

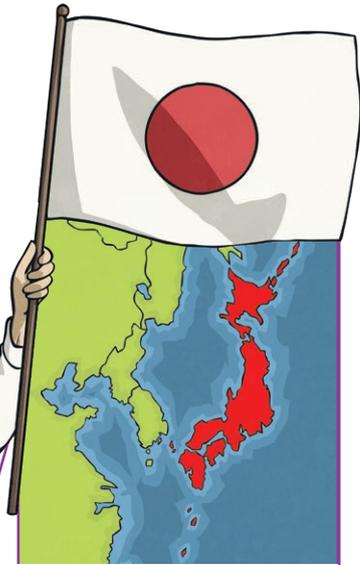
Japan

Japan is a country made up of many different islands in east Asia, on the edge of the Pacific Ocean. Over 126 million people live there.

Traditions & Festivals

Japan has many ancient festivals and traditions. For example:

- **Hanami** – During this spring-time festival, many families and friends often meet up and have a picnic under the beautiful, flowering cherry trees in parks.
- **Oshogatsu** – To celebrate the New Year, many people swap greetings cards and many children traditionally receive money. Then, many families usually travel together to a local shrine to make a wish.
- **Chado/Chanoyu** – This is the traditional Japanese tea ceremony. There are strict rules for how the tea must be made and drunk.



Did You Know...?

- Tokyo is the capital city of Japan.
- Japan has nearly 7,000 islands!
- The highest point in Japan is Mount Fuji.

Japanese Food

Sushi is the most famous of all Japanese foods but there are many more:

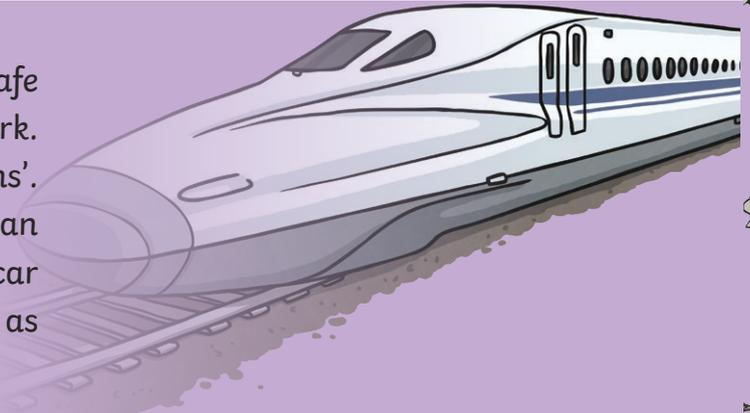
- Tempura is a tasty, fried snack.
- Takoyaki is a snack made from octopus.
- Hot noodle soups, such as ramen and udon, are a favourite fast food.

Rice is a common ingredient in Japanese cuisine and can be eaten for all three meals of the day, including breakfast. Traditionally, people use two chopsticks to eat with and children may have simpler versions to practise with.



Transport

Japan is well-known for having a safe and reliable transportation network. The shinkansen are called 'bullet trains'. They are very fast trains which can reach 200 miles per hour! Japanese car manufacturers are often thought of as world-famous for their technology.



Sport

Many Japanese people are passionate about sport. Many children even come to school at the weekend and during school holidays to practise. Western sports, such as football and baseball, are popular for many people. In addition, there are many traditional sports. Sumo wrestling is Japan's national sport. Also, some people enjoy practising martial arts. Judo, karate and kendo are popular.

Many tourists will visit Japan over the next few years. In 2019, there is the Rugby World Cup. Also, the 2020 Summer Olympic Games will be held in Tokyo.



Questions

1. How many people live in Japan? Tick **one**.
 - 7,000
 - over 126
 - over 126 million
 - many different islands
2. Look at the **Did You Know...?** section. What is the capital city of Japan? Tick **one**.
 - London
 - Tokyo
 - Hanami
 - Chado
3. Look at the **Traditions & Festivals** section. When do many children in Japan traditionally receive money? Tick **one**.
 - during Hanami
 - during Chado
 - during Oshogatsu
 - in the spring
4. Look at the **Japanese Food** section. Which foods are often eaten as **snacks** in Japan? Tick **two**.
 - tempura
 - crisps
 - takoyaki
 - rice
5. Look at the **Transport** section. Why are Japanese car manufacturers often thought of as world-famous?

6. Look at the **Sport** section. **Find** and **copy** a word which shows that many Japanese people feel strongly about playing sports.

7. Would you like to visit Japan? Give reasons for your answer, using examples from the text. Please circle: Yes / No

Answers

1. How many people live in Japan? Tick **one**.
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Japanese car-manufacturers are famous for their technology.
6. Look at the **Sport** section. **Find** and **copy** a word which shows that many Japanese people feel strongly about playing sports.
passionate
7. Would you like to visit Japan? Give reasons for your answer, using examples from the text. Please circle: Yes / No
Pupils' own responses, such as: I would like to visit because I could ride on the bullet trains and travel at up to 200 miles per hour. I would also like to see sumo wrestling.

Japan

Japan is a mountainous country which is made up of many different islands. It is located on the edge of the Pacific Ocean. Japan has a population of nearly 127 million people.

Traditions & Festivals

Many festivals and traditional ceremonies have been celebrated in Japan for many centuries. Some examples are:

- **Hanami** – During this spring-time festival, people might have a picnic under the blossoming cherry trees in parks. They may eat special foods, drink (o) sake and have fun.
- **Oshogatsu** – On 31st December each year, many people swap greetings cards and children usually receive money in a small envelope. After that, in the evening, families may travel together to a local shrine and make a wish for the coming New Year.
- **Chado/Chanoyu** – This is the ancient Japanese tea ceremony. There are strict rules for how the tea must be made and drunk.



Did You Know...?

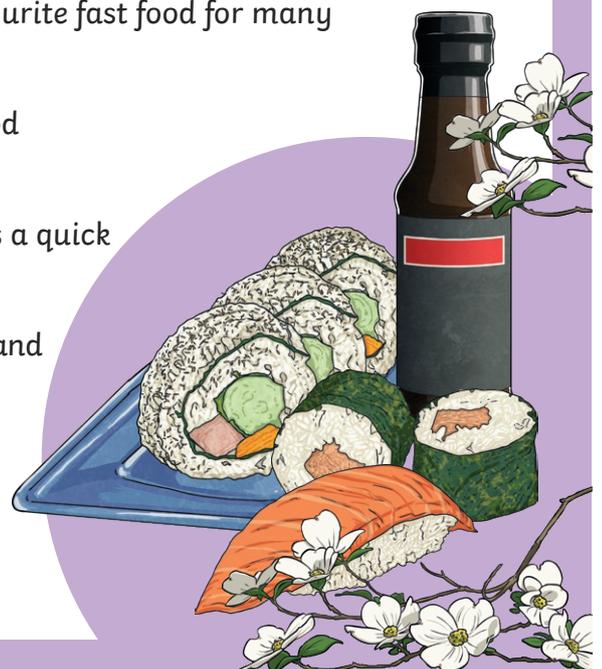
- Japan is made up of nearly 7,000 islands!
- The highest point in Japan is Mount Fuji.
- The majority of land in Japan is either forests or mountains.

Japanese Food

Sushi is perhaps the most famous of all Japanese foods but there are many more:

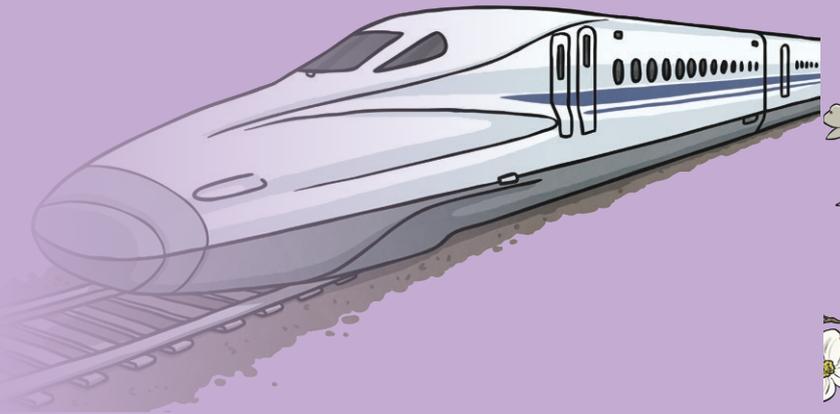
- Hot noodle soups, such as ramen or udon, are a favourite fast food for many Japanese people.
- Tempura is a delicious fried snack made from seafood or vegetables.
- Takoyaki is made from octopus and is often eaten as a quick meal at festivals.

Rice is a common ingredient in Japanese cuisine and can be eaten for all three meals of the day, including breakfast. Japanese people traditionally use two chopsticks to eat with. Young children may have starter chopsticks to help them learn.



Transport

Japan is well-known for having an efficient, punctual and safe transportation network. The shinkansen (also called 'bullet trains') are the high-speed trains which cross long distances and can reach speeds of 200 miles per hour! Japanese car manufacturers are also world-famous for their technology and reliability.



Sport

Many Japanese people are passionate about sport and many children even come to school at the weekend and during school holidays to practise games, such as baseball or football. There are many traditional sports, too. Sumo wrestling is considered to be Japan's national sport. In addition, lots of people enjoy practising martial arts, such as judo, karate and kendo.

Japan is a popular tourist destination and many more people are expected to visit in 2019 when Japan hosts the Rugby World Cup. Following that, in 2020 the Summer Olympic Games will be held in Tokyo, the capital of Japan.

Questions

1. Where is Japan? Tick **one**.

- It is a mountainous country.
- It has many different islands.
- Its population is nearly 127 million.
- It is on the edge of the Pacific Ocean.

2. Look at the **Did You Know...?** section. What is the highest mountain in Japan called? Tick **one**.

- Mount Fuji
- Pacific Ocean
- forest or mountains
- Hanami

3. What are some examples of Japanese festivals? Tick **two**.

- Bonfire Night
- Oshogatsu
- Hanami
- Diwali

4. Match each description to the correct event.

Hanami

This is an ancient tea ceremony.

Oshogatsu

Families may travel to a local shrine to make a wish.

Chado/Chanoyu

People might have a picnic under trees and have fun.

5. Look at the **Japanese Food** section and fill in the missing words.

Hot _____ soups, such as ramen or _____ are a _____ fast food.

6. Look at the **Transport** section. **Find** and **copy** a word which shows that Japanese transportation is usually on time.

7. Why do you think the Shinkansen have the nickname 'bullet trains'?

8. Explain why tourists might like to visit Japan in the future. Use as many examples from the text as you can.

Answers

1. Where is Japan? Tick **one**.

- It is a mountainous country.
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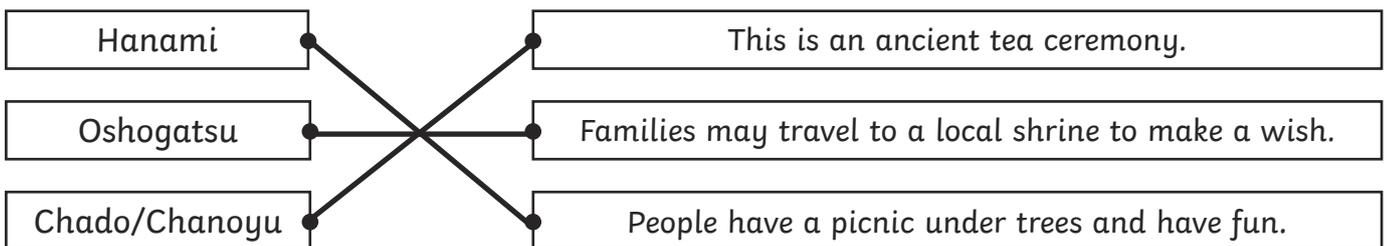
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- Mount Fuji**
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3. What are some examples of Japanese festivals? Tick **two**.

- Bonfire Night
- Oshogatsu**
- Hanami**
- Diwali

4. Match each description to the correct event.



5. Look at the **Japanese Food** section and fill in the missing words.

Hot **noodle** soups, such as ramen or **udon**, are a **favourite** fast food for many Japanese people..

6. Look at the **Transport** section. **Find** and **copy** a word which shows that Japanese transportation is usually on time.

punctual

7. Why do you think the Shinkansen have the nickname 'bullet trains'?

Accept any response that refers to the speed or shape of the train.

8. Explain why tourists might like to visit Japan in the future. Use as many examples from the text as you can.

Pupils' own responses that refer to future events in Japan, such as: Tourists might like to visit because they could see the 2020 Olympic Games or could watch the Rugby World Cup in 2019.

Japan

Japan is a mountainous and earthquake-prone country consisting of many different islands. It is located in the continent of Asia, on the edge of the Pacific Ocean. Japan has a population of approximately 126.8 million people. In comparison, Australia has around 25 million, the UK has 66 million and the USA has approximately 326 million people.

Traditions & Festivals

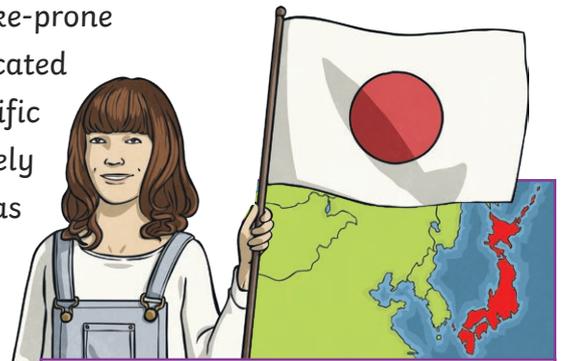
For many centuries, festivals and traditional ceremonies have been celebrated in Japan. Some examples include:

- **Hanami** – During the spring, under the blossoming cherry trees in picturesque parks across the country, it is usual for people to have a picnic, drink (o) sake and enjoy themselves.
- **Oshogatsu** – On 31st December each year, traditionally, most houses are given a deep clean. Also, people usually exchange greetings cards (nengajo) and the children of the family may receive money in a small, beautifully-decorated envelope. Subsequently, after midnight and in the early hours of 1st January, many families travel together to their local shrine and may make a wish for the coming New Year. In many areas, the trains and buses may run all night in order to help people return home.
- **Chado/Chanoyu** – This is the ancient Japanese tea ceremony. It involves a step-by-step preparation of a traditional drink made from matcha (powdered green tea). There are strict rules for how the tea must be made and also for how it must be drunk by the guests.

Japanese Food

Sushi is perhaps Japan's most famous export. However, there are many other examples of Japanese cuisine, such as:

- Tempura, a delicious fried snack made from seafood or vegetables.
- Freshly-cooked eel is a popular delicacy for many Japanese people during the summer.
- Takoyaki (deep-fried balls of octopus pieces) can be eaten as a quick meal at many festivals.



Did You Know...?

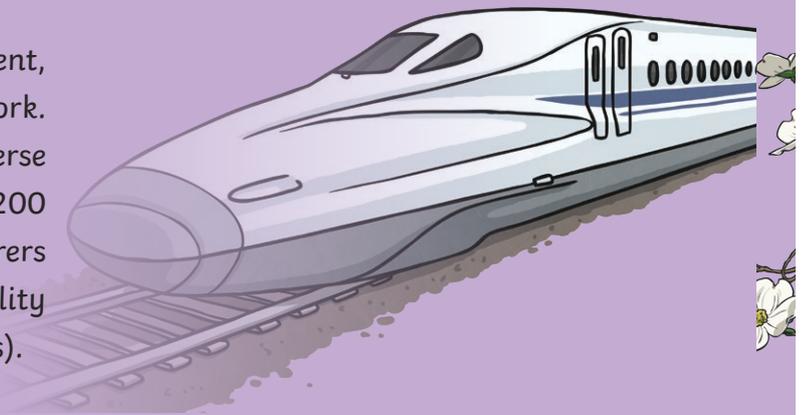
- Japan consists of nearly 7,000 islands! The largest one is called Honshu.
- The majority of land in Japan is either forests or mountains.
- Due to the fact that Japan sits on the Pacific '**Ring of Fire**', about 1,500 earthquakes strike Japan each year.



One staple of Japanese cuisine is rice which can be served for every meal, including breakfast. Japanese people traditionally use two chopsticks to eat with; young children, however, may be given simplified chopsticks to practise with.

Transport

Japan is renowned for its efficient, punctual and safe transportation network. The shinkansen ('bullet trains') traverse long distances and can reach speeds of 200 miles per hour! Japanese car manufacturers are also known for their reliability, quality and technology (such as hybrid engines).



Sport

Passionate about sport, many Japanese children often attend school at the weekend or during school holidays to practise. Many traditional sports are played in addition to western sports, such as football or baseball. Sumo wrestling is considered to be Japan's national sport. Popular martial arts include: judo, karate and kendo.

Japan's popularity as a tourist destination will continue. Soon, it will play host to two major sporting events:

- the 2019 Rugby World Cup,
- the 2020 Summer Olympic Games – to be held in Tokyo, the capital.

Glossary

Eel – A snake-like fish.

Ring of Fire – A major area around the edges of the Pacific Ocean where 90% of all earthquakes occur.

(O) Sake – A Japanese alcoholic drink made of fermented rice.

Questions

1. In which continent is Japan located? Tick **one**.

- Europe Antarctica
 Asia Africa

2. Look at the first paragraph. Which of the countries listed has the largest population? Tick **one**.

- Japan UK
 Australia USA

3. Look at this sentence: **Due to the fact that Japan sits on the Pacific 'Ring of Fire', about 1,500 earthquakes strike Japan each year.** Why do you think the author chose the word **strike**?

4. Fill in the missing words.

For many _____, festivals and _____ ceremonies have been _____ in Japan.

5. What do you think would happen if many trains and buses did not run on 31st December?

6. Why do you think that many Japanese dishes contain foods which come from the sea?

7. Look at the section with the subtitle: **Transport**. Why is 'bullet train' a good metaphor for the shinkansen?

8. What would you say to a friend to persuade them to visit Japan? Use examples from the text.

Answers

1. In which continent is Japan located? Tick **one**.

- Europe Antarctica
 Asia Africa

2. Look at the first paragraph. Which of the countries listed has the largest population? Tick **one**.

- Japan UK
 Australia **USA**

3. Look at this sentence: **Due to the fact that Japan sits on the Pacific 'Ring of Fire', about 1,500 earthquakes strike Japan each year.** Why do you think the author chose the word **strike**?

The word strike is a good choice because it shows how earthquakes can hit suddenly and have harmful effects and hurt people.

4. Fill in the missing words.

For many **centuries**, festivals and **traditional** ceremonies have been **celebrated** in Japan.

5. What do you think would happen if many trains and buses did not run on 31st December?
I think people would not be able to return home after visiting the shrine.

6. Why do you think that many Japanese dishes contain foods which come from the sea?
Japan consists of many different islands and it is on the edge of the Pacific Ocean so there is a lot of sea nearby.

7. Look at the section with the subtitle: **Transport**. Why is 'bullet train' a good metaphor for the shinkansen?

Accept any response which compares the train's shape or speed. For example, it is a good metaphor because bullets travel very fast and so does the shinkansen.

8. What would you say to a friend to persuade them to visit Japan? Use examples from the text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: If you like sport, then you will love going to Japan in 2020 to see the Olympics and you can also see sumo wrestling. If you want to try lots of different foods, such as octopus or eel, why not visit Japan?