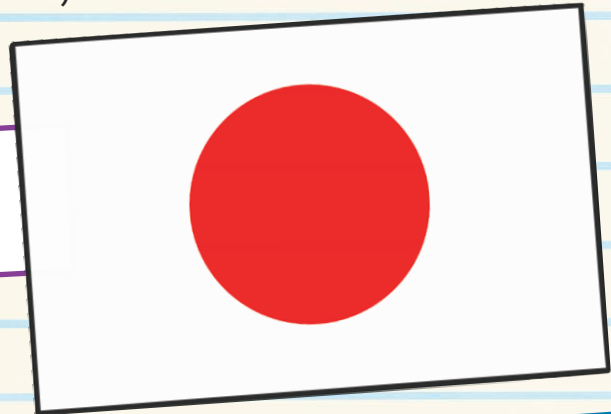


Japan is an island nation (made up of 6852 islands) in the continent of Asia.

### Population

The population of Japan is 126.5 million.



### Area

Japan covers an area of 377,973km<sup>2</sup>.

### Language

Japanese is the official language of Japan.

### Cities

The capital city of Japan is Tokyo. The population of Tokyo is 38 million. Compared to other cities, more people live in the Tokyo city area than in any other city area in the world!



### Religion

Shinto and Buddhism are the two main religions in Japan.

### Natural resources

Japan has very few natural resources. It is the number one importer of coal and gas and is the second largest importer of oil. The fishing industry is very big, however.



### Exports

Japan's biggest exports are vehicles, electrical machinery (including computers) and equipment for medical use.

### Land Mark

Mount Fuji is the biggest tourist attraction in Japan. There are also many historic castles, shrines, temples and palaces, such as Himeji Castle and Kinkaku-ji. Many tourists also visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

## Topography

Nearly three quarters of Japan is mountainous. Japan's highest mountain is Mount Fuji (3,775m). About 69% of the land is forest. Japan has 265 volcanoes (including Mount Fuji which is dormant). Most people live in the flat plains which cover about 29% of the land.

## Coastline

The coastline of Japan is 29,751km long. There are few harbours because in most areas the land rises steeply out of the sea. Kobe, Nagoya and Yokohama are three of the biggest.

## Natural Hazards

Japan sits on the Pacific 'Ring of Fire' which means it experiences many earthquakes every day. Earthquakes under the sea can result in tsunamis.

## Biome

Hokkaido is temperate deciduous forest but Honshu is temperate coniferous forest. Bamboo grows widely in Japan.

## Rivers

Japan's rivers are relatively short. The longest is the Shinano (367km, compared to the Nile which is 6650km).

## Islands

There are 6852 islands in Japan but the largest and most populated ones are Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu.

## Climate

Japan has four distinct seasons. However, the temperatures vary in different areas of Japan.

For example, northern Japan has warm summers but very cold winters with heavy snowfall.

Southern parts of Japan, such as Okinawa, have a subtropical climate with hot and humid summers and mild winters. Typhoons are common in the autumn months.

In Tokyo, the average temperature in August is 26°C and the average in January is 5°C.

