

September

Cheesehead Chat

Welcome back to school! Did you have a good summer vacation? For my summer vacation, I went to Toyama and Numata Festival, and I played with my two cats. Summer vacation was very fun, but it sometimes seems a little short, doesn't it? For today's topic I want to talk about the differences between summer vacation in the U.S and Japan!

In Japan, summer vacation is around a month long. Some students go to school to participate in club activities, some students travel with families, go to festivals with their friends, and then, of course, hopefully do their summer homework. Summer vacation in Japan seems to be a fun and relaxing month for students to take time off and recharge.

However, in the U.S, summer vacation is **3 MONTHS LONG**. Isn't that crazy? Actually, the reason why it's 3 months long is because a long time ago, summer vacation was created in order for students to be able to help on their family farm during the summer months. Also, I want to add that during summer vacation in the U.S, students aren't assigned to do homework, so it's **100% up to the students to decide what they want to do during summer vacation.**



Me relaxing at a lake during summer vacation



A picture from Tatemono Festival in Toyama

Usually, during the three months of vacation, students travel with their families, work at a part time job, and just hang out with their friends. Some students also go to summer camps where they can meet new friends, play a bunch of games, do activities, and enjoy being a kid in summer. There are also many times where students just stay at home and do nothing.

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For me, personally, I stayed home a lot during summer vacation. I'm from a small town, so there was really nothing to do in the summer. Also, there is no public transportation in my hometown- no trains or buses, so if you don't have a car or don't have a driver's license, it's hard to go places, especially if you live far away from the center of town. Fun fact- in the U.S, you can get your driver's license when you're 16! I didn't get my driver's license until I was 18 though, so I had to rely on my parents to bring me places.

Anyways, I also hung out with my friends a lot as well as going out and swimming in the river. When I was younger, my family and family friends would go camping on the river. It was a lot of fun, and I was always allowed to invite one of my friends

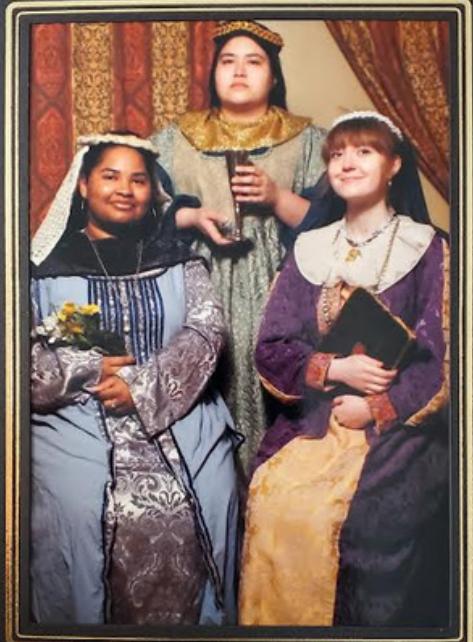
from school to join. As I got older, during summer vacation, I worked at my part time job, which was a housekeeper at a local hotel.

While one would think that having three months off from school would be nice, a lot of times, it's really boring and students forget a lot of the things they learned at school. Maybe one day summer vacation will become shorter in the U.S, but that day might not come until waaaaay in the future.

That's all for today's topic! Again, I hope that you enjoyed your summer vacation, and welcome back to school!

-Brittny-

This month's recommended song is:
Thee Sacred Souls- Live For You



My friends and I took a picture at a Renaissance Fair during summer vacation



The river in my hometown