

Comparing Localities – Rural and Urban Japan

Lesson Plan

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Learning Objectives:

- To recognise the similarities and differences between rural and urban areas in Japan.
- To consider and evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of these areas.

Key Words:

- Rural
- Urban
- Population
- City
- Countryside
- Facilities
- Similarities
- Differences

Main Resources:

Video: A Trip to the Japanese Countryside https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_01Eat0Zo_Q

Worksheet: Fill-in-the-Blanks (to complete whilst watching video a second time)

Photo Sets: Images of Rural and Urban Japan (to use in comparison task)

Additional Resources:

Worksheet: Comparing Localities – Venn Diagram (to use in comparison task)

STARTER

- **Slide 1:** Introduce the starter activity to pupils. They must discuss the questions on the following slide and consider whether the answer would be Japan or the UK.
- **Slide 2:** Give pupils chance to discuss each of the questions in order, either with a partner or in a group. You can then get pupils to vote for what they think the answer is in whatever format you see best. For example, pupils could write down their answer on a mini whiteboard and raise it to share with the class. Pupils could also “vote with their feet”; divide the room in half with one side being Japan and the other side being the UK. They then will move to either side of the room to select their answer.
- **Slides 3-8** will reveal the answers to the questions. Click on the slide again to reveal the answer.
- **Slide 9:** Introduce the topic of today’s lesson.
- **Slides 10 and 11:** Introduce the lesson’s Learning Objectives and Key Words.

Estimated Time: 5 – 10 minutes

INTRODUCE LEARNING - TASK 1

- **Slide 12:** To get pupils thinking about the topic of the lesson, ask pupils to think about what words they would use to describe Japan, and discuss in pairs or in small groups. Pupils could jot down key words they think of on a small whiteboard or in their notebook, and you could come back to this at the end of the lesson and ask pupils if they think their initial ideas were accurate or not.
- Many pupils may probably expect Japan to be a country filled with crowded cities packed full of skyscrapers and fast trains, so lead onto the following slide with the idea that maybe not all of Japan is like this!
- **Slide 13:** Watch the short video clip – A Trip to the Japanese Countryside. After watching it, perhaps have an initial discussion with what pupils noticed in the video and what they found interesting or surprising. Were there aspects or features of rural Japan that looked familiar to them?
- **Slide 14:** After watching the video, hand out the worksheet and ask pupils to watch the video again a second time, filling in the blanks on their worksheet. If pupils are struggling, you could provide a word box with the answers, so that all pupils need to do is match the word from the box to the correct sentence.
- **Slide 15** has a challenge question that asks pupils to compare two birds-eye photos of a rural area of Japan and an urban area. They should discuss what similarities and differences they can notice between the two photos, which will lead on nicely to an activity later in the lesson.
- You can check the answers of the video worksheet now or at the end of the lesson if you want to allow pupils more time to fill in the sheet throughout the lesson.

Estimated Time: 15 – 20 minutes

MAIN LEARNING - TASKS 2, 3, & 4

- **Slides 17 – 26** offer a closer look at what life is like in rural and urban Japan, and the typical features associated with these areas. Some of the information on these slides goes into further depth on areas that were mentioned in the video. Click on the “Notes” section at the bottom of the PowerPoint slide to see the Teacher’s Notes which contain more useful information!
- **Slide 27:** Remind pupils that, even though that life in the big city and life in the countryside may look very different, in reality, they share many similarities. There are communities of people in

varying sizes that reside in both areas, so naturally, they will require the same essential amenities and facilities. **Slides 28 – 35** go into more detail on these.

- **There are multiple different activities you can do.** Select the activity you feel best suits your class. Tasks 2 and 3 will require you to use the photo sets, which can be downloaded from the resource page.
- **Slide 36:** Task 2 – In pairs or in groups, using the photo sets, the pupils must first arrange them into two groups: “rural” and “urban”. Then, using the venn diagram worksheet, pupils must discuss and write down the similarities and differences they notice in the images.
- **Slide 37:** Task 3 – A more challenging version of the above task. In this task, in pairs or in groups, pupils will compare the photos of rural and urban Japan to their own local area. Make sure to provide pupils with a range of photos where there are a range of interesting similarities and differences they can observe. Using the venn diagram worksheet again, pupils must discuss and write down the similarities and differences they notice.
- **Slide 38:** Task 4 – Assign each group of pupils either “countryside/rural” or “city/urban” and ask them to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of their chosen area, imagining what life would be like if they were to live in that area. Pupils can write ideas down on mini whiteboards or in their notebooks, then feed back and share ideas as a class.

Estimated Time: 20 – 25 minutes

REFLECTION

- **Slide 40:** Ask pupils to consider and think about whether they would prefer to live in rural Japan or urban Japan. Ask pupils to feed back with the class and make sure their answer includes their reason why.
- This reflection activity follows on nicely from task 4 which encourages pupil to think about the advantages and disadvantages of rural and urban areas. Instead, in this reflection, it allows pupils to consider and discuss their own personal opinions and thoughts.

Estimated Time: 5 minutes

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- **Slide 39:** To extend your learning on this topic, pupils could design and create their own tourism poster or leaflet that promotes visiting either the city or the countryside in Japan. This

activity will encourage pupils to further think about what the advantages of rural/urban areas are, and how these could be used to attract tourists to come and visit.

- Pupils must include examples of things they could see and/or do in this area.
- Pupils could research a specific city or rural town in Japan and design their poster/leaflet to promote it.

Estimated Time: 20 minutes+
