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## **Kabuki Theater**

### **Objectives:**

Students will gain an appreciation for and understanding of the richness of Japanese culture in general, and the kabuki theatrical tradition in particular. They will be able to describe the history of kabuki, its themes, techniques, music, actors and popular availability today.

### **Level/Class:**

This lesson is designed for seventh grade students in a year-long World Geography course.

### **Time Requirements:**

This lesson will take one class period. It will be one of several lessons focusing on traditional Japanese culture.

### **Materials:**

Power point presentation and projector

Writing Assignment with Key Terms to be included

\*Handouts:

“An Introduction to Kabuki” by Ryohei Matsuda

“Kabuki: Traditional Theatrical Arts”, The Society for Educational Information, Inc., Tokyo.

Video recording of a Kabuki performance (Ask Dr. Ellington about how to obtain a copy)

### **Assessment:**

Students will be able to define key terms related to kabuki, describe its historical development and the main characteristics of a kabuki performance. They will demonstrate these skills through a summative essay on the topic after viewing a Power point presentation on the topic, conducting individual research outside of class, reading supplemental handouts and viewing a video clip from a kabuki performance.

**References:**

<http://www.indiana.edu/japan/kabuki.html>

<http://asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/countries/japan/kabuki.html>

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2090.html>

<http://library.thinkquest.org/TQ0013420/>

<http://park.org/Japan/Kabuki/sound.html>

<http://gojapan.about.com/cs/japanesetheater/a/kabukitheater.htm?p=1>

<http://www.theatrehistory.com/asian/kabuki001.html>

## Kabuki Theater

**Assignment:** In a well written essay of at least two hundred and fifty words, describe the kabuki tradition in Japan. Your essay should deal with its history and development, characteristic themes and techniques, music performance, costumes, actors and stage. Listed below are key terms that you should include and correctly explain in your essay.

Inside your conclusion, reflect on the flamboyant style of kabuki and its place inside a culture that values harmony and adherence to social norms.

1. Edo Era
2. Edo
3. Feudal Japan
4. Mitate
5. Yatsushi
6. Kata
7. Kokegoe
8. yago
9. onnagata
10. Shinto
11. Shamisen/shamisen music
12. Banraku
13. Shosa-goto
14. Jidai- mono
15. Sewa-mon

16. Hanamichi

17. Mawari-butai

18. kurogo