

対象：2年生（205語）

特別天然記念物 小湊のハクチョウおよびその渡来地

Japan's Special Natural Monument: Kominato Swans and Visiting Grounds

Every year, Siberian swans cross over the Tsugaru Strait. They stay at the Asadokoro beach in Hiranai Town all through the winter. Hiranai is famous for the Asadokoro beach because it is so beautiful. Swans go to many places in Japan, but only Asadokoro is called a special natural monument. Do you know why?

A long time ago, the Tsugaru clan and the Nambu clan had a war. The Tsugaru clan was in trouble, so the soldiers went to a shrine near the Asadokoro beach. They prayed to win. Suddenly, a large group of swans flew by. The swans were loud. They sounded like many powerful soldiers, so the Nambu clan was scared. Soon, the Nambu soldiers ran home. The Tsugaru clan won!

People in Hiranai are waiting for swans coming to the Asadokoro beach around the end of fall. When the swans finally fly to the beach, people shouted, “Long time no see, swans!”, “We’re happy you are safe!”, and “We’ve been waiting for you!” Sometimes, a swan would answer with songs. This made people very excited.

Maybe swans are not rare birds, but they helped make the Asadokoro beach a special natural monument. People in Hiranai Town believe swans are messengers from heaven.

【 words & expressions 】

special natural monument: 特別天然記念物 Siberian: シベリアの

Tsugaru Strait: 津軽海峡 clan: 藩 soldier: 兵士 messenger: 使者

本文を読んで、以下の質問に英語で答えましょう。

1 Where do swans fly to the Asadokoro beach in winter?

2 Why did Nambu soldiers run away in the war?

3 Do you have anything special like swans for people in Hiranai Town? What is it?
