

Kindergarten Education in Japan and the United States

Purpose:

This lesson is intended to provide students the opportunity to compare the role of kindergarten education in Japan and in the United States.

Essential Questions:

1. How is kindergarten different in Japan and in the United States?
2. How are the concepts of discipline handled in Japanese schools compared to schools in the United States?
3. Why does the nail that sticks up get hammered down? How is this taught in the schools?

Rationale:

Exposure of students to other cultures and methods of social sanctions.

Materials:

Copies of discussion notes if students are on IEPs and it is required.

Art supplies and materials for the creation of books. Students can also do these on the computers if available.

Copy of the Japanese version of the Three Little Pigs for adaptation.

Activities:

Anticipatory Set: Place the phrase, The nail that sticks out gets hammered down, on the board and hold a discussion about the meaning of this phrase.

Have pairs of students create a list of what kindergarten was like for them.

Present in a short lecture/discussion the concepts of Japanese Kindergarten and social control. (Taken from the Hendry text pages 52-59)

Have same pairs of students create a Venn diagram of kindergarten for Japanese children and children in the United States.

As a whole class brainstorm a list of Super Heroes in the United States.

With a partner, create your own Superhero based on the Japanese model taught in Kindergarten. Create a children's story for kindergartens based on your new superheroes.

Assessment:

The superheroes book will be graded on a rubric based on the qualifications created by the students when discussing the children's book.

Grade Adaptation:

This lesson is intended for Sociology students in grades 11 and 12.

It could be scaled down for other students where they do not create their own super hero books and instead read stories from Japan such as the Japanese version of *The Three Little Pigs* and discuss the differences from the original version.