

Social Studies Word List

English–Japanese Vocabulary for New York Grades K–2

Purpose. This list supports Japanese-speaking students and families learning early elementary social studies vocabulary in Grades K–2. It covers maps and places, community roles, identity and culture, time and change, simple economics, and inquiry with pictures and stories.

How to use it. Begin with the **Core** terms students hear in classroom routines, community talk, and simple map work, then add the Useful terms as they compare places, describe traditions, and explain what they learn from pictures and stories.

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Term count by area

Area	Terms
Geography	29
Civics	15
Culture	14
History	14
Economics	16
Inquiry	18
Total	106

Geography

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
map	地図	ちず	K-2	Core	shows places
globe	地球儀	ちきゅうぎ	K-2	Core	model of Earth
place	場所	ばしょ	K-2	Core	where something is
location	場所	ばしょ	K-2	Useful	where a place is on a map
school	学校	がっこう	K-2	Core	a place where students learn
home	家	いえ	K-2	Core	place where a family lives
neighborhood	近所	きんじょ	K-2	Core	area around home or school
community	地域社会	ちいきしゃかい	K-2	Core	people who live and work together
city	市	し	K-2	Core	large town where many people live
state	州	しゅう	K-2	Useful	large part of a country
country	国	くに	K-2	Core	a nation
world	世界	せかい	K-2	Core	all places on Earth
direction	方角	ほうかく	K-2	Useful	shows where to go
near	近い	ちかい	K-2	Core	not far away
far	遠い	とおい	K-2	Core	not near
land	陸	りく	K-2	Core	solid ground
water	水	みず	K-2	Core	lakes rivers and oceans
river	川	かわ	K-2	Core	moving water on land
lake	湖	みずうみ	K-2	Useful	water surrounded by land
ocean	海洋	かいよう	K-2	Useful	very large body of salt water
mountain	山	やま	K-2	Core	high land
hill	丘	おか	K-2	Useful	raised land smaller than a mountain
park	公園	こうえん	K-2	Core	public outdoor place
street	通り	とおり	K-2	Core	road in a town or city
road	道路	どうろ	K-2	Core	path for cars and buses
bridge	橋	はし	K-2	Useful	structure that crosses water or a road
region	地域	ちいき	K-2	Useful	an area with shared features
weather	天気	てんき	K-2	Core	what the air is like outside
season	季節	きせつ	K-2	Core	time of year with common weather

Civics

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
rule	決まり	きまり	K-2	Core	something people should follow
leader	リーダー	りーだー	K-2	Core	person who helps guide others
principal	校長	こうちょう	K-2	Useful	leader of a school
teacher	先生	せんせい	K-2	Core	person who teaches students
student	生徒	せいと	K-2	Core	person who learns at school

family	家族	かぞく	K-2	Core	people who care for one another
neighbor	近所の人	きんじょのひと	K-2	Useful	person living nearby
helper	手伝う人	てつだうひと	K-2	Core	person who helps others
firefighter	消防士	しょうぼうし	K-2	Core	community worker who fights fires
police officer	警察官	けいさつかん	K-2	Core	community worker who helps keep people safe
doctor	医者	いしゃ	K-2	Core	person who helps sick people
nurse	看護師	かんごし	K-2	Useful	person who cares for patients
mail carrier	郵便配達員	ゆうびんはいたついでん	K-2	Useful	person who brings mail
librarian	図書館員	としょかんいん	K-2	Useful	person who works in a library
mayor	市長	しちょう	K-2	Useful	leader of a city or town

Culture

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
name	名前	なまえ	K-2	Core	word used to identify a person or place
self	自分	じぶん	K-2	Core	the person you are
belong	所属する	しよぞくする	K-2	Useful	to be part of a group
group	グループ	ぐるーぷ	K-2	Core	people together
friend	友だち	ともだち	K-2	Core	person you like and trust
language	言語	げんご	K-2	Core	words people use to speak and write
culture	文化	ぶんか	K-2	Useful	shared ways people live and celebrate
tradition	伝統	でんとう	K-2	Useful	something people do again and again over time
holiday	休日	きゅうじつ	K-2	Core	special day of celebration or remembrance
celebration	お祝い	おいわい	K-2	Core	special event with people together
food	食べ物	たべもの	K-2	Core	something people eat
music	音楽	おんがく	K-2	Useful	sounds people sing or play
clothing	服	ふく	K-2	Useful	things people wear
symbol	象徴	しょうちょう	K-2	Useful	picture or object that stands for something

History

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
past	昔	むかし	K-2	Core	time long ago
present	今	いま	K-2	Core	time right now
future	未来	みらい	K-2	Useful	time that has not happened yet
long ago	ずっと昔	ずっとむかし	K-2	Core	time far in the past
today	今日	きょう	K-2	Core	this day
yesterday	昨日	きのう	K-2	Core	the day before today

tomorrow	明日	あした	K-2	Core	the day after today
calendar	カレンダー	かれんだー	K-2	Core	chart that shows days and months
day	日	ひ	K-2	Core	a unit of time
month	月	つき	K-2	Useful	one part of a year
year	年	とし	K-2	Useful	twelve months together
before	前	まえ	K-2	Core	earlier in time
after	後	あと	K-2	Core	later in time
change	変化	へんか	K-2	Core	to become different over time

Economics

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
need	必要	ひつよう	K-2	Core	something people must have
want	ほしいもの	ほしいもの	K-2	Core	something people would like to have
food need	食べ物の必要	たべもののひつよう	K-2	Useful	food people need to live
shelter	住む場所	すむばしょ	K-2	Core	place where people live safely
clothing need	着る物の必要	きるもののひつよう	K-2	Useful	clothes people need to wear
goods	品物	しなもの	K-2	Core	things people buy or use
services	サービス	さーびす	K-2	Useful	work people do for others
money	お金	おかね	K-2	Core	what people use to buy things
buy	買う	かう	K-2	Core	to get something with money
sell	売る	うる	K-2	Useful	to give something for money
save	ためる	ためる	K-2	Core	to keep money for later
spend	使う	つかう	K-2	Core	to use money to buy something
job	仕事	しごと	K-2	Core	work a person does
worker	働く人	はたらくひと	K-2	Useful	person who does a job
store	店	みせ	K-2	Core	place where people buy things
choice	選択	せんたく	K-2	Useful	decision between two or more things

Inquiry

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
question	質問	しつもん	K-2	Core	something you ask to learn more
answer	答え	こたえ	K-2	Core	response to a question
observe	観察する	かんさつする	K-2	Core	to look carefully
look closely	よく見る	よくみる	K-2	Core	to pay careful attention
notice	気づく	きづく	K-2	Core	to see or learn something
compare	比べる	くらべる	K-2	Core	to see how things are alike or different
same	同じ	おなじ	K-2	Core	not different

different	違う	ちがう	K-2	Core	not the same
picture	絵	え	K-2	Core	image that shows something
photograph	写真	しゃしん	K-2	Useful	real picture taken with a camera
artifact	資料	しりょう	K-2	Useful	object from the past
story	お話	おはなし	K-2	Core	telling about people or events
information	情報	じょうほう	K-2	Core	facts you learn
fact	事実	じじつ	K-2	Useful	something that is true
evidence	証拠	しょうこ	K-2	Useful	details that help show something is true
describe	説明する	せつめいする	K-2	Core	to tell about something with words
tell why	わけを話す	わけをはなす	K-2	Useful	to explain a reason
sequence	順番	じゅんばん	K-2	Useful	the order things happen

Civics (sorted)

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
doctor	医者	いしゃ	K-2	Core	person who helps sick people
family	家族	かぞく	K-2	Core	people who care for one another
firefighter	消防士	しょうぼうし	K-2	Core	community worker who fights fires
helper	手伝う人	てつだうひと	K-2	Core	person who helps others
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mayor	市長	しちょう	K-2	Useful	leader of a city or town
neighbor	近所の人	きんじょのひと	K-2	Useful	person living nearby
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Culture (sorted)

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
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celebration	お祝い	おいわい	K-2	Core	special event with people together
clothing	服	ふく	K-2	Useful	things people wear
culture	文化	ぶんか	K-2	Useful	shared ways people live and celebrate
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symbol	象徴	しょうちょう	K-2	Useful	picture or object that stands for something
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English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
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Geography (sorted)

English	日本語	よみ	Grade	Priority	Student note / use
bridge	橋	はし	K-2	Useful	structure that crosses water or a road
hill	丘	おか	K-2	Useful	raised land smaller than a mountain
lake	湖	みずうみ	K-2	Useful	water surrounded by land
land	陸	りく	K-2	Core	solid ground
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History (sorted)

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