

NCTA Lesson Plan on Japan
Mary L. Kelley
The Academy of Greater Cincinnati
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Purpose:

Cleanliness is approached differently in Japan and the U.S.

Rationale:

Exposure of students to cultural differences that:

- have a long tradition
- are personal in nature (therefore likely to be surprising)
- are such that ignorance of which is likely to be embarrassing if one travels in Japan

Materials:

Websites: www.gojapan.about.com/cs/livinginjapan/ht/ht_bath.htm
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Onsen>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_toilet
www.japanesebathhouse.com/history.html
www.japaneselifestyle.com/au/culture/ofuro.html
www.japan-zone.com/new/etiquette.shtml
www.theplumber.com/japanesetoilets.html
<http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/ge/ge04ofuro.htm>

Films: "Shogun"

Books: *Totto Chan*

Activities:

Divide the class into groups, and have each group research and present to the class what it learned.

1. Draw a diagram of a Japanese bathroom, showing how the layout is different from an American bathroom. Explain the use of slippers.
2. Draw a Japanese toilet, and explain how to use one.
 3. Explain Japanese bath etiquette to the class. Locate a Japanese bath in your town, and investigate how you might be able to try it out, OR research how to build a Japanese bath in your own home.
3. Write and perform a humorous skit of an ignorant American being invited to a Japanese home. Include both using the toilet and being asked to have a bath.
4. Read the chapter on the trip to the sea in *Totto Chan*. Make a map of how the class traveled. Write a short piece discussing whether you would enjoy such a trip, and read it to the class.

5. View clips of bathing scenes from “Shogun” and analyze them for cultural differences. Present and discuss them with the class.
6. Design a trip to Japan, visiting *onsen* on each major island. Justify your choice of onsen and make a poster of pictures of the those you choose.

Assessment: Class presentations will be graded on effort, extent of knowledge demonstrated, and creativity of presentation.

Grade Adaptation:

- Target gifted grades 6-7
- Older grades could research the history of Japanese bathing, especially its origins in Buddhism.
- Older grades could compare Japanese bathing and toileting practices to those of other cultures.
- Older grades could research the collecting of night soil for agricultural purposes
- Younger grades could be presented a lesson with pictures and diagrams taken from the websites above using the overhead projector.
- Younger grades could read together and discuss the trip to the sea chapter from *Totto Chan*