

Embracing Cultural Diversity: Japan

A Cross-Curricular Lesson Plan

Author: Deborah Kopka
Author: Jonathan Gross
Author: Bonnie J. Krueger
Book Design: Patti Jeffers

ELE90/103003
978-0-7877-1983-8
Release Date 2015

Copyright © 2009 Lorenz Educational Press, a Lorenz company.
P. O. Box 802
Dayton, OH 45401-0802
www.LorenzEducationalPress.com
All rights reserved.

The pages in this packet were originally published in
One Classroom, Many Cultures, (ELE90/1030).

Permission to print or photocopy the student activities in this book is hereby granted to one teacher as part of the purchase price. This permission may only be used to provide copies for this teacher's specific classroom setting. This permission may not be transferred, sold, or given to any additional or subsequent user of this product. Thank you for respecting copyright laws.



Lorenz Educational Press
Milliken Publishing Company
Teaching and Learning Company
Show What You Know® Publishing
LEP interactive

Everyday Japan

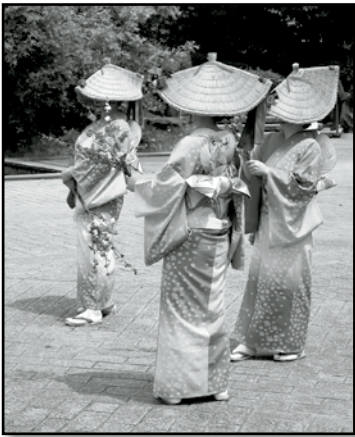
Food

The traditional Japanese meal is a combination of rice, soup, and *okazu* (oh-KAH-zoo). *Okazu* are dishes made from fish, meat, vegetables, or other items that add flavor to the rice. It is the preparation of the *okazu* that makes a dish special. The dishes are prepared in a variety of ways (raw, grilled, steamed, fried, etc.). *Okazu* are often made with seafood, as Japan is an island. When the Japanese have had enough rice, they substitute noodles. Noodles are very popular in Japan, especially *ramen*.

Ramen are wheat noodles served in broth. But *ramen* noodles aren't only popular in Japan. You might have seen these noodles at the grocery store!



Clothing



If you were walking around Japan today, their clothing would look a lot like yours. Japanese wear t-shirts, jeans, polos, and many other common modern garments. However, on special occasions, you might catch a glimpse of the ancient national costume of Japan - the kimono.

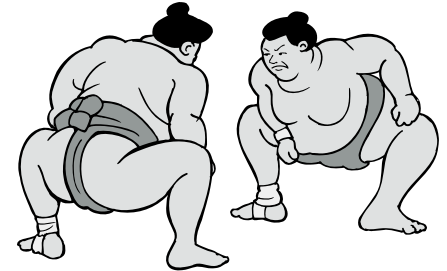
The *kimono* is a full-length robe, usually made of silk. It falls all the way to the ankles, and has very wide sleeves. It is worn wrapped around the body, and is tied at the back with a wide belt, called an *obi* (OH-bee). They are worn with split-toed socks and traditional footwear, such as *zori* (ZOHR-ee), flat-thonged sandals (much like our flip-flops), or *geta* (GAY-tah), sandals with elevated wooden bases.

Today, kimonos are mostly worn by women, and usually only on special occasions, such as weddings or tea parties, although some elder Japanese still wear them daily.

Sports

Sumo

Sumo is an ancient Japanese sport. It is widely considered the country's national sport. Two wrestlers (*rikishi*) try to force one another outside of a circular ring. While wrestling, the opponents are not allowed to touch the ground with any part of the body other than the soles of their feet. Sumo is a very traditional and highly ritualized sport. Wrestlers even live together in training communities known as *heya* (HAY-ah), and lead strict, disciplined lives.



Baseball

Baseball is by far the most popular sport in Japan. The general rules are nearly identical to American baseball. The highest level of professional baseball in Japan is the NPB, or Nippon Professional Baseball. Some of this league's best players have come to America to play in the major leagues, such as Ichiro Suzuki, Daisuke Matsuzaka, and Kosuke Fukudome.

Martial Arts

While martial arts are considered sports in Japan, with public displays taking place often, they are also considered a way of life for many Japanese, teaching discipline and other important traits. The history of these martial arts can be traced back to the samurai. There is a wide variety of different martial arts, among them *koryu* (KOHR-ee-yoo), *jujitsu*, and *judo*, each with a specific style.

These aren't the only sports practiced in Japan, even if they are the most popular. Recent years have seen a surge in the popularity of soccer, golf, and even automobile racing.

Haiku

Haiku (hye-KOO) is an ancient and very popular form of Japanese poetry. It is simple in format, made up of three lines and a specific number of syllables (17). The first line contains five syllables, the second line seven, and the third five. You can write a haiku about anything. Read the sample haiku below.

The air is colder
Snow falls slowly from the sky
Winter has arrived

It's easy! Now, try writing a haiku yourself. Remember, the first and last lines can only have five syllables, and the second line can only have seven. Feel free to write your haiku about anything. Have fun with it!



After you finish your first haiku, share it with your classmates. Listen to theirs. Then, try to write some more haiku. Write a haiku about your best friend, or your family. Write one about your favorite school subject. Write one about your least favorite subject. The possibilities are endless!

Title _____

Title _____

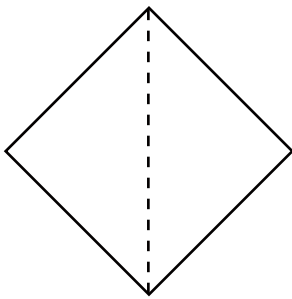
Origami



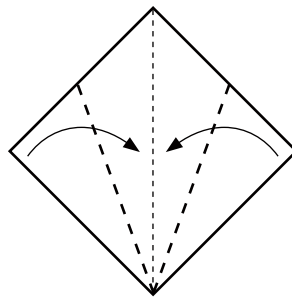
Origami is the ancient art of paper folding. Origami is an art form unique to Japanese culture. The Japanese have been creating origami since the early 1600s. Samurai warriors gave one another works of origami as presents, and weddings were often decorated with different origami pieces.

The goal of origami is to create an object with a single sheet of paper, through a series of folds and creases. Traditionally, no cutting or gluing takes place. Origami designs vary from simple to intricate, from easily created to extremely difficult to make.

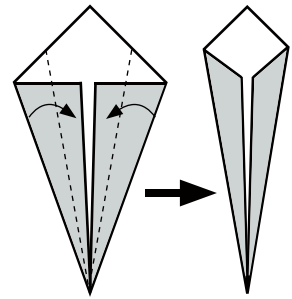
One popular origami form is the pelican. Use simple instructions below to make your own origami bird.



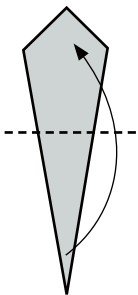
1. Start with a square of paper. Fold in half.



2. Fold in outside corners.



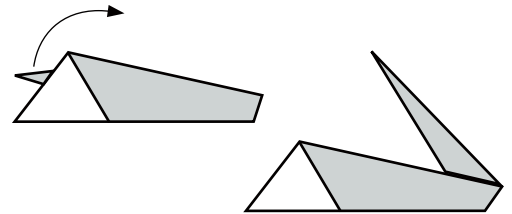
3. Fold in.



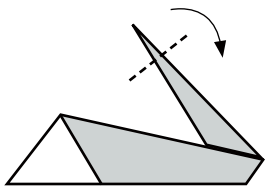
4. Flip over and fold bottom corner up.



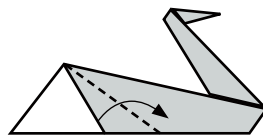
5. Fold in half.



6. Raise the inside triangle. Flatten crease.



7. Fold the head of the bird in. Flatten crease.



8. Fold each wing up and crease.

