

**Title:** *Journey Along the Tōkaidō- The “East Sea Road” of Japan- using Cultural Snapshots: Lessons to teach Human Systems (Grade 6)*

**Introduction/Summary of lesson:** Students will study two primary source materials: The Fifty Three Stations of the Tōkaidō Manga Scroll, which will be referred to as the “Tōkaidō Manga Scroll” and the *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tōkaidō* woodblock prints (ukiyo-e). The scroll is part of an online module, “Journey along the Tōkaidō,” which includes a video of the scroll, links to the *ukiyo-e* (woodblock prints from 1833-34) and links to sections of the Tōkaidō area today, along with other background material.

Students will use the photographic artifacts contained in the online “Journey along the Tōkaidō” to study how variations in the physical environment of the Eastern Hemisphere influence human activity and how human activity also alters the physical environment. The students will be asked to act as detectives during this activity.

**Subject(s)/Grade level(s):** Social Studies/Geography, Grade 6

**Duration of lesson:** Two to three hours

**Connection to standards/common core:**

Social Studies- Geography Strand (Ohio) Grade 6:

- **Human Systems- #6:** *Explain how variations among physical environments in the Eastern Hemisphere influence human activities. Explain how human activities have altered the physical environments of the eastern Hemisphere.*

**Guiding Questions/Essential Questions:**

1. What variations in the physical environment of the eastern hemisphere affected human activity?
2. How have human activities altered the physical environment of the eastern hemisphere?

**Learning Objectives:** Students will use the photographic artifacts contained in the online “Journey along the Tōkaidō” to study how variations in the physical environment of the Eastern Hemisphere influence human activity and how human activity also alters the physical environment. The students will be asked to act as detectives during this activity.

**Materials needed:**

1. “Journey along the Tōkaidō” module:
  - a) [Ukiyo-e Woodblock Prints](#) (1830s)
  - b) [Tōkaidō Manga Scroll](#) (1920s)
  - c) [Present Day](#) (2010s)
2. Other Resources:
  - a) [National Road/Route 40 \(Maps and other resources\)](#)
  - b) [Route 66 resources](#)
  - c) [Japan’s National Road - Tōkaidō Road Maps](#)
  - Skype ability- optional

**Pre-Assessment:** The teacher might model the activity for the students by examining one scene/station and then sharing what the teacher thinks is a good answer.

**Lesson Activities:**

**Activity One:** Which detective team can spot the largest number? Students could be divided into teams if the teacher desires this to be a competition.

1. Detective Work- as the students watch the [Tōkaidō Manga Scroll](#), they are to look for the station/scene numbers that show evidence of where the environment did not fit the people's needs or where the environment posed challenges. The scroll links for versions with the translation or without the translation can be used. Look at the [translation of the Manga Scroll](#) for some possibilities. Students may cite the example of professional river porters pulling boats across a river in Shimada-station 24.
2. More Detective Work- as the students watch and stop the Tōkaidō Manga Scroll at predetermined stations/scenes that show evidence of environmental challenges, have the students look for solutions made by people to alter or overcome these challenges.
3. In small groups, ask students to list ways, if any, that the man-made solutions to environmental challenges resulted in future unintended consequences.

**Activity Two:**

1. Have students make connections with people living today somewhere on the East Sea Road of Japan. Please refer to the Going Global Project for opportunities to connect U.S. students socially with students in Japan. [Flyer](#) and [Website](#).
2. Use the wood block print pictures and or the contemporary pictures, all on the online module, "Journey to Tōkaidō" to repeat the same detective work.
3. Use the online resource, Historic National Road Images to complete the same lesson.

**Activity Three:**

1. Divide students into two groups. Ask students to compile a list of human activities that have altered the physical environment along the Tōkaidō in both a positive and a negative manner. Student may be encouraged to debate the positive and negative aspects of electric lines next to a medieval castle (Ōiso- station 9) and a train going through the grounds of a temple (Yui- station 17). Other answers exist.
2. The group with longest list may be the "winner" but they must justify each reason to the "guru" teacher or a selected student to earn the title.

**Extension activities/Extending the lesson:**

- Students could Skype or write pen pal letters in order to ask questions about what they do for a living and what their topography looks like.
- Continue contact with students or individuals living along the East Sea Road today for affirmation of the unintended consequences predicted.

**Teacher's Notes- Background Information about the Tōkaidō source (Overview):**

To show change over time and compare cultures as well as learn more about a very important part of Japanese history and culture, the "[Journey along the Tōkaidō](#)" has been created using various primary source materials. Japan's National Road, the Tōkaidō Road, from Tokyo to Kyoto in Japan is examined at various time periods (1830s, 1920s, and present day).

Students will study two primary source materials: the *Tōkaidō gojūsantsugi manga emaki* (The Fifty Three Stations of the Tōkaidō Manga Scroll, which will be referred to as the "Tōkaidō Manga Scroll") and the *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tōkaidō* woodblock prints. This Tōkaidō manga scroll was created by 18 members of the Tokyo Manga Association during a trip approximating the route of the old Tōkaidō in 1921 and depicts scenes of Japanese culture, history, economics, daily life, transportation, architecture, and industry. Utagawa (Andō) Hiroshige's *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tōkaidō* (1833–1834 in the Hōeidō edition) is a series of woodblock prints (ukiyo-e) of the stations along the Tōkaidō. These *ukiyo-e* prints became enormously popular and have been reprinted countless times down to the present. The scroll is part of an online module, "Journey along the Tōkaidō," which includes a video of the scroll, links to the ukiyo-e (woodblock prints from 1833-34) and links to sections of the Tōkaidō area today, along with other background material.

Though the title is *The Fifty Three Stations of the Tōkaidō Manga Scroll*, the paintings are numbered 1 through 55. This is because the starting location, Nihonbashi, and the final destination, Kyōto, were not numbered in Utagawa (Andō) Hiroshige's original *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tōkaidō* (1833–1834 in the Hōeidō edition), and the manga scroll follows this precedent. Japanese names are given throughout in Japanese order, family name first and given name last.

Lesson plan is available on: <http://u.osu.edu/journeyalongthetokaido/lesson-plans/>

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