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**Lesson Plan on Japanese Hand Fans and Japanese Fan Dancing**

**Objective:** The students will learn about the country of Japan and some of their traditions. They will create a hand fan and use it to participate in a Japanese fan dance. They will also compare the multiple purposes for creating works of art. They will reflect upon this experience with a haiku poem.

**Anticipatory Set:** I will read the children The Magic Fan by Keith Baker. This story has many images of beautiful Japanese fans. It will set the stage for our lesson.

**Materials:** white construction paper cut into fan shape by teacher, watercolors, and Popsicle sticks. Images of Japanese symbols and landscapes.

**Input/Teaching:** The children will be taught the following main concepts:

1. The earliest performances of the Japanese fan dance were recorded during the reign of Emperor Jimmu.
2. Originally, fan dancing only occurred at court among aristocrats. Fans were used to show social status. The dances often told stories. Today, fans are symbolic of friendship and loyalty and exchanged as gifts.
3. Fans are beautiful displays of Japanese artistry.
4. We will watch some fan dances on YouTube.
5. Next, I will show them some photographs and paintings of Japanese landscapes. We will research symbols of Japan. We will also brainstorm different foods, traditions and images associated with the Japanese culture.
6. The children will all receive the materials listed above. They will use watercolors to paint Japanese symbols and images on their fans. They will attach two Popsicle sticks to form a handle and set them aside to dry.
7. The following day the children will attend music class. Miss Hill, our music teacher, and I have collaborated to teach the children about Japanese instruments and the Japanese fan dance. She has already showed them the instruments and even brought in a few to play. Miss Hill will now teach the children a Japanese Fan dance that she choreographed for them. She teaches them step by step. They practice for two weeks.

**Independent Practice/Closure**

The children will use their own fans to perform the fan dance that Miss Hill taught them in front of their parents during a special performance. Earlier in the year the children were taught how to write Japanese haiku poems. They will write a poem about their fan dance in reflection of the project.