School Days in Japan

by Linda Yoshizawa
Question of the Week
How does culture influence the clothes we wear?

High Frequency Words

different speak
students best
learn

Concept Words

uniforms Japanese
subjects schedule
characters clubs

Learning Goals

• Different cultures have different clothes.
• Japanese students have a long school year.
• Japanese students study English in school.
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Japan is a country in Asia. Think about Japan and the United States. Some things are the same in Japan. Some things are different.

In Japan, children spend a lot more time in school. Students there go to school from April to March. They have 240 days of school each year.
In Japan, some students wear uniforms. On the way to school, they wear yellow hats. Drivers can easily see the students. What do you wear to school?
Japanese students study the same subjects you do. They learn to speak English too. Japanese students learn to write characters. Each character has a different meaning.

What do you study in school?
A schedule is a time plan. Here is a schedule from a Japanese school. How is it different from your school?

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 A.M.</td>
<td>Doors open</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:50 A.M.</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:20 P.M.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:05 P.M.</td>
<td>Clean-up time</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:25 P.M.</td>
<td>Recess</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 P.M.</td>
<td>More classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 P.M.</td>
<td>Clubs and activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45 P.M.</td>
<td>School ends</td>
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</table>
Japanese students have recess and lunch, just like American students. They have jobs to do at school. They help clean the school. What jobs do you do at school?
Japanese schools have clubs. Some students belong to computer clubs and science clubs. They go on field trips to learn things. They play sports together at school.

What clubs does your school have?
Japanese students are very busy. They have fun too.

Think about your school. What do you like best?
Talk About It

1. Think about school in Japan. Think about school in the United States. How are they the same?

2. Would you like to go to school in Japan? Why or why not?

Write About It

3. Make a list of things you do at school. Write the times of day you do each thing. Tell about your schedule.

Extend Language

Some words have more than one meaning. For example, *school* can mean “a place to learn.” It can also mean “a group of fish.” Write one sentence using the first meaning of *school*. Then write one sentence using the second meaning.

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