

Japan!

The people of Japan live in a culture of ancient traditions and modern technologies. The Japanese people ride on the fastest train in the world and produce some of the world's most advanced computers, automobiles, televisions and cameras. At the same time, they have great respect for the traditions handed down to them by their elders. They are known to appreciate beauty and nature, have great respect for older people and strive daily to be polite and peaceful.

Bring the atmosphere of the Japanese culture to your students by providing them with a variety of resource books on Japan. You may want to have them sample some unusual Japanese foods or invite them to participate in a Japanese tea ceremony.

JAPANESE POETRY - HAIKU

For hundreds of years, Japanese poets have written a special form of poetry called "haiku." A haiku is a short verse about nature. There is a special pattern to the number of syllables used in haiku. The first line always contains five syllables, the second line has seven and the third line has five. Ask your students to count the number of syllables in this haiku poem.

The soft warm sunshine
gently opens pink petals
with the hope of peace.

Instruct your students to write their own haiku poems using one of these topics:

raindrops	a pond of water	trees	birds
wind	butterflies	flowers	lightning
the ocean	springtime	honeybees	grass
a garden	fireflies	rabbits	mountains

Have your students make haiku booklets for their poems. Ask them to illustrate their poems on the folded pages.

You will need:

Two pieces of cardboard (3" x 4")	20" of adding machine tape
Enough giftwrap or wallpaper to cover both sides of the cardboard.	A piece of ribbon (20" long)

Cover the two cardboard pieces with gift wrap paper and glue the ribbon to the back of the piece that will become the back cover of the booklet.

Fold the adding machine tape into six equal parts, as shown. Glue the ends to the two pieces of covered cardboard.

When dry, fold the booklet together and tie with a ribbon. Write your own haiku poem inside.

