

Cultural Crossing Answer Key

Key Ideas (examples):

- People travel to Kyoto in spring to see the cherry blossoms.
- The blossoms last a short time and are culturally important.
- Hanami is the tradition of gathering under the trees to enjoy their beauty.

Less Important Details (examples):

- Visitors sample desserts or take photos.
- The city becomes crowded during the season.
- Petals float across rivers.

Sample Summary: People from all over the world visit Kyoto in spring to see the cherry blossoms, which last for only a short time. The blossoms are culturally important, and people celebrate them through the tradition of hanami. Families and visitors gather beneath the trees to enjoy their beauty.

Teacher's Guide

- Highlighting helps students distinguish **essential ideas** from **supporting details**, a key skill for effective summarizing.
- Model the process by highlighting one or two sentences together and explaining why each was marked essential or not.
- For differentiation, offer sentence starters such as The passage is mostly about... or An important idea is....
- Support struggling readers by allowing them to annotate margins with symbols before highlighting.
- Encourage students to compare their highlighted choices with a partner and discuss differences in judgment.
- For extension, challenge students to rewrite the passage in half its original length without losing meaning.