areas with injuries. Through AI, shadows are removed and pictures become clearer. By changing the light spectrum, bruises and other injuries, which may not be visible yet, really pop out.

October 2025 Rad Mag

# **Medical Technology**



The base hospital in Japan frequently uses the Cortexflo Camera in cases of suspected assault or abuse. It also has general medical usages, too. Doctors can utilize the camera's magnification to monitor healing, benefitting many health conditions.



"What could not be seen with the naked eye became clear with incredible detail."



medical science in solving crime. If you enjoy crime TV, you've watched how investigators collect tiny specimens to crack a case. Like on TV, the Cortexflo system can document trace amounts of liquids, bruising, burns, lacerations, hair, or fiber. When documenting recurring patterns, it can help determine if someone is a victim, even if they say their injuries happened "by accident."



Photos taken during the journalist's visit shows Cortexflo's capabilities via a miniature rose and small sprig of rosemary.

The results were astounding.



#### PRECISION VIEW

The Cortexflo system has already improved forensic and general medical capabilities for Yokosuka Naval Hospital. It has the potential to be a great help to doctors, investigators, and victims alike. If you are in the base hospital receiving care for a condition needing advanced documentation, you might see the Cortexflo in action.

#### Travel

# The Legendary Isle of Enoshima

**Author** David Sisto

ong ago off the coast of Koshige, a fabled 5-headed dragon called Gozuryu tormented the town of Koshige...

Looking to go on an adventure, but your backyard just isn't cutting it? Consider asking your parents to take you to Enoshima! This exotic island is full of mysteries waiting to be unfolded!



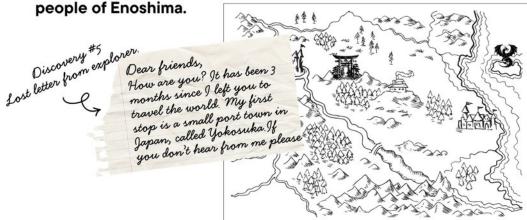
Lore has it that long ago a fearsome 5-headed dragon named Gozuryu tormented the townsfolk of Koshige with floods and storms. A heavenly maiden called Benzaiten, goddess of rivers, love and knowledge, heard the people's cries and came down from the heavens to help the townsfolk.

When she touched the water, the legendary isle of Enoshima rose from the depths of the sea. Gozuryu instantly fell in love with Benzaiten and asked for her hand in marriage. Benzaiten said she would only marry Gozuryu if he stopped tormenting the town. He agreed and they got married.



Dragon lantern and Torii gate. Location: Enoshima Island, 2025

When Gozuryu eventually died, he turned himself into a hill in Koshigoe to forever protect the maiden and the





### Travel







noshima is full of mysteries, history and fun adventures for kids and adults. If you're short on time, I recommend checking out a few of these things...,

#### GLIMB THE SEA GAMDLE LIGHTHOUSE

If you're lucky, you can see Mt. Fuji on a clear day! Warning - it's a long walk to the sea candle, since it's at the top of the mountain! (Thankfully, there are plenty of escalators to save your poor legs).

#### EXPLORE IMPAYO GOVES

You can experience Gozuryu's wrath! Or maybe just his shrine! In the first of the two caves you can grab a candle to use while exploring! (But heads up, sometimes if it's crowded you may not be able to use the candles).

# MZIT BENZOITEN'S SHRINES

Multiple shrines were constructed throughout the island to honor Benzaiten's legacy, and are a perfect place for photos! Legend has it that if you visit all three of Benzaiten's shrines in order, a wish will be granted to you! (Be careful what you wish for!).

Discovery #10 Letter from explorer

Discovery #9: These chubby cats call the island home and are

very friendly (and cute!)

I have enjoyed my journey in the isle of Enoshima and I think you would, too.

Know that one may arrive without undue hardship, for the carriages find ample space for rest, and conveniences of a most modern sort, water closets, are in generous supply.

There are many houses of refreshment. Thus, I bid you take your day's adventure upon this storied isle! Though beware the caverns, for they are dark and echo with mystery. May fortune guide you safely back into the light!

Discovery #12 Letter from explorer.

Legend says a Hojo samurai received three dragon scalesnow known as Zelda's Triforce and you can find this symbol scattered all over Enoshima!

until we speak again, keep me in your thoughts. I have many photographs and tales to tell upon my return.

-David S.

Discovery #13 Letter from explorer.

## **How To Draw It Yourself**



Draw By Sophie E. Stiller.



First, start sketching the head. Don't worry about the head being perfect, it won't be too noticeable in the end.

Next start sketching the rest of the body, remember that it is slightly turned to the side, so only one full arm is visible.

Once you've drawn the legs don't forget to add hands and feet.

4Next up is drawing the col Totally golden. Don't forget to add like a lot of spikes and chains and sparkles!

5 For the outfit we're going to be drawing a shirt, a skirt, and most importantly the jacket. When you are drawing the outfit, remember to draw a lot of cool details on the jacket so that it looks totally rad.

The hair we're 6 going to be drawing is long and pulled back into two half ponytails.

Next we totally need to add some eyes so that you're drawing doesn't look like a faceless demon!

When drawing the eyes, be careful not to draw them too close together or it might totally look a little weird.

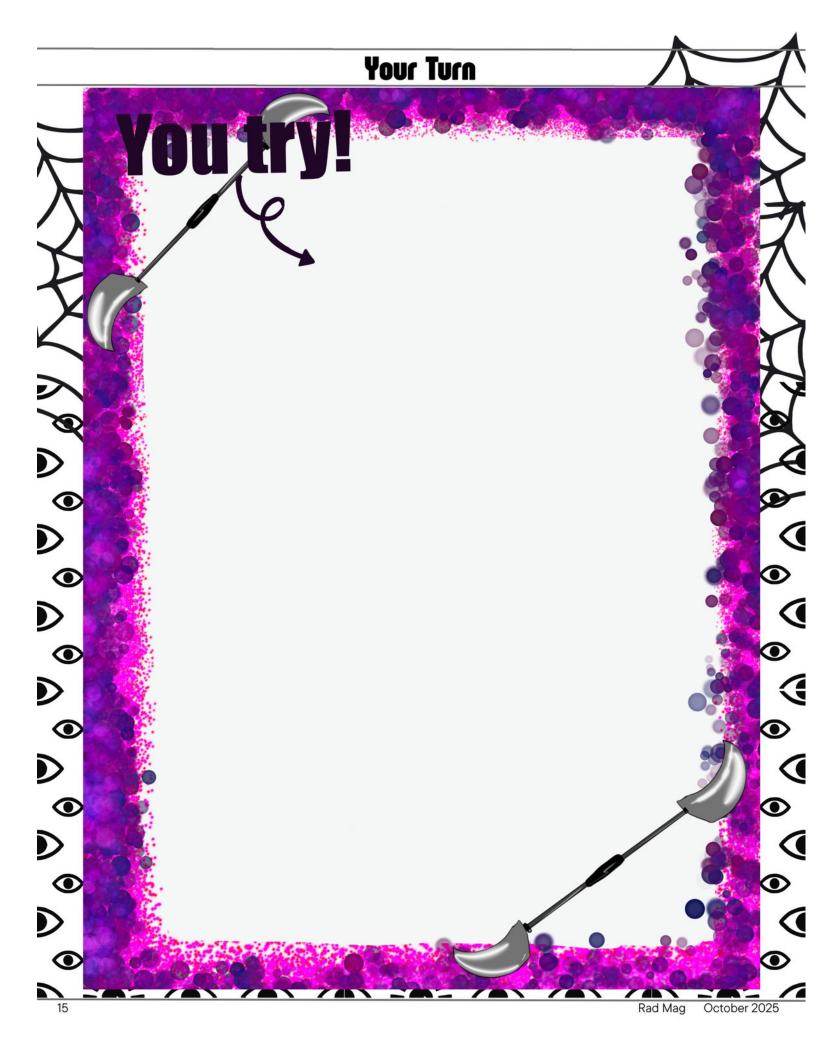
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Now it's finally the step you've been waiting for! I know what you're thinking, yayyyyy, I get to color it in now! Don't worry, I'm like totally thinking that too!

Congrats on drawing every single step! Vow you're drawing is absolutely golden! Probably.

You could totally add a cool background to make your drawing look even more fabtastic!





# **Sports**



**Author** Sol Noriega-Miller

# **WELCOME TO THE TEAM**



Have you ever heard of the game jankenpon? I didn't until I arrived in Japan. Jankenpon is the game Americans know and love as "rock, paper, scissors". I moved to Japan almost two and half years ago and joined a Japanese soccer team as soon as I arrived. Jakenpon is just one Japanese word I learned quickly to communicate with my team.

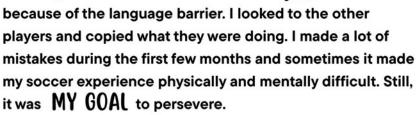
My name is Sol and I am a Mexican American living in Japan and THIS IS MY STORY.

I've been **KICKING** my love of soccer around from America to Spain and now to Japan. This has given me the drive to work hard in soccer training, no matter what country I am in.



16

The first few months in Japan were very difficult. The drills given by the coach were impossible for me to understand



One of the first things I had to learn was the expectations the team had for each player and THAT WAS JUST THE KICKOFF...

# **Sports**

#### TEAM EXPECTATIONS



Uniform expectations were high and so was being on time. For example, you are required to have separate indoor soccer shoes that you are not allowed to use outdoors. This I understand because of their culture, they take their shoes off at the front door, so it makes sense that they do the same for soccer. Japan also has numerous uniforms- sometimes I think too many. American and Spanish teams had expectations too, but not as strict as Japan. So far, I haven't noticed any casual teams. I have tried out for six teams and have played on three.

# "I WANTED THE COACHES AND THE TEAM TO KNOW THAT I WAS SERIOUS."

So, I made sure to always be on time. Japanese players were in charge of getting themselves to **PRACTICE**. Fun Fact: Japanese kids usually travel by taking a bike or the train on their own. My parent's drove me to every practice and stuck around until practice was over.



#### **TEAM BUILDING**

One big part of soccer is being a part of the team and knowing your coaches and teammates well. Since I didn't know the language, all I could do was stand close, nod along when the team had down time and talked to each other. I eventually got comfortable with this part of the social time during practice even though I didn't love it.

Some teammates put more of an **EFFORT** into bonding with me, whether it was trying to use the few English words they knew or sharing their interest in my packed lunches and snacks. They often wanted to trade food with me, which made me feel like they thought my lunch was cool. This always made me feel included.

The physical and mental stress was a big load. But, having coaches that showed me funny videos and teammates that sang songs I recognized made it lighter. THIS MADE ME PART OF THE GROUP.



AA

# LOVINS' AND FOOD ARE WHAT THEY WANT!

**Author** Sao Noriega-Miller

#### HAVE YOU EVER HAD A PIG SIT ON YOUR LAP WHILE YOU SIP A DRINK?

If you happen to stop in Japan, you will be able to experience this! Animal cafes are all over big cities in Japan. Thankfully, I live here and was able to visit a few of them. My name is Sao and I am a Mexican American living in Yokosuka, Japan. No one loves animals more then me and I am about to tell you about my time at animal cafes.

THAT'S ME!



# "IT'S REALLY COOL TO HOLD ANIMALS YOU WOULDN'T NORMALLY BE ABLE TO."

Adorable, cute, energetic & lovey dovey is how I would describe the pigs, hedgehogs, meerkats, foxes, beavers, and geckos that I held at the animal cafes. I was smiling the whole time and spent every second holding and bonding with all the animals I got to see. Being able to hold and feed cute little pigs and all the other animals was a new experience for me. I wish I could do it everyday.





# Meet the Sauggle Squad!

All the animals were interested in food and lovins'. After they realized there was no more food to give, they would curl up in your lap and snuggle!

This was my favorite part!

My excitement was overwhelming and I could not hold my happiness in. I was smiling the whole time and spent every second holding and bonding with all the animals I got to see.



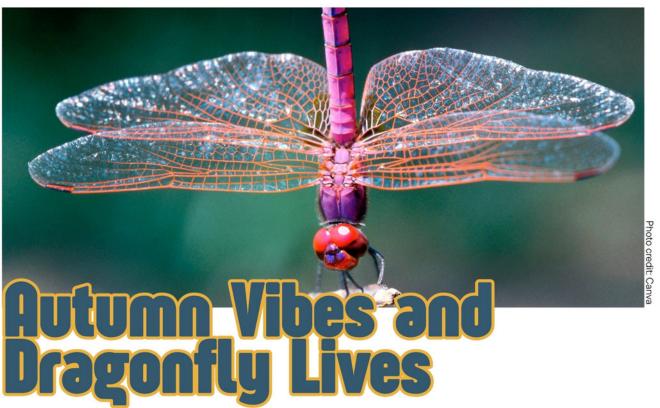
1 am really happy 1 got the

experience to have a meerkat lay on my lap and I got to see his facial features up close along with his tiny little hands. I love and support animals and I think about the animals needs. I don't know if I recommend everyone go visit an animal cafe because of ethical reasons. So, I suggest you learn more about the positives and negatives of animals cafes and decide for yourself. Right now, my love of seeing animals makes me drawn to them.



Although these animals were being well taken care of, a big city is not their natural habitat. For example, hedgehogs are normally in cold temperatures and live in parts of Europe, Africa, and Asia. I am not sure they love living in a cafe, it seems very different than being out in nature.





**Author Jared Kim** 

hat reminds you of autumn - apple picking, leaves falling, or pumpkin spice everything?

I bet dragonflies didn't come to mind. In Japan, the Sympetrum frequens, which is the super scientific name for the

autumn darter, lets us know that autumn

has started. The autumn because it changes color, Male autumn darters mature.

autumn darter, lets us know that autumn darter very much represents autumn like leaves do at this time of year. change from yellow to red as they

COLOR

Ready for more scientific words?

The autumn darter changes pigments found in crustaceans, like lobsters, crabs, and insects. Then, a chemical reaction called oxidation-reduction or *REDOX* changes the dragonfly from yellow to red! The autumn darter migrates high into the mountains after its nymph phase. It remains in the mountains until it returns to breeding pools, including rice fields at lower elevations.

Sadly, the use of pesticides has affected many insect populations in Japan by preventing emergence, feeding and growing.

he autumn darter is affectionately known as "aka tombo" in Japan. "Aka "means red, and "tombo" is short for "tombogaeri", which means aerial somersault. Dragonflies can turn quickly in the air and even fly backwards! Japanese culture values insects, especially tombos because the old Japanese name for dragonfly is "katsumushi", which

#### means VICTORY INSECT!

CC

Tombos earned this title for their skill in quickly killing enemies and other insects without fear, they were also a symbol for SAMURAI WARRIORS.

Even today, many companies use the tombo as part of their branding, such as the Tombow Pencil Company.

There are two reasons why kids, like myself, would appreciate learning about this dragonfly. The first is that it might remind you of a particular Pokémon can you guess which one?

The second reason is that the autumn darter is a rare sighting; it's like a TREASURE TO FIND for kids who love to go bug hunting.

So, when you are sipping on your pumpkin spice latte while mikan or ringo picking in the crisp autumn air, and you see a vermillion flash darting through the air... YOU MAY HAVE SPOTTED

THE AKA TOMBO.

If you are ever up for a bug-hunting adventure, let me know. I would love to join you!

Catch you on the next flight,

-Jared K.



# HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR DRAGONFLIES?

- 1. What is a dragonfly's superpower?
- a) Flying backward
- b) Breathing fire
- c) Turning into a real dragon?
  - 2. How many wings does a dragonfly have?
  - a) 2
  - b) 4
  - c) 27



- 3. What do dragonflies eat?
- a) Candy corn
- b) Mosquitoes
- c) Tiny tacos

✓ Answer Key: a) Flying backward, b) 4, b) Mosquitoes ?



#### **Comic**





# **YOUR TURN**

Love this month's issue? Be a part of the next one!

We'd love to see pictures of you reading our magazine and fan art! Have an adult email them to us at yokosukahomeschoolers@gmail.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.





Homeschool Teacher's Name: **Professor Pirate P. McGiggles** 

Homeschool Name: The Academy of Laughs & Logic

Nominate your parent for Homeschool Teacher of the Month! Send the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name to:

yokosukahomeschoolers@gmail.com

From the Senior Editor's Notebook

Dear Rad Readers,

Thanks for reading to the end of the first issue of Rad Mag... a magazine written by homeschoolers, but made for every kid who loves to read, laugh, and learn. This month's theme was all about Japan! There was everything from history and travel adventures to comics, but it didn't end there, did it? You got to learn about Pokémon, sports, and even animal cafés. Plus, don't get me started on that Dry section complete with a manga style drawing project. (No kawaii erasers were harmed in the making of this magazine). Believe me when I tell

you: with a creative team like us, we've got a full bento box of fun planned for our next issue! Stay Rad!

Senior Editor









🌞 Rad Joke of the Month 🌞 Why can't you trust trees? Because they're a little shady.

We'd love to hear from you! Share your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas with us for a chance to be featured in the magazine. Be sure to include your first name, age, and city, state, or country with your submission. By emailing us, you're giving Rad Mag permission to publish your work in print and online. And don't forget-please ask a parent or guardian before sending anything our way.

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"7 really loved making this magazine!"

- Marie, 10

"My all time favorite thing in the world right now is looking for inspiration." -Ryan, 8

"I enjoyed taking my art from my sister's iPad to the pages of a magazine." -Sophie, 13 "I'M BATMANIII" -DAVID, 10

"I like studying stuff in the magazine."

-Jared, 10

"My favorite thing about writing a magazine is that it's fun making the cover and editing the cover."

-Kala, 10

"My favorite thing is being able to go to the cafes to learn about animals." -Sao, 10

"IF I HAD A SUPERPOWER
IT WOULD BE
TELEPORTATION."
-ISAAC, 11

"THE TITLE OF MY
AUTOBIOGRAPHY WOULD BE
'SMART PERSON'."
-SWAYZE, 10

"Smiley faces are awesome!!!" -Audrey, 14

"This magazine was a great writing experience for me as I enjoy writing serious things. And this made me have to practice dialing it back."

-Benjamin, 12

"My all time favorite thing in the world right now is sakkā." -Sol, 12

"THIS IS AN AMAZING
MAGAZINE WHERE EVERYONE
CAN CONTRIBUTE THEIR UNIQUE
SKILL-SETS TO IT."
-EMMA. 17

"What I like about what I'm doing in the magazine is that I get to pick out what I want to do for my picture."

-Jonah, 10

