Purpose: Cleanliness is approached differently in Japan and the U.S.

Rationale: Exposure of students to cultural differences that:
- have a long tradition
- are personal in nature (therefore likely to be surprising)
- are such that ignorance of which is likely to be embarrassing if one travels in Japan

Materials:

Websites:
- www.gojapan.about.com/cs/livinginjapan/ht/ht_bath.htm
- www.japanesebathhouse.com/history.html
- www.japaneselifestyle.com/au/culture/ofuro.html
- www.japan-zone.com/new/etiquette.shtml
- www.theplumber.com/japanesetoilets.html
- http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/ge/ge04ofuro.htm

Films: “Shogun”

Books: Totto Chan

Activities: Divide the class into groups, and have each group research and present to the class what it learned.

1. Draw a diagram of a Japanese bathroom, showing how the layout is different from an American bathroom. Explain the use of slippers.

2. Draw a Japanese toilet, and explain how to use one.
   3. Explain Japanese bath etiquette to the class. Locate a Japanese bath in your town, and investigate how you might be able to try it out, OR research how to build a Japanese bath in your own home.

3. Write and perform a humorous skit of an ignorant American being invited to a Japanese home. Include both using the toilet and being asked to have a bath.

4. Read the chapter on the trip to the sea in Totto Chan. Make a map of how the class traveled. Write a short piece discussing whether you would enjoy such a trip, and read it to the class.
5. View clips of bathing scenes from “Shogun” and analyze them for cultural differences. Present and discuss them with the class.

6. Design a trip to Japan, visiting onsen on each major island. Justify your choice of onsen and make a poster of pictures of the those you choose.

Assessment: Class presentations will be graded on effort, extent of knowledge demonstrated, and creativity of presentation.

Grade Adaptation:
- Target gifted grades 6-7
- Older grades could research the history of Japanese bathing, especially its origins in Buddhism.
- Older grades could compare Japanese bathing and toileting practices to those of other cultures.
- Older grades could research the collecting of night soil for agricultural purposes
- Younger grades could be presented a lesson with pictures and diagrams taken from the websites above using the overhead projector.
- Younger grades could read together and discuss the trip to the sea chapter from Totto Chan