

**Yakyuu e yookoso (Welcome to baseball)**  
**A comparison of Japanese and American baseball**

**Grade/Subject:** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies. This lesson is a section in a unit on the cultures of the world. This lesson is designed to allow students to see how American culture has influenced other cultures. It is also to show how Japan has taken a trait from another culture and made it uniquely Japanese.

**Length of lesson:** 3-40 minute class periods

**Cleveland Catholic Diocese Curriculum Standards:** The following curriculum standards are covered in these lessons.

Grade 6 People in Society

Performance Objective 1: The learner will compare cultural practices, products and perspectives of past civilization in order to understand the commonality and diversity of cultures.

Learning Objectives A: Compare and Contrast the cultural practices and products of the societies including class structure, gender roles, beliefs, customs and traditions.

Learning Objective C: Identify and discuss reasons to respect and appreciate the culture of a given region.

Grade 6 History

Performance Objective 1: The learner will interpret relationships between events shown on a multi-tier timeline.

Learning Objective E: The learner will use multiple sources to obtain information.

Grade 6 Geography:

Performance Objective 1: The learner will use various types of maps and globes to identify the location of major physical and human features of each continent.

Learning Objective A: Label countries, cities, deserts, mountain ranges and bodies of water on the continents on which they are located.

**Essential Questions:**

- How did baseball arrive in Japan?
- How did Japanese culture influence change baseball from its American roots?
- How are professional teams distributed across Japan and the United States?
- How has baseball influenced other culture traits in the Japanese culture?

**Resources:**

## Museums:

Japanese-American Museum  
368 East First Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

National Baseball Hall of Fame  
25 Main Street  
Cooperstown, NY 13326

The Baseball Hall of Fame  
Tokyo, Japan

## Books:

Garzyk, Wayne. Japan Pro Baseball Fanbook and Media Guide. 1196, 2001, 2004 and 2007 editions.

Heuvel, Cor Ven Den and Tamura, Nanae. Baseball Haiku: The Best Haiku Ever Written About The Game. W.W. Norton & Company. New York. 2007

Raines, Rob. Baseball Saurais: Ichiro Suzuki and the Asian Invasion. Triumph Books, Inc. Chicago. 2007

## Photos:

Compact Disc of photos provided by Pat Kelly. Ms. Kelly is the Photo Archivist for the national Baseball Hall of Fame.

**Activities:***Day One*

In traditional lecture method, students will take notes on Japanese culture. A focus will be placed on samurai traditions and Japanese's view of "outsiders". To end class, students will start labeling locations of professional teams in both Japan and the United States. Students will finish labeling the map for homework.

### *Day Two*

As a class, students will read the history of American and Japanese baseball. The reading is found in Baseball Haiku. Students will also discuss how geography impacts where teams are located.

### *Day Three*

Students will be divided into 5 groups. Each group will be assigned a learning station to start at. After 5 minutes, students will move to another station. This process will continue until students have visited all stations.

Station 1: Haiku: Students will read samples of Haiku written about baseball from both a Japanese and an American point of view. Students will answer questions related to the readings. Students are to write a baseball haiku for homework.

Station 2: League Comparison. Students will read rules and traditions found in American and Japanese baseball. Students will make a Venn diagram comparing baseball in both countries.

Station 3: Photo Analysis: students will write an essay comparing a set of photos dealing with baseball in Japan and America.

Station 4: Media Guide Comparison: Students will answer questions related to Media Guides from the Cleveland Indians and Japanese Pro Baseball.

Station 5: Record/Hall of Fame Comparison: Students will answer questions related to important records (ex: Homeruns, Strikeouts, etc.). Students will also compare who are in each nation's respective hall of fame.

Students will then share their findings in a class discussion. Students will do any unfinished work for homework.