Japanese Language and Calligraphy

Target  To know about Japanese language and Calligraphy
Subject  Upper – Grade
Time  About 50 mints
Prepare  Newspaper, rags, white paper (hanshi), fude, sumi, caps, paperweight,
Notice (placard) for explanation (otehon)

Direction
1. Greeting (time: 3minutes)

2. About Japanese language (time: 8~10minutes)
Can you read this? (I show the paper that has my name written in Japanese-kanji, hiragana, katakana)

I came from September in America
(I read this sentence in Japanese)

Japanese language consists of three alphabets:

kanji (pictographic characters imported from China)
hiragana (phonetic alphabets developed in Japan)
katakana (phonetic alphabets developed in Japan used to spell foreign words)

To read a newspaper, one must know 1,945 commonly used kanji, hiragana and katakana, which are taught in elementary school and junior high school, along with the English alphabet.

Kanji: each letter has a meaning.
For example: In this sentence,

The meaning of 「watashi wa」 is I

The meaning of 「kugatsu ni」 is september     The meaning of 「gatsu」 is months.

The meaning of 「amerika ni」 is in USA

The meaning of 「kimasita」 come from

So, our Japanese language is like this.
Today I would like to teach you about Japanese calligraphy.
First, I’ll introduce utensils for calligraphy.
We use a brush called “fude”. We also use black ink called “sumi” that we pour into a tray called “suzuri”.
The traditional Japanese paper that we use for calligraphy is called “hanshi”. 
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3. Demonstration (time: 5 minutes)

Now, please let me give you a small demonstration.
There are 6 kind of “otehon”. The meaning of “otehon” is a good example for you.
This word is called “kokoro” in Japanese. The meaning of “kokoro” is spirit.
This word is called “bi” or “mi” in Japanese. The meaning of “bi” is beautiful.
This word is called “wa” in Japanese. The meaning of “wa” is peace, harmony.
This word is called “yume” in Japanese. The meaning of “yume” is dream.
This word is called “tomo” in Japanese. The meaning of “tomo” is friend.
This word is called “ai” in Japanese. The meaning of “ai” is love.

I will write the kanji symbol for spirit. In Japanese we say “kokoro”.
I will write the kanji symbol for peace. In Japanese we say “heiwa”
Now it is your turn to try. Please choose a word that you want to write from these otehon.
Please take an otehon yourself.
(If you can’t prepare “otehon”, use the blackboard)

4. working time, practice time, (time: 25 minutes)

We do this activity in pairs. Please make pairs.
Now, I will pass you the tools. Sorry I couldn’t bring enough for all of your, so today we will substitute some tools.
Each pair takes one brush, one cup, and handout, and 8 (or 10) white papers. So use them carefully. If you made a mistake, practice many times on the same paper.
Don’t start writing until everyone are ready.
Is everyone ready? When we write we have to concentrate our minds.
And breathe 3 times together. (1, 2, 3)
Did you calm yourselves? Now I will go around and pour black ink into your cups. If the ink sticks to your cloth, you can’t remove it. It is permanent ink, so please be careful.

The group that has black ink start writing, Please..
Has everyone finished?
I’m impressed with everyone’s diligence and effort!!
(Take Pictures of students’ article?)

Thank you very much.

5. Clean up time (Time: 10min.)

Maybe, I will have to do by myself! (Anyway, remember, you need have time.)