

The Olympics, Japan and Bullet Trains - A Lesson in National Pride

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7th Grade Eastern Hemisphere Social Studies

Timeline - Approximately three days

Anticipatory Set : Short video of Miracle on Ice finish. This was the unexpected upset by a young American team of a vastly superior Soviet hockey team in the 1980 Olympics. Use this as a discussion of national pride around events like the Olympics.

Input:

1. Review of post World War II conditions in Japan.

<https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2124.html>

2. Introduction of 1964 Tokyo Olympics

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/for-some-in-japan-olympics-is-a-redemption-of-national-pride-1378634017>

- A. Shinkasen (Bullet Train) coverage

<http://www.cnn.com/travel/article/japan-record-breaking-maglev-train/index.html>

3. Introduction of 2020 Tokyo Olympics

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/tag/2020-tokyo-olympics/>

Guided Practice:

Students will consider their own national pride and what is associated with it. Is it technological advancements? Cultural uniqueness? Military achievements?

Students will then research their chosen item and prepare a Google Slide presentation of at least 4 slides describing the achievement and the impact it has had on the American psyche.

Independent Practice:

Students will practice their presentation at home or elsewhere and be ready to present it to the class at the next meeting.