



Japan: A Complete Look

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Japan at a Glance

Japan is an Asian country but instead of being located on the mainland of Asia, Japan is made up of four main islands and thousands of smaller ones. These islands are east of the Asian continent in the North Pacific Ocean halfway around the world from the Pacific Ocean shore of Washington State, Oregon and California. The nearest land neighbors to Japan are North Korea, South Korea, Russia and a small coastal area of China.



Since Japan is located in the Pacific Ocean near to the coast of Asia, its islands are part of the Pacific Ring of Fire. The Pacific Ring of Fire is a made up of a large number of volcanoes that exist on land and in the ocean near the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Ten percent of the active volcanoes in the world are located in the small country of Japan. Volcanoes and earthquakes are both related to the earth's tectonic plates. Japan experiences around 1,500 earthquakes every year but fortunately these small tremors do not cause any damage. Like the Pacific Coast in the United States, due to its location Japan does experience serious earthquakes but not frequently.

Japan has over 127 million people in a country about the size and shape of California. Most of the people live in large, densely populated cities. For example, the capital city of Tokyo has about 32 million people in the greater metropolitan area compared to 22 million in the New York City metropolitan area. Since Japan is such a small country and the not much of the land is suitable for agriculture, Japan must import food in order to feed the large population. The islands are lacking in natural resources for producing energy, making Japan the largest importer of coal and liquefied natural gas and the second largest importer of oil in the world.

Japan is a leading producer of automobiles that are exported to other developed countries, like the United States. Japan is also well-known for producing steel and electronic equipment. The Japanese currency is called the yen and people speak the Japanese language. The Japanese writing is similar to Chinese and uses symbols instead of letters like in the English alphabet.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The country of Japan is located in what continent?
 - a. Europe
 - b. Asia
 - c. Africa
 - d. Australia

2. The Pacific Ring of Fire is made up of
 - a. Countries
 - b. Volcanoes
 - c. Islands
 - d. All of the above

3. The physical size and shape of Japan is similar to which state?
 - a. Oregon
 - b. Washington
 - c. California
 - d. Texas

4. Since it is a small country, Japan must import
 - a. Food
 - b. Coal
 - c. Oil
 - d. All of the above

5. A major Japanese export is
 - a. Automobiles
 - b. Airplanes
 - c. Corn
 - d. Wheat

6. The Japanese currency is called
 - a. Pounds
 - b. Pesos
 - c. Marks
 - d. Yen

Name: _____ Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. Draw a map of Japan and label the bodies of water surrounding the islands.
2. Do some research and write a short report about recent volcanic eruptions in Japan.
3. Compare the metropolitan population of Tokyo and New York City as a ratio. Explain how to interpret the ratio.
4. Why does Japan need to import food? What does this mean?
5. Do some research and write a short report about Japan's Mount Fuji.
6. Do some research on the Internet and list at least 10 different names of currency (money) and the country each one belongs to.
7. List some brand names for automobiles and electronic equipment found in U.S. stores that are made in Japan.

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. b.
2. b.
3. c.
4. d.
5. a.
6. d.

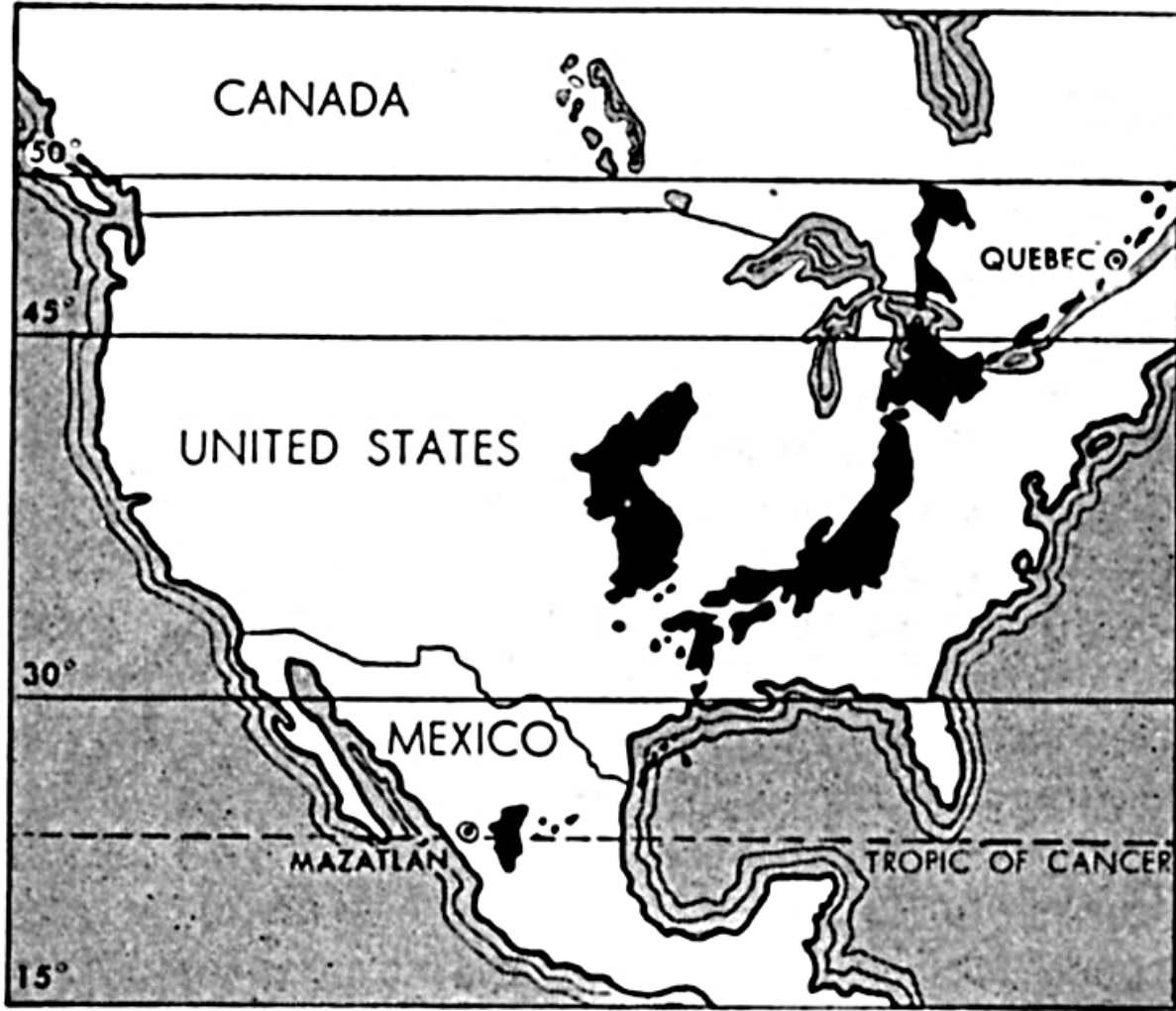
Short Answer

1. Individual response
2. Individual response
3. 32 million Tokyo: 22 million NYC -> 3:2
For every three people in Tokyo, there are 2 people in NYC
4. Since Japan is such a small country and the not much of the land is suitable for agriculture, Japan must import food in order to feed the large population. Importing food means that food must be shipped to Japan from other countries.
5. Individual response
6. Individual response
7. Individual response

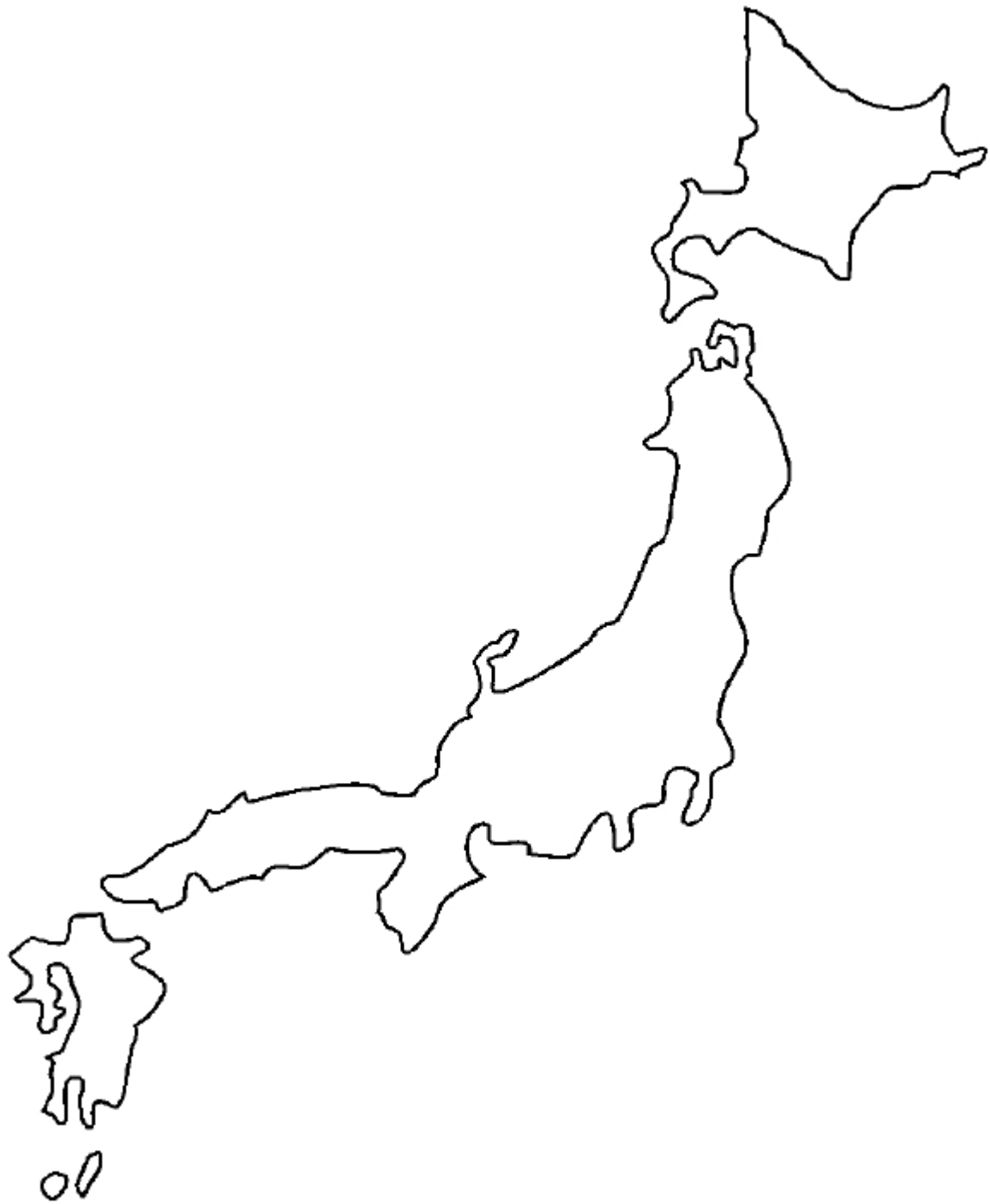
Japan (In Color)

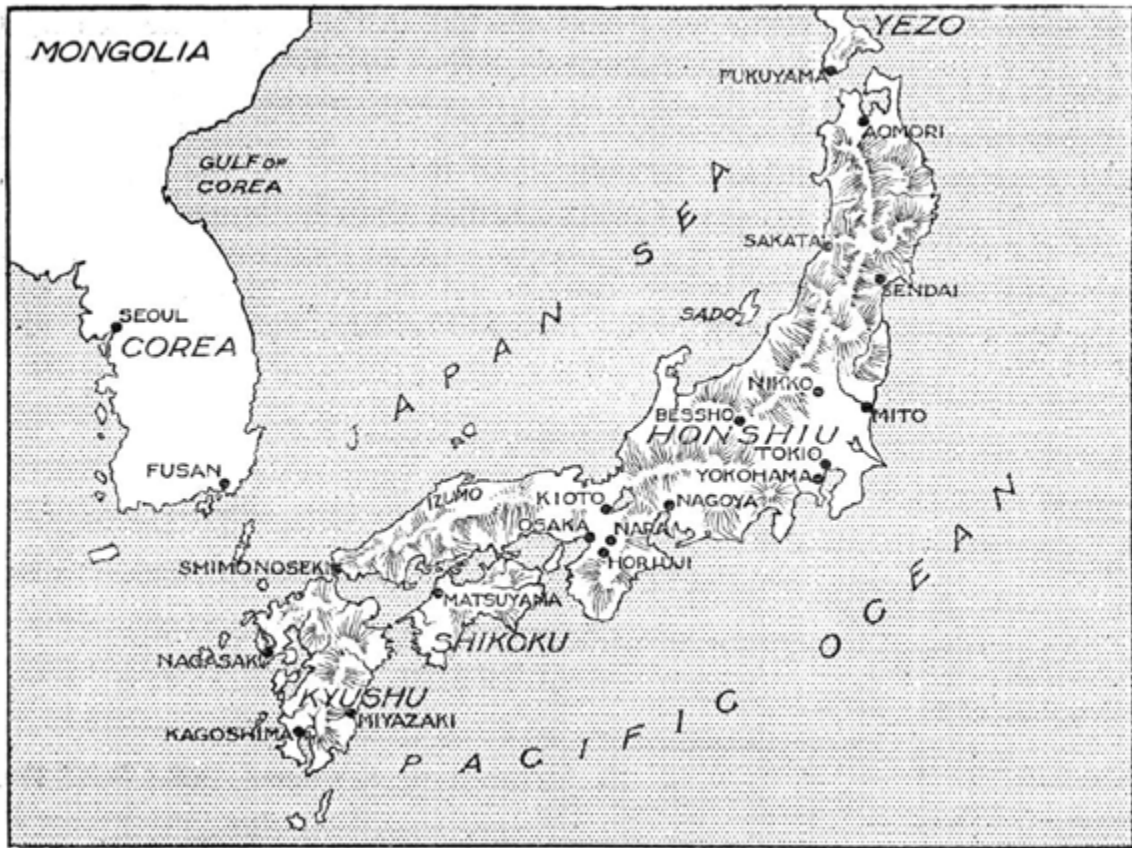


Relative Size of Japan



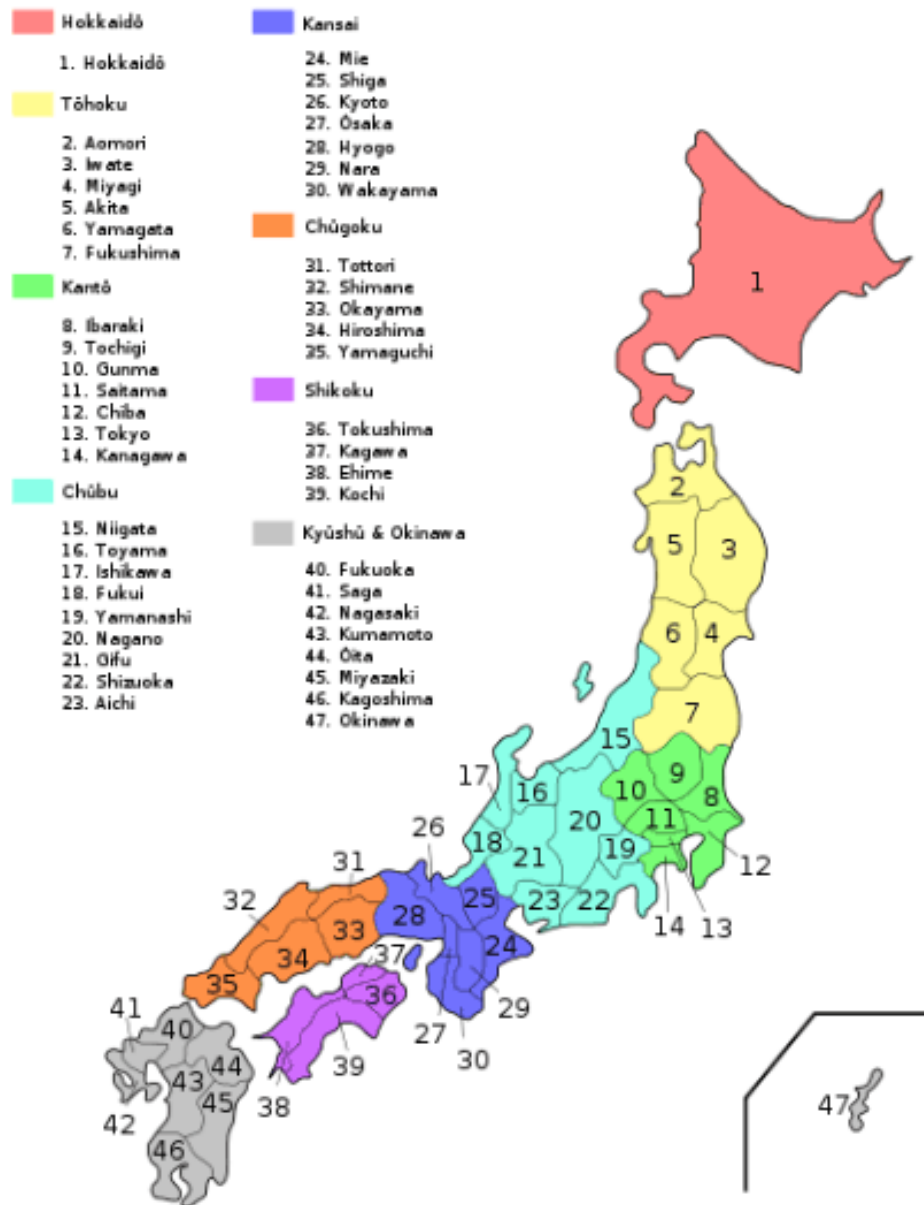
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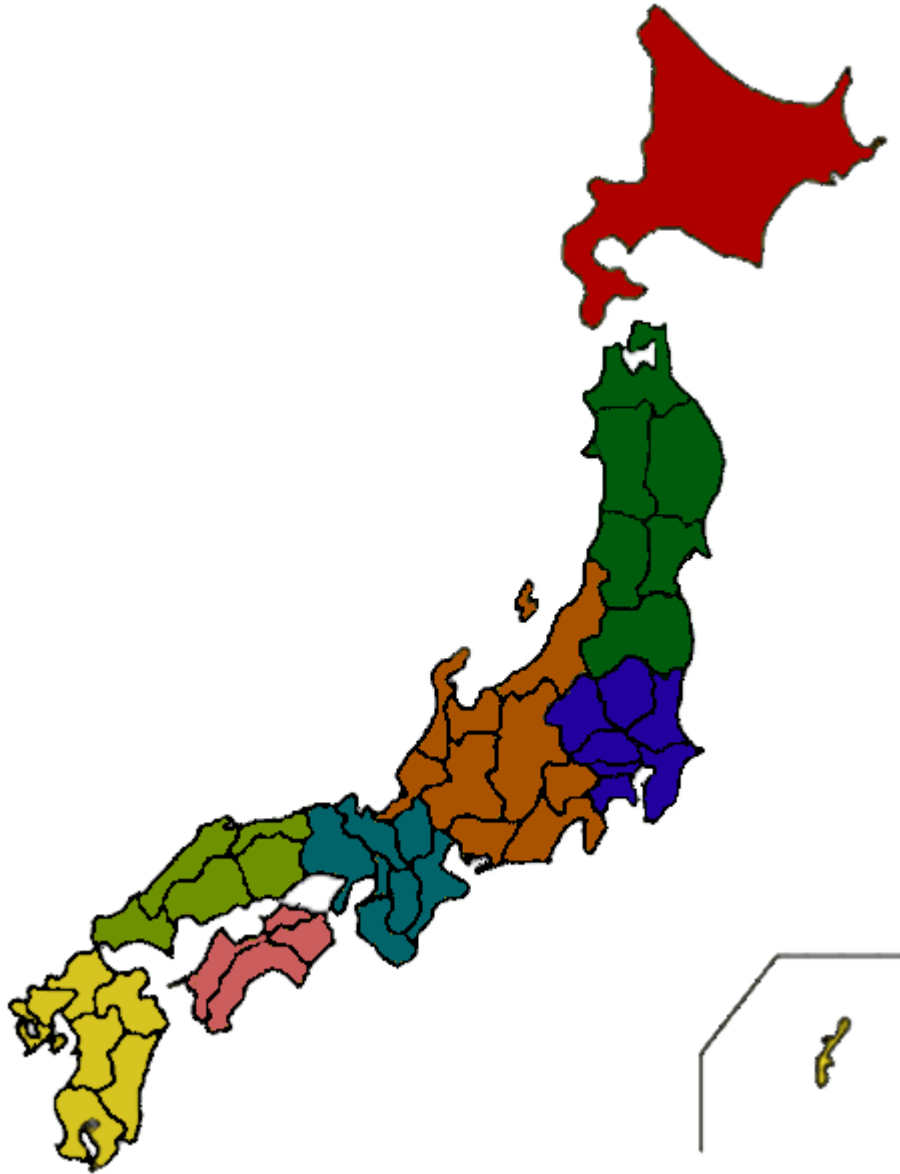
JAPAN

Regions and Prefectures of Japan

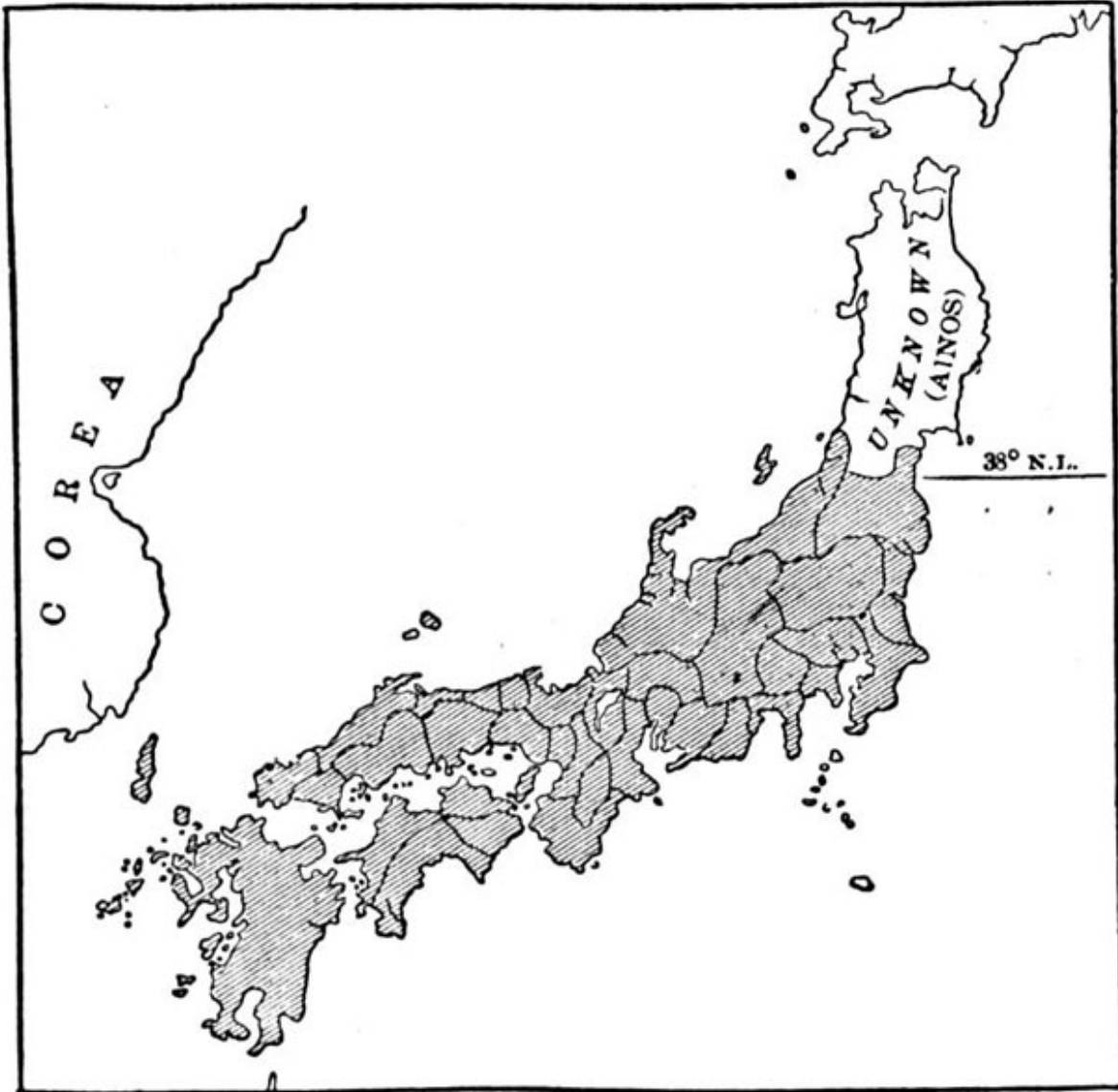




Regions of Japan

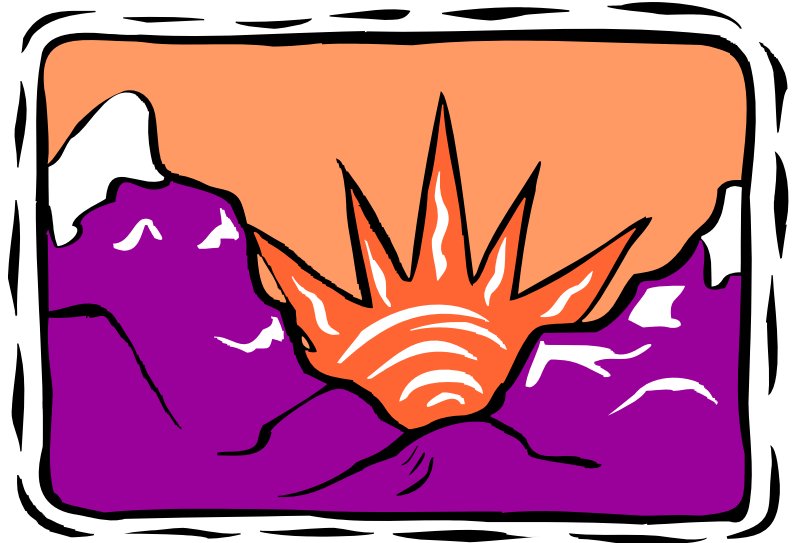


5th Century Japan



Climate and Weather in Japan

Japan is located in Asia and is an island nation located in the Pacific Ocean. There are many famous islands in the South Pacific Ocean, like Tahiti and the Hawaiian Islands, which are famous for their warm, sunny tropical climate. Japan is not located in the South Pacific but in the North Pacific Ocean, making the country far from the tropics.



Japan's neighbors on the nearby Asian continent include North and South Korea and the eastern edge of Russia. These places are known for being cold in winter.

Japan experiences four seasons like in the United States: spring, summer, fall and winter. Japan is a long country from north to south, again similar to the United States, so the northern areas of the country are generally colder than the southern areas. Geographers compare the weather across Japan to the weather experienced on the East Coast of the U.S. from Maine to Georgia.

The northern parts of Japan get heavy amounts of snow in the cold winter months and the summer temperature there is warm but not hot. Compare this climate to the State of Maine. The central part of Japan is known for short winters and hot, humid summers. Even further south the climate changes to winters that are described as mild but there's lots of heat and humidity in the summer. The southernmost areas of Japan are called subtropical, where the weather is warm in winter and hot and humid in summer.

Spring is a pleasant season throughout Japan but June brings the rainy season. Most of Japan's precipitation, 70 to 80 percent, occurs from June to September. Typhoons, the equivalent of hurricanes, can hit Japan in August and September. Fall brings beautiful colors to the leaves.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. Japan is an island country located in which ocean?
 - a. Atlantic
 - b. Pacific
 - c. Indian
 - d. Southern

2. How many seasons does Japan have?
 - a. One
 - b. Two
 - c. Three
 - d. Four

3. The weather in northern Japan is similar to which state in the United States?
 - a. Maine
 - b. Nevada
 - c. Georgia
 - d. Florida

4. The central part of Japan is known for
 - a. Long winters
 - b. Short winters
 - c. Bitterly cold winters
 - d. None of the above

5. The southernmost areas of Japan have what kind of climate?
 - a. Artic
 - b. Temperate
 - c. Subtropical
 - d. Tropical

6. Typhoon is another name for
 - a. Tornado
 - b. Earthquake
 - c. Thunderstorm
 - d. Hurricane

Name: _____ Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. Explain what the rainy season in Japan is.
2. Compare the weather in Japan to the weather in the United States.
3. What does subtropical mean in relation to weather?
4. Based on the climate, what part of Japan would you like to live in? Explain your answer.
5. Humid weather is the same as using the term high humidity. What is humidity? If you don't know, look up the answer in a dictionary.
6. Do some research and describe the weather in North and South Korea.
7. Would you like to be a meteorologist and be able to study and predict the weather? Explain why or why not.

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. b.
2. d.
3. a.
4. b.
5. c.
6. d.

Short Answer

1. June brings the rainy season. Most of Japan's precipitation, 70 to 80 percent, occurs from June to September.
2. Japan experiences four seasons like in the United States: spring, summer, fall and winter. Japan is a long country from north to south, again similar to the United States, so the northern areas of the country are generally colder than the southern areas. Geographers compare the weather across Japan to the weather experienced on the East Coast of the U.S. from Maine to Georgia.
3. In subtropical climates the winters are relatively warm, but not as hot as the summer season. These climates rarely, if ever, have frost or snow.
4. Individual response
5. Humidity is the amount of water vapor in the air. This water vapor usually comes from rainfall. Humidity is what makes the air feel sticky in the summer heat.
6. Individual response
7. Individual response

Plants and Animals of Japan

Like the United States, Japan has different climate zones because it is over 2,000 miles long from north to south. With many climate zones, there are a wide variety of plant and animal species that are specialized to grow and live in each climate zone. Other species thrive throughout Japan. Japan has many species of plants and animals; it has great biodiversity. In fact, Japan has about 4,500 different plants.



Even though Japan has a large population, most of the people live in crowded cities. Surprisingly, about 70% of Japan is home to forests. Conifers grow throughout Japan with different species growing in their preferred climate. Conifers are evergreen trees and include yew, umbrella pine, hemlock, white pine, fir and spruce. Black pine and red pine grow in sandy and coastal areas near the ocean while fir and spruce grow in the mountain areas. A famous ancient tree grows on the island of Yakushima. This large cedar is over 50 feet around and is believed to be over 7,200 years old.

Many kinds of deciduous trees, trees that have leaves, grow in Japan. These are familiar trees that also grow in North America, like oak, maple, linden, birch, ash, elm, and walnut. These trees turn color in the fall and Japanese people leave the cities to enjoy the bright fall colors. Cherry trees are an important part of Japanese heritage. Blossoming cherry trees are a beautiful sight in the spring and Japanese people hold many of their celebrations when the cherry trees are in bloom.

Japan is home to around 450 different kinds of animals. Many of these animals are adapted to the climate of a particular area or island. Japanese cranes, also called red-crested cranes, are a symbol of the country and frequently appear in old artworks. These rare birds are protected. Japanese macaques, a species of monkey, live in the north. Carnivores include brown bear, fox, wolf, walrus and seal. There are only eight species of reptiles.

The ocean waters surrounding Japan are home to all kinds of marine creatures. Japan's ocean giant spider crab and freshwater giant salamander are the largest of their kind in the world.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The term biodiversity of an area refers to the number of
 - a. Plants
 - b. Animals
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above

2. How much of Japan is covered with forests?
 - a. 20%
 - b. 40%
 - c. 50%
 - d. 70%

3. Which of the following trees is a conifer?
 - a. Oak
 - b. Walnut
 - c. Cedar
 - d. Cherry

4. The tree that is associated the most with Japanese heritage is the
 - a. Cherry tree
 - b. Cedar
 - c. Beech
 - d. All of the above

5. What kind of monkey lives in Japan?
 - a. Spider
 - b. Macaque
 - c. Howler
 - d. Capuchin

6. Japan has the largest in the world species of
 - a. Crab
 - b. Salamander
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above

Name: _____ Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. Locate pictures of the kinds of conifer trees that grow in Japan. Create a collage of these pictures and label each type of tree.
2. The island of Yakushima is a World Heritage Site. Do some research and explain why this remote island is so special.
3. Every year there is a Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. Do some research and write a short report about the festival. Be sure to explain the history of where the trees came from.
4. Find pictures of the Japanese crane, also called the red-crowned crane, in Japanese artwork. Japanese artwork of this type has a unique style. Paint your own crane picture using the Japanese style.
5. Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry. Write a haiku that is related to some part of Japanese plants and animals.
6. Bonsai is a specialized Japanese art form using plants. Explain what bonsai is or create a poster of examples of bonsai.
7. Do some research and write a short report about Japan's giant spider crab or giant salamander.

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. c.
2. d.
3. c.
4. a.
5. b.
6. c.

Short Answer

1. Individual response
2. Individual response
3. Individual response
4. Individual response
5. Individual response
6. Individual response
7. Individual response

The Economy of Japan

Japan is an important country in the world economy. The United States is number one in the world economy. Even though China is producing many goods that are exported to the U.S. Japan is the second largest economy in the world and China is third. The workers in Tokyo,



Japan's capital city, are the highest paid in the world. Japan's largest trading partner is the United States.

While Japan is a world-wide economic giant, this small island country must rely on trade with the rest of the world for many essential items. Only about twelve percent of the country is suitable for farming. Farming practices in Japan are very efficient and Japan can meet half of its needs from these farms. This means that half the food needed to feed 127 million people must be imported from other countries. Japan imports food mainly from the United States and countries in Europe.

With a large seacoast, fishing is important to the Japanese economy. Fish are an important part of the Japanese diet. The Japanese fishing fleet is one of the largest in the world and Japan ranks second in the world after China in the amount of fish caught per year.

Japan's has an important auto industry. Cars made in Japan are exported to developed countries around the world. Japanese-made cars are popular in the U.S. and Japanese automakers have opened manufacturing plants in the United States. Japan is a major supplier of electronic products including computers, copy machines and television products. One problem is that Japan must import much of the raw materials used in manufacturing because the country lacks natural resources.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The country of Japan's economy is ranks where in the world?
 - a. First
 - b. Second
 - c. Third
 - d. Fourth

2. Japan's largest trading partner is
 - a. United States
 - b. Canada
 - c. China
 - d. Korea

3. Japan is able to grow how much of the food it needs?
 - a. One-tenth
 - b. One-quarter
 - c. One-half
 - d. Three-quarters

4. Japan imports food mainly from
 - a. United States
 - b. European countries
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above

5. The Japanese fishing industry ranks where in the world?
 - a. First
 - b. Second
 - c. Third
 - d. Fourth

6. Japan is a major producer of
 - a. Automobiles
 - b. Electronics
 - c. Televisions
 - d. All of the above

Name: _____ Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. Explain how Japan feeds its large population.
2. Fish is an important part of the Japanese diet. Find recipes for Japanese dishes where the main ingredient is some type of fish.
3. The workers in Tokyo, Japan's capital city, are the highest paid in the world. Does this mean that residents of Tokyo live a better lifestyle than others?
4. Japanese automakers that have manufacturing locations in the United States include Toyota, Honda and Subaru. Find locations in the U.S. where some of these automotive plants are located.
5. Since Japan is a small island country it lacks natural resources. What impact does this have on the Japanese economy?
6. Transportation is an important part of the Japanese economy. Do some research and describe Japan's modern rail system.
7. The United States and Japan are top-ranked countries based on their economy and trade together. Most Japanese business people and students learn to speak and write English. Do you think more Americans should learn the Japanese language? Explain why or why not.

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. b.
2. a.
3. c.
4. c.
5. b.
6. d.

Short Answer

1. Only about twelve percent of the country is suitable for farming. Farming practices in Japan are very efficient and Japan can meet half of its needs from these farms. Japan imports the rest of the food it needs mainly from the United States and countries in Europe.

2. Individual response

3. The point of this question is to prompt discussion about wages versus cost of living.

4. Individual response

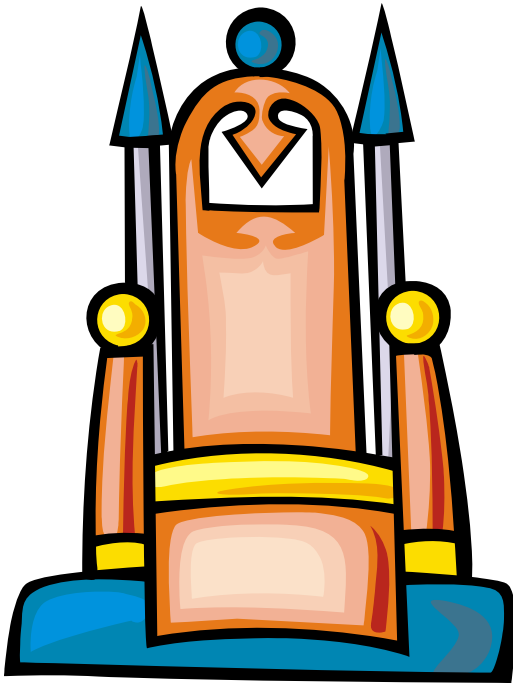
5. Japanese manufacturers must import the materials needed for creating products.

6. Individual response

7. Individual response

Japanese Government

Japan was ruled by an emperor until the middle of the Twentieth Century. Legend says that the first emperor of Japan was Emperor Jimmu who was born in the year 711 BCE. The emperor was considered to be a living god even if he did not rule Japan as happened during Japanese history. After the end of World



War II, in 1946 the Japanese people adopted a democratic constitution that went into effect in 1947. Under this constitution Japan continues to have an emperor but the emperor does not have any ruling power. Like most royalty in the modern world, the emperor remains as a symbol for the country of Japan.

Japan has a democracy and a parliament which is called the Diet. All members of parliament are elected by Japanese people. The parliament is bicameral. Bicameral means having two legislative houses. Japan's government has a House of Councilors with 242 members who serve for four years and a House of Representatives with 480 members who serve for six years.

Japan does not have a president but instead has a prime minister who is the head of the government. The prime minister is selected from the members of the Diet and must have the continued approval of a majority of members of the House of Representatives. As a symbol of Japan, the emperor approves the appointment of a prime minister. The prime minister appoints a cabinet of Ministers of State; most ministers are members of the Diet. Ministries cover areas such as Foreign Affairs, Defense, Agriculture, Education and Health.

Japan has a Supreme Court which rules at the national level as well as lower courts that handle cases at a district level. Japan is divided into 47 prefectures, like states, and each one has a governor.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. Emperors ruled Japan until the end of
 - a. The Nineteenth Century
 - b. The Twentieth Century
 - c. World War I
 - d. World War II

2. Today the government of Japan is a
 - a. Monarchy
 - b. Democracy
 - c. Socialist state
 - d. Republic

3. The Japanese parliament is called
 - a. Parliament
 - b. Congress
 - c. Diet
 - d. Prefecture

4. The Japanese parliament has how many legislative houses?
 - a. One
 - b. Two
 - c. Three
 - d. Forty-seven

5. The ruling head of the Japanese government is the
 - a. Prime Minister
 - b. Minister of State
 - c. President
 - d. Emperor

6. What division of Japanese government is like a state in the United States?
 - a. House of Councilors
 - b. House of Representatives
 - c. Supreme Court
 - d. None of the above

Name: _____ Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. Describe the role of the emperor in Japanese government today.
2. Compare the Japanese Diet to the Congress of the United States.
3. Do some research and make a list of countries that are ruled by a prime minister.
4. How is the prime minister of Japan selected?
5. Compare the Japanese Cabinet of Ministers to the cabinet of the U.S. president.
6. How is a Japanese prefecture like a state in the United States?
7. Describe the Japanese court system.

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. d.
2. b.
3. c.
4. b.
5. a.
6. d.

Short Answer

1. Like most royalty in the modern world, the emperor remains as a symbol for the country of Japan and has no ruling function except to approve the appointment of the prime minister.

2. The Japanese Diet and the U.S. Congress both have two houses. The House of Councilors is similar to the U.S. Senate and members of both serve for six years. Both countries have a House of Representatives. All members in both countries are elected by the people.

3. Examples are Great Britain, Canada, India and Israel.

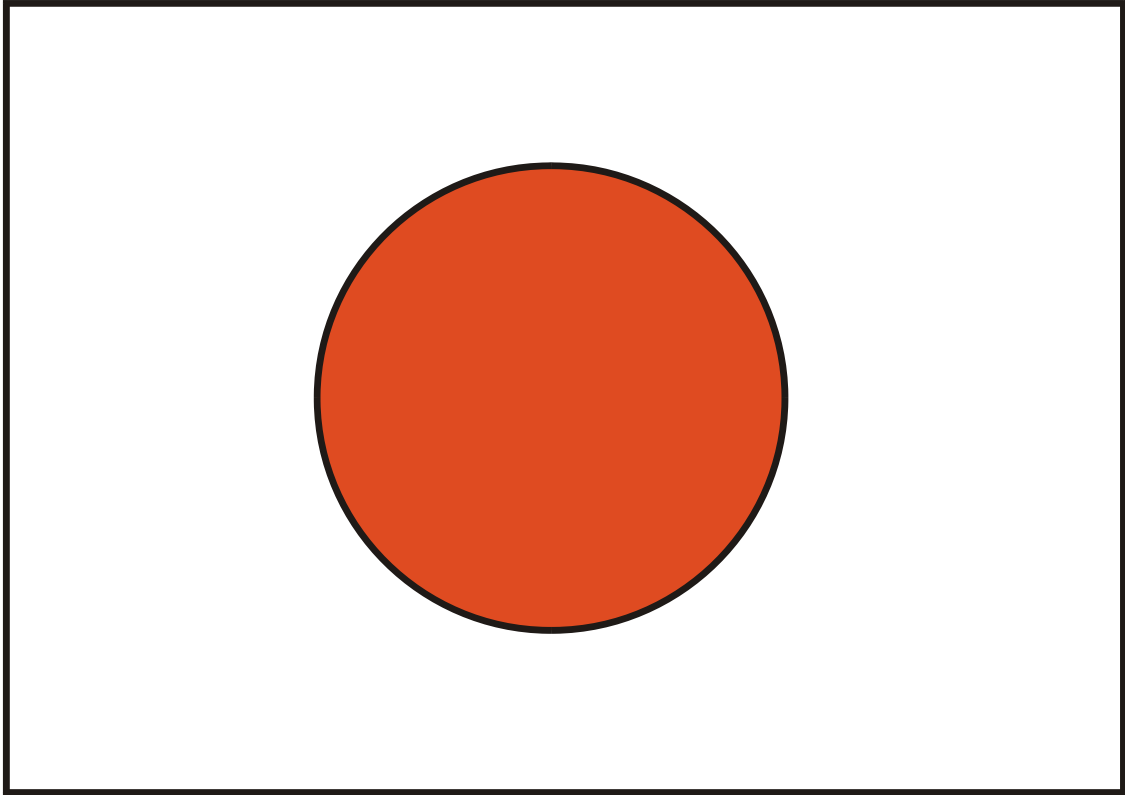
4. The prime minister is selected from the members of the Diet and must have the continued approval of a majority of members of the House of Representatives. As a symbol of Japan, the emperor approves the appointment of a prime minister.

5. The Japanese prime minister appoints a cabinet of Ministers of State; most ministers are members of the Diet. Ministries cover areas such as Foreign Affairs, Defense, Agriculture, Education and Health. The U.S. president appoints cabinet members with the approval of Congress. The divisions within the cabinet are about the same in both countries. For example, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is about the same as the U.S. Department of State.

6. Japan is divided into 47 prefectures, like states, and each one has a governor.

7. Japan has a Supreme Court which rules at the national level as well as lower courts that handle cases at a district level.

The Japanese Flag



Japan

Japanese History

Japan as a society dates back to around 500 BCE to the time of the first emperor, Emperor Jimmu.

Historians know that the country of Japan formed in the Eighth Century when the ruling family set up a government structure like that found

in ancient China. In the Twelfth Century the samurai warriors became the ruling class and they were headed by a shogun. Shogun is simply another name for a general. Shoguns became powerful because they controlled the military and during the time of the samurai the emperor was a symbolic ruler. Shoguns ruled over small feudal kingdoms until the Sixteenth Century.

In 1543 Portuguese traders heading for China arrived in Japan by mistake. That was the beginning of trade between Japan and some European countries. During the Sixteenth Century the country became unified under a single shogun. For about 200 years the ruling shoguns had a policy of Japanese isolation; Japan did not trade with any foreign countries. In 1853 Commodore Matthew Perry of the U.S. Navy sailed to Japan to force the opening of the country to foreigners. This opening of Japan caused the collapse of the rule of the shoguns and samurai in 1868 and the new government was ruled once again by the emperor.

In the early 1900s Japanese society changed as a result of contact with other countries. The Japanese people adopted a constitution like that of the Germany, the U.S. and France. The new Japanese government wanted to grow as an international power and attempted to add territory to Japan on the Asian continent. As a result, there were wars with China and Russia. At the end of World War I, Japan joined the ranks of the Big Five powers of the world.

Japan entered into World War II in 1941 with an attack on the American fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7. There was intense fighting between the U.S. and Japan in the Pacific Ocean. After four years of war the United States dropped two atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These are the only times that nuclear bombs have even been used in warfare. The bombings and the declaration of war by Russia caused Japan to surrender on September 2, 1945. The country was placed under international control under the leadership of U.S. General Douglas MacArthur. Japan remained an occupied country until April 28, 1952 when it regained its sovereignty.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The first government of ancient Japan was modeled after that of
 - a. China
 - b. Germany
 - c. The United States
 - d. France

2. The ancient samurai warriors were ruled by
 - a. The emperor
 - b. A shogun
 - c. A prime minister
 - d. None of the above

3. Ships from the first European country to visit Japan in the 1500s came from
 - a. France
 - b. England
 - c. Portugal
 - d. Russia

4. Japanese isolation meant
 - a. No contact between people because of disease
 - b. The samurai and shogun lived away from other people
 - c. Japan did not trade with other nations
 - d. None of the above

5. When Japan adopted a constitution it was based on the constitution of
 - a. The United States
 - b. Germany
 - c. France
 - d. All of the above

6. During World War II
 - a. The Japanese attacked on the American fleet in Pearl Harbor
 - b. There was intense fighting between the U.S. and Japan in the Pacific
 - c. United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japanese cities
 - d. All of the above

Name: _____ Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. Samurai warriors are popular in American culture. List some places where you find references to samurai warriors in American culture.
2. Japanese legend says that all Japanese emperors are descended from the first emperor, Emperor Jimmu. Do you think that is possible? Explain why or why not.
3. Why did U.S. Commodore Perry sail to Japan and what was the eventual result?
4. During the early 1900s Japan wanted to become an international power. What was the result?
5. How did Japan enter World War II?
6. What caused Japan to surrender at the end of World War II?
7. What does the term sovereignty mean?

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. a.
2. b.
3. c.
4. c.
5. d.
6. d.

Short Answer

1. Individual response
2. Individual response
3. In 1853 Commodore Matthew Perry of the U.S. Navy sailed to Japan to force the opening of the country to foreigners. This opening of Japan caused the collapse of the rule of the shoguns and samurai in 1868 and the new government was ruled once again by the emperor.
4. In the early 1900s the new Japanese government wanted to grow as an international power and attempted to add territory to Japan on the Asian continent. As a result, there were wars with China and Russia. At the end of World War I, Japan joined the ranks of the Big Five powers of the world.
5. Japan entered in World War II in 1941 with an attack on the American fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7. As a result, the United States entered World War II.
6. The bombings cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the declaration of war by Russia caused Japan to surrender on September 2, 1945, ending Japan's involvement in World War II.
7. Sovereignty means the right to self-government without interference from outside.

What is school like in Japan?

Japanese children stay at home or go to daycare when they are little. Before starting school kids are taught by their mothers to learn manners, social skills and basics like counting. The kids watch educational TV shows. Many kids go to preschool. Japanese kids begin first grade when they become six years old and the family celebrates going to school about like in the United States. Kids walk to school no matter what the weather is and bundle up in the cold winter weather. It can take a half hour to get to school.

Some places require kids to wear helmets when walking to school and some require school uniforms. Once at school the kids put away their shoes and wear slippers.



The school year starts in April and the school day begins around 8 o'clock in the morning. Elementary students attend class in their grade with one teacher for the day. There can be 35 students in the class and everyone is divided into teams to work together. Working with a group is an important part of Japanese culture and is emphasized in class. Students learn arithmetic, science, social studies and use computers for learning but the most important subject is the Japanese language. The Japanese language is complicated because it is written with symbols. All afternoon might be devoted to practice with the writing symbols, called kanji. Most of the time there's homework for later in the day.

All students eat lunch at school and get a free lunch. In many schools the meals are delivered to the classroom and kids take turns serving the lunch. Servers wear white aprons, white hats and facemasks so they don't spread germs. Students are responsible for keeping the school clean. Teams take turns at washing floors and desks, emptying trash, cleaning restrooms and whatever else it takes to make the school tidy.

Music is an important part of the school day and so is preparing for festivals. Kids put on performances for assemblies and for parents. They also have physical education in the gym. Most schools even have a swimming pool. Kids participate in clubs during school hours.

After six years in elementary school, students go to lower-secondary school (middle school), grades seven to nine. After that they attend upper secondary school (high school) and many go on to the universities.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. In Japan elementary school children have
 - a. Art and music teachers
 - b. A different teacher for each subject
 - c. One teacher for all day
 - d. One teacher and one aide for all day

2. Some Japanese schools require kids to wear
 - a. Helmets when they walk to school
 - b. School uniforms
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above

3. Japanese elementary schools emphasize
 - a. Working together as a group
 - b. Japanese language
 - c. Keeping the school clean
 - d. All of the above

4. Students spend a lot of time learning the Japanese language because
 - a. It is written with symbols
 - b. There is a large vocabulary
 - c. They read ancient books
 - d. None of the above

5. Besides studies what other activities do Japanese students have at school?
 - a. Clubs
 - b. Physical education
 - c. Music
 - d. All of the above

6. After elementary school Japanese students attend
 - a. Preschool
 - b. Lower-secondary school
 - c. Upper-secondary school
 - d. University

Name: _____ Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. Many Japanese schools require students to wear school uniforms. School districts in the United States are talking about having students wear uniforms. Do you think school uniforms are a good idea? Explain why or why not.
2. Compare your school day to the Japanese school day.
3. Group cooperation is an important part of Japanese culture. How do Japanese schools teach group cooperation? Would more group cooperation in class be a good idea for schools in the United States? Explain why or why not.
4. Do some research and find examples of kanji symbols. Draw these symbols to get a better understanding of how to write Japanese.
5. Compare how schools are set-up in Japan and the United States, starting with pre-school and ending with university education.
6. Japanese students can participate in school clubs during the day and after school. How do American students participate in school clubs? Why do you think Japanese students can have club activities during the school day?
7. Do think that keeping the classroom clean in a team would be a chore or would it be fun? Explain why or why not.

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. c.
2. c.
3. d.
4. a.
5. d.
6. b.

Short Answer

1. Individual response
2. Individual response
3. Individual response
4. Individual response
5. Both Japan and the U.S. are organized with pre-school; elementary school; lower-secondary in Japan is the same as middle school in the United States and upper-secondary school in Japan is the same as high school in the United States. The final step is attending a university.
6. Individual response
7. Individual response

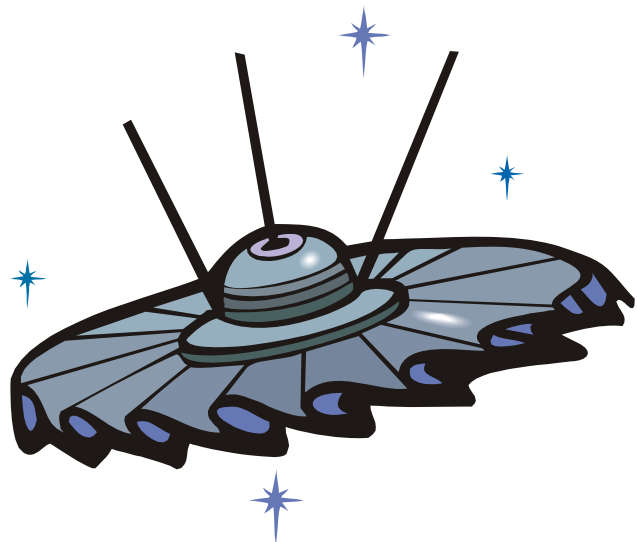
Japanese Science and Technology

Japan is the second largest economy in the world and can afford to support science and technology at the national level. The Japanese government runs the Japan Science and Technology Agency. This agency supports research into areas of science and technology based on national policy goals. One desired result is cooperation among researchers from universities, other public agencies and companies. The other goal is to develop new ideas that will advance science and technology into new areas. These new ideas will then be shared so companies can create practical products from them. This sharing process is called technology transfer.

Education of students is a key part of the agency's goal to promote public understanding of science and technology. This program aims to develop the "next generation" of leaders in science and technology. The Japanese educational system promotes the study of science, mathematics and technology. Meanwhile the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has created Super Science High Schools and developed programs for gifted students at the university level. Promotion of science and technology is a national priority in Japan.

Meanwhile Japanese companies excel at electronics and the development of advanced electronic devices. Many of the best-known electronics companies in the world are located in Japan.

Japanese researchers are active in developing robotics; more than half of the world's robots that work in manufacturing are in Japan. Japanese technology developed an advanced train system. The Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency is active in the International Space Station.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. Where does the economy of Japan rank in the world?
 - a. First
 - b. Second
 - c. Fifth
 - d. Tenth

2. The Japanese government invests tax dollars in
 - a. Scientific research
 - b. Developing new technologies
 - c. Training students in science
 - d. All of the above

3. The Japanese maintain a strong economy in spite of the fact that
 - a. Japan lacks natural resources
 - b. Universities cooperate with businesses
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above

4. When new ideas are given to companies by researchers it is called
 - a. Technical innovation
 - b. Technical analysis
 - c. Technology transfer
 - d. Technical excellence

5. The Japanese educational system promotes the study of
 - a. Science
 - b. Mathematics
 - c. Technology
 - d. All of the above

6. To promote national goals the Japanese educational system
 - a. Created Super Science High Schools
 - b. Has programs for gifted students at the university level
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above

Name: _____ Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. What is the Japan Science and Technology Agency?
2. What are three goals of the Japan Science and Technology Agency?
3. Do some research and compare the rank in the world of Japanese and American students in mathematics and science.
4. How does the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology cooperate with the Japan Science and Technology Agency?
5. Do you have an interest in attending a Super Science High School in the United States? (These are often called Charter Schools.) Explain why or why not.
6. Do you have an interest in robotics, developing advanced trains or any other technology? Describe your interests and why they are fascinating.
7. Do some research and write a short report about the rockets developed by the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency.

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. b.
2. d.
3. a.
4. c.
5. d.
6. c.

Short Answer

1. The Japanese government runs the Japan Science and Technology Agency. This agency supports research into areas of science and technology based on national policy goals.
2. The Japan Science and Technology Agency has three major goals. One desired result is cooperation among researchers from universities, other public agencies and companies. Another goal is to develop new ideas that will advance science and technology into new areas. A third goal is to promote public understanding of science and technology.
3. Individual response
4. Education of students is a key part of the agency's goal to promote public understanding of science and technology. This program aims to develop the "next generation" of leaders in science and technology. The Japanese educational system promotes the study of science, mathematics and technology. Meanwhile the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has created Super Science High Schools and developed programs for gifted students at the university level.
5. Individual response
6. Individual response
7. Individual response

Japanese and American Cultures

Japan is an Asian country that is located halfway around the world. In the 1800s and early 1900s when Japan was isolated from the world, it may have seemed to Americans to be a strange and mysterious place. Before our modern age of advanced communications, these ideas were believable. Today a simple click of a mouse on a computer connected to the Internet brings anyone accurate



information from around the world. People from different backgrounds can easily learn more about each other to find out how much alike we all are.

Did you read the lesson about the Japanese school day? Except for a few differences, the Japanese school day is very much like the American school day. The Japanese culture places a great importance on education. For example, only six percent of students in Japan drop out of high school compared to about fifteen percent in the United States. Japanese culture values group

efforts and decision-making. School children work together in groups to tackle studies and chores together. American culture values individualism and do-it-yourself projects. This is a major difference between the two cultures.

Children learn manners and etiquette from an early age. Since the group is important in Japanese society, there are rules for interacting properly in groups. American business people who trade with Japanese companies need to learn the rules of Japanese etiquette that apply to business.

Japanese young people are well adapted to a modern lifestyle. Teenagers and young adults use cell phones, computers, listen to popular music, care about clothing styles, and lots of other things just like American youth does. Japan is a prosperous country and many people can afford the same kind of lifestyle that Americans enjoy.

One major difference is transportation. Americans rely on their cars to get places every day. Japan has excellent public transportation in the cities and advanced high-speed trains for traveling through out the country. Perhaps the greatest difference between Japan and the U.S. is cuisine. The Japanese cuisine relies heavily on seafood dishes because Japan is surrounded by ocean. Their food can be very different but Americans love Japanese restaurants and American fast food companies have franchises in Japan.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. Japanese culture places great importance on
 - a. Education
 - b. Group cooperation
 - c. Etiquette
 - d. All of the above

2. Rules of acceptable behavior are called
 - a. Etiology
 - b. Etiquette
 - c. Etymology
 - d. Etymon

3. The American high school dropout rate is
 - a. Half the Japanese dropout rate
 - b. One-quarter the Japanese dropout rate
 - c. The same as the Japanese dropout rate
 - d. More than twice the Japanese dropout rate

4. In Japan
 - a. Most people are poor
 - b. Most people own automobiles
 - c. People have a lifestyle equivalent to the American lifestyle
 - d. All of the above

5. What is a major difference between American and Japanese transportation?
 - a. Automobiles
 - b. Airplanes
 - c. High-speed trains
 - d. All are equivalent

6. Japanese cuisine is based on
 - a. Seafood
 - b. Beef
 - c. Pork
 - d. Chicken

Name: _____ Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. Describe the school day for Japanese school children. Do research if you need to.
2. Why do you think that only six percent of students in Japan drop out of high school compared to about fifteen percent in the United States?
3. Give an example that shows how Japanese culture values group efforts and decision-making.
4. What is one area that American business people need to learn about before they conduct business in Japan?
5. Do some research and write a short report about Japan's high-speed trains.
6. There are Japanese recipes that include seafood like shrimp and prawns. Do some research and write a short report about prawns.
7. Do some research and describe what sushi is and how it is different from sashimi.

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. d.
2. b.
3. d.
4. c.
5. c.
6. a.

Short Answer

1. Individual response
2. Individual response
3. School children work together in groups to tackle studies and chores together.
4. American business people who trade with Japanese companies need to learn the rules of Japanese etiquette that apply to business.
5. Individual response
6. Individual response
7. Individual response

Major Japanese Cities



Japan has a population of 127 million people and nearly eighty percent of them live in cities. Japan has eleven cities with a population of more than one million. Almost half the population lives in the top 100 cities in Japan.

Tokyo, the capital city, itself has eight million people and the Greater Tokyo area has a total of nearly thirty-six million, the most populated city area of the world. Tokyo used to be called Edo when Kyoto was the capital of Japan. When Edo became the capital the name was changed to Tokyo which means eastern capital. Central Tokyo contains the Japanese Parliament and ministry offices as well as the ancient Imperial Palace of the emperors. The emperors moved to Tokyo in 1868 when Japan was no longer controlled by shoguns. Tokyo was devastated by an earthquake in 1923 and severely bombed during World War II. Tokyo was rebuilt and shown to the world at the 1964 Summer Olympics.

Tokyo is 400 years old and contains many old relics and reminders of the past. Yet at the same time it is a completely modern city filled with expensive shopping, high-tech neon signs and streets filled with people and skyscrapers filled with offices. Modern Tokyo is one of the world's leading financial centers along with New York and London. Many large multi-national corporations have major offices in Tokyo. The city is the center of transportation for Japan and within the city the major means of transportation is the extensive train and subway system. Tokyo is also an educational center with many universities, theaters and museums.

Yokohama is Japan's second largest city with over 3.5 million people. It is located south of Tokyo on Tokyo Bay, a bay of the western Pacific Ocean. Yokohama has long been a port city for Japan and was the first port open to foreign ships when Japan stopped its policy of isolation in 1859. The city was almost completely destroyed in 1923 by the earthquake that affected Tokyo. Besides shipping, Yokohama is known for biotechnology and semiconductor companies. It has steel mills, chemical plants, oil refineries, and factories that manufacture automobiles and other transportation equipment, machinery, ships, and textiles. It is so large that it is included as part of the Greater Tokyo area.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. What percent of the Japanese population live in cities?
 - a. 20%
 - b. 40%
 - c. 60%
 - d. 80%

2. The capital city of Japan is
 - a. Edo
 - b. Tokyo
 - c. Kyoto
 - d. Yokohama

3. Along with New York and London, Tokyo is a leading
 - a. Technology center
 - b. Financial center
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above

4. After World War II Tokyo was rebuilt and showcased at the
 - a. Winter Games
 - b. Winter Olympics
 - c. Summer Olympics
 - d. World Cup

5. Yokohama is located
 - a. Near Tokyo
 - b. On Tokyo Bay
 - c. On the western Pacific Ocean
 - d. All of the above

6. Yokohama is known for
 - a. Biotechnology
 - b. Steel mills
 - c. Automobile manufacturing
 - d. All of the above

Name: _____ Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. Explain how the city of Tokyo got its name.
2. How was Tokyo damaged during the first half of the Twentieth Century?
3. Tokyo was damaged by earthquakes in 1703, 1782, 1812, 1855 and 1923. What is the average number of years between earthquakes? When would you predict that another earthquake could happen?
4. Tokyo covers a huge amount of land. How do people travel around the city?
5. Tokyo is an urban heat island. Do some research and explain what urban heat island means.
6. Do some research and describe the climate of Tokyo and its neighboring Yokohama.
7. Locate pictures of Tokyo and create a notebook or poster of the pictures. Contrast scenes of old Tokyo with pictures of the most modern elements of the city. Be sure to label each picture to identify it.

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. d.
2. b.
3. b.
4. c.
5. d.
6. d.

Short Answer

1. Tokyo is the capital city of Japan. Tokyo used to be called Edo when Kyoto was the capital of Japan. When Edo became the capital in 1868 the name was changed to Tokyo which means eastern capital.
2. Tokyo was devastated by an earthquake in 1923 and severely bombed during World War II.
3. Years between earthquakes = 81, 30, 43, 68. Average = 55.5. We cannot predict but based on the historical data Tokyo may be overdue for an earthquake.
4. Within the city of Tokyo the major means of transportation is the extensive train and subway system.
5. Individual response
6. Individual response
7. Individual response