

School Days in Japan

by Linda Yoshizawa



Genre	Build Background	Access Content	Extend Language
Nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultures • Education • School Clothes and Customs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions • Captions and Labels • Schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple-Meaning Word

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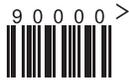
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Question of the Week

How does culture influence the clothes we wear?

Key Comprehension Skill

Compare and Contrast

Concept Words

uniforms characters chores clubs

Learning Goals

- Different cultures have different clothes.
- Japanese students have a long school year.
- Japanese students study English in school.

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Glenview, Illinois • Boston, Massachusetts • Chandler, Arizona
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey



 Japanese children in school

 Japan is a country in Asia. People in Japan may do many of the same things people in the United States do, but they do some things differently. For example, most American children spend 180 days a year in school. Students in Japan spend a lot more time than that in school. Japanese children spend 240 days a year in school. The school year in Japan begins in April. It ends in March. When does your school year begin and end?



 Some Japanese students wear **uniforms** to school. Others wear everyday clothes. Many students wear snug yellow hats when they walk to and from school. Yellow hats make it easy for drivers to see the children. What do you wear to school?

 **uniforms:** clothing for different people that looks the same



character

These children are learning to write Japanese characters.

Japanese students study math, science, reading, and social studies. They learn to use computers and speak English. They learn to write **characters**. Each character has a different meaning.

What subjects do you study in school?

characters: pictures that stand for words

School Schedule

8:15 A.M.	Doors open
8:50 A.M.	Morning classes begin
12:20 P.M.	Lunch
1:05 P.M.	Clean-up time
1:25 P.M.	Recess
1:45 P.M.	Afternoon classes begin
2:30 P.M.	Break
2:45 P.M.	Clubs and activities
3:45 P.M.	School ends

This is a schedule from a Japanese school. The schedule tells students what to do at different times during the day.

Does this schedule look like the schedule in your school? How is it similar? How is it different?



 Japanese students have recess and lunch, just like American students. They have breaks between classes, too.

The students also help clean the school. They learn to work hard and to help out.

Do you have any **chores** to do at school?

 **chores:** small jobs



 Students in Japanese schools do many different activities. They may attend festivals together. They may go on field trips to learn about places outside of school. They belong to many types of **clubs**, such as computer clubs and science and sports clubs. School club meetings are part of the school schedule.

What kinds of activities or clubs does your school have?

 **clubs:** special groups



Talk About It

1. How is going to school in Japan like going to school in the United States? How is it different?
2. Would you like to go to school in Japan? Why or why not?

Write About It

3. On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph that describes a day in a Japanese school.

Extend Language

Some words have more than one meaning. A **character** can be a person in a story. A **character** is also a symbol, or mark, used for writing. What do we call the marks we use to write in English, such as *a*, *b*, and *c*?

 Japanese students are very busy in school. They learn many things, and they work very hard. Japanese students have fun in school, too. They see their friends during lunch, at recess, and in clubs.

What do you like best about school?

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