

3. National Research Coordinator's Comments (English)

- [00:00:00](#) Bow: Regardless of what subject or period, Japanese lessons typically begin with, "Please teach us," and end with, "Thank you very much." The greeting at the beginning of the class is to express a tacit understanding that the students will be seriously engaged in the lesson from that moment on. (The video begins right after the greeting.)
- [00:00:13](#) Presentation of the topic: By preparing the handout from the previous experiment, the teacher clearly presents today's experiment of evaluating the data from the last experiment in the same groups and reaching a conclusion. It is common practice to clearly identify the topic (the day's task) at the beginning of the lesson.
- [00:03:00](#) Confirming the previous lesson's task/Introduction of knowledge needed for today's study: While confirming some necessary information for students to carry out the day's task, the instructor provides some valuable hints for them to come up with some original ideas in their observations. Instead of giving students answers, effort is made to make it easier for the students to think on their own.
- [00:04:40](#) Instructions for the lesson: The teacher is instructing how to proceed with the group study.
- [00:05:10](#) Group study: The students break up into their experiment groups and proceed with the study in small groups (maximum of four) by exchanging ideas. Groups are sometimes formed by gender, or mixed, but this instructor chose mixed groups.
- [00:06:00](#) Assistance to individual groups: Since it is not a simple study, the instructor gives advice to each group individually and caters the suggestions on how to proceed according to each situation. It appears that the students are given ample time because of the individual attention that each group receives. In the latter half of the lesson, some students seem to be wasting some time.
- [00:24:15](#) Presentation by groups: First each group is asked to present their results of the experiment.
- [00:30:00](#) Summary of the results: Presenting a photograph of the results, the group results are summarized. This lesson is in a regular classroom instead of a lab. It is believed that using such colored photos help to clarify the lesson. The students appear to be paying careful attention.
- [00:34:20](#) Presentation of the study/observation: Each group is asked to present their findings.
- [00:37:15](#) Summary of the lesson: Points observed from the experiment are summarized by the instructor and written up on the board. The students are taking notes. They are given ample time to copy down the information.
- [00:40:00](#) Explanation of the lesson: The teacher further explains the contents of what is on the blackboard to deepen the students' understanding.
- [00:41:30](#) Confirming the lesson with the text: By pointing out which part of the text applies to the lesson, and having the students underline, the teacher confirms the topic of the lesson and establishes the point made on the board and in their notebooks.
- [00:49:50](#) Next lesson's topic: The teacher is presenting the task for the following lesson.
- [00:50:00](#) Bow: Ritual greeting to end the lesson.
- [00:50:30](#) Submission of the experiment report: The teacher collects the reports and assesses the students' learning environment.

Overall comment: This lesson is quite typical of a Japanese junior high school science lesson. By doing the summary of the experiment independently in the lesson following the experiment, there was more time devoted to the study of the experiment. The content of the lesson follows general instruction methods and it is a standard subject matter (which all students should learn).