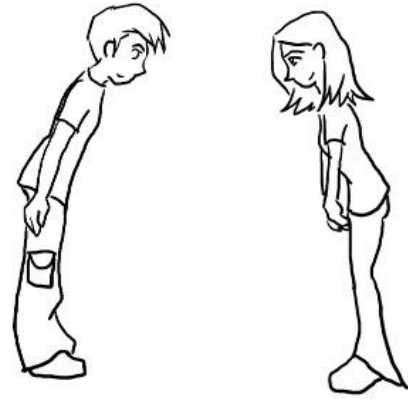


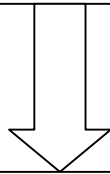
Community Involvement and Making Friends in Japan



Your Evolving Concerns

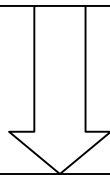
Early Impressions

- Rural or city
- Different communities
- Why get involved?



Your First Few Months

- Neighbors
- *Omiyage* (presents)
- JET neighbors
- Go and explore your area
- School clubs
- *Enkai's* (drinking parties)
- Get involved



Longer Term Goals

- Overcoming the culture shock curve
- Projects:
 - Hobbies
 - Learn Japanese
 - Let your community get involved in your life.

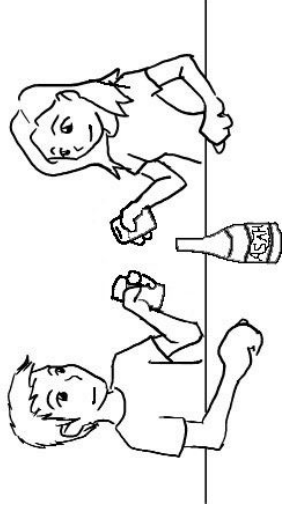
NOTES

Concerns / Responsibilities

- Respect the differences:
 - ✓ Relationships (every kind)
 - ✓ Your work environment
 - ✓ Rural vs. city (learn the limits)

☺ **SOME FRIENDLY VOCAB** ☺
☺ **& TO-DO CHECKLIST** ☺

Holiday/day off	Yasumi
Festival	Matsuri
Fireworks	Hanabi
Tournament	Taikai
Cultural Festival	Bunkasai
Sports Festival	Taiikusai
Match (sports)	Shiai
Hobby	Shumi



Drinking party	Enkai / Nomikai
Post-party party	Nijikai
All you can eat (restaurant)	Tabehodai
All you can drink ☺	Nomihodai
Going out to pick up girls/boys	Tabenomihodai
	Nanpa
To hang out (let's hang out) (What do you like to do for fun?)	Asobu (Asoboo) (suki na asobi wa?)

- Befriend and exchange e-mail addresses with JETs *and* *nauseum* in your early days.
- Give your neighbors small presents (*omiyage*) and smile at them often to emphasize how unscary you are.
- Visit any small local bars/restaurants in your area and choose one lucky one to be your regular.
- Accept all (within reason) invitations from Japanese and non-Japanese alike for your first month or so at least.
- Visit a summer festival and invite other people along. Tell all Japanese people how much you enjoyed it. ☺
- Find a teacher and join or form a Japanese class.

- Visit a number of local shrines and temples and rave about them to older Japanese people you meet.
- Locate a good resource for finding out about the local music scene or whatever you are into and rave about it to younger Japanese people you meet.
- Choose a hobby (one you have done before or a new one) and join a club/class.
- Find out if your town has a website with a community bulletin board or calendar of events.
- Surprise Japanese people (and yourself) with how much of the food you can eat.
- Say YES when asked to teachers' parties! Say YES again when asked to the after party! (Whether alcohol is your thing or not).