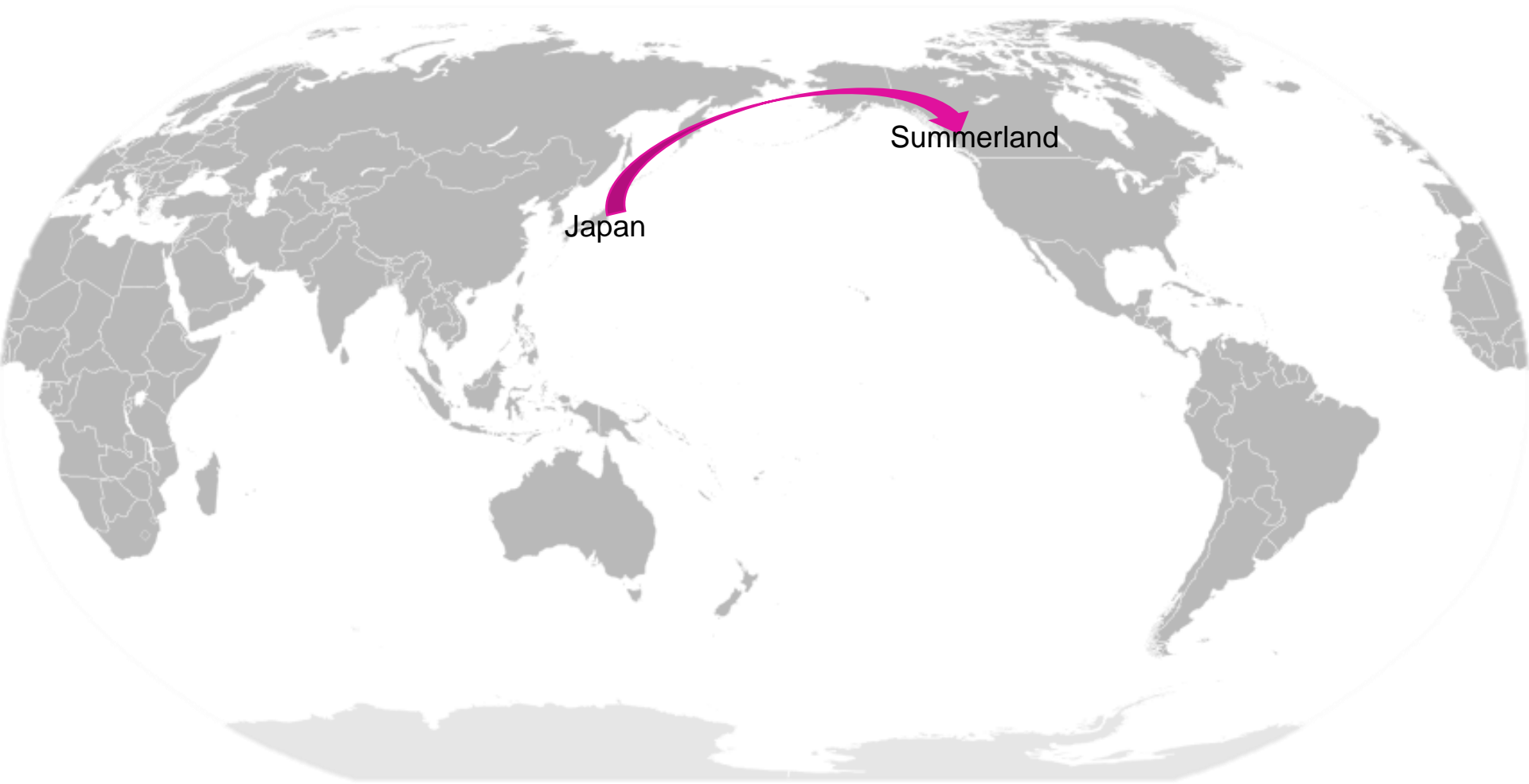


The Japanese Community in Summerland

“Coming to New World with
Great Hopes”
(DO Shi Kai Society)



They travelled almost 8000 km to get to Summerland from Japan.



Who Was Immigrating?

Mostly young men came.

Once they got a job, they would return home to be married and return to Canada to start a family.

Japan was rapidly becoming overcrowded, leading to shortages of food and poverty.

Many came to seek fortune and take advantage of Summerland's climate, job opportunities, and land. They were looking for a good life.



1935. Sam Uzawa with his wife and children (Uzawa George, Uzawa Nora, Uzawa Violet) standing in front of their home.

Arrival

The first Japanese immigrants came to BC in 1877. They were attracted to BC, rather than other regions in Canada, because of jobs in the fishing and lumber industries.

Summerland had a nice climate, orchard and farm jobs, food, lots of space to raise a family, and provided opportunities for a good life.



1936. Graduating class of the Japanese School.

Arrival

1901: There were 4,500 Japanese immigrants in BC, mostly in the Vancouver area.

1905-1907: This number increases to 11,529 in BC.

1910-1920: Summerland welcomes lots of Japanese to the community.



1936. Group photo of the wedding of Art Matsu and Mary Uzawa.

Difficulties

Communication:

- They spoke little or no English.

Discrimination:

- In some cases, they were paid less than other workers doing the same jobs.
- During WW2, 22,000 Japanese Canadians in BC were sent to internment camps and farms. They also lost their jobs and property.

Different cultural values and religion



1958. Japanese residents wearing their traditional dress for the British Columbia Centennial.

Why Were They So Successful?

- They were hard and willing workers
- Eager to learn and adapt to their new country
- Wanted to contribute to their community
- Set up their own school



1928. Parents and students of the Japanese School held at the Japanese Hall near Eneas Creek.



1927. R.K. (Bob) Yamabe and another worker picking and packing cantaloupes at the Gartrell Farm.

Contributions To The Community

1924: Built a multipurpose hall used by many community groups.

Early 1930s: started the Hinode Baseball Club and began with a team for 10-15 year old boys

- Some of the men played on the Summerland Merchants ball team as well as their own
- They played against non-Japanese teams on Sundays and holidays
- In 1946 a girls team was created, the Nisei Girls Softball Team



1935. The Japanese Hinode baseball team of Summerland.

Contributions To The Community

In 1934, they began the Japanese Farmers Association and the Japanese Ladies Auxiliary.



Japanese People in Summerland Today

According to the 2006 Census, there were 55 people of Japanese descent living in Summerland.

According to the 2016 Census, 25 people spoke Japanese as their mother tongue.

Japanese Immigrants In Summerland

Questions:

1. During what early years did a large number of people arrive here from Japan?

2. Why did they come to Summerland?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. How far did they travel to get here? _____
4. How did they travel to get here?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
5. Why was it hard for them to become part of the community of Summerland?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
6. Name three of the ways that Japanese immigrants contributed to Summerland:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
- a. Look at the Japanese display in the Museum . Draw one of things on display that shows the beauty of their culture.

Sources:

Japanese File at the Summerland Museum.

Summerland Museum Photo Archives: 1990.003.001, 1990.010.001, 1987.016.012, 1991.096.001, 2012.026.005, 1978.180.003, 1978.180.001, 1976.292.006, 1976.292.005