# JAPANESE ANIME WORKSHOP LESSON PLAN



Year Group	Year 7-Year 9, but can be adapted for older year groups		
Overview	An introduction to Japanese language and culture through the world of Japanese animation – anime. The workshop involves discussion on the genre and origins of anime and students identifying their favourite anime films. After showing film clips, students complete language and comprehension activities based on the Japanese writing systems they have been introduced to. They also work individually or in groups to draw characters in the manga/anime style to create a storyboard using their newly-learned drawing techniques.		
Duration	Approx. 2 hours		
	Introduction to anime	20-40 mins	5
	Projection of anime clips and discussion	50 mins	
	Drawing activity	30 mins	
Objectives	<ul> <li>Introduce students to Japanese language and culture through exploration of anime.</li> <li>Students learn to recognise Japanese scripts.</li> <li>Students learn how to draw in anime style</li> </ul>		
Learning outcomes	<ul> <li>Recognise Japanese animation traditions and culture</li> <li>Recognise differences between anime and manga</li> <li>Demonstrate anime and manga drawing styles</li> <li>Recognise and use Japanese vocabulary</li> </ul>		
Resources	<ul> <li>Spirited Away DVD by Studio Ghibli</li> <li>Facilities to show DVDs and/orYouTube film clips</li> <li>Workshop outline</li> <li>All Worksheets</li> <li>Copy of katakana and hiragana tables (may be downloaded from web, i.e. Wikipedia)</li> </ul>		

## JAPANESE ANIME WORKSHOP WORKSHOP OUTLINE



## **INTRODUCTION TO ANIME**

Exploratory questions: what is "anime" (アニメ)?
 Word derivation, shortened from "animation" (アニメーション pron.: animēshon).

**20-40 mins** Film clips

- Re-connect to manga and Japanese visual culture starting from language (ideograms); personal experience in Japan (e.g. comic-like instructions for daily life etc...); relationship between manga and anime.
- History and development of anime industry, including:
   <u>main genres and dominant topics</u>: sci-fi, fantasy, shōjo, martial arts & robots, daily life, school-life, sport clubs (show posters or stills from Akira, Sailor Moon, Pokemon, Dragon Ball, Naruto, Goldrake, Crayon Shin-chan, etc...) but also more serious subjects such as WWII in Grave of the Fireflies and Barefoot Gen. Studio Ghibli's and Miyazaki Hayao's hits: Kaze no Tani no Nausicaa (風の谷のナウシカア) / "Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind" (1984); Tonari no Totoro (隣のトトロ) / "My Neighbour Totoro" (1988); Mononoke Hime (もののけ姫) / "Princess Mononoke" (1997); Sen to Chihiro no

Kamikakushi (千と千尋の神隠し) "Spirited Away" (2001)

- post-war industrial development also through TV serialization:
   Tōei animation
- Japanese animation global reach and comparison with American animation (Disney, Pixar).

<u>Discussion:</u> when watching TV cartoons, are you always able to guess whether they are Japanese cartoons? Show examples. What helps you identify them? Examine visual style, subjects, storyline

 Distribute "Comprehension worksheet 1". Leave around 10 mins for the pupils to answer the questions and then go through them giving the correct answers.

Comprehension Worksheet 1 10 mins

 (Time permitting) Demonstration of anime being produced on YouTube:: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXRApCpe6dc&feature=related">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXRApCpe6dc&feature=related</a> for the making of Princess Mononoke

### JAPANESE ANIME WORKSHOP

## **WORKSHOP OUTLINE (continued)**



#### **PROJECTION OF ANIME CLIPS**

Project the following clips from Spirited Away, shortly commenting with the pupils after each one. Preferably use the original DVD to choose the clips from. (Some clips are available on the internet, however You Tube clips are liable to be cancelled at any time).

## **30/40 mins** Film clips

- Trailer of the film: (see for example http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6az9wGfeSgM)
- Chihiro meets Haku (English dub)
- Chihiro asks for job at Kamaji's (English dub)
- Chihiro signs the contract at Yubaba's (English dub)

Emphasise the importance of names, the pervasive visual presence of ideograms and Japanese folklore in the story of Spirited Away. Highlight environmental concerns present in Miyazaki's works overall.

- Use "Comprehension Worksheet 2". Leave around 5 mins for the pupils to answer the questions and then go through them giving the correct answers.
- Comprehension Worksheet 2 10 mins
- Use "Language Worksheet". Leave around 10 mins for the pupils to carry out the tasks and then go through them giving the correct answers.

Language Worksheet 15 mins

**Note**: You tube clips are liable to be cancelled at any time so you may have to search for new ones.

### **DRAWING ACTIVITIES**

These activities may also be done at the end of the first part of the workshop, before the break.

**30 mins**Drawing
Worksheet

- Distribute "Drawing Worksheet" with concept art sketches for reference to exercise drawing skills in the *manga/anime* styles
- Template framework to create a storyboard (group or individual activity).