

# “An Interactive Tour of Japan”

## Research and Create an Electronic Map using GoogleMyMap

**Audience:** Grades 7 - 8 World Geography Lesson Plan

**Duration:** 4 class periods are recommended (2 for research, 1.5 for Mapping, and .5 for the Online Gallery)

**Objectives:** Students will develop research skills, explore Japanese cultural landmarks, and create an interactive travel map for a ten day trip to Japan. This student-centered lesson encourages students to interact within a map with the express purpose of amplifying what they research and learn.

**Materials:** Each student will need a computer, access to Google Drive, and it is recommended that students are enrolled in Google Classroom with the teacher.

**Introduction:** In this lesson, students will take on the role of a travel agent who has been hired by a customer to advise them on where they should travel within Japan. Each student will choose a customer (4 different customers), research Japanese cultural destinations unique to their customers interests, and then create a customized map according to their interests. If time permits, students will share their proposals (interactive maps) via an online gallery<sup>1</sup>.

Since this project is limited to 4 days, students are not expected to research expenses. Students will choose which customer has hired them and then create a map of well matched destinations. Google My Map is a great platform because it allows viewers to have interactive experiences, which allow them access to Japan’s topography, images, infrastructure, and natural landscape.

This lesson will have 3 different parts: Task #1 - Research, Task #2 - Create map that fuses locations, information, and photos/videos, The final task is for the teacher to share the Online Gallery with all students

**Procedure:** Have students look at the document titled “Overview (For Students)” They will need to choose a customer.

**Part 1:** Students will research places of interest that cater to the interests of their clients. Before students begin their research, a teacher should model good research practices. Because this is the foundation of the lesson, teachers should share the template titled “Task #1 Research (For Students)” to help students research, record, and advertise places of interest. Students will also search for images/videos they can employ within their maps. Prior to students working independently, teachers may provide examples of ideas/images that complement the interests of each customer, which will act as a springboard for students.

**Part 2:** Students will create a Google My Map. Instructions for this part are found in the document titled “Task #2 Create Google My Map (For Students)”

**Part 3:** This is covered in the document titled “Google Form/Online Gallery (For Teacher).” After students have completed their maps, the teacher will make the Online Gallery available to all students and expect students to provide constructive feedback to their classmates within the Gallery. As students participate, you may require your students to provide comments and fill out a survey of what they learned and/or which areas of Japan they wish to visit if they ever travel to Japan.

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<sup>1</sup> Creating a gallery is explained in the document, “Google Form/Online Gallery (For Teacher)”