

Japanese Bookbinding Kit

Purpose: This lesson is intended to introduce students to various bookbinding techniques used in Japan

Essential questions:

How do Japanese styles of bookbinding differ from and the same western styles?

What would be the advantage of choosing a Japanese binding technique?

Is it important to use a Japanese book format, (reading from right to left), when using a Japanese binding style? If not then is it still turely Japanese?

Rationale: Increasing a student's options when choosing an appropriate binding in producing their own books. To better enable them to present their work in a more original and sophisticated way.

Materials: **Kit Contents:**

Examples of the books bound using various Japanese binding techniques

Images of books bound in a Japanese styles, both historical and modern, (this would be an ongoing growing collection), and a projector for slides

Living Treasures of Japan, National Geographic Video, 1988 and T.V. with VCR

Samples of Japanese papers, (an ongoing growing collection)

Japanese Bookbinding, Instructions from a Master Craftsman by Kojiro Ikegami, (book)

Web site: "<http://staffcentral.brighton.ac.uk/graeme/Bookbinding>"

Supplies one would need to begin making sample books:

Paper: simple copy to a medium weight drawing paper for text body and heavier paper for covers.

Needles and a heavy thread or light weight string.

Hammer and awl, nails, or Japanese hole punch

Activities:

Introductory lesson with slides and examples of Japanese bound books Introductory lecture would include a historical over view, examination of book arts, (structures, parts of a book and materials), and an explanation of various Japanese bindings styles.

Second lesson would begin with explanation of Japan's Living Treasures and showing the National Geographic video, encouraging student s to pay close attention to the paper maker. Show student sample swatches of Japanese papers Then have student examine how various papers work with a variety of media.

Lesson three would include demonstrations with student production of the various Japanese bookbinding styles. Small samples of each style would be made to serve as examples for students to refer to later when choosing an appropriate binding for their final project.

Refer to
Ikegami for step by step

"Japanese Bookbinding, Instructions from a Master Craftsman", by Kojiro
instruction and diagrams.

Lesson four would be a practice book project where the class would work on a group book, producing one copy for each class member. A project where the class through discussion would decide on a book that everyone would have a contributing part, as well as making choices of type, (materials for the book, media, binding style and structure).

book

Lesson five would sever as the a culmination of the unit, where students produce their own book Making choices of book type, (maybe, but not limited to, poetry, children's book, or practicing Kanji), materials for the book, media, binding style and structure.

Assessment: Lesson five would serve as the students' main source of assessment. Final books would have to meet established criteria for a passing grade: criteria would include:

Appropriate binding style for the type of book

How chosen materials were used to best present book contents and structure

Craftspersonship in construction, binding and content

Personal statement (explanation) about the book and its concept

Grade Adaptation: Bookbinding can be done with children as young as third grade, but I would recommend starting with one of the more simpler styles and working on group books. Even younger children can be taught to appreciate books as personal objects to treasure by having their own stories and art bound for them. This could be done by older students which would also serve as an assessment of how much the older students had learned.
