



The Good Eggs Travel the World

Chapter 5: Japan (January)

Overview:

The Eggs landed in Tokyo on January 1 in time for the three-day celebration of the New Year. They met their new friend Takumi and his grandfather. They traveled on the Bullet Train from Tokyo to Takumi's hometown of Kyoto where they celebrated the New Year watching fireworks and flying kites. They learned new words and customs, even though Benedict struggled with a couple of them, like bowing and taking off his shoes. Their magnificent trip to Japan ended with something they knew how to do well - play baseball! The Eggs played a practice game with a Japanese team and had a great time!

Lesson:

Chapter Five introduces the Eggs to the country of Japan.

Country: Japan

Continent: Asia

Prominent Language: Japanese

Capital: Tokyo

Sites and Experiences:

- Bullet Train (Shinkansen) – travels at speeds around 180 mph
- Kyoto to celebrate the New Year
- Baseball practice with a Japanese team

Words, Phrases and Sayings Learned:

- *Konnichiwa* = Hello
- *Kudasai* = Please
- *Sofu* = Grandfather (your grandfather)
- *Ojii-san* = Grandfather (someone else's grandfather)
- *Shogatsu* = New Year's Day

Customs Learned:

- Bowing is a sign of respect
- Removing shoes and wearing guest slippers when entering a home is a sign of respect
- Wiping your hands with a warm moist towel before eating
- Using chopsticks to eat food

- Slurping noodles is polite and shows you are enjoying your meal

Foods Eaten:

- *Mochi* = Sticky rice cakes
- *Ramen* = Noodle dish served in broth

Activity:

Class Research:

GROUP 1: Research what the Bullet Train looks like and find its fastest speed.

GROUP 2: Research the origins of some popular Japanese customs such as bowing and removing shoes in a home.

GROUP 3: Research some popular Japanese foods and their ingredients.

GROUP 4: Research the different rules between Japanese and American baseball.

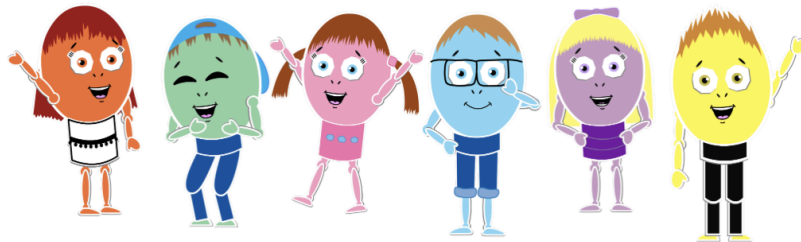
Materials:

- Poster board, markers, crayons

Get your poster board ready and divide it into four sections. Have each group depict their research onto the poster board. Hang it next to your Australia poster. Your mural must be getting long by now – I bet it's beautiful!

Additional activities:

- Try some simple *origami* (the traditional Japanese art of paper folding). There are many shapes that can be made. Start simple and work up to more difficult folds. The internet offers several instruction pages and videos that can help you get started.
- Since flying a kite is an important part of celebrating the Japanese New Year (*Shogatsu*), gather materials and instructions to make simple diamond shaped kites. Children can put words and pictures on the kite depicting things they learned about Japan. Search web pages for instructions and videos to help you get started.



Visit **The Good Eggs** website to explore our inspiring children's books, SEL resources, podcast for kids, video series, monthly "Eggings," blog updates, and social media links — all designed to help young reader's hearts grow!

<https://www.thegoodeggs.org>

© The Good Eggs. All rights reserved. No part of this document or video may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission of The Good Eggs Media..