

Attractive

Interesting

Culture of

Japan



The background of the page is a vibrant collage of traditional Japanese motifs. It features several colorful fans (sensu) in shades of yellow, orange, and red, some with intricate patterns. Interspersed among the fans are various cherry blossom (sakura) designs, including whole blossoms and petals in soft pinks and whites. The overall aesthetic is warm and celebratory, typical of Japanese festival decorations.

はじめに

このパンフレットは、私たち AICJ 中学校の 3 年生が、日本の文化についてまとめたものです。私たちは、世界の多くの人々に日本のことを知ってもらい、もっと身近に感じて欲しいと思い、このパンフレットを作成しました。このパンフレットに、私たちが考える日本文化の歴史や特徴をまとめています。これによって世界の多くの人々が日本文化に対する興味を深め、日本の良さを再発見するきっかけになることを願っています。

Forward

The third-year students in AICJ Junior High School put together the information about Japanese culture into this booklet. We made this booklet for people around the world to learn about, and feel close to Japan. We put together the history and characteristics of Japanese culture. Also, we hope a lot of people around the world became interested in Japanese culture, and get the chance to discover the appeal of Japan from reading this booklet.

Grade 9 Student(2017)
AICJ Junior High School

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Miyajima

● Why was the Itsutukushima Shrine built?

According to history, the Itsukushima Shrine was built by a man in a powerful family who ruled the land of Miyajima a long time ago. The man's name was Saeki no Kuramoto and he received an oracle from the god of water, Princess Ichikishima.

● Deep fried Momiji Manjyu

Unlike normal Momiji Manjyu's, deep fried Momiji Manjyu's are very crispy and warm. There are many types of flavors and they are very popular with tourists. Some examples of flavors are cheese, chocolate, custard, green tea and red bean paste etc.



※①



※②

● Oysters

The oysters of Hiroshima are very fresh . There are many ways of eating oysters, raw, fried, deep fried etc. Oysters are one of Hiroshima's special products. If you come to Hiroshima, you should try some!

● Why are there so many deer on Miyajima?

The deer on Miyajima are said to be the servants of god. It is a superstition so we don't know if this is true. Tourists gave food to the deer, therefore they have increased rapidly in number. Today, about 500 deer live on Miyajima.



※③



※④



※⑤

● Why was the gate built on the sea?

From a long time ago, many people believed that Miyajima island itself was a figure of god, therefore people built the torii in the sea, so they did not cause any damage to the trees of Miyajima. This is because all of nature was thought to be a part of the figure of god.

Have you ever been to a Castle?

城

~The Japanese Castle~

Castles were built for when enemies attacked. It was a base for battle and stock place of food, weapons and funds. The main castle was the commander's house and base for politics or information.

THE HISTORY

Japanese castles were built on flat land, hills or mountains. Castle in Japan used different civil engineering and building techniques than architecture from ancient times or after the Middle Ages. For example, in the middle of the Warring States period, matchlock guns spread from Portugal and castles needed bulletproof buildings and a moat too. At this time, thick Japanese wattle and daub were used.

THE DIFFERENCE

Castles built in Europe or China were fortress cities and they were different to Japanese castles. Castles in Europe tend to be built using stone whereas in Japan they tend to be wooden shnehres. These two things are difference points between Japan, Europe and China.

DEFENSE DEVICES

The castle was a military base, so there were many devices used to defend the castle. For example, Hiroshima castle has a large castle wall and it is surrounded by water. Besides this, there were square holes that are made to drop rocks on enemies to prevent them from climbing up the castle wall.

IN HIROSHIMA CASTLE...

- There is a booth that you can wear an armor and a helmet!
- The scene from the castle tower is very beautiful!
- Many precious collections are exhibited!



※1

Access to Hiroshima Castle

21-1, Motomachi, Naka-ward, Hiroshima-shi, Hiroshima, 730-0011,

☆By tram

Get off at Kamiyacho-Higashi tram stop, then approx. 15 min. on foot.

☆By JR

Get off at Shin-Hakushima Station, then approx. 17 mins on foot via the Back Gate.

~Fees~

Adults are 370 yen. Age 65 or over, and high school students are 180 yen. Students before high school enrollment are free.

※1 photo by Hiroshima prefecture

Kendama

History

Kendama's origin isn't clear, but most common theory is that it started **France** in the 16 century. At that time, Kendama was a deluxe toy for people.

How to make Kendama (Photo①~⑧ by Yamagata Workshop)



This process is to shave the rectangle lumber to a round material.



This process is to shave the round material into a dish shape.



This process is to shave the round material into a dish shape.



This process is to shave a hollow from the dish.



This process is to shave the round material into a sword shape.



This is the ball painting operation. This is drying the ball.



This process is to make a whole on the ball.



This process is assembling the kendama.



Completion!!

(Photo⑨ <http://www.gloken.net/jp/>)

Kendama skill

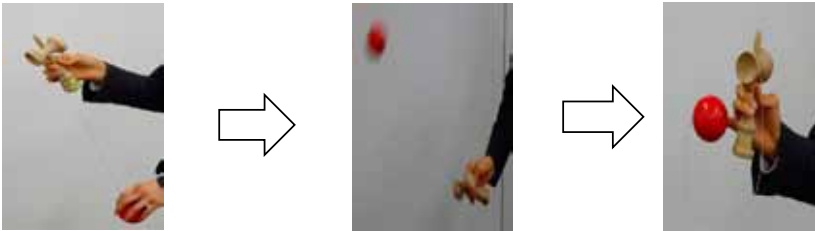
1. Airplane

While holding the ball in one hand with the ball facing up words, airplane is the swinging the handle flipping it in midair so that you catch the pointed end of the handle in the hole in the ball.



2. Little Finger Princess

Swinging the ball away from body. You aim to catch the ball on your little finger.



Kendama World Cup

Kendama world cup decides the best player in the world.

There is a lot of variety of tricks and the points awarded are gets higher dependant on the level of the tricks.

Prize money

"500000"yen



Photo by <http://www.gloken.net/jp/>

Bonsai

Bonsai is a traditional Japanese style of plant or flower. At first glance, it seems like just a potted plant, but Bonsai expresses the beauty of the natural world and the elegance of itself.

<Types>

There are many kinds of plants that are used in Bonsai



1. SHOHAKU

–*Technique of focusing on trees* –

E.g.) Shunpike, Japanese cedar,
Juniperus-rigida, Pine

2. MIMONO

–*Technique of focusing on fruit* –

E.g.) Ilex serrate, Persimmon
Mauls prunifolia



3. HANAMONO

–*Technique of focusing on flowers* –

E.g.) Ume, Chaenomeles speciosa,
Cherry

4. KUSAMONO

–*Technique of focusing on leaves* –

E.g.) Maple, Zelkova, Bamboo,
Toxicoderon succedaneum



<History>

In the Heian-Period (AC794~1185), Bonsai came to Japan from China.



Bonsai culture spread among Samurai during the Kamakura-Period
(AC1185~1333)



In the Edo-Period (AC1603~1868), the culture spread among townspeople.



Recently (after WW2), the number of Bonsai enthusiasts have been decreasing in Japan. However, the number of enthusiasts are increasing in foreign countries, especially in Europe.

<Famous Figure>



Mr. Kunio Kobayashi

He is the curator of Haruhanazono-Bonsai Museum, and very famous for designing Bonsai. He has been designing Bonsai for more than 30 years and realized that Bonsai culture should be known by many people around the world, so he has been holding lectures in foreign countries.

Bonsai is like the Cosmos

Everything inside of a pot has a significance for existing there, and they harmonize together to express the beauty of Bonsai that is unlimited like the Cosmos.



Satsuki-Bonsai "Momochidori"

By Mr. Kunio Kobayashi



What is Ukiyo-e?

Ukiyo-e are a kind of Japanese painting. They show various things, such as prostitutes, performers, manners, customs, and scenery. The style was later altered to be mass-produced. Due to this, it was a widely spread example of Japanese art from 1661 to 1667.

Ukiyo-e outside of Japan

In 1865, a French artist, Félix Bracquemond, went to show his friends manga that was drawn by the famous Japanese artist, Hokusai Katsushika. Then, Ukiyo-e became known among European artists. Ukiyo-e was a popular form of amusement in Japan because it was cheap; but in Europe, it was incredibly expensive. It affected the style of the Impressionists. Van Gogh is famous for drawing Ukiyo-e in the background of his art.





Non-Japanese Ukiyo-e Artists

David Bull is a Canadian Ukiyo-e artist and he was born in the UK in 1951. He is fascinated with Ukiyo-e and he began drawing it after visiting Japan. He made a reprinted edition of Hyakunin-issyu (Japanese cards) to observe the tradition. He sells his art to the world through SNS.

Let's enjoy Ukiyo-e in museums!

NIHON UKIYO-E MUSEUM



Location: Japan / Nagano

THE BRITISH MUSEUM



Location: UK / London

Kyoto

きょうと
京都

● History

In 794, Emperor Kanmu left “Nagaoka-kyo” where he had lived for ten years and began construction of a new capital in the middle of the northeastern basin. This new capital was named “Heian-kyo”. Heian-kyo and Kyoto continued to be the capital of Japan for more than a thousand years. However, in 1867, the government moved to Tokyo for the Emperor to do politics directly in Tokyo.

● Tourist spots

Kiyomizu Temple

It built in 798, but most of the buildings were rebuilt in 1631 to 1633. It's recognised by the world heritage of UNESCO. We decide a Kanji of the year in Japan every year, and it is announced at the Kiyomizu temple.



When people go to Kyoto, many people often go to this place. It is good for sightseeing!!

Maiko まいこ 舞妓

The profession of Maiko started about 300 years ago, they were girls who served tea in shrines and temples in Kyoto.

They put down their hair only a week, so they washed their hair only once a week. Nowadays they are banned from using cell phones in public. They do not receive a salary, no matter how hard they work, however the geisha house covers their cost of living.

Kimono きもの 着物

● History

Kimonos were first worn in the Jomon period and were for protection from enemies and the cold. Following people who were the heads of society began to wear these clothes to show they were richer than others.



● Japan has many kind of kimono! For example...

Long-sleeved kimono

Japanese name is “Furisode”. This is mainly worn at the Coming of Age Ceremony.



*1

Yukata

This is mainly worn in summer events.



*2

Hyakunin-isshu (百人一首)

~History~

Hyakunin-isshu was invented about 730 years ago. One day, Sadaie Fujiwara selected 100 poems from famous poets or aristocrats to decorate the wall of friend's house. It became known as Hyakunin-isshu and it entertained many people in the era. Now, it is loved by a lot of people through many things such as TV, games and music.

Karuta



1. Put all the cards on the floor
2. Pick the card that is read by the reader
3. Winner is the player who get 25 cards faster than the other player

Upside down playing cards

We put cards upside at the start. When a player picks the card, the player changes with another player in the same team.



※1

FAMOUS POETS



※2

816~890 Sojo Henjo

He worked as an attendant of the Emperor Ninmyo and became a priest when Emperor passed away.



※3

825~880 Ono no Komachi

This woman lived in the mid-ninth century. She seemed to have been a court lady of Emperor Ninmyo.

Poetic style: elegant, sensitive

FAMOUS POEM

秋の田の 刈穂の庵の 苦をあらみ

わが衣では 露にぬれつつ

This poem was made by Emperor Tenji. This poem expresses the hardship of the life of a farmer. The author is the emperor, so he had never done farming. Some people say that the author tried to tell the hardship to all people including aristocrats who didn't understand about farming.



※4

※1~4 photo by (株)田村将軍堂

ひらがな HIRAGANA

~Why was in hiragana invented?

It was invented to help Japanese be easier to write~

From the beginning of the Heian Period. Hiragana was used by women to write letters or record songs. Due to this, Hiragana use spread. Hiragana simplified the typeface and helped enhance communication. It is suggested a monk created hiragana, but this cannot be proven.

~Characteristics of Hiragana~

Hiragana is cursive using soft characters, therefore, hiragana expresses their feelings softly. That means it is good for expressing the seasons and people's feelings such as love.

~Where did Hiragana originate from~

Hiragana originated from a text called Kokin Wakasyu. It was made by many people and took a long time.

~Some famous literary works are~

「Makuranososhi」 by Syonagon Sei and 「Genji story」 by Shikibu Murasaki.

This is "HIRAGANA 50 sounds".

あ a	か ka	さ sa	た ta	な na	は ha	ま ma	や ya	ら ra	わ wa
い i	き ki	し shi	ち chi	に ni	ひ hi	み mi		り ri	
う u	く ku	す su	つ tsu	ぬ nu	ふ fu	む mu	ゆ yu	る ru	を wo
え e	け ke	せ se	て te	ね ne	へ he	め me		れ re	
お o	こ ko	そ so	と to	の no	ほ ho	も mo	よ yo	ろ ro	ん n

カタカナ KATAKANA

~Who made Katakana?~

Generally it is said Makibi Kibino made Katakana.

~Why is Katakana made?~

It's difficult to read Chinese writing immediately, so it was made to make reading easier.

~When was Katakana made?~

It began in the 7th century, but became popular in the 9th century.

~Situations that use Katakana~

There are a variety of situations that use Katakana. They are situations when we need to express a sound, when we need to write a foreign word, and sometimes it used as an abbreviation.

*Loan words, proper nouns, onomatopoeic words and mimetic words are written in Katakana when they demonstrate parts of sound.

*When we describe other types of meaning, we also using Katakana.

e.g.) If we write “Hiroshima” in Katakana.

It means, “The city that had an atomic bomb dropped on it.”

*Also telegrams which were sent before 1988 could only be sent in Katakana, due to technical problem.

This is “KATAKANA 50 sounds”.

ア a	カ ka	サ sa	タ ta	ナ na	ハ ha	マ ma	ヤ ya	ラ ra	ワ wa
イ i	キ ki	シ shi	チ chi	ニ ni	ヒ hi	ミ mi		リ ri	
ウ u	ク ku	ス su	ツ tsu	ヌ nu	フ fu	ム mu	ユ yu	ル ru	ヲ wo
エ e	ケ ke	セ se	テ te	ネ ne	ヘ he	メ me		レ re	
オ o	コ ko	ソ so	ト to	ノ no	ホ ho	モ mo	ヨ yo	ロ ro	ン n

Sumo

Wrestling



1,What is Sumo Wrestling ?

Sumo is a wrestling sport in which two wrestlers push each other in circular ring. The rules are simple. The wrestler who pushes another wrestler out of the ring or forces him to touch the ground is the winner. Sumo includes some of elements in martial arts, agricultural rites, and rituals from the past. It is a national sport of Japan, which has thrived as a professional sport.



The origin of Sumo Wrestling is very old. In the historical books, it is named 'Nihonshoki'. It is sometimes regarded as the origin of Judo. In 1300th~1500th, the famous general Nobunaga Oda loved to watch Sumo and he encouraged people to do Sumo in public. Now, many people enjoy watching Sumo on TV.

3,Attraction

Recently, Sumo is loved by many people. There are three reasons.

First, Sumo is part of Japanese culture. Japanese people know Sumo from early childhood, so they feel Sumo is close to them.

Second, the rules are simple. Sumo wrestler will lose if they fall out of the ring or fall over.

Third, many events are related to it. For example, the event is held to eat Chankonabe which is eaten by sumo wrestlers.

4,Class and Wages

- **Yokozuna**

About 2,820,000 yen in a month + reward + bonus

- **Ozeki**

About 2,340,000 yen in a month + reward + bonus

- **Sanyaku (Sekiwake, Komusubi)**

About 1700,000 yen in a month + reward + bonus

- **Juryo**

About 1,000,000 yen in a month + reward + bonus



Sumo has a very long history. It is no exaggeration to say that Sumo developed along with Japan.

We can't let the history die out. We want people all over the world to know about Sumo and enjoy it !!

KABUKI

Origin

The origin of “kabuki” is from the word which means unique and unfamiliar. It was called “kabukimono” in the Edo period by people who wear showy clothes and hair styles.



*Photo*1*

History

In 1603, “kabuki dance” was started by Izumo no okuni in Kyoto.

The “Yarou kabuki” appeared which became the basis of kabuki. It already has a history of over 400 years.

A famous actor

© Ebizo Ichikawa

- He belong to the Naritaya
- Famous actors of kabuki have their own stage name.



Masterpiece

© Kanjinchou

The shogun Yoshitune angered Yoritomo, an story in the Kaga when trying to escape. It lead to the Noh and Kyogen.



Photo*2



Make-up

This make-up is called "kumadori".

It depicts a red line on a face painted with white. It expresses the engorgement of blood vessels and muscle.



Photo*1,*2 : 東京都江戸東京博物館

Mythology

Kagura

What is Mythology?

A myth is a story that doesn't have evidence.

There is a famous legend in Japanese mythology called “Yamata no Orochi”.

A young man called Susanoo was expelled from heaven and found an elderly man who was crying. The old man was crying because his daughter was going to be killed by a monster called Yamata no Orochi. Susanoo decided to save the daughter. He killed the monster after making it drunk. After that, Susanoo married the daughter.



※1

八雲立つ 出雲八重垣 妻ごみに
八重垣作る その八重垣を

This is the oldest waka (a Japanese poetry) in Japan.

[MEANING]

Many clouds rise up in the province of Izumo (the current Shimane Pref.). The name has the meaning of clouds rising up. There many clouds rise up as we put fences again and again. I have made many fences around my palace to protect my wife. (The cloud is) just rising as such fences.



※2

Places Related to the “Yamata no Orochi” Legend

These places have a connection with “Yamata no Orochi” legend

1. Suga Shrine

This shrine was made by Susanoo and Princess Kushinada (the daughter) before Susanoo killed Yamata no Orochi. They built this shrine to hope the success of the battle.

2. Susa Shrine

The soul of Sunanoo is reposed in this shrine.



※3



※4

※1 photo by 国際日本文化研究センター

※2, 3 photo by 須我神社

※4 photo by 須佐神社

Japanese Myths and Greek Myths

Japan has always had severe climate changes, so the Japanese thought gods controlled nature. Even though the climate in Europe was stable back then, westerners thought Greek gods were wiser than humans. Therefore, many gods were born there as well. There are some differences between Japanese mythology and Greek mythology.

1. Shrines that are related to Japanese myths exist, but temples related to Greek myths don't.
2. Descendants of gods from Japanese myths are believed to exist. For example, the Japanese Emperor is thought to be a descendant of the sun god. However, descendants of Greek gods are not believed to exist.



※5



※6



※7



※8

Conclusion

There are many cultural traditions in Japan, and one of them is mythology and Kagura. The word Kagura stands for sacred music and dance. It is a song and a dance that is dedicated to Japanese gods. The photos posted above are of a Kagura performance. The “Yamata no Orochi” legend is performed in Kagura too, so you might think Kagura has a relationship with Japanese myths, but it doesn't. We will be happy if you become interested in Japanese myths and Kagura.

※5~8 photo by 島根県観光写真ギャラリー

Shrine



The origin of shrine

In ancient times, people built a building to worship the Gods. Also it has to enshrine the Iwakura sacred stone. This building is still the original structure for the shrine today.

The oldest shrine in Japan is the Izumo Shrine in Shimane.

The meaning of Tori

Please see the above picture. Have you ever seen it? It's called "Tori". It's a partition area for the Gods. The other side of Tori is where God is.

The red color of Tori means amulet. It was originally painted white, which means holy.

The difference between shrines and temples



↑Shrine



Temple↑

What is the difference?

In the shrines, there are Tories which I've written about in the previous section. On the other hand, Temples have a grave in their site.

In addition, the religions in which they represent are different too. Shrines value Buddhism, and Temple have a deep faith in Shinto.

Manners

1. When you go through the Tori, you have to take your hat off and bow.
2. The middle approach to the shrine is only the god. Please walk on right side or left side of the street.
3. You have to purify your hands and heart before a visit to the God at Chozuya.
4. In front of the God, you have to dismiss all your greed. It's very important to worship the God.

Chozuya

1. Cleanse the left hand.
2. Cleanse the right hand.
3. Receive the water to the left hand, and cleanse the mouth.
4. Cleanse the left hand again.
5. Cleanse the dipper handle.
6. Put the dipper down.



Events

Every year, a lot of events are held in the shrine when the year-round event.

I recommend you to go these events! :)

Hatsumode	JAN	Pay the New Year's first visit to the shrine to pray for New Year's happiness.
Setsubun	FEB	On the verge of spring in the old calendar, people scatter soy beans to exorcise bad lucks.
Obon	AUG	In the middle of August, people spend some time with their ancestors by visiting their grave.
Shichi-go-san	NOV	In the middle of November, people visit on shrine to wish for the growth of their children.
New Year's Eve	DEC	On New Year's Eve, priests ring watch night bell to renounce worldly desires.

★ NINJA ★

~The Japanese spy~

What is NINJA?

NINJA was a spy or mercenary in 5-18 Century Japan. The job of a NINJA was assassination, collect enemy's information, and guerrilla warfare. Most NINJAs obeyed the SHOGUN. The SHOGUN was the leader of troops. The SHOGUN used NINJA's information to decide a battle strategy.



※1

NINJA's Skills & Weapons

Climbing walls

NINJAs can climb walls using KUNAI. KUNAI is the handle-less dagger that is used to climb walls or melee in fights.



※4

Traps

NINJAs use many kinds of traps, such as exploding traps, spiky traps, and smoke traps.

Stealth

NINJAs can walk very silently, and NINJAs can deceive the enemies using many tools.



SHURIKEN



※3

SHURIKEN is most popular NINJA's weapon. They are other ranged quieter than weapons is quieter.

Physical ability

NINJAs can run very long distances. Also, NINJAs are powerful and use for three-dimensional moving.

The history of NINJA

5th century: Spies are used for war. This spy was called "SHINOBI"

11th century: NINJAs first appeared and spread quickly in Japan.

1487: The SHOGUN YOSHIHISA ASHIKAGA hired a ninja group.

1667: Troops that only included NINJAs group joined wars.

17th century the family of TOKUGAWA used HANZO HATTORI. He was the most famous ninja in Japan.

After 18th century: NINJA changed their job and became policemen or farmers.



※5

Where can I see NINJA?

These days, there are no real NINJAs in JAPAN, but you can see NINJAs and experience their job in the NINJA Villages.

Popular NINJA Village

- KOUKANOSATO NINJAMURA (SHIGA Prefecture)
<http://koka.ninpou.jp/index.html>

- NIKKOU EDMURA (TOCHIGI Prefecture)
<http://www.edowonderland.net/index.html>

〒321-2524

Tochigi Prefecture, Nikko City, Karakura 470-2

TEL: 0288-77-1777

e-mail: info@edowonderland.com

- IGARYU NINJA museum (MIE Prefecture)
<http://www.iganinja.jp/>

117-13-1 Ueno Marunouchi, Iga-shi,
Mie Prefecture

TEL: +81 (0) 595-23-0311

e-mail: ninpaku@ict.ne.jp



※2



※6

JAPANESE SWORDS

1. What is a Japanese sword

There are two types of sword in the world. One of them is called a “sword” in which the shape is straight and it has a double-edged blade. The other one is called “Katana” that has a curve and single-edge blade.

2. The types of sword

- Chokutou

This sword is slightly warped inside.

🏯 直刀(ちよくとう)



直刀

※①

- Tachi

This sword is highly warped.

🏯 太刀(たち)



太刀

※②

- Wakizashi

This sword is a supplementary sword.

🏯 脇指(わきざし)



脇指

※③



3. How to make a sword



1. Material



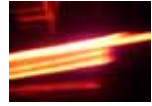
2.Heat



3.Beat



4.Formation



5.Harden



6.Sharpen



completion!!!

4. History

- Heian-midterm

Chokutou was used.

- Kamakura period

It was called the golden period of sword making. The skills of making swords increased because the Gotoba emperor loved swords.

- Kamakura-midterm

Sword with a curve were first used. The curve of the sword gradually become flat.



5. Japanese sword and swords

Sword⇒straight in a double-edged blade

Japanese sword⇒curve in a one side-edged blade

Kajitaten

Kajita tomika-tyo kamo-gun Gifu

T:0574-54-2619

There is a course for foreign people. If you have an opportunity, please come.

JAPANESE POTTERY

What is pottery

Pottery is the generic name given using clay to make items such as plates, cups, bowls, etc.

A kiln is to bake the clay.

Difference between international

In Japan, Potters use a special clay baked in a kiln at about 1300 degrees. In China it is called porcelain because special clay is baked in a kiln at 1200 degrees. In this way the definition of porcelain has many differences.

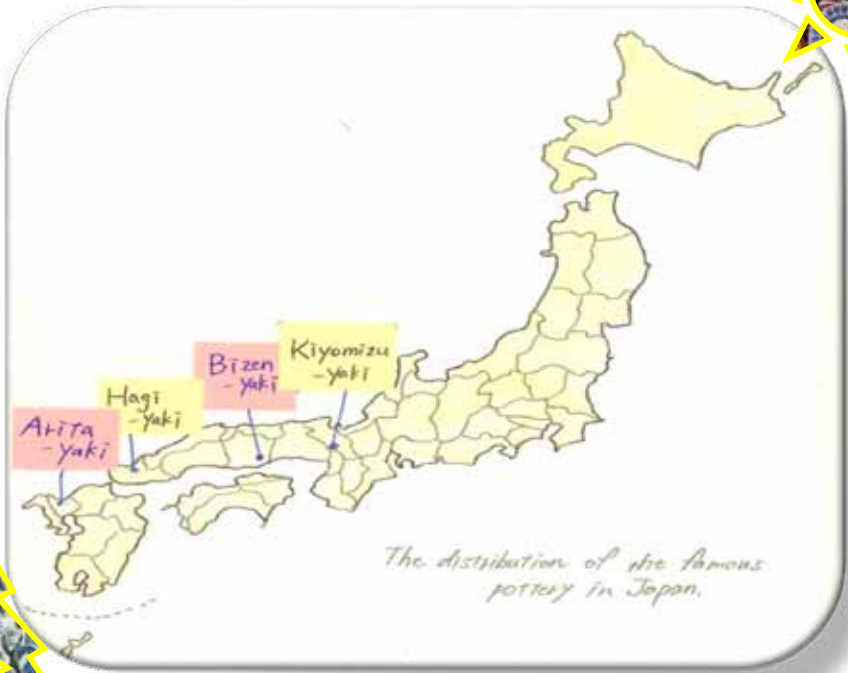
How to make pottery

Knead the clay to remove air and turn on pottery wheel. Then shape to the desired form. Use a pallet to arrange the shape. Bake at low temperature. As it needs to be hard to paint it. After the base painting, the pottery to bring out its beauty.

History

Pottery dates back to 12,000 years ago and the oldest record of pottery in Japan is 145.B.C. Most pottery was shaped like a bowl. Japan's use of potter's wheel and kiln started after they were brought from Korea. This meant the Japanese potters could experiment with the shapes and bake the ware much harder. In 754 the potters first pots and in 1192 they made ware for daily life.

Distination



Aritayaki

Kiyomizuyaki

Kiyomizuyaki is one of the traditional crafts that represent Kyoto. If it is made by potters stone, it's porcelain. If it is made by clay it's earthenware.

It has various kinds of production, such as dyeing,, celadon, dyed uylon and so on. Today Arita is one of the largest places to make porcelains.

Annual Events



※1



December (12/31) (Omisoka)

The day before the New Year, most people spend time with their parents. Many people also eat... toshikoshi soba.

Also, there are many variety TV programs broadcast at this time.

November (11/15) (shichigosan)



※2

Boys who are 3,5, and 7 years old will celebrate 11/15 and wear their Sunday best to worship their patron god. On this day, we eat something called Chitoseame. This is only sold on 11/15, so it is a very rare candy.



※3

July(7/7) (Tanabata)



※4

This festival started from a romantic story. On this day, people write poems and special wishes on colorful strips of paper and eat somen which is a type of noodle.

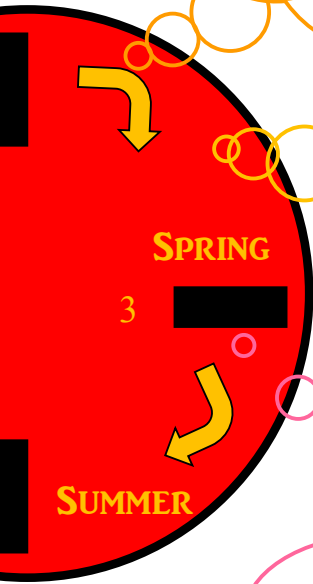


※10



※11





January (1/1) (New Year)



※5

To celebrate the beginning of the year, we eat osechi and watch TV to have fun. You have to be careful not to choke while eating Rice cakes (omochi)!



※6

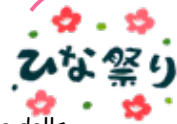
February (2/3)(Setubun)



※7

To prevent the evil spirits from coming into the house, people throw beans in their garden and shout "Devils Out, Luck In!"

March (3/3)(The doll festival)



※8

To wish for luck for girls, people put hina dolls, white sake, hishimochi and peach flowers as offerings to a god.



※9

※1~9 photo by 「イラスト屋」

※10 photo by 「小川忠太郎商店」

※11 photo by 「WANPUG」

Hanami

What is Hanami?

Flower viewing (花見, "*Hanami*") is the Japanese traditional custom of enjoying the transient beauty of flowers. Flowers are called "*Hana*"("花")but in this case, it refers to those of the cherry tree("桜,*Sakura*") or, less frequently, plum ("*ume*") blossom. (Wikipedia)

Culture of Japan

Hanami and *Sakura* appeared at many times in classical Japanese card-game such as a *Hyakunin-Isshu* (an anthology of 100 poems by 100 different poets)

高砂の 尾の上の桜 咲きにけり

The **Sakura** of the top of the mountain in the distance blooms so beautiful.

外山の霞 たたずもあらなむ

I hope it never gets foggy so I can see the *Sakura*.

When is Hanami held?

The **cherry blossom forecast** is a weather forecast illustrating the forecasted blooming dates of cherry blossoms based in various locations of Japan mentions to the advance of the cherry blossoms across Japan. By using the report of Japan Meteorological Agency. This is important because people try to find the best time to go to *Hanami* because of the short blooming period of the *Sakura*.

Sakura

Before enjoying Hanami, it might be helpful to know some types of *Sakura*.



※1

Somei-Yoshino (ソメイヨシノ)

A type of cherry blossom that accounts for 80% of *Sakura* in Japan.



※2

Oshima-Zakura (オオシマザクラ)

A type of cherry blossom which is called the double-flowered cherry tree. Also, it has very pleasant fragrance.



※3

Banriko(バンリコウ)

Generally used as a leaf in Sakura-mochi. (Bean pasted rice cake paste wrapped in a preserved cherry leaf)

※1 photoby 写真素材ばくたそ (www.pakutaso.com)

※2 photo by 茉莉花

※3 このはなさくや図鑑～美しい日本の桜～

<http://www.7b.biglobe.ne.jp/~cerasus/>

Festival

The purpose of Japan's festivals varies from season to season.

- Spring:** It is the season for planting rice. It is the beginning of the year and festivals in spring are times to pray for a good year.
- Summer:** It is the time of heavy rains, landslides, and harmful insects so the festivals in this season are to pray for protection from damage.
- Fall:** It is the time of harvest when the rice is brought in and festivals now focus on appreciating and thanking the gods for a good harvest.
- Winter:** It is the time of cold and so this season's festivals are for withstanding the cold and becoming a more spiritual person. As you can see, festivals are held for many different reasons.

1: Nebuta Festival



※①



※②

The Nebuta Festival is one of the most famous in Japan. The festival is held in Aomori city, Aomori prefecture. The festival starts on the second of August and ends on the seventh. During this festival large floats of famous warriors are carried through the city by teams of people. The floats are called Nebuta. The Nebuta festival was designated one of Japan's Intangible Cultural Folk Properties in 1980.

※①② photo by <https://www.nebuta.or.jp>

2: Sapporo Snow Festival



※③



※④

The Sapporo Snow Festival is one of Japan's most distinct winter festivals. This festival is held in Sapporo, Hokkaido in early February. During the festival around four hundred large sculptures, statues and buildings are made of snow and the public can walk around and look at the amazing sights. The festival started in 1950 when six high school students built six snow statues in Odori park. Since then the festival has grown in size and now regularly features teams from all over the world including a team from Sapporo's sister city of Munich.

※③ photo by ©HBC

※④ photo by ©HTB

The secret to enjoying festivals

To fully understand the festivals of Japan you should be aware of the history and meaning behind them. In this way you can understand the traditions and movements of the festivals more deeply. You should wear the appropriate costume, for example the fundoshi and tabi or the happi coat. Learn the right call, for example "Oisa!" and what to eat. The festival's energy is strong and some people can become overpowered by it. To avoid being carried away focus on just one theme of the festival. Being at the festival should be fun and the atmosphere happy and enjoyable. The atmosphere of a festival is unique and can't be felt anywhere else. Coming into contact with other people, both friends and strangers, helps to strengthen the bonds between people. Festivals are an emotional support for individuals and a time to relax and connect with Japan's culture and people.

RAMEN



- Ramen is eaten all over Japan
- Sapporo: thick noodles in been paste-based soup (Miso)
- Tokyo: noodles in soy sauce-based soup (Syoyu)
- Hokkaido: noodles in salt-based soup (Shio)
- Hakata: pork bone broth with thin noodles (Tonkotsu)

Noodle type and thickness

In Japan, Chinese restaurants were opened in the Meiji period. They soon spread all over Japan in the Taisyo period.



Straight

Thin

Thick



Curly

Thin

Thick

Photo by "シクヤ製麺株式会社"

Soup Types

• Tonkotsu



Soup made with pig bone.

• Syoyu



Soup made from chicken, vegetable and soy sauce.

• Shio



Soup made from chicken, salt and pig bones.

• Miso



The soup made from miso and pig bone soup.

• Torigara



Soup made from chicken bones

Toppings of ramen



Naruto
Fish cake
Photo by “株式会社木村”



Bean sprouts



Red ginger



Takana
Pickles



Egg



Roast pork

- Pepper
- Garlic, and so on



Menma

Bamboo shoot from China.
This is dry boiled fermented bamboo shoot.
It is crisp and crunchy.

Photo by “丸松物産(株)”

Strange instant noodles



Cup noodle

It contained ten times more meat than usual. Many people bought this, so it went out of stock. This noodle made on impression on a lot of people.



Abura Taritemasu?

This is super thick. Believe it or not, it has lard like a mountain. It has arguments for and against.



Ipeichan

This is yakisoba, But it is not common. It has chocolate sauce.

Popular ramen shop in Hiroshima

ICHIRAN



Adress:

Kamiya-tyou2-3-22(Hondori)

TEL: 082-249-5411



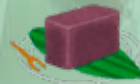
🌸 JAPANESE-STYLE SWEETS 🌸

Japanese-style sweets are traditional sweets in Japan.

They only natural ingredients. Also Japanese-style sweets have a distinct beauty and are seasonal.

Basically, there are three types of Japanese sweets.

① Fresh Japanese sweets →Yohkan



② Half dry sweets →Daifuku



③ Dry sweets →Rice cracker



These three types of Japanese sweets are divided into more and more types.

How to make a rice cracker

Material

→4 table spoons(15cc) of dried shrimp, 200cc of flour ,sugar 2table spoon of sugar, salt, a dash water, 50cc of oil

1. Put everything (except oil) in a bowl.
Knead and collect materials, and arrange them in order.
2. Extend to a rod-shaped and put a wrap on them.
Leave the dough for about one hour at normal temperature.
3. Cut the dough and roll it out.
4. Finally, deep fry it.

History of Japanese-style sweets and tea

In the Kamakura era (about 700 to 800 years ago), a habit of drinking tea was popular among monks. Then in the Muromachi era (400 to 700 years ago), the growth of the samurai lead to the tea ceremony. With the establishment of tea ceremony, Japanese-style sweets developed at the tea ceremony.

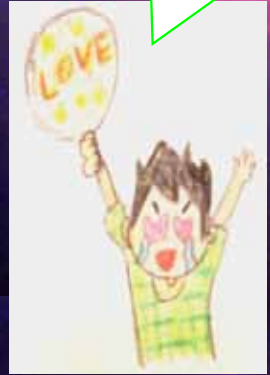
Japanese pops Idols and Otaku



Japanese Idols

Japanese idols are the pop stars who have a large number of enthusiastic fans. They grow up together with their fans. They do this by sharing their activities and lives with their fans.

The fans wave light sticks and cheer for their favorite idol.



Otaku (mania)

Otaku are people who are devotees about things which they are interested in or fond of. Otaku people follow one specific thing with an immense passion. Anime otaku fans are especially well known outside of Japan. However, there are various kinds of otaku.



Train otaku



They take a lot of pictures of trains. They collect real train models too. They are often seen at stations with their cameras.

Cosme otaku



They try to collect various kinds of lip cream, blush and foundation cream. Their hobby is to take care of their skin everyday.

Anime otaku



They love one or more characters in the 2-D world. The item called an “Otaku bag” that has many button badges of anime characters.

Shinkansen (Bullet Train)

[The Past, Present, and the Future of the Bullet Train]

Past

1964	Tokaido Shinkansen began full operation October 1st.
1967	Construction of the Sanyo Shinkansen started.
1972	The Shinkansen reached Okayama Pref.
1975	Shinkansen reached Hakata in Fukuoka Pref.
1982	The Shinkansen arrived and departed Omiya Station temporarily.
1992	Fukushima station and Yamagata station opened for Yamagata Shinkansen.
1997	Morioka Station - Akita Station opened for Akita Shinkansen. Nagano Shinkansen opened up for the first time and started running.
1999	Shinjo Station opened for the first time.
2002	Tohoku Shinkansen reached Hachinohe station.
2004	Kyushu Shinkansen reached Kagoshima-Chuo Station - Shin-Yatsushiro Station

Present

There are 11 Bullet train routes in Japan.



<https://poppo.westjr.co.jp/>

Future

There are two steps when extending Shinkansen lines

- 1) "Basic plan line"
- 2) "Construction plan line"

Also the government is planning to make a line for the Linear motor train for the Chuo Shinkansen in 2020.

<Service>

The cabin crew of Shinkansen are always walking around the car and they sell drinks, alcohol, snacks and sweets from each prefecture. Also you can connect to the Wi-Fi in the Tokaido Shinkansen and Tohoku Shinkansen.

終わりに

このパンフレットを制作するにあたって、私たち日本人でも日本文化について知らないことが、たくさんあることに気づきました。また、日本特有の表現や言葉は、それに対応する英単語を見つけづらく、苦勞しました。ネイティブの先生方の力も借りながら何度も修正して、このパンフレットは完成しました。このプロジェクトは私たちがもう一度日本文化を見つめなおし、魅力を知る良い機会となりました。最後になりますが、これを終わりまで読んでくださった方々、ありがとうございます。少しでも日本文化に興味をもっていただければ幸いです。

Post script

When starting this project, we realized it was so hard for us to explain our own culture to visitors from overseas. Moreover, we struggled translating Japanese into English because some Japanese and English words do not exactly correspond to each other. With the repeated revisions we made and the help of our International English teachers, this brochure was completed. This project gave me a very good opportunity to explore Japanese culture and led me to find its attractiveness again. Thank you all for reading this brochure. It would please me greatly if this brochure helped you understand and take an interest in Japanese culture.

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We hope you enjoyed this booklet.

Please have a nice trip

and make precious memory!

See you again