

Lesson Plan

Shinto and Buddhism in Japan

Keizai Koho Fellowship

For my lesson I will use a reading and my pictures from visits to shrines and temples in Japan to help students understand the syncretism of Shinto and Buddhist beliefs in Japan. Visiting these sites, it really stood out to me how well Shinto and Buddhism seem to work together throughout Japan. One of the major themes of Global history is the importance of cultural syncretism, and I think the Japanese example is perfect for a lesson about syncretism. My trip to Japan was very rewarding in many ways. I chose this as the subject of my lesson because though it is a perfect example of syncretism, I have not seen it as a focus of the sources I have been using; so it will be a great addition to my curriculum.

Lesson plan procedure:

First students will discuss, with a partner, what the term syncretism means and share with each other one example we have learned this year (Jesus Sutras for example).

Next students will read an article titled "Japan's Shinto-Buddhist Religious Medley" from the *Japan Times* which describes the blending of Shinto and Buddhism in Japan.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2007/09/04/reference/japans-shinto-buddhist-religious-medley/>

After that I will display a PowerPoint presentation which includes many pictures I took when at the various holy sites we visited (Nikko Toshogu Shrine, Meiji Jinju Shrine and Sensoji Temple) and ask the students to observe the Buddhist and Shinto elements they see and mark down where they see clear syncretism I will get a chance to share some observations from my trip here.

The final activity will involve the students trying to identify other examples of syncretism in their lives and in my other pictures from Japan.

Name _____

Japanese Syncretism – Buddhism and Shinto

After reading the article, describe three examples of Shinto-Buddhist syncretism that are present in Japan.

1.

2.

3.

Next we will observe some pictures of shrines and temples in Japan that I took on my trip to Japan. Please **choose at least four** of these pictures and explain how you see examples of Buddhist and Shinto syncretism in the picture.

Below comment on any other kind of cultural blending you may see in my pictures (I added a few pictures from my trip that do not relate to Buddhism or Shinto, but were interesting).