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| **Japanese Culture and Traditions** |

**Topic**

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| Exploring Japanese Culture and Traditions |

**Aims**

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| To provide students with a comprehensive understanding of Japanese culture and traditions |

**Age group**

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| Upper secondary |

**Level**

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| B1 + |

**Time**

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| 45 mins |

**Introduction**

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| Introduction of the topic, for example “Today, we will embark on a journey to explore the rich and fascinating culture and traditions of Japan”. Share the Importance of understanding different cultures for global awareness and appreciation |

**Procedure**

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| **1 Overview** | Show them picture 1. and have a brief discussion about it. How many pictures they can name, if they have a personal experience with something, etc. (Mask is from kabuki theater, The red tree is sakura, the green curvy tree is bonsai, sandals are Geta, The longer sword is katana, the smaller sword is wakizashi, plant on the right is bamboo, food in the middle is sushi, fat man is sumo, the music instrument is Shamisen), the drink next to fan is sake, the gate is tori, next to geisha in the right top corner is charm of luck omamori, there are chopsticks, the mountain is Fuji, etc) |
| **2 Traditional Art** | Focus on traditional arts like tea ceremony (picture 2), ikebana (picture 3 – the way of arranging flowers), calligraphy (picture 4 – you can hide the explanations and let them guess the meaning), etc (you can add what you want). Explain the significance of these arts. If there will be time play a short version of a traditional tea ceremony. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wQVxj_0Mdo&ab_channel=TEALEAVES>) |
| **3 Festivals and Celebrations** | Highlight major Japanese festivals like Sakura Matsuri (Festival about blossoming of these beautiful trees), Gion Matsuri (here is info - <https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3942.html> it’s the largest festival) and Obon (Japanese version of Halloween - <https://savvytokyo.com/obon-the-japanese-festival-of-the-dead/>). Discuss the cultural and historical significance of these festivals. Encourage discussion about how festivals contribute to a sense of community. |
| **4 Modern Japanese Culture** | Explore contemporary aspects, including pop culture, technology and fashion. Discuss the global impact of Japanese pop culture phenomena like anime and manga. Address the fusion of tradition and modernity in Japan |
| **5 Ending** | Brief quiz (Show them the picture 1 and let them name as many things as possible) or discussion to reinforce key points. Share of thoughts on what aspect of Japanese culture they find most intriguing. Summarize key takeaways from the lesson. Encourage students to continue exploring Japanese culture independently. Provide additional resources for those interested in delving deeper. |

Picture 1.



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4  
  


Picture 5  
