Activity Four: Worksheet

Student Name ________________________________ Date ________________

Look at the following *ukiyo-e* prints. Take notes about everything you see in the image that seems important. What is the location? Are there people in the image? Who are they? What are people doing? What are they wearing and carrying? What information can you gather from this image about life in Edo Period Japan? What information can you gather from this image about Japanese society at this time?

All of the images are part of Japan’s Nagoya Television’s online *ukiyo-e museum*, which is available through the EDSITEment reviewed web resource Teaching (and Learning) About Japan.

- Utagawa Hiroshige’s print *April (The First Bonito Catch from the Nihonbashi Bridge)*. This image is one of a series completed by Hiroshige illustrating the months of the year. The cycle is called *Annual Events and Sites of Interest in Edo*.

Permission is granted to educators to reproduce this worksheet for classroom use.
• Katsusika Hokusai’s *Ukiyo-e of the Toeizan Central Hall*

• Utagawa Hiroshige’s print *Asakusa Kinryuzan*, a scene from his series *One Hundred Views of Sights in Edo.*

• Utagawa Hiroshige’s Shimoyabukogi at the Foot of Mr. Atago from his series One Hundred Views of Sights in Edo.

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the subject of this image? What is the action—what is taking place—in this image?

2. What is the setting of this image? Is it urban or rural? What season is it?
3. What can you infer about the people pictured in this image? Are they wealthy or poor? How can you tell? Where in the Japanese social hierarchy do you think they fit? Who (or what groups of people) seem to be missing in this image?

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4. Are there buildings? What kind of building materials are they made from—stone, wood, thatch, or something else? Are they large or small structures? What might we be able to glean about Japanese society from the size, material, or the style of these buildings?

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5. What are people doing? Are they working or relaxing, reading or chatting? What does this tell you about the world that this artist has captured?

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