JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY
OF DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Japan-in-a-Suitcase
Teacher Materials

School Life in Japan

School Life in Japan

Presentation Agenda

1. PowerPoint Presentation (15 minutes)
   - Greeting and self-introduction
   - General information about Japan
   - Practice some Japanese words
   - Show pictures of a Japanese school

2. Activities (30 minutes)
   - Show Japanese backpack and textbooks
   - Count 1 to 10 in Japanese
   - Calligraphy with brush pens
   - Create bookmarks with Black Ink Art

3. Closing (5 minutes)
   - Q and A
   - Practice Good-bye in Japanese

Japanese Greetings, Words and Numbers

Greetings

Good morning = おはよう＝ Ohio (Oh-hah-yoh) Sounds like Ohio!
Hello, Hi = こんにちは= Konnichiwa (Kohn-nee-chee-wah)
Thanks = ありがとう= Arigatou (Ah-ree-gah-toh)
Good Bye = さようなら= Sayonara (Sah-yoh-nah-rah)

From the presentation

Nihon or Nippon = にほん or にっぽん = Japan (Nee-hohn or Neep-pohn)
Gakkoh = がっこう= School (Gahk-koh)
Sensei = せんせい = Teacher (Sehn-say)
Randoseru = ランドセル = School backpack (Rahn-doh-seh-roo)
Hiragana = ひらがな = Cursive Japanese alphabet (Hee-rah-gah-nah)
Katakana = カタカナ = Square form of Japanese alphabet (Kah-tah-kah-nah)
Kanji = かんじ/漢字 = Chinese character (Kahn-jee)
Uwabaki = うわばき = Indoor school shoes (Oo-wah-bah-kee)
Hon = ほん/本 = Book (Hohn)

Introduce yourself in Japanese!

My name is _____.

Watashi no namae wa _____ desu.

わたしのなまえは _____です

(Wah-tah-shee noh nah-mah-eh wah ____ dess.)

Let's count!

1 – Ichi (itchy)
2 - Ni (knee)
3 - San (sun)
4 - Shi (she)
5 – Gou (go)
6 - Roku (rock)
7 – Nana (nana)
8 – Hachi (hatch)
9 - Kyu (Q)
10 - Jyu (Jui-ce)

Japanese Writing System

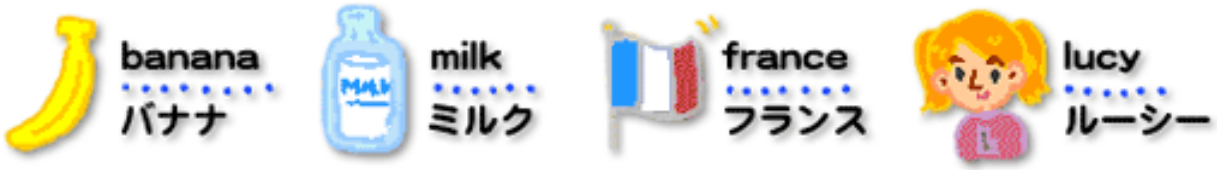
Japanese is written with three types of characters: hiragana, katakana, and kanji. They have different functions, and combinations of the three are used to write sentences.

1. Hiragana

Like the English alphabet, each *hiragana* letter represents a specific sound and does not have any meaning per se. Unlike in English, there is only one way of pronouncing a single *hiragana* letter or combination of letters. For example, "e" can be pronounced many different ways in English, as in *red*, *redo*, and *poorer*. The hiragana "あ," though, is always pronounced as "a" in father.

2. Katakana

Katakana letters are another way of writing the *hiragana* sounds and are usually used for foreign words. While Hiragana uses round strokes, Katakana uses mostly straight lines.



3. Kanji (Chinese characters)

The Japanese imported *kanji* from China a long time ago and absorbed it into their language by assigning Japanese meanings. *Kanji* are different from *hiragana* and *katakana* because they have specific meanings.

子 = Ko = Child

山 = Yama = Mountain

月 = Tsuki = Moon

川 = Kawa = River

上 = Ue = Top/Up

下 = Shita = Bottom/Down

Hiragana Chart

	わ WA	ら RA	や YA	ま MA	は HA	な NA	た TA	さ SA	か KA	あ A
		り RI		み MI	ひ HI	に NI	ち CHI	し SHI	き KI	い I
		る RU	ゆ YU	む MU	ふ FU	ぬ NU	つ TSU	す SU	く KU	う U
		れ RE		め ME	へ HE	ね NE	て TE	せ SE	け KE	え E
ん N	を WO	ろ RO	よ YO	も MO	ほ HO	の NO	と TO	そ SO	こ KO	お O

ぱ PA	ば BA	だ DA	ざ ZA	が GA
ぴ PI	び BI	ぢ JI	じ JI	ぎ GI
ぷ PU	ぶ BU	づ ZU	ず ZU	ぐ GU
ぺ PE	べ BE	で DE	ぜ ZE	げ GE
ぽ PO	ぼ BO	ど DO	ぞ ZO	ご GO

ぴゃ PYA	びゃ BYA	じゃ JA	ぎゃ GYA	りゃ RYA	みゃ MYA	ひゃ HYA	にゃ NYA	ちゃ CHA	しゃ SHA	きゃ KYA
ぴゅ PYU	びゅ BYU	じゅ JU	ぎゅ GYU	りゅ RYU	みゅ MYU	ひゅ HYU	にゅ NYU	ちゅ CHU	しゅ SHU	きゅ KYU
ぴょ PYO	びょ BYO	じょ JO	ぎょ GYO	りょ RYO	みょ MYO	ひょ HYO	にょ NYO	ちょ CHO	しょ SHO	きょ KYO

Katakana Chart

	ワ WA	ラ RA	ヤ YA	マ MA	ハ HA	ナ NA	タ TA	サ SA	カ KA	ア A
		リ RI		ミ MI	ヒ HI	ニ NI	チ CHI	シ SHI	キ KI	イ I
		ル RU	ユ YU	ム MU	フ FU	ヌ NU	ツ TSU	ス SU	ク KU	ウ U
		レ RE		メ ME	ヘ HE	ネ NE	テ TE	セ SE	ケ KE	エ E
ン N	ヲ WO	ロ RO	ヨ YO	モ MO	ホ HO	ノ NO	ト TO	ソ SO	コ KO	オ O

パ PA	バ BA	ダ DA	ザ ZA	ガ GA
ピ PI	ビ BI	ヂ JI	ジ JI	ギ GI
プ PU	ブ BU	ヅ ZU	ズ ZU	グ GU
ペ PE	ベ BE	デ DE	ゼ ZE	ゲ GE
ポ PO	ボ BO	ド DO	ゾ ZO	ゴ GO

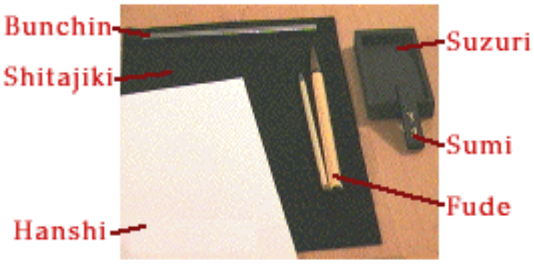
ピャ PYA	ビャ BYA	ジャ JA	ギャ GYA	リャ RYA	ミャ MYA	ヒャ HYA	ニャ NYA	チャ CHA	シャ SHA	キャ KYA
ピュ PYU	ビュ BYU	ジュ JU	ギュ GYU	リュ RYU	ミュ MYU	ヒュ HYU	ニュ NYU	チュ CHU	シュ SHU	キュ KYU
ピョ PYO	ビョ BYO	ジョ JO	ギョ GYO	リョ RYO	ミョ MYO	ヒョ HYO	ニョ NYO	チョ CHO	ショ SHO	キョ KYO

Japanese Calligraphy (Shodo)

Calligraphy is an art form that has been studied for over three thousand years. Knowledge of calligraphy is an important step in the understanding of Japanese culture. Calligraphy is not merely an exercise in good handwriting, but rather the foremost art form of the Orient. It is the combination of the skill and imagination of the person who has studied intensely the combinations available using only lines. Japanese calligraphy (Shodo) attempts to bring words to life, and endow them with character. The characters must be written only once. There is no altering, touching up, or adding to them afterwards. Children in Japan start learning calligraphy in the 3rd grade. In Shodo class, students are required to be calm and focused.

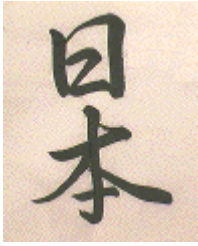
A calligraphy set consists of:

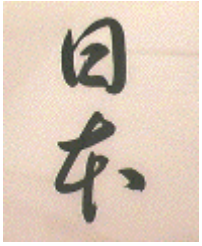
- **Shitajiki**: Black, soft mat. It provides a comfortable, soft surface.
- **Bunchin**: Metal or plastic stick to weight down the paper during writing.
- **Hanshi**: Special, thin calligraphy paper.
- **Fude**: Brush. There is a larger brush for writing the main characters and a smaller one for writing the artist's name.
- **Suzuri**: Heavy black container for the ink.
- **Sumi**: Solid black material that must be rubbed in water in the suzuri to produce the black ink which is then used for writing. Of course, "instant ink" bottles is also available in bottles.



Unlike the strokes of Roman letters, the strokes of Japanese Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji all have to be drawn in the correct order. When you learn Japanese characters, you draw one stroke after the other. This is called the square (**Kaisho**) style of writing. School children first learn how to write Kaisho style, but this style is mostly used for printing materials, rather than everyday writing. There are two other styles of writing, in which the Kanji become a little bit less legible, just like when writing Roman letters in a fast way. These two styles are called semi cursive (**Gyosho**) and cursive (**Sosho**). Gyosho is the most commonly used for daily writing.

Kaisho:
Square style


Gyosho:
Semi cursive style

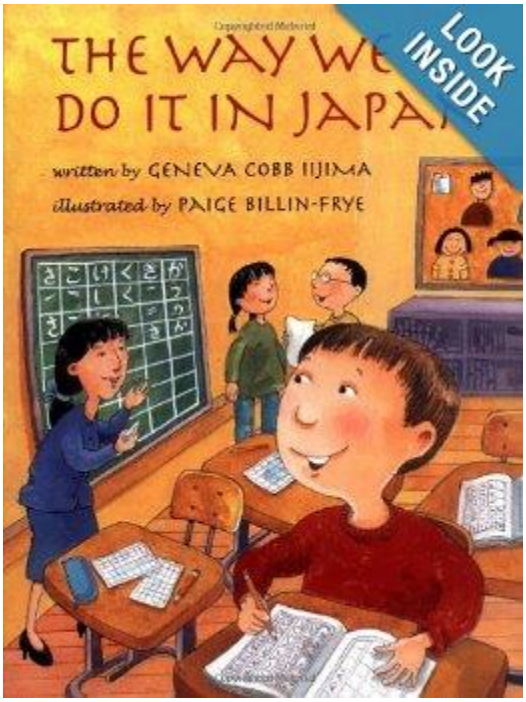

Sosho:
Cursive style

Book Recommendation

The Way We Do It in Japan

Author – Geneva Cobb Iijima
Illustration – Paige Billin-Frye
Published – January 2002
Age Range – 5-9 Years

Gregory and his family are moving to Japan for his dad's job. After the long flight, they arrive at their new apartment. Gregory is surprised to find lots of things that are different: but that's the way they do it in Japan.



Useful Websites

Teachers:

www.jnto.go.jp
Excellent teacher resource. Contains information on geography, language, population, history, culture, tradition, events, amusement, food, etiquette, current events and more. Also Supports wonderful photo galleries.

http://www.askasia.org/teachers/
Many resources for teachers teaching Asian subjects grades K-12, including lesson plans and current essays on Asian culture.

http://aboutjapan.japansociety.org
New interactive website for educators, featuring lesson plans, essays and annotated hands-on material for in-class use.

http://www.japantimes.co.jp/
The Japan Times is a free news source that offers many resources for both teachers and students about modern Japan.

www.bento.com
Information on food (food culture, recipes, and what's new in Japanese restaurants for select areas.

http://spice.stanford.edu/docs/147
Annotated lists of recommended websites about Japan arranged by topic. Provided by the National Clearinghouse for U.S.–Japan Studies

Students:

http://jguide.stanford.edu/
Ultimate guide to finding resources on a specific topic of Japan. Has currency converter, current time, and news and media in Japan. Great for teachers and students exploring culture

http://www.origami-club.com/en/
Lots of origami ideas with animated instructions.

http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/
Fun interactive activities and the latest "cool" things from Japan.

Map of Japan

http://worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/asia/jp.htm

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