

Title: High School Geography: How do Culture and the Environment Interact?

Introduction/ Summary: Students will be asked to categorize cultural attributes and relate them to life in Japan and in the United States while using information from historical primary sources.

Subject: High School Geography

Duration of lesson: 1-2 periods

Connection to Standards: (High School) World Geography

Environment and Society -# 7: Human interaction with the environment is affected by cultural characteristics and technological resources (e.g., plowing with oxen or with tractors, development of water resources for industry or recreation, resource conservation or development).

Guiding/ Essential Questions: How are human societies shaped by and how do they help to shape their environments?

Learning Objectives: Students will explore cultural characteristics as a partial determiner for ways humans interact with the environment.

Materials Needed:

1. "[Journey along the Tōkaidō](#)" module:
 - a) [Ukiyo-e Woodblock Prints](#) (1830s)
 - b) [Tōkaidō Manga Scroll](#) (1920s)
 - c) [Present Day](#) (2010s)
 - d) [Tōkaidō Station Summary](#)
2. Other Resources:
 - a) [National Road/Route 40 \(Maps and other resources\)](#)
 - b) [Route 66 resources](#)
 - c) [Japan's National Road - Tōkaidō Road Maps](#)

Pre-Assessment: Review with the class the list of cultural characteristics and ask them to define then offer an example of each.

Lesson Activity: This activity involves prioritization and oral defense.

- A. Ask students to study the online module "Journey along the Tokaido". Begin by having students list as many cultural characteristics illustrated in these prints.

- B. Ask students to arrange the cultural characteristics found into the following 10 categories: Students may wish to view the scroll again. *Teachers may wish to add, eliminate, or change categories.*
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|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Religious beliefs | 6. Values |
| 2. Farming techniques | 7. Traditions |
| 3. Roles in society | 8. Employment |
| 4. Dress | 9. Homes |
| 5. Daily life | 10. Art |
- C. Ask students to offer an example or explanation for how a particular cultural characteristic influenced how the people interacted with the environment.

Teachers' Notes:

1. *If students use the Manga Scroll, some students might intertwine religious beliefs and values when they site numerous prints referring to nature's beauty and significance. A few examples are: children on a trip to see lotus flowers, tea houses located near plum blossoms, a man bowing to a sacred mountain, a pine forest earning UNESCO status, a pine tree attributed to opening the eyes of a blind women, etc.*
 2. *After listing the above value or religious belief to honor nature and its beauty, students might suggest the interactions to be: the school field trip, operating a restaurant, bowing, applying and receiving UNESCO status, labeling a pine tree as eye-opening.*
 3. *Teachers are encouraged to explore the [Woodblock prints](#) and the [Interactive Map](#).*
- D. Repeat this process with the [online module Route 66 or the National Road Route 40](#) (see teacher's notes)

Post – Assessment: Allow class to repeat a partial assignment using a different location or road.

Extension Activity: Ask students to redesign the list of cultural characteristics

Teacher's Notes- Background Information about the Tōkaidō source (Overview):

To show change over time and compare cultures as well as learn more about a very important part of Japanese history and culture, the "[Journey along the Tōkaidō](#)" has been created using various primary source materials. Japan's National Road, the Tōkaidō Road, from Tokyo to Kyoto in Japan is examined at various time periods (1830s, 1920s, and present day).

Students will study two primary source materials: the *Tōkaidō gojūsantsugi manga emaki* (The Fifty Three Stations of the Tōkaidō Manga Scroll, which will be referred to as the "Tōkaidō Manga Scroll") and the *The*

Fifty-Three Stations of the Tōkaidō woodblock prints. This Tōkaidō manga scroll was created by 18 members of the Tokyo Manga Association during a trip approximating the route of the old Tōkaidō in 1921 and depicts scenes of Japanese culture, history, economics, daily life, transportation, architecture, and industry. Utagawa (Andō) Hiroshige's *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tōkaidō* (1833–1834 in the Hōeidō edition) is a series of woodblock prints (*ukiyo-e*) of the stations along the Tōkaidō. These *ukiyo-e* prints became enormously popular and have been reprinted countless times down to the present. The scroll is part of an online module, "Journey along the Tōkaidō," which includes a video of the scroll, links to the *ukiyo-e* (woodblock prints from 1833-34) and links to sections of the Tōkaidō area today, along with other background material.

Though the title is *The Fifty Three Stations of the Tōkaidō Manga Scroll*, the paintings are numbered 1 through 55. This is because the starting location, Nihonbashi, and the final destination, Kyōto, were not numbered in Utagawa (Andō) Hiroshige's original *The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tōkaidō* (1833–1834 in the Hōeidō edition), and the manga scroll follows this precedent. Japanese names are given throughout in Japanese order, family name first and given name last.

Lesson plan is available on: <http://u.osu.edu/journeyalongthetokaido/lesson-plans/>

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