Japanese Culture
Comparing the Japanese educational system to the American
Mr. Parish    World Studies

Lesson Summary
Students will be practicing discovery of information using a KWL graphic organizer and
Writing for Understanding by completing an editorial.
The goal of this lesson is to provide the frame work so students will have a basic
understanding of the Japanese Educational System. Students will be able to compare
the similarities and differences between the American and the Japanese systems.
Students will be able to complete a graphic organizer detailing the differences between
the systems. They will be able to write an editorial for the school newspaper to inform
the student body about the Japanese educational system.

Time 3 class periods

Pre-Assessment
Oral questioning and KWL graphic organizer. Ask students about their typical day in
and out of school. List on board. Then have students list what they believe as a typical
day of a Japanese student. Fill in the KWL

Scoring Guidelines - none

Post-Assessment
Students will write an editorial for the school newspaper comparing the American and
the Japanese educational systems. The Editorial will have an introduction, information
of elementary education, junior high school, High school, juku (cram schools), and
University. Then express their opinion on which system is best and why

Scoring Guidelines - Editorial - Introduction 5 points, The following topics 10
points each; School calendar and curriculum, Teachers and instruction, Parental
involvement, School uniforms, Kumi (homeroom), Clubs and extra curricular activates,
Preparation for entrance exams, Entrance exams, University. (5 points for description
of Japanese education and 5 points for the American system) Opinion piece is worth 25
points. Points are based on the WHY – the reasoning and substance of the opinion.
Completed KWL will be a homework grade of 50 points. Oral daily questions to gage
learning.

Instructional Procedures
Pre-assessment instruction
Explain the assignment and post assessment scoring.
Project the website http://www.k111.k12.il.us/king/japan1.htm and review Mrs. Helen
DeWitt’s experience in Japanese schools. Fill in the KWL, what I want to know.
Students then will explore the following websites on their own and complete KWL and
the provided study questions.
http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/digest9.html
http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/digest5.html
This will be followed by class discussion reviewing KWL and the study questions.
Students will now complete a graphic organizer, a comparison chart, of the two
educational systems.
Review with the students the subjects to be included in the editorial (same as comparison chart).
Student now receive a handout with condensed, specific information on each topic. This is done to help those students that may have difficulty with reading comprehension. Students will add any information missed to comparison charts. Review with students how to write an editorial. Assignment - complete editorial.

Differentiated Instruction
Reduce the number of topics, Reduce the number of sources…

Extension

Homework Options
Review the websites and complete the KWL, study questions, and comparison charts

Connections – Home, Interdisciplinary, Technology, Research

Materials / Resources
History Alive Communist China and Modern Japan Lesson 2.4
http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/digest9.html
http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/digest5.html
http://japanese.about.com/library/weekly/aa062400.htm
http://www.k111.k12.il.us/king/japan1.htm
Graphic organizers; KWL and Comparison Chart
Study questions

Key Vocabulary

General Tips

Attachments