



Syllabus: Art of Tea in Japan

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Sample In-class Activity Sheets: Week 8

Week 8: Water and Tea (+ Museum Labels)

Writing Effective Chat Label Practice*

*For your final project, your writings must be your own.

This exercise is designed for you to practice editing your writing to convey the same information more concisely. Shorten the text below to about half its length without losing any of the main content. Presently the story has 195 words; your goal is to cut it to about 100 words. (No need to count the words. You can guesstimate.)

Your source material: Online article about the *tenmoku* bowl

<https://tsumugu.yomiuri.co.jp/en/feature/inaba-tenmoku-one-of-three-remaining-yohen-tenmoku-tea-bowls-in-the-world/>

Fri, Dec 20, 2019

Inaba tenmoku: One of three remaining Yōhen tenmoku tea bowls in the world

Yōhen originally means kiln mutation. It is a term referring to black glazed tea bowls known as *tenmoku* type with its inside surface covered with many round spots surrounded by lights ranging from blue to bluish purple. They have been preserved as the most precious pieces among the black glazed tea bowls produced at Jian kiln in Fujian province.

There are only three intact tea bowls of this kind that are known to exist in the world. Owned by Ryūkō-in, a sub-temple of Daitokuji in Kyoto, Fujita Museum of Art in Osaka, and Seikadō Bunko Art Museum in Tokyo, they are all designated by the Japanese government as national treasures.

Recently, fragments of *yōhen tenmoku* were excavated for the first time in China from the site of an Imperial guesthouse in Lin'an (Hangzhou), the capital of the Southern Song dynasty, which drew people's attention. As its alias suggests, this tea bowl was preserved for many generations by the Inaba family which ruled the Yodo domain during the Edo period. It came into the possession of the Iwasaki family in 1934.

This is an excellent tea ceremony utensil as well as a treasure of Chinese ceramic art.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY: Write a Chat Label for the *Portable Tea Set (9 pieces)*

Using what you learned from the Japanese Architecture and Art Net Users System (JAANUS) on "*chanoyu-no-dougu*," write a chat label of about 150 words or less (roughly 1-2 paragraphs) on the *Portable Tea Set* (L2024:38X.19a-j). Take a moment to think about the most important information you want to convey about this set of objects to the museum visitor.

Link to JAANUS entry: <https://www.aisf.or.jp/~jaanus/deta/c/chanoyunodougu.htm>

GROUP ACTIVITY: List the objects in your ensemble that you have selected so far from the JSMA or local collection, including the 2 pieces you chose from today's (Week 8) session.* Only one person in your group needs to fill out the list.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Any additional/alternate objects:

*I will request your objects for the Week 9 class. For the JSMA/local collection, please write the descriptive title and accession number so I know which piece you selected.