ANALYZING JAPAN’S GEOGRAPHY, NATURAL RESOURCES, & DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE THROUGH ART

Asian Art Museum of San Francisco & UCBHSSP

Evette Allen, San Jose Unified School District
LESSON FOCUS QUESTION:

HOW MIGHT GEOGRAPHY HAVE INFLUENCED THE DEVELOPMENT OF JAPAN’S CULTURE AND FACILITATED A NEED FOR INTERCONNECTEDNESS?
FAN-SHAPED BOX WITH THE EIGHT VIEWS OF OMI
(LAKE BIWA)
Lacquered wood with makie
1868-1912
Object: B60M255
MT. FUJI

Ink and colors on silk
Kano Seisen’in
1834-1846, Edo period
Object: 2005.59
Geographer Activity: Section__________  Name:

How might geography have influenced the development of Japan’s culture and facilitated a need for interconnectedness?

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<th>To answer:</th>
<th>Image #1</th>
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Brainstorm:
Predict: How will the geographic features and resources create isolation or interaction with other cultures?

Paragraph:
Infer: Based on your observations, how could the availability and lack of availability of resources shape Japan’s culture?
MOUNT FUJI AND THE BEACH AT MIHONO MATSUBARA

Ink and colors on silk
Shiba Kokan
Edo Period: 1615-1868
Object: B65D20
The Urami Waterfall in Niko

Ink and colors on paper
Ando Hiroshige
1853
Object: 1994.48
PART TWO: HUMAN ADAPTATIONS & RESOURCE ANALYSIS

Writing box with landscape
Lacquer with gold and silver on wood
1700-1800
Object: B60M438.a-.g
IN THE SNOW AT TSUKAHARA ON SADO ISLAND

Ink and colors on paper
Utagawa Kuniyoshi
1835
Object: 2005.100.118
FARMING IN SPRING

Ink and colors on paper
Kano Tsunenobu
1650-1700, Edo period
Object: 2005.87
[GATHERING SEAWEED AT] OMORI
FAMOUS PLACES IN THE EASTERN CAPITAL
Artist: Utagawa Kuniyoshi (Japanese, 1797 - 1861)
Date: early 1830s
Object Name: Woodblock print (nishiki-e)
Materials: Ink and colors on paper
Object Number: 2005.100.114
MOONLIT NIGHT AT THE SUEHIRO BRIDGE AT MT. TEMPO
Ink and colors on paper
Yashima Gakutei
1834
Object: 2005.100.107
PART THREE: JAPAN’S GEOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES FACILITATE (DETERMINE) ITS ISOLATION OR INTERCONNECTIONS
Fireworks on Ryogoku Bridge

Ink and colors on paper
Utagawa Toyokuni II
1615-1868 Edo period
Object: 2010.301
THE NEWLY DEVELOPED DISTRICT OF FUKAGAWA NEAR EITAI BRIDGE (EITAIBASHI FUKAGAWA SHINICHI)

Ink and watercolor on paper
Ando Hiroshige
1615-1868, Edo period
Object: 1999.27
Next Steps

Student Groups:
• Continue to analyze art until all three sections are complete

Whole Class Discussion:
• What can we infer - big picture- about the relationship between geography/resources and:
  • Development of a distinct culture
  • The need (or lack of) for trade
  • How trade creates interconnectedness
  • How this could impact culture
How might geography have influenced the development of Japan's culture and facilitated a need for interconnectedness?

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