

Families of the World: Japan

1) Ten-year-old Seichi lives on a farm near Furukawa, Japan. His family has raised rice there for 14 generations. Seichi and his sisters help feed the rabbits and chickens, watch TV, and go to their cousin's engagement party. We see the schoolteachers and children prepare for Sports Day. 2) 8-year-old Ayako lives in Sendai, Japan. Ayako loves to climb trees, play her piano, and go to calligraphy lessons.



Vocabulary

1. feed (v)
2. water (v)
3. generation (n)
4. rice planters (n)
5. character (n)
6. scrub (v)
7. improve (v)
8. agricultural cooperative (n)
9. matchmaker (n)
10. engagement ceremony (n)
11. symbolize (v)
12. ties (n)
13. Sports Day
14. revolving lift (n)
15. downtown (n)
16. seal (n): hanko
17. sign language (n)
18. cartoon (n)
19. science (n)

20.sewing (n)

22.brush (n)

21.calligraphy (n)

23.greet (v)

Part 1: While Watching**A) Seichi**

1. What are Seichi's chores?
2. What is grandma's "business"? (What does she do?)
3. How many generations has Seichi's family lived on their farm?
4. T or F? Rice planters (machines) are very expensive.
5. How many characters (kanji) does a student have to memorize to graduate from high school?
6. Who serves lunch at school?
7. Where do they eat?
8. Why does Seichi's mother scrub the rice?
9. T or F? Japanese people think it is important for food to look as good as it tastes.
10. Where does the father work?
11. What does the grandfather do?
12. Who helps young people find a marriage partner?
13. What does drinking sake at the engagement ceremony symbolize?
14. T or F? Even the youngest kids participate in Sports Day.
15. Which team wins at the end of the day?

B) Ayako

1. How old is Ayako?



2. T or F? It is more common for families to live in the father's home than the mother's home.
3. Whose home does Ayako's family live in?
4. What are one or two things the students practice while the cooks prepare lunch?
5. What do they eat for lunch?
6. Who serves lunch?
7. T or F? The students clean the school after classes.
8. What are some of the clubs that students can join?
9. What does she practice after piano practice?
10. Why do tall buildings in Japan have many kinds of stores in them?
11. When her father comes home, what do they all do?

Part 2: After Watching (HW: Write your answers.)

1. Compare your experience of growing up to Seichi's and Ayako's experience. What was different, and what was the same?



