

TJF Photo Data Bank

Japanese Classes Using Photographs from the TJF Photo Data Bank

▶▶▶ <http://www.tjf.or.jp/takarabako/>



In this issue, we introduce the TJF Photo Data Bank reopened in May 2005 and activities designed for Japanese language classes using photos from the data bank. The first half of the issue presents ideas and teaching plans for classes introducing topics related to the lives and culture of Japanese young people. The second half introduces and provides resources and information on these topics.

What is the TJF Photo Data Bank?

http://www.tjf.or.jp/photodatabank_e/



Three thousand photographs of Japan are available free of charge!

Since May 2001, TJF has made available its data bank of photographs showing daily life in Japan for use free of charge by Japanese-language and social studies teachers in elementary and secondary schools overseas for classroom activities and teaching materials. Approximately 3,000 photographs, taken by high school students themselves and by TJF, are accessible on the site.

Subject categories for photographs of young people

The photographs deal with aspects of the lives and thinking of Japanese young people in which their peers in other countries may share an interest. Grouped in such a way as to be useful for Japanese-language teaching and education for understanding other cultures, the photographs fall into 15 categories (e.g., School and Education, Clothing and Fashion, Social Life and Communication, Nature and Environment).

Convenient features of the data bank

- ☀ Search in either English or Japanese (with hiragana, katakana, kanji, or romaji)
- ☀ The captions are given in both English and Japanese
- ☀ List of New Photos: Check photos recently added to the data bank
- ☀ Favorite Photos: Allows you to save selections of photos that you often use
- ☀ Access Ranking: Lists most popular top 20 photos

How Can You Use the Photos?

Many teachers have found from experience how useful photographs can be in awakening students' interest in a new subject. Especially in language education, photographs have many uses in introducing material that is hard to fully explain in words, in providing vicarious ex-

First, try accessing the site

Even those who have not yet registered for membership with the data bank can search the database and view the photos in thumbnail size. If you complete the membership registration—a very simple procedure—you can freely display the photos in large size and download them.

For example, if you select the topic “Eating Out” from the “Food” category, 71 photographs will be displayed.

You can also search using keywords. A search for “part-time work” (or アルバイト), for example, will result in a list of 44 photographs.

Eating Out

Search



Outdoor festival stall selling roasted corn.



A showcase outside a restaurant.

part-time work

Search



Working part-time at a cake bakery.



Delivering mail during the winter break.

periences, and in encouraging understanding of other cultures. In this issue we introduce some slightly more purposeful uses of the photographs than just as a classroom diversion or way of exciting students' interest.

Activity 1: Observing, Reflecting

わたし いえ
私の家

My Home

[Learner level: beginner]

Using the layout plan of a home and photographs provided here, introduce the various rooms in a Japanese home. The learner can learn to explain the layout of his or her home and think about home and family relationships.

Here are some of the photographs you can use ➤ photographs of the different rooms of a Japanese home (for details, see **Activity-1**)



いま 居間／リビングルーム(和室)
living room (Japanese-style room): ts018



いま 居間／リビングルーム(洋室)
living room (Western-style room): yy020



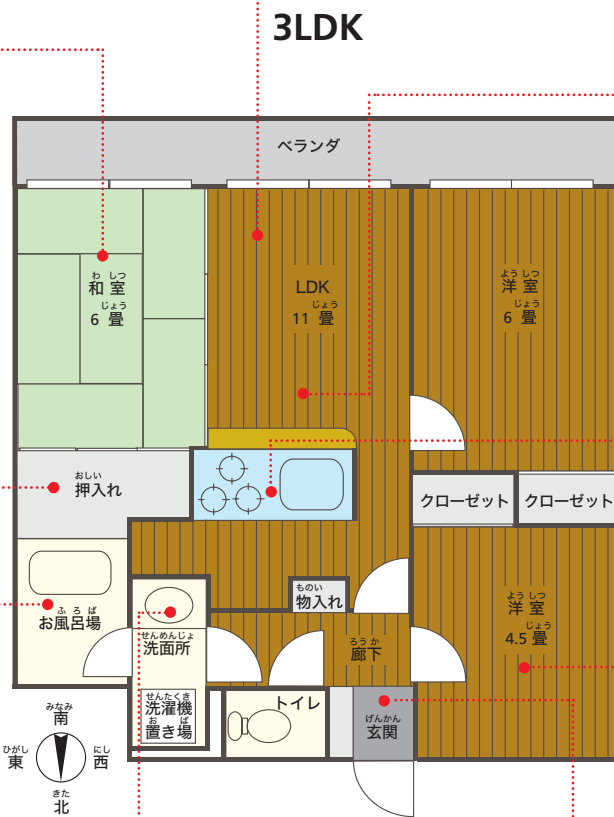
ダイニングルーム
dining room: yk060



わしつ 和室
Japanese-style room: my_p05



おしい 押入れ
bedding closet: my036



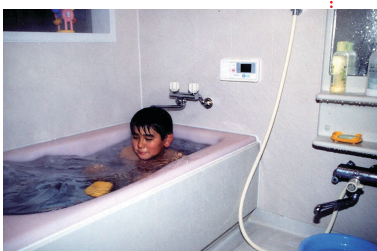
ダイニングキッチン
kitchen and dining room: sm_p04_3



だいどころ 台所／キッチン
kitchen: yk044



こどもべや 子供部屋
children's room: yk_p04_1



お風呂 風呂場
bath: KENTARO039



せんめんじょ 洗面所
washbasin room: ok009



しょさい ちち へや 書斎(父の部屋)
study (father's room): yk_p06



げんかん 玄関
entrance hall: my_d05



かいだん 階段
stairway: yk037

Activity 2: Imagining, Understanding

わたし 私たちにとってのX

What X Means to Us

[Learner level: beginner]

Making guesses about what they see in photographs and thinking about equivalents in their own culture will encourage students' understanding of other cultures. Thinking about what they see in the photographs with reference to their own culture and experiences will also facilitate students' motivation to engage in expression-oriented activities.

☞ Here are some of the photographs you can use ➤ photographs of the daily lives of Japanese high school students (for details see **Activity-2**)

なに
何をしていいますか



Activity 3: Imagining, Comparing

くらべよう、ぎおんご

Let's Compare Words Expressing Sound

[Learner level: beginner or intermediate]

By comparing these onomatopoeic words with those used in their own language, learners can deepen their understanding of Japanese onomatopoeia. For intermediate-level students, photographs and sounds of the actions shown therein may be used.

☞ Here are some of the photographs you can use ➤ animal photographs, photographs showing movements accompanying sounds (for details, see **Activity-3** or Takarabako website)

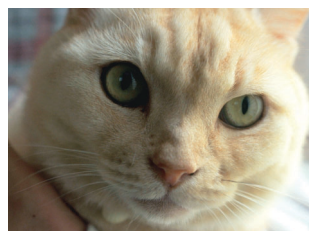
Showing a photograph or illustration of an animal, play the sound it makes and learn the names of animals and the words expressing the sounds they make.



Cow: sm034



Bird (parakeet): yk051



Cat: yk031



Dog: yk032



Duck: yk_p02_3



Goat: 99139a