

Elderly in Japanese Society

Purpose:

Students will learn about changes in age demographics of Japanese society and the impact that these changes are having on the economy, healthcare, family structure and workforce.

Target Grade Level: 6-8

Essential Questions:

1. How has the age stratification changed over the years in Japan?
2. What is/will be the social and economical impact of an aging population?

Rationale:

To help students understand that changes in the age stratification of the population of Japan, resulting in a larger percentage of the population being elderly, will have an impact on the economy, healthcare, workforce and family structure.

To help students identify and predict what future changes will occur as a result of the population getting older.

Materials:

- Newspaper print
- Masking tape
- Overhead
- Background information (<http://www.jinjapan.org/today/society>)

Activities:

Day 1	10 minutes	Introduce the lesson by posing the following question to the students: "What impact does an aging population have on a culture?" Have students discuss their grandparents i.e. are they still living? do they work? where do they live? etc.
	15 minutes	List the responses and have a discussion to identify the

Elderly in Japanese Society

employment history, family history, current caretakers, types of health care of elderly people in their lives.

- | | | |
|-------|------------|--|
| | 20 minutes | Use information from the web site http://www.jinjapan or Have students list the similarities and differences in age stratification between Japan and the U.S. |
| Day 2 | 15 minutes | Discuss students' findings from yesterday on the comparison of age stratification on Japan and the U.S. |
| | 15 minutes | Divide students into groups and have each group select an area (family, health care, social security) and brainstorm the effect that an aging population would have in the area. |
| | 20 minutes | Have each group report their findings to the whole class |
| Day 3 | 30 minutes | Have students write a story as if they were visitors to Japan in the year 2016 and describe what they would find as far as the role that elderly play in society. Have students share their stories. |

Assessment:

Class discussion, student written summary of similarities of age stratification, written responses predicting future roles.

Grade Adaptation:

This activity is designed for middle school aged students. By modifying the amount of teacher direction and the sophistication of the responses it can be adjusted for lower as well as upper grade level students.

Elderly in Japanese Society

Relationship to Social Studies Standards:

Grades 6-8, People in Societies, Benchmark A

Compare cultural practices, products and perspectives of past civilizations in order to understand commonality and diversity of cultures.

This lesson was developed by Melissa Conrath, superintendent, Big Walnut Local Schools.