

The Geography of Japan

Lesson 6: The Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami

© Katie Holmberg with the Japan Society

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Learning Objectives:

- Outline how an earthquake can cause a tsunami.
- Illustrate the sequence of events on the day of the Eastern Japan Great Earthquake Disaster.
- Describe the effects of the Tohoku tsunami.

Curriculum Links:

This unit covers aspects of KS3 National Curriculum in England for Geography relating to:

- Location knowledge
- Place knowledge
- Human and physical geography
- Geographical skills and fieldwork

See the Scheme of Work or National Curriculum for further details:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239087/SECONDARY_national_curriculum_-_Geography.pdf Department for Education (2013).

Keywords:

Anime, manga, earthquake, tsunami, plate boundary, hazard, Tohoku (North-east region), impacts, radiation, nuclear power.

Note to teachers: This lesson can be delivered over one or two lessons.

Lesson 1 Resources:

Presentation: The Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami (Lesson 1)

Worksheets: Timeline, Blank Manga Template, Pre-illustrated Manga Template

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilwBOGcc_ZM ('1:21, footage of the tsunami, external resource, *Guardian News*)

Lesson 2 Resources:

Presentations: The Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami (Lesson 2)

Video: *Music from Fukushima* <https://vimeo.com/521457476/ed672947cf>

Blog Post: *Over and Out* by Anne Kaneko. See worksheet or <http://annekaneko.blogspot.com/>

Additional Resources:

Teacher's Notes: Key Questions about Manga

Lesson 1

Warm up & Starter

- Explain the difference between manga and anime (see presentation slide) and ask students which manga and anime they know of. Students can discuss or write lists in their books. See slide notes for example answers or Key Questions about Manga for more information about manga generally.
- Move on to the starter activity about tsunami formation. Ask students to complete the explanation of how tsunamis are formed by filling in the gaps in the paragraph. There is then an opportunity for self/peer assessment.
- Play the short video clip showing the tsunami that hit the Tohoku region of Japan in 2011. As they watch, ask students to think about the damage it caused and the impact it had.

Estimated Time: 15 minutes

Task 1

- Later in the lesson students will be asked create a manga (comic strip) illustrating the events of the Eastern Japan Great Earthquake Disaster that hit the Tohoku region in 2011. First, set students a think, pair, share activity to consider how manga could be a good medium to share the events and educate people about the disaster.
- Go through the example answers and pick up other ideas from the class.
- To help students with their own manga, now show the work of Fumio Obata which is a comic strip style report of the beginning and responses to the tsunami.

Estimated Time: 10 minutes

Task 2

- Students will now produce their own manga. Give students the timeline of the events (a simplified one on the screen and a more detailed printable version), as well as a manga worksheet. There is a blank version and a pre-illustrated version available (which can be enlarged to A3 if you prefer). Students are encouraged to include data in the captions, as Fumio Obata does in his work.
- Alternatively, students could write a blog entry or series of text messages as if they were in Fukushima at the time of the disaster.

Estimated Time: 25+ minutes

Plenary

Follow this if continuing on to part two of this lesson. If delivering in one lesson, follow the alternative plenary below.

- Facilitate a discussion on the question 'What hazards are we at risk from in the UK?'
- You may wish to brainstorm together as a class or split students into small groups and then feedback.

Estimated Time: 10 minutes

Alternative Plenary

- Students display their work around the classroom in a gallery style exhibition. After looking at everyone else's work, they return to their own and write down one thing they feel they did well and one thing they think they could improve.
- Students could take their work home to produce a final draft.

Estimated Time: 10 minutes

Lesson 2

Warm up & Starter

- Students are shown images of objects that have been broken and then repaired using kintsugi. They are asked to come up with questions about the pictures before information is provided on the following slide that should answer most of their questions.
- For the starter activity, students will consider the long term impacts on survivors and life after the tsunami. Show the clips from the video 'Music from Fukushima' and ask students to write down or discuss how projects like this can help survivors*.

Estimated Time: 15 minutes

Task 1

- Students should continue to work on their manga from the previous lesson. Remind them to include data in their captions and that they are aiming to educate people about the disaster.

- As an extension activity, give students the blog entry by Anne Kaneko, who was living in a small town in Fukushima in 2011. Students should use the blog to add a section to their manga about the long term effects of the disaster and the future.

Estimated Time: 35 minutes

Plenary

- Students are to display their work around the classroom in a gallery style exhibition. After looking at everyone else's work, they return to their own and write down one thing that they feel they did well and one thing they think they could improve.
- Students could take their work home to produce a final draft of their work.

Estimated Time: 10 minutes

**The Fukushima Youth Sinfonietta welcome opportunities to work with students in the UK. If you are interested in getting in touch visit the [Keys of Change website](#) or email education@japansociety.org.uk*