

# Nippon - Land of the Rising Sun



This image is a photo of a Buddhist Shrine surrounded by Sakura Blossoms in the foreground and Mt Fuji in the Background

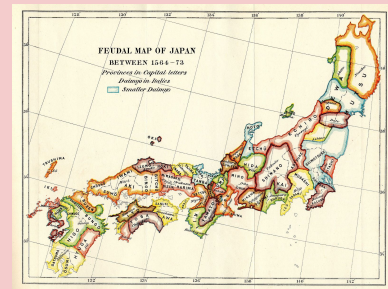


Modern map of Japan

## Geography & Islands

### History of Map -

The earliest term for maps in Japan was Kata (Roughly 'Form'). In the Nara era it was Zu. In modern day Japan it is recognised as Ezu (Roughly 'picture diagram')



Historical Map of Japan

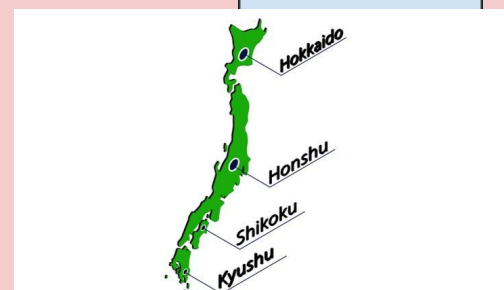


Diagram of islands

Japan is an archipelago country which means it's a country made of islands. Japan 6,852 islands and approximately 430 islands that are inhabited.

There are four home islands which are Honshu, Hokkaido, Shikoku and Kyushu.

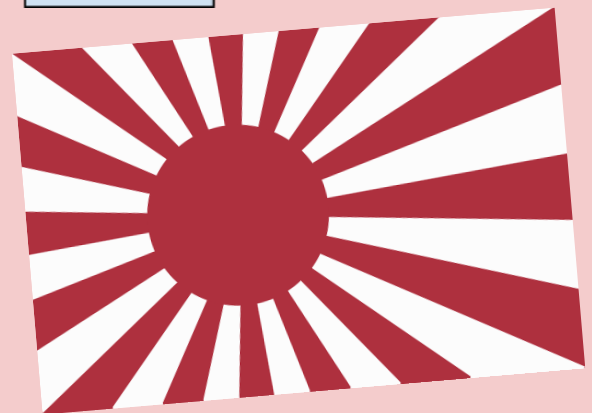
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## Japan's Flag & History

The red disc on the flag represents the Goddess Amaterasu, the founder of Japan and the ancestor of the Japanese Emperors. The white background represents honesty and integrity of the Japanese people. Japanese national flag is also often called Nisshoki (Sun Mark Flag) or Hinomaru (sun Disc).



Old & new flag of Japan



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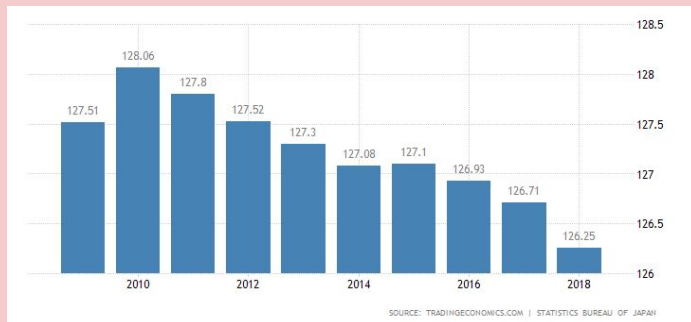
## Population

There are approximately 127 million people who are Japanese



People walking in the street

or live in Japan. This includes foreign residents.



Graph of Japan's population

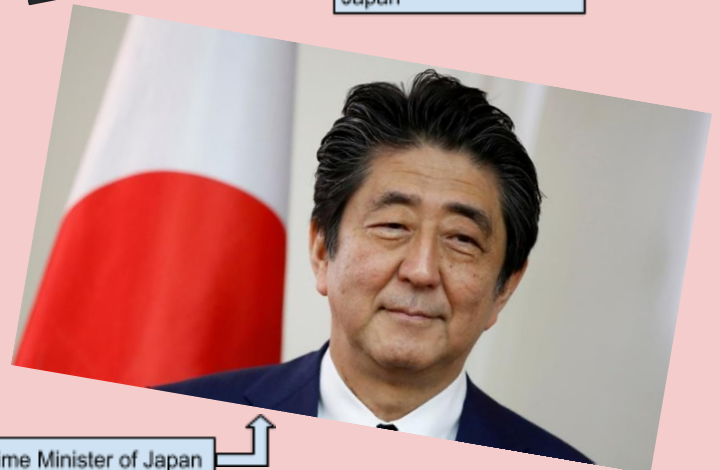
## Leaders of Japan

Japan has an Emperors who are believed to be the descendants of the Goddess Amaterasu. The current Emperor of Japan, Emperor Naruhito, who ascended to the throne after the former Emperor retired.



Emperor & Empress of Japan

Japan also has a Prime Minister named Shinzo Abe and is leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)



Prime Minister of Japan

## Japan's Religions

Shinto and Buddhism are the most popular religions in Japan.

Shinto Ceremony in a Shinto Shrine



Shinto has originated in Japan and is as old as Japan's culture, while Buddhism was introduced to Japan in the 6th century.

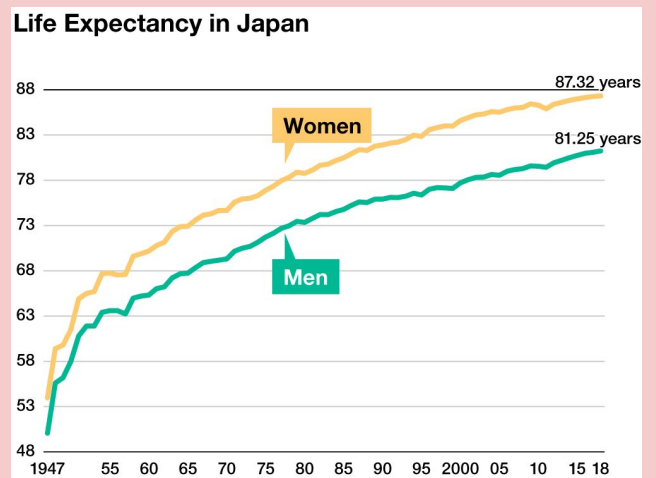
Apart from Buddhism and Shintoism there are other religions in Japan that has been, for example; Christianity, Mormon, Jehovah's Witnesses e.t.c.



## Japanese Life Expectancy

An average Japanese person's life expectancy is 83.98 years. This is one of the highest life expectancies in the world.

Like on the table women has the highest life expectancy with 87.32 years and men having 81.25 years.



Created by Nippon.com based on figures released by the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare.

nippon.com

Graph of Life Expectancy in Japan



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## Currency

69.03 Yen = \$1 NZ Dollar

Then Yen is the official currency of Japan. It is the third most traded currency in the foreign exchange market.



Yen Symbol



Yen notes and coins ↗

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## Cuisine (Food)

Japanese cuisine embraces regional and traditional foods of Japan. Japan's cuisine has evolved through centuries of changes that involve political, economical and social changes.

The traditional cuisine of Japan,



Dango



Sushi

Washoku, is based on rice and miso soup and other dishes based on the seasons and seasonal ingredients. Otherwise there are other traditional foods like Dango (image on top), Sushi/Sashimi (image in middle), e.t.c.



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## Tea Ceremony

The Japanese Tea ceremony, also known as The Way of Tea, is a Japanese cultural exercise that involves cultural preparation and presentation of matcha, a traditional green powdered tea that is used for the Tea Ceremony. While the way it is presented is called Tamae. The purpose of Tea Ceremony is to appreciate the taste of tea and respect how tea is made.



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## Samurai

Samurai, members of Japanese warrior caste. The name



Samurai was originally to indicate aristocratic warriors. Samurai's were stoic warriors, who followed the code an unwritten code of conduct, which is now known as Bishodo, which held bravery, honour and loyalty above life itself. Samurai culture also produced the tea ceremony and the and flower arranging that is still practised now.

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## Kimono & Yukata

Kimonos and Yukatas are both traditional costumes of Japan and have ever since hundreds of years and are still unchanged. The difference between Kimonos and Yukatas is that Kimonos are made of silk and Yukatas are made of cotton. Kimonos are still used till this day and used for special occasions like festivals or weddings. Yukatas are usually used for summer but they both have Obi's and they have a T shape. Kimonos and Yukatas are both influenced by chinese clothing from the Wu region.

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Kimono's



# Sumo

Sumo is full-body wrestling where a Rikishi (wrestler) tries to force his opponent out of the circle they are wrestling in or making their opponents touch the ground other than the Rikishi's balls of their feet. Sumo wrestling was originated from Japan and where it is professionally practiced.



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Shrines & Temples shrines are holy/sacred place. They normally represent a specific deity, ancestor, martyr, daemon, saint, hero or a figure that is similar, which is worthy of respect or worship. Shrines normally have relics, idols or another object that is related to the figure that the shrine is dedicated to.



Shrines in Japan are a place to worship and the dwellings of Kami, Shinto Gods. People come to Shrines to worship Kami or



to pray for good luck.

Temples in Japan are places to worship Buddha.

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## Hanami - Cherry Blossom Festival

Cherry Blossom Festival, Hanami in Japanese, is a traditional custom of enjoying the beauty of the flowers. It is normally celebrated in late March or early April, when the Cherry Blossoms Bloom. The Sakura Blossom is the most common Cherry Blossom that blooms at this time of year and that is celebrated.

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## Writing Systems

There are 3 writing systems in Japan;  
Hiragana,  
Katakana  
and Kanji.



流動

Katakana

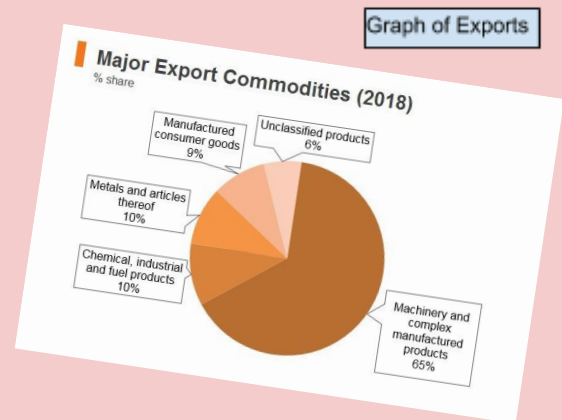
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## Japan's Main Exports

Japan is renowned for their trade of machinery, vehicles and processed petroleum oil. They manufacture and own several vehicle brands and companies and manufacture, operate and own the top machinery in the world that they use to trade with other countries and parts of the world.

These are the top ten Exports Japan has to offer and their total exports-

1. Vehicles: (20.9%)
2. Machinery including computers: (20.1%)
3. Electrical machinery, equipment: (14.8%)
4. Optical, technical, medical apparatus: (5.6%)
5. Iron, steel: (4.1%)
6. Plastics, plastic articles: (3.5%)
7. Organic chemicals: (2.6%)
8. Mineral fuels including oil: (1.8%)
9. Ships, boats: (1.7%)
10. Gems, precious metals: (1.6%)



Toyota model

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## Bullet Trains

The Bullet Train (Shinkansen in Japanese) is one of the fastest trains in the world. They were first introduced and invented to Japan in 1964 because of the mountainous terrain and narrow train rails which made travelling very slow therefore Hideo Shima created the bullet train with the support of the first president of Japanese Railways. Now Bullet Trains are used to connect the main cities of the islands of Hokkaido, Honshu and Kyushu. The fastest speed the Bullet Train is 240-320 km/h but test runs have reached 443 km/h.



Bullet Trains

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By Shellie Ermio