"The Cultures of Japan" Culture Exploration Kit



sample items from the kit

This kit illustrates Japanese art and culture through a varied selection of classic cultural objects, both traditional and pop. It also includes items from two ethnic minority groups indigenous to Japan who may not be known to younger users of the kit. Select items also highlight close connections between Japan and the United States, even though these nations were once at war. CMLC Info Cards with intriguing facts on each item, books and articles for children and adults.

Highlights: Japanese glass fishing float found on an Oregon beach, brocade obi sash, cotton kimono to try on, miniature Japanese table setting diorama with recipe for shabu-shabu, cherry blossoms postcards relating importance of cherry trees in Japanese culture and the gift of Japanese cherry trees to Washington, D.C., Ainu mouth harp, sake bottle from Okinawa, vintage Lithopane teacup that when held to a light source, reveals a secret face, origami Instruction books.

Age suggestions: 4th grade through Adult

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Additional materials you might like to provide: origami paper for making origami; heavy-duty paper, brushes & ink for making the Japanese calligraphy character for "Friend"