Washoku and Food Education in Japan



Yoko Kano UNC-Wilmington

North Carolina Teaching Asia Network (NCTAN)

UNESCO World Heritage

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2013

- "..the panel valued the spiritual tradition of respecting nature associated with washoku.."
- The nomination highlighted three features of washoku
 - various fresh ingredients,
 - balanced nutrition ("Shoku-iku" at schools) and
 - seasonal aesthetic presentation

seasonal aesthetic presentation.

 In Japanese government's definition: Washoku is a customary social practice expressing "respect for nature" and serving to strengthen the bonds of family and community



Today's presentation focuses

Characteristics of "washoku"



- Features fresh ingredients, making the most of natural flavors
- Well-balanced and contributes to healthy eating
- 3 Expresses natural beauty
- 4 Has strong ties to social events and customs

Fresh Ingredients

- Smaller space (refrigerator)
- More functions (compartments) in the fridge
- Glossary Shopping everyday
- Discount time sales





Nutrition: Ichi Juu Ichi sai (one soup, one vegetable)



Tsukemono, Picked Vegetables

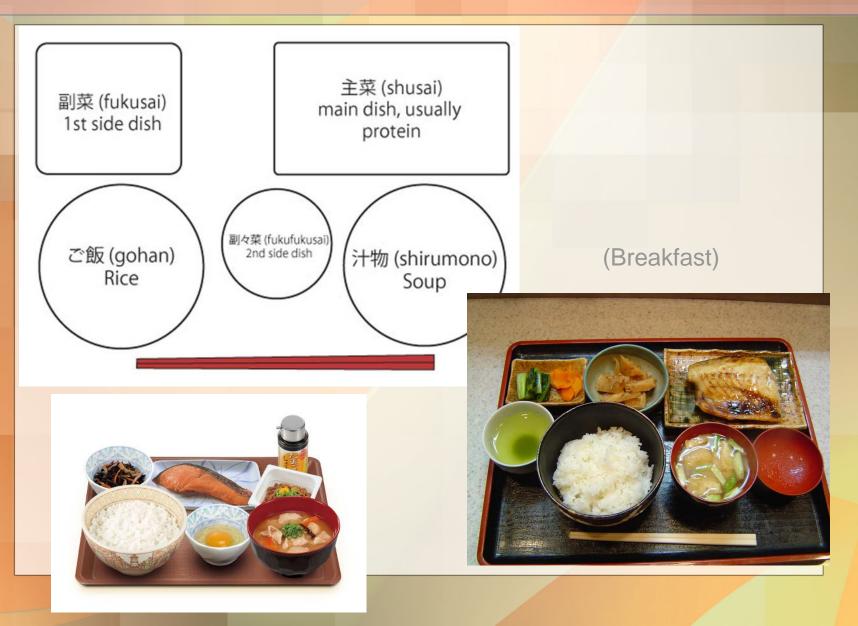
- Rice with different fermented foods
 - Miso (soup)
 - Tsukemono (pickled vegetables)
 - Soy sauce



Nobles vs Commoners



Styles of Eating



Fast food in Japan

- Mos burger'sRice burger
- KFC's rice balls
- Pizza in Japan
- Fast service
- Western style breakfast







Japanese Pizza

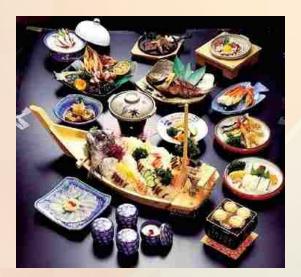
辛いメキシカンボークと新鮮なレタス、トマトが大人気 のり、しその重かおいしさをさらに引き立てます! アンチョビのおいしさをどうを! 2.4 1135 V1.100 #2,100 V3.000 7517 V1.300 V2.300 V3.200 ±1,000 ±1,800 ±2,700 10 ノルディック *1,000 = 1,800 = 1-25日ち/しめし/ サチノコノの川/しその第 ¥1.200 ¥2.000 ¥2.900 ¥ ¥1.200 ¥2.000 ¥2.900 夏の辛口ビザ、辛いレッドペッパーとビリカラチョリソー 4つの味をお楽しみください! スパイスがきいて、 やめられないおいしさ! OKonomi-¥700 クワトロ AL. 2.1 5.19 ・ファトドリンク 475 ¥350 ¥ 250 ¥150 yaki 1,800 +1,800+2700 プレミアムアイスクリーム ●ナチョクルホテトワライ ●コーンサラダ イタリアンキョのみ Mサイズ # ¥2.000 ¥2.900 AUT ¥ 300 ¥250 ¥ 250





Health (& nutritional balance)

 This makes it possible to serve a course of dishes with 65 food items totaling 1,000 kilocalories. By contrast, one plate of spaghetti carbonara packs 1,200 kilocalories





Kaiseki at Japanese Inn



Healthfulness

- The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry stressed "washoku" as a factor behind the nation's low obesity rate and longevity
- Japan's obesity rate stands at 3.9 percent (vs 20% in the West)
- "Dashi "the Basic Japanese stock (zero calorie) and minimum use of animal oil and fat

Dashi and Umami

Sea Kelp and Dried Bonito flakes



Dried Bonito Flakes







HON

AIINOMOTO.

After one hour heating



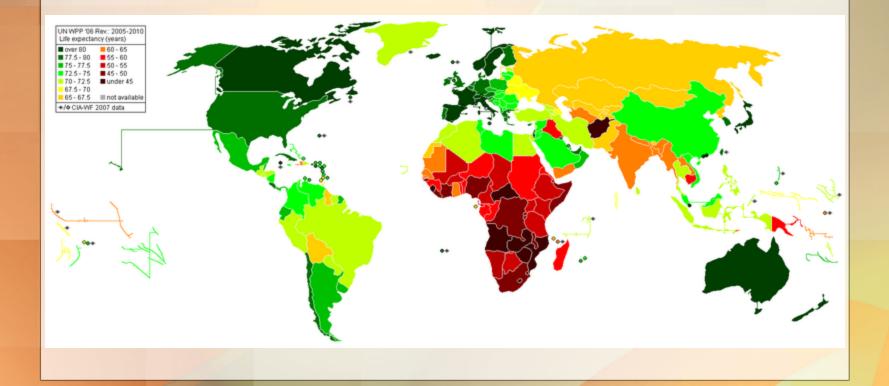
Kombu





25~30ml

Average longevity is 85.30 years old for men and women (84.46 in 2014)
The World Factbook (CIA)



Social&Cultural Events and Community: Nabe, Hot Pot



Sumo wrestler's Nabe



Traditional New Year's Food in Japan

Osechi Ryori and Meaning Behind it



Most Common ingredients for the New Year (appetizer)



Symbolism and messages/wishes



an unobstructed view of the future.

Presenting Nature/Season



Which season is thiss?







Presenting Nature/Season Traditional Sweets, Wagashi



Wagashi & Seasonal Presentation









Wagashi (Which season is this?)







Style of Eating

- Sense/feeling of Seasons
- Kaiseki (full course dinner)
- Hot Pot (Nabe) communal dishes
- · Teppan yaki (Hibachi, 火鉢)



Hibachi & 火鉢



Teppan yaki



Teppanyaki, Grill on iron plate

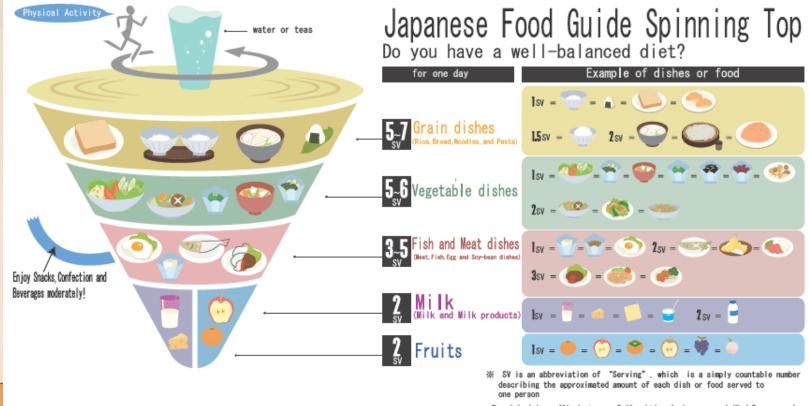


Shokuiku, Food Education

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in Japan

Food Balance Guide

http://www.maff.go.jp/food_guide/eng_reiari.pdf



Decided by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and Ministry of Agriculture. Forestry and Fisheries.

School Lunch

- Elementary school 99.1 % (4301yen/month)
- Middle school 88.1% (4921yen/month)

(The Statics by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Oct.2017.)

- 89% of parents prefer more rice for school lunch (Rice is served 2.9 times a week/ 11.7 times a month)
- 87% of parents thinks school lunch is effective for correcting unhealthy eating habit.

(Survey by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries at 4 conferences. http://www8.cao.go.jp/syokuiku/data/whitepaper/2006/book/html/06sh0202030.html)

School Lunch at elementary schools



School Lunch at elementary schools





Video on school lunch and cleaning https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hL5mKE4e4uU



School Lunch samples



山口

Create a lunch within a guidelines such as limited cost, calories by using local specialty

ingredients.

School Garden



School Lunch at middle schools











お弁当 Obento (Lunch boxes)





mogumog

※写真は、2,500円のお弁当です



























Tradition and Culture Osechi Ryori (New Year Dishes)



Mochi Tsuki, Rice Padding











Traditions (social events & Customs)

- Jan. Osechi Ryori
- Feb. Beans
- Mar. Girls festival





- April Celebration for new school year (osekihan)
- May Boy's festival
- July-Aug Obon Festival
- Sept. Moon viewing
- Oct. Sports Day (Bento)
- Dec. New Year's even noodle





What is Washoku?

- Three features of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Nomination
 - various fresh ingredients,
 - balanced nutrition ("Shoku-iku" at schools)
 - seasonal aesthetic presentation (association with the nature)
- Japanese government
 Made after nature (respect for nature)
 Serving to strengthen the bonds of family and community

Bento Recipes

Plenty of ideas:

- <u>http://www.cookingcute.com/recipes.</u> <u>htm</u>
- <u>http://www.c4vct.com/kym/bento/recipes.htm</u>
 Making sushi rice:
 <u>http://www.bento.com/trt-sushirice.html</u>
 Good tips: Wrap rice and make it into rice balls.
 sample pictures at <u>http://justbento.com/</u>

References

Balance Guide is downloaded from:

- English version (with sample meals): <u>http://www.maff.go.jp/food_guide/en</u> <u>g_reiari.pdf</u>
- English version (without sample meals):
 - http://www.maff.go.jp/j/balance_guid e/b_use/pdf/eng_reiari.pdf
- Shokuiku (food education) publication: <u>http://www.maff.go.jp/e/pdf/shokuik</u> <u>u.pdf</u>

Resources

 The Meaning Behind Osechi Ryori: Traditional New Year's Food in Japan <u>https://savvytokyo.com/osechi-ryori-hidden-meanings-behind-japanese-new-year-food/</u>

Recipes:

<u>https://en.cookpad.com/</u>

Power Point and more resources at

NCTAN.org

Thank you for coming today!