

Social Studies Word List

English–Japanese Vocabulary for New York Grades 3–5

Purpose. This list supports Japanese-speaking students and families learning elementary social studies vocabulary in Grades 3–5. It covers geography, history, civics, economics, and inquiry with sources and evidence.

How to use it. Begin with the **Core** terms for maps, communities, government, and historical thinking, then add the Useful terms as students read sources, discuss evidence, and write explanations.

Contents

Contents

Geography	1
History	2
Civics	2
Economics	3
Inquiry and Interpretation	4
Civics (sorted)	6
Economics (sorted)	6
Geography (sorted)	7
History (sorted)	8
Inquiry and Interpretation (sorted)	9

Term count by area

Area	Terms
Geography	35
History	25
Civics	25
Economics	26
Inquiry and Interpretation	17
Total	128

Geography

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
map	地図	ちず	3-5	Core	shows places and features
globe	地球儀	ちきゅうぎ	3-5	Core	model of Earth
compass rose	方位記号	ほういきごう	3-5	Core	shows north south east and west
direction	方角	ほうかく	3-5	Core	
north	北	きた	3-5	Core	
south	南	みなみ	3-5	Core	
east	東	ひがし	3-5	Core	
west	西	にし	3-5	Core	
location	場所	ばしょ	3-5	Core	where something is
region	地域	ちいき	3-5	Core	an area with shared features
boundary	境界	きょうかい	3-5	Useful	line separating areas
legend / key	凡例	はんれい	3-5	Core	explains map symbols
scale	縮尺	しゅくしゃく	3-5	Useful	shows distance on a map
symbol	記号	きごう	3-5	Core	small picture or mark on a map
physical map	自然地図	しぜんちず	3-5	Useful	map showing land and water features
landform	地形	ちけい	3-5	Core	shape of the land
mountain	山	やま	3-5	Core	
plain	平野	へいや	3-5	Useful	large flat area of land
valley	谷	たに	3-5	Useful	low land between hills or mountains
river	川	かわ	3-5	Core	
lake	湖	みずうみ	3-5	Core	
ocean	海洋	かいよう	3-5	Core	
island	島	しま	3-5	Core	
coast	海岸	かいがん	3-5	Useful	where land meets the sea
climate	気候	きこう	3-5	Core	usual weather in a place
natural resource	天然資源	てんねんしげん	3-5	Core	material from nature that people use
population	人口	じんこう	3-5	Core	number of people living in a place
community	地域社会	ちいきしゃかい	3-5	Core	group of people living and working together
urban	都市の	としの	3-5	Useful	related to a city
rural	農村の	のうそんの	3-5	Useful	related to countryside areas
route	道順	みちじゅん	3-5	Useful	path from one place to another
grid	方眼	ほうがん	3-5	Useful	pattern of lines used to help locate places on a map
forest	森林	しんりん	3-5	Core	large area covered with trees
suburb	郊外	こうがい	3-5	Useful	community near a city where many people live
migration	移住	いじゅう	3-5	Useful	movement of people from one place to another

History

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
past	過去	かこ	3-5	Core	time before now
present	現在	げんざい	3-5	Core	time now
future	未来	みらい	3-5	Core	time yet to come
chronological order	年代順	ねんだいじゅん	3-5	Core	arranged by time order
timeline	年表	ねんぴょう	3-5	Core	line showing events in time order
century	世紀	せいき	3-5	Useful	100-year period
era	時代	じだい	3-5	Useful	a long period of history
event	出来事	できごと	3-5	Core	something that happened
historical source	歴史資料	れきしりょう	3-5	Useful	item used to learn about the past
evidence	証拠	しょうこ	3-5	Core	information that supports an idea about the past
ancestor	祖先	そせん	3-5	Useful	family member from long ago
culture	文化	ぶんか	3-5	Core	beliefs customs arts and ways of life
tradition	伝統	でんとう	3-5	Core	custom passed down over time
immigrant	移民	いみん	3-5	Core	person who moves to a new country to live
migration	移動	いどう	3-5	Useful	movement of people from one place to another
settlement	居住地	きょじゅうち	3-5	Useful	place where people establish a community
colony	植民地	しょくみんち	3-5	Core	territory settled and controlled by another country
indigenous people	先住民	せんじゅうみん	3-5	Core	people who first lived in a place
change over time	時代による変化	じだいによるへんか	3-5	Core	how places people or ideas become different
cause and effect	原因と結果	げんいんとけっか	3-5	Core	relationship between actions and results
before	前に	まえに	3-5	Core	happening earlier in time
after	後で	あとで	3-5	Core	happening later in time
century	世紀	せいき	3-5	Useful	period of one hundred years
celebration	お祝い	おいわい	3-5	Core	special event that honors a person tradition or holiday
custom	ならわし	ならわし	3-5	Useful	usual way people in a group do something

Civics

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
government	政府	せいふ	3-5	Core	system that makes and carries out laws
democracy	民主主義	みんしゅしゅぎ	3-5	Core	government in which people have a voice

citizen	市民	しみん	3-5	Core	member of a country or community with rights and duties
right	権利	けんり	3-5	Core	something people are allowed to have or do
responsibility	責任	せきにん	3-5	Core	something a person should do
rule	規則	きそく	3-5	Core	direction for behavior
law	法律	ほうりつ	3-5	Core	official rule made by government
leader	指導者	しどうしゃ	3-5	Core	person who guides a group or government
mayor	市長	しちょう	3-5	Useful	leader of a city
governor	州知事	しゅうちじ	3-5	Useful	leader of a state
president	大統領	だいてうりょう	3-5	Core	leader of the United States
vote	投票する	とうひょうする	3-5	Core	choose in an election or decision
election	選挙	せんきょ	3-5	Core	process of choosing leaders
represent	代表する	だいひょうする	3-5	Useful	act or speak for others
flag	旗	はた	3-5	Core	national or state symbol
symbol	象徴	しょうちょう	3-5	Core	object or sign that stands for something else
national anthem	国歌	こっか	3-5	Useful	official song of a country
holiday	祝日	しゅくじつ	3-5	Core	special day of celebration or remembrance
memorial	記念	きねん	3-5	Useful	something that honors people or events
freedom	自由	じゆう	3-5	Core	ability to act or speak within rights and laws
town hall	市役所	しやくしょ	3-5	Useful	building where local government offices may be located
council	議会	ぎかい	3-5	Useful	group of people who help make decisions for a community
public service	公共サービス	こうきょうさーびす	3-5	Useful	service provided for the good of the community
fairness	公平さ	こうへいさ	3-5	Core	treating people in a just and equal way
cooperate	協力する	きょうりょくする	3-5	Core	work together with others toward a goal

Economics

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
goods	商品	しょうひん	3-5	Core	things people buy or use
services	サービス	さーびす	3-5	Core	work done for others
need	必要	ひつよう	3-5	Core	something people must have
want	ほしいもの	ほしいもの	3-5	Core	something people would like to have
producer	生産者	せいさんしゃ	3-5	Core	person or business that makes goods or provides services

consumer	消費者	しょうひしゃ	3-5	Core	person who buys or uses goods and services
scarcity	不足	ふそく	3-5	Useful	not enough resources to satisfy all wants
choice	選択	せんたく	3-5	Core	decision between options
resource	資源	しげん	3-5	Core	something used to make goods or meet needs
natural resource	天然資源	てんねんしげん	3-5	Core	resource that comes from nature
money	お金	おかね	3-5	Core	used to buy goods and services
price	価格	かかく	3-5	Core	amount of money something costs
cost	費用	ひよう	3-5	Core	money needed to buy or make something
save	貯金する	ちょきんする	3-5	Core	keep money for later use
spend	使う	つかう	3-5	Core	use money to buy something
budget	予算	よさん	3-5	Useful	plan for using money
trade	貿易	ぼうえき	3-5	Core	buying selling or exchanging goods
exchange	交換	こうかん	3-5	Useful	give one thing and receive another
market	市場	いちば	3-5	Useful	place or system for buying and selling
job	仕事	しごと	3-5	Core	work a person does
occupation	職業	しょくぎょう	3-5	Useful	type of job
worker	労働者	ろうどうしゃ	3-5	Useful	person who does a job
goods and services	商品とサービス	しょうひんとさーびす	3-5	Core	things people buy and work done for others
human resource	人的資源	じんてきしげん	3-5	Useful	people and their skills used to produce goods and services
earn	かせぐ	かせぐ	3-5	Core	get money by working
seller	売り手	うりて	3-5	Useful	person who provides goods or services for money

Inquiry and Interpretation

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
primary source	一次資料	いちじしりょう	3-5	Core	source from the time being studied
secondary source	二次資料	にじしりょう	3-5	Core	source created later about the topic
document	文書	ぶんしょ	3-5	Core	written source of information
artifact	遺物	いぶつ	3-5	Core	object made or used by people in the past
photograph	写真	しゃしん	3-5	Useful	image used as historical evidence
diary	日記	にっき	3-5	Useful	personal record written over time
interview	インタビュー	いんたびゅー	3-5	Useful	questions asked to gather information

point of view	見方	みかた	3-5	Core	position or perspective of a person or source
claim	主張	しゅちょう	3-5	Core	statement someone argues is true
reason	理由	りゆう	3-5	Core	why something happened or why a claim is supported
compare	比べる	くらべる	3-5	Core	show how things are alike
contrast	ちがいを比べる	ちがいをくらべる	3-5	Core	show how things are different
inference	推論	すいるん	3-5	Useful	idea formed from evidence and reasoning
conclusion	結論	けつろん	3-5	Core	final idea based on evidence
map source	地図資料	ちずしりょう	3-5	Useful	map used as evidence to learn about a place or time
caption	説明文	せつめいぶん	3-5	Useful	short text that explains a picture or source
support your answer	答えを根拠で支える	こたえをこんぎよでささえる	3-5	Core	give evidence for what you say or write

Civics (sorted)

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
citizen	市民	しみん	3-5	Core	member of a country or community with rights and duties
council	議会	ぎかい	3-5	Useful	group of people who help make decisions for a community
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Economics (sorted)

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
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seller	売り手	うりて	3-5	Useful	person who provides goods or services for money
spend	使う	つかう	3-5	Core	use money to buy something
trade	貿易	ぼうえき	3-5	Core	buying selling or exchanging goods
worker	労働者	ろうどうしゃ	3-5	Useful	person who does a job

Geography (sorted)

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
community	地域社会	ちいぎしゃかい	3-5	Core	group of people living and working together
migration	移住	いじゅう	3-5	Useful	movement of people from one place to another
population	人口	じんこう	3-5	Core	number of people living in a place

rural	農村の	のうそのん	3-5	Useful	related to countryside areas
suburb	郊外	こうがい	3-5	Useful	community near a city where many people live
urban	都市の	としの	3-5	Useful	related to a city
climate	気候	きこう	3-5	Core	usual weather in a place
coast	海岸	かいがん	3-5	Useful	where land meets the sea
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scale	縮尺	しゅくしゃく	3-5	Useful	shows distance on a map
south	南	みなみ	3-5	Core	
symbol	記号	きごう	3-5	Core	small picture or mark on a map
west	西	にし	3-5	Core	

History (sorted)

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after	後で	あとで	3-5	Core	happening later in time
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celebration	お祝い	おいわい	3-5	Core	special event that honors a person tradition or holiday

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