

United States - Japanese History

Purpose:

The chronology of events occurring in any one culture (the United States) are related to simultaneous events in other cultures (Japan).

Target Grade Levels: 7-10

Essential Questions:

How is the historic development of Japan similar to that of the U.S.?

What are the historic events that brought the U.S. and Japan into contact with one another?

When the two cultures interacted, what determined the quality of the interactions?

Which events in one culture were catalysts or results of events in the other?

Rationale:

Comparing the historic events of these two cultures enables students to grasp cause / effect relationships in Japanese/U.S. interactions.

Materials:

- Any United States history text
- Any world history text
- Internet sites on Japanese history (See pg. 77)
- Library books on Japan
- Two timelines of history (United States and Japan) (Handouts A & B)
- Art paper or butcher paper (the larger, the better)
- Space to display the oversized timeline (gym or hallway?)

United States - Japanese History

Activities:

1. Introduce the lesson by presenting students with the following question: *How similar or different do you think are the histories of Japan and the United States?* Have the students discuss their thoughts.
2. Draw or make timelines on art or butcher paper. Timelines should be divided into 100-year blocks from 500 BC to 2100 AD. The timelines should be horizontal, one on top of the other, with the time periods aligned. You will need to determine the amount of space available to display the oversized timelines. Each 100 year segment could be 50 cm. long. The paper should be at least 20 cm. wide.
3. Using applicable history textbooks, students should fill in events on the timelines for both the United States and Japan, including all significant events, discoveries and developments that were covered in class during the unit of study. Sample timelines for the United States and Japan are provided in this lesson in lieu of the textbooks.
4. Divide the class into small groups, and assign each group a segment of the "two-story" timeline. Each group should research relevant information to describe the events in the assigned segment of the timeline. Information obtained may be displayed (written paragraphs, pictures, drawings, etc.) with the timelines.
5. After the research has been conducted and the timelines completed, each group should present a summary of their research to the class. The class could discuss the similarities and differences in events of the two cultures. Some sample questions for a discussion of timelines on United States and Japanese history are:
 - a. Is religion a part of each culture? Explain your answer by comparing one culture to the other.
 - b. When did the two cultures first interact?
 - c. Was one culture influenced by the other culture? When and how?
 - d. Did the two cultures ever share a similar form of government?

United States - Japanese History

Evaluation:

The teacher and / or students should evaluate the timeline research for quality of content (see sample rubric).

Students could be administered a written quiz about the similarities and differences between the two cultures that were covered in the class discussion and presentations.

Relationship to Social Studies Standards:

Grade 7, History, Grade-level Indicator 1

The learner will group events by broadly defined historical eras and enter onto multiple-tier time lines.

Grade 8, History, Grade-level Indicator 1

The learner will select events and construct a multiple-tier time line to show relationships among events.

Grade 9, History, Grade-level Indicator 6

The learner will explain the global impact of imperialism including: (a) modernization of Japan, (b) political and social reform in China, and (c) exploitation of African resources.

Grade 9, History, Grade-level Indicator 10

The learner will analyze the causes of World War II including: (a) appeasement, (b) Axis expansion, and (c) the role of the Allies.

Grade 10, History, Grade-level Indicator 7

The learner will analyze the impact of United States participation in World War II, with emphasis on the change from isolationism to international involvement including the reaction to the attack of Pearl Harbor.

United States - Japanese History

Grade Adaptation:

For elementary students:

Students should construct the timelines with fewer events, focusing on those with direct U.S. / Japan connections. Discussion should focus on the cause and effect relationship of events, and comprehension of the vast scope and sequence of the two timelines.

For middle school students:

Students should construct the timelines and illustrate events that interest them. Discussion should focus on cultural comparison, cause and effect, and predictions based on given data.

Sample Rubric for Timeline Presentation:

Exceeds the Standard(s)= includes more than the required elements, is exceptionally well organized, and uses superbly executed oral and visual media.

Meets the Standard(s)= includes all required elements, is well organized, and uses clearly executed oral and visual media.

Does Not Meet the Standard(s)= lacks required elements and / or is not clearly organized, and / or uses poorly executed media.

Japan-Related Internet Sites for Timeline Research:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/>

Includes a page with links to Japan's response to events of September 11, includes many teacher resources

http://www.rekihaku.ac.jp/e_htable/index.html

Japanese Chronological table beginning at 100,000 B.C. to 1980's

United States - Japanese History

<http://www.kyoto-su.ac.jp/information/famous/html>

Short biographies of various famous Japanese

<http://www.wsu.edu:8080/-dee/ANCJAPAN/>

Synopsis of historic eras

This lesson was originally developed by Thomas A. Kessinger, teacher, Wyoming City Schools, Ohio for Learning About Our World: Japan based on ideas contained in Section 1, Lesson 4 of Japan in the Classroom—Elementary and Secondary Activities, 1987, Social Science Education Consortium, 855 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80302. This lesson was revised for this publication by Sylvia Linda Cotter, teacher, St. Mary School, Columbus, Ohio.

United States - Japanese History

Handout A

A TIMELINE OF UNITED STATES HISTORY

500-300 BC *	Ohio Valley Mound Builders
AD	
150-900	Early Indian civilizations
1492	Columbus' voyage to America
1565	Spanish settlement at St. Augustine
1607	English settlement at Jamestown
1619	House of Burgesses established in Virginia
1620	Massachusetts Bay Colony founded
1619-1730	Founding and development of the original 13 colonies
1763	Treaty of Paris transferred French lands to England
1776	Declaration of Independence; U.S.A. established
1781	British surrender; end of Revolutionary War
1787	United States Constitution written
1787-1848	Expansion of the United States to the Pacific
1846-1848	Mexican-American War
1849	California Gold Rush
1853	Trade with Japan; opened by Commodore Perry
1861-1865	Civil War
1850-1900	Industrialization and urbanization in the United States; immigration to the U.S. by Asians and Europeans
1880s	Asian immigration stopped by U.S. law

United States - Japanese History

1898	Spanish-American War; U.S. colonization in Asia
1900-1920	Progressive Era
1914	Beginning of World War I in Europe
1917	Entry of United States in World War I
1918	End of World War I
1924	Passage of immigration law restricting foreigners' entry into the U.S. and denying immigrants full citizenship
1929-1939	Economic depression
1939	Beginning of World War II
1941	Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor and U.S. entry into World War II
1945	Atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the U.S.; the end of World War II
1945-1951	U.S. occupation of Japan
1950-1953	Korean War
1962	Cuban Missile Crisis
1964	Civil Rights Act
1965-1973	Vietnam Conflict
1974	Richard Nixon resigns the presidency
1976	Bicentennial celebration
1977	Panama Canal Treaties
1978	Camp David Accords lay groundwork for Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty
1979-1981	Iranian hostage crisis
1986	Iran-Contra scandal revealed

United States - Japanese History

1989	San Francisco earthquake
1991	Persian Gulf War
1998	President Bill Clinton is charged with lying to a federal grand jury and faces impeachable offenses
Jan. 2001	George W. Bush becomes president of U.S.
Sept. 11, 2001	Terrorist attack on World Trade Center, N.Y.C. and Pentagon
2002	President Bush signs education bill mandating states give tests in mathematics and reading in grades 3 through 8.

* approximate dates

United States - Japanese History

Handout B

A TIMELINE OF JAPANESE HISTORY

500 BC *	Yamato Dynasty began
AD	
200-500	Earliest Japanese sculptures, called haniwa; "tomb culture"
500	First written literature in Japan
592	Shotoku gained power
607	Buddhist religion introduced in Japan from Korea
645	Features of Chinese government adopted by Japan; central government controlled by an emperor
700	Buddhist temples built in Nara
794	Japanese capital city moved from Nara to Kyoto
900	First university founded at Kyoto
930	Civil War
1020 *	Japan's great early novel, <i>Tale of Genji</i> , by Lady Murasaki completed
1185-1300	Great estates became powerful; lords of estates hired bands of warriors, called samurai, to protect their lands; shogun as leaders
1281	Mongol invasion of Japan failed
1400-1500 *	Zen Buddhism influenced arts
1542	Portuguese traders opened trade with Japan; firearms introduced
1549	Beginning of Christian missionary movement by Francis Xavier
1603	Tokugawa shogunate is established; Japan is unified
1614 *	All whites expelled from Japan (except Dutch traders in Nagasaki)

United States - Japanese History

1690 *	Popular culture flourished
1700s	Development of urban Japan; rise of puppet plays, kabuki
1750-1800	Arts and commerce thrived in Tokugawa Japan
1853	Commodore Perry's arrival in Japan to open trade with the U.S.
1868	Meiji restoration—emperor restored as leader of Japan; end of feudalism and the beginning of modernization.
1872	Adoption of policy of universal education
1889	Constitutional monarchy—emperor with absolute power
1894	Conquest of Korea; Sino-Japanese War
1895	Annexation of Taiwan
1904	Japanese victory in Russo-Japanese War;
1910	Annexation of Korea
1923	Tokyo earthquake
1930	World depression hits Japan
1931	Manchurian incident
1937	China invaded by Japan
1941	Pearl Harbor bombed by Japan; entry of United States into World War II
1945	Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; surrender of Japan; end of World War II
1945-1951	U.S. occupation of Japan
1945-1991	Rise of Japan as an "economic miracle"
1956	Admission of Japan to the United Nations
1978	Japan and China sign treaty of peace and friendship

United States - Japanese History

1987	Japan National Railways privatized
1989	Death of Emperor Hirohito
1990	Enthronement of Emperor Akihito
1990s	Series of political scandals
1992	President George Bush visits Japan
1992	Mohri Manoru is first Japanese astronaut in space
1995	Kobe earthquake, epicenter –Awaji island
1999	Tokaimura Nuclear Power Plant accident, 300,000 people evacuated
2001	U.S. submarine (U.S.S. Greeneville) sinks Japanese fishing vessel (Ehime Maru) and nine people are killed (Feb. 9)
	Junichiro Koizumi becomes Prime Minister (April)
	A daughter is born to the Crown Prince and Princess causing discussion of the rule barring women from assuming the throne (Dec.)
2002	Ministry of Education implements education reforms emphasizing local policy and decision-making about curriculum

- approximate dates