

## Where is Japan located?

Japan is located on the eastern edge of the continent of Asia. It is an archipelago or string of islands (around four thousand in total). The four main islands are Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu.



## Facts about Japan






Capital: Tokyo Population: 126.4 million

Area: 377,864 km<sup>2</sup>

Major language: Japanese

Major religions: Shintoism, Buddhism

## Key Vocabulary

<b>Continent</b> 	one of the earth's seven major areas of land.
<b>Border</b>	The line between two countries, states, or towns.
<b>Population</b>	The people that live in an area, considered a group.
<b>Longitude</b> 	Distance on the earth's surface east or west of an imaginary line on the globe that goes from the north pole to the south pole and passes through Greenwich, England. Longitude is usually measured in degrees.
<b>Latitude</b> 	The distance between the equator and a point north or south on the earth's surface. This distance is measured in degrees.
<b>Equator</b> 	The imaginary circle around the earth that is halfway between the North and South Poles. The equator is represented by a line that goes around the middle of a globe.
<b>Hemisphere</b> 	Hemisphere is the name given to half a sphere, cut in half through its widest point.
<b>Meridian lines</b> 	The starting point for the measuring system called longitude. Longitude is a system of imaginary north-south lines called meridians. They connect the North Pole to the South Pole.
<b>Human geography</b>	The study of societies, cultures and economies.
<b>Physical geography</b>	The study of the Earth's natural features, such as mountains, rivers, deserts and oceans.
<b>Region</b>	An area of the earth's surface that has certain features of land and climate.

### What are the physical landscapes of Japan like?

The physical Japan is mostly mountainous of which 66% is covered by forests. The highest mountain is Mount Fuji, at 3,776m, which is also a volcano.

To the east of Japan, there are three deep trenches in the Pacific Ocean. These are caused by tectonic plates overlapping and lead to frequent earthquakes, tsunamis and the creation of large volcanoes on Japan. The Japanese land area is slowly growing, due to volcanic eruptions, land reclamation and the natural expansion of islands.

The climate of Japan ranges from humid continental in the north, to humid subtropical and tropical rainforest in the south.



### What does the Japanese flag represent?

The Japanese flag is as 'Hinomaru' which means 'circle of the sun'. The crimson red colour of the symbolic sun is said to represent a prosperous future for Japan. The white background colour symbolizes the purity, honesty, and integrity of the people of Japan.



### Famous human landmarks in Japan



**Tokyo tower.** This was built to represent the Eiffel Tower and is 332 metres tall. It opened in 1958.



**Himeji Castle** – a UNESCO World Heritage Site and built in 1609.



**Atomic Bomb Dome and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.** The Dome remains after an atomic bomb was dropped in 1945 and the park is a memorial to the people who lost their lives and a reminder of the horrors of warfare,

### Food in Japan.

Japanese cuisine consists of lots of rice, fish and vegetables. As it contains little fat and lots of vitamins and minerals, the Japanese diet is considered to be one of the healthiest in the world and the reason why they have one of the highest life expectancies in the world (average 84 years old).

