

# Japanese and Japanese-Americans

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# History of Japan

The background features a traditional Japanese ink wash painting of a large, curling wave. In the foreground, a small boat with several figures is navigating through the water. In the distance, a snow-capped mountain peak is visible. The overall style is reminiscent of a classic Japanese landscape painting.

- Japanese immigration to the U.S. became significant during the period of 1868 Meiji Restoration.
- First immigration on American Soil
  - They first appeared in Hawaii and later in the west coast regions such as Washington and California.
- Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
  - Japanese were replacing Chinese in industrial jobs.

# History of Japan

## ➤ Japanese government intervention and immigration ban

- 1907, the Gentlemen's agreement between the government of Japan and the U.S. ended immigration of Japanese laborers but permitted the immigration of spouses and children already in the U.S.

The background features a traditional Japanese ink wash painting of a large, curling wave. A small boat is visible on the water, and a mountain peak is visible in the distance. The style is reminiscent of the 'Great Wave off Kanagawa' by Hokusai.

# History of Japan

## ➤ WWII

- By spring of 1942, 120,000 Japanese-Americans and nationals residing in the U.S. were forced into ten different internment camps.

## ➤ Internment Camps

- Long term incarceration centers in isolated areas including Manzanar and Tule Lake in California.

The background features a traditional Japanese woodblock print style illustration of a large, curling blue wave. Several small yellow boats are depicted riding the waves. In the upper left corner, there is a vertical rectangular sign with Japanese text. The overall scene is set against a light, hazy sky.

# History of Japan

## ➤ Aftermath of the Camps

- Civil liberties act of 1988 granted reparations to Japanese-Americans who have been interned by the U.S. government and acknowledged the violations put on basic civil liberties and constitutional rights

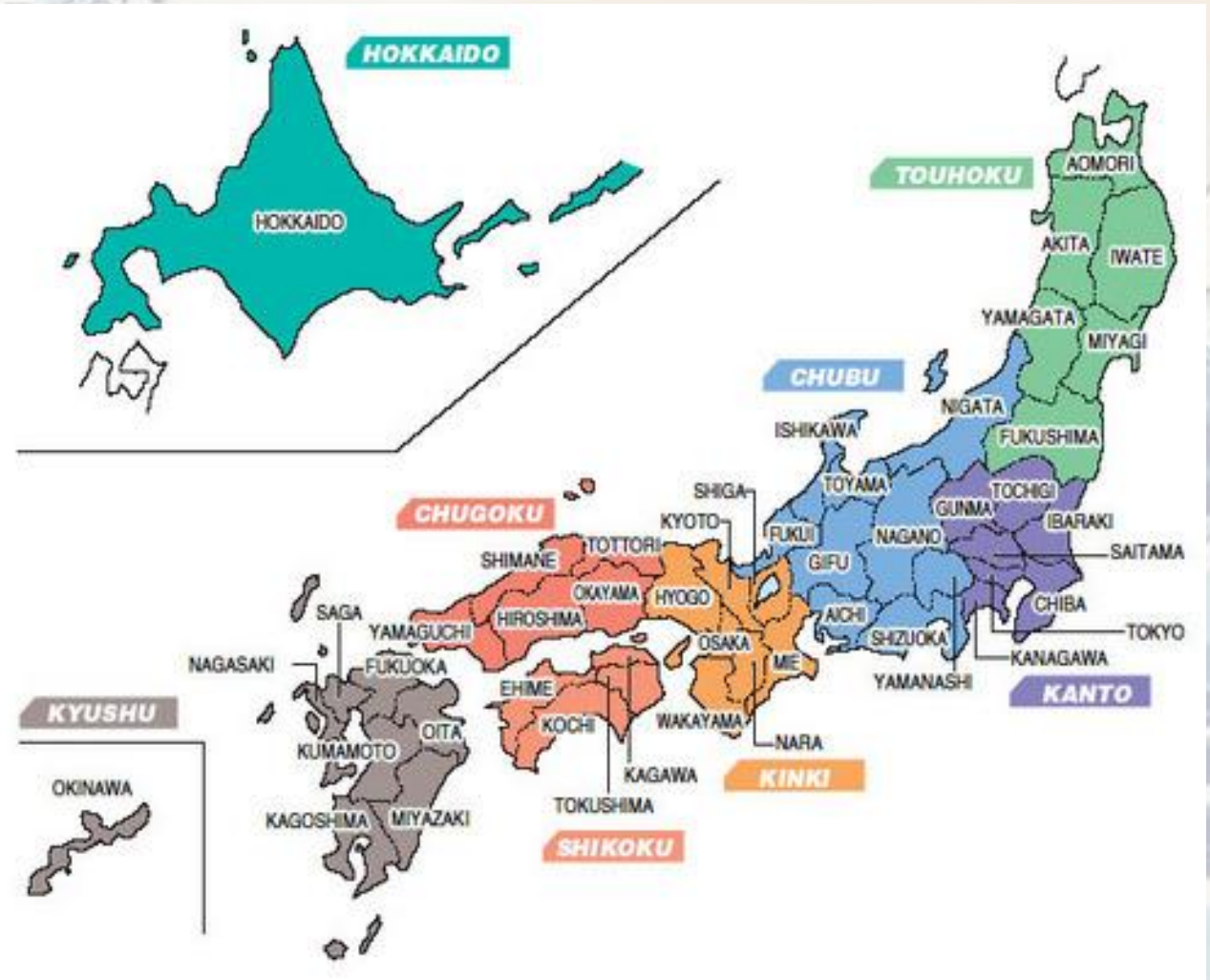


# History of Japan

## ➤ Today

- Approximately 1.4 million Japanese-Americans living in the U.S. (the 2015 pew research centers)
- Largest Japanese-American communities are found in California (300,000), Hawaii (185,000), New York (40,000), Washington (35,000) and etc.
- A conservation and their cultural values are still strongly embedded in society's attitude towards special education.

# Geography of Japan



# Politics of Japan

## ➤ **Politics of Japan**

- A multiparty bicameral parliamentary representative democratic constitutional monarchy whereby the Emperor acts as the ceremonial head of state, and the Prime Minister is the head of the Cabinet, which directs the executive branch.
- Legislative power is vested in the National Diet, which consists of the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors. Judicial power is vested in the Japanese people by the Constitution. Japan is considered a constitutional monarchy with a system of civil law.





# Language

➤ Language: Japanese

- Different dialects depending on the prefecture they are from
- Japanese writing system
  - Come from Chinese although the spoken language Japanese and Chinese are different

# Language

## ➤ Japanese spoken in the U.S.

- 85% of Japanese-American residing in the U.S. ages 5 and older are English proficient which is bigger than 70% of the general Asian population who are English proficient.
- Compared to other American elders of Asian background, higher percentage of them speak English.
- There are non-verbal communications; typically quiet and polite, may be reserved and formal.

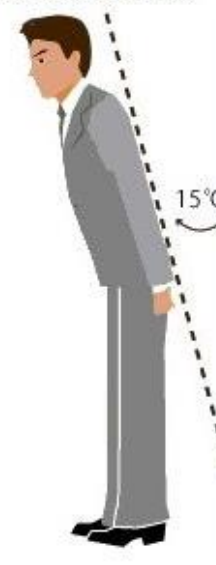
# Greetings, Display of Respect and General Etiquette

## ➤ Greetings

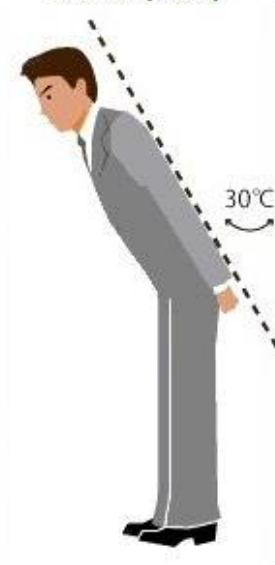
- Very formal and ritualized
  - Traditional form of greeting is the bow

### Men

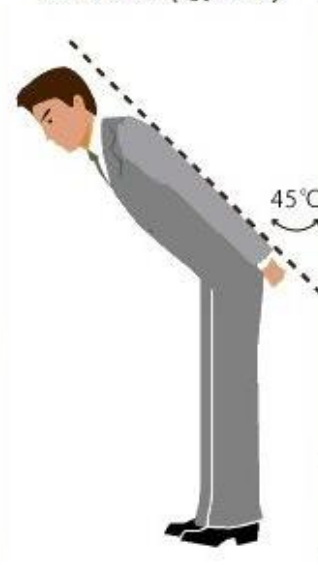
Eshaku (会釈)



Keirei (敬礼)



Saikeirei (最敬礼)



### Women





# Greetings, Display of Respect and General Etiquette

## ➤ Display of Respect

- Strongly influenced by their religious beliefs including Mahayana **Buddhism, Shinto and Christianity.**
- **Shintoism** is their indigenous religion of Japanese with origins of prehistoric Japan and is based on the appreciation of **nature** and the belief in “kami” or spirit gods existing in nature – mountains, trees, rocks, etc.

# Greetings, Display of Respect and General Etiquette

## ➤ General Etiquette

- Rely on facial expression, tone of voice and posture to tell them what someone feels.
- Since **the context in which something is said** affects the meaning of the word, it is imperative to understand the situation to fully appreciate the response.
- Frowning while someone is speaking is interpreted as a sign of disagreement.
- Prefer to have some distance, at least arms-length



# Status; Role Prestige

## ➤ Status

- **Issei** - the generation born in Japan who came to the U.S.
- **Nesei** - the first generation born in the U.S.
- **Sansei** - the next next generation
- **Yonsei** - children of the Sansei
- **Kibei** is term used to describe Japanese-Americans who were born in the U.S., sent to Japan to be educated but returned to the U.S.

# Status; Role Prestige

## ➤ Role Prestige

- 21% of U.S. born Japanese-Americans have a high school education of less.
- 30% of Japanese-Americans living in the U.S. have a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Education is important in Japanese-American Culture, especially higher education.

# Marriage, Family and Kinship Structure

The background features a traditional Japanese ink wash painting of a large, curling wave. A small boat is visible on the water, and a snow-capped mountain peak rises in the distance. The style is reminiscent of the 'Great Wave off Kanagawa'.

## ➤ Marriage

- 37% of Japanese-Americans age 18 and over have never been married.
- Japanese concept of filial piety stems from Confucianism with origins in China placing some importance of family and social order.

## ➤ Family


- Japanese culture is family oriented; family as main unit rather than individual.

## ➤ Kinship Structure

- The most usual living arrangement in Japan today is the nuclear family – more than 60 % of the household are of this type.



# Gender Roles; Reproduction



## ➤ Gender Roles

- Traditional, women remained in the domestic spheres.
- Culturally-related activities, such as folk dancing, tea ceremony, or flower arrangement were reserved for women while men participated in politics and states.
- Father is typically the spokesperson, but perhaps the mother or the oldest born or both men and women involved.
- Illness is not usually discussed openly

# Gender Roles; Reproduction

## ➤ Reproduction

- The average number of children a woman bears over her lifetime is Total Fertility Rate (TFR). Since 2005, its TFR has been slowly but steadily growing. Japan, with its 1.43 TFR, was doing better than S. Korea and Singapore (both 1.19), Hong Kong (1.12), and Germany (1.38).

# Childhood and Socialization



## ➤ Childhood

- Consisted of strict rules and enforcement of parents at home.
- Tend to give rules more and not rely on so much punishment.
- Social skills are empathy and restricting the display of emotions are valued.
- Children were expected to obey and respect their parents, bring honor to parents by work, supporting and caring.

# Childhood and Socialization

## ➤ Socialization

- In Japan, priority is on the **work life**. A newcomer to a company, hold the place for Hanami to enjoy the cherry blossom in Spring for drinking with co-workers. A common after-work event is Nomikai (*drinking party*) and is used as a very important opportunity to communicate with each other for work. Japanese groups require **individual contribution to the whole group** but recognize that the whole group must succeed otherwise the individual's contribution has no meaning.

# Adolescence, Adulthood and Old Age

## ➤ Adolescence, Adulthood and Old Age

- Is deeply rooted in family.
- Japanese sacrifice their individual interest for the success of their families.
- Education is highly regarded since adolescence.
- Japanese academic like is not limited to academic but extracurricular activities such as sports and religious events.

# Japanese and Japanese-American and Disabilities

- General stigmas about mental health/illness
- Lack of acceptance
- Language barriers
  - “language barrier and differences in cultures and customs were one of the major disadvantages of receiving services from American professionals”

# Japanese and Japanese-American and Disabilities



## ➤ Cultural Practices

- Have a tendency to label individuals with disabilities as abnormal (Kanyama, 2010); therefore, some Japanese people even believe receiving special education service are not worth disclosing their disabilities to the public (Asai & Kameoka, 2005; Tanchibana & Watanabe, 2004).
- Kasahara & Turnbull (2005) most Japanese parents of children with special needs seemed to be having a difficult time communication their needs with the professionals whom they might be working with.

# Japanese and Japanese-American and Disabilities

- **Empathy**, also seems to play a significant role in causing a challenge in how Japanese parents communicate with professionals. As individuals in the U.S. are encouraged and expected to express their own feelings and opinions, **Japanese people tend to expect others to sense their feelings without articulating how they feel and what they think** (Kayama, 2010).
- They perceived themselves “lower” by possessing less power compared to the professionals, especially when they have disagreeing opinions (Kayama, 2010).



The background features a traditional Japanese ink wash painting of a large, curling wave. A small boat is visible within the wave's trough. In the upper left corner, there is a vertical rectangular box containing Japanese text.

# Japanese and Japanese-American and Disabilities

- Different expectations towards professional and their ways of communicating.
- Japanese society still tends to label those children as “disabled” and assumes they will always have to live differently than other people who do not have disabilities.

# Services and Sources in California

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- Japanese Speaking Parent Association of Children with Challenges (JSPACC)
- Japanese Film festival
- Japanese American Citizen League, Florin Chapter
- Sacramento's Japan town
- Meba Kindergarten

# Services and Sources in California

- Sacramento's Historic Japan town – Downtown Sacramento
- KQED – Return to the Valley
- Ikezaki, Y., Myck-Wayne, J. & Jung, A. (2014). Perceptions towards special education of Japanese parents of children with special needs in the United States, *Journal of Special Education*, 3(1).

The background image shows a traditional Japanese garden. On the left, there is a traditional Japanese pavilion with a dark, multi-tiered roof and a small decorative finial. The pavilion is surrounded by lush green trees and a well-maintained lawn. In the foreground, there is a pond with several large, green lily pads floating on the water. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic, typical of a Japanese garden.

# Japanese in the U.S. Fact Sheet

(September 2017)

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/fact-sheet/asian-americans-japanese-in-the-u-s/>



# Reflection

**Reflect on your learning from today's presentation for your tomorrow's practice.**

- **What area did you learn the most and how will you practice differently with the new learning?**