

Keizai Koho Center Fellowship 2025
Post-Fellowship Lesson Series Content Outline
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The following lesson series explores the economic and cultural development of Japan after World War II. Specifically, these lessons investigate the impact of the relationship between Japan and the United States, and what impact those relations have had on both societies. Ultimately, students explore how this ongoing relationship has touched their local community. The lessons in this project were created in partnership with the Keizai Koho Center and the many industry professionals that contributed their expert knowledge.

Pre-WWII: Contextual Lesson Content

AP World History Class

Driving Question: How did Japan's Meiji-era transformation reshape its economy, culture, and connections with the wider world?

- Meiji Restoration
 - Emphasis: Cultural and economic transformation
 - Years: 1868-1889
- Japanese immigration to SF prior to WWII (Late 1800s)
 - Key terms: Cultural diaspora, cultural syncretism
 - Tokyo and Yokohama prior to WWII
 - Major economies
 - Maps
 - Push factors

US History Class

Driving Question: What drew Japanese immigrants to San Francisco, and how did local attitudes and opportunities shape their lives before World War II?

- Japanese immigration to SF prior to WWII
 - Key terms: Cultural diaspora, cultural syncretism
 - Japantown prior to WWII
 - Pull factors

- Culture and economies
- Local treatment of immigrants

WWII: Main Lesson Content Part 1

AP World History Class

Driving Question: How did Japan's imperial ambitions and America's wartime strategies reflect competing visions of power in the modern world?

- Major causes of Japanese and American involvement
 - Japan's relationship with neighboring countries
 - Japan's imperialism as a factor in their decision to bomb Pearl Harbor
- Japan's Alliances during the war
- The atomic bombs as the end of the war
 - America's reasoning for dropping the bombs
 - The devastation left behind
 - Industries that arose in their place

US History Class

Driving Question: How did America's war with Japan affect the lives, rights, and livelihoods of Japanese Americans on the West Coast?

Driving Question: How did the events of World War II lay the foundation for America's political and economic involvement in Japan after the war?

- Major causes of Japanese and American involvement
 - Japan's tactics for dropping the atomic bomb
 - America's technological limitations(radar) that allowed the success of this attack
 - America's immediate response
 - Japanese-American community in San Francisco
 - Political, economic, and social consequences to Japanese-Americans living in America(specifically the West Coast)
 - Mass Incarceration, loss of economic stability, and unfounded prejudice
- The atomic bombs as the end of the war
 - America's reasoning for dropping the bombs

- Was it necessary?
- Japan's constitution after the war
 - America's involvement
 - How did this lay the foundation for American involvement in Japan for the future?

Post WWII: Main Lesson Content Part 2

AP World History Class

Driving Question: To what extent did Japan's postwar transformation reflect American influence versus Japan's own traditions and innovations?

- Economy:
 - Allied occupation
 - Assisted rebuilding
 - Investing in industries such as steel
 - San Francisco Peace Treaty
 - Korean War
 - Stimulating Japan's economic growth
 - Tokyo Development
 - Map after war and map in 1990
 - Trade development
 - Exports and imports over time. Trade over time
- Culture/Society
 - Fundamental Law of Education
 - Free education for 9 years
 - Adopted the american education structure "6-3-3-4"
 - Entrance to new levels were determined by exams
 - By 1970 less than 20% of Japanese citizens lived in rural areas
 - **(TOKYO DEVELOPMENT LESSON Part 1)** Tokyo Development
 - Apartments and lifestyles (smaller than american apartments)
 - Westerners called them rabbit hutches
 - Impact of american culture in tokyo

- Food
- Media
- Soap

US History Class

Driving Question: In what ways did Japanese Americans rebuild their lives and cultural identity in the United States after World War II?

- Economy:
 - Allied occupation
 - San Francisco Peace Treaty
 - US presence after 1951
 - Japanese american community after WWII
 - Where did they go?
 - Major Japanese industries that arose in SF
- Culture/Society
 - How did Japanese-American culture change after WWII?
 - Japanese immigration to the US after WWII compared to before.
 - How did Japanese culture stay alive in San Francisco over time? (1950-2000s)

Present Day: Content Preparation for Walking Tour

FOCI:

Collectivism vs individualism

Homogeneity vs diversity

Cultural syncretism

Cultural Diaspora

AP World History Class

Driving Question: What can comparing Meiji-era Japan and Japan in 2025 reveal about how nations evolve culturally and economically in response to global change?

- Economy

- Economic slowdown
- State of trade relations with other countries
- State of trade relations with the United States
 - Current export and imports
- Culture: (Focus on cultural syncretism)
 - Japanese societies in Meiji time vs. in 2025
 - Homes
 - Market places
 - Schools
 - Do political systems and economies shape how culture develops?

US History Class

Driving Question: To what extent do modern Japan–U.S. relations reflect partnership, dependence, or competition?

- Economy of Japan
 - State of trade relations with the United States
 - Current export and imports
 - **(TRADE RELATIONSHIP LESSON)** Issues that are interfering with their trade relationship
 - Analysis of Fujisaki Ichiro's Remarks
 - Japan's Former prime minister's stance (documents)
 - Japan's New prime minister's stance (video)
 - What drives people to visit Japantown in SF?
 - Is it culture?
 - Goods?
 - Food?
- Culture/Society
 - Issues that are interfering with their trade relationship
 - Analysis of Fujisaki Ichiro's Remarks
 - **(TOKYO DEVELOPMENT LESSON Part 2)** Architecture
 - Shibuya
 - Streets of shibuya

- Branz condos vs new apartment in SF
- Is there cultural syncretism?
- Japantown SF (after walking tour)
 - Is there Cultural syncretism?
 - Preservation
 - Festivals
 - What syncretism do we see?

Walking Tour

This walking tour will occur after the lesson series is complete and will explore the historical sites mentioned during the course. Specifically, this tour will focus on cultural syncretism and the development of a distinct Japanese-American identity.