

対象：2年生（407語）

命の炎を燃やす寒立馬

Things that I learned from the horses in Shimokita Peninsula.

弘前にホームステイしているアレックスが、下北半島の尻屋崎に生息する「寒立馬」を見学しました。冬になると太平洋からの冷たい風雪にさらされる厳しい自然環境の中、寒立馬はその寒さや風雪にじっと耐え、命の炎をしっかりと燃やし続けています。

January 17th

Dear Dad and Mom

How are you doing? I'm okay. It's been a week since I came to Japan. It was very hot there, but it's really cold in here, Hirosaki. I can see a lot of snow around my host family's house. My host father and mother are very kind and their daughters, Kaho and Miho are really friendly to me. They are studying English, so they try to talk to me in English. Also I'm trying to talk with them in Japanese. It's hard, but still fun.

Yesterday, I went up to the northern part of Aomori Prefecture, Shimokita Peninsula. There were many places to visit and Kaho and Miho took me to a special spot.

First, I was not able to see anything but snow and field there. Then I found that the mounds with snow were moving. I was really surprised and scared with them. But my host sisters smiled and said, "This is the thing we wanted you to see."

Dad and Mom, can you imagine what the moving things were?

They were HORSES! There were many horses in the snow field. They were standing in cold blizzard and eating the grass under the snow. They can live for several weeks without eating anything. People call the horses *Kandachime*. "*Kandachi*" means "standing in cold weather," and "*me*" stands for horses. Please look at the pictures of them. They are big and beautiful. And they have pretty eyes. Also they will have baby horses when spring comes. I was really glad to see the horses.

On my way back to Hirosaki, Kaho said, "The horses are rare species

protected by law. They were born there, grew up there, and have babies there. Many people in Aomori are encouraged by them. So are we. I hope you feel something from them.”

After dinner I looked at the pictures we took in Shimokita. They stand on the snow field until the blizzard goes away. Sometimes alone, sometimes with baby horses. I’m impressed with their toughness and kindness. Those are the things I learned from the horses. When I go back home, I’m going to put a big picture of *Kandachime* on the wall of my room. I will be encouraged by them when I have hard time.

Okay, that’s all for now. I’m coming back there in two weeks. I will enjoy the days in this cold city. Bye for now.

Your son.

【 words & expressions 】

friendly : 友好的、好意的 Shimokita Peninsula : 下北半島
mound : (積み上げた) 山 be scared of ~ : ~を怖がって
grass : 草 blizzard : 猛吹雪 species : 種 law : 法律
be encouraged : 元気づけられる

次の質問に合う答えを、ア～エの中から選びましょう。

(1) Where is Alex’s country?

ア The United States イ Australia
ウ Canada エ England

(2) When does Alex go back to his country?

ア On January tenth イ On January fourteenth
ウ On January twenty-fifth エ On January thirty-first