On the Road Again

Jim Duvall
Tri-North Middle School

PURPOSE
Learn the geographic locations of various Japanese cities and the general topography of the Japanese islands.

THEME STATEMENT
There are many major and historical cities in Japan that are connected via an impressive and extensive system of expressways and national highways.

SUGGESTED TIME:
One class session (fifty minutes).

KEY VOCABULARY & CONCEPTS
Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Nagasaki, Matsuyama, Tokyo, Kyoto, Kobe, Okayama, Nagano.

MATERIALS NEEDED
Travel map/atlas, string.

INITIATION (Inquiry, Preview, Involvement)
Begin topic by saying, "You've always wanted to work for a professional baseball team. Well, here's your chance. You've just been hired to drive the team bus for the last two weeks of the season. Your team is the Hiroshima Carp."

DEVELOPMENT (Instruction, Data Collection, Organization)
1. Give each student a travel map and a piece of string. Have the students check the length of the string and compare it to the key and decide the number of kilometers it represents.

2. Hand out the two week schedule for the Carp. Tell the students to use their own paper and write down a log of the kilometers traveled for each game (Inform the students that the team always travels on the same day as the game).

3. Inform students that as conscientious bus drivers they should write down any geographic obstacles that might slow down their trip (i.e., mountains, bridges between islands, etc.).
EXTENSION/ENRICHMENT (Articulation of Ideas, Ownership, Experimentation)

The students determine the various distances and then write down the appropriate information.

ASSESSMENT:

The students' papers will be graded on a four point rubric scale: Four points for a completed paper that has the correct answers for the "trick questions" (which are the homes games); three points for a completed paper with incorrect "home game" answers; two points for a "mostly completed" paper; one point for a few answers; zero for not turning in the assignment.

Class will go over the key questions and check to see who correctly got the "home" answers.

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. Which towns did you not find?
2. What days involved the most traveling? Why?
3. What answers did you get for the home games?
4. What various obstacles did you think might slow down your trips?
5. What did you notice about the Takamatsu (?) and Nagasaki trips? (they're on different islands connected by bridges).
6. What did you notice about the Japanese system of highways? (extensive roadways, a lot of toll roads, similar to the US).
HIROSHIMA CARP SCHEDULE

Monday: ........................................................................ Carp at Yamaguchi
Tuesday: ........................................................................ Carp at Nagasaki
Wednesday: ..................................................................... Off day
Thursday: ........................................................................ Matsuyama at Carp
Friday: .............................................................................. Carp at Osaka
Saturday: .......................................................................... Carp at Nagoya
Sunday: ............................................................................. Carp at Tokyo
Monday: ............................................................................. Off day
Tuesday: ........................................................................... Carp at Kyoto
Wednesday: ..................................................................... Carp at Kobe
Thursday: ........................................................................ Carp at Okayama
Friday: .............................................................................. Nagano at Carp