

HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS OF JAPAN

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Objectives:

To apply research techniques to social studies setting.

To gain understanding of the celebrations held in Japan.

To create a lantern to present research and to add to the festive atmosphere of the school's International Festival.

Unit Outline:

Day 1 – Explore a variety of celebrations held in Japan

Day 2 – Research selected celebration according to teacher-made outline.

Day 3 – Display information on lantern model.

Procedures:

Day 1-

- Students read short descriptions of Japanese celebrations that are of especial interest to young people.
- Students select one holiday on which to focus their research.
- Students independently research chosen topic according to outline

MATERIALS – informational celebration summaries. (below)

ASSESSMENT – Teacher observation of participation and research topic selection

Day 2-

- Review research expectations according to research outline.
- Monitor students' research activities.

MATERIALS – Research outline (below)

– Library access for research (Books, Encyclopedias, Internet access)

ASSESSMENT - Research outline accurately and thoroughly completed.

Day 3-

- Neatly write researched information on lantern pattern.

- Decorate lantern. Cut out and fold into three-dimensional lantern.

- Display and appreciate lanterns.

MATERIALS –Lantern pattern (below), scissors, glue, tape, string for hanging.

ASSESSMENT – Evaluation of creativity applied to lantern decoration.

– Evaluation of content of student research

<h2>Resources</h2>

"Culture of Japan:Kodomo No Hi." Mar. 2005. 18 May 2008 <www.Japan.cher-alice.fr/culture/Japan/kodomonohi.html>.

"HinaMatsuri/Doll Festival Girl's Day/ March 3rd." 18 May 2008
<www.ginkova.com/pages/girlsday.html>.

"Holidays & Celebrations: Japan." East Asian Studies Center: Japan. 14 Apr. 2004. 18 May 2008 <www.indiana.edu/~easc/holidays/japan/japan/html>.

KING, Alissa. "World Holiday:Seijin No Hi (Japan)." Helium. 18 May 2008
<www.helium.com/items/109317-imagine-nation-night-women>.

"Kodomo-No-Hi (Children's Day)." MIT Japanese: "Culture-Notes" 5 Mar. 2002. 18 May 2008 <<http://web.mit.edu/jpnel/holidays/May>>.

Spring Celebrations and Children's Celebrations of Japan

You may choose from one of these Japanese celebrations to research this week. Share your findings with the class by making a lantern to display your research.

Kodomo-no-hi, or Children's Day celebrates the health and happiness of all children in Japan.

Koi no bori , Boy's Day is celebrated at the same time as **Kodomo-no-hi** since in the past, the celebration was focused mainly on the boys.

Hina-Matsura or Doll's Festival is the annual celebration of the girls in the Japanese culture.

Momo-no-Sekku or Peach Blossom Festival celebrates the beginning of Spring.

Seigin no Hi is the coming of age celebration that takes place on the second Monday of January each year, just following the New Year's celebrations.

Shichi go San literally means seven, five, three. As a celebration, it is a day of prayer for the health of young children.

Research Outline for “Holidays and Celebrations of Japan”
INFORMATION FOR “PANEL A”

Japanese name of holiday:

English name of holiday:

When was this holiday first celebrated?

Date of celebration today:

INFORMATION FOR “PANEL C”

What is the purpose of the celebration? Who is honored?

What customs do the people follow during this special day? What rituals are followed at this time?

INFORMATION FOR “PANEL E”

What special clothing do the people wear?

How do the people decorate their homes at this time?

What special foods are prepared or eaten during this celebration?

DECORATE "PANELS B, D, AND F BEFORE YOU ASSEMBLE YOUR LANTERN!

