

JAPAN CURRICULUM

PROJECT TITLE

Japanese traditional woodworking and craftsmanship

GRADE LEVEL AND CONTENT AREA

Middle School and High School; Design Technology

AUTHOR NAME AND SCHOOL

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SETTING

Where/When does this project fit into your larger curriculum map?

Woodworking is a part of the general shop curriculum for both middle school and high school students.

What skills and knowledge will students need *before* beginning this unit?

There is no prior knowledge needed. When students begin learning to use tools we will incorporate information on craftsmanship in general and Japanese woodworking in particular.

What are the project goals?

The primary goal of the project is to provide students with a clear example of quality craftsmanship and the tools and effort needed to achieve it. While it is technically feasible to teach students to use tools properly, craftsmanship and pride in achievement is more elusive. It must come from inside the student. Craftsmanship is a feeling you have about your work.

What is the time frame?

Japanese craftsmanship will be taught as a model throughout the year.

UNIT SCAFFOLDING

Enduring understandings: This project is grounded in what big ideas?

Learning how to work with tools is very satisfying for students. Besides learning proper technique, they learn that making something that is beautiful and well-built, something they are proud of and something others admire, often takes a great deal of patience and perseverance.

What is gained from this process is a sense of achievement. As the creator of the object, the student has ownership of the outcome.

What skills will the student demonstrate?

Students will demonstrate a high level of technical skill in using a variety of woodworking tools. This will be evident in the quality of their craftsmanship.

EVIDENCE OF LEARNING

1. Students will be able to use a variety of fine Japanese and Western tools and machinery.
2. Students will be able to discuss Japanese craftsmanship and the approach of the Japanese craftsman to his work.
3. Students will be able to assess their own skill level and reflect on their craftsmanship in a group setting.

LEARNING PLAN

Students will view a movie on Japanese Crafts. They will then observe demonstrations of woodworking using traditional tools. Students will then practice using the tools. Precision, accuracy and craftsmanship will be emphasized at every step in the process.