

# Osaka Castle

## A. Introduction

### Background of the topic:

On the former site of the Ishiyama Honganji Temple, the construction of Osaka Castle (Ōsakajō) started in 1583. Toyotomi Hideyoshi who is a warrior, hoping to make the castle to become the center of a new, unified Japan under Toyotomi rule. It was the largest castle at the time.

However, a few years after Toyotomi's death, in 1615, the castle was attacked and destroyed by the Tokugawa troops. The Toyotomi lineage was also terminated. Osaka Castle was then rebuilt by Tokugawa Hidetada in the 1620s, unfortunately, its main castle tower was struck by lightning in 1665 and burnt down.

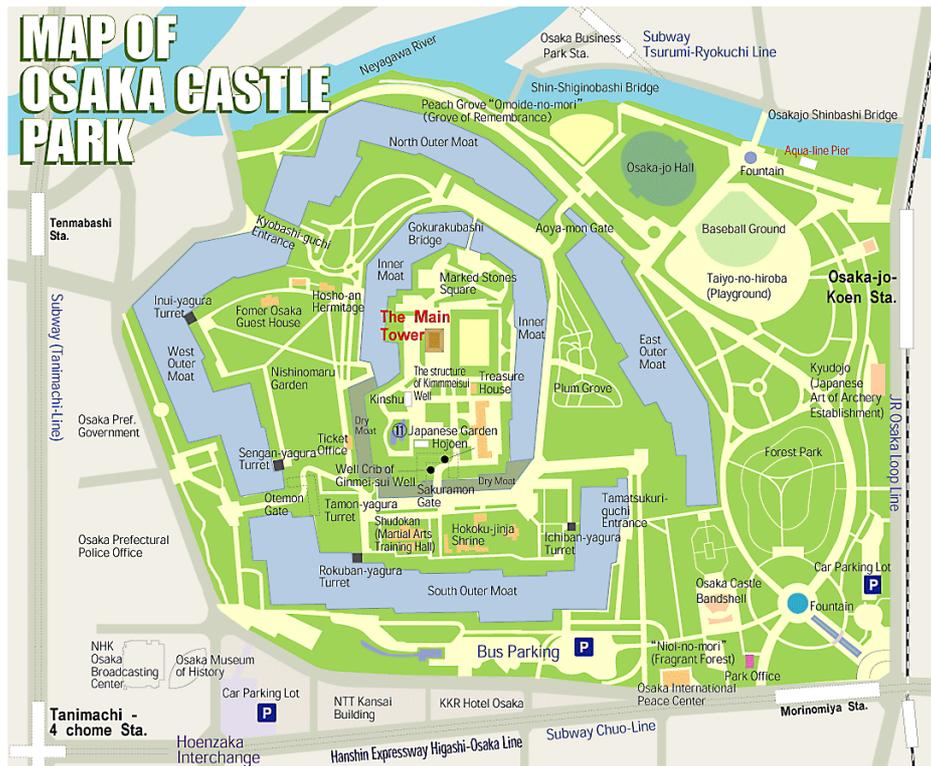
Until 1931, the present ferro-concrete reconstruction of the castle tower was built. During the war, the Osaka Castle was miraculously survived in the city wide air raids. In 1997, the major repair works gave the castle new glamor. The castle tower is now entirely modern on the inside and even features an elevator for easier accessibility. It houses an informative museum about the castle's history and Toyotomi Hideyoshi.

### Objectives of Osaka Castle:

Osaka Castle is the symbol of Osaka, which has been handed through the drama in history to present days, we hope to investigate the following objectives:

- i. The values of the Osaka Castle(educational, architectural, historical)
- ii. The impacts of the Osaka Castle towards visitors

### Area of Osaka Castle:



## B. Methodology

### Choice of method:

Since we are running out of time, we can only take photos of the Osaka Castle.

Questionnaires and interviews are not available.

### Classification of the studying target:

1. Topic: To investigate the values and impacts of Osaka Castle.

2. Focus:

- i. What makes the Osaka Castle such mighty building?
- ii. How can the Osaka Castle influence the visitors?

3. Foresee problems and solution

As assessing the Osaka Castle Museum requires admission fee, we replaced investigating the relative sources in the museum by doing researches online. This also prevents overcrowding and insufficient time for visiting.

### Background of the topic:

<https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e4000.html>

## C. Literature Review

In the web page of the Osaka Castle, we can know that it can be divided into three parts. They are the castle, the museum and the park. Each part of them have their own history.

First, Osaka Castle is widely known as an emblem of the power and fortune of Hideyoshi Toyotomi. Since its construction, Osaka Castle repeatedly featured as the battleground of the major wars in Japanese history and it has been popular with both domestic and overseas tourists as a historic site which has been handed down through the above-mentioned historical dramas to today.

Second, Osaka Castle Museum has a large variety of historical materials and the screen displays well-designed for all visitors including children. The diorama on the 7th floor contains 19 scenes from the life of Hideyoshi Toyotomi, Karakuri Taikoki, his image shown and moved around by high technology.

Third, Osaka Castle Park opened in 1931 and covers an area of 106.7 hectare which is colorfully embellished. You can see about 600 cherry trees, including someiyoshino in Nishinomaru Garden. About 95 kinds of Japanese apricot flowers, 1250 trees in total bloom in Ume Grove, and in Omoide-no-mori (Grove of Remembrance), you can enjoy beautiful autumn colored leaves.

As the Osaka Castle is the first sight-seeing spot of our visit in Japan, therefore it is more remarkable. Not only the cherry trees, but also the stone inside are attractive. It can show us the environment of the early Japan period. The stone walls are consisted of numbers of huge stones and they are the symbols of the solid defenses of the Tokugawa-built Osaka Castle.

Although the Osaka Castle becomes a prestigious landmark of Japan, the process to strive is very difficult. Not only Rome, but also Osaka was not built in a day. Therefore, we should treasure the opportunities to succeed.

The value of Osaka Castle (educational, historical, architectural)

## Report

The Osaka Castle was built by Toyotomi Hideyoshi in 1583, and it symbolized the ruling of Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Besides, it can help people have a better understanding of the history of Japan especially the Sengoku Period. The Osaka castle was built again in the Edo period, after the Toyotomi clan was defeated by the Edo clan.

In 1868, the Osaka Castle was totally destroyed due to the Battle of Toba-Fushimi, and it was rebuilt in 1928. The castle was rebuilt with cement, and the castle was painted in white which is the color used in Edo period. However, the top of the castle was painted in black which is the color symbolize the Toyotomi clan. Also the castle was built in curved shape, which is beautiful and shockproof.

Although the castle was only built less than 100 years, there were a lot of exhibition in the museum of Tensu. In the exhibition, there is an introduction of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, and how the castle was built at that time. Visitors can also try on the costumes available in the castle.

## Analysis

By visiting the Osaka Castle, visitors can understand more about Sengoku Period. In the museum, visitors can know more about the summer campaign which the Edo clan defeated the Toyotomi clan. Also, visitors can also know about the costumes of the Japanese at that period of time.

Although the Osaka castle is not a historical building, there is a historical site buried under the Osaka Castle. The current castle still keeps the gold rooftop of the original design, visitors can still understand the architecture style of the Sengoku Period.

## Chapter 5

The impacts of the Osaka Castle toward visitors

Report

Since there is not sufficient time, data is not available

### Analysis

As a tourist, I don't think the Osaka Castle is worth visiting, although it has a beautiful scenery. It is just a vintage castle placed in a beautiful historical site.

The only meaningful place is the museum, which is the place where visitors can learn something about the ancient Japan.

During the visit, the following impressed me most. For example, shachihoko can still be seen on the rooftop on the new Osaka Castle. And elevators can be seen in the structure of the Osaka Castle, also, the current Tensu was built from cement, whereas the original one was built with wood, which is more shockproof, and can prevent the castle being destroyed by lightning. This shows that the new technology can assimilate into the current castle, which can bring a more comfortable journey to visitors.

## 6. Conclusion

As mentioned above, the Osaka castle is rich in Japanese history. Even though it was once destroyed, it was built again in the Edo period which makes it special and more valuable. Through the visit of the Osaka castle, visitors can know more about the Japanese culture during Edo period, for example, the costumes of the Japanese and the summer campaign. No doubt that it has a beautiful scenery as well.

The structure of the Osaka castle is worth visiting as well. The original design of it can prevent the castle being destroyed by the lightning, now that it was changed with cement. There are also new technology to help visitors to enjoy a better journey.

All in all, through the visit of the Osaka castle, the Osaka castle help visitors acknowledge the history of the ancient Japan.

## 7. Reflection

Day One

It was evening when our class arrived. After enjoying dinner, we went to Wai Tan, one of the famous tourist spots in Shanghai where we could find many shops nearby.

I was attracted by the night view of Shanghai. There were more tourists than I had imagined, that made Wai Tan a little bit crowded. Having said that, I was thrilled when I saw the stunning view of Shanghai.

#### Day two

We went to the sister school on day two. It was fun to have PE and biology lesson with the students there. We also enjoyed lunch, went for a walk with them. They were friendly that they introduced their campus to us and talked with us. Then, we went to museum, which is about the history of Chinese fighting against the Japanese in the early 20th century. We also went to a museum introducing the history of the development of railway in China.

We woke up early today. The morning view of Shanghai was beautiful. The campus of the school we had visited was so much bigger than I had expected. I think it was three times bigger than our school. It was great to get to know about Chinese modern history and how they live now. The experience was unforgettable!

#### Day Three

We went to Japan on day three. Once we had landed, we went to the Osaka Castle. It was a famous historic building in Japan. We had learned a lot of Osaka history during our visit. We, then, went to Shinsai Bashi for our dinner. We also enjoyed the night view of Osaka before heading to the hotel.

The castle was big and gorgeous! It was a great day with blue sky and nice weather. The one who led us was kind enough to share her experience when she lived in Japan and taught us a lot about Japanese culture, which was interesting.

#### Day Four

First, we visited a museum. The architecture shown in it was stunning. Afterward, we went a park to clean up the rubbish there, some Japanese students joined us. We had a great time with them. We headed to a temple and were surrounded by sakuka before going to have our dinner.

Sakuka was what impressed me the most. We enjoyed different views of Japan, and I had a great time with the Japanese students, we even exchanged our phone number and took pictures.

#### Day Five

We visited temple in Nara. We were amused by the amount of deer. After having lunch in Nara, we went to create our own cup noodle. Besides creating cup noodle, we had also learned about the history of it.

The deer in Nara were so polite that they nodded before asking for food. Some of them were rude though, they took biscuit from my hand. Despite that, the temple we entered was huge. There were many gods in it and everything was spiritual there.

## Bibliography and Appendix

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