



Mount Rainier National Park

Sister Mountain Project

Mountain of the Rising Sun

Grade Level	9-12
Objectives	After completing this activity, students will be able to analyze and interpret the language of Bernbaum's piece. Students will also develop an understanding of the historical importance of Mt. Fuji in Japanese society and culture.
Timeframe	1-2 periods.
Standards	<p>Reading</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Student understands and uses different skills and strategies to read:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.3: Builds vocabulary through wide reading.2. The student understands the meaning of what is read.<ol style="list-style-type: none">2.1 Demonstrate evidence of reading comprehension2.2 Expand comprehension by analyzing, interpreting, and synthesizing information and ideas in literary and informational text.3. The student reads different materials for a variety of purposes<ol style="list-style-type: none">3.4 Read for literary experience in a variety of genres.
Background	Edwin Bernbaum is an Asian Studies scholar who specializes in mountains and their cultural significance. He has climbed many of the world's highest peaks so he combines the mountaineering spirit with his intellectual interests. Here he explains the role that Mt. Fuji has played in the Japanese view of the world.
Procedure	<u>Student Directions</u> : Teachers should decide whether to assign the reading individually, or as a paired/shared reading assignment. Students will read the extract from Edwin Bernbaum's Japan: Mountains of the Rising Sun

carefully. Then answer the following questions in complete sentences. Use the terms of the question to help you create your answer in a full sentence.

1. How were those who climbed mountains in Japan viewed by the common people?
2. Re-read the second paragraph, beginning with "The Mountain that most represents Japan..." Select five words that you think best describe Bernbaum's description of Mt. Fuji. Organize the words in your own order and see if you can make a pattern like a poem that highlights Bernbaum's description of Fuji.
3. What geological forces have contributed to the graceful shape of Fuji?
4. What is the likely origin of the name "Fuji"?
5. Explain, in your own words, the Buddhist term *zenjo*.
6.
 - a. In two or three sentences describe how members of the Fuji-ko sect have celebrated their connection to the mountain.
 - b. In two or three sentences, describe the way the people of Fuji-Yoshida have celebrated their connection to the mountain.
7. What is a side-effect of Fuji's enormous popularity?
8. If you were to look at the climbers ascending Fuji, what would you notice?
9. Re-read the final two paragraphs. Summarize in your own words, in a five to six sentence paragraph, the experience of summitting Fuji.