

The World Heritage Photo Panels from Japan: Two Thousand Years of Legacies Educator's Guide



NOTE TO THE EDUCATOR

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About the Exhibit

The main characteristic of the world heritage sites in Japan is that many of them are supported by the country's diverse natural environment and its climate with four seasons, for which there are few equals in the world. There are also sites such as the Atomic Bomb Dome (Hiroshima Peace Memorial), which remind us of the negative legacy that should never be forgotten. Among the sites of historical cultural heritage, there are many buildings influenced by the unique sensitivities of the Japanese people, and in experiencing the precision and the dynamic design, we obtain great insight into the mindset of the Japanese people and the roots of their culture.

Currently, 14 sites in Japan have been deemed World Heritage Sites under UNESCO's World Heritage Convention. These include the Shirakami-Sanchi Mountain Range, Yaku-shima Island, Himeji-jo Castle, and the Buddhist monuments of the Horyu-ji Temple area.

The exhibit was created by the Japan Foundation, New York. It features 63 photographs of World Heritage sites in Japan taken by Japanese photographer Kazuyoshi Miyoshi. Japan is one of 168 countries that signed the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's World Heritage Convention, pledging to the world that they will preserve for future generations the cultural and natural legacies of world with conspicuous and universal value. Today, there are 851 World Heritage sites in 135 nations.

Meet the Photographer

Kazuyoshi Miyoshi

Born in Tokushima in 1958, Miyoshi graduated from Tokai University's School of Letters in 1981. Shortly after graduation, he founded his own photo agency named *Rakuen* (meaning paradise) because of his love of capturing images of paradise that began on a trip to Okinawa when he was 13. He has since traveled to places as far as Tahiti, the Maldives, the Sahara, the Himalayas and Antarctica.

Miyoshi has been a prolific exhibitor since his first exhibition in the Nikon Salon in Ginza as a high school student, and at the age of 27 his published work *Rakuen* received the Kimura Ihe-e Award. His recent works also include Japanese landscapes such as those of Yoshino, Mt Fuji and the island of Yakushima. Some of his works can be found in the permanent collection of the George Eastman House International Museum of Photography & Film in New York and the Japan Foundation has purchased 17 sets of his collection entitled *World Heritage Sites in Japan*, which comprises 63 images and currently has an exhibition touring worldwide. His recent awards include the Fujimoto Shihachi Shashin Bunka Award (2004) and works from his collection *Shikoku 88-kasho* (88 Holy Sites of Shikoku Pilgrimage) have been featured on Japanese postage stamps.

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Japan

Background Information

Geography

Japan is a crescent-shaped archipelago of four large and more than a thousand small islands. It is situated in northeastern Asia between the North Pacific and the Sea of Japan. The large islands are Hokkaido, the northernmost; Honshu, the largest; Shikoku; and Kyushu. The combined area of the islands is about 145,000 square miles, which is larger than the state of California or the country of Italy.

Japan is bordered on the north by the Sea of Okhotsk, on the east by the Pacific Ocean, and on the west by the Tsushima Strait, the Sea of Japan, and the East China Sea. No part of Japan is more than one hundred miles from the sea. Most of the land is mountainous, leaving only the coastal areas for large cities, industrial development, and farming.

Because of Japan's location in an unstable area of the Earth's crust, earthquakes and tremors occur there frequently. Undersea quakes can cause destructive tidal waves called *tsunami*. Some volcanic mountains are still active, and there are many hot springs, which Japanese people use for recreational and medicinal purposes.

Religion

Japanese Religions are an amazing assemblage of various traditions with a history going back over two thousand years. This diversity of religions has integrated distinctive carnivals, celebrations, and holy writings and even adapted some of them to Christian ideas and religious practices. Japanese religion also has had a great and significant influence in the development of the Japanese history of civilization. The most striking point related to Japanese religion is that a large number of Japanese are devoted to more than one religious tradition.

Commonly, Japanese religion is infused with natural manifestations of Japan's geological location and nature. Religion in Japan has been immensely influenced from other Asian religions, especially those of China and Korea. As a result, the most eminent religions in Japan are Shinto and Buddhism, but the array of religions also includes Confucianism, Islam and Christianity.

Shinto

Shinto (literally 'the way of the gods') is Japan's native belief system and predates historical records. The many practices, attitudes, and institutions that have developed to make up Shinto revolve around the Japanese land and seasons and their relation with the human inhabitants. Expressions of Shinto beliefs toward nature include the recognition of a divine spirit (kami) in venerable old trees, large mountains, and tall waterfalls, as well as celebrations of the highlights of each season. Traditionally, Shinto also involves purification rites and customs to overcome the polluting effects of death and decay. However, Shinto does not espouse a moral code, lacks formal religious scriptures, and does not conceive of a life after death.

The introduction of Buddhism to Japan did not cause the abandonment of Shinto. Instead, the pantheons of both religions were expanded so that Buddhist figures adopted complementary Shinto identities and Shinto kami were thought to strive toward Buddhist enlightenment. In this way, new converts to Buddhism were not obliged to abandon their traditional beliefs, and Buddhism was able to appeal to a wide range of people.

Buddhism

According to tradition, the founder of Buddhism was born in 563 B.C.E. in the region that is now southern Nepal. He was born a prince, named Siddhartha, 'he who achieves his goal', and also known as Shakyamuni, 'sage of the Shakya clan'. Siddhartha, having been shielded from the knowledge of poverty, sadness, sickness, aging, and death, one day happened to wander and see an old man, a sick man, and a dead man. Realizing that suffering is the lot of most humans, Siddhartha left his palace, renouncing his princely life, and set out to find the cause of human suffering. He became a wandering monk. After years of searching, he found his answer—his awakening—and proceeded to teach others. When he died, he attained nirvana, the final release from earthly suffering, and became the Buddha -'the awakened or enlightened one'. After his death, the Buddha's teachings were written down by his followers who spread his message. These texts are called sutras. An organized religion began to take form, and with time new branches of Buddhism emerged.

Buddhism, like most of the great religions of the world, is divided into a number of different traditions. However, most traditions share a common set of fundamental beliefs. One fundamental belief of Buddhism is often referred to as reincarnation – the concept that people are reborn after dying. In fact, most individuals go through many cycles of birth, living, death and rebirth. A practicing Buddhist differentiates between the concepts of rebirth and reincarnation. In reincarnation, the individual may recur repeatedly. In rebirth, in a person does not necessarily return to Earth as the same entity ever again. He compares it to a leaf growing on a tree. When the withering leaf falls off, a new leaf will eventually replace it. It is similar to the old leaf, but it is not identical to the original leaf. After many such cycles, if a person releases their attachment to desire and the self, they can attain Nirvana. This is a state of liberation and freedom from suffering.

Zen Buddhism

Zen is the Japanese development of the school of Mahayana Buddhism that originated in China as Chan Buddhism. While Zen practitioners trace their beliefs to India, its emphasis on the possibility of sudden enlightenment and a close connection with nature derive from Chinese influences. Chan and Zen, which mean 'meditation', emphasize individual meditative practice to achieve self-realization and, thereby, enlightenment. Rather than rely on powerful deities, Zen stresses the importance of the role of a teacher, with whom a disciple has a heart-mind connection. This allows the teacher to offer the student helpful assistance in his spiritual development. Zen also values intuition instead of habitual, logical thinking and developed expressionistic and suggestive (rather than explicit and descriptive) painting styles and poetic forms as well as illogical conundrums (koan) to stimulate one's intuition. While Zen was first introduced into Japan several centuries earlier, it did not become firmly established until the thirteenth century, when the warrior class began to favor this school of thought.

Architecture

The distinctive feature of a traditional Japanese building is the way in which the house is open to nature. The main materials used are wood, earth, and paper, and the construction spreads out sideways rather than upwards. One of the features of Japanese houses is the tremendous variety of roof styles, depending on the locality and the occupation of the owner. These styles can, however, be classified roughly into three styles called Yosemune, Kirizuma and Irimoya. Various materials are used in the construction of roofs, including wheat straw, bamboo, tiles, stone, galvanized iron, and aluminum.

Recently, Japanese cities have come to look like those of Europe because of the increase in the number of prefabricated and ferroconcrete buildings. However, the style of building that is best suited to the Japanese climate and natural conditions is probably still the traditional wooden house.

Gardens

The Japanese garden is designed to be a faithful representation of nature and to impart a sense of simple, unspoiled beauty. Its style therefore contrasts with that of a Western garden, which relies on shaping nature into a kind of geometrical beauty. There are three main styles of Japanese garden: Tsukiyama, Karesansui, and Chaniwa. The Tsukiyama style garden is arranged to show nature in miniature, with hills, ponds and streams. The Karesansui style of garden developed in the Muromachi Era as a representation of Zen spiritualism. In this style, sand or gravel is used to represent rivers or the sea. It is characterized by its force and simplicity. The Chaniwa is the garden adjacent to a ceremonial teahouse. This style of garden avoids any suggestion of showiness and strives for the utmost simplicity and naturalness.

Castles

Castles in Japan underwent their most intensive phase of development in the Sengoku (Warring States) era from the 15th to the 16th century. Built with the objective of keeping the enemy out, they are elaborate in design and strongly fortified. Their magnificent architecture also served to demonstrate the power of the joshu, or lord of the castle.

Shinto Shrines

The jinja, or shrine, is where believers in Japan's indigenous religion, Shinto, go to worship. The main sanctuary of a shrine is called the Shinden or Honden. There are also ancillary buildings such as the Haiden, or outer hall, and the Homotsuden, or treasury, but these are not arranged according to any particular specified layout. There are many lucky charms and other such objects to be seen at a shrine. Some are used to determine the will of the gods and some as a way of communicating with the gods and asking for their protection. The chief priest of a shrine is called the Kannushi. He is responsible for all the religious observances and the running of the shrine. The young female assistants in a shrine are called Miko. In ancient times, it was believed that people died when the soul left the body. To try and call it back, they used a form of magic called Kagura, which involved dancing and playing flutes and drums. This became formalized and developed into Noh and Kyogen.

Buddhist Temples

If you want to see the typical classical architecture of Japan, there is no better place to go than one of its many Buddhist temples. These temples, with their images of the Buddha, were established for the practice and propagation of the Buddhist religion, which originally came from India. The layout of the temple buildings differs depending on the particular Buddhist sect and the period, and the names of the buildings themselves are also different. The most important buildings in the temple are the main hall and the pagoda. Worshippers stand in the outer chamber facing the inner sanctuary, with its images of the Buddha, to pray, pressing their palms together. In India, the temple building, which houses what are said to be the remains of the Buddha, is called a stupa. In its passage to Japan via China and Korea, this type of building changed its shape and became the five-storied pagoda of the typical Japanese temple. The Bonsho is the Buddhist temple bell. It is struck 108 times on New Year's Eve to ring in the New Year and drive out the 108 evil desires that man possess.

Geography of Japan

Lesson Overview:

This lesson will enable students to develop basic knowledge of Japan's physical geography including absolute and relative location, factors contributing to climate, and temperature comparisons with the United States.

Grade Level: 6-8

Subjects: Geography, Social Studies

TEKS:

Social Studies:

113.8 A (1) History. Students study people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. Societies for study are from the following regions of the world: Europe, Russia and the Eurasian republics, North America, Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Southwest Asia-North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific realm. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies and identify the locations and geographic characteristics of various societies.

113.8 B (2) History. The student understands the influences of individuals and groups from various cultures on various historical and contemporary societies.

113.8 B (3) Geography. The student uses geographic tools to answer geographic questions.

113.8 B (4) Geography. The student understands the factors that influence the locations and characteristics of locations of various contemporary societies on maps and globes and uses latitude and longitude to determine absolute locations.

113.8 B (6) Geography. The student understands that geographical patterns result from physical environmental processes

113.8 B (15) Culture. The student understands the similarities and differences within and among cultures in various world societies.

Objectives

- Identify major geographical features of Japan
- Interpret Japan's geographical location with reference to the United States

Materials

Copies of Activity Page -'Mapping It Out', Maps of the world, Japan, and the United States (you might also use the atlas section of your social studies book), pens, pencils, colored markers, crayons, Mapping Skills Rubric

Procedure

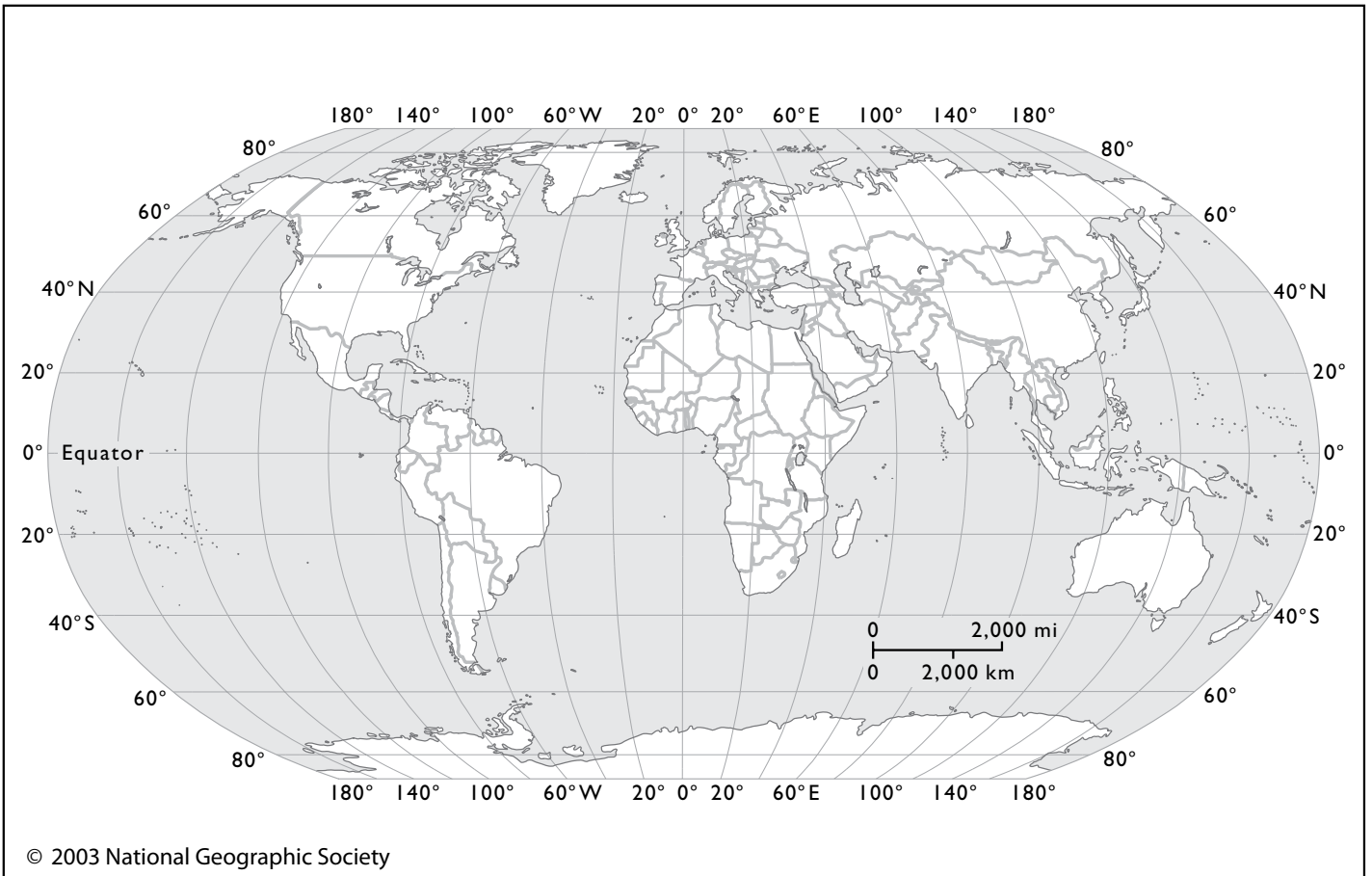
1. Introduce the lesson by asking the students the following question: “How do you think Japan’s geography is similar or different than that of the United States?” Have them discuss their thoughts on this.
2. Ask students to describe Japan’s location in the world relative to the United States. Answers may vary, but students will probably conclude that the Japanese chain of islands is a great distance from the United States and close to the larger land mass of Asia.
3. Give each student a copy of Activity Page, ‘Mapping It Out’, and other maps you have collected. Using Background Information as a guide, tell your students that Japan consists of a chain of mountainous islands that cover more than one thousand miles from north to south. Emphasize that only relatively small coastal areas of Japan are suitable for settlement and farming and that there is a great variation in climate from north to south.
4. Direct your students to Activity Page. Ask them to estimate the distance between the west coast of the United States and Japan using the provided inset map of the world or maps in their social studies books or atlases. (Be sure to stress the importance of a map’s scale in determining distance.) Students should conclude that Japan is about 6,200 miles from the West Coast of the United States. Have them measure its distance from the coast of Asia. To place the measurements in perspective, have students determine distances between their community and diverse parts of the United States as well as between different points on the island chain.
5. Ask your students to complete the map of Japan included in Activity Page by placing the names of the selected islands, bodies of water, and cities in the correct locations. (Younger students might enjoy coloring the landforms and bodies of water.) When your students have finished the activity, ask them to think about whether an island location might affect the culture of people. How do people overcome geographic barriers? (Consider related issues such as trade and language).Mention that traditional Japanese culture incorporated both indigenous elements and cultural influences from China and other areas of the Asian mainland. Also note that the sea is an important resource to island peoples, both as a source of food and as a natural means of transportation.
6. Evaluate students’ maps using the [Mapping Skills Rubric](#).

Activity Page

Mapping It Out

Directions: Locate the following features on the map

Major Islands	Major Bodies of Water	Nearby Countries	Selected Cities
Honshu Kyushu Shikoku Hokkaido Okinawa Ryukyu Islands	Pacific Ocean Sea of Japan Sea of Okhotsk East China Sea	Russia China North Korea South Korea	Tokyo Yokohoma Kyoto Osaka Nagoya Sapporo





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Mapping Skills Rubric

Score	Information Accuracy	Task Completion	Neatness Spelling
4	100 % accurate	100% done	Neat, no errors
3	75% accurate	75% done	Not very neat, 1-2 errors
2	50% accurate	50% done	Not very neat, 3-4 errors
1	25% accurate	25% done	Not neat, 5-7 errors
0	Not done	Not done	Not done
Total Score: Possible Points: 12 points (equals 100%)			

World Heritage Sites in Japan

The main characteristic of the world heritage sites in Japan is that many of them are supported by the country's diverse natural environment and its climate with four seasons. There are also sites such as the Atomic Bomb Dome (Hiroshima Peace Memorial), which remind us of the negative legacy that should never be forgotten. Among the sites of historical cultural heritage, there are many buildings influenced by the unique sensitivities of the Japanese people, and in experiencing the precision and the dynamic design, we obtain great insight into the mindset of the Japanese people and the roots of their culture.

Shiretoko, Hokkaido

Shiretoko, a new natural heritage site registered in July 2005, is considered to be the last pristine wilderness remaining in Japan. Shiretoko is a long narrow peninsula located in north-eastern Hokkaido. The volcanic Shiretoko mountain range runs down the center of the peninsula and includes the highest peak of the range, Rausu-dake and the active volcano Iouyama. The Sea of Okhotsk lies on the western side of the range and the Nemuro Straits on the eastern side. The coastline cliffs facing the Sea of Okhotsk rise up more than 328 ft high, and you can glimpse waterfalls large and small cascading directly into the sea, and colonies of seabirds.



Sea Ice

The salmon and trout that breed in the sea off Shiretoko are an important food resource supporting the terrestrial ecosystem with rare birds such as Blakiston's fish owl, Steller's sea eagle and the white-tailed sea eagle, as well as brown bears. The Shiretoko ecosystem is a dramatically clear example of the linkage between marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and it is considered an important wildlife reserve, with unique features unlike any other in the world.

Shirakami-sanchi Mountain Range, Aomori

The Shirakami-sanchi Mountain range is located on the border between Aomori and Akita Prefectures. Its highest peak, Mt. Mukaishirakami, is 4,102 ft above sea level. The mountains are home to the world's last remaining forest of virgin Siebold beeches- a very rare species of tree.

One of the main features of the Shirakami-sanchi area is the rough mountainous landscape cut through with deep gorges by its numerous rivers. The area is peppered with valleys and waterfalls including the Mase Valley, Anmon Falls and Dairakyo Gorge and attracts many anglers and trekkers. It is also home to some of the most unique plants in the world, as well as rare animals including a protected species of dormouse, the black woodpecker, Japanese serow and golden eagle.



Shirakami-sanchi Mountain Range

Yaku-shima Island, Kagoshima

Yaku-shima is a mountainous island located between the subtropics and temperate zone. Its lofty mountain ranges tower well above 3280 ft, and Mt. Miyanoura is the tallest mountain in Kyushu. Winter snowfalls deliver a generous blanket of snow over the mountain peaks of Yaku-shima, while the beaches below stay virtually frostless. Flora intrinsic of different climates is also abundant on Yaku-shima, and in fact the entire vegetation diversity of the Japanese archipelago is represented. It is Japan's northernmost island with mangroves, and its southernmost island with deciduous trees such as chestnut trees and oaks, and coniferous trees such as Japanese cedars, Japanese red pines, and firs. Even sub-alpine plant species can be found on the mountain peaks.



Yaku-shima Island

The term Yakusugi (Japanese cedar), the symbol of Yakushima, is used only for cedar trees over 1000 years old. Yakusugi growing in the area covered by clouds and mist sometimes extend roots even from the leaves and stalks and form themselves into strange shapes. A cedar discovered in 1996 is assumed to be the largest and the oldest in the world, and is called Jomonsugi.

Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto

Kyoto flourished as the capital of Japan for as long as 1000 years after 794. Thirteen temples, 3 shrines and the Nijo Castle are all registered as world heritage sites.

Kiyomizu-dera Temple was built by Sakanoue Tamuramaro (758-811), a military commander and Enchin monk, and is one of the best sightseeing places in Kyoto. Among its many interesting features, the most famous is the Kiyomizu-no-butai (main hall's wooden veranda). It is supported by 139 pillars and built as though projected on to the mountain slope. It is said that if you jump from this veranda and survive with no injuries, your wishes will be fulfilled and if you die, you will become a peaceful saint. For a long time there seemed to be no end to the people willing to jump from there and in order to stop this phenomenon, the government enacted a law in 1872 to prohibit jumping.



Kiyomizu-dera Temple

Rokuon-ji Temple, commonly known as Kinkaku-ji or Golden Pavilion, was constructed in 1224 as a second house for an aristocrat. Later, Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu (1358-1408) took it over as his residence, and after his death, it was converted into a temple. This 3-tiered building facing the pond is a rare construction with each successive tier designed in a different style. Its stunning image embossed with gold leaf and reflected in the pond, is indescribable. The famous novel



Rokuon-ji Temple

'Kinkaku-ji' by Yukio Mishima (1925-1970) is based on an incident in 1950 when a young monk, obsessed by the temple's beauty, set fire to it and burnt it down.

Ryoan-ji Temple is a well known for its Sekitei rock garden. There are no ponds or other water features in this garden; natural water scenery is expressed using stones and gravel. The simple forms with lines in white gravel made by sweeping with a broom, and 15 large and small stones set at 5 points, symbolizes formal Japanese beauty, in which all superfluity is eliminated. There is also a bit of playfulness in the design as one of the 15 stones is always hidden behind another stone no matter from which angle the garden is viewed, which fascinates the tourists.



Ryoan-ji Temple

There are many other sightseeing points registered as world heritage sites apart from Kiyomizu-dera Temple, Kinkaku-ji Temple and Ryoan-ji Temple in Kyoto. All of these heritage sites convey Japanese history and culture and offer many highlights that you should not miss.

The Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara

The central monument is the Heijokyo-ato (Imperial Palace), the site of a royal palace in the present-day city of Nara. This is where the emperor resided and various government offices were located when Heijokyo of Nara was designated the capital in 710. After the capital was transferred to Heiankyo (present-day Kyoto) in 794, Heijokyo was temporarily turned over for use as farmland; after, however, influential temples and shrines including Kofukuji and Todaiji were erected and the area was again developed as 'a capital of temples and shrines'. The palace site was discovered in 1889.



Heijo-kyu Palace site

The 'Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara' include 6 temples: Todai-ji, Kasuga-Taisha, Kofuku-ji, Yakushiji, Toshodai-ji and Gangou-ji. Todai-ji Temple was built by order of Emperor Shomu (ruling from 724 to 749) in order to protect the country. The 48-foot-high Great Buddha in the Daibutsuden (Great Buddha Hall) symbolizes Nara, and his pose of holding up the palm of his right hand to the front while placing his left hand on his knee with the palm upwards means that he gives strength to the people with his right hand while promising to grant their wishes with his left. The main body of the Buddha has been repaired many times over the years, but the lotus petal part used as the foundation and both legs are as they were when first made. The building, reconstructed in the Edo era, is the largest-scale ancient wooden building in the world.



Toda-ji Temple

Himeji-jo Castle, Hyogo

Himeji-jo Castle is nicknamed Shirasagi-jo (White Heron Castle). Its white appearance with white plaster coating looks like a dancing Shirasagi (Egret) with wings spread. It was spared from damage during the war and from many other disasters and is in a remarkably preserved state compared to other castles. Seventy-four structures within the castle site including a tower and gate are designated as important cultural assets of Japan.

The construction of Himeji-jo Castle dates back to the early 3rd decade of the 14th century during the reign of Norimura Akamatsu. Built as a fort by this ruler of Harima District in Himeji region, it was modified into a three storied castle by Hideyoshi Toyotomi in 1580. Subsequently in 1601, Terumasa Ikeda, son-in-law of Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa, rebuilt the castle by adding two towers to the existing three storied tower. He also constructed three additional smaller towers. Further constructions were made during the inheritance of the Honda dynasty around 1618. Subsequently the Himeji-jo Castle of Japan was owned by the Matsudaira, Sakakibara, and Sakai families till 1868 when the feudal system collapsed.



Himeji-jo Castle

Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome) and Itsukushima Shinto Shrine

The Genbaku Dome is the ruin of the former Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall that was destroyed when the first nuclear weapon/atomic bomb in human history was dropped by an American air force bomber on August 6, 1945. Because the atomic blast was almost directly above this spot, the walls of the building were partially spared from destruction, and the characteristic form of the building remained with the iron frame of the dome. This building representing Hiroshima, the first city to fall victim to nuclear bombing is registered as a world heritage site as a symbol of prayer for permanent world peace and the elimination of all nuclear weapons. There are only a few world heritage sites having this kind of negative side, including Auschwitz, Birkenau Concentration Camp in Poland, where the Nazi Germans slaughtered Jewish people; the Island of Goree in Senegal that was used as a base in the slave trade, and Robben Island in Republic of South Africa, where people opposed to apartheid were imprisoned. These sites are registered to remind us of the tragedies that occurred there and to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.



Genabaku Dome



Itsukushima Shinto Shrine

On the opposite bank of the Motoyasu River that runs past the Genbaku Dome, is the Peace Memorial Park where you will find the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Atomic Bomb Memorial Mound, Children's Peace Monument and a cenotaph for atomic bomb victims. In front of the Hiroshima Peace City Monument in Peace Memorial Park, a peace memorial ceremony is held on August 6th every year to comfort the spirits of the people who died in the bombing and to pray for world peace.

In Miyajima, counted as one of the three most scenic spots in Japan, there is a cultural heritage site called the 'Itsukushima Shinto Shrine' that is dedicated to the God protecting people from sea disasters and wars. It is said that this shrine was constructed around 593; however, after the warlord Tairano Kiyomori (1118-1181) rebuilt it in 1168, it became the magnificent vermilion-lacquered building it is today. The most interesting feature of this shrine is the Torii (a kind of gate symbolizing a shrine) and the Shaden (shrine pavilion) in the sea, which are both submerged at full tide, but at low tide the sea water recedes completely and it is possible to walk out to the gate.

Moreover, the Itsukushima Shinto Shrine has the only stage for Japanese traditional musical Noh plays that floats in the sea and where Noh is sometimes performed by lamplight.



Itsukushima Shinto Shrine

The Shrines and Temples of Nikko

The Shrines and Temples of Nikko refer to the Toshogu and Futarasan-jinja Shrines and the Rinno-ji Temple as well as their surroundings.

Toshogu is where Ieyasu Tokugawa (ruling from 1603 to 1605) is enshrined; he was the first shogun of the Edo Shogunate, which flourished between the 17th and 19th centuries. As many as 127,000 craftsmen were involved in constructing the shrine, using the highest level of technology available at the time. The two-story Yomei-mon Gate, decorated with brilliant colors and over 500 sculptures, is particularly famous. It is also called Higurashi-mon (sunset gate), because people spend all day long gazing at its beauty.



Toshogu Shrine

The Shinkyo Bridge acts as a gateway to the shrines and temples of Nikko and is one of the three most unusual bridges in Japan. According to legend, when a certain saint tried to cross the rapids of the Daiyagawa River, two snakes formed a bridge for him to walk across.

Rinno-ji is one of the temples representing the Tendai School of Buddhism along with Hieizan Enryaku-ji (Otsu City, Shiga prefecture) and Kanei-ji (Taito-ku, Tokyo). A gold leaf wooden Buddha, 27.8 ft high, is enshrined within the main hall.



Rinno-ji Taiyu Temple

The Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama, Toyama



Shirakawa-go Villages

The remote mountain villages of gassho-style houses in Shirakawa-go and Gokayama on the Hida Highlands were registered as cultural heritage sites in 1995. The scenery of the mountain villages, blending in with the nature of each season - fresh green leaves in spring, tinted leaves in autumn, winter snow - and the atmosphere of the villages with traditional houses standing side by side, looks just like a fairy tale.

Houses built in the gassho style are defined as having a roof in the shape of a triangle, similar to hands folded in prayer.

Gokayama is a place of precipitous mountains and deep valleys located in the southeastern part of Toyama. It is believed that Gokayama, which means five valleys, was so named

because there was a village among five valleys: Akao-dani, Kami-Nashi-dani, Shimo-Nashi-dani, Otani, and Toga-dani along the Sho-gawa River.



Gokayama Village

Iwami-Ginzan, Silver Mine, Shimane

Iwami-Ginzan Silver Mine and its Cultural Landscape were registered as Japan's fourteenth world heritage site in 2007.

The ruins are distributed in a large area of the City of Ota, which is located at the center of Shimane Prefecture. It can be roughly divided into three areas: The first is the Omoridistrict, which was developed since in the Edo period by shogunate rule of the silver mine. It holds the central significance among the ruins, featuring the unique townscape from the magistrate's office to Rakan Temple. The second is the fenced silver mine area from between the guard stations of Zosen Temple

and Sakane Entrance. The third is the surrounding area other than the two areas mentioned above, which include port and roads used to ship silver and other materials, and historic ruins of castle and others.

Iwami- Ginzan, in most part, was operated manually during the Edo period, and for that reason had hardly any environmental impacts such as large-scale landscape changes. As a result, it has recognized globally as ruins that represent the spirit of human coexistence with the nature.



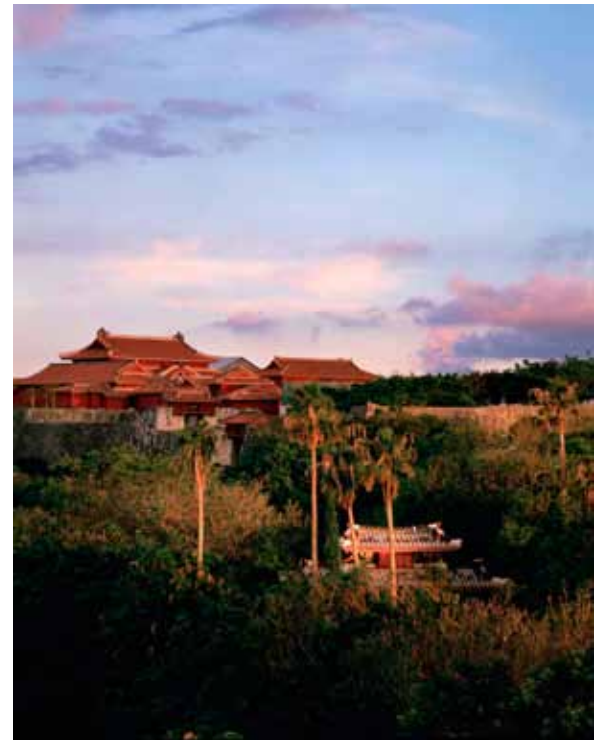
Kamaya-Mabu Mine Shaft

Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu, Okinawa

Cultural heritage sites are scattered among the southernmost islands of Japan and on the main island of Okinawa. There are 9 ruins symbolizing the unique culture and religious beliefs of the Kingdom of Ryukyu that once flourished here.

In Okinawa, dictatorships began to arise in various areas from around the twelfth century, and castle-like buildings called Gusuku were constructed. However, these buildings were not like Himeji-jo Castle, which is registered as a world heritage site as well, but more like a fort. Gusuku were also treated as sacred sites under local religious belief. When the 14th century came along, each area was unified into three counties and the unified Kingdom of Ryukyu was finally established in 1429. In line with this, the symbol of the Kingdom 'Shuri-jo Castle' became the sole Gusuku.

Shuri-jo shows a strong influence from various cultures including from Japan and China, which proves that trade with Asian countries was very active at the time. The pattern of dragons or vermilion lacquer coating shows the influence of China, and the structural form of the roof shows the influence of Japan.



Shuri-jo Castle remains

Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range, Wakayama

Yoshino and Omine, situated at the northernmost part of the Kii Mountains, developed as a sacred place for Shugendo, a religion established by combining the original mountain worship of Japan, Tantric Buddhism, and Taoism around the 12th century. The followers seclude themselves in the mountains and perform ascetic practices. Yoshino is famous as a mountain cherry blossom beauty area, and it is said that the warlord

Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1536-1598) who boasted overwhelming power at that time held a luxurious cherry blossom viewing party here in 1594. In Kinpusen-ji Temple, the central temple of Shugendo, a large meeting is held for people to confess their sins, and an offering of cherry blossoms is given in April every year.

Kumano Sanzan is the name for a set of three Grand Shrines situated in the southeastern part of the Kii Peninsula: Kumano Hongu-taisha Shrine, Kumano Nachi-taisha Shrine and Kumano Hayatama-taisha Shrine. Nachi no Otaki Fall is known as one of the highest waterfalls in Japan. Because it is believed that touching the splash of the falls ensures long life, many tourists gather around the waterfall basin.

Koyasan is an unprecedented religious city on a mountain top where more than 100 temples are clustered. The most famous among them is the Kongobu-ji Temple constructed by a monk named Kukai (774-835, founder of the Shingon Buddhist School) in 816.

The ancient pilgrimage routes connecting these sites are locally called the Kumano-Kodo and one of only two UNESCO World Heritage registered pilgrimage routes in the world.



Nachi-taisha Shrine and Nachi no Otaki Fall



Kumano-Kodo Ancient Path

Teaching with Historic Places

Lesson Overview:

This student activity explores USA World Heritage Sites. Students are asked to review specific sites in the United States which are currently on the list of World Heritage Sites, to identify sites in danger and determine reasons for these sites being placed on the list of World Heritage in Danger.

Grade Level: 9-12

Subjects: Social Studies, Geography

TEKS:

113.32 C (8) (8) Geography. The student uses geographic tools to collect, analyze, and interpret data.

113.32 C (24) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of sources including electronic technology. The student is expected to:

(A) locate and use primary and secondary sources such as computer software, databases, media and news services, biographies, interviews, and artifacts to acquire information about the United States;

(B) analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions;

(D) use the process of historical inquiry to research, interpret, and use multiple sources of evidence;

(G) support a point of view on a social studies issue or event; and

(H) use appropriate mathematical skills to interpret social studies information such as maps and graphs.

113.32 C(25) Social studies skills. The student communicates in written, oral, and visual forms. The student is expected to:

(B) use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation;

(D) create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies information.

113.34 C (5) Geography. The student understands how political, economic, and social processes shape cultural patterns and characteristics in various places and regions. The student is expected to:

(A) analyze how the character of a place is related to its political, economic, social, and cultural characteristics;

113.34 C (8) Geography. The student understands how people, places, and environments are connected and interdependent.

Objectives:

- Students will be able to compile data about World Heritage Sites in the United States using the UNESCO website information

- Students will be able to use their critical-thinking skills to determine reasons why certain sites in the United States are on the list of World Heritage Sites in Danger

Estimated Time: 4 class periods

Materials: World map, internet access, copies of World Heritage Sites in USA template (Attachment A), pencils, and pens.

Procedures:

1. Ask students if they are familiar with UNESCO and if they can list any World Heritage sites in the United States.
2. Provide some background information about UNESCO.

Note to the Teacher:

In a world of ever-increasing global transformations, the tremendous diversity of our world's heritage, the history of the earth and its peoples, is under constant threat by the growing pressures of natural and human-made dangers. How is the international community working to preserve this precious memory of humanity and give it a meaningful place in future societies? How can countries join their efforts in the conservation of cultural and natural sites of exceptional value to humankind?

The 1972 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, was created in response to this growing concern about the state of our world's cultural and natural heritage. The World Heritage Convention is a unique international treaty by which countries recognize that the sites located on their national territory, and which have been inscribed on the World Heritage List, without prejudice to national sovereignty or ownership, constitute a world heritage "for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to co-operate". From the Pyramids of Egypt to the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador, and from the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras to the Great Zimbabwe National Monument, the World Heritage Convention recognizes that the wealth and diversity of World Heritage sites belong to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located.

(Source: UNESCO website <http://whc.unesco.org>)

3. Explain to students that they will be researching various natural and cultural heritage sites in the United States, identifying sites in danger.
4. Divide students into groups
5. Distribute the World Heritage Sites template. (Attachment A)
6. Using the UNESCO website <http://whc.unesco.org> research various cultural and natural world heritage sites in USA, formulate your own definition of a World Heritage Site

7. Complete the World Heritage Sites in USA template. (Attachment A)
 - Identify sites in the United States which have been designated as World Heritage sites
 - (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>)
 - Identify the state in which the site is found
 - Determine the type of site (cultural, natural, mixed) (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/us>)
 - Identify the criteria for each site that were met in order to be designated as World Heritage sites
 - Identify the site(s) in danger in the United States (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/158>)
 - Determine the reason(s) to be placed on the "World Heritage in Danger" list. Use the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) fact sheet to help you make your determination.
8. Evaluate students' template for completion.

Attachment A

World Heritage Sites in USA

Directions: Write down your own definition of a World Heritage Site. Complete the chart below using the UNESCO website <http://whc.unesco.org>

World Heritage Site - _____

World Heritage Site	State	Type of Site	Criteria for Selection	Site(s) in Danger	Reason(s) to be placed on the 'World Heritage Danger' list
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
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19.					
20.					
21.					

Glossary

- Buddha**- the title of Siddhartha or Gautama, a deified religious teacher of the Buddhists and the founder of Buddhism
- Buddhism**- religion of eastern and central Asia growing out of the teaching of Gautama Buddha that suffering is inherent in life and that one can be liberated from it by mental and moral self-purification
- Chaniwa garden**- gardens associated deeply with a Japanese tradition of celebrating tea ceremony or 'Sado'
- Christianity**- the Christian religion, including the Catholic, Protestant, and Eastern Orthodox churches
- Confucianism**- the system of ethics, education, and statesmanship taught by Confucius and his disciples, stressing love for humanity, ancestor worship, reverence for parents, and harmony in thought and conduct
- Gusuku**- the Okinawan word for 'castle' or 'fortress'
- Irimoya**- a hip roof (sloping down on all four sides) integrated on two opposing sides with a gable.
- Islam**- a monotheistic religion characterized by the acceptance of the doctrine of submission to God and to Muhammad as the chief and last prophet of God
- Jinja**- in the Shinto religion of Japan, the place where the spirit of a deity is enshrined or to which it is summoned
- Kami**- the Japanese word for the spirits, natural forces, or essence in the Shinto faith
- Kannushi** - the person responsible for the maintenance of a Shinto shrine (jinja) as well as for leading worship of a certain kami
- Kagura** -a sacred artistic rite performed when making an offering to the kami
- Karesansui garden**- 'dry landscape' gardens, often called 'Zen gardens' were influenced mainly by Zen Buddhism and can be found at Zen temples of meditation
- Kirizuma** –a roof with two sides joined at the top to cover the building
- Kyogen**- a brief Japanese play performed between Noh plays to provide comic relief
- Miko**- is a shrine maiden in the Shinto religion.
- Noh**- classic form of Japanese drama with choral music and dancing, using set themes, simple scenery, masked and costumed performers, and stylized acting
- Shinto**- Shinto means the way of the gods. Shintoism is an Ancient religion of Japan. It started at least as long ago as 1000 B.C.E. but is still practiced today by at least five million people. The followers of Shintoism believe that spiritual powers exist in the natural world
- Shogun**- is a military rank and historical title for (in most cases) hereditary military dictator of Japan
- Stupa**- is a mound-like structure containing Buddhist relics, typically the remains of Buddha, used by Buddhists as a place of worship
- Tsukiyama garden**- is a term to denote a hill garden as opposed to a flat garden. Tsukiyama gardens typically feature an artificial hill combined with a pond and a stream and various plants, shrubs, and trees
- Yosemune**- a hipped roof that descends from the ridge on four sides of a rectangular building
- Zen**-a school of Mahayana Buddhism that asserts that enlightenment can be attained through meditation, self-contemplation, and intuition rather than through faith and devotion and that is practiced mainly in China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. Also called Zen Buddhism

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