

Japan - Making a Fan

Objective: Introduce the students to fans as a part of Japanese culture.

Grade Level: Kindergarten and Elementary

Background:

Fans have been used in Japan since ancient times. They were once used as an indication of a person's rank in society or profession. Fans were used for many things: cooling off, decoration, dancing, and in ceremonies.

Folded fans were invented in Japan over 1200 years ago to brush the flies away from the sacred vessels in temples and use in ceremonies.

Materials:

Tongue depressors

Paper plates

Paint

Sequins, ribbon, glitter, feathers, torn paper, etc. for decorating fan

Procedure:

1. Glue a tongue depressor to one plate, extending it down from the edge.
2. Glue or staple a second plate to the first with the tongue depressor between them.
3. Decorate the plates with paint, etc. Have books with Japanese cultural pictures so that the students can make their fans as "Japanese" looking as they can. See Japanese Designs appendix.
4. Use the fans to cool off or decorate the classroom.