



Teachers Notes: *WASABI*

- **Requirements**

Wasabi will require 1 Chair, 1 table and, where possible, a microphone in a stand for the Shamisen

- **Taiko (Japanese drums)**

Japanese drums come in many sizes and have been traditionally associated with religious rites at Shinto Shrines as well as village festivals. In the last 30 years, taiko drumming groups have flourished in Japan, and have become popular worldwide for their fast pounding rhythms and dynamic performance style. These groups often use other percussion instruments. Some are included in our school workshops. (See below)

- **Shamisen (Japanese banjo)**

A shamisen is a three stringed banjo like instrument. It was first developed in Japan in the 16th century. There are three different styles of shamisen found in Japan and they are commonly played at traditional Japanese plays, events and festivals.

See overleaf for vocab list in both Kanji and Roman texts

• Instruments used in the show:

たいこ	Taiko	Drum
しゃみせん	Shamisen	Japanese banjo
おおきいたいこ	Ookii Taiko	Big drum
ちいさいたいこ	Chiisai Taiko	Small drum
ばち	Bachi	Drum sticks
もくぎょ	Mokugyo	Wood block
かね	Kane	Gong
すず	Suzu	Bell
ふえ	Fue	Horizontal bamboo flute
しゃくはち	Shakuhachi	Vertical bamboo flute
ちやっぱ	Chappa	Cymbals
ささら	Sasara	Percussion Instrument

- **Clothes worn in the show:**

はっぴ	Happi	Festival jacket
たび	Tabi	Traditional foot wear
はちまき	Hachimaki	Head band
てっこう	Tekko	Wrist band
おび	Obi	Belt
ゆかた	Yukata	Summer costume

- **Important Taiko Movements:**

あしをひろげて	Ashi wo hirogete	Stand with legs apart.
ひざをまげます	Hiza o magemasu	Bend your knees.
みぎてをあげて	Migite wo agete	Right hand up.
ひだりてあげて	Hidarite wo agete	Left hand up.

かた、うで、てくびをつかいます

Kata, ude, tekubi wo tsukaimasu

Use shoulders, arms & wrists.

Wasabi vocab sheet

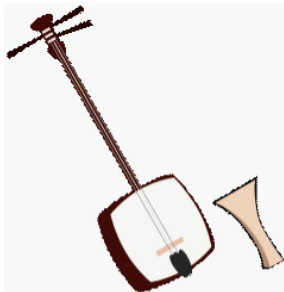
Japanese		English
たいこ	Taiko	Japanese Drum
しゃみせん	Shamisen	Japanese Banjo
ばち	Bachi	Taiko Stick/Shamisen Pick
ちゃっば	Chappa	Cymbals
かね	Kane	Gong/Bell
ささら	Sasara	
ふえ	Fue	Flute
もくぎょ	Mokugyo	Wood Block
すず	Suzu	Bells
うちわだいこ	Uchiwadaiko	Fan Drum
うし	Ushi	Cow
おおきい	Ookii	Big
ちいさい	Chiisai	Small
ながい	Nagai	Long
みじかい	Mijikai	Short
はっぴ	Happi	Festival Jacket
たび	Tabi	Foot Wear
はちまき	Hachimaki	Head Band
げた	Geta	Wooden Thongs
てっこう	Tekkoh	Wrist Band
おはようございます	Ohayougozaimasu	Good Morning
こんにちは	Konnichiha	Hello
さようなら	Sayounara	Good bye
いち	Ichi	1
にい	Nii	2
さん	San	3
し/よん	Shi/Yon	4
ご	Go	5
ろく	Roku	6
しち/なな	Shichi/Nana	7
はち	Hachi	8
きゅう	Kyuu	9
じゅう	Juu	10

TAIKO



Taiko has a history of 1500 years. It was originally linked to the Shinto religion. You can see taiko at Shinto festivals, religious ceremonies and traditional events. Nowadays there are roughly 30,000 taiko clubs in Japan.

SHAMISEN



Shamisen was developed in Japan about 500 years ago by court instrument Biwa players.

It has only 3 strings and no frets on the neck.

Shamisen body parts are covered by skins and Shamisen players bang the body to produce string and percussion sound same time.