




EMBASSY OF JAPAN, WASHINGTON DC
JAPAN
INFORMATION & CULTURE CENTER

 JapanEmbDC.JICC

 japanembdc

 user/JICCDC

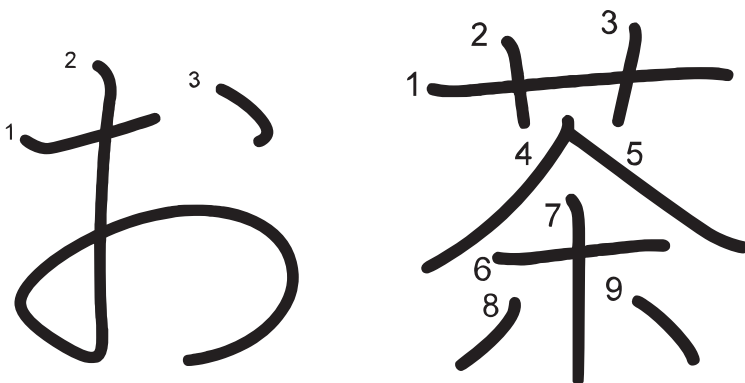
 JICCDC

TEACHING TUESDAY

KANJI: OCHA

FEBRUARY 13, 2018

Tea, or ocha お茶, is a big part of Japanese culture. Green tea especially is used throughout Japan, and is an integral part of tradition. The kanji is made up of two different radicals: the radical for plants or leaves 艹, and 示, which is a simplified version of the original Chinese character 余 which originally meant “to stretch”. Together, they represented an edible plant with a bitter taste, with the function of 余 connected to the sense of a plant used to produce a relaxing drink.



Reading: おちゃ oh-chah

Meaning: tea