

JAPANESE GIRLS' DAY FESTIVAL

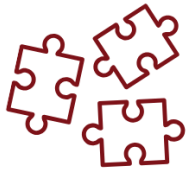
ELEMENTARY SOCIAL STUDIES



11255 Okanagan Centre Rd. W.
Lake Country, BC V4V 2J7

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW:

1. Students will learn about the Japanese Girls' Day Festival and its connection to Lake Country.
2. They will then decorate puzzle pieces and create one large puzzle to recognize and celebrate the diversity within their classroom.



BIG IDEA: Healthy communities recognize & respect the diversity of individuals & care for the local environment; Canada is made up of many diverse communities; Multiculturalism continues to shape Canadian society & identity.

COMPETENCY:

Inquiry processes, significance, historical perspectives.

CONTENT:

Diverse cultures, backgrounds, & perspectives; diverse characteristics of communities & cultures in Canada

WHAT WILL WE KNOW:

- Recognizing and respecting diversity within our community
- Japanese culture (in Canada)

FURTHER INQUIRY

Field Trip Suggestions

- Lake Country Museum and Archives to view the Japanese Girls' Day exhibit



We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which the Lake Country Museum is situated, where this lesson was developed, is on the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) Peoples.

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Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society

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Japanese Girl's Day Festival

Learning Objective(s)	<p>Students will be introduced to the Girls' Day Festival and its connection to Lake Country to learn more about Japanese culture in Canada. The narrative and activities are designed to expose students to the diverse cultures that exist within their communities.</p>
Suggested Grades	<p>Elementary</p>
ACTIVITY	
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Puzzle piece worksheet (provided) ● Anything students can use to decorate their puzzle piece (coloured pencils, crayons, markers, paint)
Introduction	<p>The goal of this activity is to have students think about the things that make them unique. By turning their attention inward and having them recognize the diversity they bring, they will be able to recognize and respect the diversity within their communities. This is a good activity to do early in the school year as a community building exercise.</p> <p>Begin the lesson by telling Eileen's story and the sharing of Japanese culture in Lake Country and Canada as a whole.</p>
Making the puzzle pieces	<p>Step One</p> <p>Draw a puzzle piece on the board and explain to the students that each one of us in our local community make up a large puzzle of sorts, and all our pieces are unique. Write your name in the Puzzle piece and begin to present to your class a few things that you think you and your family bring to the community (i.e. hobbies, food, clothing, traditions). Prompt the students to think about what Eileen or her pen pal could include if they were to make their own puzzle piece.</p> <p>Now that the students have had some practice, explain that together they will make a class puzzle and move on to step 2.</p> <p>Step Two</p> <p>Hand the printed puzzle pieces to the students and explain that they are now going to decorate their own puzzle piece with what makes them unique. Before they start, have them all write their name in the piece somewhere (or if they are younger, write their names in the puzzle pieces beforehand). Once completed, cut out the puzzle pieces.</p>

<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>Once all the puzzle pieces are cut out you can have each student present to the class what's in their puzzle piece and why they feel it makes them unique. The puzzle pieces can be put together on the wall to create your class puzzle.</p>
<p>Historical Context</p>	<p>Girls Day Festival (Hinamatsuri) Link to video narration</p> <p>Over 50 years ago, a woman named Eileen MacArthur received a most wonderful gift from her Japanese pen pal. Back in the 1950s Eileen's pen pal asked her if she would like some dolls. Eileen said, "Of course I would love a doll from you!" Who wouldn't want to receive a nice gift from a good friend? Eileen imagined she would receive one doll, maybe two. She thought it would be a doll like the ones we have in Canada. Maybe it would be soft, have long hair, and colourful clothes. Instead, her pen pal sent her something Eileen did not expect.</p> <p>It wasn't long until Eileen had a box arrive at her front door. Then another box. And another, and another. Eileen had a pile of boxes, filled with dolls from her Japanese friend. Instead of receiving one or two dolls, Eileen had an entire collection of dolls from her Japanese pen pal. What Eileen didn't know at the time was that these dolls were very special to her friend. These dolls were called <i>hina ningyo</i> dolls, which are set up for an annual festival called <i>Hinamatsuri</i> or Girl's Day Festival.</p> <p>The festival began at the beginning of the Edo period in the 1600s. The celebration serves to pray for good health and happiness on the daughters' futures in each family. On March 3rd, the dolls are assembled and displayed upon seven levels in their proper order of hierarchy. The dolls can be very expensive and often are passed down from generation to generation.</p> <p>During the early 1900s many Japanese families moved to the Okanagan for work. One such family was that of Mits Hikichi. Mits' family worked at the Rainbow Ranche which was in the Ocoela Road/Okanagan Centre Road East area. Mits started school at Okanagan Centre School (<i>now the Lake Country Museum & Archives</i>) in 1934 and then went on to work at the Rainbow Ranche himself.</p> <p>Mits' boss was married to Eileen MacArthur. Eileen later gave the dolls to Mits, who lovingly gave the dolls to the Lake Country Museum so this story could be shared with even more people. These dolls are very important to Japanese culture and the Girl's Day Festival is still</p>

	<p>celebrated today. It was so incredibly kind that Eileen’s pen pal shared this part of her culture by sending the dolls across the world.</p>
<p>Further Inquiry</p>	<p><i>Field Trip Suggestion</i></p> <p>The Lake Country Museum & Archives – The Museum has the Girls Day Festival exhibit, and other items in relation to our Japanese Canadian pioneers. There is also a playground and field behind the building and the lake nearby that students can make use of for various activities.</p> <p>There may be the opportunity for a guest lecturer to visit your classroom or be present at the museum with the knowledge of more local history stories. If interested, please contact the Museum ahead of time.</p>

