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?)
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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?

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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.
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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
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.
**A TIMELINE OF UNITED STATES HISTORY**

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

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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
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, Tale of Genji, 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)

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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
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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 - AwajiiIsland

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