

Title: High School Geography: Regions of Japan and the United States

Introduction/ Summary: Students will become cartographers for National Geographic using the Tōkaidō of Japan or either U.S. Route 66 or the National Road.

Subject: High School Geography

Duration of lesson: One – two class periods

Connection to standards/ common core: (High School) World Geography

Regions - #11: Criteria are used to organize regions and as the criteria change, the identified regions change (e.g., types of economic activities, ethnic groups, natural vegetation).

Guiding/Essential Questions: How do movements of people, products and ideas help redefine regions

Learning Objectives: Students will examine various regions, learn to categorize the types of regions and ascertain the criteria used to determine the regions.

Materials Needed:

1. "[Journey along the Tōkaidō](#)" module:
 - a) [Ukiyo-e Woodblock Prints](#) (1830s)
 - b) [Tōkaidō Manga Scroll](#) (1920s)
 - c) [Present Day](#) (2010s)
 - d) [Tōkaidō Station Summary](#)
2. Other Resources:
 - a) [National Road/Route 40 resources and Route 66 resources](#)
 - b) [Japan's National Road - Tōkaidō Road Maps](#)
 - c) [U.S. Census](#)

Pre-Assessment: Teachers might offer names of famous regions and ask why they got their nickname. Possible examples: Silicon Valley, New England, The Middle East, The Bible Belt, etc.

Lesson Activity: The following can be a research activity or brief classroom game:

- A. List the following 3 terms on the board: Explain to the students that these are terms for various methods of categorizing and labeling regions.
 - a. Formal
 - b. Functional
 - c. Perceptual
- B. Have students brainstorm definitions and examples as they apply to each of the above criteria for categorizing regions. See "Teacher notes"

Teachers' Notes: There are three basic types of regions:

- *Formal – a region characterized by a common human property (e.g., shared language, shared political identity) or by a common physical property (e.g., climate, vegetation);*

- *Functional – a region organized around a focal point and linked to surrounding areas via transportation systems, communication systems or economic functionalities (e.g., Antwerp, Belgium is a focal point for diamond trading, Tokyo, Japan is a focal point for stock trading); and*
- *Perceptual – a region based upon people's shared identifications and attitudes about an area (e.g., the Bible Belt, the French Riviera).*

Example of a possible student response:

Station No. 1 Shinagawa (Bay), the first station, was a beautiful port with entertainment and restaurants seen in the woodblock from the 1830s. Remnants of defense batteries, due to the advent of the United States Navy led by Admiral Perry, are evident in the Tōkaidō Manga Scroll. This region had a major Functional Change in the 1850s.

- C. Students can be given maps or asked to research the following roads. Students will also need census data for cities along each road.
- U.S. Route 66
 - National Road Route 40
 - Tōkaidō

Divide class into three groups, one for each road listed above, and ask them to be cartographers for the National Geographic. Their task is to circle as many different regions on each highway as possible. Each group must use at least once, each criterion on their map.

- D. The teacher will now project one map at a time for the class to see.

The groups, one at a time, will read only the definition for a region and the rest of the class will try and guess where the region exists on the map and why?

Teachers' Notes: A possible student answer might be:

- *The Perception and or Function of the Nihonbashi changed.*
- *Nihonbashi is the starting point for the Tōkaidō. Visible in the print from the 1830s is a crowded, working class area lacking fancy buildings. By the 1920's, visible in the Tōkaidō Manga Scroll, the area is a modern business area with booming tall buildings. Once a fish market, the Nihonbashi is today the location for the Bank of Japan, the Tokyo Stock Exchange, and prominent department stores.*
- *Both Perception and Function of this region, the Nihonbashi, changed perhaps in part because it was the starting point for departure along the Tōkaidō.*

Post- Assessment:

- A. Part D of the Lesson could be used as a Post- Assessment.
- B. Teachers could give the categories and ask for a definition and example.
- C. Teachers develop a matching exam based on the class discussion.

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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