

**Asian Studies
University of Toledo, 2005
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Japan Lesson Plan

Back round: This is a lesson plan I will do following the chapter about Japan in the social studies book. The students will have general knowledge about Japan's geography, history, and culture.

Purpose: Language, literature, the arts, beliefs, and values contribute to the development and transmission of culture.

Essential Questions :

- 1. What do Japanese comic books reflect about the culture of Japan?**
- 2. How do Japanese comic books compare and contrast with U.S. comic books and comic books from England?**
- 3. What is involved in developing a Manga, or Japanese comic book?**

Rational: Students are exposed to another culture through art and literature.

Materials:

Samples of Manga

Samples of American comic books

Samples of British comic books

Reproduced page from a Manga

Reproduced page from a U.S. comic book

Reproduced page from a British comic book

Drawing paper and black fine tipped markers

Activities:

A. Pass out samples of Manga, U.S., and British comic books and discuss for pre-knowledge. Prompt discussion with the following questions. List answers on the board and /or large paper.

- 1. Who reads comic books?**
- 2. How long do you think comic books have been around?**
- 3. What comic books do you read?**
- 4. What comic book characters have been developed into movies?**

B. What do you know about Manga?

- 1. What types of Manga are there? Explain that in Japan Manga entertain and instruct.**
- 2. Have you seen any Manga that have been made into movies?**
- 3. What are similarities and differences between Manga and U.S. comic books?**

C. What can we learn about Japanese culture from Manga?

Small group discussion using reproduced samples of Manga and centered around the following questions.

- 1. What examples of popular culture are shown; fads, music, fashion, fast food, education?**
- 2. What values are exhibited; loyalty, love of nature, importance of the group, wanting to belong, duty?**
- 3. How would you describe the style; realistic, fantastic, cartoonish?**
- 4. Are there any emotions expressed; anger, love, annoyance, sadness, humor?**
- 5. What is the story line; action, romance, violence, heroes, heroines, villains?**

D. Pass out individual Manga that represent a page or 2 from a story. The speech balloons have been whited out before copying. Discuss the visual with the students; which box represents the first part of the story, the second part, etc. Have the students spread out so that they cannot confer with each other at this point. Students will fill the speech balloons with dialogue they feel goes with the visual situation. Have students read and discuss their sample in small groups.

E. Individual development of Manga. Once the Manga are finished and inked I will send them out to be copied and then compile them into a comic book. Each student will receive a copy of the compiled Manga

This lesson plan is written for sixth grade but may easily be adapted to an older grade.

Sources:

Student material:

Tames, Richard “Journey Through Japan”, Eagle Books, 1991

Green, Carol “Japan” Regensteiner, 1993

Flint, David “On The Map/ Japan” Steck-Vaughn, 1993

These three books describe Japan’s features of geography, history, scenic treasures, culture, industry, education, and people. Includes excellent text and numerous photos.

Coope, Katy “How to Draw Manga”, Tangerine Press, 2002

Krefta, Ben “Step-By-Step Manga”, Tangerine Press, 2004

Veda, Miwa “Peach Girl”, Kodansha LTD, 1999

Tachikawa, Megumi “Mink”, Tokyopop Inc., 2004

Takahashi, Rumiko “InuYasha Ani-Manga”, Viz,LLC, 2004

“Shonen Jump”, Viz,LLC, 2003

Teacher material:

“The World Around Us/ Eastern Hemisphere”, Textbook, Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, 1993

Murphy, Rhoads “East Asia”, Pearson-Longman, 2004 This book gives historical reference

“Japan 2004-An International Comparison”, Tokyo: Keizai Koho Center

A yearly publication

Schodt, Frederick “Manga! Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics”, New York: Kodansha Publishing, 1983

Web sites for Manga:

Manga Turnpike: <http://www.j-pop.com/manga>

Mangajin, Inc: <http://www.mangajin.com>