

## *Lesson Plan: Japan*

### **Purpose:**

This intention of this lesson is for the students to compare American cultural Japanese cultural values.

### Essential Questions:

1. What traditional values are important to Japanese?
2. What traditional values are important to Americans?
3. Are the traditional values in Japan changing as the country becomes more westernized?

### **Rationale:**

As the top industrial country in Asia, our students will probably have contact with people from Japan. It would help them if they understood the values that are important to the Japanese people.

### **Materials:**

Students will need access to the school media library. I will have a paper with the character and value written on it.

### **Activities:**

As a warm up activity, we will begin by discussing as a class some values that are important to the students. We will then come up with a class group of values that are important to us, and are an average sample of American values. Students will then be placed in pairs. Each pair will be given a paper to have them research a Japanese value. The values are wide ranging from Loyalty, Indebtedness, to Communication Styles, and Respect. The students will research in the school media center. They must describe what the value is, what it means, and how it is expressed in Japanese culture. They will present their findings to the class, and write a one to two page paper about the value.

As we wrap up, we will revisit the values that we called American at the beginning of the lesson. The students will then identify which values are similar and which are different between Americans and Japanese. We will also discuss if any of our values in American have shifted over the years. Then we'll discuss if the values in Japan have shifted over the years as they become more westernized.

### **Assessment:**

The students' papers and class discussion will be the assessment.

### **Grade Adaptation:**

The target grade of this class is 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Instead of having students research the values online, they could be paired up with pen pals in Japan and have the students ask their pen pals about important values and changing values in Japan.