

# Japan-The Rise of Modern Japan

By: Eric C. VonBerg  
Subject: World History  
Grade: 10<sup>th</sup> grade

**Lesson:** Create Mini-Kamishibai to describe the rise of Modern Japan.

## **Objectives:**

Students will: 1.) create a pocket size version of *kamishibai* 2.) learn the history of kamishibai; 3.) use oral, written, and visual language in presenting the rise of Japanese imperialism; 4.) discuss the similarities and differences in American and Japanese storytelling traditions; 3.) gain an awareness of Japanese culture and Japanese society in early to mid-20th century.

**Lesson length:** 4 class periods

## **Content Statements/Standards:**

-Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.  
-Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.

## **Introduction/Background:**

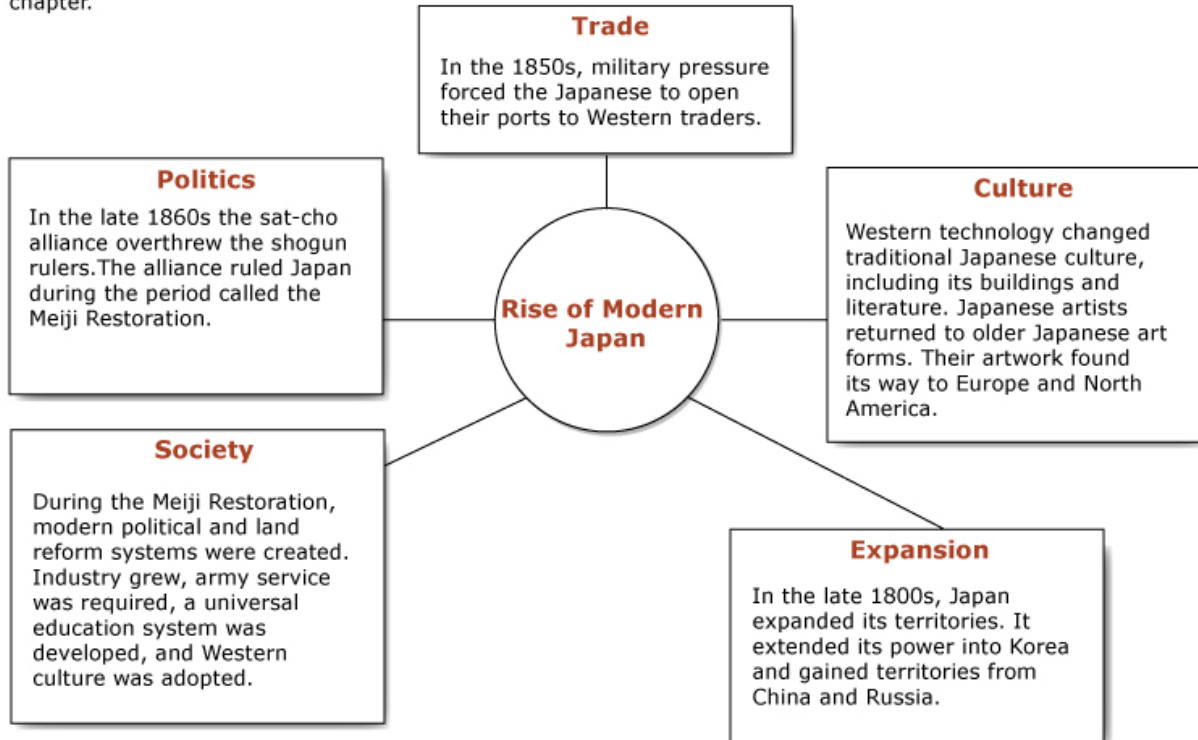
-Students will be introduced to a Chapter in their text covering Challenge & Transition in East Asia. This lesson will cover the rise of Modern Japan.  
-The following items will be discussed to help the students understand what was happening in Japan during the early 1900s.

## **The Rise of Modern Japan**

- Under military pressure from the United States, Japan signed the Treaty of Kanagawa, which opened two ports to Western trade.
- Samurai warriors in southern territories resisted and set up the Meiji government, which attempted to modernize Japan's political, economic, and social structures.
- By the early 1900s, Japan strengthened its military and started building an empire through expansion as Japan forced Korea to open its ports to Japanese trade, and China ceded land to Japan.
- Japanese imitated Western literature and architecture, and Japanese arts and crafts and gardens became popular in Europe and North America.

### Visual Summary

Western influences helped the rise of modern Japan. Here are the main ideas that you will learn about in this chapter.



### **Materials:**

*Mini-Kamishibai Box:* A small box (jewelry boxes work the best), decorative paper, x-acto knife, glue, pencil, and a ruler; *Mini-Kamishibai Cards:* tag board or thick white paper, scissors, marker, color pencils, and crayons. Links for lesson and powerpoint follow and will be shown to class on first day.

<http://education.asianart.org/explore-resources/lesson-or-activity/create-mini-kamishibai-lesson#>

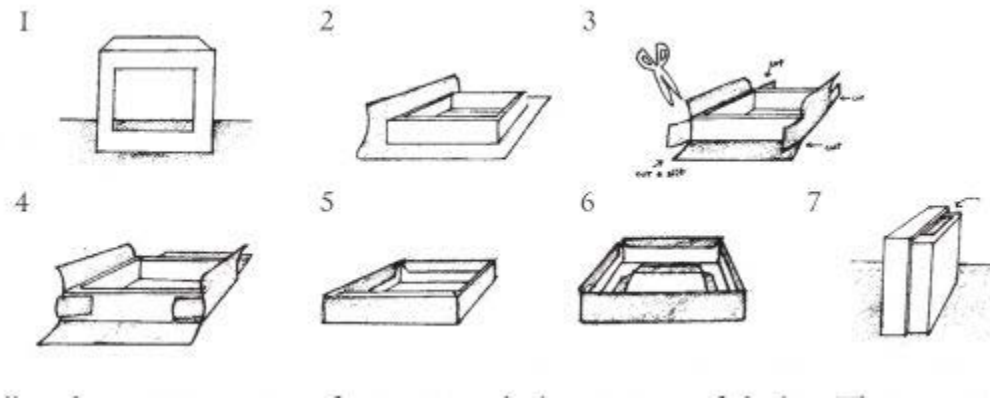
<http://education.asianart.org/sites/asianart.org/files/resource-downloads/Create%E2%80%94Mini-Kamishibai.ppt>

## Japan-The Rise of Modern Japan

### Procedure:

1. Present students with introductions to Kamishibai box instructions, its purpose and allow to group themselves in no more than 3 people and tell them they must include at least 7 topic items on their cards to be included in Kamishibai box. Describe the role of a Japanese storyteller and Kamishibai in 1920s–1950's. Explain to students how *Kamishibai* gave young children in Japan great entertainment at a time when there was no television and few cars.
2. Issue handout, (follows lesson plan) and explain. They will be given one day in library for research, & 2 days in class to work on it.
3. Students must include the following in their K-Box: (6 are mandatory):  
A timeline of events during this time, a description of the Meiji Restoration, some kind of graph of Japan's foreign trade in late 1800s to pre WW I, reasons for expansions, areas they imperialized in a map, & Russo-Japanese War. The other 5, including Title card could but does not have to include famous Japanese at the time, leaders, their economic reforms, a modern map of Japan, social life, artwork and/or literature from the time period.

### *Mini-Kamishibai Box*



1. Using a ruler, draw a square on the lid of a small box. Cut out the square with an x-acto knife.
2. Place the lid and the bottom part of the box together and cut a thin rectangle on a side of the bottom box. The cut should be the same width as the square cut from the lid.
3. Glue and wrap the box lid (see visual instructions above).
4. Follow the same instructions for wrapping the bottom part of the box. The paper will need to be cut and wrapped inside the side slit. Put the box together and you will have a mini-kamishibai box!

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### *Mini-Kamishibai Cards*

1. On a piece of paper, students write a summary of the items to be included in Kamishibai box and divide it into 11 segments. Segments can be numbered according to the introduction of new characters and events in a story. Make sure that students make a title card which is included as one of their 11.
2. Cut 11 rectangle cards the width of the square (cut from the lid) and the length an inch longer than the size of the box. Students will number the cards in the top right corner 1-11. Write a brief description of each story segment onto the cards according to the card number. The back of card #11 should be left blank. In traditional Kamishibai, the back of each card has a description of the upcoming picture. This enables the storyteller to refer to the back of a card to describe the next picture. For example, the back of the title card will show a summary of the picture card #2. If this is too difficult, students can match the written story segment with each picture. They can then memorize each card for their storytelling.
3. Student can show off their drawing skills by interpreting and drawing each scene with markers, color pencils, and crayons or create graphs, charts, maps.
4. Extra credit will be given to groups who present.

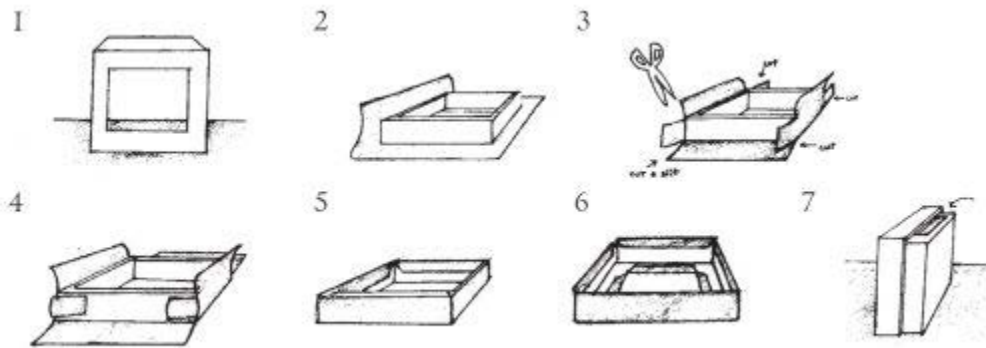
### **Assessment:**

Quality of Kamishibia box, following instructions, teamwork, and inclusion of at least 11 items.

**Handout to students...can be modified with clip art, total points, names, etc.**

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### Mini-Kamishibai Cards

1. On a piece of paper, students write a summary of the items to be included in Kamishibai box and divide it into 8 segments. Segments can be numbered according to the introduction of new characters and events in a story. Make sure that students make a title card.
2. Cut 7 rectangle cards the width of the square (cut from the lid) and the length an inch longer than the size of the box. Students will number the cards in the top right corner 1-8. Write a brief description of each story segment onto the cards according to the card number. The back of card #10 should be left blank. In traditional kamishibai, the back of each card has a description of the upcoming picture. This enables the storyteller to refer to the back of a card to describe the next picture. For example, the back of the title card will show a summary of the picture card #2. If this is too difficult, students can match the written story segment with each picture. They can then memorize each card for their storytelling.
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