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| **埼玉県-大問３Ｂ** | I:\SUZUKI\Desktop\ダウンロード\新しいフォルダー\埼玉県-大問３Ｂ.png**2022年 公立高校入試** |

※QRコードを読み込むと，英文と連動した音声再生ができます（スマホにも対応）

**次は，高校１年生のTsuneoが書いた英文です。**

When I was an elementary school student, we had to use pencils made of wood. Some of my friends wanted to use \*mechanical pencils, but we didn't use them at our elementary school. Why are pencils the first \*writing tools used by elementary school students? The pencils I used at school were given to me by my mother, and when the pencils became short, I asked her to buy me new ones again. After we entered junior high school, almost all of my friends started using mechanical pencils. I always used pencils made of wood in elementary school, but after that, I only used mechanical pencils. One day, I found an article about pencils while I was reading the newspaper. It said that about 1,400,000,000 pencils were made every year in the 1960s in Japan, but in 2019, only 180,000,000 pencils were made. That is about 13% of the amount of pencils made every year in the 1960s. One of the reasons is the \*decline in the number of children. I became interested in pencils, so I decided to research them on the Internet.

In 1564, in \*Borrowdale, England, a black material was discovered in the ground. This material was \*graphite. People found it was useful for writing. But, if you hold graphite, your hands get dirty. So, they put the graphite between two pieces of wood. These were the first pencils. After that, pencils spread across Europe, and soon became popular. After about two hundred years, people couldn't find any more graphite in Borrowdale because there was no graphite left there. People in England couldn't find better graphite than that in Borrowdale. So, they had to find another way to make pencils. After trying many ways to make pencils, they \*mixed graphite and \*sulfur. But this graphite mixed with sulfur was not as good as the graphite in Borrowdale. But in Germany, people knew a better way to mix graphite and sulfur. People in France bought pencils made in England, but in the eighteenth century, people in France couldn't get pencils from England because of the wars between France and England. People say that \*Napoleon Bonaparte asked a scientist to make better pencils because they needed to make their own pencils in France. The scientist mixed graphite and \*clay, and the graphite mixed with clay was \*heated to around 1,100℃ to make the \*lead. Then, the scientist was finally able to make the best lead. It was almost the same as the lead used today. Then, in the nineteenth century, a pencil company in the U.S. found a new way to make pencils. The company put six pieces of lead between two boards, and then cut them into six pencils. This is almost the same \*process used to make many pencils at once today.

How about pencils in Japan? People say that Tokugawa Ieyasu was the first Japanese person to use a pencil. In Shizuoka Prefecture, a shrine has been protecting the pencil that he used since 1617. In \*the Meiji period, Japanese people tried to learn many new things from the U.S. and Europe. Young people had more chances to learn than before. In 1873, about twenty Japanese engineers were sent to Europe to learn new technologies. After they came back to Japan, some of them taught a man how to make pencils. People say that this man, Koike Uhachiro, made the first pencils in Japan. These pencils made in Japan were shown in an \*exposition in Ueno, Tokyo in 1877. After this, pencils became more popular in Japan and many people started using them. About forty pencil companies were made in those days, and some of them still make pencils today.

There are several \*merits of pencils. Do you know how long you can write with just one pencil? I read an article on the Internet. It said you can draw a line about 50 km long! I thought this was amazing! You can write with a pencil longer than many other writing tools. A pencil can be used in many different environments, too. For example, if you use a \*ball-point pen in a very cold place like the top of a mountain in winter, writing will probably be very difficult. In Japan, pencils are the first writing tools elementary school students use to learn how to write because pencils are hard to break. If there were no pencils, it would be much more difficult for children in Japan to practice writing.

Now I know a lot more about pencils. Pencils have a very interesting history. It was very surprising to learn about. How about other writing tools around us? They may have their own surprising history. I want to know more about them.

**〔注〕**　mechanical pencil：シャープペンシル　　writing tool：筆記用具  
decline in～：～の減少　Borrowdale ：ボローデール(地名)　　graphite：黒鉛

mix～：～を混ぜる　　sulfur：硫黄　　Napoleon Bonaparte：ナポレオン・ボナパルト  
clay：粘土　　heat～：～を熱する　　lead：(鉛筆の）芯　　process：過程  
the Meiji period：明治時代　exposition：博覧会　　merit：長所　　ball-point pen：ボールペン

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| **Question** |

１．小学校で最初に使う筆記用具は何ですか？

２．鉛筆の製造数が大きく減った理由の１つは何ですか？

３．世界で最初の鉛筆はいつ，どこでつくられましたか？

４．日本で最初に鉛筆を使ったのは誰ですか？

５．鉛筆の長所は何ですか？

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| **Answer** |

１．鉛筆

２．子供の数が減少したため。

３．イギリスのバローデールで発見されたグラファイトから，1564年につくられた。

４．徳川家康

５．他の書き道具よりも長く使え，また寒い場所でも使うことができる。

※QuestionとAnswerは，ＡＩが作成しました。