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TRAVEL TO JAPAN

Conversation Cheat Sheet

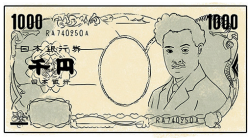
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MONEY & SHOPPING

Is there an ATM nearby ?
Chikaku ni ētīemu wa arimasu ka
近くにATMはありますか。

How much is ~ ?
~ wa ikura desu ka
~ は いくらですか。



one thousand yen
sen-en
千円



five thousand yen
go-sen-en
五千円



ten thousand yen
ichi-man-en
一万円



one yen
ichi-en
一円



five yen
go-en
五円



ten yen
jū-en
十円



fifty yen
go-jū-en
五十円



hundred yen
hyaku-en
百円

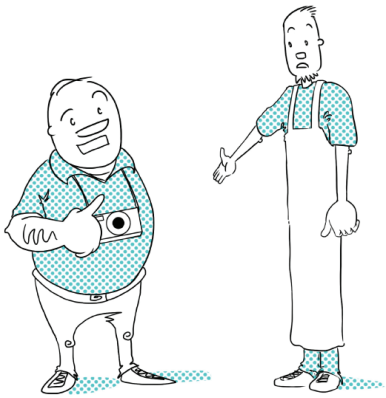


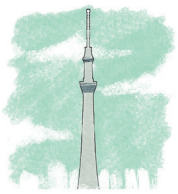
five hundred yen
go-hyaku-en
五百円

AROUND TOWN

Where is ~ ?
~ wa doko desu ka
~ は どこですか。

I'd like to go to ~
~ e ikitai no desu ga.
~ へ行きたいのですが。





Tokyo Skytree
Tōkyō sukaitsurī
東京スカイツリー



Imperial Palace
Kōkyo
皇居



Tokyo Disneyland
Tōkyō deizunīrando
東京ディズニーランド



Akihabara
Akihabara
秋葉原



Tsukiji Fish Market
Tsukijiichiba
築地市場



Kaminarimon
Kaminarimon
雷門

SURVIVAL PHRASES

Please take me to~
~ made o-negai shimasu.
~までお願いします。

Where is the station?
Eki wa doko desu ka.
駅はどこですか。

Where is the restroom?
Toire wa doko desu ka.
トイレはどこですか。

COMMUNICATION

Hello.
Konnichiwa.
こんにちは。

Excuse me.
Sumimasen.
すみません。

I'm sorry.
Gomennasai.
ごめんなさい。

Nice to meet you.
Hajimemashite.
初めまして。

Please.
O-negai shimasu.
お願いします。

Yes.
Hai.
はい。

I am ~
~ desu.
~です。

Thank you.
Arigatō.
ありがとう。

No.
Iie.
いいえ。



ASKING QUESTIONS

Do you understand?
Wakarimasu ka.
わかりますか。

I understand.
Wakarimashita.
わかりました。

I don't understand.
Wakarimasen.
わかりません。

Do you speak English?
Eigo o hanashimasu ka.
英語を話しますか。

Yes, I do.
Hanashimasu.
話します。

No I don't.
Hanashimasen.
話しません。

Can you eat Sushi?
Sushi ga taberaremasu ka.
寿司が食べられますか。

Of course.
Mochiron.
もちろん。

No, I can't eat it.
Iie, taberaremasen.
いいえ、食べられません。



ORDERING FOOD



tempura
てんぷら



sushi
寿司



soba
蕎麦



mochi
餅



shabushabu
しゃぶしゃぶ



gyūdon
牛丼



yakitori
焼き鳥



nattō
納豆



COUNTERS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
hitotsu	futatsu	mittsu	yottsu	itsutsu	muttsu	nanatsu	yattsu	kokonotsu	tō
一つ	二つ	三つ	四つ	五つ	六つ	七つ	八つ	九つ	十

How many?
Ikutsu desu ka.
いくつですか。

COUNTERS

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #1 National Holidays

CONTENTS

2 Kanji
2 Kana
2 Romanization
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
4 Cultural Insight

1

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KANJI

1. What are five well-known national holidays in Japan?
2. 1. 建国記念の日
3. 2. 成人の日
4. 3. 敬老の日
5. 4. 勤労感謝の日
6. 5. こどもの日

KANA

1. What are five well-known national holidays in Japan?
2. 1. けんこくきねんのひ
3. 2. せいじんのひ
4. 3. けいろうのひ
5. 4. きんろうかんしゃのひ
6. 5. こどものひ

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five well-known national holidays in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. Kenkoku kinen no hi
3. 2. Seijin no hi
4. 3. Keirō no hi
5. 4. Kinrō kansha no hi
6. 5. Kodomo no hi

ENGLISH

1. What are five well-known national holidays in Japan?
2. 1. National Foundation Day
3. 2. Coming of Age Day
4. 3. Respect for the Aged Day
5. 4. Labour Thanksgiving Day
6. 5. Children's Day

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
建国記念の日	けんこくきねんのひ	Kenkoku kinen no hi	National Foundation Day
成人の日	せいじんのひ	Seijin no hi	Coming of Age Day

勤労感謝の日	きんろうかんしゃのひ	Kinrō kansha no hi	Labour Thanksgiving Day
敬老の日	けいろうのひ	Keirō no hi	Respect for the Aged Day
こどもの日	こどものひ	Kodomo no hi	Children's Day

SAMPLE SENTENCES

建国記念の日は、旧暦では元旦です。 *Kenkoku kinen no hi wa, kyūreki de wa Gantan desu.* In the lunisolar calendar, Japan's National Foundation Day falls on New Year's Day.	成人の日には、20歳をむかえる多くの男女が着物や袴を着ます。 *Seijin no hi ni wa, hatachi o mukaeru ōku no danjo ga kimono ya hakama o kimasu.* On Coming of Age Day, many men and women who are or will be twenty years old by the end of March that year wear traditional Japanese clothes called "kimono" and "hakama".
勤労感謝の日は、日々の勤労をねぎらう日です。 *Kinrō kansha no hi wa, hibi no kinrō o negirau hi desu.* Labour Thanksgiving Day is the day for rewarding daily hard work.	敬老の日には、祖父母に感謝の気持ちを伝えます。 *Keirō no hi ni wa, sofubo ni kansha no kimochi o tsutaemasu.* Japanese people show appreciation for their grandparents on Respect for the Aged Day.

昔は、毎年、こどもの日に身長を測り、成長をみる習慣がありました。
Mukashi wa, maitoshi kodomo no hi ni shinchō o hakari, seichō o miru shūkan ga arimashita.

In the olden days, Japanese people measured the height of the children on Children's Day every year to see how much they had grown.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. National Foundation Day

This day is the 11th of February and is considered to be Japan's National Foundation Day. It was officially established in 1966.

2. Coming of Age Day

Coming of Age Day is the second Monday of January. In Japan, 20 is considered the age of majority.

3. Respect for the Aged Day

Respect for the Aged Day is the third Monday of September. This day is for people to appreciate a lifetime of hard work from the elderly, and to show respect and love for them.

4. Labour Thanksgiving Day

Labour Thanksgiving Day is the 23rd of November. Japanese people celebrate the year's hard work, human rights, workers' rights and the production, harvest, and success of the year, as well as showing appreciation for each other's hard work.

5. Children's Day

Children's Day is the 5th of May. It's a day to celebrate children's individual personalities and to celebrate their happiness. It's also a day to show gratitude to mothers.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #2 Foods

CONTENTS

2 Kanji
2 Kana
2 Romanization
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
4 Cultural Insight

2

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KANJI

1. What are five common foods in Japan?
2. 1. 餅
3. 2. 納豆
4. 3. 豆腐
5. 4. おにぎり
6. 5. たい焼き

KANA

1. What are five common foods in Japan?
2. 1. もち
3. 2. なっとう
4. 3. とうふ
5. 4. おにぎり
6. 5. たいやき

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five common foods in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. mochi
3. 2. nattō
4. 3. tōfu
5. 4. onigiri
6. 5. taiyaki

ENGLISH

1. What are five common foods in Japan?
2. 1. Mochi, Rice cake
3. 2. Nattō (fermented soybeans)
4. 3. Tofu, Bean curd
5. 4. Onigiri, Rice ball
6. 5. Taiyaki, a Fish-shaped cake

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
餅	もち	mochi	mochi, rice cake
納豆	なっとう	nattō	natto (fermented soy beans)

おにぎり	おにぎり	onigiri	rice ball
豆腐	とうふ	tōfu	tōfu, soybean curd
たい焼き	たいやき	taiyaki	fish-shaped pancake stuffed with bean jam

SAMPLE SENTENCES

切り餅は焼いたり料理したりして食べます。 *Kirimochi wa yaitari ryōri shitari shite tabemasu.* Cut mochi is enjoyed either grilled or cooked.	お正月には、地域でもちつき大会が行われます。 *O-shōgatsu ni wa, chiiki de mochitsuki taikai ga okonawaremasu.* There are glutinous rice-pounding events held locally in Japan on New Year's Day.
日本では、毎朝納豆を食べる人がたくさんいます。 *Nihon de wa, maiasa nattō o taberu hito ga takusan imasu.* In Japan, there are many people who eat nattō every morning.	おにぎりは、コンビニでも買えます。 *Onigiri wa, konbini de mo kaemasu.* Rice balls are available even at convenience stores.
豆腐は、健康的な食べ物として世界でも有名です。 *Tōfu wa, kenkōteki na tabemono to shite sekai de mo yūmei desu.* Tofu is famous all over the world as a healthy food.	豆腐は安くて健康的です。 *Tōfu wa yasukute kenkōteki desu.* Tofu is cheap and healthy.
最近は、たい焼きの中身にいろいろな種類があります。 *Saikin wa, taiyaki no nakami ni iroiro na shurui ga arimasu.* Lately you can get taiyaki with a variety of different fillings.	たい焼きを買いたいです。 *Taiyaki o kaitai desu.* I want to buy fish-shaped pancakes.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Mochi, Rice cake

Mochi is a rice cake made of glutinous rice. Japanese people usually eat a lot of rice cake on New Year's Day.

2. Nattō (fermented soybeans)

Nattō is fermented soybeans that are infamous for their strong odor.

3. Tofu, bean curd

Tōfu is made by coagulating soy milk and pressing the resulting curds. It is eaten on its own, and is also used in many different types of dishes.

4. Onigiri, Rice ball

Onigiri (rice balls) are made from white rice formed into triangular or oval shapes. They're often wrapped with nori, or seaweed. Something salty or sour is put inside as a natural preservative, such as pickled plum (*umeboshi*) or salted salmon.

5. Taiyaki, a Fish-shaped cake

Taiyaki is a fish-shaped baked cake, traditionally filled with sweet red bean paste.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #3 Beverages

CONTENTS

2 Kanji
2 Kana
2 Romanization
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
4 Cultural Insight

3

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KANJI

1. What are five popular beverages in Japan?
2. 1. アイスコーヒー
3. 2. 緑茶
4. 3. 日本酒
5. 4. チューハイ
6. 5. ラムネ

KANA

1. What are five popular beverages in Japan?
2. 1. アイスコーヒー
3. 2. りょくちゃ
4. 3. にほんしゅ
5. 4. チューハイ
6. 5. ラムネ

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five popular beverages in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. aisu kōhī

3. 2. ryokucha

4. 3. nihonshu

5. 4. chūhai

6. 5. ramune

ENGLISH

1. What are five popular beverages in Japan?

2. 1. Iced coffee

3. 2. Green tea

4. 3. Nihonshu, known in English as "sake"

5. 4. Chūhai, a mix of shōchū, carbonated water, and lemon

6. 5. Ramune, a carbonated soft drink

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
アイスコーヒー	アイスコーヒー	aisu kōhī	iced coffee
日本酒	にほんしゅ	Nihonshu	Nihonshu, known in English as “sake”

緑茶	りょくちゃ	ryokucha	green tea
ラムネ	ラムネ	ramune	ramune, a carbonated soft drink
チューハイ	チューハイ	chūhai	chūhai, a mix of shōchū, carbonated water, and lemon

SAMPLE SENTENCES

日本では、いろいろな種類のアイスコーヒーが自動販売機で買えます。
Nihon de wa, iroiro na shurui no aisu kōhī ga jidō hanbaiki de kaemasu.

In Japan, there are many different types of iced coffee available at vending machines.

神前結婚式では、固めのしるしとして新郎新婦が日本酒を飲みます。
Shinzen kekkonshiki de wa, katame no shirushi to shite shinrō shimpu ga nihonshu o nomimasu.

In a traditional Shinto-style Japanese wedding ceremony, the bride and groom share sake as proof of their bond.

日本酒がありますか。
Nihonshu ga arimasu ka.

Do you have Japanese rice wine?

静岡は、緑茶で有名です。
Shizuoka wa, ryokucha de yūmei desu.

Shizuoka is very famous for green tea.

ラムネは、さわやかな味だけでなく、涼しげなガラス瓶の使用もあって、夏によく飲まれます。
Ramune wa, sawayaka na aji dake de naku, suzushige na garasubin no shiyō mo atte, natsu ni yoku nomaremasu.

Ramune is enjoyed typically in summer not only for its refreshing taste, but also for its refreshingly cool-looking glass bottle.

チューハイのアルコール度は低めですが、缶チューハイはアルコール度が９%もあるものもあります。
Chūhai no arukōrudo wa hikume desu ga, kan chūhai wa arukōrudo ga kyū-pāsento mo aru mono mo arimasu.

The alcohol content in chūhai is rather low, but canned chūhai can have an alcohol percentage as high as 9%.

チューハイが好きだ。
Chūhai ga suki da.

I like Shochū-based beverages.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Iced coffee

Aisu kōhī is iced coffee, which many Japanese enjoy during the summer time. It's not a recent idea; Japanese people have been enjoying iced coffee for many years.

2. Green tea

Ryokucha is often translated as "Japanese tea." Recent studies have shown that green tea is effective in preventing cancer and in warding off the common cold. Japanese people are becoming more and more health-conscious, and so green tea is once again enjoying popularity.

3. Nihonshu, known in English as "sake"

Nihonshu is what is known as "sake" in English. It's a clear liquor made from fermented rice which can be served both hot and cold. Japanese people usually enjoy hot sake in the winter and cold sake in the summer.

4. Chūhai, a mix of shōchū, carbonated water, and lemon

Chūhai is an original Japanese alcoholic drink. Traditional chūhai is a mix of Japanese alcohol called *shōchū*, carbonated water and lemon. Recently, chuhai is often made with vodka, and flavored with all different kinds of fruits. *Chūhai* is enjoyed by many Japanese women for its sweet taste.

5. Ramune, a carbonated soft drink

Ramune is a carbonated soft drink which has been loved by Japanese people for a long time. The name *ramune* originates from the English word "lemonade," and the original taste was lemon-lime. Ramune is very widely known for its unique bottle shape with a glass marble inside. Ramune's fizzy taste and unique bottle were imported from the United Kingdom.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #4 Popular Homecooked Dishes

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2 Kanji
2 Kana
2 Romanization
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
4 Cultural Insight

4

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KANJI

1. What are five popular homecooked dishes in Japan?
2. 1. みそ汁
3. 2. カレーライス
4. 3. なべ
5. 4. 天ぷら
6. 5. ハンバーグ

KANA

1. What are five popular homecooked dishes in Japan?
2. 1. みそしる
3. 2. カレーライス
4. 3. なべ
5. 4. てんぷら
6. 5. ハンバーグ

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five popular homecooked dishes in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. miso shiru
3. 2. karēraisu
4. 3. nabe
5. 4. tenpura
6. 5. hanbāgu

ENGLISH

1. What are five popular homecooked dishes in Japan?
2. 1. Miso soup
3. 2. Japanese curry
4. 3. Nabe, Japanese hot pot dishes
5. 4. Tempura, deep-fried food
6. 5. Japanese hamburger steak

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
ハンバーグ	ハンバーグ	hanbāgu	Japanese hamburger steak
カレーライス	カレーライス	karēraisu	Japanese curry

みそ汁	みそしる	miso shiru	miso soup
天ぷら	てんぷら	tempura	tempura, deep-fried food
なべ	なべ	nabe	Japanese hot pot dishes

SAMPLE SENTENCES

ハンバーグは、日本の子供が好きな食べ物のひとつです。 *Hanbāgu wa, Nihon no kodomo ga suki na tabemono no hitotsu desu.* Hamburger steak is one of the most popular dishes chosen by children in Japan.	カレーライスは、ひとつのお皿にごはん、カレー、福神漬をもりつけます。 *Karē raisu wa, hitotsu no o-sara ni gohan, karē, fukujinzuke o moritukemasu.* Curry and rice is usually served on one plate, and consists of curry, white rice and special pickles called "fukushinzuke".
手作りのみそ汁は、家庭によって味がちがいます。 *Tezukuri no miso shiru wa, katei ni yotte aji ga chigaimasu.* The taste of homemade miso soup differs from family to family.	西日本では天ぷらを塩で食べますが、東日本では天つゆにつけて食べます。 *Nishi Nihon de wa tempura o shio de tabemasu ga, higashi Nihon de wa tentsuyu ni tsukete tabemasu.* Traditionally people in West Japan enjoy tempura with salt, whereas people in East Japan dip it in a special sauce.
てんぷらは日本の料理です。 *Tenpura wa nihon no ryōri desu.* Tempura is a Japanese dish.	冬は、家族みんなで鍋を囲んで食事を楽しみます。 *Fuyu wa, kazoku min'na de nabe o kakonde shokuji o tanoshimimasu.* In winter, Japanese people enjoy hotpot dishes by sharing food in one big pot with family members.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Miso soup

Miso soup is a Japanese soup made from miso paste, which is made from fermented rice and soybeans. Miso soup can have seaweed, tofu, and/or vegetables in it.

2. Japanese curry

Karēraisu is Japanese curry and rice, which was brought to Japan by the British. The Japanese adapted its taste and style and it became a very popular dish enjoyed by all generations.

3. Nabe, Japanese hot pot dishes

Nabe is a collective term for Japanese hot pot dishes which use a big pot to cook a variety of ingredients. The ingredients are usually either meat, seafood, or fish, as well as a lot of vegetables.

4. Tempura, deep-fried food

Tempura is Japanese deep-fried seafood and/or vegetables. The batter is made of cold water, eggs and wheat flour.

5. Japanese hamburger steak

Hanbāgu, or hamburger steak, is made from miced meat, chopped onion, egg and breadcrumbs. It's similar to Salisbury steak, but the ingredients and sauce are different, making *hanbāgu* a Japanese original.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #5 Sweets and Desserts

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2 Kanji
2 Kana
2 Romanization
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
4 Cultural Insight

5

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KANJI

1. What are five popular sweets and desserts in Japan?
2. 1. だんご
3. 2. 桜餅
4. 3. ようかん
5. 4. プリン
6. 5. ラムネ

KANA

1. What are five popular sweets and desserts in Japan?
2. 1. だんご
3. 2. さくらもち
4. 3. ようかん
5. 4. プリン
6. 5. ラムネ

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five popular sweets and desserts in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. dango
3. 2. sakuramochi
4. 3. yōkan
5. 4. purin
6. 5. ramune (confectionary)

ENGLISH

1. What are five popular sweets and desserts in Japan?
2. 1. Dango, Japanese dumplings
3. 2. Sakuramochi, a type of rice cake
4. 3. Sweet bean jelly
5. 4. Purin, Japanese custard pudding
6. 5. Ramune

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
桜餅	さくらもち	sakuramochi	sakuramochi, a type of rice cake
だんご	だんご	dango	dango, Japanese dumplings

ラムネ	ラムネ	ramune	ramune, or sugar candy pellets
ようかん	ようかん	yōkan	yōkan, or sweet bean jelly
プリン	プリン	purin	purin, Japanese custard pudding

SAMPLE SENTENCES

日本人は、桜餅を3月3日ひなまつりの日に食べます。 *Nihon-jin wa, sakuramochi o san-gatsu mikka Hinamatsuri no hi ni tabemasu.* Japanese people eat sakuramochi on the 3rd of March - Girls' Day.	花見だんごはピンク、白、緑の三色です。 *Hanami dango wa pinku, shiro, midori no san-shoku desu.* Dumplings eaten at cherry-blossom viewings are coloured pink, white and green.
ラムネは、砂糖のように口で溶けます。 *Ramune wa, satō no yō ni kuchi de tokemasu.* Ramune melts in the mouth like sugar.	ようかんは、とても甘いので苦い抹茶とよく合います。 *Yōkan wa, totemo amai no de nigai matcha to yoku aimasu.* Sweet bean jelly is very sweet, so it goes well with a bitter green tea called "matcha".

日本には、スーパーで買えるプリンから有名パティシエの高級デザートまで、いろいろなタイプのプリンがあります。
Nihon ni wa, sūpā de kaeru purin kara yūmei patishie no kōkyū dezāto made, iroiro na taipu no purin ga arimasu.

There are many different types of custard pudding in Japan: some are available at supermarkets, while others are posh desserts from famous patissiers.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Japanese dumplings

Dango, or dumplings, are made from rice flour, shaped like balls and often served on a

skewer (one skewer takes three or four *dango*). Different seasonings and/or sauces are used, making different *dango* types all with different names.

2. Cherry blossom mochi

Sakuramochi consists of a sweet pink colored rice cake and sweet bean paste called *anko*. The pink color represents the color of the *sakura*, or cherry blossoms.

3. Sweet bean jelly

Yōkan, or sweet bean jelly, is made from red bean paste, agar and sugar. It's usually rectangular-shaped, and is served in slices.

4. Japanese custard pudding

Purin is Japanese custard pudding made from sugar, egg and milk, jellied in a cup with caramel sauce at the bottom. When you eat the pudding, you should turn the cup upside down on to a plate, so that the pudding comes out with the caramel sauce on top.

5. Ramune

Ramune is a Japanese confectionary shaped like tablets/pills made from soluble lactose. Ramune has been a popular sweet amongst children for a long time in Japan, and is still available at old-style candy shops.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #6 Fruits

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2 Kanji
2 Kana
2 Romanization
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
4 Cultural Insight

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KANJI

1. What are five common fruits in Japan?
2. 1. りんご
3. 2. さくらんぼ
4. 3. すいか
5. 4. 柿
6. 5. みかん

KANA

1. What are five common fruits in Japan?
2. 1. りんご
3. 2. さくらんぼ
4. 3. すいか
5. 4. かき
6. 5. みかん

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five common fruits in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. ringo
3. 2. sakuranbo
4. 3. suika
5. 4. kaki
6. 5. mikan

ENGLISH

1. What are five common fruits in Japan?
2. 1. Apple
3. 2. Cherry
4. 3. Watermelon
5. 4. Persimmon
6. 5. Mandarin orange

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
りんご	りんご	ringo	apple
さくらんぼ	さくらんぼ	sakuranbo	cherry
柿	かき	kaki	persimmon

すいか	すいか	suika	watermelon
みかん	みかん	mikan	mandarin orange

SAMPLE SENTENCES

青森県の旬のりんごは、あまくてみずみずしいです。 *Aomori-ken no shun no ringo wa, amakute mizumizushī desu.* Apples from Aomori prefecture in season are sweet and very juicy.	さっき、りんごを食べました。 *Sakki, ringo o tabemashita.* I ate an apple a little while ago.
日本では、さくらんぼは一番高い果物のひとつです。 *Nihon de wa, sakurambo wa ichi-ban takai kudamono no hitotsu desu.* In Japan, cherries are one of the most expensive fruits.	さくらんぼは、形がかわいい。 *Sakuranbo wa, katachi ga kawaii.* Cherries look cute.
渋柿は、干柿にすると甘くなります。 *Shibugaki wa, hoshigaki ni suru to amaku narimasu.* Bitter Japanese persimmons become very sweet when they're dried.	日本人は、夏に海で目隠しをしてすいかを割るゲームをします。 *Nihon-jin wa, natsu ni umi de mekakushi o shite suika o waru gēmu o shimasu.* Japanese people enjoy a game at the beach during the summer in which you have to find and split a watermelon with a stick while blindfolded.
すいかは、夏の果物です。 *Suika wa, natsu no kudamono desu.* Watermelon is a summer fruit.	愛媛県と和歌山県は、みかんで有名です。 *Ehime-ken to Wakayama-ken wa, mikan de yūmei desu.* Ehime and Wakayama prefectures are famous for their mandarin oranges.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Apple

Japan also has the old saying: "One apple a day keeps the doctors away." This is symbolic of the fact that apples have always been seen as a fruit that's good for the health.

2. Cherry

Yamagata prefecture is famous for its Japanese cherries. Japanese cherries are usually smaller than the American cherry, and their color is a pinkish-red.

3. Watermelon

Many Japanese enjoy eating watermelon in summer. Japanese watermelons are large, and small families cannot eat a whole one, so many supermarkets now sell watermelon pre-cut into quarters or eighths.

4. Japanese persimmon

Kaki, or persimmon, is an autumn fruit. It's enjoyed both fresh and dried.

5. Mandarin orange

Japanese people traditionally enjoy eating mandarin oranges in winter, when they're in season. A typical Japanese image of relaxing at home in winter is of family members eating mandarin oranges sitting under what's called a *kotatsu* (a small table with an electric heater underneath covered by a quilt).

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #7 Vegetables

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2 Kanji
2 Kana
2 Romanization
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
4 Cultural Insight

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KANJI

1. What are five common vegetables in Japan?
2. 1. きゅうり
3. 2. ピーマン
4. 3. 玉ねぎ
5. 4. なすび
6. 5. にんじん

KANA

1. What are five common vegetables in Japan?
2. 1. きゅうり
3. 2. ピーマン
4. 3. たまねぎ
5. 4. なすび
6. 5. にんじん

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five common vegetables in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. kyūri

3. 2. pīman

4. 3. tamanegi

5. 4. nasubi

6. 5. ninji

ENGLISH

1. What are five common vegetables in Japan?

2. 1. Cucumber

3. 2. Green pepper

4. 3. Onion

5. 4. Eggplant, aubergine

6. 5. Carrot

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
きゅうり	きゅうり	kyūri	cucumber
ピーマン	ピーマン	pīman	green pepper
なすび	なすび	nasubi	eggplant, aubergine

玉ねぎ	たまねぎ	tamanegi	onion
にんじん	にんじん	ninjin	carrot

SAMPLE SENTENCES

日本人の多くはきゅうりの漬物が好きです。 *Nihon-jin no ōku wa kyūri no tsukemono ga suki desu.* Many Japanese like eating cucumbers pickled with salt.	きゅうりは、夏の野菜です。 *Kyūri wa, natsu no yasai desu.* Cucumber is a summer vegetable.
ピーマンは苦いので、ピーマンが嫌いな子供がたくさんいます。 *Pīman wa nigai no de, pīman ga kirai na kodomo ga takusan imasu.* Many children don't like green pepper in Japan due to its bitter taste.	なすびの中でも、秋なすを食べると体温を下げると言われています。 *Nasubi no naka de mo, akinasu o taberu to taion o sageru to iwarete imasu.* Eating Japanese eggplants, particularly autumn eggplants, is said to lower body temperature.
最近の研究で、玉ねぎを食べると血流がよくなることがわかりました。 *Saikin no kenkyū de, tamanegi o taberu to ketsuryū ga yokunaru koto ga wakarimashita.* Recent studies show that eating onions improves blood flow.	玉ねぎを切ると涙が出る。 *Tamanegi o kiru to namida ga deru.* Cutting up an onion makes your eyes tear up.
日本の親は、子供のために、にんじんをクッキーの型で星や花の形に切ります。 *Nihon no oya wa, kodomo no tameni, ninjin o kukkī no kata de hoshi ya hana no katachi ni kirimasu.* Parents in Japan often cut carrots into star or flower shapes for their children using cookie cutters.	にんじんは体に良い。 *Ninjin wa karada ni ii.* Carrots are good for your health.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Cucumber

Cucumbers in Japan are smaller and a darker green than Western cucumbers. Cucumber is one of the most popular summer vegetables.

2. Green pepper

The Japanese green pepper, or *pīman*, is smaller and less watery than the Western green pepper. Due to its bitter taste when raw, many people prefer it cooked.

3. Onion

Onions are used in many Japanese dishes; boiled, fried, etc. Onions generate a sweet taste when cooked, which is one of the key flavors in traditional Japanese cuisine.

4. Aubergine

The Japanese eggplant, *nasubi*, is small and has an elongated shape. Its stalk end is a very dark violet, almost black colour.

5. Carrot

Carrots are one of the most unpopular vegetables amongst children in Japan. However, many adults try to eat carrots for their supposed health and beauty benefits.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #8 Pop and traditional culture

CONTENTS

2 Kanji
2 Kana
2 Romanization
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
4 Cultural Insight

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KANJI

1. What are five examples of pop and traditional culture in Japan?
2. 1. 書道
3. 2. 祭り
4. 3. 初詣
5. 4. お盆
6. 5. 俳句

KANA

1. What are five examples of pop and traditional culture in Japan?
2. 1. しょどう
3. 2. まつり
4. 3. はつもうで
5. 4. おぼん
6. 5. はいく

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five examples of pop and traditional culture in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. shodō
3. 2. matsuri
4. 3. Hatsumōde
5. 4. O-bon
6. 5. haiku

ENGLISH

1. What are five examples of pop and traditional culture in Japan?
2. 1. Calligraphy
3. 2. Festival
4. 3. The first visit to a shrine of the year
5. 4. Bon Festival
6. 5. Haiku poetry

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
書道	しょどう	shodō	calligraphy
祭り	まつり	matsuri	festival
俳句	はいく	haiku	haiku poetry

初詣	はつもうで	Hatsumōde	The first visit to a shrine of the year
お盆	おぼん	O-bon	Bon Festival

SAMPLE SENTENCES

小学生は、学校の書道の授業で習字を習います。 *Shōgakusei wa, gakkō no shodō no jugyō de shūji o naraimasu.* Elementary school children learn calligraphy at school.	祭りがある時は、よく花火もあげられます。 *Matsuri ga aru toki wa, yoku hanabi mo ageraremasu.* When there's a festival, fireworks are often also set off.
俳句には、限られた文字に深い思いが込められています。 *Haiku ni wa, kagirareta moji ni fukai omoi ga komerarete imasu.* Haiku poetry expresses very deep thoughts with a very limited number of words.	初詣ではお守りを買い、古いお守りを返します。 *Hatsumōde de wa omamori o kai, furui omamori o kaeshimasu.* At the first visit to the shrine of the year, people buy lucky charms and protective charms for the coming year and return those from the past year.
お盆は祖先をまつる期間なので、祖先の霊を迎える前にお墓を掃除するのは大切なことです。 *O-bon wa sosen o matsuru kikan na no de, sosen no rei o mukaeru mae ni o-haka o sōji suru no wa taisetsu na koto desu.* Obon is a period of honoring one's ancestors, so it's important to clean the family graves before welcoming their spirits.	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Calligraphy

In Japanese calligraphy, an ink brush is dipped in black ink produced from an inkstick. Calligraphy was the standard form of writing in ancient Japan, but it now remains as an art form.

2. Festival

Matsuri is a general term in Japanese for any kind of festival. At Japanese festivals, there are many stalls selling food and/or offering games. Such festivals are often held in warm or hot seasons and people go out at night wearing traditional summer kimono called *yukata*.

3. The first visit to a shrine of the year

Hatsumōde is the first visit to a shrine (sometimes a temple) of the year. People go to the shrine on one of the first three days in January to greet the gods and to pray for a good year.

4. Bon Festival

O-bon is a Japanese Buddhist custom which takes place in August, during which the spirits of deceased ancestors are said to revisit the altar in the family home. Typically, Japanese people welcome their deceased ancestors on the 13th of August and send them back to the afterlife on the 16th of August, but these dates vary in each region.

5. Haiku poetry

A haiku poem has only three lines, with 5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the second line and 5 in third line. It must usually include a word which represents a season.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #9 Animals

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2 Kanji
2 Kana
2 Romanization
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
5 Cultural Insight

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KANJI

1. What are five common animals in Japan?
2. 1. 犬
3. 2. 猫
4. 3. うさぎ
5. 4. 亀
6. 5. 猿

KANA

1. What are five common animals in Japan?
2. 1. いぬ
3. 2. ねこ
4. 3. うさぎ
5. 4. かめ
6. 5. さる

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five common animals in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. inu
3. 2. neko
4. 3. usagi
5. 4. kame
6. 5. saru

ENGLISH

1. What are five common animals in Japan?
2. 1. Dog
3. 2. Cat
4. 3. Rabbit
5. 4. Turtle
6. 5. Monkey

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
犬	いぬ	inu	dog
猫	ねこ	neko	cat
亀	かめ	kame	turtle

うさぎ	うさぎ	usagi	rabbit
猿	さる	saru	monkey

SAMPLE SENTENCES

柴犬という犬は、常に日本人に人気のある日本犬です。 *Shibaken to iu inu wa, tsune ni Nihon-jin ni ninki no aru Nihonken desu.* The “shibaken” is a Japanese breed of dog which has always been one of the most popular with Japanese people.	私の犬です。 *Watashi no inu desu.* It's my dog.
日本には、客が自由に猫と遊んでくつろげる「ネコカフェ」と呼ばれるカフェがたくさんあります。 *Nihon ni wa, kyaku ga jiyū ni neko to asonde kutsurogeru "neko kafe" to yobareru kafe ga takusan arimasu.* There are many cafes in Japan called "Cat Cafes" where customers can have a relaxing time playing with the cats there.	テーブルの下にねこがいます。 *Tēburu no shita ni neko ga imasu.* There is a cat under the table.
亀は一万年生きると言われています。 *Kame wa ichi-man-nen ikiru to iwarete imasu.* Turtles are said to live for 10,000 years.	ウミガメが海を泳いでいる。 *Umigame ga umi o oyoide iru.* The sea turtle is swimming in the sea.
最近、うさぎを飼っている人の間で、うさぎを散歩につれていくのがはやっています。 *Saikin, usagi o katte iru hito no aida de, usagi o sampo ni tsurete iku no ga hayatte imasu.* Lately there is a trend among rabbit owners to take their rabbits for walks.	茶色いウサギが庭の葉っぱを食べている。 *Chairoi usagi ga niwa de happa o tabete iru.* The brown rabbit is eating leaves in the garden.

家で二匹うさぎを飼っている。
Ie de ni-hiki usagi o katte iru.

I have two rabbits at home.

日本では、冬に猿も温泉を楽しみます。
Nihon de wa, fuyu ni saru mo onsen o tanoshimimasu.

In Japan, monkeys also enjoy hot natural springs in winter.

サルが棒でありを捕まえて食べている
Saru ga bō de ari o tsukamaete tabete iru.

The monkeys are eating ants with a stick.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Dog

In recent years, there have been fads in Japan for certain types of dogs in which one breed is especially popular for some time, to be replaced later by another breed for the number 1 popularity slot. Prices for dogs at pet shops change drastically according to these fads.

2. Cat

Cats, alongside dogs, have always been one of the most typical and popular family pets for Japanese families. Recently in Japan a new type of cafe, called a Cat Cafe, designed especially for cat lovers, has appeared.

3. Rabbit

Rabbits have recently become one of the more popular Japanese pets. One of the reasons for this is that rabbits don't make noise like dogs and cats do, and are fairly easy to take care of.

4. Turtle

Turtles are considered as auspicious in Japan for their longevity. Many people used to buy small turtles at festivals, but then some people would release them into the river when they grew too big.

5. Monkey

There are many famous "performer" monkeys in Japan. These trained monkeys have been entertaining Japanese people for a long time.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #10 Plants

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2 Kana
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4 Cultural Insight

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KANJI

1. What are five common plants in Japan?
2. 1. 桜
3. 2. 松
4. 3. 菊
5. 4. あじさい
6. 5. イチョウ

KANA

1. What are five common plants in Japan?
2. 1. さくら
3. 2. まつ
4. 3. きく
5. 4. あじさい
6. 5. イチョウ

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five common plants in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. sakura
3. 2. matsu
4. 3. kiku
5. 4. ajisai
6. 5. ichō

ENGLISH

1. What are five common plants in Japan?
2. 1. Cherry blossom
3. 2. Pine
4. 3. Chrysanthemum
5. 4. Hydrangea
6. 5. Ginkgo

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
桜	さくら	sakura	cherry blossoms
菊	きく	kiku	chrysanthemum
あじさい	あじさい	ajisai	hydrangea

松	まつ	matsu	pine
イチョウ	イチョウ	ichō	ginkgo

SAMPLE SENTENCES

日本人は、夜桜も楽しみます。 *Nihon-jin wa, yozakura mo tamoshimimasu.* Japanese people enjoy cherry blossom viewing at night as well.	桜がきれいだね。 *Sakura ga kirei da ne.* The cherry blossoms are pretty, aren't they?
菊は、仏花の代表的な花です。 *Kiku wa, bukka no daihyōteki na hana desu.* Chrysanthemums are a typical flower to offer at the Buddhist family altar and tomb.	菊の花を買った。 *Kiku no hana o katta.* I bought a chrysanthemum.
あじさいの花の色は、土壌の酸性度によって決まります。 *Ajisai no hana no iro wa, dojō no sanseido ni yotte kimarimasu.* The color of a hydrangea depends on the pH level in the soil.	正月の間、門松を家の前に飾ります。 *Shōgatsu no aida, kadomatsu o ie no mae ni kazarimasu.* During the New Year period, traditional decorations made from pine and bamboo are placed in front of houses.

多くの日本人が、イチョウの種である銀杏を好んで食べます。
Ōkuno Nihon-jin ga, ichō no tane de aru gin'nan o kononde tabemasu.

Many Japanese people enjoy grilled or cooked ginkgo seeds.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Cherry blossom

Japanese people enjoy cherry blossoms in spring. In spring weather forecasts, the so-called "cherry blossom front" is also mentioned; this is like a sign of spring coming for Japanese people.

2.

Pine

The pine is considered an auspicious tree which represents youth and long life. Pines are often used as garden trees and/or miniature potted trees.

3. Chrysanthemum

Chrysanthemums have long been used in Japan as the family emblem of the aristocracy. It's known as the Imperial Seal of Japan.

4. Hydrangea

The hydrangea is a flower representative of the rainy season in Japan. Japanese people enjoy the beauty of hydrangeas in the wet, humid and hot rainy season.

5. Ginkgo

Ginkgo trees are mostly found lining streets. In autumn, their leaves' color changes to a beautiful yellow.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #11 Geographical Features

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4 Cultural Insight

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KANJI

1. What are five common geographical features in Japan?
2. 1. 山
3. 2. 海
4. 3. 島
5. 4. 火山
6. 5. 川

KANA

1. What are five common geographical features in Japan?
2. 1. やま
3. 2. うみ
4. 3. しま
5. 4. かざん
6. 5. かわ

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five common geographical features in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. yama
3. 2. umi
4. 3. shima
5. 4. kazan
6. 5. kawa

ENGLISH

1. What are five common geographical features in Japan?
2. 1. Mountain
3. 2. Sea/ocean
4. 3. Island
5. 4. Volcano
6. 5. River

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
山	やま	yama	mountain
島	しま	shima	island
川	かわ	kawa	river

海	うみ	umi	sea, ocean
火山	かざん	kazan	volcano

SAMPLE SENTENCES

元旦のご来光を拝むために、山に登る人もいます。
Gantan no go-raikō o ogamu tame ni yama ni noboru hito mo imasu.

Some Japanese people go to the top of a mountain to see the sunrise on the 1st of January.

富士山はとても高い山です。
Fuji-san wa totemo takai yama desu.

Mt. Fuji is a very tall mountain.

日本で一番大きい島は、本州です。
Nihon de ichi-ban ōkī shima wa Honshū desu.

The biggest island in Japan is the main island, called Honshū.

日本一長い川は、信濃川です。
Nihon ichi nagai kawa wa, Shinano-gawa desu.

The longest river in Japan is Shinanogawa.

夏には、子供たちは海で手持ちの花火で遊びます。
Natsu ni wa, kodomo-tachi wa umi de temochi no hanabi de asobimasu.

In summer, children enjoy hand-held fireworks at the beach.

彼は、海で人魚を見たと言った。
Kare wa, umi de ningyo o mita to itta.

He said that he had seen a mermaid in the sea.

桜島は、まだ、毎年小さい噴火を繰り返している火山です。
Sakura-jima wa, mada, maitoshi chīsai funka o kurikaeshite iru kazan desu.

Sakurajima is a volcano which still has many small-scale eruptions every year.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Mountain

Japan is a mountainous country. There are a lot of volcanoes too; thanks to these volcanoes, natural hot springs or onsen, can be found across the country.

2. Sea/ocean

Since Japan is an island nation, Japanese people have always lived with the sea. Because it is a mountainous island, beach space is rather limited, but people still enjoy spending time on the beach with friends and family.

3. Island

Japan consists of 6,852 islands. The farthest north is Etorofutō and the southernmost is Okinotorishima.

4. Volcano

Japan has 110 active volcanoes in total. The most recent eruption was in 1991, by Mount Unzen in Nagasaki. While Mount Unzen has ceased volcanic activity, Sakurajima in Kagoshima is very famous for its continuing volcanic activity. Sakurajima used to be an island, but an eruption in 1914 created a road that connected it to the mainland of Kagoshima.

5. River

Japanese rivers are relatively narrow when compared to other world-famous rivers. Because of the mountainous geography and the north to south long island shape of the country, the length of Japanese rivers is also relatively short.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #12 Cities

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4 Cultural Insight

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KANJI

1. What are five major cities in Japan?
2. 1. 東京
3. 2. 大阪
4. 3. 広島
5. 4. 札幌
6. 5. 長崎

KANA

1. What are five major cities in Japan?
2. 1. とうきょう
3. 2. おおさか
4. 3. ひろしま
5. 4. さっぽろ
6. 5. ながさき

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five major cities in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. Tōkyō
3. 2. Ōsaka
4. 3. Hiroshima
5. 4. Sapporo
6. 5. Nagasaki

ENGLISH

1. What are five major cities in Japan?
2. 1. Tokyo
3. 2. Osaka
4. 3. Hiroshima
5. 4. Sapporo
6. 5. Nagasaki

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
東京	とうきょう	Tōkyō	Tokyo (current capital of Japan)
大阪	おおさか	Ōsaka	Osaka

札幌	さっぽろ	Sapporo	Sapporo
長崎	ながさき	Nagasaki	Nagasaki
広島	ひろしま	Hiroshima	Hiroshima

SAMPLE SENTENCES

日本の全人口１億2800万人のうち、10分の1にあたる1300万人が東京に住んでいます。 *Nihon no zen jinkō ichi-oku ni-sen happyaku-man-nin no uchi, jū-bun no ichi ni ataru sen san-byaku-man-nin ga Tōkyō ni sunde imasu.* Out of the Japanese population of 128 million people, 13 million, which is almost one-tenth, reside in Tokyo.	出身は東京です。 *Shusshin wa Tōkyō desu.* I'm from Tokyo.
大阪の人は、親しみやすくて親切だと言われています。 *Ōsaka no hito wa, shitashimiyasukute shinsetsu da to iwarete imasu.* It is often said that people in Osaka are generally very friendly and kind.	札幌市では長年にわたり、様々なスポーツのイベントが開催されています。 *Sapporo-shi de wa naganen ni watari, samazama na supōtsu no ibento ga kaisai sarete imasu.* Sapporo city has hosted many different international sporting events over the years.
長崎は、第二次世界大戦中に原爆の被害を受けた二つの都市のひとつです。 *Nagasaki wa, dai ni-ji sekai taisenchū ni gembaku no higai o uketa futatsu no toshi no hitotsu desu.* Nagasaki is one of the two cities that experienced the atomic bomb during the Second World War.	広島の原爆ドームは、人々の平和を願う気持ちの象徴です。 *Hiroshima no genbaku dōmu wa, hitobito no heiwa o negau kimochi no shōchō desu.* The Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima is the symbol of the people's wish for peace.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Tokyo

The capital of Japan, Tokyo is a political and business centre which has a skyline full of skyscrapers. The city is also considered to be an information hub, since a variety of

information is collected in and sent out to the provinces from Tokyo.

2. Osaka

Osaka is the second biggest city in Japan, located southwest of Tokyo. Osaka has developed as a merchant city.

3. Hiroshima

One of the two Japanese cities which experienced the atomic bomb during the Second World War. The memorial day of this event is the 6th of August. This city and Nagasaki are the only cities in the world that have actually experienced the atomic bomb, and such they are trying to put across the reality of the event to the rest of the world, with the eventual aim of the eradication of nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

4. Sapporo

Sapporo hosted the Winter Olympic Games in 1972 as the first Asian host country. Sapporo city is the political and economic centre of the prefecture of Hokkaido, with the fourth largest population in Japan.

5. Nagasaki

When the Japanese government sealed off the country to the outside world during the Edo period, there were four ports where international trade was allowed; Nagasaki was the biggest trade port under the direct control of the government.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #13 Sports

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2 Kana
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4 Cultural Insight

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KANJI

1. What are five popular sports in Japan?
2. 1. 野球
3. 2. サッカー
4. 3. 柔道
5. 4. 相撲
6. 5. バレーボール

KANA

1. What are five popular sports in Japan?
2. 1. やきゅう
3. 2. サッカー
4. 3. じゅうどう
5. 4. すもう
6. 5. バレーボール

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five popular sports in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. yakyuu
3. 2. sakkā
4. 3. juudou
5. 4. sumou
6. 5. barēbōr

ENGLISH

1. What are five popular sports in Japan?
2. 1. baseball
3. 2. soccer
4. 3. judo
5. 4. sumo
6. 5. volleyball

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
野球	やきゅう	yakyū	baseball
サッカー	サッカー	sakkā	soccer, football
相撲	すもう	sumō	sumo

バレーボール	バレーボール	barēbōru	volleyball
柔道	じゅうどう	jūdō	judo (Japanese traditional martial art)

SAMPLE SENTENCES

高校生の野球大会である「甲子園」は有名な大会です。
ōkōsei no yakyū taikai dearu ""kōshien"" wa yūmei na taikai desu.

A famous baseball event is the "Koshien", which is a high school baseball tournament held each summer.

選手達が野球をしている。
Senshu-tachi ga yakyū o shite iru.

The players are playing baseball.

野球選手たちは、子供と素晴らしいひとときを過ごしました。
Yakyū senshu-tachi wa kodomo to subarashii hitotoki o sugoshimashita.

The baseball players had a wonderful time with the children.

1999年以降、日本のサッカーはJ-1 とJ-2 のふたつのリーグがあります。
sen kyūhyaku kyūjū kyūnen ikō, nihon no sakkā wa jeiwan to jeitsū no futatsu no rīgu ga arimasu.

Since 1999, the Japanese soccer league has had two divisions: J-1 and J-2.

サッカーが苦手です。
Sakkā ga nigate desu.

I'm bad at playing soccer.

近年、相撲では外国人力士が素晴らしい活躍を見せています。
kin'nen, sumō dewa gaikokujin rikishi ga subarashī katsuyaku o misete imasu.

Recently, foreign wrestlers have been giving impressive performances in sumo.

日本のバレーボールには、9人制バレーという特別な制度があります。
Nihon no barēbōru niwa, kyūninsē barē toyū tokubetsuna sēdo ga arimasu.

In Japanese volleyball, there is a unique system of a nine player team.

バレーボール部に所属していました。
Barēbōru bu ni shozoku shite imashita.

I used to belong to a volleyball club.

柔道の教えは、武術だけでなく、精神面や礼儀にも及びます。
Jūdō no oshie wa, bujutsu dake denaku, seishinmen ya reigi nimo oyobimasu.

Judo teaches not only martial techniques, but also spiritual lessons of good manners and respect.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Baseball

Baseball is one of the most popular sports in Japan. People of all generations enjoy playing baseball in public parks as well as watching the games at baseball stadiums.

2. Soccer

The Japanese national league, called the J-League, started in 1993. Soccer has never been as popular as baseball in Japan, but the recent impressive performances and results of both the men's and women's national teams have been attracting more and more fans.

3. Judo

The origin of judo goes back to 12th century Japan, where martial techniques were practiced amongst the samurai. Nowadays school children (especially boys) learn judo during PE class.

4. Sumo

Sumo is a Japanese national sport. In the past, there was also sumo for women, but it no longer exists at national level. The sumo ring is barred to women, and this tradition continues today.

5. Volleyball

Women's volleyball had its "golden era" during the 1960s, from which Japanese volleyball gained worldwide attention and recognition. In the Tokyo Olympic games in 1964, the Japanese national team lost only one set in five games.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #14 Recreational Activities

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KANJI

1. What are five popular recreational activities in Japan?
2. 1. 温泉
3. 2. 遊園地
4. 3. 映画
5. 4. 読書
6. 5. 買い物

KANA

1. What are five popular recreational activities in Japan?
2. 1. おんせん
3. 2. ゆうえんち
4. 3. えいが
5. 4. どくしょ
6. 5. かいもの

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five popular recreational activities in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. onsen
3. 2. yuuenchi
4. 3. eiga
5. 4. dokusho
6. 5. kaimon

ENGLISH

1. What are five popular recreational activities in Japan?
2. 1. hot spring
3. 2. amusement park / fun fair
4. 3. movie
5. 4. reading books
6. 5. shopping

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
温泉	おんせん	onsen	hot spring, onsen
遊園地	ゆうえんち	yūenchi	amusement park, fun fair

読書	とくしょ	dokusho	reading books
買い物	かいもの	kaimono	shopping
映画	えいが	eiga	movie

SAMPLE SENTENCES

温泉は、リラックスできるだけでなく、治療効果もあると言われています。
onsen wa, rirakkusu dekiru dakedenaku, chiryō kōka mo aru to iwarete imasu.

Hot springs are not only relaxing, but are also believed to have medical healing properties.

日本にはたくさんいい温泉がある。
Nihon ni wa takusan ii onsen ga aru.

There are a lot of good hot springs in Japan.

ディズニー・リゾートは、毎年、2400万人以上が訪れる遊園地です。
Dizunī Rizōto wa, maitoshi, nisen yonhyakuman-nin ijō ga otozureru yūenchi desu.

(The Japanese)Disney Resort is an amusement park that more than 24 million people visit every year.

日本では、秋は読書に最適の季節とされています。
nihon dewa, aki wa dokusho ni saiteki no kisetsu to sarete imasu.

Autumn is traditionally considered a good season for reading in Japan.

買い物においては、日本はまだ現金主義社会だと言えます。
kaimono ni oite wa, nihon wa mada genkin shugi shakai dato iemasu.

When it comes to shopping, Japan is still considered a cash-based society.

有名な日本人映画監督には、黒沢明、山田洋次、北野武がいます。
Yūmeina nihonjin eiga kantoku ni wa, Kurosawa Akira, Yamada Yōji, Kitano Takeshi ga imasu.

Some famous Japanese movie directors are Akira Kurosawa, Yoji Yamada and Takeshi Kitano.

私は映画が好きです。
Watashi wa eiga ga suki desu.

I like movies.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Hot spring

Due to its mountainous geography and active volcanoes, there are many hot springs in Japan. Shared public baths are an old custom in Japan and there are many bathhouses in almost every town, some of which contain natural minerals. In Japanese public baths and hot springs, people bathe nude.

2. Amusement park / fun fair

There are hundreds of amusement parks in Japan. The most popular recreational park in Japan is the Disney resort, which has two parks near Tokyo. These fantasy lands are also called *tēma pāku* (literally, "theme park").

3. Movie

Many children enjoy animated movies, whilst adults enjoy all kinds of movies. Foreign movies are usually available in both dubbed versions and subtitled versions.

4. Reading books

Reading is a very common hobby in Japan: you will often see many people reading on the train. Recently many people enjoy reading on mobile phones and tablet computers.

5. Shopping

Japanese shops often promote limited time sales, such as giving a "special discount" for a period of one hour. Any kind of shop can have such promotions or seasonal sales.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #15 Tourist Attractions and Places

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KANJI

1. What are five popular tourist attractions and places in Japan?
2. 1. 金閣寺
3. 2. 東大寺
4. 3. 秋葉原
5. 4. 広島平和記念公園
6. 5. 富士山

KANA

1. What are five popular tourist attractions and places in Japan?
2. 1. きんかくじ
3. 2. とうだいじ
4. 3. あきはばら
5. 4. ひろしまへいわきねんこうえん
6. 5. ふじさん

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five popular tourist attractions and places in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. Kinkakuji
3. 2. Tōdaiji
4. 3. Akihabara
5. 4. Hiroshima heiwa kinen kōen
6. 5. Fujisan

ENGLISH

1. What are five popular tourist attractions and places in Japan?
2. 1. Kinkaku temple
3. 2. Todai temple
4. 3. Akihabara
5. 4. Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park
6. 5. Mt. Fuji

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
金閣寺	きんかくじ	kinkakuji	Kinkaku Temple
東大寺	とうだいじ	Tōdaiji	Todai Temple

広島平和記念公園	ひろしまへいわきねんこうえん	Hiroshima heiwa kinen kōen	Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park
富士山	ふじさん	Fuji-san	Mt. Fuji
秋葉原	あきはばら	Akihabara	Akihabara

SAMPLE SENTENCES

金閣は1950年に放火により焼失し、1955年に再建されました。
Kinkaku wa sen kyūhyaku gojūnen ni hōka ni yori shōshitushi, sen kyūhyaku gojūgonen ni saiken saremashita.

The original Golden Pavilion was burned down in an arson attack in 1950 and was re-constructed in 1955 as a replica of the original.

東大寺の敷地は、34万平方メートル以上の広さがあります。
Tōdaiji no shikichi wa, sanjūyonman heihō mētoru ijō no hirosa ga arimasu.

The site of the Todai temple complex has an area larger than 340,000 square meters.

毎年、世界中からたくさんの外国人が広島平和記念公園を訪れます。
Maitoshi, sekaijūkara takusan no gaikokujin ga Hiroshima heiwa kinen kōen o otozuremasu.

Every year, thousands of people from all over the world visit Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.

富士山はとても高い山です。
Fuji-san wa totemo takai yama desu.

Mt. Fuji is a very tall mountain.

秋葉原には、女性がメイド姿で接客をするカフェがたくさんあります。
Akihabara niwa, josei ga meido sugata de sekkyaku o suru kafe ga takusan arimasu.

There are many cafes in Akihabara in which girls dressed as maids serve customers.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Kinkaku temple

The real name of Kinkaku temple is Rokuonji (Rokuon temple), but it is much better known as Kinkakuji, since the Kinkaku (Golden Pavilion) is the most famous establishment of the temple. Kinkakuji was built in 1397 in Kyoto during the Muromachi period under the rule of Yoshimitsu Ashikaga.

2. Todai temple

Todai temple is a Buddhist temple complex in Nara city which was completed in the 8th century. This temple is characterised especially by the Great Buddha Hall, which is the largest wooden building in the world, as well as by the world's largest bronze statue of Buddha Vairocana (the Great Buddha).

3. Akihabara

Akihabara is a district in Tokyo which originally developed as the main centre for electronic appliances. In recent years Akihabara has also become famous for animation, comics, and games. Since both high technology products and animation are typical Japanese things, not only Japanese people, but also many foreign tourists visit the town.

4. Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park was designed as and dedicated to the legacy of Hiroshima, which is the world's first city to suffer a nuclear bomb, as well as to the victims of that bomb. The park has a skeletal ruin of a building as a symbol of this, which is called the A-Bomb Dome.

5. Mt. Fuji

Mt. Fuji is the highest mountain in Japan at 3,776 meters. It's an active volcano located on the border of Shizuoka and Yamanashi prefectures.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #16 Common Household Items

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KANJI

1. What are five common things in the home in Japan?
2. 1. 仏壇
3. 2. 神棚
4. 3. 玄関
5. 4. こたつ
6. 5. 畳

KANA

1. What are five common things in the home in Japan?
2. 1. ぶつだん
3. 2. かみだな
4. 3. げんかん
5. 4. こたつ
6. 5. たたみ

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five common things in the home in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. butsudan
3. 2. kamidana
4. 3. genkan
5. 4. kotatsu
6. 5. tatami

ENGLISH

1. What are five common things in the home in Japan?
2. 1. a family Buddhist altar
3. 2. a household altar
4. 3. house entrance
5. 4. table with an electric heater
6. 5. tatami mat

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
仏壇	ぶつだん	butsudan	a family Buddhist altar
神棚	かみだな	kamidana	a household altar

こたつ	こたつ	kotatsu	table with an electric heater
畳	たたみ	tatami	tatami mat
玄関	げんかん	genkan	house entrance

SAMPLE SENTENCES

仏壇は、古くから日本の家庭において中心的な存在でした。
Butsudan wa, furukukara nihon no katei ni oite chūshintekina sonzai deshita.

The family Buddhist altar is traditionally an essential and spiritual center of a Japanese family.

神棚の一番一般的な形は、お札を中に収める、「札宮」という神棚です。
kamidana no ichiban ippantekina katachi wa, ofuda o nakani osameru, "fudamiya" to yū kamidana desu.

The most common type of miniature altar has a miniature shrine with a talisman inside it, which is called a "fudamiya".

日本の典型的な冬のイメージは、家族がこたつを囲んでミカンを食べる様子です。
nihon no tenkeitekina fuyu no imēji wa, kazokuga kotatsu o kakonde mikan o taberu yōsu desu.

A typical image of winter in Japan is a family sitting around a "kotatsu" eating mandarin oranges.

日本では、およそ9.9平方メートルの部屋を「6畳」と表すように、部屋の大きさを畳の数で表します。
nihon dewa, oyoso kyū ten kyū heihō mētoru no heya o "roku jō" to arawasu yōni, heya no ōkisa o tatami no kazu de arawashimasu.

The area of a room in Japan is often described by the number of tatami mats it contains, such as "6 tatami mats" for a room measuring around 9.9 square metres.

玄関で靴を脱いだ後は、つま先がドアの方を向くようにそろえます。
genkan de kutsu o nuida ato wa, tsumasaki ga doa no hō o mukuyōni soroemasu.

After taking your shoes off at the entrance, the shoes should be lined up neatly with the toes pointing towards the front door.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. A family Buddhist altar

A *butsudan* is a family Buddhist altar. The size of this altar varies, but it usually takes the form of a wooden cabinet with doors. Memorial tablets for deceased family members and ancestors are often kept inside.

2. A household altar

A *kamidana* is a miniature altar to enshrine a deity which is set on a high position on a wall. Since most Japanese live with both Shinto and Buddhist influences, a lot of mixed religious customs are found in everyday life.

3. House entrance

A Japanese house entrance is normally raised, so that people take off their shoes in the lower area before stepping up into the house. Because of this custom of taking the shoes off before entering, Japanese front doors usually open outwards.

4. Table with an electric heater

A *kotatsu* is a table with an electric heater usually covered with a blanket or other such covering. Japanese people often use a "kotatsu" instead of a normal table in winter, and sit down around the *kotatsu* with their legs under the blanket.

5. Tatami mat

Tatami mats are used as flooring in traditional Japanese rooms. Their surface is covered with woven soft rushes, and is softer than a wooden floor.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #17 Commonly Used Medicines and Drugs

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KANJI

1. What are five commonly used medicines and drugs in Japan?
2. 1. 風邪薬
3. 2. 頭痛薬
4. 3. 正露丸
5. 4. 湿布
6. 5. ムヒ

KANA

1. What are five commonly used medicines and drugs in Japan?
2. 1. かぜぐすり
3. 2. ずつうやく
4. 3. せいろがん
5. 4. しっぷ
6. 5. ムヒ

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five commonly used medicines and drugs in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. kazegusuri
3. 2. zutsuugusuri
4. 3. seirogan
5. 4. shippu
6. 5. muhi

ENGLISH

1. What are five commonly used medicines and drugs in Japan?
2. 1. cold medicine
3. 2. headache medicine
4. 3. gastrointestinal medicine
5. 4. hot or cold pad used for muscle aches and injuries
6. 5. anti-histamine/anti-itch agent

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
正露丸	せいろがん	seirogan	gastrointestinal medicine

湿布	しっぷ	shippu	hot or cold pad used for muscle aches and injuries
ムヒ	ムヒ	muhi	An anti-histamine/ anti-itch agent
風邪薬	かぜぐすり	kazegusuri	cold medicine
頭痛薬	ずつうやく	zutsūyaku	headache medicine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

正露丸はにおいが強いので、糖衣錠タイプが発売され、多くの人に好まれています。
Seirogan wa nioi ga tsuyoi node, tōijō taipu ga hatsubai sare, ōku no hito ni konomarete imasu.

Because of Seirogan's strong smell, the pharmaceutical company that produces it invented a sugar-coated tablet version, which many people prefer.

子供から大人まで、広い世代の日本人が痛みやけがに湿布を使います。
kodomo kara otona made, hiroi sedai no nihonjin ga itami ya kega ni shippu o tsukaimasu.

From children to the elderly, Japanese people use hot or cold pads for muscle pains and injuries.

ムヒは、日本で長く使われているかゆみどめです。
muhi wa, nihon de nagaku tsukawareteiru kayumi dome desu.

Muhi is one of the longest selling anti-itch creams in Japan.

かぜ薬のCMは、冬によく流れます。
kazegusuri no shīemu wa, fuyu ni yoku nagaremasu.

TV commercials for cold medicines are broadcast more often in winter.

日本では、処方箋のいらない頭痛薬が約15種類もあります。
Nihon dewa, shohōsen no iranai zutsūyakuga yaku jūgo shurui mo arimasu.

There are around fifteen major types of headache medicines available without prescription in Japan.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Kazegusuri

It's normal for Japanese people to go see a doctor when they catch a cold. However, a variety

of cold medicines are available without prescription at pharmacies and drug stores. These medicines, called *kazegusuri*, are usually effective against many typical symptoms such as fever, runny nose, sore throats and coughs.

2. Zutsuugusuri

Pain killers are called *chintsūzai*, and the word *zutsūyaku* literally means "headache killer." Japanese people are not very familiar with medicine names such as "aspirin," so people tend to use collective terms, such as "medicine for headache."

3. Seirogan

Sērogan is a trademarked brand name of gastrointestinal medicine with an origin that dates back to the 1900s. The medicine is famous for its effectiveness, but it's also famous for its strong smell.

4. Shippu

Warm or cold packs for pain relief are popular, and are easily found at any drug store in Japan. Both cold and warm packs are used depending on the type of injury.

5. Muhi

Since there are many insects in Japan, pharmaceutical products to protect from mosquito bites and products for after being bitten are essential in summer. Muhi is one of the most famous products for calming itchiness, and is applied directly to a mosquito bite.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #18 Modes of transportation

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KANJI

1. What are five frequently used modes of transportation in Japan?
2. 1. 電車
3. 2. バス
4. 3. 地下鉄
5. 4. 新幹線
6. 5. 飛行機

KANA

1. What are five frequently used modes of transportation in Japan?
2. 1. でんしゃ
3. 2. バス
4. 3. ちかてつ
5. 4. しんかんせん
6. 5. ひこうき

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five frequently used modes of transportation in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. densha
3. 2. basu
4. 3. chikatetsu
5. 4. shinkansen
6. 5. hikōki

ENGLISH

1. What are five frequently used modes of transportation in Japan?
2. 1. train
3. 2. bus
4. 3. subway
5. 4. bullet train, shinkansen
6. 5. airplane

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
電車	でんしゃ	densha	train
バス	バス	basu	bus

新幹線	しんかんせん	shinkansen	bullet train, Shinkansen
飛行機	ひこうき	hikōki	airplane
地下鉄	ちかてつ	chikatetsu	subway

SAMPLE SENTENCES

ジャパン・レイル・パスは、JRのバスや電車に乗り放題の外国人向け特別割引パスです。 *Japan reiru pasu wa, jeiāru no basu ya densha ni norihōdai no gaikokujin muke tokubetsu waribiki pasu desu.* Japan Rail pass is a special dicounted flat-rate pass available only to visitors which allows the holder to ride all JR trains as well as buses.	電車の切符を買います。 *Densha no kippu o kaimasu.* I'll buy a train ticket.
長距離旅行には、高速バスもあります。 *Chōkyori ryokō ni wa, kōsokubasu mo arimasu.* For long-distance journeys, all-day and all-night buses are also available.	バスと電車、どちらのほうが速いですか。 *Basu to densha, dochira no hō ga hayai desu ka.* Which is faster, a bus or a train?
在来線が全て禁煙なのに対し、新幹線には喫煙車両がある場合があります。 *Zairaisen ga subete kin'en nanoni taishi, shinkansen niwa kitsuen sharyō ga aru bāi ga arimasu.* While local trains are all non smoking, some bullet trains have a few cars where smoking is allowed.	新幹線に乗った事がありますか。 *Shinkansen ni notta koto ga arimasu ka.* Have you ever taken the Shinkansen?
日本は列島なので、飛行機はとても便利な交通手段です。 *Nihon wa rettō nano de, hikōki wa totemo benri na kōtsūshudan desu.* Since Japan is a country with many islands, airplanes are a very convenient means of travel.	飛行機が苦手です。 *Hikōki ga nigate desu.* I don't like airplanes.

東京の地下鉄の駅には、地下3階まである駅もあります。
Tōkyō no chikatetsu no eki niwa, chika sangai made aru eki mo arimasu.

Some underground stations in Tokyo go as deep as three floors down.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. train

JR, or Japan Rail, is a major train network running almost all over Japan. Other than JR, there are also many local private railways which are all very punctual.

2. bus

Buses in Japan are operated by many private companies. Depending on the city, passengers enter from either the front or back of the bus. On some buses, passengers pay when they get on at the front door, and on others, they pay when they get off.

3. subway

Subways are found mainly in big cities. For instance in Tokyo, there are 13 subway lines operated by Tokyo Metro.

4. bullet train, shinkansen

The "shinkansen" is a special rapid service train (often translated as "bullet train") offered by JR. New lines are being developed to link major cities all over Japan.

5. airplane

Main cities in Japan usually have airports. Along with trains, the plane is one of the main transportation means by which people travel across Japan.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #19 Shops or Services in Town

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2 Kanji
2 Kana
2 Romanization
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
5 Cultural Insight

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KANJI

1. What are five common shops or services in town in Japan?
2. 1. コンビニ
3. 2. リフレクソロジー
4. 3. まんが喫茶
5. 4. カラオケ
6. 5. 居酒屋

KANA

1. What are five common shops or services in town in Japan?
2. 1. コンビニ
3. 2. リフレクソロジー
4. 3. まんがきっさ
5. 4. カラオケ
6. 5. いざかや

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five common shops or services in town in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. konbini
3. 2. rifurekusorojī
4. 3. manga kissa
5. 4. karaoke
6. 5. izakaya

ENGLISH

1. What are five common shops or services in town in Japan?
2. 1. convenience store
3. 2. reflexology
4. 3. manga cafe
5. 4. karaoke
6. 5. Japanese drinking place

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
コンビニ	コンビニ	konbini	convenience store
リフレクソロジー	リフレクソロジー	rifurekusorojī	reflexology
カラオケ	カラオケ	karaoke	karaoke

居酒屋	いざかや	izakaya	Japanese drinking place
まんが喫茶	まんがきっさ	manga kissa	comic café

SAMPLE SENTENCES

コンビニでは宅急便を送ることもできます。 *konbini dewa takkyūbin o okuru koto mo dekimasu.* People can send parcels using carrier services at convenience stores.	私はコンビニに行きます。 *Watashi wa konbini ni ikimasu.* I'll go to the convenience store.
近代のストレス社会においては、多くの人が癒しやリフレクソロジーを求めています。 *kindai no sutoresu shakai ni oitewa, ōku no hito ga iyashi ya rifurekusorojī o motomete imasu.* In a stressful modern society, many people in Japan seek relaxation in reflexology salons.	カラオケとは、日本語で「空のオーケストラ」という意味です。 *karaoke to wa, nihongo de "kara no ōkesutora" to iu imi desu.* Karaoke means "empty orchestra" in Japanese.
カラオケに行きませんか。 *Karaoke ni ikimasen ka.* Won't you go to Karaoke (with me)?	居酒屋は、通常午後5時に開店し、中には朝6時まで開いているところがあります。 *izakaya wa, tūjō gogo goji ni kaiten shi, nakaniwa asa rokuji made aiteiru tokoroga arimasu.* Izakaya open around 5pm, and some don't close until 6am.
日本の居酒屋が大好きです。 *Nihon no izaka-ya ga daisuki desu.* I love Japanese-style bars.	まんが喫茶の多くは、長時間滞在をうながすため、フリードリンク制をとっています。 *manga kissa no ōku wa, chōjikan taizai o unagasu tame, furī dorinku sei o totteimasu.* Many manga cafes offer free soft drinks so that people can enjoy a long stay there.

私はまんが喫茶に行きます。
Watashi wa Manga-kissa ni ikimasu.

I go to a comic café./ I'll go to a comic café.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. convenience store

Convenience stores are one of the most typical sights in Japan. Almost every block in a city has a convenience store where people can buy a variety of items.

2. reflexology

In the last few decades, massage and relaxation salons have been becoming more and more popular in Japan. In particular the word "reflexology" has become more and more common.

3. manga cafe

A manga cafe is a place where people can read manga (comic books), and which are usually open 24/7. Many manga cafes are also internet cafes, and you usually choose at the reception desk whether you want to read comic books or use a computer.

4. karaoke

Establishments where people can enjoy singing with their friends are usually called "karaoke boxes". These karaoke boxes are often open 24/7.

5. Japanese drinking place

An "izakaya" is a casual drinking place which also offers a food menu to with the drinks. Izakaya often offer private spaces for each group of customers, so that people can enjoy drinking and chatting without worrying about the people at the next table.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #20 Popular chain stores

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KANJI

1. What are five popular chain stores in Japan?
2. 1. マツモトキヨシ
3. 2. ドン・キホーテ
4. 3. ツタヤ
5. 4. セブンイレブン
6. 5. ダイソー

KANA

1. What are five popular chain stores in Japan?
2. 1. マツモトキヨシ
3. 2. ドン・キホーテ
4. 3. ツタヤ
5. 4. セブンイレブン
6. 5. ダイソー

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five popular chain stores in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. Matsumoto Kiyoshi
3. 2. Don Kihōte
4. 3. Tsutaya
5. 4. Sebun irebun
6. 5. Daisō

ENGLISH

1. What are five popular chain stores in Japan?
2. 1. Matsumoto Kiyoshi, a drug store name
3. 2. Don Quixote, a discount store name
4. 3. Tsutaya, a CD, DVD rental shop name
5. 4. 7-Eleven, a convenience store name
6. 5. Daiso, a 100 yen shop name

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
ダイソー	ダイソー	daisō	Daiso, a 100 yen shop name
マツモトキヨシ	マツモトキヨシ	matsumoto kiyoshi	Matsumoto Kiyoshi, a Drug store name

ドン・キホーテ	ドン・キホーテ	donkihōte	Don Quixote, a discount store name
セブンイレブン	セブンイレブン	Sebun-Irebun	Seven Eleven, a convenience store name
ツタヤ	ツタヤ	tsutaya	Tsutaya, a CD, DVD rental shop name

SAMPLE SENTENCES

ダイソーは最近、より質の高い商品を100円以上の値段で売り始めました。 *Daisō wa saikin, yori shitsuno takai shōhin o hyaku en ijō no nedan de urihajime mashita.* Daisō has recently started to offer better quality products that cost more than 100 yen.	マツモトキヨシは、日本の全47都道府県のうち44都道府県に進出しています。 *Matsumoto Kiyoshi wa, nihon no zen yonjūnana todōfuken no uchi yonjūyon todōfuken ni shinshutsu shiteimasu.* Matsumoto Kiyoshi stores are found in 44 out of 47 prefectures in Japan.
ドン・キホーテは、通常夜遅くまで営業しています。 *Donkihōte wa, tsūjō yoru osokumade eigyō shiteimasu.* Don Quijote stores are usually open until very late at night.	セブンイレブンは、1万4千店以上の店を構える、日本で一番店舗数の多いコンビニです。 *Sebun irebun wa, ichiman yonsenten ijō no mise o kamaeru, nihon de ichiban temposū no ōi kombini desu.* 7-Eleven has the highest number of convenience stores in Japan, with over 14,000 stores.
セブンイレブンのパンはおいしい。 *Sebun-Irebun no pan wa oishii.* The bread sold at Seven Eleven is good.	ツタヤでは、中古のCDやDVD、本、ゲームを買う事もできます。 *Tsutaya dewa, chūko no shīdī ya dībuidī, hon, gēmu o kaukoto mo dekimasu.* Tsutaya also sells second-hand CDs, DVDs, books and video games.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Matsumoto Kiyoshi, a drug store

name

Matsumoto Kiyoshi is the biggest drugstore chain in Japan. A variety of products are available with fairly good discounts.

2. Don Quixote, a discount store name

Don Quijote is a discount store chain which has locations in most major cities in Japan. The stores display an array of products in a very limited space; stores are often described as "mazes." The range of products is vast, including leisure goods, general merchandise, food and beverages, alcohol, clothes, furniture, beauty products, perfume, party goods, and so on.

3. Tsutaya, a CD, DVD rental shop name

Tsutaya is one of the biggest rental shops in Japan for CDs and DVDs. Tsutaya offers various ways to rent CDs and DVDs, including online services in addition to renting directly at the shop.

4. 7-Eleven

7-Eleven is an American convenience store which has branched out into the Japanese market. 7-Eleven is the biggest convenience store in Japan, and is the biggest chain store in the world.

5. Daiso, a 100 yen shop name

There are many 100 yen shops in Japan and Daisō is one of the biggest chains. The quality of the products is considered rather high for the price; a fact which attracts a continuously high volume of customers.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #21 Food souvenirs

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KANJI

1. What are five popular food souvenirs in Japan?
2. 1. 梅干し
3. 2. 抹茶
4. 3. 煎餅
5. 4. 餅
6. 5. ようかん

KANA

1. What are five popular food souvenirs in Japan?
2. 1. うめぼし
3. 2. まっちゃ
4. 3. せんべい
5. 4. もち
6. 5. ようかん

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five popular food souvenirs in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. umeboshi
3. 2. maccha
4. 3. senbei
5. 4. mochi
6. 5. yōkan

ENGLISH

1. What are five popular food souvenirs in Japan?
2. 1. pickled plum
3. 2. matcha, green tea
4. 3. senbei, savory rice crackers
5. 4. sticky rice cake
6. 5. sweet bean jelly made from red bean paste, agar and sugar

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
梅干し	うめぼし	umeboshi	pickled plum
抹茶	まっちゃ	maccha	green tea, matcha
餅	もち	mochi	mochi, rice cake

ようかん	ようかん	yōkan	yōkan, or sweet bean jelly
せんべい	せんべい	senbei	sembei (Japanese snack)

SAMPLE SENTENCES

梅干しは、通常ライスと一緒に食べられ、おにぎりの中身としても代表的な材料です。 *umeboshi wa, tsūjō raisu to issho ni taberare, onigiri no nakami to shitemo daihyōteki na zairyō desu.* Pickled plums are usually eaten with rice, and are also a typical ingredient for rice balls.	抹茶の粉は溶けやすいので、バニラアイスと混ぜたり、抹茶パウンドケーキに使用したり、いろいろな方法で楽しめます。 *matcha no kona wa tokeyasui node, banira aisu to mazetari, matcha paundo kēki ni shiyō shitari, iroirona hōhō de tanoshimemasu.* Since matcha powder melts easily, it's enjoyed in various ways, such as mixed into vanilla ice cream and in matcha pound cake.
切り餅は焼いたり料理したりして食べます。 *Kirimochi wa yaitari ryōri shitari shite tabemasu.* Cut mochi is enjoyed either grilled or cooked.	お正月には、地域でもちつき大会が行われます。 *O-shōgatsu ni wa, chiiki de mochitsuki taikai ga okonawaremasu.* There are glutinous rice-pounding events held locally in Japan on New Year's Day.
ようかんは、とても甘いので苦い抹茶とよく合います。 *Yōkan wa, totemo amai no de nigai matcha to yoku aimasu.* Sweet bean jelly is very sweet, so it goes well with a bitter green tea called "matcha."	日本の典型的なスナックは、煎餅と緑茶です。 *nihon no tenkeiteki na sunakku wa, senbei to ryokucha desu.* A typical Japanese snack is senbei and green tea.

GRAMMAR

What are five popular food souvenirs in Japan?

1. 梅干し
2. 抹茶
3. 煎餅

4. 餅
5. ようかん

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. pickled plum

Umeboshi are pickled plums. The fruits of the plum blossom are dried under the sun and then pickled with salt. Umeboshi are typically salty and extremely sour.

2. matcha, green tea

Matcha is powdered green tea with a deep bitter taste. At traditional Japanese tea ceremony, the tea served is this type of green tea - matcha.

3. senbei, savory rice crackers

Sembei is a kind of hard rice cracker. They come in various shapes and flavors, and are available at almost any Japanese supermarket. The most basic flavors are soy sauce and salt.

4. sticky rice cake

Mochi is a rice cake made of glutinous rice. Fresh mochi is usually sold in traditional sweet shops, but cut mochi (called "kiri mochi"), which is produced and packed in factories, is available at supermarkets.

5. sweet bean jelly made from red bean paste, agar and sugar

Yōkan, or sweet bean jelly, is made from red bean paste, agar and sugar. *Mizu-yōkan* is more watery, and typically enjoyed in summer.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #22 Historical figures

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2 Kanji
2 Kana
2 Romanization
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3 Vocabulary
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4 Cultural Insight

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KANJI

1. Who are five famous historical figures in Japan?
2. 1. 聖徳太子
3. 2. 織田信長
4. 3. 徳川家光
5. 4. 坂本竜馬
6. 5. 伊藤博文

KANA

1. Who are five famous historical figures in Japan?
2. 1. しょうとくたいし
3. 2. おだのぶなが
4. 3. とくがわいえみつ
5. 4. さかもとりょうま
6. 5. いとうひろぶみ

ROMANIZATION

1. Who are five famous historical figures in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. Shōtoku Taishi

3. 2. Oda Nobunaga

4. 3. Tokugawa Iemitsu

5. 4. Sakamoto Ryōma

6. 5. Itō Hirobumi

ENGLISH

1. Who are five famous historical figures in Japan?

2. 1. Prince Shotoku

3. 2. Nobunaga Oda

4. 3. Iemitsu Tokugawa

5. 4. Ryoma Sakamoto

6. 5. Hirobumi Ito

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
聖徳太子	しょうとくたいし	Shōtoku Taishi	Prince Shotoku
織田信長	おだのぶなが	Oda Nobunaga	Nobunaga Oda
徳川家光	とくがわいえみつ	Tokugawa Iemitsu	Iemitsu Tokugawa

坂本竜馬	さかもとりょうま	Sakamoto Ryōma	Ryoma Sakamoto
伊藤博文	いとうひろぶみ	Itō Hirobumi	Hirobumi Ito

SAMPLE SENTENCES

聖徳太子の肖像画は、1930年以降、7回もお札に印刷されました。
Shōtokutaishi no shōzōga wa, sen kyūhyaku sanjū nen ikō, nanakai mo osatsu ni insatsu saremashita.

The image of Prince Shotoku has been printed on seven different banknotes in total since 1930.

織田信長は、子供の頃、変わった行動のせいで「尾張の大うつけ」と呼ばれていました。
Oda Nobunaga wa, kodomo no koro, kawatta kōdō no sei de "Owari no ōutsuke" to yobarete imashita.

In his childhood, Nobunaga Oda was called "the fool of the Owari region" because of his bizarre behaviour.

徳川家光の統治は、劇的な変化だったとされています。
Tokugawa Iemitsu no tōchi wa, gekiteki na henka datta to sareteimasu.

The rule of Iemitsu Tokugawa is considered to mark a dramatic change in era.

坂本竜馬は、長崎に海軍貿易会社を設立しました。
Sakamoto Ryōma wa, Nagasaki ni kaigun bōeki gaisha o setsuritsu shimashita.

Ryoma Sakamoto founded a private navy and trading company in Nagasaki.

伊藤博文は、合計4回総理大臣に選ばれました。
Itō Hirobumi wa, gōkei yonkai sōridaijin ni erabaremashita.

Hirobumi Ito was chosen as Prime Minister four times.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Prince Shotoku

Prince Shotoku was a regent and politician who lived during the Asuka period under the empress Suiko. He established a centralised government, adopting systems and culture from continental contries. Two of his successful achievements were the 12 level Cap and Rank System, established in the year 603, and the 17-article constitution, established in 720.

2. Nobunaga Oda

Nobunaga Oda was the man who was the origin of the unification of Japan, and who is known for his innovative tactics. He was also keen to accept new things brought to Japan from abroad, and curious about foreign products. Nobunaga Oda is one of the greatest warlords in Japanese history.

3. Iemitsu Tokugawa

Iemitsu Tokugawa was the third "shogun", or hereditary military dictator, of the Tokugawa dynasty during the Edo period. Iemitsu Tokugawa established the domestic ruling system and sealed Japan off from both commerce and communication with foreign countries.

4. Ryoma Sakamoto

Ryoma Sakamoto was one of the leaders of the rebellion which overthrew the Tokugawa Shogunate and brought about the Meiji Restoration. Ryoma worked as a negotiator for the secret alliance between Chōshū and Satsuma provinces, which had been enemies for a long time. This alliance was the key to the success of the Meiji Restoration.

5. Hirobumi Ito

Hirobumi Ito was the first Prime Minister of Japan. He worked on the Meiji Constitution which was promulgated in February 1889.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #23 Natural Disasters

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#23

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KANJI

1. What are five natural disasters that can happen in Japan?
2. 1. 地震
3. 2. 津波
4. 3. 台風
5. 4. 雪崩
6. 5. 集中豪雨

KANA

1. What are five natural disasters that can happen in Japan?
2. 1. じしん
3. 2. つなみ
4. 3. たいふう
5. 4. なだれ
6. 5. しゅうちゅうごうう

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five natural disasters that can happen in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. jishin
3. 2. tsunami
4. 3. taifū
5. 4. nadare
6. 5. shūchūgōu

ENGLISH

1. What are five natural disasters that can happen in Japan?
2. 1. earthquake
3. 2. tsunami / seismic sea wave
4. 3. typhoon
5. 4. avalanche
6. 5. cloudburst

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
雪崩	なだれ	nadare	avalanche
集中豪雨	しゅうちゅうごうう	shūchūgōu	torrential rains
地震	じしん	jishin	earthquake

津波	つなみ	tsunami	tsunami, seismic sea wave
台風	たいふう	taifū	typhoon

SAMPLE SENTENCES

冬と春の間は、天気予報で雪崩に対する注意を呼びかけます。 *fuyu to haru no aida wa, tenki yohō de nadare ni taisuru chūi o yobikakemasu.* During winter and spring, weather forecasters often call people's attention to avalanches.	日本では、台風や梅雨前線の影響で集中豪雨に襲われることがよくあります。 *nihon dewa, taifū ya baiu zensen no eikyō de shūchū gōu ni osowarerukoto ga yoku arimasu.* Typhoons and fronts of rain often bring about cloudbusts in Japan.
日本の子供は、学校の避難訓練で、地震の際に身を守る方法を学びます。 *nihon no kodomo wa, gakkō no hinan kunren de, jishin no sai ni mi o mamoru hōhō o manabimasu.* Japanese school children have periodic earthquake drills to teach them how to protect themselves in the event of an earthquake.	昨日、地震がありました。 *Kinō, jishin ga arimashita.* We had an earthquake last night.
2011年3月、北日本では地震の後に巨大津波が押し寄せ、多くの命が失われました。 *nesen jūichi nen san gatsu, kita nihon dewa jishin no ato ni kyodai tsunami ga oshiyose, ōkuno inochi ga ushinaware mashita.* tsunami destroyed several cities in North Japan, and thousands of people lost their lives.	この地震による津波の心配はありません。 *Kono jishin ni yoru tsunami no shinpai wa arimasen.* There's no threat of a tsunami resulting from this earthquake.
台風が上陸すると、交通機関がまひします。 *taifū ga jōriku suruto, kōtsūkikan ga mahi shimasu.* When typhoons move across Japan, public transportation cannot function properly.	台風で、木が倒れた。 *Taifū de ki ga taoreta.* A tree fell over due to the typhoon.

GRAMMAR

What are five natural disasters that can happen in Japan?

1. 地震
2. 津波
3. 台風
4. 雪崩
5. 集中豪雨

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. earthquake

Since Japan is located above several oceanic plates and has active faults, earthquakes are quite a common occurrence all over the country. One of the biggest and the most recent was the Great East Japan Earthquake, which happened in March 2011

2. tsunami / seismic sea wave

When earthquakes happen near or under the ocean, a tsunami often follows soon afterwards. Due to the fact that Japan is surrounded by ocean, tsunamis are part of the "set" that comes with an earthquake that people have to be reminded to be wary of.

3. typhoon

Typhoons often occur on the sea in the south of Japan. Typhoons often hit Japan at autumn time, passing through the more northern islands of Japan.

4. avalanche

Mountainous terrain dominates over 70% of Japan's land. People enjoy visiting mountain areas throughout the year, but during the winter and spring mountaineers may encounter avalanches.

5. cloudburst

There are several reasons behind torrential rains in Japan, including typhoons and seasonal rain fronts. During the summer, torrential rains can also happen due to cumulonimbus clouds.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #24 Musicians

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#24

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KANJI

1. Who are five famous musicians in Japan?
2. 1. 小澤征爾
3. 2. 坂本九
4. 3. 美空ひばり
5. 4. 氷川きよし
6. 5. 嵐

KANA

1. Who are five famous musicians in Japan?
2. 1. おざわせいじ
3. 2. さかもときゅう
4. 3. みそらひばり
5. 4. ひかわきよし
6. 5. あらし

ROMANIZATION

1. Who are five famous musicians in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. Ozawa Seiji
3. 2. Sakamoto Kyū
4. 3. Misora Hibari
5. 4. Hikawa Kiyoshi
6. 5. Arashi

ENGLISH

1. Who are five famous musicians in Japan?
2. 1. Seiji Ozawa, a world-famous conductor
3. 2. Kyu Sakamoto, a legendary singer and actor
4. 3. Hibari Misora, a famous enka singer
5. 4. Kiyoshi Hikawa, a young enka singer
6. 5. Arashi, a popular male pop group

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
小澤征爾	おざわせいじ	ozawa seiji	Seiji Ozawa, a world-famous conductor

坂本九	さかもときゅう	Sakamoto Kyū	Kyu Sakamoto, a legendary singer and actor
美空ひばり	みそらひばり	Misora Hibari	Hibari Misora, a famous enka singer
氷川きよし	ひかわきよし	Hikawa Kiyoshi	Kiyoshi Hikawa, a young enka singer
嵐	あらし	Arashi	Arashi, a popular male pop group

SAMPLE SENTENCES

小澤征爾は、わずか38歳でボストン交響楽団の音楽監督に就任した。
Ozawa Seiji wa, wazuka sanjū hassai de Bosuton kōkyō gakudan no ongaku kantoku ni shūnin shita.

Seiji Ozawa became the music director of the Boston Symphony Orchetra at just 38 years of age.

坂本九のベストヒットは、英語では「スキヤキ」として知られる「上を向いて歩こう」という歌です。
Sakamoto Kyū no besuto hitto wa, eigo dewa "Sukiyaki" to shite shirareru "ue o muite arukō" toyū uta desu.

Kyu Sakamoto's best known song is "Ue o Muite Arukō", or "Walk Looking Upward", which is known as "Sukiyaki" in English.

美空ひばりは、女性初の国民栄誉賞受賞者です。
Misora Hibari wa, josei hatsu no kokumin eiyoshō jushōsha desu.

Hibari Misora is the first woman to receive the People's Honour Award.

氷川きよしの演歌は、演歌とポップの融合のような歌です。
Hikawa Kiyoshi no enka wa, enka to poppu no yūgō no yōna uta desu.

Enka songs by Kiyoshi Hikawa sound like a mix of enka and pop music.

1999年のデビュー以降、嵐は日本国内外で人気を高めてきました。
sen kyūhyaku kyūjū kyūnen no debyū ikō, Arashi wa nihon koku naigai de ninki o takamete kimashita.

Since their debut in 1999, Arashi has become more and more popular both in Japan and abroad.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Seiji Ozawa, a world-famous

conductor

Seiji Ozawa is a world-famous Japanese orchestra conductor. He's also known as a music director and as a principal conductor of opera.

2. Kyu Sakamoto, a legendary singer and actor

Kyu Sakamoto was a singer and actor. His songs were great hits all over the world, selling 15 million records in total. He lost his life in a plane crash in 1985 aged 43.

3. Hibari Misora, a famous enka singer

Hibari Mosora is considered the greatest "diva" in Japan. She started her life as actress at 8 years old, but it took about a year to convince people in the music industry to accept her mature talent as a singer.

4. Kiyoshi Hikawa, a young enka singer

Kiyoshi Hikawa is a young Japanese enka singer. Enka is a popular type of Japanese music which is made to resemble traditional Japanese songs, and is considered to be a genre popular with older people. Kiyoshi Hikawa made an impact among enka singers older than he, and made enka more casual and approachable for the younger generation.

5. Arashi, a popular male pop group

Arashi is a group managed by Johnny &Associates, Inc., a company which manages many other boy pop idol groups. Amongst many similar "Johnny's" groups, what makes Arashi different is that each member has his own different strengths apart from singing and dancing; one member even reads the news.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #25 Writers

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3 Vocabulary
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4 Cultural Insight

#25

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KANJI

1. Who are five famous writers in Japan?
2. 1. 紫式部
3. 2. 川端康成
4. 3. 大江健三郎
5. 4. 村上春樹
6. 5. 樋口一葉

KANA

1. Who are five famous writers in Japan?
2. 1. むらさきしきぶ
3. 2. かわばたやすなり
4. 3. おおえけんざぶろう
5. 4. むらかみはるき
6. 5. ひぐちいちよう

ROMANIZATION

1. Who are five famous writers in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. Murasakishikibu

3. 2. Kawabata Yasunari

4. 3. Ōe Kenzaburō

5. 4. Murakami Haruki

6. 5. Higuchi Ichiyō

ENGLISH

1. Who are five famous writers in Japan?

2. 1. Lady Murasaki, a Japanese novelist and poet of the Heian period

3. 2. Yasunari Kawabata, a short story writer and novelist

4. 3. Kenzaburo Oe, an author of contemporary literature

5. 4. Haruki Murakami, a Japanese writer and translator

6. 5. Ichiyo Higuchi, a female Japanese writer of the 19th century

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
樋口一葉	ひぐちいちよう	Higuchi Ichiyō	Ichiyo Higuchi, a female Japanese writer of the 19th century

紫式部	むらさきしきぶ	Murasakishikibu	Lady Murasaki, a Japanese novelist and poet of the Heian period
川端康成	かわばたやすなり	Kawabata Yasunari	Yasunari Kawabata, a short story writer and novelist
村上春樹	むらかみはるき	Murakami Haruki	Haruki Murakami, a Japanese writer and translator
大江健三郎	おおえけんざぶろう	Ōe Kenzaburō	Kenzaburo Oe, an author of contemporary literature

SAMPLE SENTENCES

樋口一葉は、女性として初めてお札の肖像になりました。 *Higuchi Ichiyō wa, josei toshite hajimete osatsu no shōzō ni narimashita.* Ichiyo Higuchi is the first woman whose likeness was printed on banknotes.	紫式部は、「源氏物語」でよく知られています。 *Murasakishikibu wa, "genji monogatari" de yoku shirarete imasu.* Lady Murasaki is best known for her long story "The Tale of Genji".
日本人のほとんどの人は川端康成の「雪国」や「伊豆の踊り子」を読んだ事があります。 *nihonjin no hotondo no hito wa Kawabata Yasunari no "Yukiguni" ya "Izu no Odoriko" o yonda kotoga arimasu.* Almost all Japanese people have read Yasunari Kawabata's novels "Snow Country" and "the Dancing Girl of Izu".	村上春樹の「ノルウェイの森」は430万部を売り上げ、「村上ブーム」のきっかけとなった。 *Haruki Murakami no "Noruwei no mori" wa yonsen gohyakuman bu o uriage, "Murakami būmu" no kikkake to natta.* Haruki Murakami's novel Norwegian Wood triggered the "Murakami boom", with total sales of 4.5 million copies.

「万延元年のフットボール」は、大江健三郎の代表作です。
"Man'nen gan'nen no futtobōrā" wa, Ōe Kenzaburō no daihyōsaku desu.

"The Silent Cry" is one of Kenzaburo Oe's best known works.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Lady Murasaki, a Japanese novelist and poet of the Heian period

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Murasakishikibu was a Japanese novelist and poet in the Heian period. Her talent, which was evident from her childhood, continually surprised the people around her.

2. Yasunari Kawabata, a short story writer and novelist

Yasunari Kawabata was a Japanese short story writer and novelist who was the first Japanese writer to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature. Extracts from his work are often used in Japanese high school and junior high school textbooks and exams.

3. Kenzaburo Oe, an author of contemporary literature

Kenzaburo Oe is a Japanese author of contemporary literature. His works deal with political and social issues, including nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

4. Haruki Murakami, a Japanese writer and translator

Haruki Murakami is a Japanese writer and translator. His works are surreal and unique, and are highly appreciated worldwide.

5. Ichiyo Higuchi, a female Japanese writer of the 19th century

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Ichiyo Higuchi (a pen name) is a female Japanese writer of the late 19th century. One of her best known works is "Takekurabe" (meaning "comparing heights", and translated as "Child's Play").

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