



App 10

The Polyglots at the Pet Park

Japanese

Students help out at a pet day-care centre that looks and feels like a happy pet park. They learn nouns and adjectives for various pets and responses to 'What is it?'

Learning experiences

Playspace

The playspace is set in a cheerful pet-care centre that is like a pet park. Students can engage in activities with pets while using the target language.



Australian Curriculum links

Communicating:

- Informing – Locate items of information in simple texts such as charts, songs, rhymes, video clips and anime to complete guided tasks (ACLJAC112)

Language

Japanese

ペット

みて！ペット！

スライド パズル

フォトブース

みて！

うわー！とりです！

おんがく！うたいましょう！

にゃー！

ひひーん！

うわー！おおきい さかな！

あ！ちいさい さかな！

しろい うさぎ！

くろい うさぎ！

なん ですか。

とり です。

Rōmaji

Petto

Mite! Petto!

suraido pazuru

foto buusu

Mite!

Uwaa! Tori desu!

Ongaku! Utaimashou!

nyaa!

hihiin!

Uwaa! Ookii sakana!

A! Chiisai sakana!

Shiroi usagi!

Kuroi usagi!

Nan desu ka.

Tori desu.

English

Pets [signage]

Look! Pets!

A puzzle

A photo booth

Look!

Wow! It's a bird!

Music! Let's sing!

Meow! (cultural noise)

Neigh! (cultural noise)

Wow! A big fish!

Oh! A little fish!

A white rabbit!

A black rabbit!

What is it?

It's a bird!

Pet check-in

In this activity, students help a Polyglots character to check-in animals at the pet day-care centre. Once the registration form is completed, students can care for their chosen animal using a variety of tools such as soaps and combs.

Australian Curriculum links

Communicating: Informing – Locate items of information in simple texts such as charts, songs, rhymes, video clips and anime to complete guided tasks (ACLJAC112)

Translating – Create simple print or digital bilingual texts for the classroom environment, such as captions, labels and wall charts (ACLJAC117))

Understanding: Systems of language – Recognise and copy some hiragana and a few high-frequency kanji (ACLJAU121); Understand the structure of basic sentences in Japanese and recognise some key elements of Japanese grammar (ACLJAU122); Understand that language is organised as ‘text’, and that different types of texts, such as storybooks, songs, chants, labels or rhymes, have different features (ACLJAU123)

Language

Japanese	Rōmaji	English
どんな どうぶつ ですか。	Donna doubutsu desu ka.	What animal is it?
どうぶつ	Doubutsu	Animal [label]
ねこ	Neko	Cat
いぬ	Inu	Dog
うさぎ	Usagi	Rabbit
うま	Uma	Horse
ねこ です!	Neko desu!	It's a cat!
いぬ です!	Inu desu!	It's a dog!
うさぎ です!	Usagi desu!	It's a rabbit!
うま です!	Uma desu!	It's a horse!
なに いろ ですか。	Nani iro desu ka.	What colour is it?
いろ	Iro	Colour [label]
くろ	Kuro	Black
ちゃいろ	Chairo	Brown
はいいろ	Haiiro	Grey
しろ	Shiro	White
くろい ねこ です。	Kuroi neko desu.	It's a black cat!
ちゃいろ の いぬ です。	Chairo no inu desu.	It's a brown dog!
はいいろ の うさぎ です。	Haiiro no usagi desu.	It's a grey rabbit!
ちゃいろ の うま です。	Chairo no uma desu.	It's a brown horse!
マーカー	Maakaa	Texta
えんぴつ	Empitsu	Pencil

ペン	Pen	Pen
なんキロ ですか。	Nankiro desu ka.	How many kilograms is it?
おもさ	Omosa	Weight [label]
0 キロ	Zero kiro	0 kilograms
3 キロ	San kiro	3 kilograms
15 キロ	Juugo kiro	15 kilograms
20 キロ	Nijukkiro	20 kilograms
400 キロ	Yonhyakkiro	400 kilograms
650 キロ	Roppyaku gojukkiro	650 kilograms
2 キロ です!	Ni kiro desu!	It's 2 kilograms!
6 キロ です!	Rokkiro desu!	It's 6 kilograms!
11 キロ です!	Juuichi kiro desu!	It's 11 kilograms!
22 キロ です!	Nijuuni kiro desu!	It's 22 kilograms!
450 キロ です!	Yonhyaku gojukkiro desu!	It's 450 kilograms!
500 キロ です!	Gohyakkiro desu!	It's 500 kilograms!
なんセンチ ですか。	Nansenchi desu ka.	How many centimetres is it?
ながさ	Nagasa	Length [label]
0 センチ	zero senchi	0 centimetres
30 センチ	sanjussenchi	30 centimetres
45 センチ	yonjuugo senchi	45 centimetres
250 センチ	nihyaku gojussenchi	250 centimetres
300 センチ	sanbyaku senchi	300 centimetres
35 センチ です!	Sanjuugo senchi desu!	It's 35 centimetres!
50 センチ です!	Gojussenchi desu!	It's 50 centimetres!
220 センチ です!	Nihyaku nijussenchi desu!	It's 220 centimetres!
みず	Mizu	Water
せっけん	Sekken	Soap
タオル	Taoru	Towel
くし	Kushi	Comb
ブラシ	Burashi	Brush
ありがとう!	Arigatou!	Thank you!
またね!	Mata-ne!	See you later!

Animal scrambler

Students unscramble an animal puzzle and help the Polyglots characters to determine what it shows. They listen to the target language question and provide an answer by selecting Yes or No, and then hear either a confirmation response or the repeated question.

Australian Curriculum links

Communicating:

- Informing – Convey factual information about self, family, friends and significant objects, using simple statements, gestures and support materials (ACLJAC113)

Understanding:

- Systems of language – Understand the structure of basic sentences in Japanese and recognise some key elements of Japanese grammar (ACLJAU122)

Language

Japanese	Rōmaji	English
ねこ ですか。	Neko desu ka.	Is it a cat?
いぬ ですか。	Inu desu ka.	Is it a dog?
うさぎ ですか。	Usagi desu ka.	Is it a rabbit?
うま ですか。	Uma desu ka.	Is it a horse?
とり ですか。	Tori desu ka.	Is it a bird?
ハムスター ですか。	Hamusutaa desu ka.	Is it a hamster?
ピンク の ねこ ですか。	Pinku no neko desu ka.	Is it a pink cat?
あかい いぬ ですか。	Akai inu desu ka.	Is it a red dog?
オレンジいろ の いぬ ですか。	Orenji iro no inu desu ka.	Is it an orange dog?
あおい うさぎ ですか。	Aoi usagi desu ka.	Is it a blue rabbit?
みどりの うま ですか。	Midori no uma desu ka.	Is it a green horse?
あかい とり ですか。	Akai tori desu ka.	Is it a red bird?
きいろい とり ですか。	Kiiroi tori desu ka.	Is it a yellow bird?
はい、ねこ です。	Hai, neko desu!	Yes, it's a cat!
はい、とり です。	Hai, tori desu!	Yes, it's a bird!
はい、ピンク の ねこ です!	Hai, pinku no neko desu!	Yes, it's a pink cat!
はい、みどりの いぬ です!	Hai, midori no inu desu!	Yes, it's a green dog!
はい、あかい うさぎ です!	Hai, akai usagi desu!	Yes, it's a red rabbit!
はい、オレンジいろ の うま です!	Hai, orenjiiro no uma desu!	Yes, it's an orange horse!
はい、きいろい とり です!	Hai, kiiroi tori desu!	Yes, it's a yellow bird!
はい、あおい ねこ です!	Hai, aoi neko desu!	Yes, it's a blue cat!

はい、ハムスター です!	Hai, hamusutaa desu!	Yes, it's a hamster!
いいえ、いぬ です!	lie, inu desu!	No, it's a dog!
いいえ、うさぎ です!	lie, usagi desu!	No, it's a rabbit!
いいえ、ピンク の ねこ です!	lie, pinku no neko desu!	No, it's a pink cat!
いいえ、みどり の いぬ です!	lie, midori no inu desu!	No, it's a green dog!
いいえ、あかい うさぎ です!	lie, akai usagi desu!	No, it's a red rabbit!
いいえ、オレンジいろ の うま です!	lie, orenji iro no uma desu!	No, it's an orange horse!
いいえ、きいろい とり です!	lie, kiiroi tori desu!	No, it's a yellow bird!
いいえ、あおい ねこ です!	lie, aoi neko desu!	No, it's a blue cat!
いいえ、ハムスター です!	lie, hamusutaa desu!	No, it's a hamster!
ねこ	neko	Cat [label]
いぬ	inu	Dog [label]
うさぎ	usagi	Rabbit [label]
うま	uma	Horse [label]
とり	tori	Bird [label]
ハムスター	Hamusutaa	Hamster [label]
ピンク の いぬ	pinku no inu	Pink dog [label]
みどり の ねこ	midori no neko	Green cat [label]
あかい とり	akai tori	Red bird [label]
オレンジいろ の うま	orenji iro no uma	Orange horse [label]
きいろい うさぎ	kiiroi usagi	Yellow rabbit [label]
あおい いぬ	Aoi inu	Blue dog [label]
やった!	Yatta!	Excellent!
すごい!	Sugoi!	Fantastic!
よくできました!	Yoku dekimashita!	Well done!
またね!	Mata-ne!	See you later!

Photo booth

Students create interesting photos by using both the camera functionality on their device and overlaid pet images. They set the scene and choose a pet, changing the animal's emotional state by selecting from a range of emojis.

Australian Curriculum links

Communicating:

- Socialising – Participate in guided group activities such as games, songs and simple tasks, using movement, gestures and pictures to support understanding and to convey meaning (ACLJAC110)
- Reflecting – Use simple statements and gestures to express aspects of self, such as membership of family, friendship, gender, school/class or cultural groups (ACLJAC119)

Understanding:

- Systems of language – Understand the structure of basic sentences in Japanese and recognise some key elements of Japanese grammar (ACLJAU122)

Language

Japanese	Rōmaji	English
いぬ	inu	Dog
ねこ	neko	Cat
うさぎ	usagi	Rabbit
うま	uma	Horse
とり	tori	Bird
うれしい！	Ureshii!	Happy!
かなしい！	Kanashii!	Sad!
おなか が すいた！	Onaka ga suite!	Hungry!
のど が かわいた！	Nodo ga kawaita!	Thirsty!
つかれた！	Tsukareta!	Tired!
ねこ は うれしい！	Neko wa ureshii!	The cat's happy!
ねこ は かなしい！	Neko wa kanashii!	The cat's sad!
ねこ は うれしいです！	Neko wa ureshii desu!	The cat is happy!
ねこ は かなしいです！	Neko wa kanashii desu!	The cat is sad!
いぬ は おなか が すいた！	Inu wa onaka ga suite!	The dog's hungry!
いぬ は のど が かわいた！	Inu wa nodo ga kawaita!	The dog's thirsty!
いぬ は おなか が すきました！	Inu wa onaka ga sukimashita!	The dog is hungry!
いぬ は のど が かわきました！	Inu wa nodo ga kawakimashita!	The dog is thirsty!
うさぎ は つかれた！	Usagi wa tsukareta!	The rabbit's tired!
うさぎ は つかれました！	Usagi wa tsukaremashita!	The rabbit is tired!

Puppy trainer

In this open-ended activity, students create sequences of instructions and record commands for the puppy to obey.

Australian Curriculum links

Communicating:

- Socialising – Participate in guided group activities such as games, songs and simple tasks, using movement, gestures and pictures to support understanding and to convey meaning (ACLJAC110)
- Informing – Locate items of information in simple texts such as charts, songs, rhymes, video clips and anime to complete guided tasks (ACLJAC112)

Understanding:

- Systems of language – Recognise sounds and rhythms of spoken Japanese, and learn how sounds are produced and represented in the three different scripts (ACLJAU120); Understand the structure of basic sentences in Japanese and recognise some key elements of Japanese grammar (ACLJAU122)

Digital Technologies:

- Processes and production skills – Follow, describe and represent a sequence of steps and decisions (algorithms) needed to solve simple problems (ACTDIP004)

Language

Japanese	Rōmaji	English
あるいて！	Aruite!	Walk!
はしって！	Hashitte!	Run!
すわって！	Suwatte!	Sit!
ストップ！	Sutoppu!	Stop!
ジャンプ して！	Jampu shite!	Jump!
まわって！	Mawatte!	Turn!
スタート！	Sutaato!	Go!
かしこい！	Kashikoi!	Good dog!
またね！	Mata-ne!	See you later!

Bird trainer

Students train a parrot to talk in the target language by recording statements in their own voice, which the bird then repeats. The more recordings of different modelled statements there are, the more the bird learns to say.

Australian Curriculum links

Communicating:

- Socialising – Participate in guided group activities such as games, songs and simple tasks, using movement, gestures and pictures to support understanding and to convey meaning (ACLJAC110)
- Informing – Locate items of information in simple texts such as charts, songs, rhymes, video clips and anime to complete guided tasks (ACLJAC112); Convey factual information about self, family, friends and significant objects, using simple statements, gestures and support materials (ACLJAC113)

Understanding:

- Systems of language – Recognise sounds and rhythms of spoken Japanese, and learn how sounds are produced and represented in the three different scripts (ACLJAU120); Understand the structure of basic sentences in Japanese and recognise some key elements of Japanese grammar (ACLJAU122)

Language

Japanese	Rōmaji	English
なん です か。	Nan desu ka.	What is it?
ねこ です!	Neko desu!	It's a cat!
いぬ です!	Inu desu!	It's a dog!
うさぎ です!	Usagi desu!	It's a rabbit!
うま です!	Uma desu!	It's a horse!
とり です!	Tori desu!	It's a bird!
ハムスター です!	Hamusutaa desu!	It's a hamster!
どんな きもち です か。	Donna kimochi desu ka?	How does it feel?
いぬ は うれしいです!	Inu wa ureshii desu!	The dog is happy!
うさぎ は つかれました!	Usagi wa tsukaremashita!	The rabbit is tired!
とり は うれしいです!	Tori wa ureshii desu!	The bird is happy!
うま は かなしいです!	Uma wa kanashii desu!	The horse is sad!
うま は つかれました!	Uma wa tsukaremashita!	The horse is tired!

Song

The 'What is it?' song features two Polyglots characters on stage, trying to work out what animal is behind the curtain based on visual clues.

Australian Curriculum links

Communicating:

- Socialising – Participate in guided group activities such as games, songs and simple tasks, using movement, gestures and pictures to support understanding and to convey meaning (ACLJAC110)

Cultural references



Hamsters are a popular choice as pets in Japan because they are suited to apartment living, are relatively easy to care for and don't make much noise. Both the gold and the miniature variety – the dwarf hamster, are commonly kept as pets.



Animal sounds may be expressed quite differently in different languages. These onomatopoeias are thought to vary due to the different phonemic systems of each language. The Japanese language includes much onomatopoeia, especially for animal-related sounds and actions, including 'wan, wan' for a dog's bark and 'pyon, pyon' for a rabbit's hop.



Hamsters gained popularity as a pet in 1996, the Year of the Rat, because of their resemblance to rats. Nocturnal creatures, hamsters use their long whiskers to explore their environment. In recent years, animal cafes have become very popular in Japan. Customers can enjoy playing with hamsters in cafes dedicated exclusively to these pets.



Pet ownership has only become more common in Japan in the last few decades. A 2018 pet care survey found that about 37per cent of the Japanese respondents owned pets. Dogs and cats are the most common pets, with small dogs the most popular. Small animals such as birds, fish, rodents and insects are also kept.



The combination of red and white is considered lucky in Japan. Red and white striped curtains are often hung at weddings. The Japanese flag is also red and white.

‘What is it?’ song lyrics

Japanese	Rōmaji	English
なん です か。	Nan desu ka.	What is it?
なん です か。	Nan desu ka.	What is it?
うま です か。	Uma desu ka.	Is it a horse?
とり です か。	Tori desu ka.	Is it a bird?
いぬ です か。	Inu desu ka.	Is it a dog?
うさぎ です か。	Usagi desu ka.	Is it a rabbit?
いいえ、ねこ です。	lie, neko desu.	No! It's a cat!
かわいい ねこ です!	Kawaii neko desu!	A cute cat!

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