



Third Grade

ELA

GRADE 3 ELA ACTIVITY 3 – CULTURES

A video lesson of a Knox County 3rd grade teacher that accompanies this text is available on KCS YouTube Channel and KCS TV.



In this text, your child will be looking for specific clues about:

TOPIC: Cultures

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: What happens when two ways of life come together?

PHRASE OR CLAUSE?

- phrase: group of related words
- clause: group of words with a subject and its predicate (verb)
- Label the following as a phrase (p) or clause (c):

the teacher takes attendance	many students
students learn	more homework
during the week	they have homework

- Use these phrases and clauses to create complete sentences:

the teacher takes attendance	
many students	
students learn	
more homework	
during the week	
they have homework	

BUILDING BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE:

- Ask your child what culture means.
- Tell them as they read, they'll be looking closely at schools in two different cultures. Students will learn that school may look and sound different in other cultures.

READING THE TEXT: *A Day at School in Japan*

- You may choose to take turns reading the text with your child, read the text at the same time, or have your child read independently.

MAKE YOUR CASE:

- Writing Task: Do you think an American student would have more difficulty adapting to a Japanese school or a Japanese student would have more difficulty adapting to an American school?
 - o Your child should write a paragraph stating their opinion, providing text evidence with an explanation, and restating their opinion.
 - o Take a look at the exemplar below. Do you have all of the components in your paragraph? If not, go back in to add anything that's missing.

EXEMPLAR:

Prompt: *Do you think an American student would have more difficulty adapting to a Japanese school or a Japanese student would have more difficulty adapting to an American school?*

An American student would struggle adapting to a Japanese school. This is because Japanese students go to school for six weeks longer than American students. Chores are also a part of their school day. Students in America are used to having longer breaks, less homework, and no chores at school. Japanese schools would be a true adjustment for any American student.

Opinion	An American student would struggle adapting to a Japanese school.
Text Evidence 1	This is because Japanese students go to school for six weeks longer than American students.
Text Evidence 2	Chores are also a part of their school day.
Explanation 1	Students in America are used to having longer breaks, less homework, and no chores at school.
Opinion (restated)	Japanese schools would be a true adjustment for any American student.



A Day at

School in Japan

Have you ever wondered how a school day in Japan might compare to one of yours?

Like many students in the United States, many Japanese elementary school students start their day around 8:30 a.m. and end around 3:00 p.m. They

have math and reading classes. They listen to announcements at the start of the day. The teacher takes attendance. During the week, students might gather for an assembly where the principal or someone else talks to them.

There are a number of differences too. For example, in the United States, students learn handwriting.

In Japan, students learn *shodo*, or calligraphy.

This involves dipping a brush into ink and writing symbols. The symbols stand for words. Students in Japan also have a class where they learn how to cook and sew.





If you think school is hard in America, think about what students in Japan must do. They often have more homework than students in the United States do.

They also spend at least six weeks longer in school each year. Some schools also assign chores to students. Sweeping and cleaning the floor, wiping the board, and emptying the trash are some of these chores.

If you were an American student in a Japanese school, do you think it would be difficult to adjust to these differences? Remember, you would have to do everything in a completely different language too.

Sleuth Work

Gather Evidence How does a day at school in Japan compare to your school day in the United States? Write down evidence from the article to support this.

Ask Questions Write three questions you would ask a student from Japan about his or her day at school.

Make Your Case Do you think an American student would have more difficulty adapting to a Japanese school or a Japanese student would have more difficulty adapting to an American school? Write a paragraph that supports your opinion.