Japanese Curry

By: Steve, Callum and Kyra
Seating

- Sitting on the floor is common for many situations
- Meals are traditionally held on a tatami floor around a low table
- The formal way to sit is the “seiza” for both genders
- The most important person sits in the honoured seat which is furthest from the entrance
Chopstick Etiquette

- Don’t point chopsticks at people when talking
- Don’t play with chopsticks while eating
- Don’t suck sauce of chopsticks
- Don’t lift food by poking it with chopsticks
- Never pass food with chopsticks
- Never use fingers for eating
Table Manners

Beginning the meal

- *O-shibori* - wiping your hands with a wet cloth before the meal and then folding it and putting it aside
- *Itidakimasu* - “I gratefully receive”
- *Osaki ni dōzo* - “please go ahead”
- *Osaki ni itadakimasu* - “allow me to start before you”

After the meal

- Return all dishes back to the way they were
- *Gochisōsama deshita* - “thank you for the meal”
Table Manners Con’t

During meal

● Do not dump soy sauce on food, put it in small bowl and dip food
● It is expected that you eat every piece of food that you put on your plate

Drinking

● Do not begin drinking until everyone has a full glass raised for a toast or for someone to say “kampai”
● When drinking alcoholic beverages it is customary to serve each other
Curry Festival

- Yearly event, occurs every May in Yokosuka City
- Tied heavily to naval culture
How is Japanese Culture Expressed Through Curry?

**Ingredients**

- Accessible crops such as rice, onions, and garlic
- Scarce farmland leads to a smaller ingredient pool

**Convenience!**

- Instant curry is quick and simple
- Long work days call for convenience
History

- In a recent archeological dig, researchers found a prehistoric curry that uses black pepper. The site was located in Iran and estimated to be from 2600 BCE.
- Moving forward however, the modern day curry was first founded in English cuisine during the 17th century when England had colonies all over the world, this included India, where many Indian people moved to England and with the help of English cooks decided to make a blend of food, the result being curry.
History Contd.

- From here the curry traveled around the world because of England's trade routes with so many countries.
- This led to the foundation of Caribbean and Portuguese curry.
- Japan was first introduced to curry during the Meiji period which took place between 1868-1912, this is a time in which many countries wanted to visit, trade, and live in Japan.
- These countries are the United Kingdom, The United States, and Spain.
Sakoku Period

- Because of the sheer amount of foreigners causing problems for Japan, Japan enacted the Sakoku period.
- This meant the country wished to isolate itself from world affairs and get rid of all western things. ie food, clothes, culture etc.
- This prompted them to make their own curry to which included noodles, breaded pork, and even celery.
- It was also a common dish for the Japanese Navy because of its taste and convenience.

