This beautiful Japanese puppet art form dates back to the early 1600’s and has been considered one of Japan’s most important cultural treasures ever since. Today, bunraku performances can be found in every major city.

Traditional bunraku puppets can range in size from about 2 feet to over 4 feet tall and are operated by three puppeteers. The main puppeteer operates the right hand and the head, another operates the left hand, while a third operates the feet. All the puppeteers dress in black with the two secondary operators having their heads covered.

This workshop offers classrooms an opportunity to delve into the fascinating world of Japanese folk tales. It also offers an opportunity to compare and contrast Japanese folk tales with those in the west.

The workshop can be as simple as a digital presentation on the history of this art form or as complex as a complete performance of student made puppets.