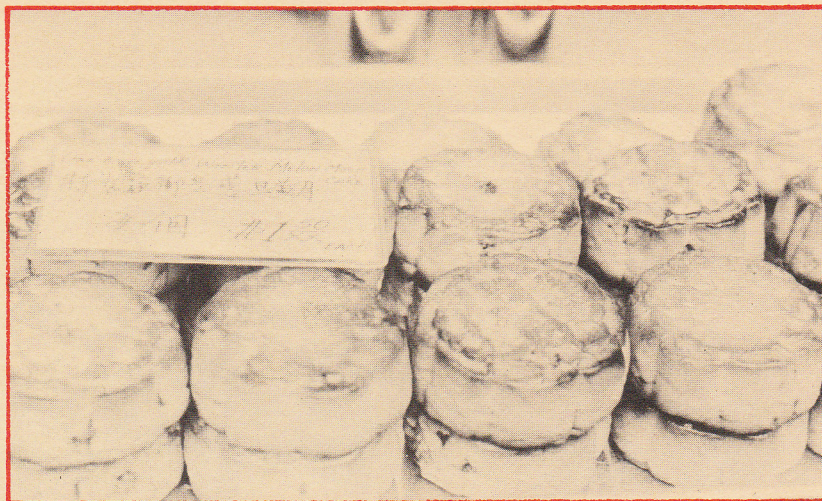


# Teaching about China



This course is one of the services developed by Museum staff members who are part of The East Asian Education Project. The Project is sponsored jointly by The Museum and Harvard University's Language and Area Center for East Asian Studies. This course is especially useful to social studies teachers, multi-cultural curriculum developers, parents and college students who are interested in an interdisciplinary approach to teaching cultures.

## sessions

1. Language and Writing. Participants explore the history, structure and contemporary significance of the Chinese language in terms of the relationship of language to culture, politics and regionalism in Chinese society. This session will emphasize experiential activities for the classroom.

2. Topics to Include in a Course. Primary and secondary written source materials for teaching about values, education, and family economics will be presented in this session. Contracts will be discussed. Emphasis will be placed on readings and suggestions for subsequent classroom exercises.

3. Topics (cont.) The role of women, family life, art, religion, and social class are topics which will be presented in this session. Participants will examine Chinese artifacts from the Museum Collection. Emphasis will also be placed on recommended audio-visual materials for classroom use.

4. A Study in Social Change. The socio-economic conditions of pre-1949 China will be discussed in terms of the issues of power, legitimacy and survival. Emphasis will be placed on the topics in Chinese history which are best presented by means of simulations in the classroom.

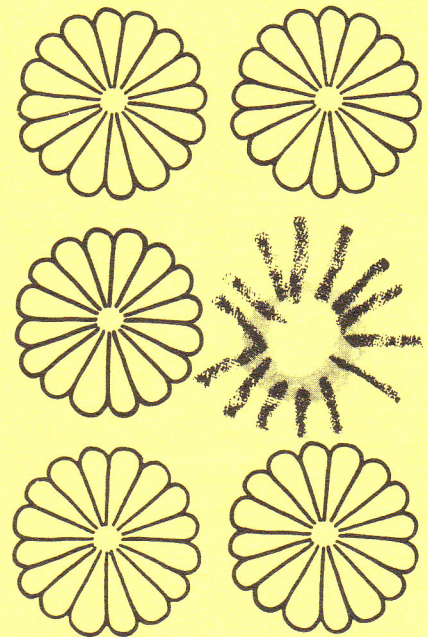
5. The Chinese in America. Participants will explore the history of the Chinese in America and common misperceptions about Chinese Americans. The class will plan a field trip to Chinatown and discuss the sociological aspects of the various Chinese communities in Greater Boston.

6. Teaching About China in Boston. Resources available at the Children's Museum and around Boston will be presented. Participants will contribute presentations of classroom activities. Emphasis will be placed on developing and selecting activities from the experiences of kids in China which directly relate to the daily life experiences of our own students.

Courses for Adults at the Resource Center of the Children's Museum range from six sessions to a full semester in length. Topics relate to the museum's central themes and graduate or in-service credit is usually available.



# Teaching about Japan



This course is one of the services developed by Museum staff members who are part of the East Asian Education Project. The Project is sponsored jointly by the Museum and Harvard University's Language and Area Center for East Asian Studies. This course is especially useful to social studies teachers, multicultural curriculum developers, parents and college students who are interested in an interdisciplinary approach to teaching cultures.

## sessions

1. The Japanese Home. Food, clothing, furnishings, cooking and eating utensils are used in activities which allow participants to focus on the mix of traditional and Western ways which is characteristic of contemporary Japanese family life. This session will take place in the Japanese Home exhibit.

2. Language and Writing. Participants explore the history, structure and contemporary significance of the Japanese language in terms of the relationship of language to culture and politics in Japanese society. This session will emphasize experiential activities for the classroom.

3. Topics to Include in a Course. Primary and secondary written source materials for teaching about values, education, and family life will be presented in this session. Contrasts between traditional and modern Japan will be discussed. Emphasis will be placed on readings and curriculum kits of cultural artifacts.

4. Topics (cont.) The role of women, art, religion, and social class are topics which will be presented in this session.

5. The Japanese in America. Participants will explore the history of the Japanese in America and common misconceptions about Japanese Americans. The class will plan a field trip to a Japanese grocery store and discuss the sociological aspects of the Japanese community in Greater Boston.

6. Teaching About Japan in Boston. Resources available at The Children's Museum and around Boston will be presented. Participants will contribute presentations of classroom activities. Emphasis will be placed on developing and selecting activities from the experiences of kids in Japan which directly relate to the daily life experiences of our own students.

Courses for Adults at the Resource Center of the Children's Museum range from six sessions to a full semester in length. Topics relate to the museum's central themes and graduate or in-service credit is usually available.



# Japanese Culture



This series offers the student experiences with contemporary Japanese culture which augment their capacity to understand peoples of other cultures. Sessions make use of the authentic "Japanese Home" exhibit, artifacts from the Collection, and activities which engage students in a variety of topics important to Japanese families today.

## sessions

### 1. Communication: Language and Writing.

Students explore the history and contemporary use of written Japanese and learn a series of pictographs. After examining objects from the Japanese collection, students practice calligraphy with brush and ink and mount their work on a hanging scroll.

### 2. The Japanese Home: Context for Family Life.

Food, clothing, furnishings, cooking and eating utensils are used in activities which allow students to focus on the mix of traditional and Western ways which is characteristic of contemporary Japanese family life.

### 3. Festivals: The Place of Children in Japanese Society.

Students celebrate one of the several Japanese children's festivals. Appropriate clothing, food, crafts, games and decorations for the home are made and utilized by the class.

### 4. Are Japanese Americans Foreigners?

Students explore the history of the Japanese in America and common misconceptions about Japanese Americans. Aspects of the Japanese community in Greater Boston are discussed in order to prepare for possible follow-up field trips.

**Explorations:** A series of field trips to the Children's Museum for school classes to explore a specific topic using museum resources. Program includes a workshop for teachers and follow-up materials designed to integrate the museum experiences with classroom activities.



# Japanese Arts and Crafts



This course offers kids the opportunity to explore a variety of arts and crafts activities which are everyday experiences for children in Japan. The activities are unified by a theme which presents the importance of rice in Japanese culture. Sessions make use of the authentic "Japanese Home" exhibit, artifacts from the Collection as well as a variety of arts and crafts experiences.

## sessions

1. The Japanese Home. Food, cooking and eating utensils are used in activities which allow students to focus on the mix of traditional and Western ways which is characteristic of contemporary Japanese family life. The children observe how different parts of the rice plant are used in Japanese buildings and furnishings.

2. Papermaking. Kids make paper and discuss Japanese papermaking techniques. The history of paper and papermaking is illustrated by samples from the Museum Collection.

3. Calligraphy. Kids explore the history and contemporary use of written Japanese and learn a series of Japanese words. After practicing with brush and ink, the kids mount their calligraphy on a hanging scroll.

4. Oshibana. The kids experiment with Japanese ink painting to explore the aesthetic principles of Japanese art. They combine their paintings with delicate papers and pressed wild flowers to create this special Japanese craft, oshibana.

5. The Rice Planting Cycle. Slides of agriculture in Japan are presented to help kids understand the hard work and spirit of cooperation which are required to maintain a rice culture. Kids learn songs and folk dances which are important to the laborers in Japan's traditional industries.

6. Food and Celebrations. The kids prepare and eat a variety of foods and discuss the relationship of these particular foods to festivals in Japan.

Courses for Kids at the Resource Center of the Children's Museum provide a unique opportunity for kids to actively pursue a topic with a museum specialist in an informal learning environment.