

SCRIPT

Historical Aid

Centuries ago, the Japanese adopted the Chinese style of writing called *kanji*. Over time, a system of writing called *kana* evolved. Japanese is written in a combination of kana and kanji. School children in Japan learn the 100 kana characters and some 1,945 kanji characters as well!

Japanese writing is a highly skilled art. Calligraphers, people who specialize in decorative handwriting, use a brush so they can make heavy and light lines.

Project

Write a story in English and kanji.

Materials

- Paper
- Black marking pens

Directions

1. Reproduce copies of the kanji characters on the following page for the students to refer to.
2. Practice writing the characters as a class.
3. With the paper turned lengthwise, have students write a simple story using a combination of kanji and English.
4. Have students trade their story with a friend to translate. Share the translations.

