**Omi Jingu Shrine**

Omi Jingu Shrine was built in 1940 and enshrines Emperor Tenji (626–672), who moved Japan’s capital to Otsu in 667. Tenji is enshrined in the shrine’s main sanctuary behind a large worship hall. The central part of Omi Jingu is entered through a towering, bright red gate (*romon*) that stands out amid the dense greenery of the forest surrounding the shrine.

Emperor Tenji famously built the first water clock (*rokoku*) in Japan, and the shrine has a clock museum featuring numerous timepieces from Japan and around the world. A working replica of the water clock is on the grounds, and every year on June 10, a festival is held to commemorate the building of the original.

Emperor Tenji also composed the first *waka* poem in the famous *Hyakunin Isshu*, a compilation of 100 poems written by poets including many prominent members of the imperial court. The poems are the basis for a popular card game called *karuta*, in which players compete to find cards with the last part of a poem as the first part of it is read aloud. Omi Jingu is a key venue of the competitive *karuta* scene, regularly hosting tournaments including the Meijin and Queen finals, which are Japan’s national championship.