Dear Teachers,

The East Asian Studies Center is always thinking about effective ways of teaching Japanese culture to our students. We believe that realia – artifacts that can be touched, held up and looked at, played with, etc. – are one of the best ways “into” a culture. A few years back we brainstormed what kinds of Japanese things American kids would enjoy and benefit from. With this list in hand, we sent EASC staff on a shopping trip. The result is this teaching box: Japan Box: Japanese Daily Life. Everything in the box was purchased in Japan and reveals something about Japanese culture. We hope that students can see, feel and encounter Japanese culture through the materials in the box. We also hope that the box will be creatively used in various subject areas and for different purposes.

We did not create specific lesson plans based on the materials in the Japan Box. We believe that you know how to best use and apply these materials in your classroom. However, we included some suggestions for class activities and questions to ask students. We are in the process of making other “theme” boxes, so we would appreciate your comments and feedback. We also would like to hear how you used the materials in the box in your lesson/classroom and how the lesson went. Please make sure to fill out the evaluation form and include it when you return the box. (If you have lesson plans or activities based on the materials in the box that you are willing to share with other teachers, please submit them when you return the box.)

We hope you and your students enjoy Japan Box: Holidays and Celebrations!

The staff of the East Asian Studies Center

Memorial Hall West 207
1021 East Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47405

For specific questions regarding the Japan Box contact EASC at easc@indiana.edu, or at 1-800-441-3272.
Japanese Holidays and Celebrations

Just as people in the United States celebrate many different holidays, Japanese people also celebrate many holidays throughout the year. In this section, students will discover what kinds of holidays are celebrated in Japan. Students might be surprised how holidays which are familiar to them, such as Valentine’s Day or Christmas, have been adopted in Japan. At the same time, they will discover how these holidays have changed in another culture.

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1. **Materials checklist**

Please check the materials in the box when it arrives and before you return the box to the Center.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name of the Toy</th>
<th>Before Shipping (EASC)</th>
<th>After Receiving (School)</th>
<th>Before Shipping (School)</th>
<th>After Receiving (EASC)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Daruma doll</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Hina doll</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Kabuto (Helmet)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Koinobori (Fish)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Manekineko (waving cat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Omamori (Lucky charm) x 2</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oni mask</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Otoshidama envelope x 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Shichifukujin (seven lucky gods)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Japan at a Glance: Updated (book)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# A List of Japanese Annual Holidays/Events

These holidays and celebrations might be celebrated on different days and different ways in different regions of Japan. National holidays are marked with an asterisk (*).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>New Years Day*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Second Monday Seijin no Hi (Coming of Age Day)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Setsubun (marks the beginning of Spring)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>Kenkoku Kinen no Hi (National Foundation Day)*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>Valentine’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>Hinamatsuri or Momo no Sekku (Dolls or Girl’s Festival)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>White Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>Shunbun no Hi (Vernal Equinox Day)*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>End of the school year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
<td>New school year starts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4/8</td>
<td>Hana Matsuri (Buddha’s birthday)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4/29</td>
<td>Midori no Hi (Green Day –Birthday of Emperor Showa)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>5/3</td>
<td>Kenpo Kinenbi (Constitutional Memorial Day)*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5/4</td>
<td>Kokumin no Kyujitsu (People’s Day)*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5/5</td>
<td>Kodomo no Hi (Children’s Day)*</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Second Sunday of May Mother’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
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<td>Third Sunday Father’s Day</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>7/7</td>
<td>Tanabata (Star Festival)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7/20</td>
<td>Umi no Hi (Marine Day)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>8/13-15</td>
<td>Obon (Bon Festival)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Kinro no Hi (Respect-for-the Aged Day)*</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mid September Tsukimi (Moon Viewing)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9/23</td>
<td>Shubun no Hi (Autumnal Equinox Day)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
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<td>Second Monday Taiiku no hi (Sports Day)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>Bunka no Hi (Culture Day)*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/15</td>
<td>Shichigosan (&quot;7, 5, 3&quot; marks the day to pray for good health and growth for children)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/23</td>
<td>Kinrokansha no Hi (Labor Thanksgiving Day)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>12/23</td>
<td>Tenno Tanjobi (Emperor’s Birthday)*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12/24</td>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12/25</td>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12/31</td>
<td>New Year’s Eve</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3. **Description of Holidays/Events**

**Bold text indicates the materials in the box.**

**一月**

**January 一月**

**January 1**

**New Year’s Eve/New Year’s Day**

The New Year is very special and important for Japanese people. In general, it is celebrated from January 1st through 3rd, and government offices and most businesses are closed from around December 29th through January 3rd. The purpose of most of the New Year’s ceremonies is to eliminate all the bad fortune of the past year and pray for good fortune in the coming year. People return to their hometowns to celebrate with their families.

Holiday preparations, such as shopping and cleaning, are all finished by New Year’s Eve. During the evening on December 31st, most families spend time together watching television. *Kohaku Utagassen* (the red and white singing contest: New Year’s Eve grand song festival) is a popular TV show that many people watch on New Year’s Eve. It is also popular to eat *soba* noodles, which are called *Toshikoshi* (crossing years) *soba*. Soba is a long buckwheat noodle; people eat *Toshikoshi* *soba* because the long noodle symbolizes long life. Beginning around midnight on New Year’s Eve (through about January 7th) many people go to shrines to pray for happiness, safety, and good health. At the shrines, many people buy *omamori* (good luck charms). *Omamori* (picture on the right) are thought to bring good luck, good health, long life, success in school, etc.


Some families or shops display ornaments or pictures of *shichifukujin*, (the seven deities of good fortune) since they are said to bring wealth and long life. *Manekineko* (the beckoning cat, picture on the right) are often sold at stores in this season. *Manekineko* are believed to bring prosperity and good fortune and are often displayed at restaurants and other shops throughout the year.

Picture from: [http://www.jhg.co.jp/p1neko/neko1.html](http://www.jhg.co.jp/p1neko/neko1.html)

On New Year’s Day, Japanese people eat a traditional meal called *Osechi ryouri* (or *Osechi* for short). *Osechi ryouri* is served in a square box and is eaten for about the first three days of the New Year. About three days worth of food is prepared so that no one will have to cook during the holidays. Each dish in *osechi ryouri* has a meaning, for example, good health, long life, happiness, a bountiful harvest, etc. These days, because making *osechi ryouri* is time-consuming, some people buy *osechi ryouri* from supermarkets or grocery stores. People also eat *mochi* (rice cakes, picture on the right) prepared in various ways during the New Year’s celebration.

Pictures from: [http://www.rakuten.co.jp/kasyuan/img1015228254.jpeg](http://www.rakuten.co.jp/kasyuan/img1015228254.jpeg)
People exchange New Year’s postcards and children receive gifts called *Otoshidama* (money) which is put into *otoshidama-bukuro* (*otoshidama*—please see the sample in the box and picture on the left). Many people go to a big sale called *Hatsuuri* (literary means the first sale of the year), which usually starts on January 2nd or 3rd and lasts for a few days. Many stores have *fukubukuro* (grab bag—picture on the right) for *hatsuuri*. *Fukubukuro* are popular since the value of the contents of the bag is much more than what people pay. The price, size and objects in the *fukubukuro* vary. While some people wait in lines to buy *fukubukuro*, some others prefer not to buy them since they cannot see what it is inside the bag.


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*Daruma Doll* fairs are also held at the beginning of the January all over Japan. The *Daruma* doll represents the Indian priest Bodhidharma, the founder of Zen Buddhism in China, who is said to have lost the use of his arms and legs after spending nine years meditating in a cave. *Daruma* dolls are used as good-luck objects for the fulfillment of some special wish. Purchasers paint one eye and make a wish, then paint the other eye when the wish comes true.

Picture from: [http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2104.html](http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2104.html)

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The 2nd Monday in January  
**Seijin no Hi (Coming-of-Age Day)***  
This holiday honors people who turn 20 years old anytime between April 2nd of the previous year and April 1st of the current year. The Japanese Civil Code specifies that this is the age at which one becomes an adult. Prior to 2000, this holiday was celebrated on January 15th. For related information on *Seijin no Hi*, please see the entry in *Cultures Speak*.

Picture from: [http://hareginomarusho.co.jp/f/index.htm](http://hareginomarusho.co.jp/f/index.htm)
February 3

**Setsubun (Bean-Throwing Ceremony)**

In homes, schools, and shrines across Japan, people scatter soybeans to drive out any demons and to bring in good fortune.

At some schools (mostly in kindergarten and elementary schools) and homes with children, they enjoy *mamemaki* (bean-throwing). One person acts as the *oni* (goblin) wearing an *oni mask* (picture on the left), and the other people throw beans at the *oni* and shout, “*oni wa soto, fuku wa uchi!*” (“Out with the goblins, in with good luck!”). After finishing *mamemaki*, people eat the same number of beans as their age.


February 11

**Kenkoku Kinenbi (National Founding Day)**

Commemoration of the legendary enthronement of Japan's first emperor, Jimmu. In most cities various groups take to the streets and demonstrate against the revival of the Imperial system.

February 14

**Valentine's Day (pronounced *barentain dei*)**

On this day, girls and women give chocolates to boys and men. Valentine’s Day was introduced in Japan in the mid 1950’s, but it was not widely celebrated. In 1958, the president of a chocolate company started a Valentine’s Day campaign, but it wasn’t until the mid 1970’s that people started to recognize Valentine’s Day as “a day when women confess their love to a men” by giving them chocolate. By the mid 1980’s, the custom was booming, women give *giri choko* (obligatory chocolate) to their male friends, family members and colleagues to show appreciation for them. They give *honmen* (favorite/true) *choko* only to the one they really care for.


March 3

**Hina Matsuri or Momo no Sekku (Girl's Festival)**

This is a festival for girls where families set up an arrangement of *hina dolls* along with *sake* and *mochi* to celebrate and pray for their health and happiness.

In eastern Japan, people place the princess on the right, and the prince on the left (picture 1), but in western Japan, the princess is placed on the left and the prince on the right (picture 2).

![Picture 1](http://www.tokyoku.co.jp/hina.html)

![Picture 2](http://www.tokyoku.co.jp/hina.html)

Faces of dolls (picture 1)

Pictures from [http://www.tokyoku.co.jp/hina.html](http://www.tokyoku.co.jp/hina.html)
March 14

**White Day (Pronounced as howaito-dei)**

This unique day was created by the president of a confectionery in the late 1970's. It was originally called Marshmallow Day, but the name was eventually changed to White Day. These days, boys and men give women small gifts such as handkerchiefs or accessories as well as sweets. The picture on the right is a heart-shaped marshmallow made for White Day, an example of a White Day gift.

Picture from: [http://web-jpn.org/kidsweb/calendar/march/whiteday.html](http://web-jpn.org/kidsweb/calendar/march/whiteday.html)

Around March 21

**Shunbun no Hi (Vernal Equinox Day)**

Celebrated at the spring equinox, this holiday, being the central day of a seven-day Buddhist memorial service, is marked by family reunions and visits to family graves. During this time, people weed their family graves, and leave flowers, incense and ohagi (sweet rice balls covered with red bean paste, picture on the left). It is tradition that ancestors' spirits prefer round food.

Text from: [http://www.asij.ac.jp/elementary/japan/jp_holi.html#mar20](http://www.asij.ac.jp/elementary/japan/jp_holi.html#mar20)

Picture from: [http://www.kyoto-su.ac.jp/information/recipes/hagi.html](http://www.kyoto-su.ac.jp/information/recipes/hagi.html)
April 四月

The new school year starts around April 8th, but the actual date differs from school to school.

April 8
Hana Matsuri (Buddha’s birthday festival)

Literally "flower festival," this celebration commemorates the birthday of the Buddha. A statue of Buddha is typically anointed with special tea in this celebration. This festival is not widely celebrated in Japan, but can be seen at Buddhist temples. During this festival, children dress up in kimonos, march through the streets to the temple and sing Buddhist chants. Men, women and children all wear kimonos. The streets are decorated with white lanterns that have black and red writing on them, and streamers made to look like cherry-blossoms. There is a parade in the streets which has floats that are sometimes carried by several men. Other floats are on large, wooden, golden wheels that are pulled instead of carried. One of them is always a huge white elephant bearing a small image of Buddha. (There are no elephants in Japan, but there are in India where Buddha spent most of his life.) The large elephant is often made out of paper-maché and painted red and white. On the elephants back is a small house covered with pink flowers. The small statue of Buddha is found inside. The children come up to the statue and bow and pour sweet tea (hydrangea leaf tea) on the head of the infant Buddha. Some believe that it rained tea on the day that Buddha was born.

Text from: http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/Byrnes-celebrations/work.html
Picture from: http://www.thelema.net/hml/00Shinto/chap5.html

April 29
Midori no Hi (Greenery Day)*
The week of April 29th to May 5th is referred to as "Golden Week;" offices are usually closed. This holiday was designated in 1989 as a day for appreciating nature. Before 1989, this day was the birthday celebration for the Emperor Showa (Hirohito), who loved nature.
May 3
*Kempo Kinenbi (Constitution Memorial Day)*
Commemoration of the 1947 ratification of the Constitution of Japan and celebration of hope in the growth of the nation.

May 4
*Kokumin no Kyujitsu (People's Day)*
A new holiday established in 1999. It was decided that this day should be a national holiday because it falls between two holidays and to encourage household consumption and to support the development of the tourist industry.

May 5
*Kodomo no Hi or Tango no Sekku (Children's Day)*
Although literally meaning "Children's Day," this festival is the male counterpart of hina matsuri. Cloth banners resembling carp (*koinobori*) are displayed outside while dolls in samurai outfits (*gogatsu ningyou* —May doll) are displayed indoors by families with boys, in hopes that their children will be healthy and fit. Most families have either *koinobori* or *gogatsu ningyou*.

*Gogatsu ningyou (yoroi- armor)  Gogatsu ningyou (kabuto - helmet)*
Different kinds of *koinobori*

This is a traditional *koinobori*, which is higher than the roof of the house. Do you see the roof of the house on the left?

When houses are crowded together, there isn’t space for *koinobori* which fly high above the roof, so smaller *koinobori*, which are “shorter than the roof” have become more popular.

This is a picture of a *koinobori* set on an apartment porch or balcony. The size of *koinobori* may vary among families, but the parents’ wishes for their children are all the same.


**Second Sunday in May**

**Mother’s Day**

After World War II, Japanese people began to celebrate Mother’s Day, just as we do in the United States. It became common around the late ‘40s following after World War II. People buy presents, such as flowers, to show their appreciation for their mothers.
Third Sunday in June  
**Father’s Day**
Like Mother’s Day, people began celebrating Father’s Day after World War II, and they buy presents for their fathers on this day.
July 7

**Tanabata (Star Festival)** (August 7 in some locales)

*Tanabata* is celebrated on July 7th, according to the modern lunar calendar, although the major Tanabata festivals are held on August 7th, the date according to the old calendar. Many families and schools display *tanzaku* poetry written on strips of thick paper and hung from bamboo trees to express their wishes. These displays, on a larger scale, constitute festivals in cities such as Sendai (Miyagi Prefecture) and Hiratsuka (Kanagawa Prefecture). The story of the star festival differs among the regions of Japan. Please see the *Resources* entry for the story of *tanabata*.

[Picture from: http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2283.html](http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2283.html)

July 20

**Umi no Hi (Marine Day)**

A holiday, established in 1996, for the appreciation of the sea.

School’s summer vacation starts at the end of July and lasts until about September 1st.
August

August 15

*Obon (Festival of Souls)*

July 15th (on the lunar calendar) is the day when ancestors' souls return to this world to visit. Typically, visiting family graves, participating in *bon-odori* (dances performed during *bon* season to welcome and send off ancestors' souls), and sending off *shoro-nagashi*, paper boats containing the ancestors' souls which are sent down rivers to the sea.

For related information on *Obon*, please see the entry for *Obon* in *Cultures Speak*.

Mid-September

*Tsukimi (Moon Viewing)*

Considered to be the most auspicious moon of the year, the "harvest moon" in September is observed by families with *susuki* (pampas grass, picture on left) arrangements and *tsukimi-dango* (rice-flour dumplings) which are eaten while viewing the moon.

For related information on *tsukimi*, please see the entry for *Tsukimi in Cultures Speak*.

Picture from [http://www3.yomogi.or.jp/chandler/fun/phprob.htm](http://www3.yomogi.or.jp/chandler/fun/phprob.htm)

September 15

*Keiro no Hi (Respect-for-the-Aged Day)*

This holiday, commemorating the enactment of the law concerning Welfare for the Aged in 1966, honors the elderly and celebrates their longevity. School children visit nursing homes or invite the elderly to their schools for special entertainment (singing, dancing, etc.). People also give gifts to their elderly friends or grandparents.

Around September 23

*Shubun no Hi (Autumnal Equinox Day)*

Activities are similar to those on the vernal equinox: family reunions and visits to grave sites are important on this central day of a seven-day Buddhist memorial service.
The 2nd Monday of October

Taiiku no Hi (Health-Sports Day)*

Taiiku no Hi is a day of physical activity and sporting events to encourage physical and mental fitness. Prior to 2000, this holiday was celebrated on October 10th, the date of the opening ceremony of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. October 10th was selected due to government research which showed that historically it was the least likely to rain on this day.

For related information on Taiiku no Hi, please see the entry in Cultures Speak.

November 3  
**Bunka no Hi (Culture Day)**
This day of cultural activities was designed to encourage the ideals of Japan’s postwar constitution, namely love and freedom. It commemorates the 1946 Japanese Constitution. Prior to 1945, this day was celebrated as Emperor Meiji’s birthday.

November 15  
**Shichi-go-san (Festival for children 3, 5, 7 yrs old)**
On this day, families pray that their children will grow up happy and healthy. These three numbers, three, five, and seven, are chosen because odd numbers are considered lucky. Three-year-old girls, five-year-old boys, and seven-year-old girls are dressed in their best clothes and taken to pray at shrines on this day or the closest weekend. Many girls wear kimonos and boys wear *haori* jackets and *hakama* trousers. However, these days many girls and boys also wear Western-style dresses and suits. Many parents take their children to the portrait studio to have pictures taken.

November 23  
**Kinrokansha no Hi (Labor Thanksgiving Day)**
On this day, people show gratitude for each other’s labors and production throughout the year. The Emperor makes an offering to the god of newly-harvested rice.
December 23  
**Tenno-tanjobi (Emperor's Birthday)**
The celebration of the birthday of Japan’s present emperor who was born on December 23, 1933. People offer their congratulations at the Imperial Palace.

December 25  
**Christmas (pronounced kurisumasu)**
Stores, offices, and schools are decorated for this day, although it is not a religious holiday (there are not many baptized Christians in Japan). It is more popular with younger people. Christmas is also a time to hold parties.

December 31  
**Omisoka (New Year's Eve)**
Ceremonies on this day are frequently tied to others throughout *Oshogatsu*. *Omisoka* is a time of cleansing the body, environment, and spirit in order to start the New Year fresh. A ceremony typically performed on *omisoka* at temples across Japan is the ringing of the temple bell 108 times. Offices are usually closed from December 29th through January 3rd.

For related information on *Omisoka*, please see the entry in *Cultures Speak*.
5. **Activities**

**A. Compare and Contrast Activity**

Have students write down the holidays or celebrations that they observe at home each month. Then, have them share what they have written with rest of the class. Different students may have different holiday and celebrations. If this is assigned as homework, students may bring some pictures that were taken during their holidays to share with other students. After filling out the Appendix A, have students compare and contrast their holidays with Japanese holidays.

**B. Are They American-Born Holidays?**

After learning about holidays they celebrate, have students research if there are any Japanese holidays that are affected by American culture. For example, in Japan, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day were recognized after World War II (it was after Japan was occupied by America). Also, while researching, they might find holidays or celebrations that they are not familiar with, such as National Grandparents Day in America, which was founded in 1978, 12 years after *Keiro no Hi* (Respect-for-the-Aged Day) was founded in Japan.

**C. Student teaching (Not suggested for younger students)**

This activity is designed to have students cover the materials by letting them teach to the class. Students will teach the rest of the class an assigned month of Japanese holiday and celebrations.

1. Divide a class into small group of 4-6 students.
2. Each group will be responsible for teaching the holidays that are in their assigned month (divide January through December depending on the number of the group). Students will research the assigned holidays using the description in the box, or other available resources (books, internet, etc.) Appendix B may be passed to students to help them organize the information on each holiday or celebrations they are going to teach.
3. Have each group teach the assigned holidays and celebrations to the rest of the class.
4. Appendix C can be passed to students during or after student teaching to have students write down what they have learned about Japanese holidays and celebrations.

*Hints for Covering the Materials*

If you do not have time to cover all of the holidays, you may pick the ones in the current month, or cover 3-4 months in one class period and finish the unit in a total of three classes.
D. Let’s Make *Daruma*!

In this activity, students will become familiar with the meaning and use of a *daruma* doll. For necessary materials and directions to make *daruma* dolls, please see the attachments on the next page.

Directions are also available at the East Asian Studies Center’s home page: [http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/japanese_art/DARUMA.htm](http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/japanese_art/DARUMA.htm)
E. Designing *Kimono*

This activity will allow students to design *kimono*. For necessary materials and directions for designing *kimono*, please see the attachments on the next page.

Directions are also available at the East Asian Studies Center's home page: [http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/japanese_art/KIMONO.htm](http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/japanese_art/KIMONO.htm)
6 Resources

**General information on Japanese culture**

East Asian Studies Center  [http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/](http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/)


Japan.co.jp  [http://www.japan.co.jp/top.php](http://www.japan.co.jp/top.php)

The Japan Forum  [http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/indexe/indexe.htm](http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/indexe/indexe.htm)


**Information on Japanese holidays and celebrations**

East Asian Studies Center: Cultures Speak  [http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/holidays/japan/jmap.htm](http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/holidays/japan/jmap.htm)


Kids Web Japan – Annual Calendar  [http://web-jpn.org/kidsweb/calendar/calendar.html](http://web-jpn.org/kidsweb/calendar/calendar.html)

**Information on specific holidays and cerebrations**

New Years

**New Year’s Eve**

The Japan Forum – Crossing years: *Toshikoshi*  [http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/ge/ge10toshi.htm](http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/ge/ge10toshi.htm)

*Osechi Ryouri*.

**Osechiryoui** and its recipe

- [japanesefood.about.com/library/weekly/aa120800a.htm](http://japanesefood.about.com/library/weekly/aa120800a.htm)
- [japanesefood.about.com](http://japanesefood.about.com)

**New Year’s Card**

- **The Japan Form**  [http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/ge/ge07nenga.htm](http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/ge/ge07nenga.htm)

**Shichifukujin**


- **Kids Web Japan**  [http://web-jpn.org/kidsweb/calendar/january/shichifukujin.html](http://web-jpn.org/kidsweb/calendar/january/shichifukujin.html)

**Girls’ Day**

- **General information**


**Children’s Day**


- **Ginkoya: Koinobori**  [http://www.ginkoya.com/pages/koinobori.html](http://www.ginkoya.com/pages/koinobori.html)

**Mother’s Day**

- **Mother’s Day on the Net**  [http://www.holidays.net/mother/](http://www.holidays.net/mother/)

**Father’s Day**

- **Father’s Day on the Net**  [http://www.holidays.net/father/](http://www.holidays.net/father/)

**Tanabata**

- **Story of Tanabata**

- **Kids Web Japan**  [http://web-jpn.org/kidsweb/calendar/july/tanabata.html](http://web-jpn.org/kidsweb/calendar/july/tanabata.html)
*Obon*
The Japan Form: [http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/ge/ge08obon.htm](http://www.tjf.or.jp/eng/ge/ge08obon.htm)

National Grandparents Day

[http://www.grandparents-day.com/](http://www.grandparents-day.com/)

[http://www.grandparents-day.net/](http://www.grandparents-day.net/)

[http://www.igrandparents.com](http://www.igrandparents.com)
### Japanese Holidays/Celebrations and Holidays/Celebrations in My Country

Name ____________________________

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Appendix A
Name: ______________________________

**Name of the holiday/celebration:**

**Date of the holiday/celebration:**

**What is this holiday/celebration for?**

**How is the holiday/celebration celebrated? What do people do during the holiday/celebration? Is there any special food they eat for the holiday/event?**
Japanese Holidays/Celebrations

Name________________________

Directions: List some of your favorite Japanese holidays/celebrations. Write the dates and at least two facts about each one.

Name of holiday/celebration ___________________
When is it celebrated?  _______________
Facts: ________________________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

Name of holiday/celebration ___________________
When is it celebrated?  _______________
Facts: ________________________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

Name of holiday/celebration ___________________
When is it celebrated?  _______________
Facts: ________________________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

Name of holiday/celebration ___________________
When is it celebrated?  _______________
Facts: ________________________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

Appendix C
Evaluation Sheet: Japanese Holidays and Celebrations

1. Your Name: _______________________________

2. Name of your school: _______________________________ State___
   City________________

3. Grade level you teach: ___________________________

4. How did you hear about the Japan Box? _____________________________

5. For what subject did you use the Japan Box: Japanese Holidays and Celebrations?

6. Did you find the Japan Box helpful in meeting the objectives and goals of your lesson/class?
   Yes    No
   If you answer “No,” please provide suggestions to make the Japan Box more helpful.

7. How would you evaluate the “Description of Holidays and Celebrations” and Culture Speak sections in the Japan Box? (Please circle one)
   a. It was helpful; there was enough information to teach my lesson.
   b. Need more description on each holiday/celebration.
   c. It was not helpful at all and needs to be changed.
   If you chose “c,” how should the descriptions be changed?

8. Did you use any of the activities introduced in the box?   Yes  No
   If you answer “Yes” to the question 8, please answer following questions:
   Which activity did you try in your classroom?
   How did the activity go? Was it helpful?
   If you answered “no,” please tell us how you used the Japan Box.

Please write any comments and/or suggestions regarding the Japan Box: Japanese Holidays and Celebrations on the reverse side. Thanks!