Social Studies Unit on the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

JAPANESE CULTURE

Achievement Objective/s:
• Understand how people pass on and sustain culture and heritage for different reasons and that this has consequences for people.

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this module students will:
• have an understanding of Japanese culture / heritage and how this is important to the people of Japan today.
• be able to identify Japanese characteristics and values that students have in common with their own culture.
• have gained knowledge about Japan’s history and geography.
• know some basic words in Japanese.

Key Competencies:
• Managing self
• Participating and contributing
• Relating to others

Activity/lesson:
What do we already know about Japanese culture?

Starter activity
Watch the Japan in Numbers and the Japanese Tourism videos to get students thinking about what they may already know about Japan.

Student activity
To start this module on Japanese culture, create a classroom Padlet that all students can contribute to. Have the following sub-headings on the Padlet: Food, Values, Language, History and Geography.

The aim of this activity is to get students thinking and sharing what they already know about Japan and sharing this with the class.

This can also be done as a collaborative brainstorm on the whiteboard or using an online mind map tool like MindMeister. Discuss as a class.

There is also a link to a Japanese PDF poster produced by the Asia New Zealand Foundation. This could be printed and displayed in the classroom during this topic.

Suggested timing
30 minutes approx.

Resources:
YouTube link to Japan in Numbers
Japanese Tourism video
Padlet website
Padlet example / template
To make a copy of this Padlet, create a Padlet account or log into your existing account. Then open the link above and click on the remake button in the top right-hand corner.
MindMeister
PDF Poster to print for class display
JAPANESE CULTURE

Activity/lesson:

Japanese food fusion challenge

Starter activity
Students using the worksheet individually or in groups are to think of as many Japanese foods as they can. They then follow this up by thinking of different foods that they eat as part of their own culture.

Student activity
Students work through the worksheet and complete the Food fusion challenge.

This lesson gets students to look at foods that are associated with Japanese culture, while also comparing the different foods that they enjoy as part of their own culture.

If you have time, there is a fun YouTube clip to watch about the fusion of Japanese food and sandwiches. **Note:** After 7 minutes this includes alcohol and smoking.

Resources:

- Food Fusion Worksheet
  Make a copy of this Google Doc and create an assignment on Google Classroom - select make a copy for each student.
- YouTube clip, the world of Japanese sandwiches

Activity/lesson:

Values

Starter activity
For the first five minutes, students can discuss with the person next to them something that they regularly do or celebrate with their family. Examples may include things such as celebrating family birthdays or celebrating Matariki.

Student activity
Have a discussion about values with your students.

- What are values?
- What can influence someone’s values?
- Why is it important to respect the values of others?

Students can then move on to completing the values worksheet looking at their own personal / cultural values and how these compare to Japanese values.

Students can use the Broad characteristics of Japanese culture Google Doc for ideas and can also do their own research.

Extension activity
Students can complete the Venn diagram looking at what similarities they may have with Japanese values. This would work best as a printed worksheet, as it will be easier to write into.

Resources:

- Website link, Māori and Japanese culture similarities
- Values worksheet
  Make a copy of this Google Doc and create an assignment on Google Classroom – select make a copy for each student.
- Broad characteristics of Japanese culture
- Venn Diagram template
JAPANESE CULTURE

Activity/lesson: Language

Suggested timing 1 hour approx.

Starter activity
Share the Japanese language website link with students. Give them around five minutes to read through the information on Japanese language.

Students can then test their knowledge with a quick Quizlet quiz using the matching option. Students can do this several times as it will give a different combination of questions. They can also try and better their time or compete for the quickest time in the class.

Student activity
Students to complete the language worksheet using Google Translate.

They can also use Google Translate to listen to the correct pronunciation and students can try saying the words / phrases to each other in pairs.

Students can then have a go at translating their own name using the Japanese name translator website.

Resources:
- Japanese language website link
- Quizlet link for students
- Language worksheet
- Make a copy of this Google Doc and create an assignment on Google Classroom - select make a copy for each student.
- Japanese name translator

Activity/lesson: A brief history of Japan

Suggested timing 1 hour approx.

Starter activity
Students are to read through the information giving a general overview of Japan using the two website links given. If you have time, there is a quick Kahoot to test their knowledge and also learn some new facts about Japan.

Student activity
Students can then use the rest of the lesson to create a History Road showing important events in the history of Japan. They can use the resources provided as well as any other information they have researched.

Resources:
- Website link for students on the history of Japan
- www.natgeokids.com
- Kahoot link
- Instructions for a History Road and student example
Suggested ways to assess students’ learning outcomes:

**Formative Assessment:**
The Food fusion challenge, Infographic poster, History road or Values worksheet / Venn diagram can be collected to check students’ knowledge and understanding.

**Summative Assessment:**
Quizlet and Kahoot can be used to test students on their retention of text being read.

**Activity/lesson:**
**Geography**

**Starter activity**
Students to spend 10 minutes looking at the Google Earth voyager exploring hidden Japan.

**Student activity**
Students use this lesson to conduct online research to find out some interesting facts about Japan’s geography. Remind students that this can be about Japan’s natural or cultural geography, e.g. information about Japan’s population or Japan’s climate.

There is an example you can show students that was made using Canva. These can then be shared with the teacher or presented to the class at the end of the lesson.

**Resources:**
- Google Earth voyager, hidden Japan
- Possible websites for creating infographics
  - https://www.canva.com/
  - https://piktochart.com/