To start off each day, the campers would watch Japanese folklore stories and did energetic Japanese dances to get ready for the day. After the dance, they sung songs in Japanese to help them with pronunciation and learning basic phrases such as ohayoo (good morning) and mata ashita (see you tomorrow). They would also learn how to read and write the Japanese syllabaries, hiragana and katakana, along with some basic kanji. During these lessons, they would discover some words and phrases in Japanese while learning how to write simple words and numbers.
The campers also learned how to count from one to ten in Japanese by playing dice games.

In addition to the language lessons, campers became well versed in different aspects of Japanese culture. Each day, the students would engage in a presentation of a specific part of the Japanese lifestyle and culture. The presentations were about Japanese Yokai (creatures), holidays, traditional sports/games, fashions, animes/manga, education systems and foods.

For cooking lessons, they baked green tea cup cakes and made onigiri (Japanese rice balls). Many campers enjoyed making and eating them. Some even made enough onigiri that they took some home to share with their family members.

During the lunch break, the campers would watch Japanese animated films directed by Hayao Miyazaki while enjoying their lunch. These movies helped give the children more insight to Japanese culture, while providing friendly entertainment during the meal. The movies introduced a new style of media to the children.

In addition, students participated in several hands-on activities throughout the camp week. Children tried out many different Japanese games, such as kendama (cup and ball game), chopsticks relays, and kamizumo (paper sumo wrestling). Each day, the children were taught to make origami, such as sumo origami, Yokai Watch, Pikachu, Hello Kitty, Totoro, and Kumamon.
The campers got the opportunity to decorate a Japanese folding fan. They learned how to make Ukiyo-e print paintings. The children also had the opportunity to make and decorate their own Shishi dog clay figures.

On the last day, the students learned how to make sushi! Each student picked the ingredients and hand wrapped several sushi rolls to eat or take home.

By the end of the week, each camper could make a short self-introduction, which included a greeting, their name, nationality, and how to end an introduction. Campers could count, ask basic questions, and sing five different Japanese songs. They also learned quite a bit about Japan’s culture and cuisine.

Throughout the summer camp, the students were able to explore a new culture and language as well as partaking in many enjoyable activities.

East Asia Institute’s Japanese Summer camp not only provided a fun summer get away, but furthermore, helped make the children aware of new ideas and concepts from other parts of the world. We look forward to seeing many familiar faces at the next year’s camp!

"My child has a great time at camp. She talked about it continuously throughout the week! I think she learned a great deal from the program."
—Parent

"My favorite thing about camp was the food and the crafts because they were fun and the food was delicious."
—Camper
PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR

Here’s what the campers had to say:

“I had lots of good experiences and fun. Thank you”

“I loved the origami because we got to make things with paper”

“I liked learning to make green tea cupcakes and sushi”