



## Birthday of the Emperor of Japan (February 23, 2026)

# TEACHING GUIDE

**i What?** The birthday of Emperor Naruhito, the head of state of Japan. This day is a national holiday in Japan.

**u Who?** Emperor Naruhito, the Japanese Imperial Family, and the Japanese people who celebrate this day.

**g Where?** In Japan, particularly at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, where visitors sometimes gather to pay their respects to the Emperor.

**🕒 When?** Every year on February 23, the birthday of Emperor Naruhito.

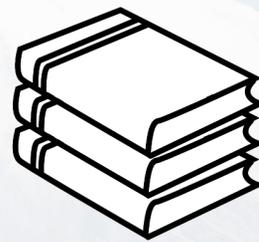
**? Why is it important?** Because the Emperor represents the unity of the country. This day is an opportunity for Japanese citizens to celebrate their history and traditions.

**🎯 For this activity, your goal will be to learn a little more about Emperor Naruhito and Japan.**



### OBJECTIVES

- Locate Japan on a world map.
- Identify geographical features of Japan (archipelago, capital, population).
- Understand the symbolic role of the emperor.
- Research and organize biographical information.
- Discover an important element of Japanese culture: manga.
- Produce a short, creative dialogue respecting the characteristics of manga.



### SUBJECTS

#### • Social Studies / Geography

- Location of Japan
- Archipelago
- Capital and Population
- Imperial Institution

#### • English

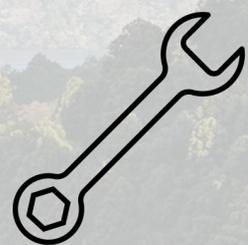
- Reading Instructions
- Comprehension of Informative Texts
- Reformulation
- Dialogue Writing
- Use of Onomatopoeia

#### • Arts

- **Visual Codes of Manga**
- **Exaggerated Expressions**
- **Simple Staging**

#### • General Knowledge

- National Holiday
- Imperial Symbols
- Cultural Influence of Japan



### COMPETENCIES

- Research and select relevant information.
- Read and interpret cultural information.
- Establish connections between tradition and contemporary culture.
- Organize information in a fact sheet.
- Write a short, coherent dialogue.
- Use expressive techniques (onomatopoeia, exaggeration).



### DURATION

- About 60 minutes



### GETTING STARTED

- Show an image of Japan (torii gate, map, or Imperial Palace). Ask:
  - "Why do some countries still have an emperor or a king?"
  - "What do you think the role of an emperor is today?"
  - "Do you know anything about manga?"
- Locate Japan on a world map.



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### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**STEP 1 — The Land of the Rising Sun.** Observation of a map of Japan and reading of short geographical information on Vikidia

**Q1 — Japan is located in East Asia.**

**Q2 — Japan is an archipelago.**

**Q3 — The capital is Tokyo.**

**Q4 — The population is approximately 125 million.**

**STEP 2 — On the Chrysanthemum Throne.** Research of information about the Emperor on Wikiedia and completion of an identity card.

**Date of birth: February 23, 1960**

**City of birth: Tokyo**

**Age (in 2026): 66**

**Father's name: Akihito**

**Wife's name: Masako**

**Number of children: One daughter (Aiko)**

**Date of accession to the throne: May 1 (*de facto*) or October 22 (coronation) 2019.**

**STEP 3 — In the Land of Manga.** Viewing of a short explanatory video about manga, followed by a written activity.

**Q5 — Manga are Japanese comics recognizable by their expressive drawings and dynamic onomatopoeia.**

**Q6 — Personal answer (justified opinion).**

**Final product:**

**Writing the dialogue for the manga "The Mystery Bento," including at least one onomatopoeia.**



### WRAPPING UP

- Review:
  - Japan's location;
  - the symbolic role of the emperor;
  - the cultural influence of manga;
- Final question:
  - "Why has Japan managed to preserve its traditions while being a very modern country?"



### FURTHER EXPLORATION

 [Learn About Japan for Kids: Ages 8-12 Includes Fun Facts About Japan's History and Modern Culture.](#) Meonatrip Editions

