

72 Microseasons

Instructions

Create a website presenting the “72 Microseasons” ...

<https://veryinteractive.net/pages/72seasons.html>

Your website should:

- display the information in the linked chart
- be intentionally designed for desktop, tablet, and mobile devices
- change over time in some way
- explain itself & why it exists in a way that feels right for your website

About 72 Microseasons

The four “traditional” seasons of summer, autumn, winter, and spring are not universal. Other places on earth are divided differently.

For example, the Japanese calendar, which is borrowed from the Chinese, splits the year into 24 seasons (“sekki”) and 72 microseasons (“kou”). (See the last three sheets in this document to read about all of them.)

The 72 kou each last about five days. Also called 72 pentads, they originated in China and were adapted to better match the seasonality of Japan in the Edo period by court astronomer Shibukawa Shunkai. The current version is from the abbreviated traditional calendar of 1874.

Dividing up the year into natural phenomena allowed farmers, in the agricultural days, to stay in-tune with the seasons. “When should we plant seeds? When should we harvest? When will the rains come? Are they late this year?” Knowing what was happening with nature was the difference between a plentiful harvest and a barren crop.

More about 72 kou / 24 sekki:

- <https://smallseasons.guide>
- <https://www.nippon.com/en/features/h00124>
- [The Traditional Seasons and Inventive Microseasons of the World](#)

- [72 Seasons App for iPhone](#)
- <https://www.are.na/laurel-schwulst/tiny-seasons>

Goals

This project is about adaptation across time and space.

After spending some time with them, decide how to best present the 72 microseasons. Do you divide them into individual pages? Present them all together? Something else?

Consider how your website is “responsive” — changing for different experiencing contexts (mobile, tablet, desktop).

Also consider the passing of time and how your website changes (even if subtly) as time passes.

Additionally, the original descriptions of the 72 kou were written as context specific (Japan in the late 1800s), so you might consider if they should be presented as-is or adapted for today somehow.

Workshops

During the course of this project, we will have a few technical workshops that will help you express your ideas in code.

Positioning — Making a Calendar with CSS Grid

Responsive — Using CSS Media Queries for mobile, tablet, desktop

Change over Time — Using JavaScript to show and hide things based on time

72 Seasons

The traditional Japanese calendar marks the passing of the seasons and changes in the natural world through the names given to different times of year. There are 24 major divisions, or *sekki*, from *Risshun* (Beginning of spring) in early February until *Daikan* (Greater cold). Originally taken from Chinese sources, these are still well-known around East Asia.

The 24 divisions are each split again into three for a total of 72 *kō* that last around five days each. The names were also originally taken from China, but they did not always match up well with the local climate. In Japan, they were eventually rewritten in 1685 by the court astronomer Shibukawa Shunkai. In their present form, they offer a poetic journey through the Japanese year in which the land awakens and blooms with life and activity before returning to slumber.

The dates in the following table are approximate and may vary by one day depending on the year. There are no standard readings in Japanese for the kanji names of the 72 *kō*, so other sources may give different readings.

立春 <i>Risshun</i> (Beginning of spring)		
February 4–8	東風解凍 <i>Harukaze kōri o toku</i>	East wind melts the ice
February 9–13	黃鶯睨皖 <i>Kōō kenkan su</i>	Bush warblers start singing in the mountains
February 14–18	魚上水 <i>Uo kōri o izuru</i>	Fish emerge from the ice
雨水 <i>Usui</i> (Rainwater)		
February 19–23	土脉潤起 <i>Tsuchi no shō uruoi okoru</i>	Rain moistens the soil
February 24–28	霞始隳 <i>Kasumi hajimete tanabiku</i>	Mist starts to linger
March 1–5	草木萌動 <i>Sōmoku mebae izuru</i>	Grass sprouts, trees bud
啓蟄 <i>Keichitsu</i> (Insects awaken)		
March 6–10	蟄虫啓戸 <i>Sugomori mushito o hiraku</i>	Hibernating insects surface
March 11–15	桃始笑 <i>Momo hajimete saku</i>	First peach blossoms
March 16–20	菜虫化蝶 <i>Namushi chō to naru</i>	Caterpillars become butterflies
春分 <i>Shunbun</i> (Spring equinox)		
March 21–25	雀始巢 <i>Suzume hajimete sukū</i>	Sparrows start to nest
March 26–30	櫻始開 <i>Sakura hajimete saku</i>	First cherry blossoms
March 31–April 4	雷乃發声 <i>Kaminari sunawachi koe o hassu</i>	Distant thunder
清明 <i>Seimei</i> (Pure and clear)		
April 5–9	玄鳥至 <i>Tsubame kitaru</i>	Swallows return
April 10–14	鴻雁北 <i>Kōgan kaeru</i>	Wild geese fly north
April 15–19	虹始見 <i>Niji hajimete arawaru</i>	First rainbows
穀雨 <i>Kokuu</i> (Grain rains)		
April 20–24	葭始生 <i>Ashi hajimete shōzu</i>	First reeds sprout
April 25–29	霜止出苗 <i>Shimo yamite nae izuru</i>	Last frost, rice seedlings grow
April 30–May 4	牡丹華 <i>Botan hana saku</i>	Peonies bloom
立夏 <i>Rikka</i> (Beginning of summer)		
May 5–9	蛙始鳴 <i>Kawazu hajimete naku</i>	Frogs start singing

May 10–14	蚯蚓出 <i>Mimizu izuru</i>	Worms surface
May 15–20	竹笋生 <i>Takenoko shōzu</i>	Bamboo shoots sprout
小満 <i>Shōman</i> (Lesser ripening)		
May 21–25	蚕起食桑 <i>Kaiko okite kuwa o hamu</i>	Silkworms start feasting on mulberry leaves
May 26–30	紅花栄 <i>Benibana sakau</i>	Safflowers bloom
May 31–June 5	麦秋至 <i>Mugi no toki itaru</i>	Wheat ripens and is harvested
芒種 <i>Bōshu</i> (Grain beards and seeds)		
June 6–10	螳螂生 <i>Kamakiri shōzu</i>	Praying mantises hatch
June 11–15	腐草為螢 <i>Kusaretaru kusa hotaru to naru</i>	Rotten grass becomes fireflies
June 16–20	梅子黄 <i>Ume no mi kibamu</i>	Plums turn yellow
夏至 <i>Geshi</i> (Summer solstice)		
June 21–26	乃東枯 <i>Natsukarekusa karuru</i>	Self-heal withers
June 27–July 1	菖蒲華 <i>Ayame hana saku</i>	Irises bloom
July 2–6	半夏生 <i>Hange shōzu</i>	Crow-dipper sprouts
小暑 <i>Shōsho</i> (Lesser heat)		
July 7–11	温風至 <i>Atsukaze itaru</i>	Warm winds blow
July 12–16	蓮始開 <i>Hasu hajimete hiraku</i>	First lotus blossoms
July 17–22	鷹乃學習 <i>Taka sunawachi waza o narau</i>	Hawks learn to fly
大暑 <i>Taisho</i> (Greater heat)		
July 23–28	桐始結花 <i>Kiri hajimete hana o musubu</i>	Paulownia trees produce seeds
July 29–August 2	土潤溽暑 <i>Tsuchi uruōte mushi atsushi</i>	Earth is damp, air is humid
August 3–7	大雨時行 <i>Taiu tokidoki furu</i>	Great rains sometimes fall
立秋 <i>Risshū</i> (Beginning of autumn)		
August 8–12	涼風至 <i>Suzukaze itaru</i>	Cool winds blow
August 13–17	寒蟬鳴 <i>Higurashi naku</i>	Evening cicadas sing
August 18–22	蒙霧升降 <i>Fukaki kiri matō</i>	Thick fog descends
処暑 <i>Shosho</i> (Manageable heat)		
August 23–27	綿柎開 <i>Wata no hana shibe hiraku</i>	Cotton flowers bloom
August 28–September 1	天地始肅 <i>Tenchi hajimete samushi</i>	Heat starts to die down
September 2–7	禾乃登 <i>Kokumono sunawachi minoru</i>	Rice ripens
白露 <i>Hakuro</i> (White dew)		
September 8–12	草露白 <i>Kusa no tsuyu shiroshi</i>	Dew glistens white on grass
September 13–17	鶺鴒鳴 <i>Sekirei naku</i>	Wagtails sing
September 18–22	玄鳥去 <i>Tsubame saru</i>	Swallows leave
秋分 <i>Shūbun</i> (Autumn equinox)		
September 23–27	雷乃収声 <i>Kaminari sunawachi koe o osamu</i>	Thunder ceases
September 28–October 2	蟄虫坏戸 <i>Mushi kakurete to o fusagu</i>	Insects hole up underground

October 3–7	水始涸 <i>Mizu hajimete karuru</i>	Farmers drain fields
寒露 Kanro (Cold dew)		
October 8–12	鴻雁来 <i>Kōgan kitaru</i>	Wild geese return
October 13–17	菊花開 <i>Kiku no hana hiraku</i>	Chrysanthemums bloom
October 18–22	蟋蟀在戶 <i>Kirigirisu to ni ari</i>	Crickets chirp around the door
霜降 Sōkō (Frost falls)		
October 23–27	霜始降 <i>Shimo hajimete furu</i>	First frost
October 28–November 1	霎時施 <i>Kosame tokidoki furu</i>	Light rains sometimes fall
November 2–6	楓蔦黃 <i>Momiji tsuta kibamu</i>	Maple leaves and ivy turn yellow
立冬 Rittō (Beginning of winter)		
November 7–11	山茶始開 <i>Tsubaki hajimete hiraku</i>	Camellias bloom
November 12–16	地始凍 <i>Chi hajimete kōru</i>	Land starts to freeze
November 17–21	金盞香 <i>Kinsenka saku</i>	Daffodils bloom
小雪 Shōsetsu (Lesser snow)		
November 22–26	虹藏不見 <i>Niji kakurete miezu</i>	Rainbows hide
November 27–December 1	朔風払葉 <i>Kitakaze konoha o harau</i>	North wind blows the leaves from the trees
December 2–6	橘始黃 <i>Tachibana hajimete kibamu</i>	<i>Tachibana</i> citrus tree leaves start to turn yellow
大雪 Taisetsu (Greater snow)		
December 7–11	閉塞成冬 <i>Sora samuku fuyu to naru</i>	Cold sets in, winter begins
December 12–16	熊蟄穴 <i>Kuma ana ni komoru</i>	Bears start hibernating in their dens
December 17–21	鱒魚群 <i>Sake no uo muragaru</i>	Salmon gather and swim upstream
冬至 Tōji (Winter solstice)		
December 22–26	乃東生 <i>Natsukarekusa shōzu</i>	Self-heal sprouts
December 27–31	麋角解 <i>Sawashika no tsuno otsuru</i>	Deer shed antlers
January 1–4	雪下出麦 <i>Yuki watarite mugi nobiru</i>	Wheat sprouts under snow
小寒 Shōkan (Lesser cold)		
January 5–9	芹乃榮 <i>Seri sunawachi sakau</i>	Parsley flourishes
January 10–14	水泉動 <i>Shimizu atataka o fukumu</i>	Springs thaw
January 15–19	雉始雊 <i>Kiji hajimete naku</i>	Pheasants start to call
大寒 Daikan (Greater cold)		
January 20–24	款冬華 <i>Fuki no hana saku</i>	Butterburs bud
January 25–29	水沢腹堅 <i>Sawamizu kōri tsumeru</i>	Ice thickens on streams
January 30–February 3	鷄始乳 <i>Niwatori hajimete toya ni tsuku</i>	Hens start laying eggs