Thank You to Our Readers

TJF’s English-language newsletters, the TJF Newsletter (October 1993-June 2004) and Takarabako (September 2004 to present), have introduced the lives of Japanese young people, mainly elementary and secondary school students, through topics of recent interest in Japan. Five thousand copies of each issue were printed and more than 4,000 were distributed to teachers and other interested persons in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States, as well as various countries in Europe. Constantly keeping in mind the interests and needs of teachers and elementary and secondary school students, we have sought to show the multi-faceted nature of conditions in Japan. By portraying the way of life, thinking, joys, and anxieties of real-life elementary and secondary school students, we have sought to provide a window on Japan and Japanese that focuses on diverse subjects their peers in other countries can share.

We often received messages, telling us of success in using a particular article in the classroom, or reporting on the interest students took in this or that subject. TJF is deeply grateful for this support and feedback from our readers.

Continuing to provide information about Japan through Click Japan

With expansion of Internet use and developments in information and communications technology, the potential of website-related ways of publishing and serving the needs of readers has greatly increased. As announced in the previous issue, we have decided to cease publication of Takarabako with this issue. TJF’s efforts to provide information about Japan today, however, will continue. From now on, taking advantage of the ways information can be provided online, we will develop the potential of the Click Japan website.

TJF will be always with you!

Yomiuri Photo Grand Prix: Photo and Essay Division

Deadline for submissions is coming up!

High school students are invited to submit entries consisting of up to 5 photographs and a message (150 words in English or 200 characters in Japanese). The photographs should present a lively portrait of a subject the photographer knows well and who is close in age, portraying the subject’s dreams, hopes, worries or uncertainties in a realistic and candid manner. The message should express how creating the entry helped the photographer deepen understanding of both the subject and him- or herself.

First prize is a round-trip ticket to Japan.

The prize-winning entries will be published in the Yomiuri shimbun, one of Japan’s leading national newspapers. TJF will post the photographs of the prize-winning works and other selected entries on its website. In 2010, an Australian high school student won a prize. We hope you will encourage your students and their friends to consider submitting an entry to the contest.

Deadline: November 20, 2011
(The deadline must be strictly observed. Be sure to mail your entry in plenty of time)
For guidelines and application form, go to www.tjf.or.jp/thewayweare2/en/index.html
To read these articles go to Click Japan www.tjf.or.jp/clicknippoen/ Takarabako www.tjf.or.jp/takarabako/

#2 Convenience Stores: Can’t Live Without Them!!

#1 Finally I was able to see all around me

#3 The Lives of Japanese Elementary School Students

#5 TJF Photo Data Bank

Kendama

Playing with kendama is a “southern” tradition by bringing the ball to the mouth, holding it on the index finger, and balancing it on the chin. The Kendama is originally said to have been brought from China to Japan in the 16th century. Initially, it was not just a toy for children but also a tool for Buddhist monks. The Buddhist monks used kendama for meditation. It is said that the practice of kendama has been passed down from generation to generation. Kendama is becoming more popular in Japan, and there are now Kendama competitions held in various places. Kendama is a traditional Japanese toy that has been enjoyed by children for many years. It is a simple and fun toy that can be played in many different ways.

#11 Traditional Games Making a Comeback

Kendama Around the World

Japanese Kendama

Using the layout of a room and photographs provided, introduce the various rooms in a Japanese home. The layout can be based on a traditional house and include details about the rooms and family relationships. In these rooms, photograph the different rooms of a Japanese home for the layout on the left. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is also focusing on games as a way to improve children’s physical health. Sports have been recognized as a period that requires balance and to protect the entire body. In this research, the trend of games for young people includes black belt, martial arts, and more.
#6 From Akiba to the World! Striving to Become a Top Digital Content Hub

#8 Theme Parks: Out-of-the-Ordinary Worlds

© Hongo Jin

#9 Soccer as a Popular Sport: Putting Down Roots in Japan

#10 Seeking a Better Society for Children of Multicultural Backgrounds

#12 Developing Robots for Daily Life

© Hongo Jin

#16 The Joy of Photography
#21 Cell Phones for Communication and Enjoyment

#17 Volunteer Movement Gains Momentum

#26 Getting the Most Out of Railways

#27 The New Appeal of Agriculture

#28 Bento: Packaging Good Food and Human Warmth
"Japanese Culture and Daily Life Takarabako" e-Books

Takarabako and its predecessor, the Japan Forum Newsletter, published articles on many topics introducing the culture of Japanese daily life. On the occasion of the transition from print publication through Takarabako to publication online through Click Japan, articles published in the Newsletter columns on Japanese daily life and the Takarabako column “Japanese Culture Now” will be compiled under the title Japanese Culture and Daily Life Takarabako, in three e-books subtitled Daily Life, Pleasures and Sports, and Society and Education, respectively. Designed in pages that can be turned as in a printed book, these e-books are meant to be read on a computer. They can be perused like ordinary books, flipped through to enjoy the photographs and charts, or searched as a reference work on various aspects of Japanese culture.

How to Get the e-Books
Those who register to receive the Click Japan email newsletter will be sent the URL to access the Japanese Culture and Daily Life Takarabako e-books. To register for the email newsletter, go to http://link.tjf.or.jp/MMCJP

Bring up to full-screen size with a right click.

Turn the pages while reading onscreen.

Add notes to the pages.

Use the search function.

Show at next class!
I. Daily Life

1. Food
- Japanese Fast Food: Rice Dishes
- Japanese Fast Food Part 2: Noodle Dishes
- Japanese Fast Food Part 3: Kaitenzushi
- Bento: Packaging Good Food and Human Warmth
- Obento: Lunch in a Box
- A Day in the Life: Ocha (Tea)
- A Day in the Life: Kome (Rice)
- A Day in the Life: Kome (Rice) part 2
- A Day in the Life: Seasonal Foods

2. Language
- The Japanese Language Boom
- Young People’s Language: Mirror of Their World
- Young People’s Language Part 2: Want to Be Able to Show Everyone My True Self!
- A Day in the Life: Iro iroiro (Be Colorful!)
- A Day in the Life: Ame (Rain)

3. Annual Events
- A Day in the Life: Hanami (Enjoying the Cherry Blossoms)
- A Day in the Life: O-Bon yasumi (O-Bon holidays)
- A Day in the Life: Toshikoshi (Crossing Years)
- A Day in the Life: Nengajo (New Year’s Cards)
- A Day in the Life: Tsutsumu (Wrapping)

II. Pleasure and Sports

“Koshien” as Big Stage for High School Students
- Shodo: An Old and New Form of Self-Expression
- The Joy of Photography
- Getting the Most Out of Railways
- Manga: Japan’s Favorite Entertainment Media
- Manga Cafe: From Reading Spot to Relaxation Space
- Media Characters: New Necessity of Daily Life
- Gifts from Animals to People
- Theme Parks: Out-of-the-Ordinary Worlds
- Soccer as a Popular Sport: Putting Down Roots in Japan
- Traditional Games Making a Comeback
- Games for Cross-Generational Enjoyment

III. Society and Education

1. Technology
- Developing Robots for Daily Life
- Cell Phones for Communication and Enjoyment
- Keitai (Mobile Phone): Essential Item for Keeping in Touch

2. Economy and Industry
- Go-Tochi Boom: We Love Local
- The New Appeal of Agriculture
- Akihabara: From Akiba to the World!
- Convenience Stores: Can’t Live Without Them!?
- Defure (Deflation): We Love “Inexpensive, Quality” Merchandise!
- How High School Students Use Their Allowances

3. Education
- Dreams and Career Planning
- Living with the Environment in Mind
- Volunteer Movement Gains Momentum
- Seeking a Better Society for Children of Multicultural Backgrounds
- Part-time Work and Helping at Home

Please register for “Click Japan News”

Readers of Click Japan website will be notified, via the e-mail newsletter, “Click Japan News,” of updates to the Click Japan website and availability of information relating to Japanese-language education. If you are not already registered to receive these bulletins, we invite you to do so at http://link.tjf.or.jp/MMCJP

http://link.tjf.or.jp/MMCJP

*Japanese Culture and Daily Life Takarabako* e-Books - 2
TJF conducted a survey of *Takarabako* and *Hidamari* (Chinese newsletter) readers concerning topics taken up in its pages through issue No. 27 that teachers had utilized in their classes and that students found of particular interest. We are sincerely grateful to the readers who took time to respond to the questionnaire. The editorial staff was delighted to see how many of the articles have been useful to teachers.

We recently received from Jessica Perrin in Australia a class-activity idea using the “Go-Tochi” feature of *Takarabako* (No. 22) summarized below. We hope other readers will let us know how they have used such feature articles in their classes. We would like to share your ideas with other teachers by posting them on the Click Japan site.

**Summary**

Students engage with the prefectures and makeup of Japan; uncovering the unique specialties of each prefecture in an appealing way through the Kewpie character mascots.

**Objectives**

1. Familiarize students with the makeup/layout of regions and prefectures of Japan
2. Increase awareness of Japan’s local diversity (food/goods/language) and the pride taken in local specialties.
3. Introduce students to the concepts of *meibutsu* めいぶつ and *omiyage* おみやげ
4. Saying what an area is famous for.

**Procedure**

1. Set the class up into groups and give each group a puzzle of Japan. Have the students try to put the puzzle together (ensure that there are no maps of Japan around the room!).
2. Reconvene and compare the work of each group. Distribute copies of the Japan map to show students the correct makeup. Elicit as much information as possible (island names, capital, any prefecture names that they know, region names, climate between north and south, where sister school is located, etc.). Depending on the level of the group, location sentences/simple statements like 日本は長くです／大きな島が4つあります could be included. Highlight how many prefectures there are.
3. Distribute *Takarabako* to each group. As a class read the first part of the article that defines Go-Tochi. Ask students why they think that this is a boom and what they think might be considered popular marks of local identity in Japan.

**For the full lesson go to:**

[www.tjf.or.jp/clicknippon/en/activity/t22_01_e.html](http://www.tjf.or.jp/clicknippon/en/activity/t22_01_e.html)

---

**Q:** Among the topics taken up in past issues of *Takarabako*, which, if any, have you used in your classes or found of particular interest to your students?

---

**Blog Features Class-Activity Ideas on Great East Japan Disaster Theme**

The questionnaire also asked readers to suggest ideas for topics they would like us to take up from here onward. Many respondents suggested the subject of natural disasters like the earthquakes and tsunami that Japan experienced in March this year. In Japanese classes at many elementary, junior high, and senior high schools around the world, students are engaged in fundraising and other activities to think and care about the situation of the victims of the quake and tsunami. In this blog, we share messages and ideas sent to TJF by teachers participating in such projects with their students, in hopes that they will encourage and inspire others. **See the blog at [http://ameblo.jp/tjf2011/](http://ameblo.jp/tjf2011/)**