

CHAPTER 2 STUDY GUIDE: SOURCES OF THE JAPANESE POP IMAGINATION

VOCABULARY

Be sure that you understand these key terms from Chapter 2. Provide a brief definition or use in a sentence that reflects its context in the reading.

kanji	kibyōshi	superflat	netsuke	sudoku
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Table 1 Vocabulary

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How is the kanji writing system a “form of cartooning”? (page 24)
2. In what ways did early Japanese scrolls and wood-block printed books lay the foundations for modern day manga and anime?
3. What are the four cardinal principles of classical Japanese aesthetics?
4. Why have some people argued that the Japanese are “adept copycats”? (page 26)
5. What are some examples of the ways in which Japanese pop is a “dynamic hybrid”? (page 27)
6. How has America played a key role in some of the formative events leading to the development of Japanese pop imagination?
7. What are some of the “sweeping changes” and “unique pressures and tensions”(page 32) experienced by Japan in the 20th century? In what ways did those experiences help to shape Japanese pop culture?

KEY FIGURES

Murakami Takashi	Honda Ishirō	Yokoyama Mitsuteru
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Table 2 Key Figures

KEY EVENTS

Dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
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Table 3 Key Events

ACTIVITY CHOICE BOARD #1

TIMELINE TIME Perform online research to find examples of the Chōju-jinbutsu-giga, Zenga, Otsu-e, Toba-e, and Kibyōshi and create a pictorial timeline with your examples. Then, identify similarities and differences between the images before drawing connections to current examples of manga.
NETSUKE Explore various types of netsuke by visiting International Netsuke Society - Home and generate a written description of a netsuke. Compare these historic netsuke to objects in your own lives such as iPhone charms, Croc jibbitz, etc. Inspired by the Japanese examples, design/make your own netsuke.

Table 4 Activity Choice Board #1

ACTIVITY CHOICE BOARD #2

AGREE OR DISAGREE Susan Napier suggests that “Japanese culture ‘privileges the visual far more than does that of the West.’” (page 23). Write a persuasive essay that either supports or contradicts this position, citing evidence from Chapter 2 as well as additional research.	
INSPIRATION On page 26, the author noted that Ultraman’s mask may have been modeled on the seventh-century statue of Maitreya. View the pictures of the two items to search for similarities. In either a written paragraph or a T-chart, compare and contrast the two.	PICK ONE Select one of the following activities to complete: 1. Describe at least two examples of ways that Japanese pop culture may have been inspired by Western culture. 2. Select one of the four themes of Japanese popular culture and give examples from the text that support the way the theme has been demonstrated in popular culture.
PARALLELS Create a graphic organizer that compares Japanese traditions with popular culture, using examples from this chapter such as <i>kibyōshi</i> and comic books.	FOUR SQUARE Select an image from Japanese pop culture and place it in the middle of a square divided into four equal sections. In each square, identify how that image is an example of one of the four principles of Japanese aesthetics described on page 26.
WHICH ONE? Write a persuasive essay using specific examples from this book that argues one of the following two positions on Japanese pop culture: • It is “dynamic hybrid” or • It is an example of how the Japanese people are “adept copycats.”	

Table 5 Activity Choice Board #2

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Please visit the EASC website [Japanese Popular Culture and Globalization Resource page](#) for the updated list of:

- Books & Articles
- Videos
- Museums

This guide is available online for classroom use worldwide and can be accessed at [EASC's Resource page](#).

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