

Before you watch

Work with a partner and answer the questions.

- 1 What is the national costume of Japan?
- 2 What do you know about this national costume?
- 3 Has your country got a national costume?
- 4 Do you think it's important for a country to have a national costume? Why / Why not?

While you watch**1 Introducing Mrs Kumakura**

Listen to Rebecca and Anand. Answer the questions.

- 1 Has Rebecca worn a kimono before?
- 2 Where does Mrs Kumakura live?
- 3 What is Mrs Kumakura going to tell them about?

2 The history of the kimono

Listen to Mrs Kumakura and her daughters. Mark the sentences *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 People started wearing kimonos 13 thousand years ago. ☐
- 2 The style of the kimono never changes. ☐
- 3 Most young Japanese people like to wear western-style clothes. ☐
- 4 The kimono worn for royal weddings has 12 layers and weighs 20 kilograms. ☐
- 5 There are different kimonos for spring and autumn. ☐
- 6 You can wear the cherry design kimono any time. ☐

3 Pronunciation

Linking sounds in the past simple

Listen to the sentences and underline the linking sounds.

- 1 Do you know how it began?
- 2 It came from a part of Japan called Jomon.
- 3 People started wearing kimonos about 13 thousand years ago.
- 4 Kimonos don't look the same as they did all that time ago, do they?

4 Rebecca tries on a kimono

Watch Rebecca trying on a kimono. Put the pictures in the correct order. Write 1–5 in the boxes.

**After you watch**

Work with a partner. Write about your national costume. Write about:

- how old it is
- when people wear it
- what it looks like

THE KIMONO

My national costume is the kimono. It's 13 thousand years old.

My favourite kimono is the Tamesode.

We wear

1

The Mag: The kimono

Programme overview

SUMMARY

In this programme the presenters of *The Mag*, Rebecca and Anand, visit the home of Mrs Kumakura, a Japanese lady who lives in England. She and her two daughters, Lala and Miu, tell the presenters all about the kimono, the national costume of Japan. Mrs Kumakura has a strong Japanese accent which may at times be quite challenging for your students. Her daughters, on the other hand, have lived in America and have clear, American accents.

LANGUAGE

This programme corresponds to Units 1 and 2 of *English in Mind* Second edition Level 2. It could also be used with the *Culture in Mind* section about Japan in Unit 6.

Grammar: Past simple review (Unit 1)

Pronunciation: Linking sounds in the past simple (Unit 1.7)

Reading: Culture – Japan (5.9)

Before you watch

This task introduces the theme of this programme – national costumes. Get students to work in pairs to discuss the questions. When the task is completed, ask a few students to tell you their answers. Note that the national costume of Japan is the kimono.

While you watch

1 Introducing Mrs Kumakura

This introduction is designed to check students understand the topic of this programme. Ask students to watch Section 1 and answer the questions.

Answers

- 1 No, she hasn't.
- 2 She lives in England.
- 3 The kimono.

2 The history of the kimono

Allow students time to read the sentences. Watch Section 2 and ask students to mark the sentences true or false. To extend the task, ask students to correct the false sentences.

Answers

- 1 T
- 2 F (The style of the kimono has changed several times.)
- 3 T
- 4 T
- 5 F (There are kimonos for winter and summer.)
- 6 F (The cherry design kimono can only be worn in March.)

3 Pronunciation

This task practises linking sounds in the past simple. Before starting this task, you may want to refer students to the pronunciation practice in Unit 1. Then watch Section 2 and ask students to underline the linking sounds. They may need to listen more than once.

Answers

- 1 Do you know how it began?
- 2 It came from a part of Japan called Jomon.
- 3 People started wearing kimonos about 13 thousand years ago.
- 4 Kimonos don't look the same as they did all that time ago, do they?

4 Rebecca tries on a kimono

Before watching Section 3, ask students to look at the pictures and the words. Then watch this section and ask students to put the pictures in the correct order. Note that in the programme Rebecca puts on two undergarments, which is why there are two possible sets of answers.

Answers

a 2 b 5 c 3 d 4 e 1 or a 3 b 5 c 2 d 4 e 1

After you watch

This activity could be used as a mini-project if time permits. Put students into small groups or pairs. Tell them they are going to write an article about their national costume. Encourage students to discuss the history of the costume. Students could refer to the *Culture in Mind* article, Unit 2, for ideas. They should try to describe their national costume in as much detail as Mrs Kumakura when she talks about the kimono.