

GRAND TOUR REPORT

5D GROUP 2



Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Background of the topic

The topic chosen is the living habits of the Shanghai people and the Japanese. Although we are Chinese, Hong Kong people and Shanghai people have obvious differences on living habits. In the following chapters, there will be some detailed information about food culture, transportation and housing design in the two destinations and Hong Kong. As a student raised in Hong Kong, the education received is different from both Shanghai and Japan. The living habits change due to the environment and location of the city. The main difference is that there is no serious natural hazards occur in Hong Kong like earthquake and tsunami, while both Shanghai people and Japanese may have the chance to face these disasters. That is the main factor leading to the differences on certain aspects between Hong Kong and the two destinations.

1.2 Objectives of the project

The topic is about differences on living habit between the two destinations and Hong Kong. There are 3 objectives chosen to discuss in the project based on living habits.

1. Living habit on food culture
2. Living habit on transportation
3. Differences on housing design

Chapter 2 Methodology

1. Choice of method

In order to collect informative data, our group used interview to collect data.

2. Classification of the studying target

Topic: housing design of Shanghai and Japan

Focus of the project: To find out the differences between the living habits due to different housing design of Shanghai and Japan through data collection.

3. Target group

Shanghai: 3 students from Shibe Senior High School

Japan: 3 citizens

We targeted three respondents from three different places because we would like to explore and learn about the difference in living habits in different places.

4. Questions asked in the interview

- ✓ Estimate the number of storeys in the residential buildings in Japan.
 - a) 0-4 b) 5-10 c) 11-15
- ✓ State the differences of housing designs between Shanghai and Japan.
- ✓ Why is there such a difference in housing design between Shanghai and Japan?

5. Problems faced and solutions

- ✓ It is hard to communicate with Japanese because of language problem
 - Do more preparation work by learning how to speak Japanese
 - Use online translators in the interviews
 - Illustrate photos for explaining the questions
- ✓ Low efficiency and time-consuming
 - Ask closed questions instead of open-ended ones
- ✓ Not every respondent is willing to do interview with us
 - To firstly introduce ourselves and explain the purpose of interviewing before asking questions
- ✓ The data collected is uncertain and unreliable because there may be personal bias in between the questions asked.

Chapter 3 Literature Review

Fukuoka

1. Canal City

Canal City is the largest shopping mall in Fukuoka. Attractions such as restaurants, game centres or cloths. The fifth floor consists of the "Ramen Stadium", which has eight ramen shops with noodle dishes from across Japan, including the local specialty Hakata Ramen.

We tasted the traditional ramen in Canal City . It really impressed us as the taste is really unforgettable and tasty. We spent a crazy night in Canal City and brought lots of things. Although some shops are same with Hong Kong such as Uniqlo or H&M, we still enjoyed very much there.

2. The Bund, Shanghai

The Bund, also called Waitan or Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu (East Zhongshan 1st Road), is a famous waterfront and regarded as the symbol of Shanghai.

Along the road, it is a little bit like Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong. The dizzy lights and neon lights shining around the road. The most astonished building are the banks, Shang Hai Commercial Bank Buliding, HSBC Bank Building and Bank of Communications Building. Also the style of buildings really bodern our horizon. From Gothic style to modernism style. The night view of The Bund really make our eyes pop out.

3.Shanghai Filmstudio Tour

We always watch movie and TV drama and doubted about the spot sites inside the flims. From 60s industry to modern buildings, we are suspicious about whether the places are really existing in the real world. From the Filmstudio, it really suprised me a lot. The architecture of the time- from traditional houses and churches to the European-style architecture of the period. The studio also has an extensive costume and prop collection. We took lots of photoes in thr place and be the memeroy part of our trip.

Chapter 4 Findings

Our group did a series of interviews to find out the differences between the living habits housing design of Shanghai and Japan.

For the first question, “estimate the number of storeys in the residential buildings in Japan.” Our group took 34 bulidings for the research. According to the result, 29 buildings are 5 to 10 storeys and 4 buildings are 0 to 4 storeys.

For the second question, “State the differences of housing designs between Shanghai and Japan”. First, both Japan’s and Shanghai’s interviewers answered the housing design were high rise buildings. However, 3 of the Japan’s interviewers stated that Japan’s buildings have roof top and earthquakes proof

design, while 2 interviewers of Shanghai claimed that Shanghai's buildings have decoration.

For the third question, "Why there is such a difference in housing design between Shanghai and Japan?", all 3 of the interviewers from Japan stated that the design is to prevent houses from collapsing in case of earthquakes, tsunami and volcanic eruptions, in which these natural hazards cause the loss of property and life. Also, the interviewers from Shanghai claimed that there were such differences due to a relatively smaller population density.

Chapter 5 Analysis

Generally speaking, Japan, Shanghai and Hong Kong have high-rise buildings in their central hubs. Yet, high-rise buildings is the predominant building structure in Hong Kong while low-rise buildings are dominant in Fukuoka City, Japan and Shanghai.

In Japan, as a remedy of the risk of natural hazards like earthquake and tsunami, they adopted earthquake-proof building design and mainly low-rise building structures. It can prevent them from suffering a greatest loss in facing of hazards. They can soon recover from the hazards by taking remedial work effectively and easier due to the hazard-proof buildings.

On the other hand, most of the Japanese buildings has its own history, as traditional houses can be found everywhere. These traditional houses have decades of history and they are usually no more than four storeys high.

Shanghai, as one of the well-developed cities in China, has high-rise buildings and some of them can even be up to hundreds of storeys high. In Pudong, the buildings are mainly in low-rise buildings and usually only a few storeys or twenty something storeys high. Compared with Hong Kong, the height of buildings in Shanghai are much lower than Hong Kong. One major reason is that Shanghai is much larger than Hong Kong in terms of man-land ratio.

Hong Kong is well known for its small and crowded environment in housing and public space. In order to accommodate the increasing population growth, vertical development is mainly adopted. Therefore, the height of buildings in Hong Kong is usually up to forty or even fifty something storeys.

In a nutshell, vertical development is the predominant design of building in Hong Kong as there is a lack of land. For Japan and Shanghai, they have more places for development so the height of buildings are usually lower than Hong Kong.

Chapter 6 Conclusion

In conclusion, food culture, transport and building in Hong Kong, Japan and Shanghai differ a lot. We can observe that the culture of a place can be affected by its longstanding habit, weather, and one of the most significant factors, natural hazard. For example, the height of buildings are low because of more earthquake and more land for development. Every culture in a place is so unique that we should respect it and in this memorable Grand Tour, we are glad that we could experience different kinds of culture in these three places.

Chapter 7 Reflection

The First Day

It was a busy day as we were taking transportation all day. All of us were quite excited to arrive at school. The grand tour had held all of us in eager anticipation for several months, especially the trip of Japan.

When we first landed in Shanghai, there was distinct differences in temperature. The cool weather had freshen us up after some rest in the plane. As the plane was delayed, two landscapes were postponed to the next night. So we were a little bit disappointed.

It was a tired day but we were all pleased and looked forward to the experience in the following days.

5D Chan Miu Fan

We were so excited before grand tour. Although we needed to attend the first 4 lessons before we head to the airport, it still did not spoil our mood. We all were over the moon and couldn't sleep before the trip.

After the long flight, we finally arrived Shanghai. Everyone was shocked by the low temperature in Shanghai. We were a little bit disappointed as we all expected that we could try traditional Shanghai food. However we still had a good time with classmates and teachers. It was exhausted after we arrived at hotel. Everyone had a sweet dream and couldn't wait for next day.

The Second Day

We had a tight schedule today due to the late departure yesterday. We had an exchange program with our sister school in the morning followed by a visit to Song Qingling Cemetery and the Shanghai Film Park. At night, we went to the well-known Waitan and Nanjing Road Walkway to admire the western design of buildings.

The most unforgettable moments was the time I spent at the sister school. I joined a form 4 class, and had a Chinese lesson with them. Everyone focused on the poem and analysed the hidden message of the poem. They were all very active and disciplined. They tried to give to-the-point answers with detailed explanations and were not afraid to make mistakes. I think that is what Hong Kong students should learn from them.

I met some buddies who were all very passionate about exchanging ideas with me. We talked about my school and my school life in Hong Kong. They were willing to chat more with me and exchange ideas. Although we just met for a few hours, we were like meeting old friends. I was glad to see them. I'll never forget the time I spent with them and the laughters we had at the sister school.

5D Lo Ho Yin

The Third Day

On the third day of the grand tour, we woke up early to take the flight from Shanghai to Fukuoka. It was a fulfilling day.

After landing, we went to Kushida Shrine. We were surprised as the scenery was amazing. Some of us prayed and drew divinations at the temple. No matter in terms of family or study, we all were curious about our own futures. Even though some of us drew an unfortunate divinations, it was undeniably an unforgettable experience for us.

After that, we went to Canal City. Everyone was excited because we were all given time to wander off and enjoy our dinner in the shopping paradise. We did try Japanese ramen as it is one of the must-eat cuisine in Japan. After two hours of shopping, we were all contented with what we bought. Though it was an eventful day and we did not have enough sleep, we were very happy that we learned more about the traditional and modern culture of Japan.

5D Chow Chin Ching

The Fourth Day

On the fourth day of the trip, we kicked off our clean-up activities of Marine Beach Park under a nice weather.

At first, our class could not believe the garbage we see on the beach in spite of the cleanliness we observed in the city. There were glass bottles, shoes and even dangerous medical waste on the beach. We were all surprised by the immense and limitless ocean but also the countless garbage. Soon, we wholly immersed ourselves into the picking up of garbage, even having a competition to see who can pick up the largest amount of rubbish. Although it was tiring, we were proud of ourselves that we spared no effort in conserving the environment in Japan.

Later, we went to the Miike Coal Mine which had been included in the World Heritage Site in 2005. It was such a marvellous experience to visit there as it enriched our knowledge in Geography.

5D Leung Hoi Ching

The Fifth Day

Finally it reached the climax of the grand tour. We visited the Aso volcano and the farm nearby. After the fatiguing long drive, we finally arrived at the volcano.

After we arrived at the museum, we visited an exhibition which introduced Aso volcano. In the exhibition, we watched an animation which described the formation of Aso volcano and the benefits it brought. Luckily, we study geography and are familiar with tectonic movements, so we understood the animation easily. Not only we learnt more about volcano, but we also marvelled the stunning mountainous scenery. We took many scenic photos and we had a lot of fun there.

Later, we went to the farm nearby and had a buffet lunch there. We also brought some souvenirs in the shops, most of them the merchandise of Kumamon.

5D Ip Yee Lam

On the fifth day of the grand tour, we were so excited to visit the Aso volcano and the farm nearby. We took an extremely long ride before reaching the volcano.

After we reached the destination, we visited the exhibition about Aso volcano. In the exhibition, we watched an animation about Aso volcano and the benefits brought by the volcano. Luckily, it related to one of the geography's chapter 'Risk and Opportunity', so we understood the key concepts easily. It actually made our revision of this chapter easier as we did a case study of the Aso volcano!

Later, we went to a farm nearby and had lunch there. Also, we brought some souvenirs in the shops. It helped us understand how the geography of a place affects their local products and thus its economy.

5D Lau Tsun Ming

The Sixth Day

Last day of the trip served as the last chapter of our whole fulfilling trip. We woke up early to take the flight from Fukuoka to Shanghai. After this flight, we still had a flight from Shanghai to Hong Kong.

We were already missing every valuable moment in Japan. Clean-up activities of Midairway Marine Park, visiting Aso, having class gathering in the hotel corridor, those were some precious times we had. All of us were taking our bulky luggage and saying 'arigatou' to our bus driver.

Later, we took our last class photo with our Japanese tour guide Mr Philip Yang. We thanked his nonstop introduction and answers to our questions at each spot. Thanks to him, we created a unique memory in Japan.

5D Tang Chi Yin