

Japan in Transition

Japanese Garden, Washington Park Arboretum

May 1, 2006

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JAPAN IN TRANSITION

Please note: some descriptions have been excerpted directly from the organization's website.
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Apple icon indicates resources which include lesson plans.

MAPS OF JAPAN

Japan National Tourist Organization: Map of regions
http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/map/index_map.html

Japan Map from World Atlas.Com including facts about Japan's climate, geography, and natural resources.
<http://www.graphicmaps.com/webimage/countrys/asia/jp.htm>

Japan National Map (wall map for purchase)
http://www.maps.com/map.aspx?cid=22&pid=8970&cat_name=Wall+Maps+Continent+%26+Country+Asia&prod_name=JAPAN+Political+Wall+Map&nav=MS#viewAnchor

Japan Map with major cities, bodies of water, and historical occupation notations.
http://www.asiasource.org/profiles/ap_mp_03.cfm?countryid=18

Japan Maps from the National Clearinghouse for US-Japanese Studies
<http://sunsite.tus.ac.jp/asia/japan/maps/>

BASIC INFORMATION ON JAPAN

Statistical Data on Japan from Japanese government website
<http://portal.stat.go.jp/Pubstat/topE.html>

Wikipedia - The Free Online Encyclopedia.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan>
Good overview of history, government, politics, society, geography, and economy.

Wikipedia - WikiProject Japanese Bibliography
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_Bibliography#Maps_and_Atlases

BBC - Country Profiles
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1258586.stm

BBC - Timeline
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1261918.stm

ENGLISH NEWS SOURCES ON JAPAN

Many Japanese newspapers publish an English-language version of their paper. While these papers usually contain a few articles translated from the Japanese language version, most of

the articles are written for the English language version for foreigners living in Japan. The following newspapers are online and updated daily:

Asahi Shinbun www.asahi.com/english/english.html

The Japan Times www.japantimes.co.jp/

The Daily Yomiuri www.yomiuri.co.jp/index-e.htm

Nikkei Net (Nihon Keizai Shinbun) www.nni.nikkei.co.jp/

News on Japan <http://www.newsonjapan.com/> This site covers a variety of headline topics from news sources such as CNN, AP, Reuters,1 and *The Japan Times*.

Asia Today - Asia Source http://www.asiasource.org/news/at_mp_01.cfm. From the Asia Society, this web source provides headlines, editorial articles, and country profiles.

Asia Times: Japan <http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Japan.html>. This is a U.S. news source on Japan and Asia with updated daily headlines.

RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR US-JAPAN STUDIES

<http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/lessons.html>

Lesson Plan Database - The Clearinghouse for U.S.-Japan Studies provides a number of free lesson plans for teachers through a searchable online database and with links to other organizations that offer more curriculum ideas. The site allows educators to enter information on grade level and subject area in order to tailor their lesson plan search.

Publications: Teaching about Japan Information Packet

http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/info_packet/index.htm

Providing educators who teach about Japan with background information on a wide variety of topics related to Japan and U.S.-Japan relations, the packet consists of all of the current *Japan Digests* and *Internet Guides* as well as brochures or catalogs from organizations such as the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia, the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education, the Asian Educational Media Service, and the journal *Education About Asia*.

Publications: Japan Digests and Internet Guides

<http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/Digests/index.htm>

The Clearinghouse has been publishing the *Japan Digest* series since the early 1990s. Created to provide educators who teach about Japan with background information on a wide variety of topics related to Japan and U.S.-Japan relations, the series has covered such topics as haiku, kabuki, rice, Japanese education, economics, and Japanese-American internment. Some *Japan Digests* serve as teaching guides for educators, others are suitable for students to read on their own prior to classroom discussion. The Internet guides are listings of online sites that provide information and interactive opportunities for students and teachers.





ASIA FOR EDUCATORS - COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/>

This site is an initiative on the East Asia Curriculum Project and the Project on Asia in the Core Curriculum. This resource covers all interest areas and includes information on China as well. Background information, readings, activities, lesson plans, graphics, and video clips on Japan can be found on this site.



ASIA EDUCATION MEDIA SERVICE

<http://www.aems.uiuc.edu/HTML/Japan.html>

The database includes information about media in a variety of types: audio cassettes, video cassettes, DVDs, and CD-ROMs, plus curriculum units with audio-visual components. Media include those appropriate for educational levels from elementary and secondary school to college and university on an array of subjects pertaining to East, South, and Southeast Asia. Some Asian feature films are also included.

JAPAN INFORMATION AND CULTURE CENTER

<http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc/>

The Japan Information and Culture Center (JICC) is the cultural and public affairs section of the Embassy of Japan in Washington D.C. The role of the JICC is to promote better understanding of Japan and Japanese culture by providing a wide range of information, educational services, and programs to the public. The JICC has a Teacher Resource Guide including information on origami, holidays and celebrations, the Japanese language, "Learning About Japan" Resource, and pen pal programs. The resource guide can be downloaded at <http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc/index.htm>.

JAPAN NOW

<http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc/JNindex.htm>

This is a newsletter that serves anyone who is interested in Japan and its culture. Until 2005, it had been a printed nationwide newsletter of 10,000+ circulation, but it has recently been converted to an online format, allowing quick access from readers all over the world.

EDUCATION ABOUT ASIA MAGAZINE

<http://www.aasianst.org/eaa-toc.htm>

This magazine includes articles on all areas and subjects ranging from ancient cultures to literature to current events. It also includes guides to resources for classroom use such as films, books, videos, curriculum guides, websites, software, and other useful educational tools.

ASIA SOCIETY

www.asiasociety.org

The Asia Society is an international organization dedicated to strengthening relationships and deepening understanding among the peoples of Asia and the United States. Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller III, the Society reaches audiences around the world. A nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization, the Society provides a forum for building awareness of the more than thirty countries broadly defined as the Asia-Pacific region - the area from Japan to Iran, and from Central Asia to New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Through art exhibitions and performances, films, lectures, seminars, conferences, assistance to the media, and materials and programs for students and teachers, the Asia Society presents the uniqueness and diversity of Asia.

EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN WASHINGTON D.C.

<http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/english/html/index.htm>

The Japanese Embassy offers resources for educators, including maps, posters, brochures, and periodicals.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN IN SEATTLE

<http://www.seattle.us.emb-japan.go.jp/>

The Consulate General of Japan in Seattle offers information about local Seattle events, scholarship opportunities, language classes, Washington-Japan relationship, and more.

EXPANDING EAST ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM (ExEAS)

<http://www.exeas.org/resources/category-politics.html>

(ExEAS) was launched in 2002 through a multi-year grant from the Freeman Foundation. Building on intellectual, pedagogical, and outreach achievements in the undergraduate study of East Asia, ExEAS seeks to provide innovative courses and teaching materials that incorporate the study of East Asia in broad thematic, transnational, and interdisciplinary contexts.



INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS, ARRANGED BY AREA OF INTEREST

History

History, 1800 to Present: Japan Teaching Units

http://afe.asia.columbia.edu/menu_pages/blue/japan_history2_a.htm

Readings, activities, and historical outlines from Columbia University's Asia for Educators provide students an appreciation for contemporary historical periods. These lessons include units on "Commodore Perry and Japan," "The Meiji Restoration and Modernization," "Imperialism, War, and the Revolution in East Asian: 1900-1945," "Japan Quest for Power and World War II in Asia," and "The Occupation: Democratic Reform Under the Allies."

Japan in World History

<http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/iguides/whistory.html>

An internet guide to aid in teaching about Japan in world history courses from the US-Japan National Clearinghouse. Links to curriculum units, filmographies, an online textbook, and more. Sites that coincide with the AP World History guidelines are followed by ~AP World History.

Japanese Government and Politics

ASIA FOR EDUCATORS - COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

<http://afe.asia.columbia.edu/>

This source includes a variety of readings and lesson plans on a wide range of topics:

- **Introduction: Power and Politics in Modern Japan [Reading]**

An essay that gives a brief history of the structure of government in Japan. Emphasis is on the role of the emperor and the role of the Diet, Japan's legislative body.



- **The Japanese Constitution [Primary Source Reading/Activity]**

This unit contains the text of Japan's constitution, written in 1947. Discussion questions included.

- **The Government of Japan [Reading]**

This unit contains basic facts about the structure of the government.

- **The Japanese Bureaucracy [Audio/Video/Text]**

An extensive audio/visual overview of the modern Japanese governmental bureaucracy, covering its history and origins in the Meiji restoration, its various groups and divisions, scandals and reforms, and culture and policies.

- **The Japanese Diet [Audio/Video/Text]**

An audio/visual overview of the Japanese "diet" or parliament, covering the post-WWII development of this system, its leadership, powers, and functions.

- **Elections in Japan [Reading/Activity]**

An essay explaining how politicians are elected in Japan. Discussion questions and a student exercise are included.

- **Japan's Election Laws [Audio/Video/Text]**

An audio/visual unit on Japan's election laws, covering the various restrictions and practices unique to Japanese politics and the overall effect of these practices on the political culture of Japan.

- **Japan's Electoral Process, 1925-44 [Audio/Video/Text]**

An audio/visual unit on the development of Japan's electoral system and the process by which politicians reach elected office, covering intra-party competition, the role of minority parties, recent reforms, new factions, and possible future objectives.

- **Decision-Making in the Japanese Government [Reading/Activity]**

A short essay describing the various organizations that influence political decisions followed by an extensive role play in which students debate whether income taxes should be raised or lowered.

- **Factions in Japanese Politics [Audio/Video/Text]**

An audio/visual unit on the role of political factions in Japanese politics, covering the role of factions within political parties, the various coalitions among the factions, politicians' allegiances to factions, and the declining importance of factions in Japan's political culture.

- **Interest Groups in Japanese Politics [Audio/Video/Text]**

An audio/visual unit on the role of interest groups in Japanese politics, covering the major interest groups, their respective power and political clout, and the distinction between interest groups and lobbyists.

- **The Prime Minister and Leadership in Japanese Politics [Audio/Video/Text]**

An audio/visual unit on the role of the prime minister in Japanese politics, covering the process by which they are elected, the leadership styles of past Japanese prime ministers, and the reasons for their relatively limited power.

- **The Emperor Before and After the Second World War [Audio/Video/Text]**

An audio/visual unit on Emperor Hirohito (1901-1989), who was the emperor of Japan from 1926 to 1989. He chose to designate his reign with the term "Showa" (Enlightened Peace), and he is sometimes referred to as the Emperor Showa. His reign was the longest of any monarch in Japanese history.

- **Research Exercise: "Current Events" [Activity]**

This unit contains suggestions for using online English Language Japanese newspapers.

- **Land, the Family and Political Power [Reading]**

This short essay describes land cultivation (specifically who cultivates the land and how) and the relationship between land ownership and political power. It also discusses the effect of

Japan's mountainous topography on the relationship between local and central government control. Discussion questions are included.

Asia for Educators, Recommended Websites:

Official Website of the Prime Minister of Japan and His Government

www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/index-e.html

Search for government ministries, agencies, and other organizations in alphabetical order or using a helpful Organization Chart. An explanation of the functions of each office is given

Japan, A Country Study (Library of Congress, Federal Research Division)

lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/jptoc.html

Features a short country profile/overview, plus a chronology of major historical periods, and an extensive treatment of contemporary topics such as government, the economy, foreign affairs, and national security.

Government Websites (Japan Information Network)

<http://jin.jcic.or.jp/government.html>

Part of the Japanese-government-sponsored Japan Information Network (JIN), the Government section includes information on Japan's legislature, political parties, judiciary, executive government, constitution, and the ministries.

Resources on the WWW for the Study of Japanese Policy (Duke University)

www.lib.duke.edu/ias/eac/polsciww.htm

Links to information on the Japanese cabinet, constitution, political parties, and media.

The Economist

<http://www.economist.com/countries/Japan/profile.cfm?folder=Profile-Political%20Structure>

Very brief, succinct information on the political structure of Japan.

Top 10 Things to Know about Japan in the Late 1990s.

www.lib.duke.edu/ias/eac/polsciww.htm

From the late 1990s, this quick overview is a great resource for catching up with important information that still holds true today.

Japan-U.S. Economic and Political Relations

“Learning from the Japanese Economy“ 2004 Digest- National Clearinghouse for US-Japan Studies

<http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/Digests/index.htm>

Examines “general perceptions on both sides of the pacific, mistaken beliefs on the part of Americans and Japanese about the other nation's economic activities, and the behaviors in each nation's economy that scholars identify as factors that inhibit successful Japan-U.S. economic relations.”

“Japan in the U.S. Press: Bias and Stereotypes“ 2005 Digest- National Clearinghouse for US-Japan Studies

<http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/Digests/index.htm>

Reportage of Japan has been and continues to be riddled with stereotypes and paradox, even in the pages of elite U.S. newspapers. While cultural differences and stereotypes exist everywhere, it is the negative manner in which information is conveyed about Japan that is disturbing and damaging.

Ambassador Kato's Speech at SAIS: "The U.S.-Japan Alliance in East Asia"

February 28, 2006 <http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc/index.htm>

On Feb. 28, Ambassador Ryozo Kato spoke at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), a graduate school division of the Johns Hopkins University. His speech was the first Edwin O. Reischauer Memorial Lecture, given in dedication to the former U.S. Ambassador to Japan (1961-66).

Japan's LDP Begins Overhaul of Pacifist Constitution

<http://www.ihf.com/articles/2005/11/22/news/japan.php> November 22, 2005, *The International Herald-Tribune*

Koizumi, Bush to Discuss Security, Beef Ban Today by Taro Karasaki November 15, 2005, Asahi.com <http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200511150381.html>

Partners in Realignment/ Under Its Wing by Taro Karasaki November 10, 2005, Asahi.com <http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200511100150.html>
Third in a four-part series on base re-alignment.

Cover Story/ Partners in Realignment: Country Healer by Yu Yoshitake November 8, 2005, Asahi.com <http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200511080457.html>

EDITORIAL/ Japan-U.S. Security Ties: An Interim Report Raises Some Serious Concerns November 1, 2005
<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200511010116.html>

U.S. Walks Fine Line in Shrine Fight October 20, 2005, *The International Herald-Tribune*
<http://www.ihf.com/articles/2005/10/20/news/shrine.php>

Economics & Business

Asia for Educators

<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/>

These three units are intended to go together.

Japan economy & trade fact sheet. This briefing is included at the end of the resource packet.

Basic background points on Japan's economy and trading patterns. From Information Sources on the Internet [Resource]

List of web sites with graphs and statistical information on aspects of Japan's economy. Student Research Exercises ask students to use the internet to research specific aspects of Japan's economy and trade. Background information and questions are included in each exercise.

Japanese Nationalism and China-Japan Relations

“Japanese Nationalism” from Wikipedia Online

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_nationalism

This article gives a historical overview of the development of Japanese nationalism beginning in the early 20th century.

“Japan’s New Nationalists” Eugene A. Matthews, Council on Foreign Relations.

<http://www.cfr.org/publication.html?id=4241>

This piece describes the “new nationalists” in Japan as a younger generation that experienced World War II and is advocating for a strong Japan in terms of military and economic capability. The article also discusses Prime Minister Koizumi’s relationship with this burgeoning group.

“The Rise of Japan’s Neo-Nationalists and What it means to the United States”

Eugene A. Matthews

<http://www.cfr.org/publication.html?id=5266>

Matthews describes the distinctive character of Japan’s nationalism and its potential for growth. He wrestles with the potential military consequences of Japan’s desire to become more independent and notes that US must maintain a watchful eye as the movement develops.

“Gas Field Talks Remain Deadlocked as China Makes Proposal Unacceptable to Japan” *Japan Now!* Newsletter March 13, 2006

http://www.fpci.jp/e/mres/japanbrief/jb_613.html

The Japanese proposal to jointly develop the gas fields of the East China Sea have failed due to China’s suggestion to drill in the Senkaku Islands, territory that Japan claims is already under its control.

“Nationalism Drives China, Japan Apart” Robert Marquand. *The Christian Science Monitor* December 29, 2005. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/1229/p01s02-woap.html>

This article covers the historical roots that give rise to current tensions between China and Japan. Intense clashes over nuclear arms, participation in the UN, and issues of nationalism suggest that “[t]his could possibly be the worst period of Sino-Japanese relations since World War II,” says James Mulvenon, Asia specialist at the Center for Intelligence Research and Analysis in Washington.

“The Price of Japanese Nationalism” Erich Marquardt. *Asia Times Online*

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Japan/GD14Dh05.html>

Chinese protestors took to the streets to protest the publishing of a Japanese history test book that apparently glosses over Japan’s actions in World War II. This publication is viewed by some as another indication of the rise of Japanese nationalism.

“Myth of Rising Japan Nationalism” *Herald Tribune* by Mitsuru Kitano, Minister of Public Affairs for the Japanese Embassy in Washington, D.C.

<http://iht.com/articles/2006/01/12/opinion/edkitano.php>

In this article Minister Kitano counters claims that Japan is experiencing a surge in nationalism and that grievances are deepening with China.

Youth Issues

These are mostly academic articles that focus on issues affecting Japanese youth and young adults. They are useful for educators to gain a better understanding about Japanese youth and the differences and similarities between American and Japanese culture.

“Japanese Education“

<http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/digest5.html>

Updated December 2005. By Lucien Ellington.

This *Japan Digest* is an introductory overview of 1) Japanese educational achievements, 2) Japanese K-12 education, 3) Japanese higher education, 4) contemporary educational issues, and 5) significant U.S.-Japan comparative education topics.

Monbukagakusho

<http://www.mext.go.jp/english/>

The Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology Web site. The “Topics” section highlights recent news articles of particular interest. A site index at the top of the page links to 10 subsections: Life Long Learning Policy, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Learning, Science and Technology Policy, Research Promotion, Research and Development, Sports and Youth, Cultural Affairs, International Affairs, and Budget. The “White Paper” section contains articles on the Japanese Government Policies on Education, Science, Sports, and Culture as well as a history of Japan’s modern educational system. Statistics are also available.

“Mobile Phones, Japanese Youth, and the Replacement of Social Contact.”

Mikuko Ito and Okabe Daisuke.

<http://www.itofisher.com/PEOPLE/mito/mobileyouth.pdf>

This paper proposes that the “power dynamics inherent in the institutions of family, public places, and peer relations” are key factors in teen cell phone use, particularly text messaging.

“Japanese and American Children’s Reasons for the Things They do in School”

V. Lee Hamilton, Phyllis C. Blumenfeld, Hiroshi Akoh, Kanae Miura

[http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-8312(198924)26%3A4%3C545%3AJAACRF%3E2.0.CO%3B2-5#abstract)

[8312\(198924\)26%3A4%3C545%3AJAACRF%3E2.0.CO%3B2-5#abstract](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-8312(198924)26%3A4%3C545%3AJAACRF%3E2.0.CO%3B2-5#abstract)

American Educational Research Journal, Vol. 26, No. 4 (Winter, 1989) , pp. 545-571

Fifth grade children (184 American and 399 Japanese) were asked the reasons for either their actions or their feelings about adhering to or violating classroom norms. Their open-ended responses were assessed both for the type of reason-external, internal, or emphatic-and for its target-authorities (parents, teacher) versus others, such as peers or self. Children were asked about aspects of achievement (academic performance and academic procedures) and about two aspects of conduct (social procedures and moral norms). As expected, Japanese children were less external in both their open-ended reasons for action and their closed-ended responses; on the whole, however, they did not differ from American children where reasons for feelings were at issue. Japanese children also focused on authority figures as targets in their open-ended reasons to a much greater extent than did American children.

“From High School to Work: Market and Institutional Mechanisms in Japan”

James E. Rosenbaum, Takehiko Kariya

[http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-9602(198905)94%3A6%3C1334%3AFHSTWM%3E2.0.CO%3B2-C#abstract)

[9602\(198905\)94%3A6%3C1334%3AFHSTWM%3E2.0.CO%3B2-C#abstract](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-9602(198905)94%3A6%3C1334%3AFHSTWM%3E2.0.CO%3B2-C#abstract)

American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 94, No. 6 (May, 1989), pp. 1334-1365

Market models posit that institutional linkages interfere with efficient labor markets. Many Japanese high schools have agreements with employers to hire their students, and this article examines the ties between Japanese schools and employers, the reasons they make these ties, and the criteria they use to select students. Interviews with teachers and recruiters indicate that the Japanese system shifts the competition for jobs from the labor market into schools and among schools and employers also compete for dependable sources of labor. Multivariate analyses of surveys of 1,408 high schools and 964 seniors indicate that desirable jobs are allocated more on the basis of academic than nonacademic criteria, contrary to the predictions of some models.

“Later Marriages or Fewer? Changes in the Marital Behavior of Japanese Women”

James M. Raymo

[http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-2445(199811)60%3A4%3C1023%3ALMOFCI%3E2.0.CO%3B2-G)

[2445\(199811\)60%3A4%3C1023%3ALMOFCI%3E2.0.CO%3B2-G](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-2445(199811)60%3A4%3C1023%3ALMOFCI%3E2.0.CO%3B2-G)

Journal of Marriage and the Family, Vol. 60, No. 4 (Nov., 1998), pp. 1023-1034

Results indicate that higher wages for females, higher educational attainment, and recency of cohort are associated with lower marital prevalence at ages 30-34, consistent with an interpretation of increasing nonmarriage. Given the rapid pace with which Japan's population is projected to age, the rarity of nonmarital childbearing, and the relative absence of family alternatives to marriage, an increase in the proportion of those who never marry would have potentially major social, economic, and demographic consequences.

Japanese Culture and Religion

Asia for Educators: Japanese Culture and Society

http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/at_japan_soc/

“Contemporary Japan: Culture and Society” features film clips and transcripts on topics such as Urban and Rural Life, Japanese Family, Japanese Education and Work, Japanese Culture and Religion. It provides a very good yet brief overview of distinct cultural and societal factors.

Japan Access: Popular Culture

<http://web-japan.org/factsheet/culture/index.html>

This site gives an introduction to popular cultural issues in Japan such as animation films and the cell phone culture. From the Japan Information Network

Japan's Aging Population

<http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/iguides/index.htm>

Links to articles, essays, statistics, and reports on Japan's aging population and the subsequent effects on social security, work force, and family structure from the US-Japan National Clearinghouse.

Teaching the Japanese Language

Say It in Japanese

<http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/say.html>

From Kids Web Japan, “Say It in Japanese” offers a “fun and easy introduction to Japanese.” The site teaches phrases including greetings, introductions, and basic conversational questions and answers using sound files accompanied with both Japanese and romaji (romanized Japanese).



Asia for Educators, Columbia University, Japanese Language: Teaching Units

<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu>

This unit presents an overview of the Japanese language, both spoken and written. It includes a chart of the Japanese syllabary and discussion questions/student exercises.

[Japanese Syllabaries](#) [Activity]

This unit provides an opportunity for students to practice writing both Japanese syllabaries — *katakana* and *hiragana*.

Building a Japanese Language Program from the Bottom Up

<http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/digest13.html>

Linda Worman. This digest article offers information on the factors necessary to implement a successful Japanese language program.

Religion

“Japanese Religions” Excerpt by Paul Watt

<http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/iguide/index.htm>

“The Japanese religious tradition is made up of several major components, including Shinto, Japan’s earliest religion, Buddhism, and Confucianism. Christianity has been only a minor movement in Japan. However, the so-called “new religions” that arose in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are a prominent feature of Japanese religious life today.” Gain a better understanding of the religious traditions that make up the Japanese religious culture by reading more of Paul Watt’s article, “Japanese Religions.”

Buddhism. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_Buddhism In modern times, there are four main paths of Buddhism, to which all schools of Japanese Buddhism belong: the Amidist (Pure Land) schools, Nichiren Buddhism, and Zen Buddhism.

Bring students to these local temples to learn more about Buddhism in the Puget Sound area.

Seattle Betsuin Temple

<http://www.seattlebetsuin.com/default.htm>

1427 South Main St. Seattle WA 98144, (206) 329-0800.

The Seattle Buddhist Temple is of the Jodo Shinshu tradition under the mother temple of the Nishi Hongwanji in Japan and is affiliated with the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). Please visit their website for more information on Betsuin temple’s mission, history and services. Visitors are welcome.

Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America

<http://www.tsubakishrine.com/test/home.asp>

17720 Crooked Mile Road, Granite Falls, Washington 98252. phone: 360-691-6389

Tsubaki Shrine is a traditional Jinja Shinto Shrine located on a pristine 25 acre site near Granite Falls, Washington, less than 1 hour from Seattle or the Eastside. Tsubaki Shrine is

the branch of Ise-no-Kuni-Ichi-no-Miya, Sarutahiko Daihonguu, Tsubaki O Kami Yashiro (est. 3 BCE) one of the oldest and most prestigious shrines in Japan.

Japanese Art: Haiku, Gardens, and Film

Haiku:

Haiku is a short form of poetry developed by the Japanese poet, Basho, in the seventeenth century. In its strictest form, haiku follows a 3 line, 5-7-5 syllable pattern. Haiku captures a scene or short moment, usually incorporating some part of the natural world.

Our guest poet, Michael Dylan Welch, shares some insights:

[Haiku] are objective, imagistic, and about nature, and often include a seasonal reference. It's a poem recording a moment of heightened awareness of nature or human nature. It should come across like a moment of realization, producing an "aha!" moment in the reader in the same way that it gave you that moment of realization when you, as the writer, experience the haiku moment in the first place.



“In the Moonlight a Worm” <http://www.haiku.insouthsea.co.uk/>

This site by George Marsh instructs students and teachers how to write haiku poems and offers educators with lesson plans for primary and secondary students. This site provides educators with good background information on haiku. George Marsh, is the author of *Teaching Through Poetry: Writing and the Drafting Process*, published by Hodder and Stoughton in 1988.



Teaching Haiku Poetry: Links, Resources, Ideas.

<http://www.gardendigest.com/poetry/haiku4.htm#Two>

Indexed by Michael P. Garofalo

This site includes many resources on teaching haiku and is divided by grade level.



Teachervision.com

http://www.teachervision.fen.com/tv/tvsearch.php?keywords=haiku&subterm=&term%5B%5D=&lowest_grade=all&highest_grade=same

This website provides teachers with haiku lesson plan ideas for all ages. It does not provide as much background information on haiku as “In the Moonlight a Worm” but some creative ways to integrate art and science with creative writing are suggested.

Simple Haiku: An E-Journal of Haiku and Related Forms George Marsh

http://www.poetrylives.com/SimplyHaiku/SHv2n3/reprints/George_Marsh.html

This online journal is a “showcase for Japanese short form poetry written in the English language.” It also contains essays on short form poetry, archived issues, and information on publishing opportunities.

“The History and Artistry of Haiku”

<http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/Digests/> Background and “how to” on writing haiku by Patricia Burleson, article attached.

Gardens:

Wikipedia Online. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_gardens

Japanese gardens (Kanji) in the tradition of Japan can be found at private homes, in neighborhood or city parks, at Buddhist temples or Shinto shrines, and at historical landmarks such as old castles. Many of the Japanese gardens most famous in the West, and within Japan as well, are Zen gardens. The tradition of the Tea masters has produced highly refined Japanese gardens of quite another style, evoking rural simplicity. Typical Japanese gardens contain several of these elements, real or symbolic: water, an island, a bridge to the island, a lantern, a teahouse, or a pavilion

Japanese gardens might fall into one of these styles: strolling gardens, for viewing from a path; or sitting gardens, for contemplating from one place, such as the tiny *tsuboniva* found in *machiya* (traditional wooden townhouses). Many Zen temples feature a garden in the *karesansui* (or *karesenzui*, *kosansui*, *kosensui* “dry landscape”) style. These have no water, but typically evoke a feeling of water using pebbles and meticulously raked gravel or sand. Rocks chosen for their intriguing shapes and patterns, mosses, and low shrubs typify the *karesansui* style. The garden at Ryōan-ji, a temple in Kyoto, is particularly renowned.

Other gardens also use similar rocks for decoration. Some of these come from distant parts of Japan. In addition, bamboos and related plants, evergreens including Japanese black pine, and such deciduous trees as maples grow above a carpet of ferns and mosses.

Shakke, “borrowed scenery,” is a technique Japanese gardeners use to make a small garden seem more spacious. By judiciously planting shrubs to block the view of nearby structures, they encourage the viewer to look up toward the mountains, and to think of them as part of the garden.



Japanese-Style Gardens Internet Guide

<http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/iguides/gardens.html>

An excellent source of links to more information about Japanese gardens as well as lesson plans on how students can create their own rock gardens.

Japanese Style Garden Home Page

<http://mraggett.members.beeb.net/gardens/japanese/index.htm>

This provides an overview of Japanese gardens and a resource list of books and links.

Japanese Garden Links

<http://www.mysteries-megasite.com/main/bigsearch/japgarden.html>

This site has links to Japanese garden photos, supplies, and online publications.

The Tea Ceremony

<http://web-japan.org/museum/tea/tea.html>

<http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/english/html/index.htm>

“A ritualized procedure for entertaining guests that puts into practice the aesthetic and spiritual principles of Zen Buddhism.”

Local Japanese Gardens and Buddhist Temples of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition

Introduce your students to these beautiful, local Japanese gardens:

The Japanese Garden in the Washington Park Arboretum

<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/parks/parkspaces/japanesegarden.htm#about>.

The site for this evening's event. Located within the Washington Park Arboretum, this is a 3 1/2 acre formal garden designed and constructed under the supervision of world-renowned Japanese garden designer Juki Iida in 1960. Chado (The Way of Tea) demonstrations are offered periodically. For more information on tea demonstrations, view the Urasenke Foundation's events page at <http://www.urasenkeseattle.org/page21>.

Kubota Garden <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkspaces/kubotagarden.htm>

Hidden in South Seattle, Kubota Gardens is a stunning 20 acre landscape that blends Japanese garden concepts with native Northwest plants. The city acquired the property, which is an historic landmark, in 1987 from the estate of master landscaper Fujitaro Kubota. Kubota was a horticultural pioneer when he began merging Japanese design techniques with North American materials in his display garden in 1927. The Gardens are a spectacular setting of hills and valleys, interlaced with streams, waterfalls, ponds, bridges, and rock outcroppings with a rich array of plant material.

9817 55th Ave. South. Seattle, WA General Parks Information: (206)684-4075

Japanese Remembrance Garden at Seattle University

http://www.seattleu.edu/home/news_events/news/news_detail.asp?elID=3212006105718&elYear=2006

Located on the northeast corner of the Seattle University campus that once was the site of a Japanese-American community, the Japanese American Remembrance Garden serves as a living memorial to Japanese Americans who were forced to live in internment camps during World War II. Seattle University established the garden as a special area for healing, reflection, and inspiration. It also celebrates the legacy of Fujitaro Kubota, a Japanese immigrant who was interned at Camp Minidoka in Idaho. After the war, Kubota designed nine gardens at Seattle University. His grandson, Allan Kubota, is the master landscaper of the Japanese American Remembrance Garden, the tenth Kubota garden on campus. The garden features plants, trees, and rocks, all carefully positioned to create balance and simplicity that are distinctive of Japanese gardens. 901 12th Ave, Seattle WA 98122

Japanese Garden and Bridge, Everett Community College

http://www.evcc.ctc.edu/template.cfm?doc_id=1482

Following traditional Japanese design standards, the garden provides a local example of Japanese design and gardening. The garden landscape includes several classical Japanese garden elements including a formal entry gate, waterfall, stream, tea garden, rock garden, tsubo garden, stone bridge, earthen bridge, and wooden bridge, and is enclosed by a tiled roof and earthen wall. The garden provides a formal entryway to the NBI Center, a retreat from everyday activities, and a place to learn more about Japanese culture and art forms.

Contact: Mayumi N. Smith, Director or Kathy Koss, Program Coordinator

Everett Community College Nippon Business Institute phone: 425-388-9195 or 425-388-9380 Everett Community College, 2000 Tower Street, Everett, WA 98201-1390

Film:

Using Film to Explore History

<http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/Digests>

Thomas Keirstead December 2002

This digest from Indiana University discusses some of the challenges and benefits of teaching Japan through film.



The Alan G. Chalk Guide to Japanese Films

<http://www.aems.uiuc.edu/HTML/Chalkguides.html>

Compares Japanese Literature with film versions and other broader topics from AEMS. Most Part I titles are for high school or college-aged students of Literature and the Humanities. Lesson plans examine topics such as final days of World War II, the pressures of the Japanese education system, and Western stereotypes of Japanese women. Titles include “The Family Game,” “The Harp of Burma,” and “Madame Butterfly.” Part II is for students of “Asian, World and United States History.” Topics explored include imperial and expansionist Japan, the effect of atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the samurai war-hero as a symbol of the tensions between tradition and change. Titles include: “Imperial Japan: The Paths to War, Perspectives on Japanese Patriotism,” “Pearl Harbor: American and Japanese Perspectives,” “The Samurai: Warrior to Kamikaze to Baseball Player,” and “Women of Japan: Tradition and Change, A Historical Perspective.” The following list of films includes more titles than listed above. These synopses give a sampling of the detailed information available on the AEMS website.

Asia Education Media Source - Documentaries on Japan

<http://www.aems.uiuc.edu/HTML/Japan.html>

***Families of the World: Families of Japan* (1996) K-4th grade students

Unlike the other *Families of the World* videos shot in Asia, children watching *Families of Japan* will come not away from the video with the feeling that Asia is generally worse off than the United States. Both children portrayed in the two 15-minute segments, a farm boy and a city girl, have lives somewhat similar to their American peers. They go to well-funded schools, watch familiar American and Japanese television programs and prepare for a fun in-school event called Sports Day. The documentary does focus on some aspects of Japanese culture that are different, however, such as wearing separate indoor and outdoor shoes and planting sticky rice. This video provides a good introduction to modern Japanese life.

***Spirit of Hiroshima* (1996)

Grades: 6-9

This 56-minute documentary follows a Japanese family on their first visit to the annual commemoration of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Concentrating on both the reactions of the children and stories of survivors who were children when the bombing occurred, this film emphasizes the inhumanity of the incident, while acknowledging Japanese aggression.

Asian Video Reports: 5th-12th grade students. Compiled by AEMS and the Social Science Education Consortium these videos give students a taste of Japanese culture as understood through food, housing, arts, and festivals. Report includes a 15-minute videotape of four-to-five short video segments on a topic, plus a teacher’s guide with readings, lesson plans, classroom activities, and Internet resources.

***Japanese Culture: Old and New Series* (1990) Grades: K-5: *Minwa*, 6-8: *Japanese Youth*, 9-12: *Kabuki* <http://www.intleducenter.umd.edu/japan/majis/resourcecenter/list.html>.

NHK JAPAN, All Nippon Airways, and the Mid-Atlantic Region Japan-in-the-Schools Program produced this series of three 30-minute videos and a teacher's guide introducing children to Japan.

1. *Minwa: Two Traditional Tales* introduces K-6 students to Japanese folklore and includes two stories, "The Crane Who Returned the Favor" and "Princess Kaguya."

2. *Japanese Youth: Japanese High School Students Speak*: In this program, junior high or middle school students learn about the interests, hopes, concerns, and everyday lives of their counterparts in Japan.

3. *Kabuki: Tradition in Today's World* introduces high school students to the kabuki theater of Japan.

***Dream Window: Reflections on the Japanese Garden* (1992) 7th -12th grade students

This 57-minute video takes viewers on a journey to some of the most beautiful gardens in Japan, including the Moss Temple of Saiho-ji, Shugakuin and Katsura Imperial Villas, and Sogetsu Hall. Prominent Japanese cultural figures explore the role of gardens in Japanese society.

***Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* (1990)

Grades: 5-12+

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes, based on the book of the same title by Eleanor Coerr, tells the story of Sadako Sasaki, a young girl who developed leukemia as a result of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. When she was in the hospital, a friend reminded her of the Japanese legend that folding 1,000 paper cranes could bring good luck and health. Sadako began folding. A companion video, *How to Fold a Paper Crane*, teaches the method for folding a paper crane.

***The Japanese Paradox: Small Farms and Mega-Cities* (1996)

Grades: 7-12+

This video is program #12 of the series, *The Power of Place: World Regional Geography*. It includes two case studies, "Predicting the best rice farming methods in Tohoku in Northern Japan" and "The Morning Commute of a Tokyo businessman."

***Hiroshima: Why the Bomb Was Dropped* (1995) 9-12th grade students

For teachers looking for a more in-depth analysis of the atomic bombings, *Hiroshima: Why the Bomb Was Dropped*, a 90-minute special produced by ABC News, debates questions such as: Was the dropping of the bomb really necessary? How many lives did it actually save? Were there alternative courses of action? Although this documentary clearly takes the perspective that the United States was wrong to drop the bomb, high school and college educators can utilize it to initiate an interesting debate.

***Occupied Japan: An Experiment in Democracy* (1996)

Grades: 9-12+

This 60-minute documentary looks at the American occupation of Japan, demonstrating how the occupation administration's ideology changed over time and analyzes the impact it had (and continues to have) on Japanese society.

Websites for Students

National Clearinghouse Link

<http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/kids.html>

This link connects to educational sites for kids from the National Clearinghouse for US-Japan Studies.



DEAI: The Lives of Seven Japanese High School Students Curriculum (The Japan Forum)

<http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/indexe/indexe.htm>

Large, indexed photo databank of student's daily life is available for free.

Daily Life in Japan

http://web-jpn.org/kidsweb/plaza/life/faql_daily.html

A brief introduction to daily life in Japan that answers frequently asked questions from children. Also includes sections on the Regions of Japan, School Life, Politics & Government, and more.

A Day in the Life of Kentaro

<http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/de/deindex.htm>

These pictures and text describe all aspects of the daily life of an elementary school student from the breakfast to bed. Peek into a student's backpack in the "Tookoo" section, learn about class schedules, explore what students do after school, and much more.

What's Cool in Japan?

<http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/cool.html>

From AEMS, this site covers popular topics such as music, fashion trends, and celebrities in Japan. It is intended for a middle school-age audience.



Snapshots of Japan (Center for Global Partnership)

<http://www.cgp.org/index.php?option=article&articleid=253> or use the direct link to the PDF document http://www.cgp.org/pdf/DeAi_PDF/Snapshots_From_Japan.pdf (big file)

Social Studies lesson plans and units based on the lives of Japanese teenagers!