

Culture

One of the great things about travel is learning about another culture. Culture is like a floating iceberg. The part that sticks up above the water are the things that you can see: food, music, dance, art, stories, clothing, traditional crafts, festivals, architecture. The hidden part of culture, like the underwater part of the iceberg, are the ways of looking at the world, values and attitudes.

When you are in Japan, you will be able to observe both parts of the “iceberg”. You will be able to try new foods, see traditional clothing and crafts, visit temples and shrines. You will also be able to watch for and think about topics such as: attitudes and values about education, work, how the individual works within a group, male and female roles in the family and society, environment, humility, cleanliness, and more.

You will also have a chance to think about your own culture. You are part of a teenage culture; you are part of the culture of your family; you are also part