



# **Ticket to Tokyo Homeschool Lesson Plan**

## **Raddish Lesson Plan Road Map**

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We design these lessons to be adaptable and flexible to your students and your life. You can do “A Little Taste” in 30-45 minutes, or you can use the extension activities and make the projects and activities listed last over several lessons or even weeks. The lessons are meant to be interdisciplinary, covering many subject areas at once. Students of all ages can use these materials, with pre-writers able to draw or verbally share responses.

If desired, you could extend these lessons into a project-based learning unit of study, where students tackle a real world problem and create solutions. The learning happens in the process of getting to the presentation of the solution, and students often find it more meaningful when they are investigating a topic of their choice.

For a deeper look at the topic, “A Big Bite” offers extension ideas for learners who are able to read, write, and think on a higher level.

**Driving Questions:** What makes Japan culturally unique in the world? While Japanese food like yakitori, sushi, and yakisoba can now be found globally, what are the tourist sights that interest kids of all ages because they can only be found in Japan?

## A Little Taste

### Resource List

#### Background Information (also linked within lesson)

- “Japan”, National Geographic Kids  
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/japan/>
- “I Live in Tokyo”, picture book by Mari Takabayashi
- “I Live in Tokyo”, video read aloud <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-sjnY8mqZw>

#### Optional Extensions

- “My Awesome Japan Adventure: A Diary About the Best 4 Months Ever” picture book by Rebecca Otowa
- Mt. Fuji Facts and Worksheets <https://kidskonnnect.com/geography/mount-fuji/>
- Mount Fuji Facts for Kids [https://kids.kiddle.co/Mount\\_Fuji](https://kids.kiddle.co/Mount_Fuji)
- Tokyo Anime Guide <https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3052.html>
- 10 Popular Kids Anime <https://jw-webmagazine.com/anime-for-children/>
- Video about Japanese baseball experience (no narration)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFecJLsNhdQ>
- “Baseball in Japan”, National Geographic article  
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/digital-nomad/2011/09/02/baseball-in-japan/>
- Shinkansen facts for kids <https://kids.kiddle.co/Shinkansen>
- “Inside Japan’s Most Expensive Bullet Train”, video  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icwENiwTlzl>

#### Conceptual Knowledge - What Do You Want Them to Know?

1. Japanese culture can be found all over the world, but certain things are still unique to Japan.
2. Bullet trains, anime, Japanese baseball, and Mt. Fuji are all specifically Japanese experiences and innovations.
3. Successful travel brochures entice travelers to a new destination using text and imagery.

## Key Vocabulary

- Shinkansen: often called “bullet trains”, this is the network of high-speed railway trains in Japan.
- Manga: Japanese comics. Unlike American comics, manga is read from right to left. The style of manga artwork is also very distinctive when compared to American comics.
- Anime: Japanese animated films, which are often derived from manga.

## Cross-Curricular Links

- Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Fine Arts, Math

## Project Idea/Scenario

Create a travel guide that highlights some of Japan’s sights that would especially appeal to children.

## Plan the Process:What Will the Students Do?

Learn about Japan and create a travel brochure.

## Warm-up Activity - Activating Background Knowledge

- Using a globe or map, have students find Japan. What do they notice about Japan? What is it near, and what geographical features can they find?
  - Possible Answers: Japan is near other East Asian countries, and it is a group of over 4000 islands. Have them think about what life is like on an island, and how this would affect the lives of the people who live there.
    - Geographically remote/harder to reach so your culture develops without outside influence, strong sense of identity because they are separated from others, leads to unique culture
- Ask students to share anything they already know about Japan. See if they can identify major sports, any tourist destinations, or methods of transportation.
- Their task is to create a travel brochure that appeals to kids their own age. Talk about brochures or ads that they have seen, and who they are meant for.
  - Disney ads or ads for other theme parks might be a good place to start. How do they make them appealing to kids of all ages? (graphics, interesting facts, prices)

## Sequence/Procedure

1. Read [Japan overview National Geographic piece](#) and/or read “I Live in Tokyo” book ([video](#) . [read aloud here](#)) about Japan to get an introduction to Japan for visitors.
2. Students then choose to learn about aspects of Japanese culture, selecting from [shinkansen](#) ([bullet trains](#)), [Japanese baseball](#), [anime/manga](#), and/or [Mount Fuji](#). Use Japanese Map & Culture Worksheet (see page 6) to gather information.

3. Students create a travel brochure that presents information in a kid-friendly way. Remember that visual aids and fun facts grab someone's interest and keeps them reading!
4. Students share their finished product with someone else. Share the project while enjoying any of the uniquely Japanese recipes from the Ticket to Tokyo kit.

### Possible Creations

1. A [6 paneled brochure](#) with information and pictures highlighting some of Japan's kid-friendly attractions
2. A Powerpoint presentation highlighting different interesting sights and experiences
3. A 30 second commercial advertising for a visit to Tokyo as a family destination

### Extensions

1. Use [shinkansen train routes](#) to plan a journey to all the destinations researched. Add up route times and see how many hours and days it would take to visit all selected spots.
2. Choose an [anime show to watch](#); compare and contrast anime with other cartoons.
3. Find manga at your library. See how it is different from graphic novels, then create a comic strip and incorporate elements of the manga style.

**Driving Questions:** What makes Japan culturally unique in the world? While Japanese food like yakitori, sushi, and yakisoba can now be found globally, what are the tourist sights that interest kids of all ages because they can only be found in Japan?

## A Big Bite

### Resources

- Kids' Travel Guide: Japan, book by Damien Selby
- "When Your Child is the Travel Agent", article from The New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/14/travel/vacation-ideas-kid-friendly.html>
- Railway Museum <https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3314.html>
- Japan Rail Planner <https://japanrailplanner.com/>
- Ryokan (Lodging) in Tokyo <https://theculturetrip.com/asia/japan/articles/the-best-ryokan-in-tokyo/>
- Best Tokyo Restaurants <https://trulytokyo.com/best-tokyo-restaurants/>
- Scholastic Vacation Budget Worksheet <https://www.scholastic.com/content/dam/teachers/lesson-plans/migrated-featured-files/calculatingvacation.pdf>

### Project Idea/Scenario

A travel agent often curates a complete itinerary for a trip, including lodging, meals, and transportation. Students will act as the travel agent for their family, and create a full itinerary with a budget.

### Sequence/Procedure

1. Students start by thinking back on any recent trip they have taken, big or small. Can they identify the costs of that trip? Make sure they think of all the different costs involved in travel.
2. After researching the costs of average hotels and meals in Japan, how much money needs to be budgeted for a long weekend in Tokyo? Upon determining a budget, make sure you have enough to cover all expenses (food, lodging, transportation, souvenirs, and other incidental expenses.) Use the [yen currency converter](#) as needed to calculate total costs.
3. How do you create the best itinerary for a family like yours? What is most important? Often, the thing that is most important gets the largest share of the budget, but this is not always the case.

### Possible Creations

1. Create a calendar grid with a schedule that shows blocks of time, where you'll be, and how much money is needed for each block.
2. Draw a map for a section of the itinerary. Number destinations on the map so someone could follow the map's itinerary points.
3. Using Google Maps, plot points of interest and plan the best route to get from one sight to the next. Write an email to your family explaining the route; would they be able to get through it without you as a guide?

## Japanese Map & Culture Worksheet

Label and color Tokyo and Japan on the map. Can you identify any of the other nearby countries?



1. What is a shinkansen?

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2. What is anime? How is it different from animation?

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3. What is the most popular tourist attraction in Japan, and why do you think it is?

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4. How is a Japanese baseball game different from an American baseball game? How is it the same?

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