

JOURNEY THROUGH JAPAN

MYTHS TO MANGA

FAMILY GUIDE



Konnichiwa, kids!

Hello and welcome! Let's go on a journey through Japan!

In this exhibition you'll see all kinds of things created in Japan and loved by people around the world: animated films called *anime*, comic books known as *manga*, cool clothing, the famous woodblock print *The Great Wave* by Hokusai, Pokémon characters, and more!

The exhibition is divided into four sections appearing in this order: Sky, Sea, Forest, and City. This guide encourages you to pause in each section to explore a special place in Japan and to look more closely at works of art on view.



Want to learn some useful Japanese phrases for your trip? Try these!

こんにちは
Konnichiwa
Ko-n-nee-chee-wa
Hello

ありがとう
Arigatō
A-ri-ga-to-o
Thank you

一 二 三
Ichi ni san
Ee-chee nee san
One, two, three

さよなら
Sayonara
Sa-yo-na-ra
Goodbye

わたしのなまえは [your name] です
Watashi no namae wa [your name] desu
Wa-ta-shi-no na-ma-e-wa [your name] de-su
My name is [your name].

おなまえは 何ですか
Onamae wa nan desu ka
O-na-ma-e-wa na-n de-su-ka
What is your name?

Sky: Focus on Hiroshima



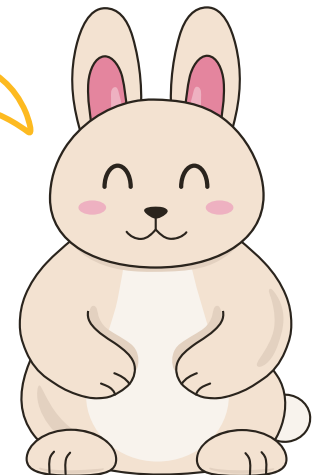
Have you ever wanted to make art to express your hope for world peace? Many children around the globe do just that by folding one thousand paper cranes, stringing them together, and sending them to the Japanese city of Hiroshima, which became the site of the world's first atomic bombing at the end of World War II. Making these cranes, which takes time, patience, and skill, serves as a tribute to a young girl named Sadako Sasaki, who died from an illness caused by



the bomb. The garlands of paper cranes are hung in rows beside the Children's Peace Monument.

Left: Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. Courtesy of Paul Brown/Alamy Stock Photo

In the Sky section, find the flying paper cranes. Look at all the colors! Later in the exhibition, you will have an opportunity to learn the art of *origami*—folding paper to make sculptures—yourself!



Sea: Focus on Kamakura



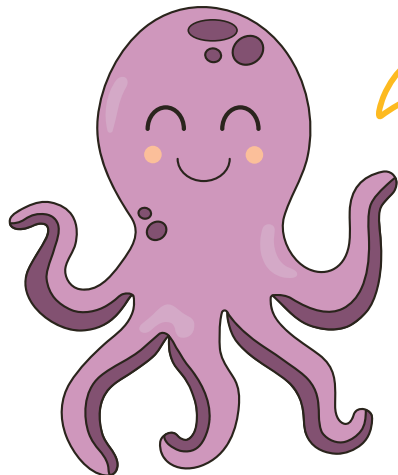
Did you know that Nashville has seven sister cities, including Kamakura, Japan? Sister Cities of Nashville is an organization that promotes cultural understanding and helps Nashvillians form friendships with people around the world.

Kamakura is a city surrounded by mountains on three sides and the sea on the fourth. This natural fortress protected the city when it was briefly Japan's capital. Kamakura's most famous site is its giant bronze Buddha statue, which is more than forty-three feet tall.



Statue of the Buddha in Kamakura. Courtesy of Anthony Shaw/Alamy Stock Photo

In 1498 a strong earthquake followed by a tsunami struck Kamakura. The storm destroyed the temple built to house the giant Buddha, and the statue has stood in the open air ever since.



In this Sea section, what works of art show large waves that sometimes occur off Japan's coasts? Also look for objects that the Japanese have designed to help people survive natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis.

Forest: Focus on Nara

The city of Nara is known for its ancient temples and shrines and for forests that are thousands of years old. Behind the Kasugataisha Shrine, you can find the Mount Kasuga Primeval Forest, home to over 175 types of animals, birds, insects, and trees.



Kasugataisha Shrine in Nara. Courtesy of AGF Srl/Alamy Stock Photo

One of these animals is the sika deer that roams throughout Nara. You can buy *sika senbei* (deer crackers) from street vendors to feed them. Some deer will even bow to ask people for *senbei*! What other animals do you see in the Forest section of the exhibition?



**In the Forest section, can you find ...
... a monkey?
... a sparrow?
... a rabbit?
... a boar?**



City: Focus on Harajuku

Tokyo's Harajuku neighborhood is the center of youth fashion in Japan. Fans of Japanese street fashion from around the world visit Harajuku to see brightly colored outfits and shop along the street called Takeshita-dōri.



Right: Teenager shopping on Takeshita-dōri in Harajuku. Courtesy of Alex Segre/Alamy Stock Photo



Below: Noritaka Tatehana in collaboration with Ryūkōbō. Baby heel-less shoes, 2021. Leather, silk, metal; 7 x 3 1/4 x 5 1/8 in. V&A: Given by Noritaka Tatehana, FE.43-2023. © Noritaka Tatehana K.K. Courtesy of Kosaku Kanechika



In the first gallery of the City section, you can see some fashions that you might find in Harajuku or on the catwalk. Did you see the heel-less shoes? Imagine wearing shoes like these. What would it feel like to walk in them?

Fun at home: Write your own haiku!

A *haiku* is a type of short poem that originated in Japan. It follows a specific format: the poem is made up of three lines, with five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third. Here's an example:

**Manga, anime,
Prints, toys, kimono, and more!
*Journey through Japan***

Now it's your turn! When you get home, write your own haiku inspired by something you saw today in this exhibition.

5 syllables

7 syllables

5 syllables

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