

East Asian Lesson Plan—Grades 7-12—Spanish Culture

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Topic: Comparison/Contrast of Celebrations in Guatemala and Japan regarding getting rid of the devil

Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to introduce a holiday in Japan that is similar to, but also different from, a holiday in Guatemala; to provide enrichment in cultural traditions through close reading, watching authentic videos, critical thinking, and classroom sharing.

STANDARDS:

Cultures: Gain and use knowledge and understanding of other cultures. Students examine the relationship among the products, practices and perspectives of the target culture(s). → Students enhance their understanding by making cultural comparisons and developing cultural insights. → The examination of products and practices in relation to shared cultural perspectives enables learners to understand authentic cultural contexts and use acceptable language and behavior in those contexts. → As they become globally competent citizens, students learn that language and culture are inextricably linked. → As they participate in multilingual communities and various cultures at home and around the world, both in person and via technology, they come to understand and abide by the

constraints and freedoms afforded to individuals in the target culture(s) and their own.

Materials: Japanese Cooking for Kids, pp. 4-7. Nagasawa and Ono.

Published by Elton-Wolf. 2003.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/parrandas-posadas-burning-devil-fun-latino-holiday-traditions-n690146#anchor-Guatemalansburnthedevil>

<https://themixedculture.com/2013/12/08/the-tradition-of-burning-the-devil-in-guatemala/>

<https://www.okantigua.com/christmas-in-guatemala-burning-of-the-devil-quema-del-diablo-video/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxY1AGfuZmU>

<https://savvytokyo.com/family-activities-for-bean-throwing-holiday-of-setsubun/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qec0LOM7w5Q>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eocssgae-5o>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Setsubun>

<https://www.tripsavvy.com/setsubun-japanese-bean-throwing-festival-1458346>

These materials tell about removing the devil, to rid him from homes in Japan, to allow Japanese fortune and in Guatemala they burn the devil in effigy to allow spiritual holidays to flourish.

Japan: Occurs Feb 3rd. Celebrated by tossing white beans around inside the house and throwing black beans, representing the devil, outside. At the same time, they shout a phrase telling the devil to get out and inviting fortune in. Some people also visit shrines. This day also celebrates *Setsubun*, meaning, “Spring is just around the corner” (5). Previously thought of as a sort of New Year’s Eve.

Food: sushi roll eaten as a roll, not cut up because cutting is considered bad luck. The recipe book offers miso soup as a recipe, stating that the Japanese would eat it because of the cold weather. Fasting is also practiced during this day.

Guatemala: Occurs on Dec 7th, the first day of the long Christmas holiday (which ends January 6th, 3 Kings Day), the day before the Day of the Virgin of Conception is celebrated. Since the devil is burned in effigy in the streets, people buy food from street vendors.

Timeline:

Monday

1:00-1:15 Discuss my experience in the East Asian seminar this summer and show some of the artifacts I received from Janet.

1:15-1:30 Discuss the importance of religion in U.S. holidays.

Examples.

1:30-1:50 Teacher reads aloud one of the articles on Japan included in the materials section. Pause for conversation throughout.

1:50-1:55 Brief summary of the day's activities and look forward to next day's activities.

Tuesday

1:00-1:10 Brief overview of previous day's information

1:10-1:30 Show video of Japanese celebration and discuss

1:30-1:50 Read 2nd article aloud and discuss

1:50-1:55 Wrap-up and preview of tomorrow's learning

Wednesday

1:00-1:10 Review previous day's information

1:10-1:30 Tell students that Guatemala has a similar devil-purging holiday. Ask them how they think it might be similar and how different.

1:30-1:50 Divide the class into 4 groups and give each one a different article on Guatemala. Have them read together, take notes, and present their findings tomorrow.

1:50-1:55 Wrap-up

Thursday

1:00-1:10 Students get back in groups and review notes from yesterday.

1:10-1:50 Presentations and discussion

1:50-1:55 Wrap-up

Friday

1:00-1:10 Review

1:10-1:30 Continue discussing Guatemala and then compare and contrast with Japan.

1:30-1:45 Show Guatemalan videos

1:45-1:55 Have students write individually what they learned from the lesson this week.