# JAPAN: Places, Images, Times & Transformations

Suggestions for the Middle and High School Classroom

# Japanese Language: An Overview - Hiroshi Nara

* **Objectives:**
  + Understand and Identify the linguistic roots of the Japanese language.
  + Identify the different ways that languages are classified.
  + Describe the linguistic features of the Japanese language.
* **Suggested Units for Inclusion:**
  + Japanese units that explore grammatical features such as particles, adjectival phrases or SOV construction.
  + Japanese units that explore the linguistic history of the Japanese language or units that seek to compare and contrast Japanese with other foreign languages.
  + ELA classes that explore linguistic origins of languages or linguistic features of foreign languages.
* **Lesson Ideas:**
  + 1. Individual Research Homework
    - Students can be assigned the *study questions* or *develop questions for the class to discuss*
  + 2. Compare and Contrast Project
    - Students could be tasked with researching the linguistic and grammatical makeup of another language and comparing it to Japanese or English. How does each language make meaning in their own way? Students should give example sentences and then explain the differences and similarities.
  + 3. Particle Practice Sentences
    - Japanese students, in a group or by themselves, can create practice sentences demonstrating the fluid nature of particles in the Japanese language. They should include at least three different particles for each sentence, and then rearrange the sentences several times to illustrate how particles can be placed in a Japanese sentence. This is similar to the example show on page 6 of the essay.
* **Study Questions:**

o What connection do the Japanese and Korean languages share? Why might this connection disprove the theory that Japanese and Korean are related?

o What challenges do English speakers face when learning Japanese? How do these challenges compare to learning other languages?

o Explain what particles are and what their function is in the Japanese language. What order can these particles go in when constructing a sentence in Japanese?