Exploring Japanese Arts & Architecture in the K-12 Art Classroom: A Webography
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Starting Points for Finding Online Lesson Plans and Teaching Resources
(listed more or less in order of usefulness):

Outreach World
http://www.outreachworld.org/
A comprehensive one-stop resource for finding lesson plans, teaching resources, and professional development opportunities related to international and area studies and foreign languages in the pre-collegiate classroom. Website of the U.S. Department of Education National Resource Centers (NRCs) for International and Area Studies. Includes directory of NRCs throughout the U.S.

National Clearinghouse for U.S. – Japan Studies, East Asian Studies Center, Indiana University
http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/iguides/index.htm
Major collection of resources for teaching about Japan. Their internet guides are a particularly good place to find links to websites with quality materials on Japan, including guides on arts, architecture, and popular culture. Of note:

Japanese Arts Program for Grades 3 –6
http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/japanese_art/Introduction.htm
Exploratory hands-on units related to Painting and Folk Art (mingei) - Daruma Doll, Graphic Design - Family Crest (kamon), Graphic Design - Traditional Clothes (kimono), Sculpture - Seal Stamp (hanko), Collage - Japanese Garden (niwa), Drawing - Cartoons (manga) & Japanese Idioms (kotowaza), and Drawing - Scroll Pictures (emaki).

Cultures Speak: Japan, Personal Reflections as Teaching Resources
http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/resources/brochure/japanspeaks/intro.htm
Includes a list of important holidays and festivals in Japan, and a series of short essays by Japanese people about aspects of Japanese culture and holidays and what they mean in their lives. Useful for students to browse or as a handout.

Arts of Asia In Reach -- Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College
http://www.oberlin.edu/amam/asia/
Very high quality online lesson plans for hands-on activities making: Origami Cranes, Bodhidharma/Daruma Dolls, Carp Kites associated with the Children's Festival, Kokeshi Dolls associated with the Doll Festival, Hachimaki (headbands) using shibori (Japanese method of tie-dye), Gyotaku (fish prints), Lacquerware Boxes, Uchiwa (round hand fans), Japanese Family Crests (mon).

Detroit Institute of Art -- Asian Art Collection - Exploring Asia through Art
http://edu.dia.org/tao/resource_guide/
A resource guide for teaching about the art of China, Korea, Japan, and Cambodia, which includes a helpful overview of art history for each country, and then curriculum units for elementary (The Way of the Brush), middle school (Taoism: The Way) and high school (The Way of Tea) students. Focuses on ways the arts reflect philosophy and uses works of art to explore philosophy. Each unit includes linked lessons for social studies and art classes. Many images of their Asian art collection are available online elsewhere on their website: http://www.dia.org/collections/asian/

ARTSEDGE -- from The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/
Very rich lesson plans with good hands-on components for the arts. Of note:

“Japanese Woodblock Prints” – Grades 9-12, Students study ukiyo-e, learn about techniques and the development of the process, and do a hands-on activity to create a print of their own.

“Noh Theater” - Grades 9-12, Students study Japanese Noh theater, compare and contrast it with Western drama, study its influence on modern Western drama, and act out a Noh play.

EDSITEment -- from the National Endowment for the Humanities
http://edsitement.neh.gov/
Very rich lesson plans with lots of supporting materials for the humanities. Of note:

“Being in the Noh: An Introduction to Japanese Noh Plays” – Grades 9-12, students learn basics about the art form, read and compare texts of two plays -- Atsumori and Sotoba Komachi, compare and contrast with Western theater forms, and then write their own Noh play.

AskAsia – from The Asia Society
http://www.askasia.org/
Good comprehensive resources for teaching: maps, timelines, photos, etc. Also includes lesson plans, classroom readings, and activities for students.

Asia for Educators - from Columbia University
http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/
A comprehensive site with lesson plans, lists of recommended resources, timelines, maps, images, excerpts from primary sources to use as readings, etc. Many resources may be more suitable for high school students or as background for teachers.

Education about Asia magazine
http://www.aasianst.org/EAA/samples.htm
Website of the magazine put out by the Association for Asian Studies for K-12 educators. An excellent resource. Back issues can be ordered. Tables of contents for past issues viewable online. Free downloadable sample articles available including many useful articles on teaching about Japan. Of note:

Special issue on “Teaching about Asia through the Visual and Performing Arts” (Volume 10, Number 3, Spring 2004) including articles on teaching Heian and Tokugawa periods in Japan.

Special issue on “Asia in World History: 300 – 1500 C.E.” (Volume 9, Number 1, Spring 2004)
“Visualizing Nature in Japan: Creating Courses on the Environment from Asian Perspectives” by Elaine Gerbert from Education About Asia, Volume 6, Number 2, Fall 2001. An article useful for teaching about Japanese aesthetics, religious beliefs, and symbolism as they relate to the natural environment. Available online at the teacher resources - lesson plans/guides section of http://www.journeythroughjapan.org/.

"Aesthetics in Asia: Bridging Logic and Language" by Sandra A. Wawrytko from Education About Asia, Volume 9, Number 3, Winter 2004. An article for teachers about using a comparison between the architecture of Japan's 17th c. Katsura Imperial Villa and France's 17th c. Palace of Versailles and between musical pieces representing the same period and cultures to explore similarities and differences in aesthetics between Japan and France.

Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE)
http://spice.stanford.edu/
Source of very high quality full curriculum units, many with accompanying slide sets. Table of contents available to preview online. Need to buy from them or borrow from a nearby library. Curriculum sets of note related to Japan relevant to explorations of visual arts and their context:
"Rabbit in the Moon: Folktales from China and Japan" (Elementary)
"Religion in Japan and a Look at Cultural Transmission" (Middle School – High School)
"Introduction to Japanese Buddhist Art" (Middle School – High School)
"Tea and the Practice of Chanoyu" (Middle School – High School)
"Japanese Art in the Edo Period" (Middle School – High School)
"Castle Towns: An Introduction to Tokugawa Japan." (Middle School – High School)

Journey Through Japan – from The Japan Society
http://www.journeythroughjapan.org/
Full service site includes background articles, maps, links to lesson plans, online short stories, categorized annotated bibliographies of children's books about Japan, snapshot tours of famous sites in Japan such as Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines, and castles, photo galleries, etc. Snapshot tours are useful for students to browse.

Teaching (and Learning) About Japan – website by Lee Makela, Assoc. Prof., East Asian History, Cleveland State Univ.
http://www.csuohio.edu/history/japan/
Short illustrated essays that are also web guides on a broad range of topics on Japan, including arts and popular culture. Additional resources produced by this author of note:
http://www.csuohio.edu/history/exercise/vlehome.html
This visual literacy exercise explores Japanese geography using 19th century woodblock prints from Hiroshige Ando's series depicting the 53 Stations of the Tokaido (post stations along a major road connecting the capital Edo, now called Tokyo, with Kyoto).

http://www.csuohio.edu/history/lectures/intro01.html

Illustrated introductory lectures on interactions between geography and culture, on Japanese gardens, and an overview of cultural history of Japan in 4 chronological sections. Could be useful for older students to browse.

Japan In-Depth > History & Culture > Experience Japanese Culture
http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/experience

Japan National Tourist Organization

Short explanations (including illustrations & diagrams) of Japanese traditional cultural activities, festivals, and art including Japanese traditional dress (women’s and men’s *kimono* and *obi*), crests (*mon*), woodblock prints (*ukiyo-e*) and their production process, *kabuki* theater stage and costumes, and more. Good source of short handouts. Useful for students to browse.

JGuide – WWW Virtual Library
http://jguide.stanford.edu/

Web guide with categorized links related to all facets of Japan.

The Perry Castaneda Library Map Collection at the University of Texas at Austin
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/japan.html

The ultimate online source of free maps and links to maps for use in classrooms. Mostly copyright-free public domain maps: political, historical, topographic, thematic, outline, etc.

**Museum Websites with Additional Resources for Teaching about Japanese Art:**

The Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, at The Smithsonian Institution.
http://www.asia.si.edu/education/default.htm


Minneapolis Institute of Arts - The Art of Asia

This extensive museum educational website on Asian art features information on Japanese religious art, ceramics, architecture, and a section on *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints with a video clip about them. Best of all is the ability to browse and search their collection for high-quality large size downloadable images of Japanese art for classroom use, with complete attribution information.

Asia Society Museum – Arts of Japan
http://www.asiasocietymuseum.org/region_main.asp?RegionID=6

Small sets of high quality images of items from their collection organized by categories, with commentary.

The Metropolitan Museum -Asian Art Collection.
http://www.metmuseum.org/Works_Of_Art/department.asp?dep=6

“Collection Highlights”- includes 49 images with descriptions of items in their collection of Asian art.

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
http://www.mfa.org/collections/

Includes online tours of related items within their collection including: “Japanese Arms and Armor”, “Japanese Postcard Highlights”, “Meiji Photography,” and much more.

The National Gallery of Art
http://www.nga.gov/exhibitions/edotpktoc.htm

“Edo: Art in Japan 1615–1868” – a very rich curriculum packet that accompanied a past exhibit, downloadable as PDF.
Additional Websites and Materials for Students to Browse or Use for Research:

Edo Japan, A Virtual Tour
http://www.us-japan.org/edomatsu/
A fun tour for older students who want to learn more about Japan in the Tokugawa period. It is set up as a chance to roam around Edo (now the city of Tokyo) and see the sights, mostly via woodblock print illustrations, learning about culture and everyday life along the way.

Web Japan – from the Japanese government Ministry of Foreign Affairs
http://web-japan.org/index.html
Includes several sub-sites:
- Japan Fact Sheet - nice compact PDF or html format fact sheets on different topics appropriate for handouts or short online readings for high schoolers or adults.
- Japan Video Topics – short streaming video segments on broad array of topics including arts and culture.
- The Virtual Museum of Japanese Arts - Online exhibits with lots of good images but rather terse explanations about the various branches of Japanese arts, crafts, and cultural practices.
- Japan Atlas – Cultural atlas organized by thematic maps on Historic Sites, Festivals, Architecture, Nature, Traditional Arts and Crafts, Advanced Technology, Communities (historic districts), and World Heritage sites. Each thematic map has links to individual pages about items or sites, all illustrated with photos. Some sites have 360 degree virtual reality interactive images.
- Kids Web Japan – A site designed for middle school kids to learn about the lives of their peers in contemporary Japan, including information on schools and everyday life, housing, food, clothes, recipes, and a little language. Clearly oriented towards young students in geography classes learning basics about a country, it has answers to many common questions middle-school students might have about life in Japan. Of note: "Virtual Culture" section with online activities that include animations exploring all kinds of things, including: woodblock prints, calligraphy, traditional architecture, flower arranging, bonsai, etc.

Documentary Video on Contemporary Japan:

Families of Japan. Master Communications (1998). VHS or DVD, 30 minutes. In English. All levels.
A video documentary that follows two Japanese school children (one in the city and one in a rural town) through one day in their lives. Totally appropriate for elementary through college. Your first choice for a film to show as an introduction to contemporary Japan. Online teacher’s guide by publisher available free at http://www.familiesoftheworld.com/teachers.html.

Thematically Arranged Resources on Specific Topics Related to Art:

SECTION 1: Resources for Specific Hands-On Activities for Art Teachers

UKIYO-E WOODBLOCK PRINTS:

Online Handout: "Ukiyo-e"
http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/experience/n.html
From Japan In-Depth > History & Culture > Experience Japanese Culture, Japan National Tourist Organization
Explanation (including illustration) of woodblock prints (ukiyo-e) and their production process, and more. Great handouts.

Online Lesson Plan (High School Level): "Life in the Floating World: Ukiyo-e Prints and the Rise of the Merchant Class in Edo Period Japan"
EDSITEment Lesson
http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=611
“This lesson [for grades 9-12] will help teachers and students to investigate Edo Period Japan through the window provided by these images of the landscape, life, and interests of the rising townspeople. Students will use the famous woodblock prints of artists such as Hiroshige (1797-1858) and Hokusai (1760-1849) as primary documents to help them gain insight on Japanese history.”

Online Lesson Plan (High School Level): "Japanese Woodblock Prints"
From ARTSEDGE –The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
"This lesson [for grades 9-12] explores the history and evolution of the Japanese woodblock print. Students will study the *Ukyio-e* from its early beginnings to its height in the late 1800s. Students will also learn about the techniques and development of this process, view prints from the time period, and create an *Ukyio-e* of your own."

**Online Resource:** "Japanese Prints at the Hood Museum of Art" – from Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College
http://www.dartmouth.edu/~ukiyoe/
Video of print production process, prints depicting the 53 Stations of the Tokaido linked to a map of the road, prints illustrating Chushingura kabuki play with a historical background essay on the play, interactive exploration of print of kabuki theater with annotations explaining elements of kabuki theater and performance. Suitable for students to browse.

**Online Resource:** "Ukiyo-E Techniques" – website from Davidson Art Center, Wesleyan Center
http://learningobjects.wesleyan.edu/blockprinting/
Photos illustrating traditional Japanese woodblock technique and modern innovations, demonstrated by master printmaker and contemporary artist Keiji Shinohara. Suitable for older students to browse.

**Online Resource:** "Viewing Japanese Prints" – website by John Fiorillo
http://spectacle.berkeley.edu/~fiorillo/texts/topictexts/faq/faq.html
Illustrated essays on the artists, designs, and techniques of traditional and modern Japanese woodblock prints including *Ukiyo-e* (Edo), *Ukiyo-e* (Osaka), *Sosaku Hanga*, *Shin Hanga*. The FAQ section has some really useful easy to understand brief illustrated answers and explanations for common questions. Suitable for older students to browse. Of note:
- FAQ: How is a Print Made?
- FAQ: Printing a Color Woodblock Print
- The Kenō
- How do we interpret inscriptions and seals?"

**Online Resource:** "Handbook of Japanese Printmaking Technique" – website by David Bull, printmaker
http://woodblock.com/encyclopedia/outline.html#general

**CALLIGRAPHY, SIGNATURE SEALS, AND INK PAINTING:**

**Online Lesson Plan (Middle School Level):"The Three Perfections: Painting, Poetry, and Calligraphy"
From "The Way of the Brush" Curriculum Detroit Institute of Art - Asian Art Collection - Exploring Asia through Art
http://edu.dia.org/tao/the_way_of_the_brush/activity.asp
"Integrated art and social studies activities use the brush in the creation of painting, poetry, and calligraphy, known in the East Asian countries of China, Korea, and Japan as the ‘three perfections.’ There are six lessons and a museum visit in this unit [for grades 5-6]. Each social studies lesson is approximately forty-five to sixty minutes, and each art lesson is approximately sixty minutes. These art and social studies lessons can be taught either separately, or as team-teaching assignments, with integrated content and tasks that complement each other."

**Online Handout: "Calligraphy"
http://www.jpto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/experience/1.html
From Japan In-Depth > History & Culture > Experience Japanese Culture, Japan National Tourist Organization Explanations (including illustration) of calligraphy and more. Great handouts.

**Online Lesson Plan (Elementary Level): "Sculpture: Seal Stamps (*Hanko*)"
http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/japanese_art/Introduction.htm
From Japanese Arts Program for Grades 3 –6, National Clearinghouse for U.S. – Japan Studies, East Asian Studies Center, Indiana University

**Online Resource:** "How do we interpret inscriptions and seals?" – from Viewing Japanese Prints website by John Fiorillo
http://spectacle.berkeley.edu/~fiorillo/texts/topictexts/faq/faq.html
This FAQ section has some really useful easy to understand brief illustrated answers and explanations for common questions. Suitable for older students to browse.

**Online Lesson Plan (Elementary Level): "Drawing: Scroll Pictures (Emaki)"
http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/japanese_art/Introduction.htm**
From Japanese Arts Program for Grades 3–6, National Clearinghouse for U.S. – Japan Studies, East Asian Studies Center, Indiana University

**Online Lesson Plan (Grades 4-7): "Seasonal Scroll Painting: Art and Observation in the Japanese Garden" – website from Huntington Botanical Gardens
http://www.huntington.org/Education/less4bot.html#JG**
One of several online lesson plans for hands-on art activities related to Japanese gardens. Students create their own Japanese-style flower arrangement and then paint it using Japanese ink painting techniques.

**Online Resource: "Lesson on Japanese Ink Techniques"
http://www.wetcanvas.com/ArtSchool/Oriental/JapanInk/japan01.html**
Photo illustrated step-by-step lesson on painting bamboo using Japanese monochromatic ink painting techniques.

**JAPANESE KITES:**

**Online Lesson Plans (Elementary & Middle School Levels): "Learning About Japan Through Its Kites "
The Drachen Foundation
http://www.drachen.org/classroom_lessons_level.html**
Lesson plans for various levels for kite making activities related to Japan. For each lesson readings and activities introduce the cultural context in Japan (related cultural traditions, festivals, folklore, history, environment, craft materials) through readings for students. Kits available for sale from this site include traditional Japanese craft materials, bamboo (spars) and washi (paper). Lots of other online resources about Japanese kites here.

**Online Lesson Plan (Elementary Level): "Japanese Carp Kites/Children's Day"
Loren Fawcett, Education Assistant, Allen Memorial Art Museum
From Allen Memorial Art Museum – Arts of Asia In Reach
http://www.oberlin.edu/amam/asia/
A lesson plan for Kindergarten students ages 4-6 on Japanese Children’s Day (子供の日) and making carp/koi fish kites.

**Online Resource: "Rokkaku Kite"
That’s Clever!, Episode HCLVR-162, © Home & Garden Television, located at
http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/cr_paper_crafts/article/0,,HGTV_3287_4224985,00.html**
Directions (with photos) on how to make a traditional Japanese Rokkaku kite.

**Online Resource: "Japanese Kite Collection" – website by Masami Takukawa
http://www.asahi-net.or.jp/~et3m-tkkw/**
Lots of images of traditional Japanese kites for inspiration. Information about kite festivals too. Of note:

  - **Kites in Ukiyoe**
    http://www.asahi-net.or.jp/~et3m-tkkw/scrap-02.html
    Collection of images of kites in Japanese woodblock prints.

**JAPANESE TEXTILE ARTS & GRAPHIC DESIGN:**

**Online Handouts: "Traditional Costumes", "Crests (Mon)", "Colors & Patterns"
http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/experience/q.html**
From Japan In-Depth > History & Culture > Experience Japanese Culture, Japan National Tourist Organization
Explanations (including illustration) of Japanese traditional dress (women’s and men’s kimono and obi), crests (mon), footwear, traditional patterns and symbols in textiles, and more. Great handouts.

**Online Lesson Plan (Middle School Level): "Japanese Objects as Cultural Artifacts: A Model Lesson Using Textiles"
Nancy Traubitz, Retired English Resource Teacher and Educational Consultant, Silver Spring, MD
http://www.smith.edu/fccceas/curriculum/traubobj.htm**
This unit was designed as an object-based art unit to be taught within middle schools social studies, Asian studies, language arts, or history classes. The unit could also be adapted for use with students in upper elementary and high school. Although the unit uses textiles, the goals and objectives are similar to those of other object-based lessons and can be readily modified for use with different artifact collections. This unit strives to strengthen skills of closely observing artifacts and thoughtfully drawing inferences about the people who use such artifacts, as well as to engender in students respect for those skills.

**Online Lesson Plan (Elementary Level): "Graphic Design: Traditional Clothes (Kimono)"
**
http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/japanese_art/Introduction.htm
From Japanese Arts Program for Grades 3 –6, National Clearinghouse for U.S. – Japan Studies, East Asian Studies Center, Indiana University

**Online Resource: "Japanese Kimono"
**
http://www.japanesekimono.com/index.htm
Website with basic history and explanations and photos of traditional Japanese clothing & accessories. Suitable for students to browse.

**Online Lesson Plan (Elementary Level): "Graphic Design: Family Crest (Kamon)"
**
http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/japanese_art/Introduction.htm
From Japanese Arts Program for Grades 3 –6, National Clearinghouse for U.S. – Japan Studies, East Asian Studies Center, Indiana University

**Online Lesson Plan (Middle School Level): "Mon: Japanese Crests"
**
Loren Fawcett, Education Assistant, Allen Memorial Art Museum
From Allen Memorial Art Museum – Arts of Asia In Reach
http://www.oberlin.edu/amam/asia/
A lesson plan on Japanese Crests (Mon) designed for middle school students ages 11-13, grade 6.

**Online Lesson Plan (Middle School Level): Hachimaki & Japanese Shibori
**
Loren Fawcett, Education Assistant, Allen Memorial Art Museum
From Allen Memorial Art Museum – Arts of Asia In Reach
http://www.oberlin.edu/amam/asia/
A lesson plan for making hachimaki, a thin towel or strip of cloth tied around the crown of the head, using arashi shibori, a Japanese dyeing method, designed for middle school students ages 11-13, grade 6.

**Online Lesson Plan (Middle School Level): "Japanese Indigo Batik - Aizome"
**
http://bcsd.k12.ny.us/middle/hokanson/JFMFArtTeachersLessons.pdf
by Suzanne Hokanson, Teacher at Bethlehem Central Middle School
There are a number of additional lesson plans in this document for art teachers for hands-on activities exploring Japanese arts and crafts, of varying quality and usefulness.

**Online Resource: "World Shibori Network"
**
www.shibori.org
Website with discussion of various techniques and sample images.

**Online Resource: "Shibori Studio"
**
Commercial site, but galleries have lots of sample images of Japanese shibori designs.

**Online Resource: "Dyeing"
**
Traditional Crafts of Japan, Association for the Promotion of Traditional Craft Industries
http://www.kougei.or.jp/english/dyeing.html
Explanations of various styles of Japanese dyeing crafts.
Section 2: Exploring Views of Nature, the Environment, and Aesthetics through Arts & Architecture

Online Essay: "Creating Courses on the Environment from Asian Perspectives: Visualizing Nature in Japan"
*Education About Asia*, Volume 6, Number 2, Fall 2001, pages 16-27. By Elaine Gerbert.
Available online at: [http://www.journeythroughjapan.org/teacher_resource/teacher_resource_detail.cfm?id_teacher_resource=78916035](http://www.journeythroughjapan.org/teacher_resource/teacher_resource_detail.cfm?id_teacher_resource=78916035)
An article for teachers on views of nature in Japan, and the role of nature symbolism in Japanese myths, religion, and aesthetics.

Hard Copy Essay: "Aesthetics in Asia: Bridging Logic and Language"
An article for teachers about using a comparison between the architecture of Japan's 17th c. Katsura Imperial Villa and France's 17th c. Palace of Versailles and between musical pieces representing the same period and cultures to explore similarities and differences in aesthetics between Japan and France.

Online Lesson Plan: "Understanding Wabi Sabi"
[http://bcsd.k12.ny.us/middle/hokanson/JFMFArtTeachersLessons.pdf](http://bcsd.k12.ny.us/middle/hokanson/JFMFArtTeachersLessons.pdf)
Suzanne Hokanson, Teacher at Bethlehem Central Middle School
In "November 2005 Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Art Teachers’ Japanese Project Lesson Plans", pages 28-42. Lesson plan for middle school students (7th grade) to develop an understanding of the Japanese aesthetic concept of *wabi sabi*. There are a number of additional lesson plans in this document for art teachers for hands-on activities exploring Japanese arts and crafts, of varying quality and usefulness.

Online Lesson Plan (High School Level):"The Art of Tea"
From "The Way of Tea" Curriculum Detroit Institute of Art - Asian Art Collection - Exploring Asia through Art
After learning about the ceramic arts of China, Korea, and Japan and the aesthetics and discipline of the tea ceremony, students use clay to create their own vessels.

Online Resource: "The Art of Asia: Architecture" – from Minneapolis Institute of Arts
The section of this website on architecture has a video clip on how space is divided by scrolls and screens, and a comparison of an aristocratic audience hall and a tea ceremony room. Suitable for browsing by students.

Online Resource: "The Traditional Japanese House"
Beautiful photos and essays walk you through a traditional style Japanese house and discuss design elements, materials, and interaction with the environment. Accessible language. Suitable for browsing by students.

JAPANESE GARDENS

Online Lesson Plans (Grades 4-7): "Japanese Garden" – website from Huntington Botanical Gardens
[http://www.huntington.org/Education/less4bot.html#JG](http://www.huntington.org/Education/less4bot.html#JG)
Has several online lesson plans for hands-on art activities related to Japanese gardens. Of note:

- **Japanese Stone Lanterns: Culture & Decoration in the Japanese Garden** – students make garden lanterns from clay
- **Zen Gardens: Design Elements and Symbolism in the Huntington Japanese Garden** – students make their own mini zen gardens.
- **Seasonal Scroll Painting: Art and Observation in the Japanese Garden** – students create their own Japanese ink painting

Online Lesson Plan (ages 2-12): "Creating a Japanese Rock Garden"
From National Clearinghouse for U.S. – Japan Studies, East Asian Studies Center, Indiana University
[http://www.indiana.edu/%7Ejapan/rockgarden.pdf](http://www.indiana.edu/%7Ejapan/rockgarden.pdf)

Online Resource: "Beyond Moss and Stone: The Japanese Garden in Cultural Context"
From Teaching (and Learning) About Japan website by Lee Makela, Assoc. Prof., East Asian History, Cleveland State Univ.  
http://www.csuohio.edu/history/lectures/intro01.html
Illustrated introductory lecture on Japanese gardens. Could be useful for older students to browse.

**Online Resource: "The Japanese Garden"** – website by Clifton C. Olds, Prof. of Art History Emeritus, Bowdoin College  
http://learn.bowdoin.edu/japanesegardens/
Section on elements of the Japanese garden, essay on history of Japanese gardens, virtual tours of specific famous gardens with a history, map, and then beautiful photos from various viewpoints in the garden. Suitable for older students to browse.

**SECTION 3: Exploring Japanese Religion & Philosophy through the Arts**

**Online Lesson Plan (Elementary Level): "Bodhidharma/Daruma Dolls"**  
http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/japanese_art/Introduction.htm
From Japanese Arts Program for Grades 3 – 6, National Clearinghouse for U.S. – Japan Studies, East Asian Studies Center, Indiana University
Students create a stylized traditional Japanese doll inspired by a Buddhist bodhisattva named Bodhidharma. The dolls are used culturally to symbolize perseverance in a task. You fill in one eye on the doll when you start working towards a goal, and then fill in the other eye when you reach your goal or complete your task.

**Online Essay: "Japanese Religions"**  
http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/Digests/religion-2.htm
Paul Watt, Professor and Director of Asian Studies at DePaul University
In *Japan Digest*, October 2003
Sponsored by the National Clearinghouse for U.S.-Japan Studies, with support from the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership.
A brief introduction to the major components of Japanese religion: Shinto, Confucianism, Buddhism, Christianity, and the "new religions."

**Online Resource: "The Art of Asia: Buddhism"**  
http://www.artsmia.org/art-of-asia/buddhism/
Minneapolis Institute of Arts
Includes section on "Origins of Buddhism", "Guide to Buddhist Sects", and "Who's Who in Heaven" (an introduction to frequently encountered buddhas, bodhisattvas, and more), and a video on Japanese Buddhism.
Other sections of the website feature information on Japanese architecture with a video on how space is divided by scrolls and screens, ceramics, a section on ukiyo-e woodblock prints with a video about them. Best of all is the ability to browse and search their collection for high-quality images of Japanese art.

**Online Essay: "Identifying Buddhist Images in Japanese Painting and Sculpture"**  
Douglas P. Sjoquist  
A practical guide for teachers about how various buddhas and bodhisattvas are portrayed in Japanese art.

**Online Resource: "Japan Society Education – Journey Through Japan: Religion and Belief"**  
http://www.journeythroughjapan.org/culture/section.cfm?section=15971846&type=1
Japan Society Education Department
Includes "What is Shinto?" a brief introduction to Shinto, including discussion of *kami*, rituals, and festivals (*matsuri*), explanations about "Visiting a Shinto Shrine", "Visiting a Buddhist Temple", a snapshot tour of a Buddhist temple and Shinto shrine, a snapshot tour of the Gion Festival in Tokyo. Useful for students to browse.

**Online Handouts: "Cultures Speak: Japan, Personal Reflections as Teaching Resources"**  
http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/resources/brochure/japanspeaks/intro.htm
East Asian Studies Center, Indiana University
Includes a list of important holidays and festivals in Japan, and a series of short essays by Japanese people about aspects of Japanese culture and holidays and what they mean in their lives. Useful for students to browse or as a handout.
SECTION 4: Exploring Japanese Performing Arts through Woodblock Prints

KABUKI THEATER

Online Lesson Plan (High School Level): "Hamlet Meets Chushingura: Traditional Revenge Tragedy"
From EDSITEment -- from the National Endowment for the Humanities
http://edsitement.neh.gov/
Grades 9-12 students compare a Japanese Edo period play Kanadehon chushingura (aka Chushingura) to Shakespeare's Hamlet.

Online Handouts: "Kabuki", "Noh & Kyogen", "Bunraku"
http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/history/experience/x.html
From Japan In-Depth > History & Culture > Experience Japanese Culture, Japan National Tourist Organization
Explanations (including illustrations and diagrams) of kabuki theater stage and costumes and more. Great handouts.

Online Resource: "Kabuki for Everyone"
http://park.org/Japan/Kabuki/kabuki.html
Well-known educational website maintained by a famous kabuki actor Ichimura Manjiro. Of note:
"Kabuki: A Brief History" by Matthew Johnson

Online Resource: "An Introduction to Kabuki" by Ryohei Matsuda, Japan Digest, January 1998
http://www.indiana.edu/~japan/kabuki-pfv.html
From the National Clearinghouse for U.S.-Japan Studies website.
A brief introduction to Kabuki theater: The History of Kabuki, Kabuki as Subversion, Kabuki's Influence on Contemporary Drama, The Art of Kabuki, The Preservation of Kabuki, and Selected Kabuki-related URLs

Online Resource: "FAQ: Onnagata"
From Viewing Japanese Prints website by John Fiorillo,
http://optometry.berkeley.edu/~fiorillo/texts/topictexts/faq/faq_onnagata.html
A brief discussion on the history of onnagata, male kabuki actors who performed the roles of women. Possible handout for older students.

Online Resource: "Japanese Prints at the Hood Museum of Art"
Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College
http://www.dartmouth.edu/~ukiyoe/
Interactive exploration of print of kabuki theater with annotations explaining elements of kabuki theater and performance, and a series of prints illustrating the Kanadehon chushingura (aka Chushingura) or The Treasury of Loyal Retainers kabuki play with a historical background essay on the play.

Online Resource: "Two Views of Kabuki"
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
http://www.vmfa.museum/ukiyoe/ukiyoehome.html
"This online exhibition features woodblock prints illustrating selected scenes from Kanadehon chushingura (aka Chushingura) or The Treasury of Loyal Retainers executed by two different artists, Utagawa Kuniaki and Utagawa Fusatane. While these two series were published only ten years apart, they provide two distinct points of view. Kuniaki concentrates on the celebrated actors of kabuki while Fusatane provides a panoramic view of the stage. Together, their works provide insight into the world of kabuki theater and into Japanese society in general.

Online Resource: "Introduction to Kanadehon Chushingura"
By Paul Kennelly, University of Virginia Library Japanese Text Initiative
Introduction to this popular play originally performed in the bunraku puppet theater and then turned into a kabuki play. More texts available at the University of Virginia Library Japanese Text Initiative's website, located at
http://etext.virginia.edu/japanese/chushingura/kennelly-chushingura.html

Online Resource: "Kabuki Heroes on the Osaka Stage, 1730-1830"
The British Museum
http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/kabuki/tales.html
Has brief history of kabuki, explanations about elements of kabuki, plot summaries, all illustrated with woodblock prints.

NOH THEATER

Online Lesson Plan (High School Level): “Noh Theater”
From ARTSEDGE -- from The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/
Grades 9-12, Students study Japanese Noh theater, compare and contrast it with Western drama, study its influence on modern Western drama, and act out a Noh play.

Online Lesson Plan (High School Level): “Being in the Noh: An Introduction to Japanese Noh Plays”
From EDSITEment -- from the National Endowment for the Humanities
http://edsitement.neh.gov/
Grades 9-12, students learn basics about the art form, read and compare texts of two plays -- Atsumori and Sotoba Komachi, compare and contrast with Western theater forms, and then write their own Noh play.

Online Lesson Plan (Elementary Level): "Japanese Noh Masks" – From San Diego Museum of Art
Lesson plan for students to make their own noh masks using paper plates.

Online Resource: "Introduction to Noh & Kyogen" - National Theater of Japan website
Explanations, photos, and video clips of performances. English translations are sometimes garbled. Suitable for older students to browse.

Online Resource: "Noh Mask Home Page"
Commercial site, but has nice explanation of carving and painting process with step-by-step illustrations. Color photos of many different types of Noh masks for inspiration.

BUNRAKU PUPPET THEATER

Online Lesson Plan: "What is a puppet?" -- Artbeat@School, Oregon Public Broadcasting website
Includes hands-on activity for making bunraku puppets from recycled materials, in the context of a larger exploration of puppets across cultures to go with a video documentary program titled "Tears of Joy Puppetry".

Online Lesson Plan (Middle School Level): Ms. Meyer's website for The Master Puppeteer
http://www.international.ucla.edu/shenzhen/2002ncta/meyers/home1.html
Set of extension activities to explore a work of historical fiction by Katherine Paterson, The Master Puppeteer, set in medieval Japan that follows an apprentice in the bunraku puppet theater.

Online Lesson Plan (Middle School Level): "Characters and Social Relationships – Tokugawa Japan and Bunraku Puppetry"
From Kansas Consortium for Teaching about Asia website
Another lesson plan using Katherine Paterson's The Master Puppeteer, to explore Confucian social relations in traditional Japan.

Online Resource: "Introduction to Bunraku" - National Theater of Japan website
Explanations, photos, and video clips of performances. English translations are sometimes garbled. Suitable for older students to browse.

Online Resource: "Introduction to Shinjū Ten no Amijima (The Love Suicides at Amijima)"
By Paul Kennelly, University of Virginia Library Japanese Text Initiative

Videos on Traditional Japanese Arts and Performing Arts:

Great Tales in Asian Art. Kultur International Films (1995). VHS. 82 minutes (4 segments - segment on Japan is one of 4 adding up to 82 minutes total). Secondary level.
Includes segment telling an excerpt from the Tale of Genji illustrated with painted images from famous Japanese hand scrolls and screens.

Profiles nine artisans and performing artists who are recognized by the Japanese government for their role in preserving and perpetuating traditional art forms. Pays visits to a potter, doll sculptor, puppeteer, papermaker, koto musician, swordmaker, textile weaver and dyer, kabuki theater actor, and bellmaker.

Presents short segments useful for class on Noh, kabuki, and bunraku (puppet-theater) performing arts.

Possible Supplementary Classroom Reference or Research Materials for Students:

Contents include early and everyday dress, kimono, obi, court and ceremonial dress, samurai, the Ainu, geisha, Noh and kabuki theater costumes, children, tattooing, headwear and hairstyles, footwear.

Another possible in-class reference or research project resource.

Useful for looking up unknown supernatural entities encountered in your explorations of woodblock prints and performing arts, such as fox spirits. Has a nice summary of the world of traditional Japanese religious beliefs in the beginning, so it could act as a teacher reference too.