Amaterasu – the Day the Sun Disappeared

Subjects: English · History · Religious Studies | recommended from age 12 (B1) | Video: 9:22 min



Watch the video
youtu.be/p1bX34yl0WY

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. Imagine the sun disappeared forever. What would happen on Earth? Write down three consequences.

B · While watching

1. How did Izanagi divide the world among his three children?

2. What damage did Susanoo do in heaven?

3. What happened after Amaterasu shut herself in the cave?

4. Which things did the gods hang on the sakaki tree?

5. How did the gods finally lure Amaterasu out of the cave?

Useful words

sun goddess	Sonnengöttin	to banish	verbannen
cave	Höhle	laughter	Gelächter
to seal	versiegeln	shrine	Schrein
mirror	Spiegel	curious	neugierig

C · Put the story in order

Number the events from 1 to 8 in the order they happen in the video.

	Susanoo wrecks the rice fields and the sacred weaving hall.
	Uzume dances, and the gods burst out laughing.
	Amaterasu is born from Izanagi's left eye.
	The gods hang a mirror and jewels on a sacred tree.
	Izanagi banishes Susanoo from heaven.
	Amaterasu is pulled out; a rope blocks the entrance.
	The siblings swear a contest oath by the river of heaven.
	Amaterasu seals the cave of heaven with a rock.

D · Think and discuss

1. The gods solve the problem with curiosity and laughter instead of force. Why is that a clever idea?

2. Amaterasu withdraws because she is hurt and grieving. Do you know feelings like that? What helps – and what doesn't?

E · Traces of the myth in Japan today

The video explains what has survived from the story until today. Complete the table.

	In the myth	In Japan today
The mirror outside the cave		
The rope across the entrance		
Uzume's dance		
Amaterasu's descendants		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, write what Amaterasu thinks and feels inside the cave – from sealing it to seeing the mirror (8–10 sentences).