

KIRITAKA English Journal Vol.34

~Stay Independent, Stay as ONE TEAM~ June 28th, 2024



Kiwi Corner



In the last edition of Kiwi Corner, I wrote about how high school students in New Zealand can drive themselves to school. This is very different to Japan, where you typically can't get your license until the end of high school. Another big difference between New Zealand and Japan is the legal smoking age.

In Japan, the age from which you can buy and smoke cigarettes or other tobacco products is 20 and above. In New Zealand, however, the legal smoking age is a little younger, at 18. Until 1997, however, the age was as low as 16!

Despite this, smoking in New Zealand is heavily regulated. In December 2004, New Zealand became the third country in the world to make all indoor workplaces including bars and restaurants smoke-free. Furthermore, any kind of advertising related to tobacco companies has been banned since 2012 (although television and radio advertisements were banned as early as 1963!)



The smoking age in NZ is 18



Cigarette ends are a problem in New Zealand

New Zealand also has a "clean, green" image, and the littering of the ends of cigarettes is recognised as a pervasive issue. In the National Litter Audit conducted in 2019, the ends of cigarettes were the most commonly found items.

Seeing the problems caused by cigarettes, the New Zealand government has made nicotine replacement therapy products, like gum and patches with nicotine in them, completely free for smokers to help them quit. There is also a helpline that you can call 24/7 to get counselling on how to quit smoking.

New Zealand has a high tax rate for tobacco products; a 70 percent charge is added to the retail price. The average price of a packet of 20 cigarettes in New Zealand is now \$37.41, or around ¥3,600.

This is almost nine times as expensive as Japan's average price! When I've told this to Japanese people I know who smoke, they say they would quit immediately if the price here was that high!

Smoking is seen as a dirty habit, and because of this and the above reasons, the number of people who smoke in New Zealand is dropping significantly. As of 2023, **the smoking rate of adults in New Zealand was about 8%**. This is **less than half the rate of Japan**, where the rate is understood to be around 16.7% of adults.

What do you think? Do you think Japan should make more of an effort to get people to quit smoking?

This month I'd like to introduce a song that we've been singing in first grade Logic & Expression classes to cool us down. I'm sure everyone knows this song, if not the English version, at least in the Japanese version. You can

listen to it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0MK7qz13bU>

(Liam Campbell)



Lauren's Newsletter



How to Cool Down in SoCal

Hi, everyone! I hope you are staying cool this summer with shaved ice, air conditioning, and plenty of water! Maybe you'll even go to Caribbean Beach in Kiryu! In Southern California (SoCal), we also have water parks like Caribbean Beach. An average water park in Cali has water slides, attractions, pools, food, and more. In fact, it's estimated there are about 30-50 water parks in all of California! Today, I'd like to introduce a couple of these parks to you. Let's



A fun place to cool down in Kiryu



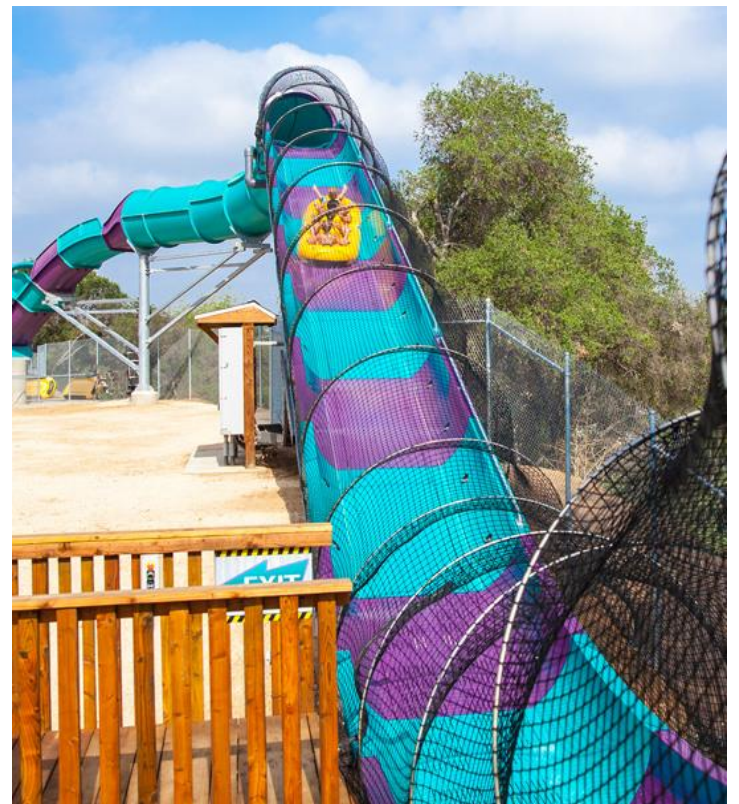
I went on this slide at Aquatica!

dive in!

The first water park I ever went to was **Aquatica** in San Diego. It is completely outdoors and has many attractions. I used to go there a lot during the summer when I was young. At Aquatica, they have water slides, a "lazy river" where you can float in an inner tube and just relax, and they even have a wave pool. I remember when I was in middle school I went on the yellow slide in the picture to the left. It was so high up and I was so scared, but I did it anyway! I made so many great memories there in elementary and junior high school, and I hope to go back one day.

The next water park I want to introduce is called

Raging Waters. It is in Los Angeles and is the largest water park in California. In fact, there are over 50 attractions, slides, and rides! In total, the water park spans over 60 acres. That's over half the size of Tokyo Disneyland! One attraction they have is called "Aqua Rocket", a fun and thrilling ride that combines both a water slide and roller coaster. It is the only water coaster in California that uses hydromagnetic technology. People who go on the ride can go as fast as 30 miles per hour (or about 48 kilometers per hour)! How cool!



Aqua Rocket at Raging Waters in Los Angeles

Whether it's going to a water park, playing sports, going to a summer festival, or playing video games at home, I hope you enjoy your summer to the fullest! Stay hydrated, have fun, and I'll see you all in the next Kiritaka English Journal!

Your Friendly Neighborhood ALT,

(Lauren Taylor)

For this week, I'd like to share a song about surfing. Enjoy!

