THE HOMESTAY EXPERIENCES OF
LAUREN, SHANNON AND HARRISON
——— My homestay in Japan ————

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INTRODUCTION

We developed this material to be used both in the United States and in Japan, in the classes of international understanding for older elementary school students. The purpose of this material is to make students gain an understanding of American and Japanese home life through a comparison of clothing, eating habit, housing, and think the background. We focused on electrical appliances and utensils used in everyday home life, and by examining their use, functions, design, and so on, we tried to understand each country's way of living, and way of thinking. It is important for our children to understand that there are similarities as well as differences in their life style as compared to other countries. This understanding helps them see that they live in an international society and that there are global similarities of which they are a part. By understanding the differences, children can appreciate and enjoy the uniqueness of their own culture.

As making the teaching material, we carried out our field study in the following method;

- 1) interview (electrical appliance sales representatives, family members, children)
- 2) observe, use, take pictures of electrical appliances in stores and in homes
- obtain advertising brochures about electrical appliances

For our interviews, we prepared questionnaires asking questions such as how the appliances are used at home, when they are used, the reason used, who use them, how they work, their impact on home life and why they are different from Japanese ones. From the advertising brochures, we studied physical differences of the appliances (size, shape, color, weight, functions) as well as price, reliability and usage.

We made two sets of materials; one for Japanese students and one for American students. They are similar in construction and content. This one is for American students to use in order to learn about Japan. We set up a situation in which three American elementary school students are doing their homestay in Japan. The situations in their homestay are made to compare their clothing, eating habbits, and housing through the use of electrical appliances and utensils.

Part 1 to part 3 of this material can be printed by a two-page spread into a worksheet. As a reference, answers to the questions in the worksheet and additional information are included.

When using this material, we encourage teachers to prompt discussions, based on the answers or the comments your students write on the worksheet. We also think it is important for your students to understand and recognize similarities as well as differences and think the background.

In addition, this material is made as a model based on our field study so that students can understand easily. When using this material, please keep in mind that this is not a stereotype of Japanese family life, but simply material to discuss or reflect students' life.

LAUREN'S HOMESTAY

My Homestay in Japan ----



Lauren is going to stay at Mr. and Mrs. Suzuki's.

She has just arrived at the house. She first sees
the scene on the left.

< a. Who is she and what is she doing ? >





Japanese house on the left. Compare them.>

< b. Look at the pictures of

an American house and a

Lauren's house

Mr.& Mrs. Suzuki's house

Now she enters the house. She is excited. Let's describe a Japanese house. What do you know or can you guess about Japanese houses?

< c. Write the differences between American houses and Japanese houses .>

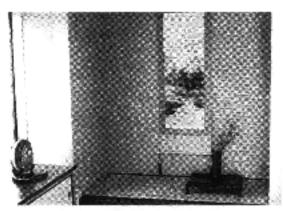
The pictures below are the rooms Lauren's host sister, Mai, showed her.

< d. What are these rooms? How they differ from yours? >

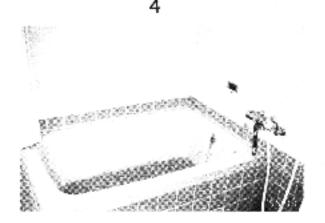
1



2



3





Finally, Mai showed Lauren her room.

Lauren: What a clean and tidy room!

· Mai : Thank you.

Lauren: Do you clean your room by yourself?

Well, sometimes. And sometimes my mother Mai :

does it. How about you?

Lauren: I clean it by myself. How do you clean your

room?

First we clean the tatami mats with a vacuum cleaner. Then we wipe it with a Mai:

dustcloth.

Lauren: I see. Let me clean some rooms this week. Can I see the vacuum cleaner?

Mai : Sure.

Here is the vaccum cleaner. Mai:

Lauren: Wow, it's small! Let me carry it.

Oh, and it's light, too. It can make small turns.

< e. Why do you think the vacuum cleaners in Japan are smaller and lighter? >

In the living room

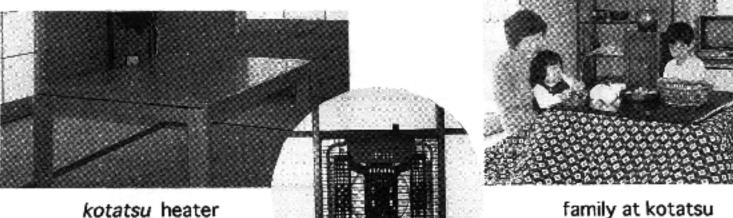
Lauren: What is this?

It is a kotatsu heater. In winter, in Japanese style rooms, we warm our legs Mai : under this heater. We cover the heater with a thick quilt so that the heat will not go away. All the family members sit together and watch TV, eating mandarine oranges. I love that time.

Lauren: You don't have central heating?

No, we don't. We have an air conditioner which blows both warm air and cold air. But we still use kotatsus and oil heaters in winter, and electric fans in

summer.



family at kotatsu

SHANNON'S HOMESTAY

----My Homestay in Japan-----



Now, Shannon is going to eat her first meal at her homestay.

" In my home we say a prayer before we eat. How can I start eating here? ... I hear they are saying something with thier hands clasped."

< a, What do you think the children in the picture are doing? >



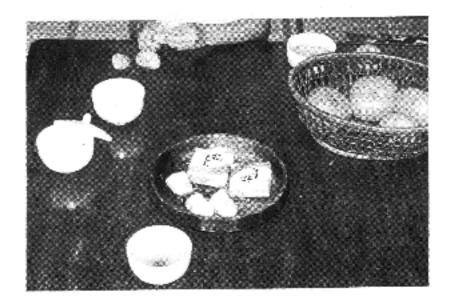
Now Shannon is eating with the family.

"Today's menu is a bowl of rice, grilled fish, misosoup and salad. There are many small dishes. I'm going to eat with chopsticks."

" I'm finished. I'm full now. Are they going to have dessert?"

There was no dessert, but an hour later the family got together again and had tea with fruits and cakes.

Shannon's host mother said, "In Japan, we usually don't eat dessert. But when we have time, we get together like this and have tea with seasonal fruit or cakes or snacks."



The next day, Shannon observed how they cook in the kitchen. There are many differences between Japanese and American kitchens. The picture below shows utensils in the kitchen at Shannon's host family.

< b. What are th	ney and what	are they used f	or? >		
()	()	(
After seeing the < c. What are you (1) There is no (2) Their refrig (3) Their oven Write your sugges	dish washer. gerator is sma	o Shannon's que Why?	stion below ?		
(1)					
(2)					
(3)					

HARRISON'S HOMESTAY

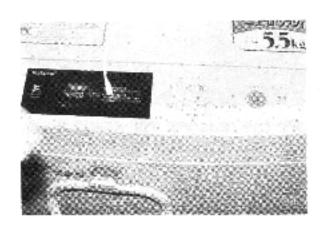
----- My Homesaty in Japan -----

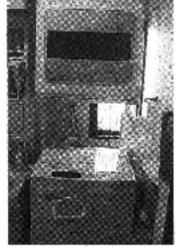
This is the second day of Harrison's homestay in Japan.

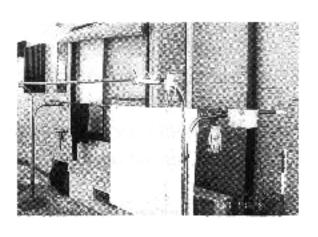
"I think I'm getting used to life here. But how can I deal with this laundry?"

Harrison told the problem to his host brother, Kenta. He took Harrison to the washing machine.

" Look! These are a little different from the ones in my home in the United States."







< a. what kind of differences did Harrison find? Why do you think there are such differences?>

,	
	 ,

Kenta: Put your laundry in this basket. My mother washes clothes almost every day. Harrison: Everyday!? Really?

Kenta: Yes, she does. She washes every morning. My mother is a house wife, so she washes the clothes, cleans the house, cooks and goes shopping for food. She does everything, but my friend's mother works, so his parents share the house hold chores.

< b.Who washes the clothes in your family? How often and when in the day it is done?>

Harrison: How do you dry the laundry?

Kenta: We hang them outside.

Harrison: Even when the weather is bad?

Kenta: Well, when the weather is bad, we hang them in a room or a small space with a roof at the back of the house.

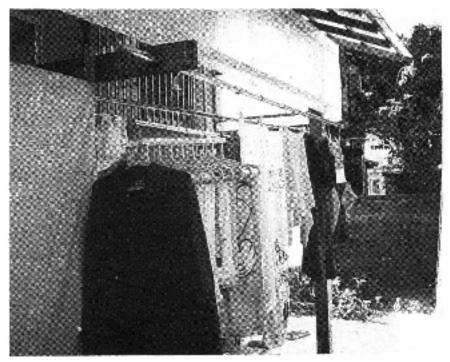
How do you dry your laundry?

Harrison: We use a dryer.

Kenta: Even when the weather is good?

Why? It is better to hang them outside in the sun.

Harrison: But it takes time and ...



<c. Both Kenta and Harrison are a little confused. What are the reasons for using a dryer and for not using a dryer? Write your idea.</p>

a reason for not using a dryer when the weather is good	a reason for using a dryer even when the weather is good
61441116375 ************************************	
X	

It seems Harrison and Kenta agreed with each other.

Kenta: I'll show you an interesting thing which you don't have in the United States. Look at this. It's a futon dryer. When we sleep, we take a set of futons out of closet, and sleep on them. We often hang futons out on the balcony to dry and desinfect them. But in the rainy season and in winter, it gets rather wet,

so we use this dryer.

Harrison: I see. Did you dry my futons?

Because my futons are very

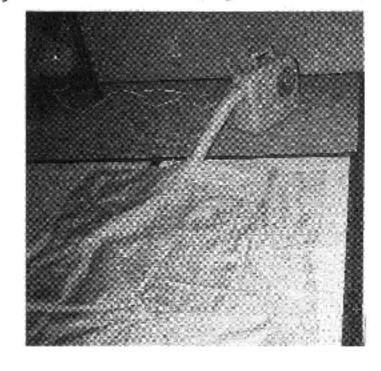
comfortable to sleep on.

Kenta: Yes. Did you fold your futons and

put them in the closet?

Harrison: Oh, no, I didn't. Did I have to?

Oh,my!



REFERENCE

LAUREN'S HOMESATY

----- My Homestay in Japan-----

<a>

This is Mr. Suzuki's mother. In Japan it is often the case that the oldest brother live with his parents after he marries and takes care of them. Now she is sweeping the path way (In Japan, we don't have drive ways). It is regarded as being very important to keep the entrance and the garden clean and tidy, because they are always seen from outside.

Americans have a larger house and a larger yard or garden. The comparison of average mean floor space of an American house to a Japanese house is 155:86.

<c>

Japanese houses stand much closer to each other, because we have less land. We often plant a lot of trees or have a fence around the house to protect our privacy and to make the border clear.

<d>>

- 1 (entrance) We take off our shoes in the entrance hall, so there is a shoe cabinet in the entrance hall. The entrance is very important, because people judge the house by the entrance. We often put flower arrangements, framed pictures, etc there.
- 2 (kitchen) In the kitchen, many utensils and tools are kept. Because we have many ways of cooking, we have many kinds of pans, knives, and other utensils. We usually eat at the kitchen table, and don't have a separate dining room.
- 3 (living room) This is a traditional style of Japanese living room. You can't find a sofa in the living room, because we sit on our knees in this kind of room. We sit on something like a cushion instead. The floor is made of mat of dried grass. Today western style living rooms are very popular.
- 4 (bath) Usually a family shares only one bath room, which is separate from the toilet. First we wash and rinse our body outside the bath tub, then bathe in the tub to warm our body up.

<e>

Because we take off our shoes before going in the house, the vacuum cleaner is needed only to vacuum up the dust. It must be able to make small turns because the rooms are small. Vacuum cleaners which are small and light sell well.

------ My Homestay in Japan-----

<a>>

We don't say a prayer, but we say "itadaki-masu." Litarally it means, "I'm going to eat." But the words also express gratitude to the person who cooked and to Nature which gave us food. We also say "gochiso-sama-deshita" when we have finished, which means "I had a good meal."

(rice cooker)

In Japanese kitchens, rice cookers are indispensable because we eat rice every day. When we don't eat rice, we eat noodles or we often have toast for breakfast. (fish griller)

We eat much more fish than meat. A fish griller is often attached to the gas range.

(oven)

We don't use ovens much. We use them for baking cakes and cookies, etc.

After the micro-wave oven became popular, a new type of micro-wave oven, which
has two functions, as a micro-wave oven and as a oven, became widely used. It is
very convenient and saves space.

<C>

- (1) We have dish washers in Japan, but they aren't very popular. Rice bowls are not cleaned well in the dish washer. Also, being too much dependent on such appliances to save time is considered lazy in Japan. Some people do not use it for environmental reasons, because it needs stronger detargent and a lot of water. Gabage disposals in the sink have not become popular either, because they damage the sewage system.
- (2) We go shopping for food almost everyday to buy fresh food and fresh fish. So we don't need to preserve much food in the refrigerator. But now, as many women have started worling, we use more frozen food or half-prepared food. For that reason, larger refrigerator have become more and more popular.
- (3) The way of cooking is very different. As mentioned in , many of us don't use ovens to cook our daily food. We use pots, frying pans, steamers, friers and fish grillers more often.

—— My Homestay in Japan ——

<a>>

We prefer appliances which look modern and have many additional functions such as washing machines with computer driven control panels. They can adjust the amount of water used and the length of time it washes, as well as change the wash cycle according to the material of the clothes. But most of the washing machines are made of plastic, and we don't stick to just one for a decade. When a new type becomes popular, we usually buy one.

You will notice that a dryer is placed above the washing machine to save space. We usually hang the laundry in the yard or out on the balcony to dry.

We usually wash the clothes in the morning. So that we can hang them out early in order to have them dry by the evening.

<C>

Many of us don't use dryers because the price of electricity is so high and we also think that we should hang the laundry outside in the sun, because the sun beams work as a sterilizer. even though some families have a dryer, they still hang the laundry out to dry and only use it when it rains or when they want the clothes dried quickly.

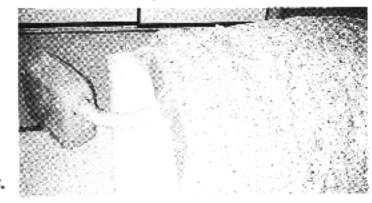
People who don't have a dryer hang the laundry out on the balcony or in the roofed space at the side or back of the house when the weather is bad. (The picture shows the roofed space for hanging the laundry.) In the case where both parents work, they use a dryer or they hang the laundry out on the balcony or roofed space, or sometimes they hang them in the rooms.

futon dryer

Young people nowadays prefer to sleep on a bed. But *futons* are very convenient in small houses, because we can fold them and put them in the closet when we don't use them, and we can use the room for other purposes. *Futon* is a fluffy thick quilt. You

sleep on top of one and another goes over you.

Because we like it to be very fluffy, we dry it as often as possible. When we can't hang futons out for a long time, we use a futon dryer. There is a large plastic bag that we put in between the futons. When you turn the dryer on, it blows hot air into the bag which warms and dries the futons.



Comparative Study: After-School Life of Junior High School Students between USA and Japan

Yasuko YAMATSU, Inokuchidai Junior High School Yoshiaki KAGIMOTO, Kurashikiminami Junior High School Satoshi KAJIWARA, Junior High School attached to Okayama University

We have developed teaching materials in order to assist students to learn the good points and characteristic things about after-school life of junior high school students between USA and Japan. We hope students will understand that there is much similarity about how to spend an after-school life, but there is much difference about what has been treasured in the past. Also, we'd like students have the chance to understand the difference between Japanese and American ways of thinking and sence of values.

So these teaching materials are made for intercultural understanding intended for junior high school students. But we have to have in mind that we investigated only a few parts of USA and Japan, and therefore we can't express the general tendency of both countries.

Before making teaching materials we developed a hypothesis that students in USA would live by their own choosing after school and wouldn't live on the extension line of school life. Accordingly, we developed a questionnaire to give to American students.

The result of it was different from what we had expected. That is to say, we have found that the pattern of after-school life between two countries is almost the same, but the students in USA have more choices of activities.

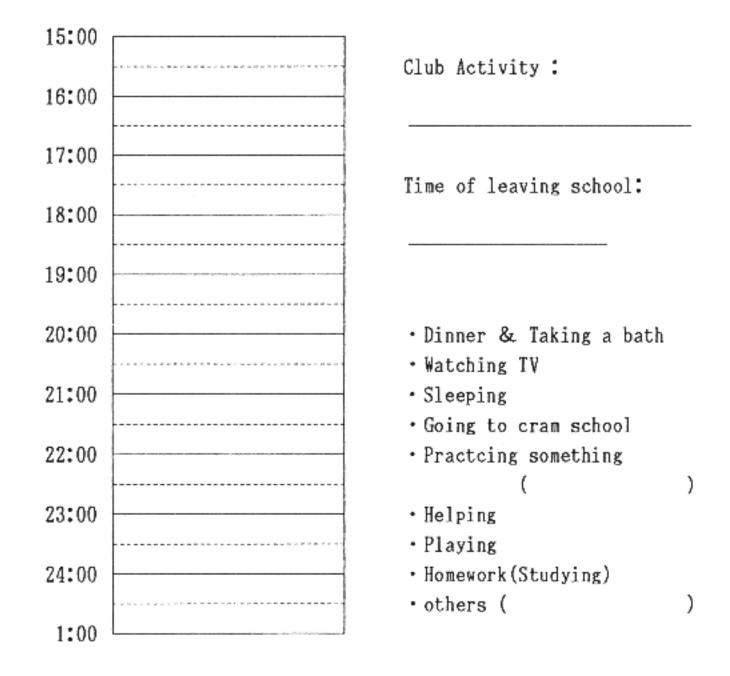
We can make use of these teaching materials through social studies, moral education, and so on. Students can write down their own ideas on the working sheet and discuss it with each other. We hope you'll use every device when you use these teaching materials. We need to have students think about the background of USA and Japan, because different cultures introduce different ways of thinking and sets of values.

If you need pictures, videos, and other imformation, please get in touch with us.

After-School Life of Junior High School Students between USA and Japan

		_		— What	is	at the	back	of the	life	in USA a	nd Japan?		
1.	₩hat	do	you	think	of	USA?	Please	e write	down	anything	you know.	,	

2. How do you spend your daily life? Please look back on yesterday's afterschool life. Let's write down your yesterday's schedule after going back to your home.



3. The following table is the daily schedule about Bob and Olivia living in USA. Let's compare your daily schedule with theirs!

15.00	Воь	15.00	Olivia
15:00	Leave school	15:00	
	~3:45 Get home	1.0.00	Club activity(school)
16:00	Do my homework	16:00	Club activity(school)
	Do my homework	1 7 . 0 0	Club activity(school)
17:00	Do my homework	17:00	Club activity(school)
	Play the trumpet	10.00	Get home(by parent)
18:00	Have dinner&Others	18:00	Have dinner&Others
10.00	Practice football	10.00	Go to 4-H
19:00	Practice football	19:00	Go to 4-H
0.0 - 0.0	Practice football	20.00	Do my homework
20:00	Help housework	20:00	Do my homework
0.1 . 0.0	Watch TV	21.00	Watch TV
21:00	Watch TV	21:00	Watch TV
0.0 - 0.0	Study	22:00	Watch TV
22:00	Study	22:00	Go to bed (22:00)
23:00	Go to bed (22:30)	23:00	

Practice

Football: August to October
 Basketbal: November to March

· Baseball : March to August

★ Others: Meeting of Boy Scout

Karate

Club activities…seasonal——
Volleyball, Basketball, Softball
Tennis, Swimming, Cheer Leading,
Band and so on

※ Others: Praying at church

4-H, Boys&Girls Club Chorus, YMCA, and so on

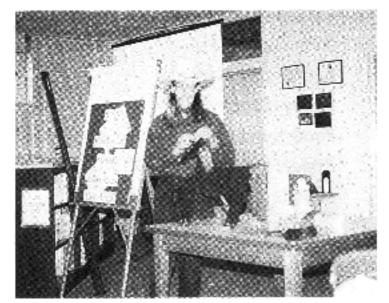
Look at Japanese daily schedule and American daily schedule! What is a common thing? What is a different thing? Let's write down what you notice.

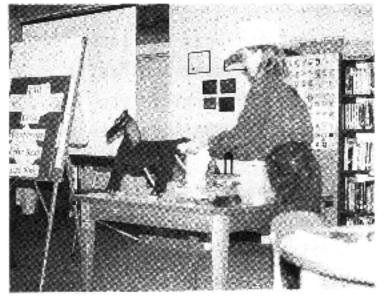
Japan	USA

4. What does 4-H mean? What kind of activity?

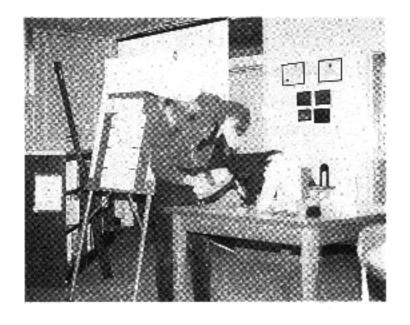
4-H means Head, Hand, Heart, and Health. 4-H clubs usually meet once a mon th. 4-H'ers plan and conduct business meetings. Volunteers guide an educational program for about 30 minutes. A 4-H'er joins 4-H to have fun with friends and to learn new things. The club meeting, project groups, activities and events are the ways 4-H'ers fulfill both desires. The club meeting also develops leadership and citizenship skills. Club membership, serving as an officer, voting and decision-making help the 4-H'er learn by doing. 4-H'ers practice leadership when planning and conducting money-making or community service projects.

Look at the presentation of a student!





How to take care of a horse





How to brush a horse

Lab Education

We don't have this kind of activity like 4-H in Japan. But if you could join 4-H, what kind of project would you select? The following table is the Project Selection Sheet of 4-H. Let's fill in the blanks.

	Date:
Name:	Age:
Address:	
Birthdate:	Telephone:
Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Names:	

- 1. Discovery
 - · Dicovering 4-H Dogs and cats
 - · Dicovering 4-H Home and Family
 - · Dicovering 4-H Horticulture
 - Dicovering 4-H Small Animals
- 2. Citizenship and Civic Education
 - · Citizenship
 - · Community Development
 - Global Education
 - · Intergenerational
- Communications and Expressive Arts
 - Communications
 - Crafts
 - Dramatic Arts
 - · Ghostwriters Magazine
 - Photography
 - · Public Speaking
- 4. Consumer and Family Sciences
 - · Child Care Babysitting
 - · Clothing and Textiles
 - · Consumer Education Management
 - · Human Development
 - · Home Environment
- 5. Environmental Education and Earth Science · Red Meats
 - Archery
 - · Camping / Outdoor Education
 - · Entomology
 - Energy
 - Forestry
 - · Wildcare

- 6. Healthy Lifestyle Education
 - · Bicycle Safety
 - · Bread amd Cereals
 - · Dairy Foods
 - Food Conservation and Preservation
 - · Foods and Nutrition
 - · Fitness and Leisure Education
- 7. Personal Development and Leadership
 - · Achivement
 - · Creative Crafts
 - · Leadership
 - Personal Appearance
 - Woodworking
- Plants and Animals
 - · Horticulture Science
 - Landscaping
 - Plants and Soils
 - · Beef
 - · Cats
 - Dairy
 - · Dog Care and Training
 - Horse
 - Poultry
 - ned nea
 - RabbitsSheep
 - · Small Animals
 - Swine
 - · Veterinary Science
- 9. Science and Techonology
 - Aerospace
- Automotive
- · Marine Science · Electric
- Computer Science

Some 4-H projects are designed to be completed with your 4-H friends in a group setting. Other projects can be done with a group or by yourself. Always ask someone who knows a lot about your topic to serve as your coach or helper.

You will learn together.

5. There are many kinds of activities except 4-H. We'll introduce them. Please look at these pictures.

Boys & Girls Club







Building

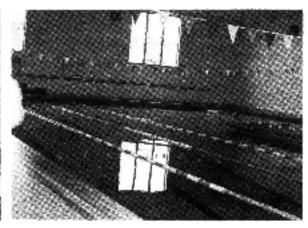
Volunteer

Members

YMCA







Pool



Gym

Now, we'll explain about Boys & Girls Club and YMCA.

⟨Boys and Girls Club⟩

- The organizations are privately supported, in the tradition of voluntarism in America.
- A boy and a girl can come to the Club anytime it is opened and find something to do.
- The dues for joining are very low so that almost every boy and every girl
 can afford to join. Dues are never considered an important source of operating revenue nor are there any fees for services.

(Parent pays 35 dollars per week for one child.)

- · Business industries give money to the Club once or twice a year.
- The leaders, volunteer or paid, are sympathetic, understanding, supportive adults.

<YMCA>

- · It is the provider of health and fitness services, continuing a mission-based tradition of promoting affordable health and fitness programs for all.
- All the programs have been integral to the Y's mission of developing a healthy body, mind, and spirit.
- · Y's promote the value of good health and how it creates confidence and increases a feeling of accomplishment.
- It prepares a lot of programs like soccer, basketball, swimming, crafts, praying and so on.

6. How do Japanese junior high school students spend after-school life? Let's compare your daily schedule with that of Taro and Hanako?

t's compare y	Daisuke	that of fare an	Tomoko
15:00	Have lessons	15:00	Have lessons
	Have lessons		Have lessons
16:00	Practice singing	16:00	Join a club activity
	Meeting		Join a club activity
17:00	Meeting	17:00	Join a club activity
10.00	Leave school	18:00	Play
18:00	Dinner and others	18.00	Play&Help housework
10.00	Play the piano	19:00	Have dinner
19:00	Study at juku	10.00	Watch TV
20:00	Study at juku	20:00	Watch TV
20.00	Study at juku		Do my homework
21:00	Study at juku	21:00	Do my homework
	Study at juku		Watch TV
22:00	Leave juku (by bus)	22:00	Watch TV
	Take a bath		Read a book
23:00	Do my homework	23:00	Read a book
	Do my homework		Listen to the radio
24:00	Go to bed	24:00	Go to bed

7. We have compared the after-school life of Japanese junior high school students with that of American junior high school students. Do you find anythig new through this lesson? Perhaps you do! Please read the following comic strip and write down what you think.



By Yoshiaki Kagimoto

In USA

what they have treasured	what they have worried about

In Japan

what they have treasured	what they have worried about		

HOW	dο	you	Teel	through	today's	lesson?	Please	nave	some	comments	I

Reference Materials:

Students' after-school life in Inokuchidai Junior High School in Hiroshima, in Japan

Club Activity

* voluntary participation

- Place ----- School Facilities: ground, gym, classroom
- 2. Kind · Volunteer: brass band, broadcasting, reading
 - · Culture: tea ceremony, art, drama, science, domestic science
 - Sports: baseball, track and field, swimming, table tennis, volleyball, basketball, tennis, soft tennis, soccer badminton, kendo

Time

	End	Leave school	Extend	Extend			
Mar. to Oct.	17:15	17:30	18:15	18:30			
Nov. to Feb.	17:00	17:15					
Saturday	17:00	17:15					
Morning Activity Beginning time: 7:40 Ending time: 8:15							
Students aren't allowed do club activities beyond the time in October.							

* The students in some club activities practice even on Sunday or holidays.

4. Others

- Students are free to choose a club activitiy according to their interest.
 But in general they have to continue to practice the activity for three years.
- The members of a club activity ask for new members at the beginning of the year and choose a captain and vice-captain.
- When a student wants to quit the activity, he requires the approval of parents, a homeroom teacher, and a coach.

Investigation of junior high school students' life through questionnaires

Object: Second-grade year students (252 students)

Time : October in 1994

Do you go to juku?	Yes	59.6%
	Tutor	7.2%
	No	34.1 %

X Students usually study Japanese, math, and English.

* There are two answers.

Do you practice outside	Yes	32.	6	%
of juku?	No	67.	4	%

X Students practice piano, calligraphy, abacus, and musical instruments.

What time do you usually go to bed?	Nine	2.1 %
	Ten	13.3 %
	Eleven	50.6 %
	Twelve	29.5 %
	After one	4.5 %

How long do you usually sleep?	Five hours	4.	6	%
	Six hours	19.	7	%
	Seven hours	46.	2	%
	Eight hours	26.	1	%
	Nine hours	3.	4	%