Lesson 1  
*Cultures Go Around the World*

Part 1

Do you know the (                    ) of countries in the world? Today, more than (                ) countries are members of the United Nations. What about the number of people? About seven billion people live on earth. Each person belongs to a country and a society. Each of them has its own unique culture.

Japanese culture is one of those (                ) cultures. Many of its aspects are well-known abroad. For example, people all over the world are interested (                ) manga and Japanese fashions now. But how did they feel about Japanese culture in the past?

In 1854, the Edo government opened up the country to the West. After that, many Japanese arts and crafts were shown in world (                  ). Many artists were influenced by Japanese things, especially (                ) the Paris Expo. At the same time, art dealers in Europe were (                ) *ukiyo* prints.
Part 2

Many European painters, (                 ) the Impressionists, were strongly influenced by *ukiyo* prints. Van Gogh liked the Japanese prints so much that he painted scenes from them. He learned how to place picture (                 ) and how to use colors from the Japanese prints. The *ukiyo* artists’ ideas in paintings were different from those in European paintings of that time. They were new to the European (                 ).

Japanese arts and crafts also influenced household items in Europe. It is interesting to find (                 ) between them. The pair of photos No.1 and No.2 is one example.

Photo No.1 shows a print by Katsushika Hokusai. Photo No.2 shows a glass vase by Émile Gallé. As you can see, their designs have a lot (                 ) common.

Music in Europe was inspired by Japanese art, too. Look at photos No.3 and No.4. Photo No.3 shows an *ukiyo* print by Katsushika Hokusai and photo No.4 shows the (                 ) of a music score. What is it?

It is “La Mer” (“The Sea”) by the French composer Claude Debussy. This *ukiyo* print was on the wall of his workroom. The print inspired him so much that he composed this symphonic poem (                 ) honor of Hokusai’s work.
Part 3

Let’s look at the world of (__________) design. Photo No.5 shows a work (__________) the French painter Claude Monet. The woman is dressed in a kimono. The painting was (__________) in 1876, so you can see that kimonos were already in Europe at that time.

In the (__________) of the 19th century, some European women wore kimonos at (__________) when they wanted to relax. In the early 20th century, some European fashion designers introduced the style of the kimono (__________) their dress designs.

Japanese culture affected people in the West not only because it was exotic, but also because it had a unique sensibility and (__________). In the 21st century, people around the world continue to enjoy interesting new ideas and things from Japan. You can be a (__________) of such new culture, too. What ideas can you introduce (__________) people around the world?