

Lesson Nine



National Curriculum Guidelines for MFL

- 2a Children will examine New Year cards and then create their own
- 2b Children will examine the British custom of card exchange and compare it to the Japanese paying close attention to the similarities and differences.
- 3a Children will investigate the interrelationship of sounds and writing – learning how to write the numbers in Japanese.

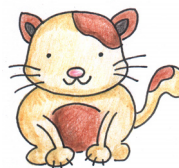
National Curriculum Guidelines for Music

- 5e Children will investigate a range of music from different cultures (Japan).

Starter (15 minutes)

- Use the kobutanukitsuneko presentation/ flashcards and show the children a picture of the following animals. The Japanese teacher should carefully pronounce each of the words and the children repeat five times. You may also wish to use the soundfiles:

neko	ねこ	cat
kobuta	こぶた	piglet
tanuki	たぬき	raccoon
kitsune	きつね	fox



kaeru かえる *frog (for Y5/6 option)*

- Once children have been introduced to the above animal words, they will be taught the following song: 'kobuta, tanuki, kitsune, neko'. (See website link at the end of the presentation for the tune and also the worksheet which has the songwords). Briefly discuss the onomatopoeia that these animals make. (pig - **bubu**, racoon - pon poko pon (the sound he makes as he hits his big belly) fox - konkon, cat - **nyao**).

Note: This song may be a little simple for Years 5 and 6, so the song could perhaps just be touched on briefly. As an alternative, they may wish to try singing 'kaeru no uta - かえるの歌'. This song still includes animal onomatopoeia, but is slightly more complex in that it can be sung as a round. (See worksheet for score).

Main (25 minutes)

- When it's Christmas time in the UK, what do most people exchange with one another? (gifts, cards etc). What about for other festivals you may celebrate (such as Eid, Hannukah etc)? Explain briefly that although Christmas is celebrated in Japan, it is not a national holiday and that for most Japanese people, New Year is the big celebration. (See Culture Notes for further explanation). Show children a New Year card (on the New Year Card presentation) and explain that on January 1st every year, most people will exchange cards with friends and colleagues.

- Hand out a selection of cards to each table (can be printed from the presentation, or use the worksheet) and have children make comments. What can you see? Is there any writing? What do you think it might say? Are there any pictures/ photos? What are they of? Why do you think there might be an animal on the cards?
- Very briefly explain the Chinese zodiac and ask children what this year is. What will next year be? Using the chart (see worksheet), can children work out what animal represents the year they were born?
- Children should design their own New Year card, either using the card templates provided or by making a digital card. Have children included a picture and appropriate message in their designs? See the New Year's resources on the Japan Society website for further New Year's activities and ideas:
<https://www.japansociety.org.uk/resource?resource=11>



Plenary (5 minutes)

Children show their New Year cards to one another and then learn how to say 'Happy New Year!' – akemashite omedeto! The Japanese teacher could then write this in hiragana on the board and children could copy it onto their cards, along with their names in Japanese. They could also try using kanji to write the year. (If you decide to design the cards during the ICT session, then children could simply practise writing their New Year greetings in the Japanese lesson and put them on to the finished product at a later date).

Extension:

To refresh the numbers before writing them on the New Year cards, either you, or the Japanese teacher starts counting aloud in Japanese – 'ichi, ni, san'. S/he then stops counting aloud and instead starts clapping. Each clap represents a number. Children should continue counting in their heads. When the teacher stops clapping, are the children able to state what the next number will be? Variations could include counting up in twos, threes etc!

Equipment:

kobutanukitsuneko song words, kaeru no uta song words, New Year cards worksheet/ New Year cards template, Chinese zodiac chart, Desk Top Publisher (or similar) New Year culture notes. Presentations: New Year Cards, kobutanukitsuneko