

# kimono

*kimono*

着物  
きもの



# Japanese macaque

*nihonzaru*

日本猿  
にほんざる

[Usually only written in kana.]



# coin

*kouka*

硬貨  
こうか



# letter writing day

*fumi no hi*

ふみの日



# calligraphy

*shodou*

書道  
しょどう



# pagoda

*tajuutou*

多重塔  
たじゅうとう



# tea

*ocha*

お茶  
おちゃ



# calligraphy

*shodou*

書道  
しょどう



日本 means Japan and 猿 means monkey. The Japanese macaques are the monkeys behind the saying 'see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil'. They are also known as snow monkeys.

### Challenge

Find out more about Japanese macaques - range, habitat, diet and young.

The word kimono means a 'thing to wear'.

ki 着 wear mono 物 thing

### Challenge

The kimono is made up of different parts. Name the parts of the kimono.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> July each year, Japan celebrates 'letter writing day'. The Japan Post Office issues special stamps. This stamp showing a monkey with a letter was issued in 2002.

### Challenge

Hold your own 'letter writing day' and write at least one letter to a relative or friend. Send letter with commemorative (picture) stamps.

The word kouka means 'hard currency'. Part of the character for 'ka' means shellfish or shell because shells were used as money.

ka 貨 → 貝 kai (shell)

### Challenge

What is the currency of Japan?

How much is it worth compared to the British pound?

多 means many  
重 means tiered  
塔 means tower

There are usually two types of pagoda - five-tiered and three-tiered. The five-tiered is the most common:

五重塔  
gojuu-no-tou

### Challenge

Find out the name of the tallest pagoda in Japan.

This character is an ancient way of writing ox. The modern character for ox is:

牛 ushi うし

### Challenge

Practise writing the ancient and modern character for ox.

This character is an ancient way of writing rabbit. The modern character for rabbit is:

兔 usagi うさぎ

### Challenge

Practise writing the ancient and modern character for rabbit.

Tea is one of the most common drinks in Japan and an important part of Japanese culture. It is usually served with something tasty. For example, a sweet made from rice and red bean paste.

### Challenge

Find out how tea is made.

Draw a diagram to show the different stages.

# rice

okome

お米  
おこめ



# bonsai

bonsai

盆栽  
ぼんさい



# Tensho Oban coin

tenshouooban

天正大判  
てんしょうおおばん



# traditional crafts

dentoukougei

伝統工芸  
でんとうこうげい



# calligraphy

shodou

書道  
しょどう



# letter writing day

fumi no hi

ふみの日



# calligraphy

shodou

書道  
しょどう



# calligraphy

shodou

書道  
しょどう



Bonsai is the art of growing small trees in pots. Bonsai means 'planting in a tray'.

bon 盆 tray      sai 栽 planting

### Challenge

Either grow your own bonsai or make a model bonsai tree or make a collage picture of a bonsai tree.

Rice is an important food and is served at most meals, including breakfast.

The word for meal means cooked rice:

*gohan* 御飯 ごはん

### Challenge

Find out how rice is grown.  
How many types of rice do you know?  
What is *omochi* おもち?

Japan is famous for many traditional crafts including woodblock prints, calligraphy, pottery, wood carving, paper making, lacquerware and origami.

### Challenge

Make an origami animal.

This is an old large coin from 1588.

天正 Tensho is an era (period of time)

大判 means big seal

### Challenge

Japan has an amazing history.  
Find out about the Emperors of Japan.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> July each year, Japan celebrates 'letter writing day'. The Japan Post Office issues special stamps. This stamp is called 'Message from Rainbow Forest' and was issued in 1997.

### Challenge

Japan has many wonderful stamps.  
Place a stamp onto A5 paper and create a drawing around it using the stamp as the inspiration for your drawing.

This character is an ancient way of writing snake. The modern character for snake is:

蛇 *hebi* へび

### Challenge

Practise writing the ancient and modern character for snake.

This character is an ancient way of writing dragon. The modern character for dragon is:

竜 *tatsu* たつ

### Challenge

Practise writing the ancient and modern character for dragon.

This character is an ancient way of writing horse. The modern character for horse is:

馬 *uma* うま

### Challenge

Practise writing the ancient and modern character for horse.

# lacquer

urushi

漆  
うるし



# traditional theatre

kabuki

歌舞伎  
かぶき



# map

chizu

地図  
ちず



# cherry blossom

sakura

桜  
さくら



# calligraphy

shodou

書道  
しょどう



# national flag

kokki

国旗  
こっき



# silk

kinu

絹  
きぬ



# Asura statue

ashura guuzou

阿修羅偶像  
あしゅらぐうぞう



Kabuki is a form of traditional theatre.

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### Challenge

There are three main types of Japanese theatre: kabuki かぶき, noh のう and bunraku ぶんらく. Find out about them.

Japan is famous for many traditional crafts. This table is an example of Wajima lacquerware. Wajima is a city in Japan.

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### Challenge

Find out where Wajima is on a map. What else is lacquer used for? Where does lacquer come from?

Japan is famous for its pink cherry blossom. *Hanami*, 花見, はなみ is the popular pastime of cherry blossom viewing.

hana 花 flower mi 見 viewing

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### Challenge

Cherry blossom appears on many Japanese stamps. Start a collection of Japanese stamps and make an artistic page with the stamps.

Some people say that the map of Japan is shaped like a two headed dragon.

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### Challenge

How many hours is Japan ahead or behind the UK? Do the Japanese change their clocks seasonally, like we do?

*Hi no maru*, 日の丸, ひのまる is the way the Japanese refer to their flag. Literally it means 'circle of the sun'. *Nihon*, 日本, にほん, Japan - literally means origin of the sun and Japan is often called 'land of the rising sun'.

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### Challenge

Draw the Japanese flag.

This character is an ancient way of writing monkey. The modern character for monkey is:

猿 saru さる

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### Challenge

Practise writing the ancient and modern character for monkey.

An Asura statue is the lowest of the demi-gods in Buddhism. They have three faces and either four or six arms.

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### Challenge

Find out about some of the beliefs in Buddhism.

The Chinese were the first to make silk but Japanese silk is also very famous and began in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century.

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### Challenge

Find out how silk is made. Draw a diagram to show the different stages.

# puffer fish

fugu

フグ



[Usually only written in kana.]

# sugoroku

sugoroku

双六

すごろく



# red-crowned crane

tanchouzuru

丹頂鶴

たんちょうづる



[Usually only written in kana.]

# volcano

kazan

火山

かざん



# calligraphy tools

bunbou shihou

文房四宝

ぶんぼうしほう



# Mount Fuji

fujisan

富士山

ふじさん



# landscape

keshiki

景色

けしき



# Japanese food

washoku

和食

わしょく



Sugoroku is a traditional Japanese game. You are playing a modern stamp sugoroku.

双 means double 六 means six

### Challenge

Make your own sugoroku game.

Puffer fish are very poisonous but they are eaten in Japan. A very skilfull chef prepares the fish and leaves a tiny amount of poison in, which makes your mouth tingle. Leaving the right amount is crucial, otherwise the customer is dead!

### Challenge

How many years must a chef train to be allowed to prepare puffer fish?

What is the name of the poison in puffer fish?

Japan has many active volcanoes. Japan is on the Pacific 'ring of fire'. This stamp shows a famous woodblock print of Mount Fuji, the tallest volcano.

火 means fire 山 means mountain

### Challenge

Find out why there are so many volcanoes and earthquake zones in Japan.

The red-crowned crane is also called the Japanese crane and is endangered.

丹 means red  
頂 means crown  
鶴 means crane

### Challenge

Find out more about the red-crowned crane – range, habitat, diet, breeding and threats.

Mount Fuji is the highest mountain in Japan. It is an active volcano but hasn't erupted for many years.

### Challenge

How high is Mount Fuji?  
Compare Mount Fuji with Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Scotland.

The four basic tools of calligraphy are called the 'four treasures of the study'. This stamp shows an inkstone case, *suzuri-ishi-bako*, 硯石箱, すずりいしばこ.

### Challenge

Name the four basic tools of calligraphy.  
Make a Japanese style ink painting.

There are many famous Japanese foods. One is *kaiseki*, 懐石, かいせき a traditional multi-course Japanese dinner.

### Challenge

Find out about some Japanese foods.  
Find out the difference between sushi and sashimi.

The '100 Landscapes of Japan' 日本百景 is a list of famous sites in Japan.

### Challenge

Name some famous places in Japan.