

Warm up activity

Answer these questions (on your own or with your colleagues):

- What do you know about Japanese confectionery?
- What is your favorite Japanese candy or sweet?
- Do you know how it's made?
 - if you have time, research an easy recipe
- Does it contain sugar?
- When do you think was this sweet invented?

Step 1: the Introduction of Sugarcane in Japanese agriculture from Chinese tradesman

Sugarcane was not always present in Japan.

This means that refined sugar was also not always present in Japan, and as a consequence sweets and desserts that ask for refined sugar as one of the ingredients were not part of Japanese traditional cuisine.

Read this excerpt from the Public Relations office of the Government of Japan:

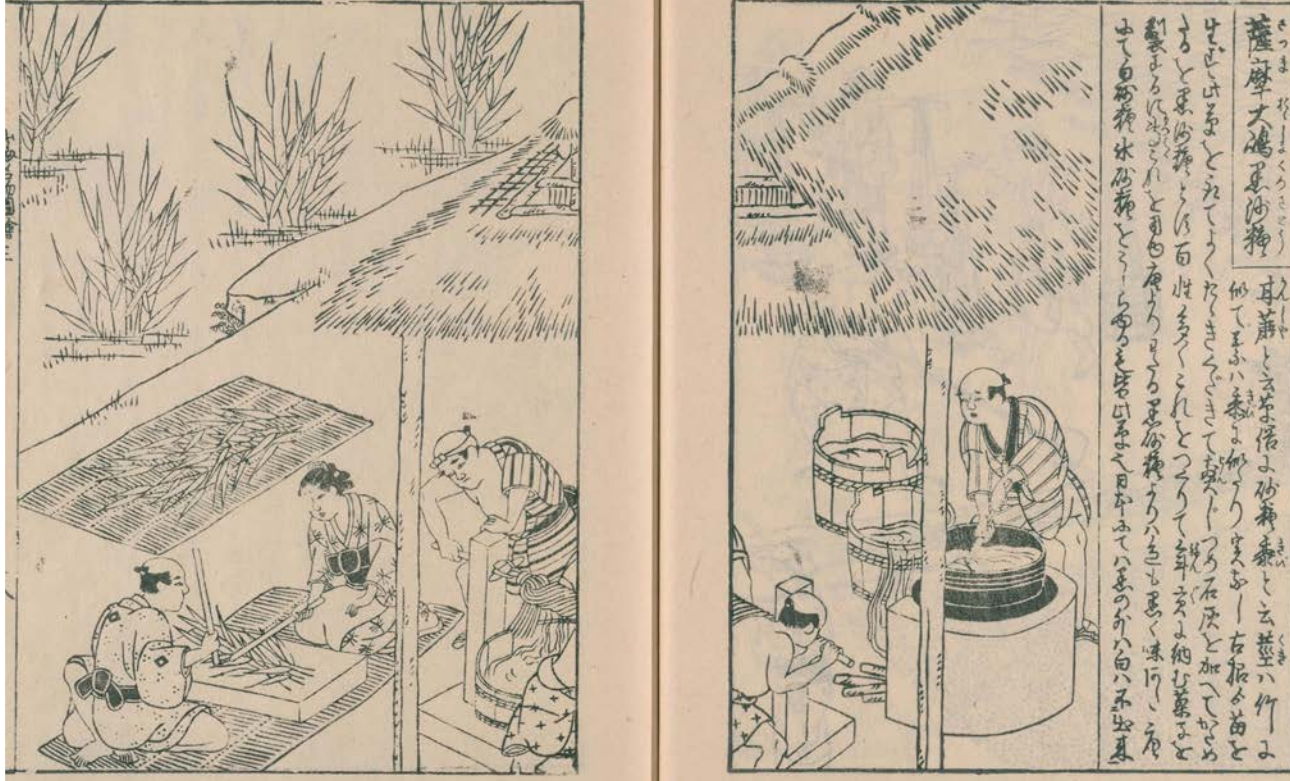
https://www.government.go.jp/eng/publicity/book/hlj/html/201506/201506_13_en.html#:~:text=First%20used%20as%20medicine%2C%20sugar,became%20known%20as%20Sugar%20Road.

Answer this question: How did sugar cane arrive in Japan?

Step 2: Sugarcane is developed and traded

- analysing visual sources (1)

Look at these three images and answer the questions below each of the images



1. What can you see?
2. What do you think this represents?
3. What questions does this image raise?

Source:

<https://jpsearch.go.jp/gallery/ndI-IN7OM96qDjtXOjl>

Step 2: Sugarcane is developed and traded - analysing visual sources (2)

Look at these three images and answer the questions below each of the images



1. What can you see?
2. What do you think this represents? What do you think is the connection between this image and sugar?
3. What questions does this image raise?

Source:

<https://jpsearch.go.jp/gallery/ndl-8wxpYImWm1TWQD>

Step 2: Sugarcane is developed and traded

- analysing visual sources (3)

Look at these three images and answer the questions below each of the images



1. What can you see?
2. What do you think this represents? What do you think is the connection between this image and sugar cane?
3. What questions does this image raise?

Source:

<https://jpsearch.go.jp/item/cobas-11959>

Step 3: Sugarcane is developed and traded - making meaningful connections.

Now, read the text at this link: <https://jpsearch.go.jp/gallery/ndI-IN7OM96qDjtXOjl>

- what new information have you learned about sugarcane and Japanese commercial relations?
- how would you add captions to the images shared before?

Step 4: Sugarcane is developed and traded - presenting information.

Prepare a short presentation with five visual sources, to tell the story of how did sugarcane arrive to Japan, how was it received in Japan, and how did it influence Japanese trade with its neighboring countries.

Use the three images used earlier in this activity, and add two images from the Japan Search platform.

You can use this page: <https://jpsearch.go.jp/gallery/ndI-IN7OM96qDjtXOjl> to get started.

Step 5: Conclusion

We started this activity by asking ourselves
“What does Japanese confectionery industry tell us
about early globalisation and commerce?”

Take your K-W-L chart.

Fill in the last column: what did you learn
about early globalisation and commerce?

Potential extension activity: globalisation

Sugar became quickly a global commodity: it was and still is traded and used in countries all across the world, and is considered a “staple” in every household.

Research how did sugar become a global commodity.

Try to learn as much as you can about who were the first civilisations to use sugar, and how did sugar spread. [You can use this Wikipedia article as your starting point.](#)

Prepare a presentation for your colleagues that uses:

- 5 visual sources
- at least 1 map
- if possible, at least 1 primary or secondary written source (a book or diary excerpt, for example).