



1 次の文は、北海道の中学校に通う健 (Ken) が、交換留学生としてやって来るトム (Tom) 手紙の英文です。あとの問いに答えなさい。 507210202

Dear Tom,

Hello. We are very happy to hear that you are going to come to our school this winter. Our town is in the east of Hokkaido. People from all over Japan visit our town to enjoy the beautiful nature in every season. We have a lot of snow in winter, but many people come here for this season. Do you know why? Our town is famous for Japanese cranes, tancho in Japanese. We can see a lot of Japanese cranes in our town especially in winter. Today I am going to tell you about Japanese cranes.

Cranes have been symbols of good luck and long life and are loved by the Japanese, but Japanese cranes have a (①) history. Japanese cranes lived all over Japan during the Edo period (1603-1867), but the number of them got smaller during the Meiji period (1868-1912). In 1924, only about ten Japanese cranes were found in Hokkaido.

Why did the number of Japanese cranes become so small? One of the reasons is this: Before the Meiji period, they were in Hokkaido from spring to autumn, but in winter [1]. In the Meiji period, [2] because of land development and they had to stay in Hokkaido in winter, so [3]. They had almost nothing to eat, and they didn't eat the food people gave them, so many of them lost their lives.

But in 1950 the people in our town had ②wonderful news . One morning, some Japanese cranes came to Yamazaki Sadajiro's fields. He put some food there. Then they started to eat the food. They ate the food given by a person!

The people in our town were surprised and felt happy to hear the news. They also wanted to do something for Japanese cranes and began to put some food on their fields. In 1952, counting the number of Japanese cranes was started in Hokkaido and the people in our town helped this activity. In 1957, our school made a club to help Japanese cranes. In 1977, ③The International Crane Center was built on Mr. Yamazaki's fields. Japanese cranes could eat food in winter there, so they didn't have to worry about it. There were only 33 Japanese cranes in 1952, but the number has become larger: 200 in 1967, 320 in 1982, and more than 1,000 in 2006.

Last winter, some Japanese cranes came to our school grounds. They were so beautiful. We hope that they will come to our school grounds this winter, too. I want to see them with you. It will be very exciting. I hope to see you soon.

Your friend,

Ken

(注) the east : 東部 Japanese crane(s) : タンチョウ (ツルの一種) crane(s) : ツル
 symbol(s) : 象徴 good luck : 幸運 period : 時代 number : 数 reason(s) : 理由
 because of land development : 土地開発のため lost : 失った field(s) : 畑
 count : 数える school ground(s) : 校庭

1 本文中の (①) に入れるのに最も適切な語を、次のア～エの中から一つ選び、その符号を書きなさい。

ア happy イ sad ウ natural エ popular

2 [1] ～ [3] に入る文の組み合わせとして最も適切なものを、次のア～エの中から一つ選び、その符号を書きなさい。

A they lost their homes in Honshu

B it was very difficult for them to find food in the snow

C they moved to Honshu because it was warmer and there was more food

ア 1-B 2-A 3-C イ 1-B 2-C 3-A

ウ 1-C 2-B 3-A エ 1-C 2-A 3-B

3 下線部②は、どのようなことをさしていますか。「人間が」という書き出しに続けて、() に日本語で書きなさい。

人間が () こと。

4 下線部③は、どのような目的でつくられた施設ですか。本文の内容に即して、() に日本語で書きなさい。

() ためにつくられた施設。

5 次の(1), (2)の質問に対する答えを、本文の内容に即して、英語で書きなさい。ただし、() の部分には一語ずつ書くこと。

(1) Why do so many people come to Ken's town in winter?

Because they want () () Japanese cranes.

(2) Has Ken ever seen any Japanese cranes on their school grounds?

(), he ().

6 本文の内容に合っているものを、次のア～オの中から二つ選び、その符号を書きなさい。

ア Ken wrote about the members of his family in this letter.

イ Japanese cranes were found only in Hokkaido during the Edo period.

ウ The number of Japanese cranes became smaller in the Meiji period.

エ A club to save Japanese cranes was made in Ken's school in 1952.

オ Ken hopes that Tom can see some Japanese cranes on their school grounds.