**The Beauty of Japan's Four Seasons**

**Throughout the year, Japan experiences a beautiful change of four distinct seasons. In spring, cherry blossoms bloom magnificently, and people enjoy "hanami," or flower viewing. The sight of pink petals fluttering down is a truly iconic Japanese scene.**

**Summer is characterized by lush, green trees and numerous fireworks festivals and traditional festivals held across the country. Despite the hot and humid weather, people cool down with summer-specific foods like shaved ice and chilled soba noodles.**

**As autumn arrives, the mountains are painted in vibrant red and yellow hues by the changing leaves. Hiking in the crisp, clear air is a special experience. This is also known as "shokuyoku no aki," or the autumn of appetite, with a bountiful harvest of new rice, seasonal vegetables, and fruits.**

**Finally, winter brings snowy landscapes to many regions, and a popular way to warm up is by soaking in a hot spring (onsen). Spending time with family huddled around a kotatsu (a heated table) while eating mandarins is another classic winter tradition.**

**Each season brings its own unique charm and culture, enriching Japanese life.**