

Title: Japanese calligraphy for English and the languages of the class

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Target group:

- mid/ late Primary

Subject :

- Art

Aims/Objectifs/Objetivos :

The child should be enabled to :

1. discover how line could convey movement and rhythm : e.g. calligraphic styles (Visual Art curriculum NCCA, p.66) ;
2. make drawings and do colour studies based on natural objects brought into the classroom (this becomes more important when children reach the senior classes of the primary school [10-12 years old]. The structure of natural objects could provide inspiration in construction activities (Visual art teacher guidelines, NCCA, p.37).

Key Competencies regarding:

Communication in foreign language(s)/ Langue(s)/ Lengua(s)

- Consolidate French vocabulary (nouns) and introduce any other nouns from languages known in the class
- Develop phonological awareness
- Use Japanese Katakana table to achieve these aims
- Develop curiosity in other languages and writing systems

Learning to learn

- Work collaboratively as part of the learning process
- Draw benefits from a heterogeneous group
- Share what they have learnt
- Look for opportunities to learn and apply learning in a variety of life contexts

Digital competences

- Ability to search, collect and process information

Social and civic competences

- Work collaboratively
- Value diversity and cultural identities

Cultural awareness and expression

- Understand cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe and other regions of the world
- Develop creative skills which can be transferred to a variety of contexts
- The willingness to cultivate aesthetic capacity through artistic self-expression and participation in cultural life.

Timing of the overall activities

- 3 hours

Resources and materials needed/ Ressources et matériels nécessaires/ Recursos y materiales necesarios

- White cardboard, black paper, a flat pebble, a black marker, white Tipex pen, scissors, strong glue.



Worksheet 1

Raising awareness of Japanese characters (katakana)

Timing: 60 minutes

Material required :

Japanese calligraphy examples included below. Internet access is optional.

Grouping:  et /and   

Focus on content:

- Discovering another writing system

Focus on language :

- Pronouncing words from other languages

1. Look at the short film shown on <http://markun.cs.shinshu-u.ac.jp/japan/shodou/index-e.html>.

(The explanations are in English).

It shows you how to write Japanese characters. You can also study **Document 1** on Japanese calligraphy and/or go back to the site to see an interactive version of the Katakana table.

<http://markun.cs.shinshu-u.ac.jp/japan/japan/Katakana1.html>

2. Practise writing a French noun of your choice in Japanese in **Document 1e** Can you copy the other nouns that are shown on **Document 1** ?

3. Can you pronounce these words from other languages (**Document 1**)?

Document 1

From Portuguese

パン from "pan"

サンバ from "samba"

From German

アルバイト from "Arbeit", which just means "work"

From Spanish

フラメンコ from "flamenco"

サルサ from "salsa" (Portuguese?)

ルンバ from "rumba"

タンゴ from "tango"

From French

バカンス from "vacances"

シネマ from "cinéma"

カフェー from "café"

カフェオレ from "café au lait"

ショコラ from "chocolat"

クロワッサン from "croissant"

エクレア from "éclair"

タルト from "tarte"

ガトー from "gâteau"

From Italian

イタリア
from "Italia"

パスタ
from "pasta"

スパゲッティ
from "spaghetti"

ピッツァ
from "pizza"

From English:

ジョン

jon John

ジョージ

jōji George

マリー

marī Marie

マイケル

maikeru Michael

ピーター

pītā Peter

Worksheet 2

Let's study Japanese (a little)

Timing : 60 minutes

Material required:

The Katakana table.

Short history of this syllabic alphabet.

Katakana table (Document 2)

Grouping: 

Study the Katakana table (**Document 2**) and call each syllable out loud. Follow the recommended reading direction.

Now, can you guess where the first page of a Japanese book is located? And the last page? Do you know other languages that behave in the same manner?

History of the Katakana table (Document 3)

Grouping: 

Now that you studied the katakana table, can you find one, two or three pieces of information in the **Document 3** text?

Here are some questions to help you:

- How many signs are there?
- How many vowels are there?
- How many consonants are there?
- How old is the Katakana table?
- Who invented the Katakana table?
- What is the table used for?

How were you able to guess the answers?

This table is read from right to left or from top to bottom.

Japanese "Katakana" Character List

ア	イ	ウ	エ	オ								
a	i	u	e	o								
カ	キ	ク	ケ	コ	ガ	ギ	グ	ゲ	ゴ	ギヤ	ギユ	ギョ
ka	ki	ku	ke	ko	ga	gi	gu	ge	go	gya	gyu	gyo
サ	シ	ス	セ	ソ	ザ	ジ	ズ	ゼ	ゾ	ジャ	ジュ	ジョ
sa	shi	su	se	so	za	ji	zu	ze	zo	ja	ju	jo
タ	チ	ツ	テ	ト	ダ	ヂ	ヅ	デ	ド	ヂヤ	ヂユ	ヂョ
ta	chi	tsu	te	to	da	ji	zu	ze	zo	ja	ju	jo
ナ	ニ	ヌ	ネ	ノ						ニヤ	ニユ	ニョ
na	ni	nu	ne	no						nya	nyu	nyo
ハ	ヒ	フ	ヘ	ホ	バ	ビ	ブ	ベ	ボ	ビヤ	ビユ	ビョ
ha	hi	fu	he	ho	ba	bi	bu	be	bo	bya	byu	byo
マ	ミ	ム	メ	モ						ミヤ	ミユ	ミョ
ma	mi	mu	me	mo						mya	myu	myo
ヤ		ユ		ヨ								
ya		yu		yo								
ラ	リ	ル	レ	ロ						リヤ	リュ	リョ
ra	ri	ru	re	ro						rya	ryu	ryo
ワ				ヲ								
wa				wo								
ン					パ	ピ	プ	ペ	ポ	ピヤ	ピユ	ピョ
n					pa	pi	pu	pe	po	pya	pyu	pyo

Only **nouns** and **names** can be imported from other languages into Japanese.

Document 3

The katakana table comprises 45 basic signs which are still in use today. There are 5 vowels a i u e o which are combined with 40 consonants with additional modified consonants.

The katakana table was devised by Buddhist monks over 1000 years ago. Today the table is used to write nouns that have been borrowed from other languages and to transcribe foreign names.

Work sheet 3

Japanese calligraphy on a stone.

Timing : 60 minutes

Materials required :

Documents 1 and 2

An A4 white cardboard sheet between 2 pupils.

An A4 black card board sheet between 2 pupils.

A small flat pebble (approximately 5cm x 3cm).

One black marker per pupil.

One Tipex pen between 2 pupils.

One pair of scissors per pupil.

Glue.

Grouping: 

Instructions

- Cut a square in the white cardboard (10 cm).
- Cut a smaller square in the black card board (6cm).
- Glue the black square onto the white square.

Draw Japanese calligraphy by using English names and foreign nouns imported into Japanese through katakana (example : **マイケル** *maikeru* Michael).

- Write a Word in katakana on each side of the white cardboard, with a black marker.
- Write your favourite katakana sign on the pebble, using the white Tipex pen.
- Glue the pebble in the centre of the black cardboard.
- Sign your name in katakana at the bottom of the painting.
- Admire your work and show it to the class.



Assessment / évaluation / evaluación

- Guess the sound that is represented on the pebbles of the other pupils in the class
- Import a noun in English or in another language and write it in katakana.
- To explore the theme a little further : do you know other languages where calligraphy is practised ? Do you have examples ?

Notes for the teacher:

The activity can be conducted bilingually.

Katakana is syllabic, therefore children must break words into their number of syllables.

The sound L is represented by R.

There are more signs than those represented in Document 2. These signs can be accessed on the web.

Answer sheets**Worksheet 2:****Reading the katakana table**

The first page of a Japanese book is located at the end of a European book.

The last page is at the beginning of a European book.

Another language that behaves in the same manner is Arabic.

Histoire de la table Katakana

Now that you studied the katakana table, can you find one, two or three pieces of information in the **Document 3** text?

Here are some questions to help you:

- How many signs are there? There are 45 signs.
- How many vowels are there? There are 5 vowels.
- How many consonants are there? There are 40 consonants.
- How old is the Katakana table? Over 1000 years old.
- Who invented the Katakana table? Buddhist monks.
- What is the table used for? To import foreign nouns or names.

Bibliography

This activity is adapted from a visual arts activity originally found on www.labibledesprofs.fr, a site that, sadly, does not exist any more. The initial idea for this activity was developed for the Modern Languages Initiative in Primary Schools, in Ireland.