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"Tsunagaaru": an interactive communication website for secondary students

www.tsunagaaru.com



Introducing some recent postings from Tsunagaaru*

My School Trip! Essay by "さとみ"	Japan
I went to Kyoto on a school excursion from November 28th to December 1st. I wore Kimono in Kyoto. Kimono is a Japanese cloth. Wearing Kimono is unusual for us. I ate Tofu at a great Japanese restaurant. Do you know Tofu? Tofu is made from soybeans. It was nice taste! I ate many delicious food on this trip.	
"Alissa"	U.S
京都は美しそうです！ 着物も美しそうです。 着るのは大変ですか。そして、着物はとても高いですよね。 豆腐が好きです！ 悲しい時や寒い時や病気だったら、 母は味噌汁を作ってくれて、豆腐を入れます。	
"さとみ"	
こんにちは。 京都は美しいところです。 着物は買うととても高いですから、レンタルしました。 1日 2500 円ほどで貸してもらえます。 着物の値段は様々で、なかには一千万円を超える 超高級品もあるようです !!! それから、私も豆腐の味噌汁が好きです。 毎日味噌汁を飲みます。	

Community "Messages from Gifu"	Japan
岐阜のわたしたちの高校があるまちを、写真と川柳で紹介します。	
岐阜の山 山がいっぱい 山だらけ Beautiful mountains, Strong mountains, A lot of mountains! Gifu has mountains. Welcome to Gifu !	
岐阜県よ おいしい水を ありがとう Oh, Gifu. It gives us delicious water. We are grateful for it.	

Perhaps one of your students would like to introduce your local area with photos, haiku, or other poetry.



Questionnaire!! Essay by "ゆか"	Japan
"What do you think of JAPANESE PEOPLE?" I want to use your answers for my research about the image of Japanese people from foreigners.	
"jerome"	NZ
Well, in my opinion Japanese people are very friendly and honest. One time I was visiting Japan with my school, and somebody in our group left their money wallet in a Mister Donut store in Tokyo. The shopkeeper was so friendly and even called the teacher to tell them it was there after five hours.	
"Katie"	Japan/U.S
I'm half Japanese and half American. As for how Americans view Japanese, I have to say most Americans seem naive (lacking worldly experience). For example, I've always gone to sports camps in America. And at one camp, a person asked me if I live in a house made of paper in Japan. At another camp, another person asked me if I have a brother, and if I did, does he have to practice fighting with a sword every day. Basically, most Americans have never gone out of America. And they lack knowledge about Japan, because they aren't taught much in school, except maybe a bit of Japanese history, which is where the stereotypes of paper houses, and my brother having a sword come in to play. However, the same is for most Japanese, most Japanese lack knowledge of America, which is why Americans have the stereotype of being fat and eating junkfood. A lot of these stereotypes come from the media, like movies.	
These are just some life experiences, and I've received racism from both sides. Like, when I'm going out shopping with my mother who's Japanese, I'll often hear the shopkeeper ask if I'm a homestay person. I personally think it's rude to judge people.	
"アスカ"	Japan
僕は日本人ですが、周りの人たちをみていて、こう思いました。 みんなよりも少しでも違うと、馬鹿にされたり、 けなされたりして、個性を豊かにするのが難しいと思います。 周りに流されやすく、自分の意見をあまり持とうとしない。 どちらかというとみんな同じというのがよしとされる。 でも、礼儀正しかったり、頼まれたことはきちんとやったりする 良いところもあると思います。	

More than 1,500 junior and senior high school students from 15 countries including Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, and the United States participate on "Tsunagaaru." They communicate in Japanese, English, Korean, and Chinese. Your students, too, may be interested. For details, see www.tsunagaaru.com/en/whats.html



* Excerpts. Japanese and English texts by members as posted. TJF encourages junior and senior high school students studying language to do their best to communicate with each other, using the language skills they have at the time to express themselves, without fear of making mistakes.