

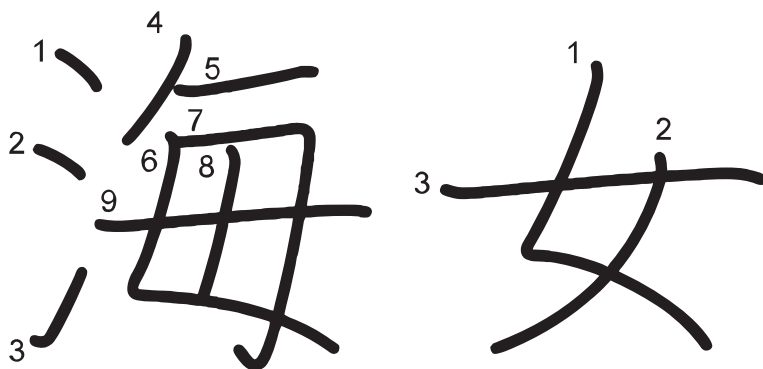


TEACHING TUESDAY

KANJI: AMA

MARCH 13, 2018

The ama 海女, or “sea women”, of Japan’s Shima Peninsula maintain an ancient tradition of free-diving for pearls, urchins and abalone, without using modern gear or protection. The first kanji is the character for sea, where every 毎 drop of water シ flows to. The second character 女 is an old pictogram from Chinese, depicting a woman with breasts kneeling or standing.



Reading: あま ah-mah

Meaning: ama; female diver (who collects shells, seaweed, etc.)