

Lessons about Japan

For P-12 Educators



**This document is an official publication of the Ohio State University
and the Ohio Japan Project.**

Citation: *Lessons About Japan for P-12 Educators*. Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio State University, 2003.

o o o

Fair use and duplication to benefit Ohio schools is encouraged.
The Ohio State University is an equal opportunity employer.

Acknowledgments

This publication is the result of the work of numerous people. Each contributed in a significant way.

The first note of appreciation must go to Dr. John Cogan, University of Minnesota, who conceived of and coordinated the Great Lakes Japan in the Schools Project, in which Ohio was a participant.

The United States-Japan Foundation is thanked for providing the funding for the first three years of the project in 1987-90 and then funding the return trip to Japan in 2001.

The original Ohio Japan Project members, who are identified on a previous page, are thanked for getting the project off to such an excellent start. This group of excellent educators developed the lessons presented in this publication and provided the basis for a strong continuing Ohio Japan Project.

Subsequent Ohio Japan Project members are thanked for continuing with the work of putting on Japan and Global Institutes. In particular, the recent team, also identified on a previous page, who visited Japan in 2001 and updated and developed the new lessons is thanked for its hard work in creating this new publication.

The International Society for Educational Information, Inc. in Tokyo, Japan is appreciated for its generous hospitality while the project members visited Japan in 1988 and for providing such an excellent critique of the original lessons, so they may more accurately reflect Japanese culture. It should be noted that ISEI has published many of these lessons in their own publications.

The support of the Ohio Department of Education throughout the history of this project is also greatly appreciated. The original *Learning About Our World: Japan* was published and distributed by the department and it has sponsored the annual institutes.

Lastly, a special thanks goes to Dr. Bradley Richardson and the staff of the Institute for Japanese Studies at The Ohio State University, now the home of the Ohio Japan Project. Originally working with Amy Weir-Ginnan and more recently with Janet Stucky, the work of the Ohio Japan Project continues to provide teachers with valuable information in helping them teach students about global issues. Ms. Stucky was particularly helpful in organizing the Japan trip in 2001 and in getting this publication to press.

Kent J. Minor, Ph.D.
Director,
Ohio Japan Project

OHIO JAPAN PROJECT: Team that Created Original Lessons

Dr. Kent J. Minor

Director
Ohio Japan Project

Dr. Gary DeCoker

Ohio Wesleyan University

Dr. Jennifer Farkas

Dublin City Schools

Dr. Betty Barclay Franks

Maple Heights City Schools

Mr. Thomas A. Kessinger

Wyoming City Schools

Mr. Gerry Krzic

Ohio University

Mr. Lewis E. Miller

Tiffin City Schools

Mrs. Julia Morris

Westerville City Schools

Mr. Larry D. Zimmerman

Marysville Exempted Village School

OHIO JAPAN PROJECT: Team that Updated the Lessons

Dr. Kent J. Minor

Director
Ohio Japan Project

Teresa A. Bica

Supervisor, Elem. Student Teachers
Kent State University

Steve Butler

Principal
Hylan Souders Elementary School
Big Walnut Local Schools

Alpha Coles-Morgan

Teacher, Grades 3 & 4, Gifted
Graham Rd. Elementary School
Reynoldsburg City Schools

Jack M. Conrath, Ph.D.

Conrath, Northrup & Rinehart Consulting

Melissa Conrath, Ph.D.

Superintendent
Big Walnut Local Schools

Sylvia Linda Cotter

Teacher, Grade 4
St. Mary Elementary School

Gary DeCoker, Ph.D.

Professor
Ohio Wesleyan University

Richard A. Dieffenderfer, Ph.D.

Office of Curriculum & Instruction
Ohio Department of Education

Marlene Henry

Teacher, Grade 6,
Social Studies/Reading
Northwood Elementary School
Northmont City Schools

Mary Ellen King

Teacher, Grade 3
High Street Primary School
Piqua City Schools

Mary Kathleen Lorenz, Ph.D.

Teacher, Grade 6, Social Studies
Fairfield Intermediate School
Fairfield City Schools

Jean Minor

Teacher, Grade 1
Hylan Souders Elementary School
Big Walnut Local Schools

Roberta (Bobbie) Mucha

Teacher, Social Studies Dept. Chair
Westerville South High School
Westerville City Schools

Mineharu Nakayama, Ph.D.

Professor
The Ohio State University

Nancy NgDung

Teacher, Grade 1, Reading Specialist
St. Mary Elementary School

Janet Stucky

Project Coordinator
The Ohio State University

Kay Tomesek

Teacher, Grade 6
Gahanna Middle School West
Gahanna-Jefferson City Schools

Janelle Wargo

Teacher, Japanese Lang., Grades 8-12
Stow Munroe Falls High School
Stow City Schools

Table of Contents

Introduction.	1
Implementation	3
Pronunciation notes.	4

Unit One: Japan's Heritage

National Symbols of Japan: The National Flag and Anthem	5
National Symbols of Japan: Cherry Blossom.	15
Japanese Folktales	23
Famous People of Japan	33
Literature, Politics, Film, Television, Sports, and the Imperial Family	35
Tezuka Osamu	40
Katsushika Hokusai.	47
Tetsuko Kuroyanagi.	54
United States - Japanese History.	66
United States – Japanese Relations in Post World War II Era	
#1: Impact of the End of World War II on Japan	77
#2: United States Decisions About Japan.	79
#3: Expectations Based on Historical Precedent.	84
#4: General Douglas MacArthur in Japan.	86
#5: The End of United States' Occupation of Japan	88
#6: Japan Recovers Economically	90
Peace.	94

Table of Contents

Unit Two: Contemporary Culture

An Introduction to Japanese Food	103
Cultural Differences in the Diet of American and Japanese Families. . .	108
Religion in Japan	113
Japan Day.	117
Japanese Writing	123
Making a Karuta Game.	128
Women in Society	132
Elderly in Japanese Society	135
Recycling in Japan	138

Unit Three: Japan's Place in the World

Geography of Japan.	143
Comparative Geography I	154
Comparative Geography II	160
The Affects of Limited Space on a Culture	165
Economic Miracle.	171
Part 1: How Japan's Culture Helped its Economic Recovery	171
Lesson #1: Surplus funds for investment.	173
Lesson #2: Importance of the goals of the group over the individual	174
Lesson #3: Surplus of well-educated workers.	196
Part 2: Factors due to Governmental Policies.	199
Lesson #4: Low military expense	201
Lesson #5: State-assisted capitalism	202
Lesson #6: Stable political situation	204

Table of Contents

Part 3: Factors due to Company Procedures	213
Lesson #7: Industrial Relations	215
Lesson #8: Competition and entrepreneurship	216
Lesson #9: Shift of types of products made	218
Part 4: Factors due to World Happenings	219
Lesson #10: To Market, to market	219
Part 5: Causes of Stagnation	222
Lesson #11: Money and Land Problems	222

Unit Four: Decision Making in Japan

Comparative Government: Japan and the United States.	233
Disasters and Decision Making.	242
Moral and Ethical Beliefs: Proverbs	252
The Concept of Wa	257
The Concept of Wa I	258
The Concept of Wa II	267
The Concept of Wa III	272
The Ideal Judge.	277
The Importance of the Group in Japan	283
Mediation/Conciliation	289
The Role of Lawyers	297

For updated lesson plans, go to:
<http://www.osu.edu/ijsp12resrc.html>

