

## Unit 13 How old is the *Daibutsu* in Nara?

Learning how to say the years and how old various things are.

### Unit Aims

Years and expressions to describe how old things are will be the main theme of this unit. In the activities, children will learn in which years historical events took place or famous buildings around the world were built, and how old these buildings currently are. This will be a good topic for 6<sup>th</sup> graders who have started to take interest in studying history. By learning when buildings children know were built, they can also have a taste of the history of the country the buildings are located in. They will also take interest in the history of the area they live in by investigating when buildings in the area were built. The activities should have a rich content rather than simply having the children repeating and practicing English.

### Vocabulary

years ( e.g., 1984 ) and expressions to describe how old things are ( e.g., ~ years old )

### Classroom English

When did she go to space?

What building is this?

When was Tokyo Tower made?

How old is Tokyo Tower?

### Step of Activities

(1) Looking at the pictures on the page, thinking about what the events are, and learning how to say years. P.59

(2) Choosing years from the time chart and matching them with the pictures of buildings to show in what years the buildings were built. P.60-P.61

(3) Calculating how many years it has been since the buildings were built. P.60-P.61

(4) Investigating when buildings found in their area were built and figuring out how old they are. P.62

### Other Possible Activities

1. The teacher can provide the children with extra information about the events and buildings in the unit using simple English and have the children listen. It would be better to select a topic which the teacher actually is interested in.

Ex. : The 18<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games were held in Tokyo in 1964.

I was 13 years old in 1964.

Over 5000 sportspeople and athletes came from 94 countries.

In 1972, the Winter Olympic Games were held in Sapporo and again, in Nagano in 1998.

2. After children investigate the years local buildings were built and figure out how old they are, have them report the results to the class. It would make it easier if the teacher asks questions and students answer.

What building did you choose in your group, Satsuki?

Your group chose the city hall.

When was it made? How old is it this year?