

Title:	Dazaifu Tenmangu	Level: higher
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Text:	<p>Atsuko took part in a big tea ceremony event at Dazaifu Shrine last week (mid-October). Some 250 guests were there.</p> <p>The history behind the Shrine is interesting. It was built in 905 following the death of Sugawara no Michizane, a prominent academic and politician of the time.</p> <p>Legend has it that Michizane, who was a gifted student from a high ranking family, composed poems dedicated to his favorite plum trees. The Fujiwara clan, however, saw him as a threat and exiled him to Kyushu, where he spent his time studying.</p> <p>He died at the age of 57 and his body was being carried by an ox when it stopped and refused to move forward. Unable to go further, Michizane was buried on that spot by his follower, Umasake no Yasuyuki, and so the shrine was built there. Today, a statue of an ox stands nearby to commemorate the event.</p> <p>It's also said that the plum tree inside the shrine flew from Kyoto to be reunited with Michizane in his death, and that it is always the first plum tree to bloom in Japan.</p>
Discussion:	<p>Do you have a favourite historical place, anywhere in the world? Why do you especially like it?</p>
Words and usage:	<p>Take part in.... This means to play a part in an activity where people are working together. We wouldn't normally say 'take part in' if the role doesn't involve being active. 'Participate in' is an alternative expression. 'Join' is used to say that one person joins other people, whether individuals or an organisation. For example, 'I joined the game for the last 10 minutes', or 'I joined the company last year.' 'Attend' tells us of someone's presence, but not whether they were active.</p>
Resources:	<p>Oxford Dictionaries. http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com The British Council website. https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org</p>
Practice idea:	<p>Write a short story about a historical event that you recall.</p>
Listening link:	<p>Dazaifu Tenmangu - audio</p> 
Quiz Me! Conversation card:	<p>Card number C2 below is from Starter pack 1, available at englishbooks.jp, Amazon and Rakuten</p>

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Name a place
you want to visit.

quizme.jp