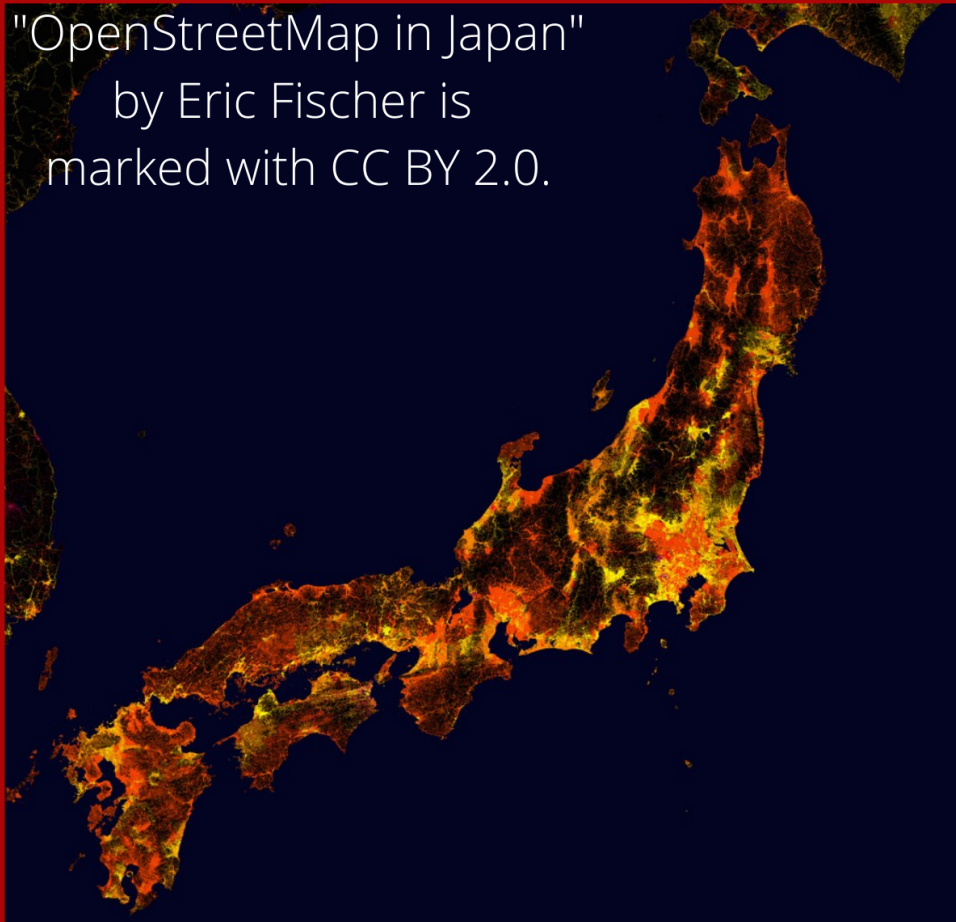


# *Gypsy Gameschooler's Unit Studies*

"OpenStreetMap in Japan"  
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# Japan

# Gypsy Gameschooler's Unit Studies

I love creating unit studies to help provide a rich world to explore. I don't view learning as something that is finite, or that has an end, so I don't worry about finishing, or doing everything. But I love finding a lot of resources for my kids to explore, without the worksheets or quizzes. If you're looking for worksheets, you're going to be disappointed, but if you want diverse lists of resources: books, movies, documentaries, TV shows, websites, and subscriptions, then this unit study is for you. Please do not feel that your child needs to read every book or watch every movie. There are picture books, comic books, early readers, and chapter books of a variety of lengths, so some books will not be appropriate for your child. The same goes with the rest of the resources. Pick and choose what is available to you, what you think your child will enjoy, and what will help the unit study be successful for you. At the same time, don't be afraid to substitute; this is by no means an exhaustive list. Also note that the books can be read by the child, either in print or on an ereader, read by the caregiver to the child, or listened to by the child as an audiobook. Whatever works for your child is fine.

Some subscriptions my family has used during our country unit studies, and what I think of them:

**Miss Maisy's Tasty Travels** - this is by far my favorite subscription we've gotten. It's a monthly letter that comes with four different recipes, each from a different country or location.

**Little Passports** - We got this for two years and kept everything, so you'll see I include it in some of the unit studies. It's not my favorite, but it might be a great fit for you. There is a letter, but also a worksheet and one recipe. Each month is from a different country, and comes with a small toy or activity, and access to a website with more information about the country.

**Around the World Stories** - If you have auditory learners, this is excellent! Four ~30 minute stories from each of the countries they feature. However, they seem to have stopped creating new stories part way through Asia, so you might want to be cautious about purchasing the Asia stories.

**Letters from Afar** - we do not have this subscription service, but I have included them in my unit studies, as I have heard nothing but amazing things about them.

**Parts Unknown** is a TV show, and I really like it. There is some language, so you may want to pre-watch for young learners. It is available to purchase streaming rights on Amazon. It is mostly about food in different areas, but also goes into some social and political issues.

**Curiosity Stream** is all documentaries, and they regularly have sales for just \$12/year! This is one of my family's favorite resources.

I hope you enjoy this unit study! This product is licensed for a single user in one classroom only. It contains the intellectual property of Ashley Wright. Copying any part of this product and placing it on the internet in any form is strictly forbidden and is a violation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). To share this resource with others, please link to it in [my TpT store](#). Thanks! ©2021 Ashley Wright. All rights reserved.

# Japan

## Book List:

| Title                                                                                             | Author                    | # Pgs   | Illustrated | Fiction/<br>Nonfiction |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|
| The Theft of the Samurai Sword<br>(Jack Stalwart: Japan)                                          | Hunt, Elizabeth<br>Singer | 108     | yes         | fiction                |
| Magic Bone: Don't Mess With the<br>Ninja Puppy!                                                   | Krulik, Nancy             | 111     | yes         | fiction                |
| Welcome to Japan                                                                                  | Jenner, Caryn             | 24      | color       | nonfiction             |
| Sadako and the Thousand Paper<br>Cranes                                                           | Coerr, Eleanor            | 80      | yes         | nonfiction             |
| Japan: Enchantment of the World                                                                   | Bjorklund, Ruth           | 144     | color       | nonfiction             |
| Meltdown: Earthquake, Tsunami,<br>and Nuclear Disaster in Fukushima                               | Langeland,<br>Deirdre     | 194     | color       | nonfiction             |
| Attack on Titan (manga)                                                                           | Isayama, Hajime           | unpaged | yes         | fiction                |
| Shadow Warrior: Based on the True<br>Story of a Fearless Ninja and her<br>Network of Female Spies | Kyi, Tanya Lloyd          | 61      | color       | nonfiction             |
| Thirty Minutes Over Oregon: A<br>Japanese Pilot's World War II Story                              | Nobleman, Marc<br>Tyler   | upaged  | color       | nonfiction             |
| The Bamboo Sword                                                                                  | Preus, Margi              | 293     | yes         | fiction                |
| Kogi's Mysterious Journey                                                                         | Partridge,<br>Elizabeth   | unpaged | color       | fiction                |
| What Was the Bombing of<br>Hiroshima?                                                             | Brallier, Jess            | 106     | yes         | nonfiction             |
| History Smashers: Pearl Harbor                                                                    | Messner, Kate             | 194     | yes         | nonfiction             |
| Hazardous Tales: Raid of No Return                                                                | Hale, Nathan              | 124     | yes         | nonfiction             |
| I Survived the Japanese Tsunami,<br>2011                                                          | Tarshis, Lauren           | 83      | yes         | nonfiction             |
| So You Want to be a Ninja?                                                                        | Vincent, Bruno            | 93      | yes         | nonfiction             |
| Japanese Children's Favorite<br>Stories                                                           | Sakade,<br>Florence       | 111     | color       | fiction                |

|                                                                      |                                   |         |       |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|------------|
| Erika-San                                                            | Say, Allen                        | unpaged | color | nonfiction |
| The Peace Tree from Hiroshima:<br>The Little Bonsai with a Big Story | Moore, Sandra                     | 31      | color | nonfiction |
| More Japanese Children's Favorite<br>Stories                         | Sakade,<br>Florence               | 96      | color | fiction    |
| Magic Ramen: The Story of<br>Momofuku Ando                           | Wang, Andrea                      | unpaged | color | nonfiction |
| Japan                                                                | Persano,<br>Thomas                | 32      | color | nonfiction |
| Japan                                                                | Bjorklund, Ruth                   | 144     | color | nonfiction |
| Japan                                                                | Goulding, Sylvia                  | 48      | color | nonfiction |
| We Visit Japan                                                       | Gagne, Tammy                      | 63      | yes   | nonfiction |
| In a Flash                                                           | Napoli, Donna                     | 390     | no    | fiction    |
| Samurai Rising: the Epic Life of<br>Minamoto Yoshitsune              | Turner, Pamela<br>S.              | 236     | yes   | nonfiction |
| Grenade                                                              | Gratz, Alan                       |         |       |            |
| A Dictionary of Mutual<br>Understanding: a Novel                     | Copleton, Jackie                  |         |       |            |
| Somewhere Among                                                      | Donwerth-<br>Chikamatsu,<br>Annie | 441     | yes   | fiction    |
| Shipwrecked! The True Adventures<br>of a Japanese Boy                | Blumberg,<br>Rhoda                | 80      | yes   | nonfiction |
| Dodsworth in Tokyo                                                   | Egan, Tim                         | unpaged | color | fiction    |
| Toxic Water: Minamata, Japan                                         | Goldish, Meish                    | 32      | color | nonfiction |
| A Place to Belong                                                    | Kadohata,<br>Cynthia              | 405     | yes   | fiction    |
| Inferno in Tokyo                                                     | Hering,<br>Marianne               | 137     | yes   | fiction    |
| The Discovery of Ramen                                               | Amara, Philip                     | unpaged | color | fiction    |
| Night of the Ninjas (Magic Tree<br>house)                            | Osborne, Mary<br>Pope             | 68      | yes   | fiction    |

|                                                                   |                    |         |       |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|-------|------------|
| Tea With Milk                                                     | Say, Allen         | unpaged | color | fiction    |
| All the Ways Home                                                 | Chapman, Elsie     | 216     | no    | fiction    |
| Wabi Sabi                                                         | Reibstein, Mark    | unpaged | yes   | fiction    |
| Kamishibai Man                                                    | Say, Allen         | unpaged | color | fiction    |
| Crow Boy                                                          | Yashima, Taro      | 40      | color | fiction    |
| The Secret Plan                                                   | West, Tracey       | 70      | yes   | fiction    |
| Ninjas and Samurai: a Nonfiction Companion to Night of the Ninjas | Osborne, Mary Pope | 123     | yes   | nonfiction |

## TV Shows:

Parts Unknown, S2 E7, S6 E4, S8 E6  
 Families of Japan  
 Samurai Gourmet  
 Street Food: Asia, Episode 2: Osaka, Japan

## Possible Subscriptions:

Around the World Stories  
 Little Passports - Month 3  
 Miss Maisy's Tasty Travels - February 2020  
 Letters From Afar

## Movies:

| Name                                              | Length      | Rating | Fun/Documentary |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|-----------------|
| Kid's Animated History with Pipo: China and Japan | 44 minutes  | N/R    | Documentary     |
| The Red Turtle                                    | 81 minutes  | PG     | fun             |
| Inside Hana's Suitcase                            | 90 minutes  | N/R    | documentary     |
| Ugetsu                                            | 97 minutes  | N/R    | fun             |
| Memoirs of a Geisha                               | 145 minutes | PG-13  | fun             |
| The Tale of the Princess Kaguya                   | 138 minutes | PG     | fun             |
| Onibaba                                           | 103 minutes | N/R    | fun             |
| Shogun                                            | 547 minutes | N/R    | fun             |

|                                                                   |             |       |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| Japan: Between Earth and Sky (available from National Geographic) | 134 minutes | N/R   | documentary |
| Tuna Girl                                                         | 89 minutes  | TV-PG | fun         |
| Ainu Mosir                                                        | 84 minutes  | TV-PG | fun         |
| Okko's Inn                                                        | 95 minutes  | PG    | fun         |
| Mirai                                                             | 98 minutes  | PG    | fun         |

## Documentaries from Curiosity Stream:

Asia's Monarchies, Episode 1: Japan  
 Wildest Islands, Episode 1: Japan: Islands of Extremes  
 Unsinkable: Japan's Lost Battleship  
 Hidden Japan  
 Search for Japan's Lost Supersub  
 Hiroshima: Hidden Traces  
 Apocalypse: World War II  
 Butterfly Effect, Episode 9: Samurai  
 The David Rubenstein Show, Episode 13: Masayoshi Son  
 Cat Nation  
 Global Food, Episode 1: The Sushi Empire, Episode 4: Pasta Mania  
 Catalyst  
 Pioneers in Aviation, Episode 2: The War Years  
 Saving Tokyo  
 Origins of Land: Earth in Motion  
 Bombing War: From Guernica to Hiroshima  
 In Love with the Samurai Sword  
 Facing the Killer Volcano  
 Robot Revolution, Episode 5: Robot Revolution: Will Machines Surpass Humans?  
 Asia: Secret Lives, Hidden Places  
 The Ascent of Money, Episode 3: Risky Business  
 Super Fish, Episode 2: The Great Taste of Fish  
 Dynasties: The Families that Changed the World, Episode 4: Royal  
 The Origami Code  
 Sushi: The Global Catch

## Recipes:

Mochi (dessert)  
 Dorayaki (sweet snack)  
 Onigiri (rice balls)  
 Misoshiru (soup)

Dango (sweet rice flour/tofu on skewers)  
Katsudon (pork chop)  
Teriyaki sauce  
Chicken katsu  
Ramen  
Matcha cake  
Soba noodles  
Pork Tonkatsu

## **Websites:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3XpfBChLyk> - Geography Now! On youtube  
<https://www.rejectedprincesses.com/princesses/sutematsu-oyama>  
<https://www.rejectedprincesses.com/princesses/takeko-nakano>  
<https://www.japancentre.com/en/cookings/61-japanese-meals> - Tons of Japanese recipes!  
<https://www.chopstickchronicles.com/> - Lots more recipes  
<https://www.japanesecooking101.com/>  
<https://www.japan.travel/en/>  
<https://www.japan.go.jp/>  
<https://www.japan-guide.com/>  
<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/>  
[https://online.culturegrams.com/world/world\\_country.php?cid=82&cn=Japan](https://online.culturegrams.com/world/world_country.php?cid=82&cn=Japan) - an excellent resource for older students  
<http://radio.garden/visit/japan/g4h2RP28> - listen to Japan's radio stations!

## **Podcasts:**

Purple Rocket Podcast's My Grandpa's Globe, Episode 19:  
<https://purplerocketpodcast.com/2018/09/17/episode-19-japan-and-the-four-samurai/>  
Stuff Mom Never Told You, Aug 26, 2015 Episode: Samurai Women:  
<https://www.stitcher.com/show/stuff-mom-never-told-you/episode/samurai-women-40272749>

## **Activities:**

Origami