



kidstir[®]

Homeschool
Lesson Plan
Bento Box





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Intro

This month, we're heading to Japan! Inspired by this country's unique culture, these lessons will give you a sneak peek into the tiny island's fascinating history, geography, art, and traditions.

This curriculum provides a variety of subjects for every student to enjoy, with materials that can be easily tailored to your child's needs. So get ready: pack your passport, and don't forget your notebooks and pencil case!





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Math

Beginner:

- Help the [sushi chef](#) figure out how much sushi he's sold.
- [Practice counting!](#) How many fish can you fish?

Intermediate:

- [Divide these meals](#) among your schoolmates!
- [Figure out](#) how much your favorite food costs in Japanese money (yen).
- How tall's Mt. Fuji? When did the Japanese invent robots? [Calculate to find out.](#)

Advanced:

- [Take Japan's bullet train](#) to catch the baseball championship series. Can you get there in time?
- These [sumo wrestlers and tennis players](#) will help teach you geometry!
- Pack your bags. [How long will it take you](#) to travel to Japan?

Game: Have you heard of [Sudoku](#)? Try your hand at this mind-twisting number puzzle.



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Science & Geography

Beginner:

- Do you think Japan is hot or chilly? [Compare the climate](#) to the weather in your own city.
- Ever seen a snow monkey? Meet [Japan's unique wildlife](#).
- You won't believe Japan's [diverse geography](#)! Caves, lakes, marshlands, mountains, forests, sand dunes, and more.

Intermediate:

- Who created DVDs and pocket calculators? The Japanese, that's right! Learn more about their [coolest inventions](#).
- Peek inside [Japan's oldest zoo](#). Which animals do you recognize?
- Most of Japan is actually covered with trees! Learn the [science behind forest bathing](#).

Advanced:

- Take a tour of the [National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation](#).
- Learn why so many snow monkeys love Japan's [hot springs](#).
- Fun fact: Japan has more [volcanoes](#) than almost any other country in the world.

Discussion Topics:

- If you could invent anything, what would you make?
- What do you think are the benefits and disadvantages of robots and artificial intelligence?
- Go on a walk and bring a notepad with you. Jot down and share with someone all the sights, sounds, and smells you notice.
- Look up fun facts about your city/state. Are there any that surprise you?



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Languages & Literature

Beginner:

- Sing along to [Japanese's unique alphabet](#).
- [Greet](#) your friends and family like a native.
- Practice [everyday vocabulary](#) in Japanese.

Intermediate:

- [Introduction to haikus](#): a traditional Japanese poem with only 3 lines!
- Attempt your [first haiku](#). You could write about something you're looking forward to, something you can see outside your window, or your favorite part about this time of the year.

Advanced:

- Don't have a word for how you feel? [Let these expressions](#) help you out!
- [Learn the differences](#) between the English and Japanese language.
- Read [Suki's Kimono](#), a story about family and being proud of where you come from.

Fun Activities:

- Create your own [crossword challenge](#), using Japanese words!
- What other kinds of poems are out there? Try your hand at odes, acrostics, couplets, or more!
- [Get inspired by Suki's story](#). Think about how the character's clothes are tied to her culture. Can you think of any clothes that help express who you are?



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History & Culture

Beginner:

- [Take a walking tour of Tokyo](#). What are some similarities and differences you notice between Tokyo and your city?
- Live a day in the [life of a Samurai](#).
- Step into an [Infinity Room](#), designed by one of Japan's most daring artists.

Intermediate:

- How do you eat like the Japanese? Can you guess what you should bring when you visit your neighbor? Check out these [interesting facts](#) about the culture, plus, a surprise tip about taking off your shoes!
- Learn about the [historical figures](#) represented on Japanese yen bills.
- This [Japanese pottery tradition](#) teaches a valuable lesson about failure.

Advanced:

- We all know sushi, but what about tamago and tonkatsu? Make these [Japanese specialties](#).
- Learn Japanese history as you explore its [most historic sites](#).
- Japan is split into [47 regions](#) called "prefectures." Each one is its own [unique world](#).

Creative Exercises:

- Create your own dollar bills and draw on a famous person from history. Which historical figure will you choose?
- Design an American restaurant menu, and try to describe the food to someone who has never tasted Western food.
- Make a walking brochure of your city.



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Arts & Crafts

Beginner:

- Bop to these [popular Japanese tunes](#), carefully curated for kidster ears.
- Draw your own anime and manga characters. [Connect the dots](#), then color in!

Intermediate:

- Did you know the Japanese invented karaoke too? Hold [a karaoke party](#) of your own!
- Take a course in [anime and manga drawing](#) and make your own characters from scratch.
- Masks, makeup, and matinees! Learn about a [unique theater](#) form called “kabuki.”

Advanced:

- Get blown away by director Hayao Miyazaki’s world-famous movies. [Spirited Away](#) and [My Neighbor Totoro](#) are must-watches.
- Create your own [manga world](#), complete with characters and dialogue.
- [Get inspired by calligraphy](#) and turn your writing into pieces of art. Note: materials required.

Imagination Play:

- Hayao Miyazaki’s movies are known for their supernatural worlds. His characters often turn into animals, tiny things become large, and large things become tiny. Imagine that you were as small as an ant. What would the world look like? If you were big as a volcano?
- Put on your own short skit! Design your own masks, and get creative with your character. You could be an animal, an element of nature, or a superhero.

Field Trips

- [A Day in Tokyo](#)
- [Osaka, Nation’s Kitchen](#)
- [Kyoto, Heart of Japan](#)
- [Magical Cherry Blossoms](#)
- [A Temple Tour](#)
- [Virtual Hot Springs Bath](#)
- [Tokyo National Museum](#)