

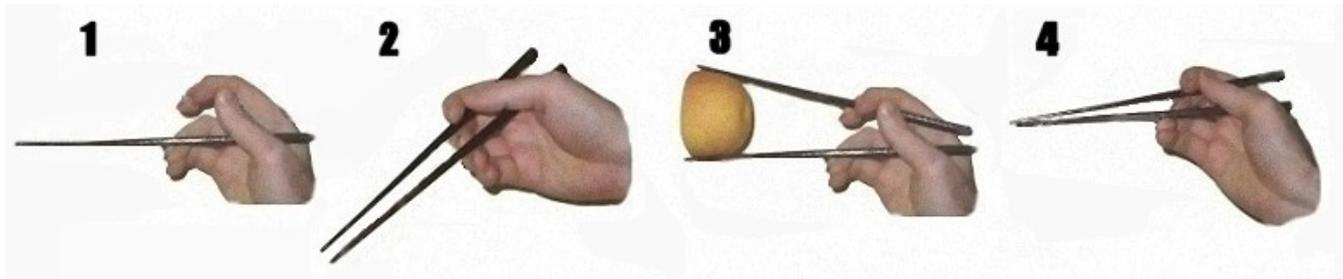
Teacher Background Information

The culture of Japan has evolved over time beginning about 300 BC. A group (the Yoyoi) arrived in Japan about this time and transformed the stone-age culture of Japan into one based on agriculture and metal-working. These early settlers become the origin of Japanese language and culture.

The next important influence was the contact with China about 200 AD. This contact resulted in the form of government in Japan, the introduction of Buddhism and writing.

Japan's cultural development has been influenced by its neighbors Korea and China. Students will notice many similarities between these countries. Such as the use of chopsticks, rice as an important part of the diet, the arts – such as painting and writing, and in the Buddhist religion. Even with these similarities there are differences that make Japan unique.

Chopsticks



Chopsticks are used in many countries. Chopsticks are sometimes different in those cultures.

Japanese chopsticks tend to be short to medium length sticks that have a pointed end. This development may have occurred because the Japanese diet consists of large amounts of whole fish. Japanese chopsticks are traditionally made of wood and are lacquered. Some chopstick sets include two lengths of chopsticks: shorter ones for women and longer ones for men. Child-sized chopsticks are widely sold. (source: Wikipedia)

Chopstick “Rules”

- Chopsticks are not used to make noise. Playing with chopsticks is considered rude.
- Chopsticks are not used to move bowls or plates.
- Chopsticks are not used to play with food.
- Most often, Chopsticks are not used to stab food.
- Chopsticks can be rested horizontally on one's plate or bowl to keep them off the table entirely. A chopstick rest can be used to keep the points off the table.
- Chopsticks should not be left standing vertically in a bowl of rice or other food.

How to Bow

Bowing (ojigi) is a very important custom in Japan. Japanese people bow all the time. It is common to greet each other by bowing instead of handshaking. It is impolite not to return a bow to whoever bowed to you. Japanese people are now accustomed to shaking hands with westerners.

Bowing expresses the feeling of respect, thanking, apologizing, greeting, and so on. It's an important custom for you to learn. You can bow, when you say, "Thank you", "Sorry", "Hello", "Good bye", "Congratulations", "Excuse me", "Good night", "Good Morning", and more!!

Bowing seems simple, but there are different ways of bowing. Depending on your social status or your age you may bow differently. If the person is higher status or older than you are, you should bow deeper and longer. The most polite way to bow, bending from your waist. Men usually keep their hands in their sides, and women usually put their hands together on their thighs with their fingers touching. If it is a casual situation, you can bow like nodding. Give bowing a try when you greet people in Japan. You will be considered very polite!

History of Origami

The word origami comes from from "ori" meaning "to fold", and "kami", meaning paper

Origami serves as another example of the geographic theme of movement – the movement of people, products, and ideas. It is also an example of cultural exchange or diffusion.

The early history of origami is uncertain. Paper was introduced to Japan in the late sixth century by Buddhist monks, and paper folding was brought along with it. In Japan, paper was considered an expensive item, and it was used in many aspects of Japanese life, most notably in architecture. Some origami models were incorporated into religious (Shinto) ceremonies. In fact, the word for paper, *kami*, is a homonym for the word for spirit or god. Regardless of where origami began, Japan is recognized as the country that most fully developed the traditional art of origami.



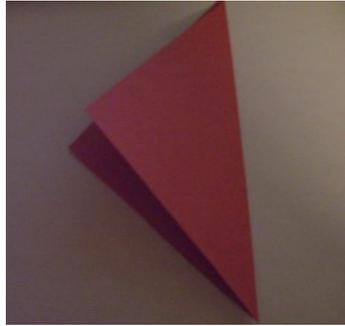
<http://home.earthlink.net/~robertcubie/origami/intro.html>

”**Origami** (“Paper of the spirits”): This is a Japanese folk art in which paper is folded into beautiful shapes. They are often seen around Shinto shrines. Out of respect for the tree spirit that gave its life to make the paper, origami paper is never cut.” (Source of information: <http://www.taima.org/en/shintoinfo.htm>)

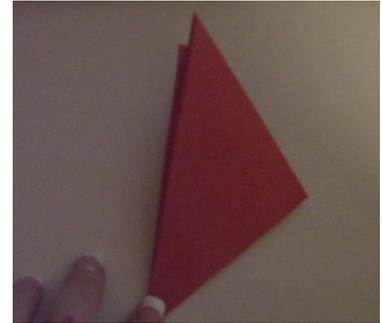
Origami Cat Directions

Making an origami cat is one of the most simple origami shapes. You can use googly eyes or just have students draw on the features. Start with a square piece of paper – 5 ½ x 5 ½ works well.

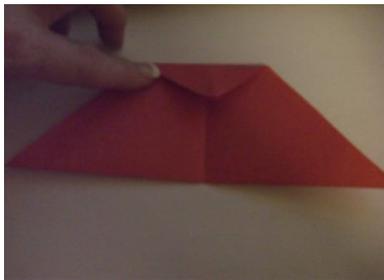
Step 1: Fold the square in half on the diagonal.



Step 2: Fold in half again. Be sure to form a crease. Open it back out



Step 3: Take the top of the triangle and fold it down about ¼ of the way down and crease.



Step 4: Take one of the bottom corners and fold it up at an angle. The point will be the cat's ear.



Step 5: Fold up the other corner to form the other ear.



Step 6: Turn over and add cat features using markers or googly eyes



Student Sample

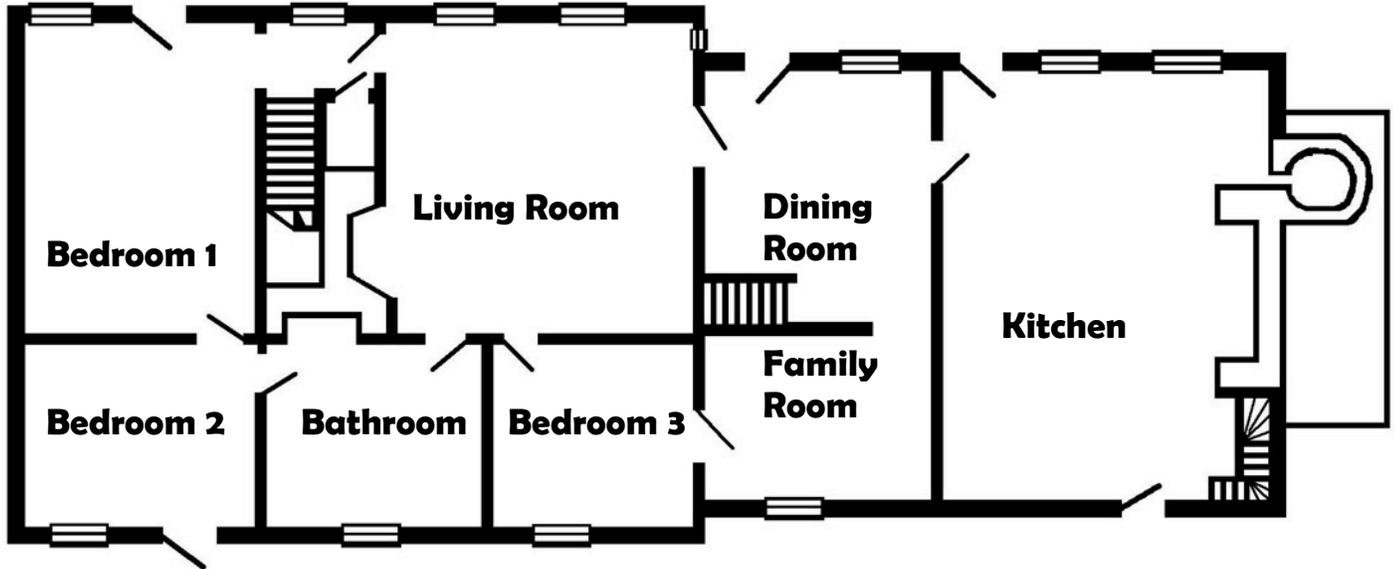


Lucky Cat

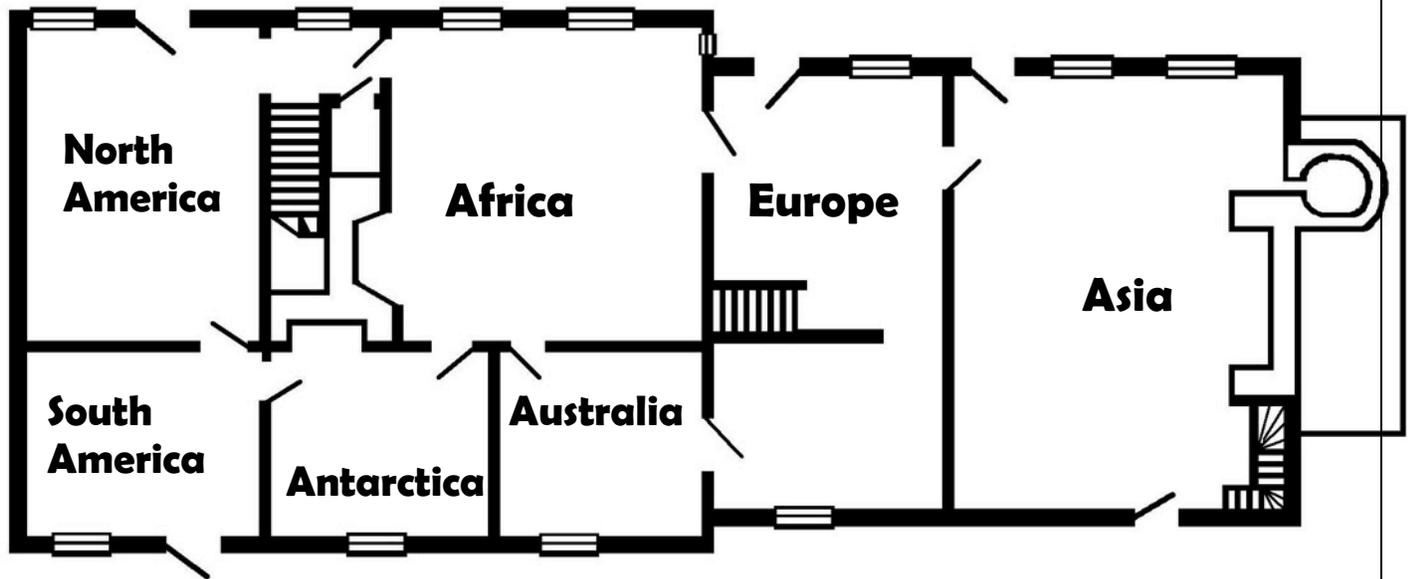


The **Maneki Neko** (招き猫, literally "**Beckoning Cat**"; also known as **Welcoming Cat**, **Lucky Cat**, **Money cat** or **Fortune Cat**) is a common Japanese sculpture, often made of porcelain or ceramic, which is believed to bring good luck to the owner. The sculpture depicts a cat (traditionally a Japanese Bobtail) beckoning with an upright paw, and is usually displayed—many times at the entrance—in shops, restaurants, pachinko parlors, and other businesses. (Wikipedia.org)

Floor Plan of a House



The Earth is Like a House Information Sheet

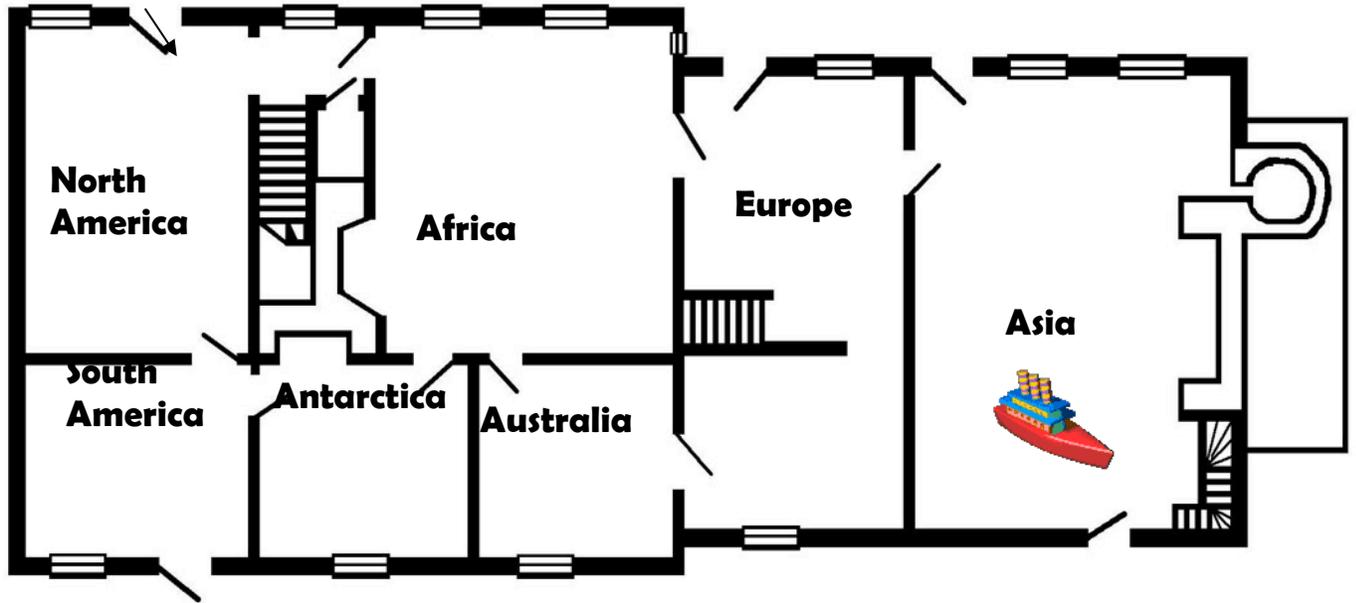


- There are seven continents surrounded by oceans.
- A continent is a very large piece of land.
- Each continent is different
- There are countries on a continent.
- Countries are like the furniture in a room
- The United States is a country
- The United States is in North America
- Japan is a country
- Japan is in Asia



Find the Toy

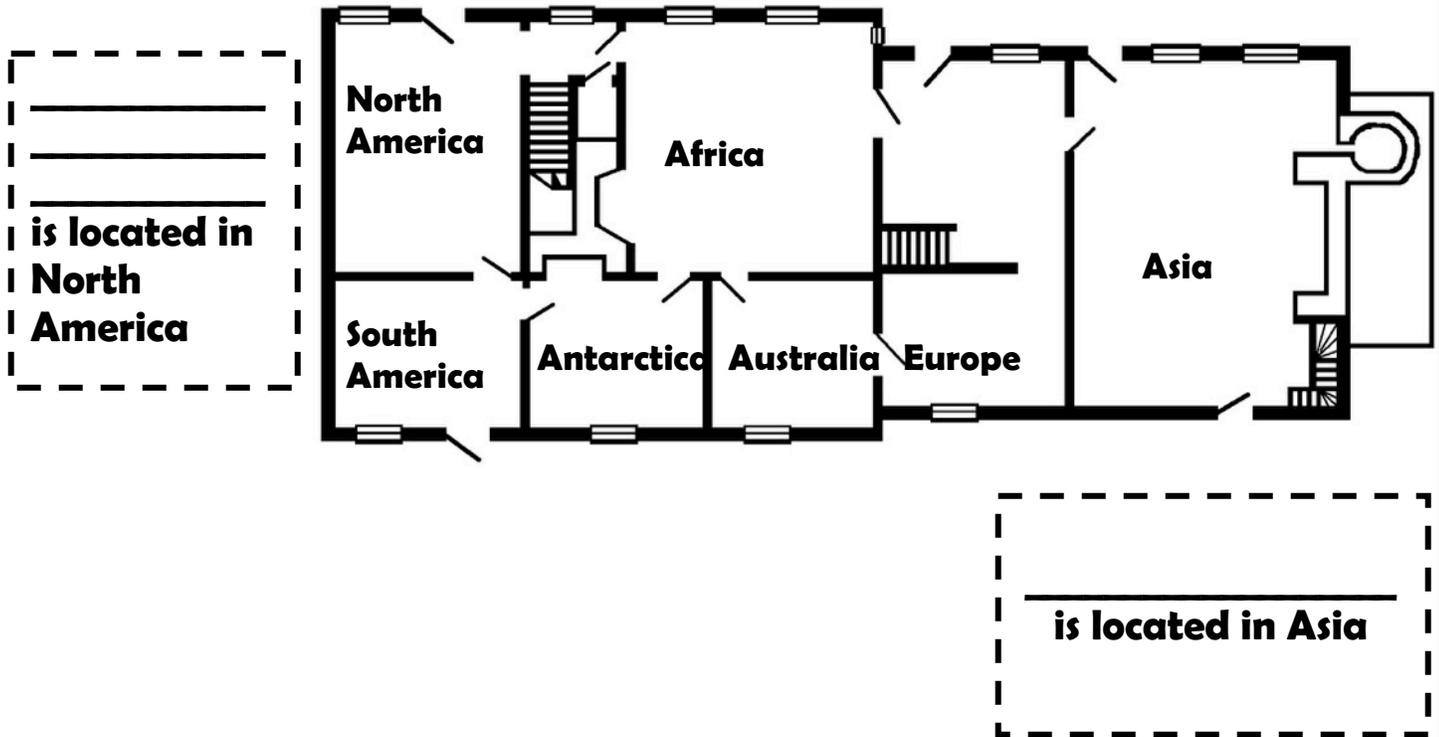
Start Here



Directions: Draw a path to the toy. Have your partner tell how to get to the toy boat.

The Earth is Like a House

Name _____



The Earth is like a house because it has _____ rooms. These rooms are called _____.

The names of the rooms help us tell the _____ of places on earth. Each room is special in its own way. Some rooms are _____ and some rooms are _____.

_____ use the rooms in many ways. The rooms have change over _____.

Word Box

Japan
big
time

United States
small
seven

location
continents
People

Time Line Labels

For the Teacher: These labels are to be used in the whole class creation of the time line (one time line for the class).

Optional: **Use additional labels for other events.**

I was born	Our school was built	Arizona became a state
Start of the United States	Japan begins	



Cut into strips straight across the page to have room to glue or tape strips together. Will need 230 strips

A Long Time Ago

Name: _____

A timeline is a tool used to tell about history. Use your penny time line to answer the following questions.

1. I was born _____ years ago.
2. Our school was built _____ years ago.
3. Which happened first?
 - a. Our school was built
 - b. Japan began
 - c. The United states began
4. Which happened last?
 - a. Our school was built
 - b. I was born
 - c. Japan began
5. We had to use _____ strips of pennies to show when Japan began.
6. The age of Japan is _____ ($<$, $>$ or $=$) to the United States?
7. My age is equal to how many pennies on the time line? _____
8. Which number is missing: 991, 992, 993, _____, 995, 996.

Answer Key: A Long Time Ago

1. Answer will vary
2. Answer will vary
3. a
4. b
5. 230
6. >
7. Answers will vary
8. 994

Photo Analysis

Name: _____

Directions: Look at these three pictures. How can you tell which happened first?

1. Which picture is the oldest? _____
2. Which picture shows a modern city? _____

A.



Clues:

B.



Clues:

C.



Clues:

Student Story Interactive Story Guide

Name: _____

Answer these questions:

1. Circle the letter for the picture of Tokyo (Japan's capital city) now:

A.



B.



2. When do most girls wear kimonos?

- a. in bed
- b. at special ceremonies
- c. at school

3. Japan changed from the past to now? True or False

4. The capital of Japan is

- a. Washington, D.C.
- b. Phoenix
- c. Tokyo

5. One Japanese custom is _____

Japanese Paper Plate Fan



Name: _____

Directions: Use your paper plate to draw pictures to show what you have learned about Japan. After you have completed each picture, put a ✓ on the line.

_____ Draw a picture of one thing you learned about Japan.

_____ Draw a picture of something from Japan which is very old.

_____ Draw a picture of one item from Japan which has changed from the past.

_____ Draw a picture of something you would want to see or do if you went to Japan.

_____ Draw a picture of a custom (a very old way of doing something) from Japan.

_____ Write your name.

When you are finished drawing your pictures, attach the Popsicle stick to make the handle of your fan.

Student Story Interactive Story Guide **Answer Key**

Answer the questions:

1. (1 point) Circle the letter for the picture of Tokyo (Japan's capital city) now:

(A)



B.



1. (1 point) When do most girls wear kimonos?

- a. in bed
- (b) at special ceremonies
- c. at school

3. (1 point) Has Japan changed from the past to now? T (or) F

4. (1 point) The capital of Japan is

- a. Washington, D.C.
- b. Phoenix
- (c) Tokyo

5. (1 point) One Japanese custom is _____ answers will vary _____

Points Possible: 5

Mastery: 4/5

Japanese Paper Plate Fan Checklist

Directions: On your paper plate:

_____ (2 point) Draw a picture of one thing you learned about Japan.

_____ (2 point) Draw a picture of something from Japan which is very old.

_____ (2 point) Draw a picture of one item from Japan which has changed from the past.

_____ (2 points) Draw a picture of a custom (a very old way of doing something) from Japan.

_____ (1 point) Draw a picture of something you would want to see or do if you went to Japan.

_____ (1 point) Write your name

Points Possible: 10

Mastery: 8/10