



Japanese Language and Culture Camp



East Asia Institute hosts 8th annual Japanese Language and Culture Camp at UTSA for children ages 6 - 12 from June 12 - 17.

Each morning, campers arrived with anticipation for the fun cultural and language adventure that they would all soon take apart of here at The University of Texas at San Antonio. The campers received their first initial taste of Japanese culture each morning from videos of classic Japanese folktales. These stories highlighted unique aspects of Japanese culture and tradition which provided children a means of entertainment as well as an opportunity to gain knowledge about a culture unlike their own.

Following the folktales, the children were then taught the basic foundations of Japanese language which included learning the Japanese alphabets in both

Hiragana and Katakana. During the language lessons, the children learned basic pronunciation, and novice proper writing form of these two writing systems in the span of a week. They would practice matching, listening, reading, and writing words each day. Initially it all began with the first writing system called Hiragana which the campers would get in carefully selected proportions in order to ensure the educational language acquisition of the syllabic writing system. Within the time span of the camp week, Katakana was also taught in a similar manner. The campers would verbally, as a group, be instructed upon pronunciation aloud in both Hiragana and Katakana.

After the morning language learning, the campers would learn



From the Campers!

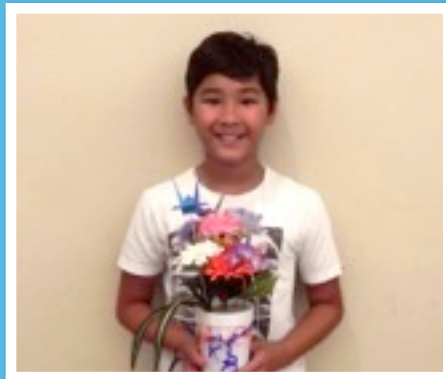
"Camp was really fun this summer! I thought making sushi was super awesome!"

"I loved pika-chu and Totoro origami! They are so cool."

Onigiri (Rice ball)



Flower Arrangement



Sushi Making



Learning about Japanese Culture is fun!



Daruma Doll



Hello Kitty Origami



Onigiri Making

origami, the Japanese art of folding paper, by making beloved Japanese popular culture characters, such as Kumamon, Hello Kitty, Pikachu and Totoro. Each day they were able to take home and share with family and friends their newfound art.

Campers also learned how to make specific arts and crafts related to Japanese culture. For instance, campers decorated Kokeshi dolls, made ikebana (flower arrangement), designed battledore, made chigirie cherry blossoms, and designed kabuki masks to name a few. All of these arts and crafts activities gave the children a chance to experience a taste of Japanese culture in a way where they could interpret and replicate them on their own. Each activity was provided with step-by-step instructions, and all campers' hands were busy working on their crafts to show off their creativity.

In addition to the arts and crafts activities, the campers watched Japanese family friendly movies during the lunch break. The campers

received a visual dosage of Japanese culture by watching the movies that managed to capture the hearts of children of all ages.

Following lunch, campers revisited language learning lessons to learn simple conversational phrases and numbers in Japanese. Starting off with self-introduction on day one and consequently ending with an accumulation of phrases to build up their self-introduction. By the end of the camp campers were able to introduce themselves entirely in Japanese! They were also taught a variety of useful words and phrases in Japanese and further received a chance to verbally engage with the Japanese language. Campers went around and introduced themselves to fellow campers as well as Camp Counselors to enhance their newly acquired Japanese language skills. It was really great to see the campers being able to learn these Japanese phrases in just a week during this camp.

The campers also had the chance to cook and taste Japanese foods, such as onigiri, green

tea cup cake, and sushi. They had a great time in making and tasting them. Some campers even took some food back home to share them with their family members.

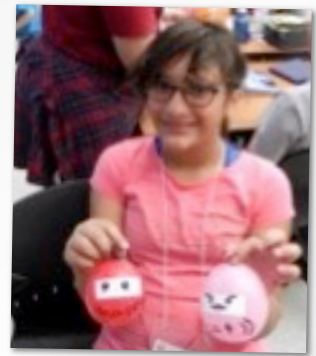
In addition to the activities mentioned above, campers had opportunities to make Japanese kite and to participate in traditional Japanese games such as kendama, daruma, otoshi, and karuta. In all of the traditional Japanese games, the children had a fun time playing while learning about traditional Japanese games. Campers would also make calligraphy cards writing their choice of a Japanese character and framing it to take home and cherish.

All in all, the children that were a part of this one-of-a-kind camp received an unforgettable camp experience that will surely prove to be one of the highlights of their summer. The Japanese Summer Camp hosted by the East Asia Institute at UTSA, provided kid-friendly entertainment, educational learning about Japanese culture and a getaway for campers to have an amazing time while learning more and more about Japan and it's rich culture. Rest assured this camp is uniquely amazing in its own right, and children all around will enjoy it to the fullest.

We look forward to hosting camps again



Pop-up Whisper



Daruma Doll



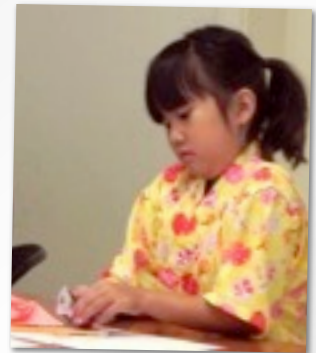
Chopsticks Practice



Chigirie-Sakura



Language Cards Matching



Making Origami



Calligraphy



Paper flower