

## Japan's Economic Miracle

### Activities:

#### Part One: How Japan's Culture Helped its Economic Recovery

##### Lesson 3: Surplus of well-educated workers

Requires 30-40 minutes

### Materials:

- Get a Job! Worksheet (Handout E)

### TO BE USED WITH STUDENTS:

Setting the problem: You are starting a business and need to hire some employees. What kind of employees would you like to hire? How important is the level of education? Or, experience? Age? What combination of these three would make the ideal employee? Why?

1. **Class discussion:** Let the class discuss and give opinions about the possible answers. Then, ask them to consider which two are most important? Would the type of job make a difference? When? What if the job training could be done easily so that experience was not such a factor. What would be the best ages and level of education?
2. **Get a Job!** worksheet. In small groups or with a partner, students should try to decide the attributes of the ideal employee.
3. **Class discussion and debriefing:** Compare ideas of the attributes of the ideal employee, especially for a beginning company.

*In Japan after the war, there were many young adults who had finished high school and ready to find jobs in the cities. Because the Japanese educational system has always been highly respected and successful, these young men and women were well-educated. How did this help the companies develop economically?*

4. **Part One debriefing:** Share the following essential question and subquestions for part one with the students. See if they can determine the three given answers. If not, ask them to explain how the given answers could also have helped Japan's economic growth.

#### From Essential Questions:

##### **1. How did Japan's culture nourish the economic growth?**

*What did Japan already have that would boost economic growth? What helps if you are trying to get a job? a car or house? How does working together for a common goal help?*

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(Surplus funds for investment, Importance of the goals of the group over the individual, Surplus of well-educated workers)

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### Handout E: Get a Job!

1. If you were starting a business, what kind of employees would you like to hire?
2. Are there any real advantages or disadvantages in any of the following groups? What are they? Would the type of job make a difference? When? Try to choose one from each group.
  - A. Young adults (just out of high school) or older adults (middle-aged) Why?
  - B. Experienced or inexperienced? Why?
  - C. Well-educated, average, or poorly educated? Why?
3. Now that you have chosen one from each group, what combination make the ideal employee?
4. But we do not live in an ideal world and if you had to narrow to a combination of only two, which two are most important? Why?
5. What if the job training could be done easily so that experience was not such a factor. What would be the best ages and level of education?
6. Suppose there was a surplus of young, well-educated adults. How could this affect your selection of employees?