Looking for creative ways to teach the history, geography or social studies standards in your classroom? Creating an “Ohio Box” is an opportunity to help students compare cultures, use maps, compare daily life, examine symbols and practices, and family celebrations.

Teachers in Ohio will work with their students to create an “Ohio Box” that tells the story of their class. IJS will try to link each class with a class in Japan to exchange a “Japan Box” and/or video letter.

Have fun with your students and connect to another culture at the same time!

Contact the Institute for Japanese Studies for more details at stucky.7@osu.edu or 614-292-3345.

“All too much learning is like a net full of insects. Some teachers have collected numbers, dates, lists of famous people, lists of events in their net. But to children, the world does not look like that. When their eyes explore the world, they see happenings, people, and things acting upon each other.”


Deadline to complete boxes: Check with IJS

It is very important to finish by this deadline - IJS has to mail the boxes to Japan before the end of March.

Interested in participating? Contact our office.

Project made possible through support from Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership.
Creating an Ohio Discovery Box:

Often artifacts reveal cultural values and beliefs only upon critical examination. Help students in Japan learn about the U.S. and Ohio through the objects in your “Ohio Box”.

Help create “Ohio Boxes” to send to Japan.

What to do?
1. Sign up with IJS.
2. A box will be supplied from IJS to get started.
3. Gather items - see the list of suggestions (use created or donated items as much as possible)
4. Decorate the box if you want
5. Finish it by March 20, 2014.
6. If you wish, create a video letter to be posted for the Japanese class.

Exploring culture through objects: developing a collection—

Things to consider when selecting items:
- What does the object illustrate?
- What message does it convey?
- What aspect of culture does it reveal or obscure?

Tell the story of your class:
Create a box full of items that tell the story of your class, school, town or area. As there is sometimes an English language barrier, please try to include brief explanations when necessary to explain the object. Include as many pictures or drawings as possible to help the Japanese students who aren’t English speakers.

Contact:
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Some Ohio Standards that could be addressed through this project (Grade level and Standard):

Social Studies/History:
K.2: Personal history can be shared through stories and pictures.
K.3: Heritage is reflected through the arts, customs, traditions, family celebrations and language.
K.4: Nations are represented by symbols and practices.
1.2: Photographs, letters, artifacts and books can be used to learn about the past.
2.2 Change over time can be shown with artifacts, maps, and photographs.
1.3 Local communities change over time.

Social Studies/Geography:
K.5 Terms related to direction and distance, as well as symbols and landmarks, can be used to talk about the relative location of familiar places.
K.6 Models and maps represent places.
K.8 Individuals are unique but share common characteristics of multiple groups.
1.4 Maps can be used to locate and identify places.
1.6 Families interact with the physical environment differently in different times and places.
1.7 Diverse cultural practices address basic human needs in various ways and may change over time.
2.5 Maps and their symbols can be interpreted to answer questions about location of places.
2.8 Cultures develop in unique ways, in part through the influence of the physical environment.
2.9 Interactions among cultures lead to sharing ways of life.
3.5 Daily life is influenced by the agriculture, industry and natural resources in different communities.
6.5 Regions can be determined, classified and compared using various criteria.

English Language Arts:
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

Please remember that items will be shipped to Japan, so extremely fragile or heavy objects are not recommended. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Have fun creating the story of your class!