



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA EDUCATION

**Curriculum Connections generated at the *Madama Butterfly* Professional
Development Session, September 16, 2010**

Erin Bregman (SFO Teaching Artist) and Karen Chu (West Portal School)
5th Grade Ideas

1. MB. Love story
Not honest – one person left behind
2. 1890's History of Japan and America
Sense of Honor in Japan
Geisha – entertainers in Japan
3. End product is Opera sung in Chinese created by kids

For students who attend opera

1. Open ended questions about the opera
Set, colors, costumes, music, hair and makeup

After Dress Rehearsal

Write a review in Chinese
(Read English reviews first)

Outing

Asian Art Museum
Tea Ceremony
Paintings

In class exercise

Rice paper dolls

Bruce Haines (Hayward High School), Jim Sluyter (The Kings Academy), and Rick Flynn (Los Medanos College and Ohlone College)
High School and University Ideas

Tell the Story: read short story (University); tell story in current day language, storytelling; read synopsis.

Discuss: ethnocentrism; mixed race marriage; role of men at war in other countries

Careers: What are all the jobs at an opera company? Divide kids into job groups and have them do research for that job. Have a student volunteer sing/speak in from of the others (no set, costume, props, etc.) Look at video of any opera. Discuss what was different and what are those jobs that make that happen. What are the other jobs at Opera Companies? Compare SFO to other Opera Companies (number of staff in each Department.)

Write a review

Prompt questions: What would it be like if you walked in and saw a house made of paper?

Discuss: Culture now vs. culture then (Asian students)

Similarities and differences between Opera and Musical theater.