

Japan's Seasons

Lesson Plan

Learning Objectives:

- To learn what spring, summer, autumn, and winter in Japan are like
- To identify key features of the four seasons in Japan

Key Words:

Seasons, Weather, Nature, Food, Festival, Celebration

Resources:

Lesson Plan

PowerPoint Presentation – Japan's Seasons

Activity - Picture Cards, Challenge Cards (Text Only)

Additional Resources:

The Japan Society has lesson plans, presentations and activities linked to Japan's major festivals and seasonal celebrations. See our Seasonal Resources page for more information:

<https://www.japansociety.org.uk/resource?resource=97>

Please note that the PowerPoint presentation for this resource contains Teacher's Notes underneath each of the slides. To view these, click on the Notes icon on the bar on the bottom of the screen.

STARTER

- **Slide 1:** Show pupils the image of Mount Fuji and prompt questions for example: what can you see? Where do you think this is? Is it somewhere nearby or far away? What words would you use to describe this? When do you think this picture was taken? What season do you think it is?
- **Slide 2:** The following slide has a similar picture instead taken during the peak of autumn. You can use this to prompt further discussion or skip through.
- **Slides 3-5:** Introduce the topic, key words, and Learning Objectives of today's lesson.

Estimated Time: 5 – 10 minutes

MAIN LEARNING

- **Slides 6-8** contain a few key facts that can help provide pupils with a foundational understanding. If your pupils have already learned about Japan previously, you could use these slides to re-cap what pupils already know and remember.
- **Slide 9:** To further immerse pupils in the lesson, you could role-play taking your trip to Japan, i.e., pretending to fasten seatbelts, taking off, steering the plane, landing, etc. Once you have landed, ask pupils to think: what can we see? What can we do?
- From here, the PowerPoint will explore various key features and characteristics of Japan's four seasons (in order of spring, summer, autumn, and winter). This includes food, nature, celebrations, festivals, and other activities that are commonly associated with each season. Slides 10-17 cover spring (haru), slides 18-25 cover summer (natsu), slides 26-32 cover autumn (aki), and slides 33-42 cover winter (fuyu).
- **Please note that underneath each slide there are Teacher's Notes that contain key information as well as discussion points/questions to ask the class.**
- Encourage pupils to think about the seasons in Japan and consider whether these aspects are similar or different to the UK.

Estimated Time: 10 – 15 minutes

REFLECTION

- **Slide 43:** Before moving onto the main activity of the lesson, ask pupils to discuss the question with their partner or as a group, before feeding back and sharing thoughts/ideas as a class.
- You could also encourage pupils to think about whether they think the seasons in Japan are similar or different to the UK. **What similarities do we share? What are the differences?**
- Eg: A key similarity could be that we see similar flowers and nature in the UK and Japan – have pupils seen a cherry blossom tree before? Do you have one at your school? A key difference you could mention is that firework festivals take place in the summer in Japan, whereas in the UK, we typically see fireworks in November for Bonfire Night!

Estimated Time: 5 minutes

MAIN ACTIVITY

- **Slide 44:** Introduce the main activity for today's lesson. Sort pupils into groups or pairs, and hand out the picture cards (these should ideally be cut up ahead of the activity). Pupils must sort the cards into groups based on Japan's seasons; there are six pictures for each season. (If the 4 seasons cards on page 1 of the PDF are printed in A3 size, students can place their cards on top in piles).
- Challenge task: Once pupils have sorted the picture cards, distribute the key words cards (including some Japanese vocabulary) and ask pupils to sort these into the correct groups based on Japan's seasons.
- Alternative game task: For this game, pupils will each need a "board" with the 4 seasons' names (page 1 of the activity cards PDF). Place all the picture cards in a pile, face down in the middle of the group. Pupils take it turns to pick a picture card from the pile and place it on their board in the appropriate seasonal spot. If they already have a card in that spot, they should put it back at the bottom of the pile. The game ends when a player fills all 4 spots with a correct season card.

Estimated Time: 10 – 15 minutes

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- **Slide 46:** To extend your learning, design and make a seasonal postcard that represents one of Japan's four seasons. See the PowerPoint presentation for simple examples.
 - Alternatively, we have a range of resources that further explore some of Japan's many seasonal celebrations and festivals that include a variety of related activities. Visit the resource page for more details: <https://www.japansociety.org.uk/resource?resource=97>
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