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# Japan Screen Topics

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## SHOWCASE OF WORLD FOLKWAYS

90 feet 2 min. 30 sec.

1. (EXTERIOR) With the establishment of the new National Museum of Ethnology in November, 1977, Japan takes a giant step forward in international cultural awareness. The research center for scholars and public showcase for the life styles of every continent was constructed near Osaka at the site of its predecessor in cultural exchange, EXPO 70.
2. (STONE HEAD) Stone sculptures of the Aztec peoples can be seen in the museum's Central American section.
3. (CANOE) In the Pacific section, the Chechemeni canoe... developed by Micronesians for long ocean voyages... and Easter Island's mysterious stone monuments.
4. (GYPSY WAGON) Elaborately carved wagons like these were the homes of Europe's migrating Gypsy peoples.
5. (AFRICAN HANDICRAFTS) African folk crafts have always been popular in Japan. The museum's aim is not to display expensive cultural treasures, but to emphasize objects that had an everyday role in peoples' lives. Unlike most museums, visitors here are allowed to touch and feel the displays.

6. (LS OF HALL INTERIOR) The museum has a large hall for Islamic culture from West Asia.

7. (PAINTING OF TWO BIRDS) The Southeast Asian display... a traditional Indonesian hut for food storage... and Thailand's colorful traditional dancers.

8. (JAPANESE HOUSES) Japanese in early times lived in extended family settlements like this one.

9. (VIDEOTAPE) The museum has 40 television display booths for video cassettes... open both to researchers and the general public. These cassettes are stored in an automated library... where the viewer can bring a cassette to the borrowing desk merely by pushing buttons. About 300 cassettes were stored in the library when the museum opened in November. Eventually, visitors will have a choice from among 3,000.

By preserving the folkways of the peoples of the world, the museum makes its contribution to greater international understanding.

#### HOMEMADE OBSERVATORY

102 feet 2 min. 50 sec.

1. (CONSTRUCTION SITE) By day, Isamu Kawakami's life differs little from those of millions of young Japanese men. Isamu, who is 29, works at construction sites, helping his father in a small contracting business.

2. (ENTERING TRUCK) His life becomes distinctive when he drives home in the evening to his wife and two children in the small city of Shibukawashi near Tokyo. At night, he becomes busy with his hobby; he is one of Japan's best known amateur astronomers.

Let's pay him a visit at his homemade observatory, which has attracted the attention of stargazers all over Japan.



3. (TRUCK APPROACHING) Isamu's home observatory and its telescope, built completely by hand, were completed about a year ago. He combined his love of the stars with natural technical talent, developed while studying at an industrial high school. The observatory has a dome five meters in diameter. The machinery for directing the telescope was made entirely from reclaimed parts of old automobiles and washing machines.

4. (WELDING) On his days off, Isamu helps other stargazers to build telescopes of their own. Today he is aiding one of his amateur astronomer friends in welding the ribbing of a telescope dome.

5. (EYE) Isamu's telescope took about three months to build, including the tedious task of polishing the lens, for which he built his own polishing machinery. The telescope is a Newton design, and if manufactured, would retail on the market for more than four thousand dollars... but Isamu built his for only one tenth that amount.

6. (PHOTO FILM) A large part of any astronomer's work is taking pictures of heavenly objects that can be preserved for study. Isamu made around 300 photographs in the first year his observatory was built.

(MOON) The moon was one of his first pictures, but he prefers photographing star clusters like the Milky Way.

Isamu has acquired some mountain property where, in a few years, he will build a new observatory, away from the lights of town.

For the amateur stargazer, new adventures lie ahead.

## KANAZAWA--CITY OF THE PAST

132 feet 3 min. 40 sec.

1. (SNOW ON BRANCHES) Snow envelops the coast of the Japan Sea in winter, but it only adds to the charm of the lovely old city of Kanazawa.

The classical form of premodern Japan endures in this leisurely city in Ishikawa Prefecture, approximately 500 kilometers northwest of Tokyo. There are few tall buildings to break the pattern of low, tiled roofs that makes up the Kanazawa skyline.

2. (STONE WALL) A medieval castle built in 1853 once dominated the city... today only its gate remains.

3. (LONG WALLS) In old times, Kanazawa's samurai lived in these walled houses in the city's Buke-Yashiki quarter. The houses and walls still stand today... seemingly untouched by the centuries.

4. (PARK) Kenrokuen Park... one of the most famous public parks in Japan... was founded by the ruling lord of Kanazawa in 1822. The 24 acre park abounds in picturesque lakes, waterfalls and rocks.

5. (RIVER) The city straddles the Saigawa River... famous for its cold and unpolluted waters. The fresh water of the Saigawa is a factor in one of Kanazawa's noted handicraft industries, the production of yuzen, women's kimonos painted in five-coloured designs.

(CLOTH IN WATER) The Saigawa's chilly waters are used to permanently set the vivid dyes that have been applied to the kimono cloth.

(DESIGNER) Kanazawa's kimonos are called Kaga Yuzen... taking their name from the old name for the area, "Kaga". They are all individually designed.



6. (DYES) Dyes are still applied by hand in this traditional industry. The designs feature paintings of birds, flowers, hills and lakes in classic shades of red, indigo, yellow, green and violet that are known throughout Japan as the five colours of Kaga Yuzen.

(CLOTH IN WATER) After dyeing, the kimono cloth is washed in water diverted from the river before going on display.

7. (CHINAWARE) Another of Kanazawa's cultural traditions is its vividly coloured Kutani Chinaware.

8. (WAVES) Kanazawa faces on the Japan Sea. Its morning fish market has been a tradition from time immemorial. The city's women come here daily to socialize, and buy the fresh fish favored by the Kanazawa people for dinner.

9. (SIDEWALK) Today's Kanazawa is a city of slightly more than 400,000 population. Spared from bombing in World War II, it is now a rich treasure house of Japan's past. Millions of tourists visit Kanazawa yearly to walk its quaint streets and catch glimpses of the way of life of yesterday's Japan.

It is a city that somehow lives on in the heart of any visitor.

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