



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



Ohio-Japan

Discovery Box Exchange

Creating an “Ohio Box”



“All too much learning is like a net full of insects. Some teachers have collected numbers, dates, lists of famous people, lists of events in their net. But to children, the world does not look like that. When their eyes explore the world, they see happenings, people, and things acting upon each other.”

– *Hidden Messages,*
Intercultural Press, 1998: p.1



Ohio-Japan Discovery Box Exchange Program

Have your classroom students create a culture box to represent themselves and their culture.



Exchange it with a school in another country (Japan).





Exploring Culture Through Artifacts



Often artifacts reveal cultural values and beliefs only upon critical examination. Help students in Japan learn about the U.S. and Ohio through the objects in your “Ohio Box”.

- Things to consider when selecting items:
 - What does the object illustrate?
 - What message does it convey?
 - What aspect of culture does it reveal or obscure?





Exploring Culture Through Artifacts

What to do?

1. Sign up with IJS.
2. A box will be supplied from IJS to get started.
3. Gather items - see the list of suggestions
(use created or donated items as much as possible)
4. Decorate the box if you want
5. Finish it by March 20, 2014. (If you finish by March 10 it will go to Japan with Janet)
6. If you wish, create a video letter to be posted for the Japanese class.





Exploring Culture Through Artifacts



Creating an Ohio Box:

- Create a box full of items that tell a story of your class, school, town or area and could include:
 - Pictures of students (individually or as a class)
 - Short letters from each student (tell about the student, where they live, etc.) with a drawing or picture if possible to help with the language barrier
 - Something from your school (school mascot, t-shirt, etc.)
 - Maps: City, County, State, U.S. (students can mark where they live)
 - Can you get donations from anywhere of items to include?
 - What message does it convey?
 - What aspect of culture does it reveal or obscure?



Exploring Culture Through Artifacts



Creating an Ohio Box:

- Helpful Hints:
 - Sometimes there is a language barrier, so please try to include brief explanations where necessary to explain the object or picture.
 - Include as many pictures or drawings as possible to help the Japanese students who have limited English language
 - Items will be shipped so please do not include fragile or heavy objects.



Exploring Culture Through Artifacts – Standards Addressed

Social Studies/History:

K.2: Personal history can be shared through stories and pictures.

K.3: Heritage is reflected through the arts, customs, traditions, family celebrations and language.

K.4: Nations are represented by symbols and practices.

1.2: Photographs, letters, artifacts and books can be used to learn about the past.

2.2 Change over time can be shown with artifacts, maps, and photographs.

1.3 Local communities change over time.



Exploring Culture Through Artifacts – Standards Addressed

Social Studies/Geography:

K.5 Terms related to direction and distance, as well as symbols and landmarks, can be used to talk about the relative location of familiar places.

K.6 Models and maps represent places.

K.8 Individuals are unique but share common characteristics of multiple groups.

1.4 Maps can be used to locate and identify places.

1.6 Families interact with the physical environment differently in different times and places.

1.7 Diverse cultural practices address basic human needs in various ways and may change over time.

2.5 Maps and their symbols can be interpreted to answer questions about location of places.

2.8 Cultures develop in unique ways, in part through the influence of the physical environment.

2.9 Interactions among cultures lead to sharing ways of life.

3.5 Daily life is influenced by the agriculture, industry and natural resources in different communities.

6.5 Regions can be determined, classified and compared using various criteria.



Exploring Culture Through Artifacts – Standards Addressed

English Language Arts:

- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.



THE USE OF OBJECTS



Objects are an inherent and important part of every culture.



DEVELOPING AN OBJECT COLLECTION:

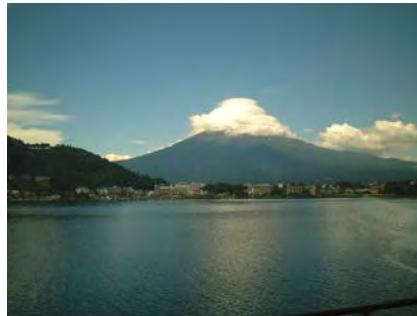
- What does the object illustrate?
- How does it fit into the lesson?
- What message does it convey?
- What aspects of culture does it reveal or obscure?

Examples from our Japan Discovery Boxes





PHOTOGRAPHS – CLASS AND AREA





CLOTHING





EXAMPLE: YUKATA

Yukata is an informal *kimono* for summer. Originally it was a *kimono* worn while one was taking a bath. Later it became a kind of cotton bathrobe worn after a bath. In the 19th century, people started to wear *yukata* in the hot season both at home and in the streets. It is usually starched and has floral or geometric patterns dyed or printed on a white or deep blue background. Most Japanese-style hotels have *yukata* available for the guests.



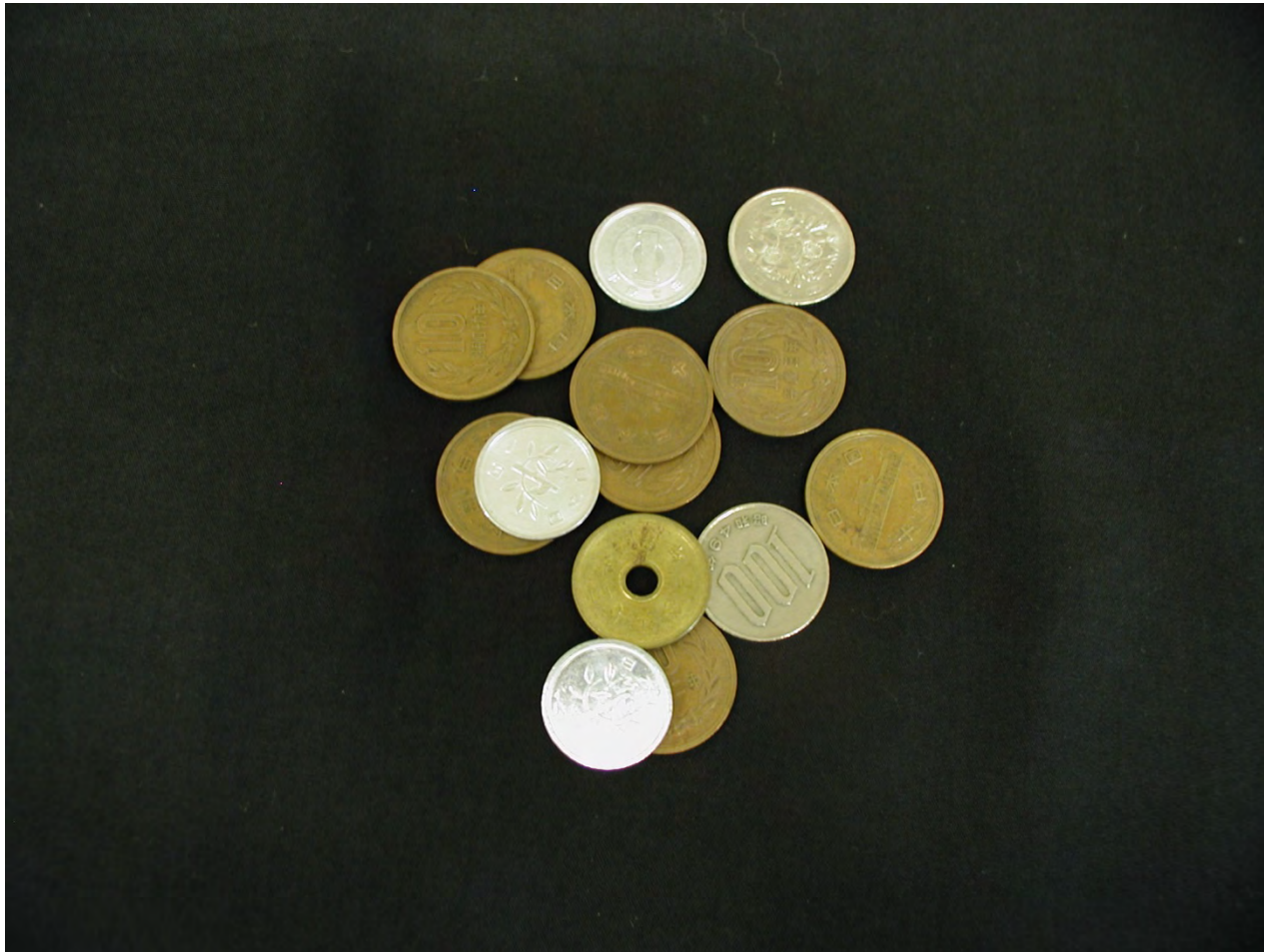


MAPS, AREA INFORMATION



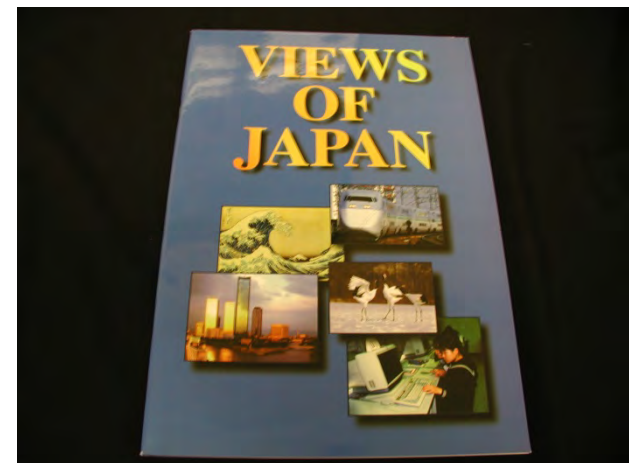
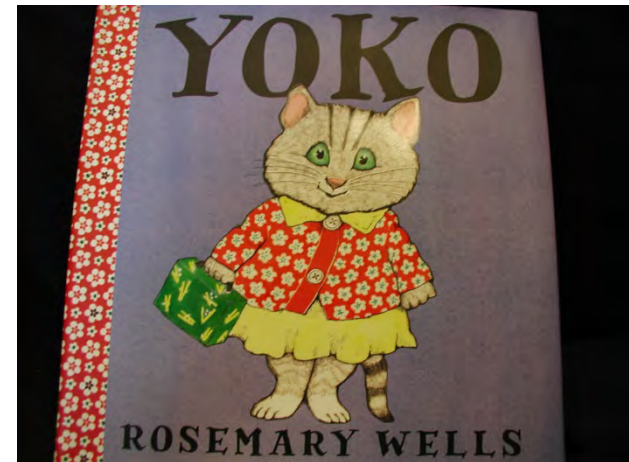


MONEY





BOOKS/STORIES





EATING/TRADITIONS/CULTURE



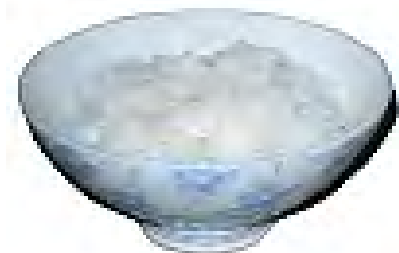
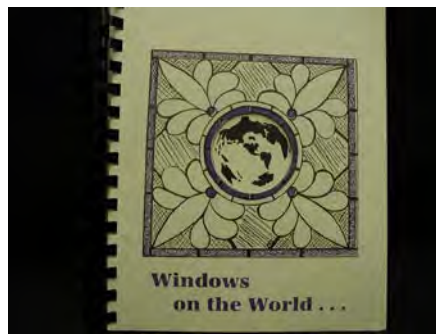
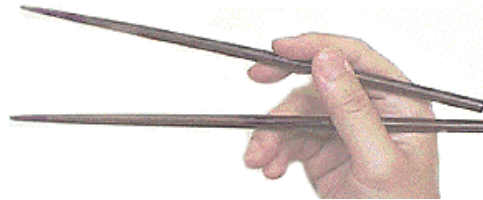


SYMBOLS, BOOKS, STAMPS, OTHER ITEMS





RECIPES AND PICTURES OF FAVORITE FOODS





LETTERS, EXAMPLES OF WRITING & TOOLS





MUSICS, CDs, DVDs





TOYS, GAMES AND CRAFT ITEMS





TRADITIONAL ITEMS

Money Envelope



Noren



Furoshiki



Next Step:



Video Letters:

- With the time difference, it is too difficult to have a face-to-face meeting
- Interact with the school in Japan via video letter.
- Instructions will be given about creating and posting the video letters through IJS.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Questions?



Janet Stucky Smith



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Institute for Japanese Studies

East Asian Studies Center
1712 Neil Ave
306 Oxley Hall
Columbus, OH 43210

Phone: 614-292-3345
Fax: 614-247-6454
E-mail: stucky.7@osu.edu