

## Japan: Seasonal Series

### June Rainy Season

The Japan Society with Katy Simpson (2019)

#### Learning Objectives:

- To learn about the seasons and weather in Japan and some similarities and differences to the UK.
- To develop knowledge about the customs and crafts inspired by the rainy season in Japan.
- To understand the importance of onomatopoeia, rhymes and folk songs in Japan.

#### Learning Outcomes:

- Pupils will learn about the weather and understand the importance of the rainy season in Japan.
- Pupils will create their own version of the Japanese craft, Teru Teru Bozu (Sunshine Dolls).

#### Curriculum Links:

National Curriculum Guidelines for MFL Key Stage 2:

- Explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words.
- Appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the Japanese language.

National Curriculum Guidelines for Geography Key Stage 1:

- Compare local area to a non-European country
- Identify seasonal weather patterns in the UK and the location of hot and cold areas of the world

#### Keywords:

Tsuyu (つゆ)	Rainy Season	Go-ro go-ro (ゴロゴロ)	a rumble of thunder
Za za (ザザ)	sudden, heavy rain	Pi-ka pi-ka (ピカピカ)	a flash of lightning
Shi-to shi-to (シトシト)	drizzling rain	Pa-ra pa-ra (パラパラ)	a light sprinkle of rain
Teru Teru Bozu (てるてるぼうず)	Sunshine Dolls		

#### Resources:

- Rainy Season Background Notes
- Tissue paper and pens
- Video: [How to Make Teru Teru Bozu](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKOCChs_fKc4) ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKOCChs\\_fKc4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKOCChs_fKc4))
- PowerPoint: Rainy Season

#### Additional Resources:

- See YouTube for [Teru Teru Bozu Song](#)
- Onomatopoeia cards

## Task 1: Japanese Seasons

1. Discuss seasons in the country of the children. How many seasons are there? What is the weather like in each season? Which months do we usually get the most rain?

2. Introduce the seasons and weather in Japan using the **Rainy Season PowerPoint**. Explain that Japan has a clear rainy season June-July where it rains almost every day.
3. Ask the pupils if they know any rhymes associated with rain. Ask how many different ways of describing rain they can think of? Brainstorm as a class or set a think/share/pair activity.

**Estimated Time: 10-15 minutes**

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## Task 2: Japanese Onomatopoeia

1. Introduce the concept of onomatopoeia and explain that there are lots of descriptive words in (onomatopoeia) in Japanese for weather.
2. Show students the Japanese words on the PowerPoint slide and ask them to guess which type of weather they match. You can give hints. You can do this activity as a class or give a set of **onomatopoeia cards** to each pair or small group of students.
3. Give the pupils the correct answers:
  - a. Za za = sudden, heavy rain (*zah-zah*)
  - b. Pa-ra pa-ra = light sprinkle of rain (*pa-rah pa-rah*)
  - c. Shi-to shi-to = drizzling rain (*she-toh she-toh*)
  - d. Go-ro go-ro = a rumble of thunder (*go-roh go-roh*)
  - e. Pi-ka pi-ka = a flash of lightning (*pee-kah pee-kah*)

**Estimated Time: 10 minutes**

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## Task 3: Make Rain Dolls

1. Explain that in Japan there is an old tradition in the Rainy Season for children to make Sunshine Dolls called Teru Teru Bozu and show the image in the PowerPoint. Explain the origins and meaning of Teru Teru Bozu using the **Rainy Season Background Notes**.
2. You may like to play the Japanese folk song Teru Teru Bozu with English subtitles:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnXl9jNy7o0&t=71s>
3. Students can have a go at making their own Teru Teru Bozu using the **How to Make Teru Teru Bozu Video**.
4. Once they have finished their doll, you might want to get them to hang it up or hold them up whilst playing the song.

**Estimated Time: 20 minutes**

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## Extension Activities

1. For students who are learning Japanese, pupils can match the katakana **onomatopoeia cards** as well as the English and rōmaji cards. They could also try to follow the lyrics of the Teru Teru Bozu song in Japanese: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnxMcNPE3Z4>
2. Play a popular children's card game in Japanese game called Karuta using the **onomatopoeia cards**. Students must sit in their pairs with the cards laid on the table in front of them and their hands on their head. When the teacher calls out the Japanese word, they must try to be the first to grab the card on the table that has the English translation e.g. if teacher calls 'Pi-ka, pi-ka' the student must grab 'A flash of lightning.' You also do this also the other way around, e.g. if teacher calls 'A flash of lightning' then they will have to try and grab the 'Pi-ka pi-ka' card. The game continues until all the words have been called and the student with the most cards is the winner.