



Land of the Rising Sun—Nippon

Map of Japan

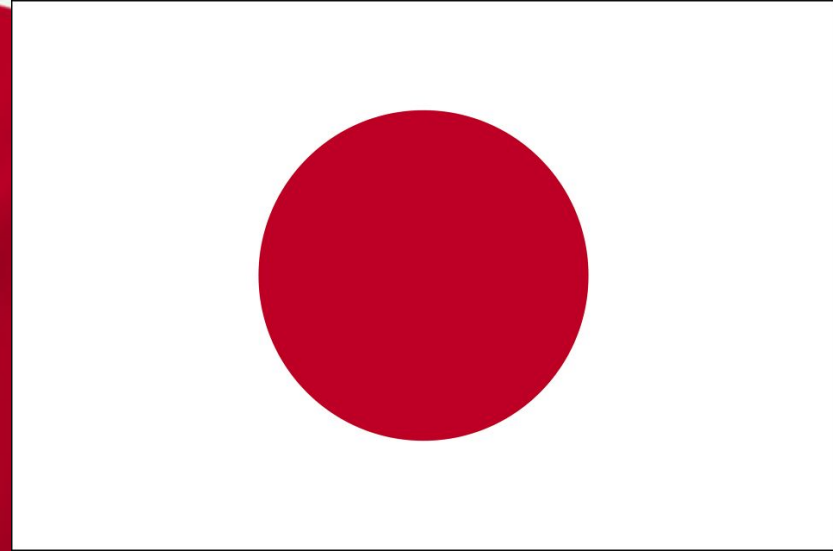
The latitude and longitude of Japan is 36.2048° N, 138.2529° E. Japan is 9,346 km away from New Zealand and it is South East of South Korea and it's part of Asia.



This is a map of Japan.

Flag

The flag of Japan is called the Nisshoki. This translates to sun-mark flag or it is also called Hinomaru which means sun disk. Japan's flag is designed to represent two different things. The red disk represents the goddess Amaterasu who is considered the mythical founder of Japan. The white background symbolises the honesty and integrity the Japanese people have.



This is the Japanese Flag.

Capital City of Japan - Tokyo

The capital city of Japan is called Tokyo. Tokyo is located in the island of Honshu. The area of Tokyo is 2,188 km squared. The total population of Tokyo is 9.273 million people as of 2015.



This is the city of Tokyo at night.

Population Of Japan

The population of Japan as of 2017 was estimated to be around 127 million people. That is almost 30 times the amount of people in New Zealand! They mainly live in the city Tokyo which is the main city in Japan and is the capital of the island Honshu. In Tokyo alone, there is estimated to be around 9.273 million Japanese citizens living in the urban city of Tokyo.



This is a image of some Japanese people in Tokyo.

Number of Islands and their Names

Japan is made up of many islands but they have 4 main islands and they are called:

- Hokkaido
- Honshu
- Kyushu
- Shikoku



This is a image of the main islands of Japan.

The capital of each islands are:

Tokyo is the capital of Honshu, Sapporo is the capital of Hokkaido, Kagoshima is the capital of Kyushu and Matsuyama is the capital of Shikoku.

Leaders

The current leader of Japan is Shinzo Abe. He was elected in 2012 and has been leading Japan since. He was re-elected after he was in office from 2006 to 2007. The first Leader of Japan was named Emperor Jimmu and he was believed to have started his leadership in the year 660 bc.



This is Shinzo Abe.

Religions

In Japan they have two main religions. Those two religions are Shinto and Buddhism. The religion of Shinto is doing ritual practises to establish a connection between present day Japan and the ancient past of Japan. They focus on optimistic faith as the human is believed to be fundamentally good. The religion of Buddhism focuses on suffering and the need to get rid of it.



This is a image of Buddha.

Life Expectancy

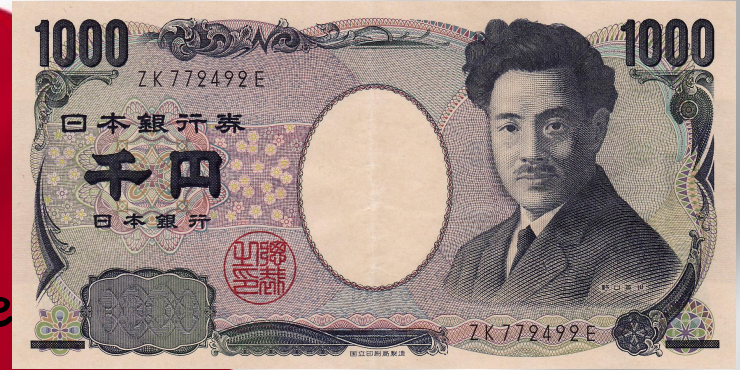
As of 2016, Japan had a life expectancy rate of 86 years old. They have the highest rate of life expectancy. This is because they eat healthy food, they walk and stand a lot more than the average person, they have very good hygiene and they are around lots of friends and family and they remain very social.



This is some sushi which is a common food to eat in Japan.

Currency in Japan

The currency that is used in Japan is called Yen. If you took \$100 Yen to New Zealand, it would convert to \$1.50. If you took \$100 NZD to Japan, it would convert to \$6,738.40. There are a total of 4 different notes. There is the \$1,000 yen note, the \$2,000 yen note, the \$5,000 yen note and the \$10,000 yen note. There is also 5 different types of coins. There is the \$5 yen coin, the \$10 yen coin, the \$50 yen coin, the \$100 yen coin and the \$500 yen coin.



This is a \$1,000 dollar yen note.

Cuisine

Japanese cuisine is very healthy and is very balanced. Most Japanese food has good nutrients that are good for the body. One reason that the Japanese people live so long is because they eat a balanced diet that has different nutrients to fuel the body. Some popular Japanese food is things like sushi, udon, ramen, miso soup, sashimi, tempura, mirin, sake, soba, curry, tonkatsu and okonomiyaki.



This is some sushi.

Tea Ceremony

The Tea Ceremony in Japan is a pastime activity in which a host will prepare and serve guests a powdered green tea called matcha. One goal for the ceremony is to create relaxed conversation between the host and the guests. Its overall aim is to reach deep spiritual satisfaction through drinking the matcha and through silent contemplation. Sometimes the tea ceremony is used to entertain guests as they sit in a relaxed room.



This is some matcha which is the traditional powdered green tea.

Samurai

Samurai or Bushi are Japanese Warriors. They built armies of samurais for protection against any threat in the premodern Japan. They were equipped with a wide variety of weapons and they worked for wealthy landowners who had grown independent from the main government. They built themselves armies to protect themselves from any threat that might be coming their way. They were used for war during the Edo Period and they were used to fight other parts of Japan. During this period, samurais were forced to live in castle towns. Peace returned after around 250 years of the Edo period and the need for martial arts defence was declined and so the samurai turned into teachers, artists or bureaucrats.



This is a picture of a samurai.

Kimono

Traditionally, the word 'kimono' meant clothes but now the kimono is a traditional garment worn to any formal occasion. The Japanese people started wearing kimonos in the Heian Period. Before the Heian Period, the people of Japan wore a upper and bottom garment until the new kimono making technique was made. This method was called the straight cut method and it made the kimonos very straight cut and it didn't show the wearer's body shape. As time came to pass, people started to experiment with different colors. The samurai wore kimonos that represented their leaders during the Edo Period. Now kimonos are worn to special occasions like weddings and funerals.



This is a image of a woman wearing a kimono.

Sumo

Sumo is a competitive sport in which two sumo wrestlers try to make one contestant touch the ground with more than the soles of their feet in a circular ring or make them come outside the ring. The focus of the sport is grappling and it is full contact wrestling that originated in Japan.



This is two sumo wrestlers about to start a fight.

Shrines and Temples

Japan has multiple shrines and temples throughout its country. There is believed to be around 2000 shrines and temples placed in Japan. Shrines are a place to keep sacred objects and it is not used to worship. Temples in Japan are used for praying and sacrifice unless you are going to a buddhist temple. Buddhist temples are used for the safekeeping of treasured items.



This is a image of a Japanese shrine.

Cherry Blossom Festival or Hanami

Every year in the month of April the Cherry Blossom Festival will take place. This festival is a tradition in which the Japanese people celebrate the coming of spring. It also involves appreciating the temporary beauty that nature provides. The people will gather round underneath the sakura and enjoy food, music, drinks, companionship and admire the sakura. They use the cherry blossoms as they are a symbol for spring, a time for renewal and the brief nature of life.



This is a picture of a sakura or cherry blossom.

3 Writing Systems

In Japan they have three writing systems. They have hiragana, katakana and kanji. The first of these three writing systems to be used was kanji. Kanji was only a spoken language which means you couldn't write anything using kanji so, the Japanese took a word from the Chinese language and matched it to their own word in Japanese which then gave the Japanese people the choice of writing in kanji. The second writing system to come was hiragana. Hiragana was introduced because learning kanji was very difficult. Previously, only the men were taught how to speak and write kanji so, the women of the Heian court created the language of hiragana as a easier alternative. The men soon realised that hiragana was easier to read and pronounce than kanji because it was based on sound instead of word pictures. The last writing system to be introduced was katakana. Katakana is a native alphabet established on sounds. The reason that they invented was because kanji was hard to read and the government was required to write formal things in kanji. Katakana is a simpler version of the kanji characters and they are pronounced the same way as the kanji characters. After some time, the characters were normalised into the Japanese alphabet. Now katakana is used for writing purposes and people use all three for speaking in their daily lives

n	w-	r-	y-	m-	h-	n-	t-	s-	k-		
ン	ウ	ラ	ヤ	マ	ハ	ナ	タ	サ	カ	ア	-a
N	WA	RA	YA	MA	HA	NA	TA	SA	KA	A	
	ヰ	リ		ミ	ヒ	ニ	チ	シ	キ	イ	-i
	WI	RI		MI	HI	NI	CHI	SHI	KI	I	
		ル	ユ	ム	フ	ヌ	ツ	ス	ク	ウ	-u
		RU	YU	MU	FU	NU	TSU	SU	KU	U	
	エ	レ		メ	ヘ	ネ	テ	セ	ケ	エ	-e
	WE	RE		ME	HE	NE	TE	SE	KE	E	
	ヲ	ロ	ヨ	モ	ホ	ノ	ト	ソ	コ	オ	-o
	WO	RO	YO	MO	HO	NO	TO	SO	KO	O	

This is a image of some katakana which is the written language in Japan.

Main Exports

Japan is mainly known for their exporting of cars but they do a lot more than that. Here are the top 10 exports:

- Machinery including computers
- Electrical technology
- Optical, technical, medical apparatus
- Iron and steel
- Plastic and Plastic articles
- Organic Chemicals
- Mineral fuels including oil
- Ships and Boats
- Gems and Precious metals



This is a Toyota which is a car brand that is produced in Japan.

Some Facts on Japan

Here are some facts on Japan:

- Japan sometimes suffers from acid rain
- The total population of Japan is 126,048,450
- Japan is a part of Asia
- The tallest mountain in Japan is Mt Fuji
- The Japanese currency is called Yen
- The national animal of Japan is the Green Pheasant
- The most dangerous animal in Japan is the Asian Giant Hornet
- The national flower of Japan is the Chrysanthemum
- The national dish of Japan is sushi.



This is a image of Mt Fuji, the tallest mountain in Japan.



Sayonara

Hope you learnt something about Japan from my Booklet.