

JAPAN

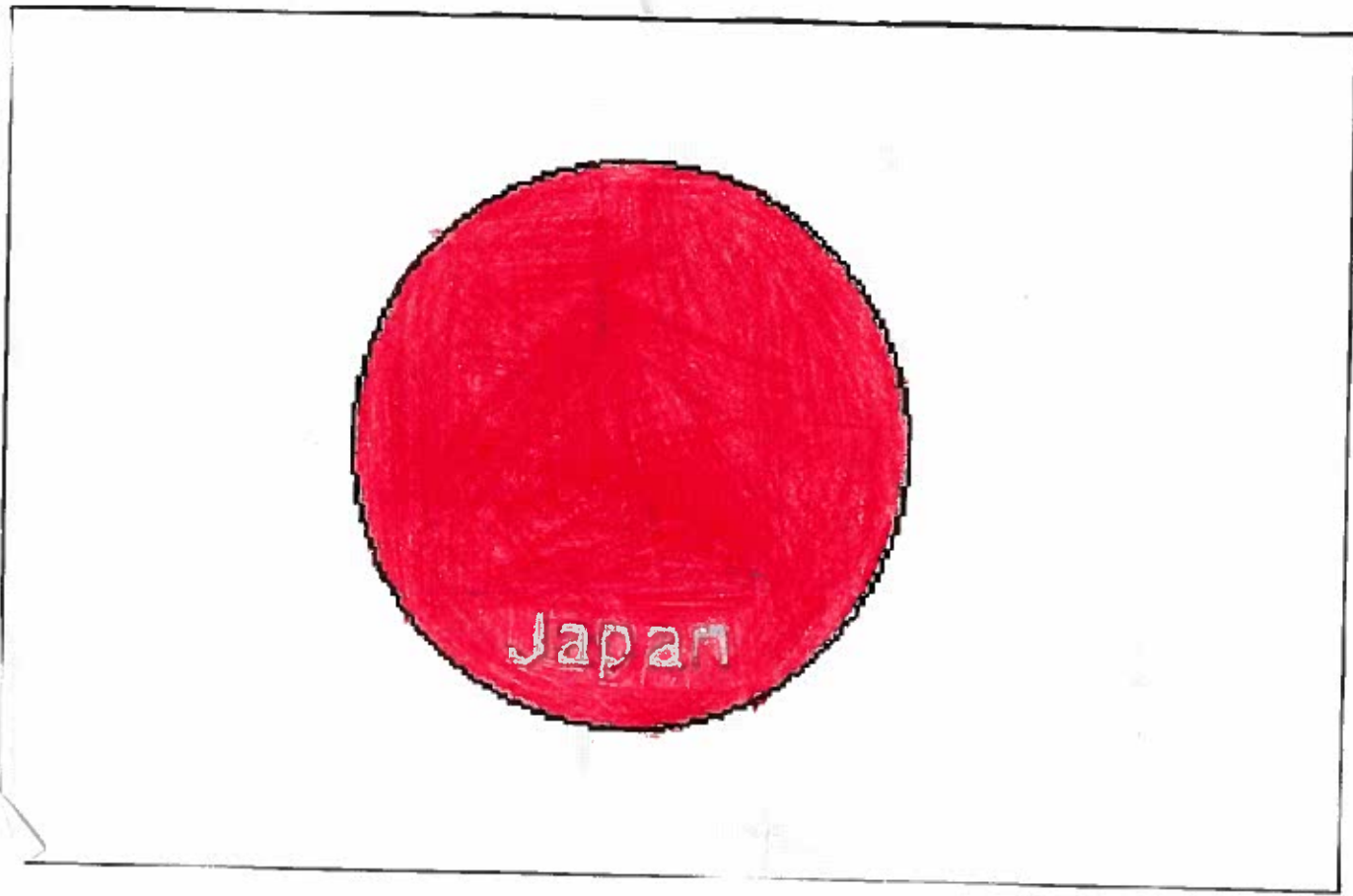


Cherry blossoms in the spring, traditional Japanese tower, and Mountain Fuji at a sunset in Japan

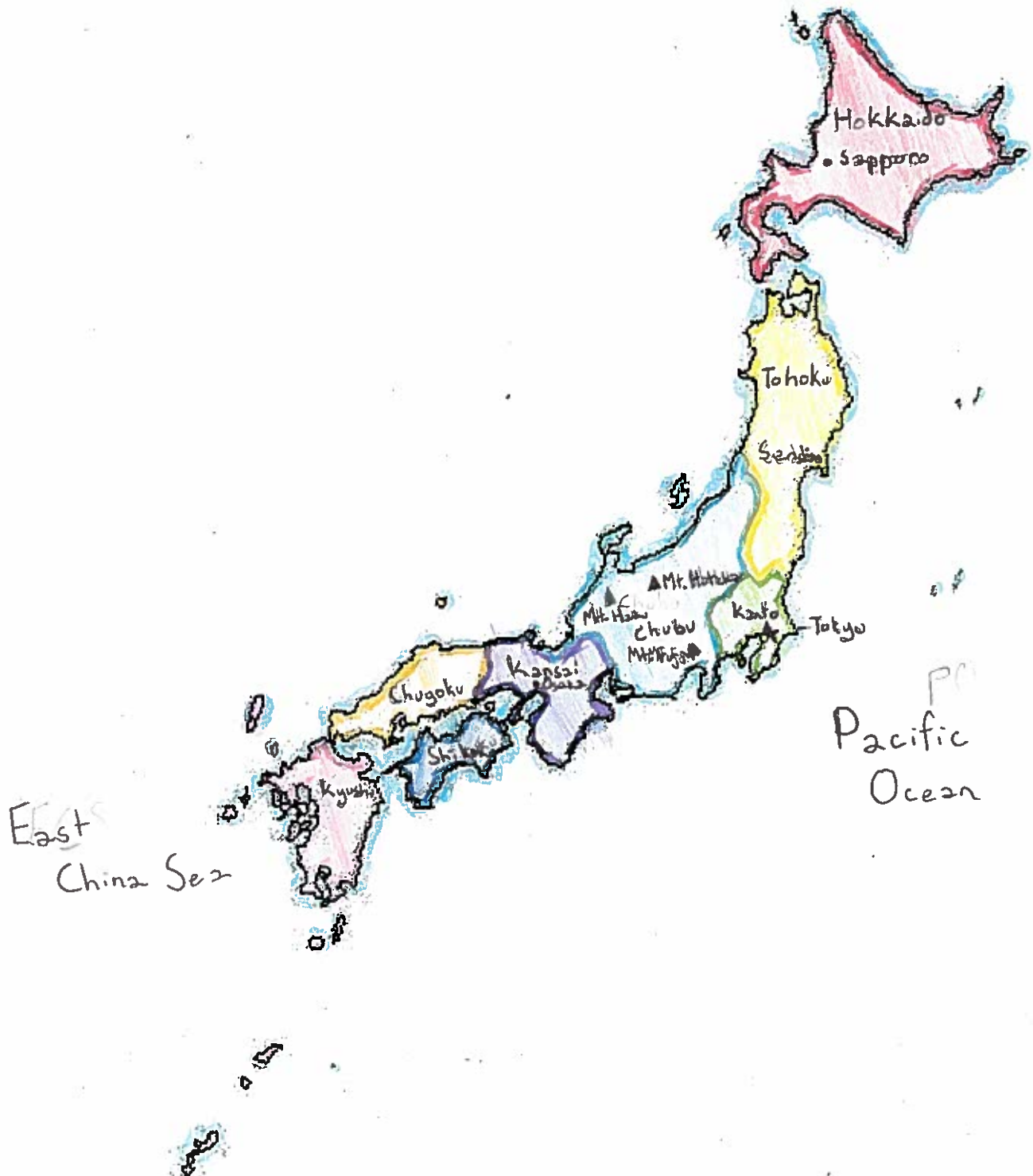
THE COUNTRY OF ENDLESS DISCOVERY

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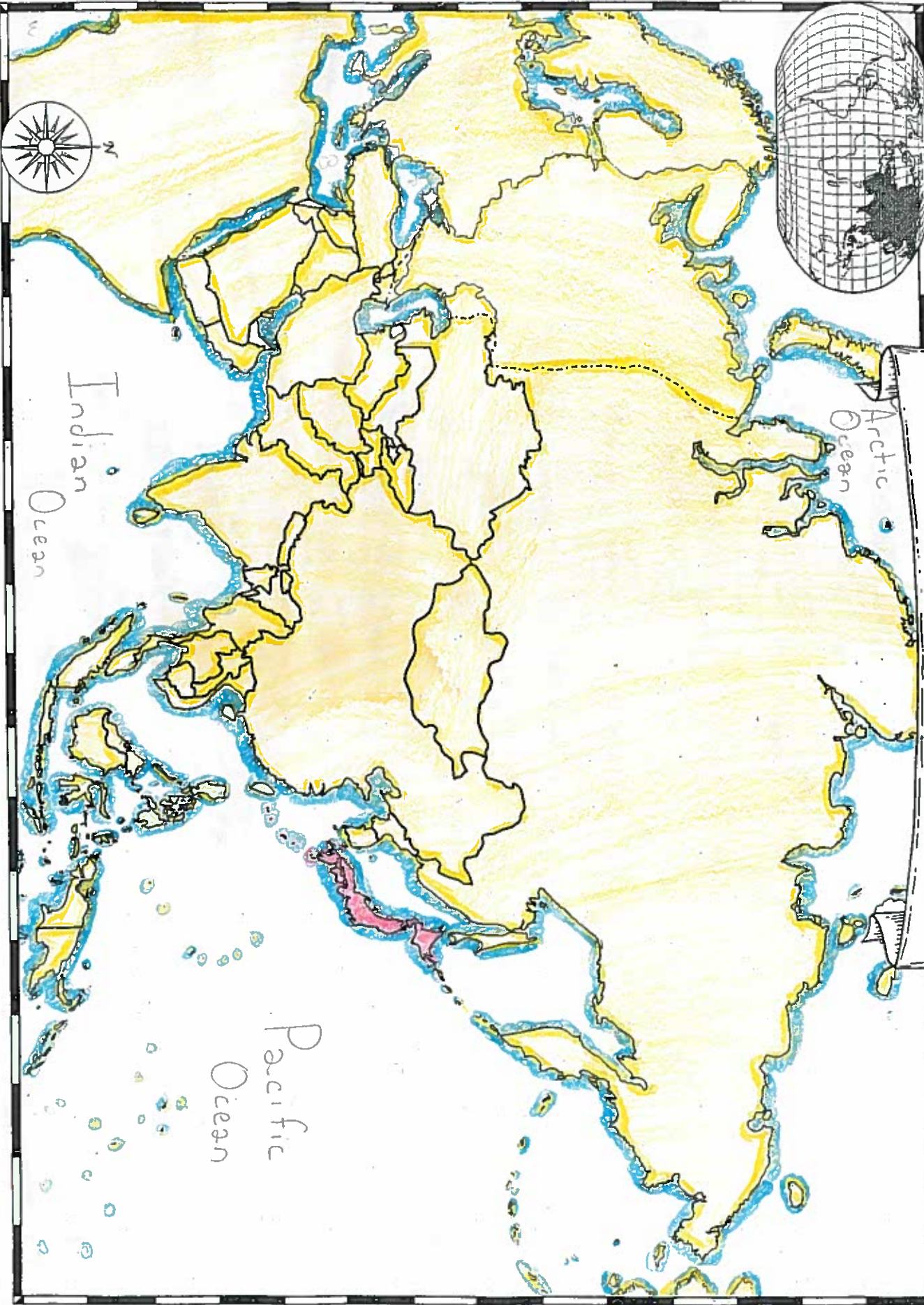
6M



Sea of Okhotsk



Asia: Political Map



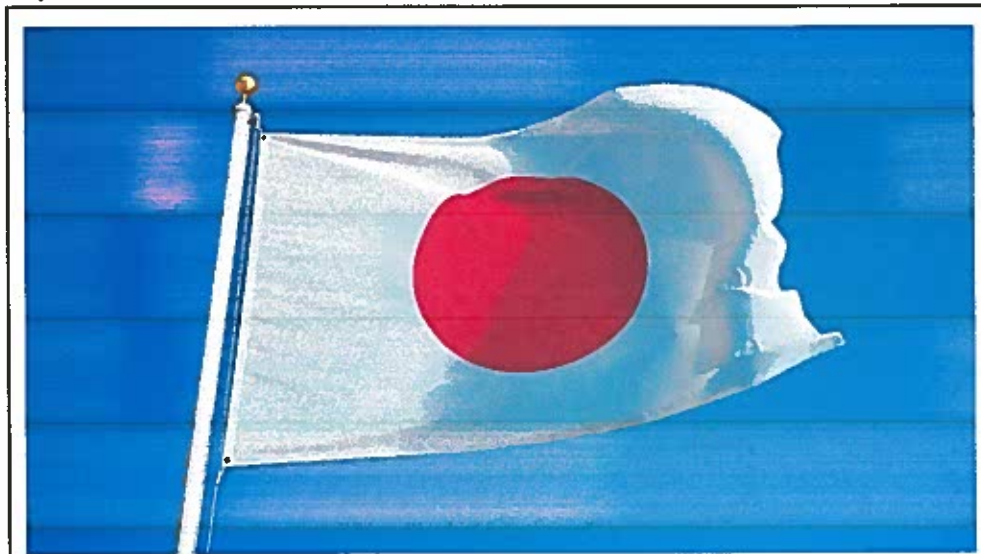
Arctic Ocean

Indian Ocean

Pacific Ocean

Japan is such a wonderful country that it gives good reasoning to do a project about it. In this project, I will be unpacking some basic knowledge to know about Japan.

“Where is Japan?” Japan is located in East Asia and the coordinates are between 127° East-145° East and 24° North-44° North. Countries bordering Japan are Russia, China, North Korea, South Korea, and Taiwan. The Pacific Sea, Sea of Okhotsk, the Sea of Japan, and the East China Seas Surround Japan.



Japan's flag has a meaning. The red dot in the middle represents the sun echoing the local name of Japan translating to “The Land of the Rising Sun”.

Population:

Population:	124 million
Major Cities:	Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Sapporo, Fuuka, Hiroshima, Kobe, Kyoto
Urban Percentage:	91.8% Urban
Population Density:	347.07 p/ Km2

The government of Japan is different to a Canadian style government. The capital city of Japan is Tokyo. There are 47 prefectures and 8 districts in Japan. Similar to Canada, the head of government is a prime minister, but instead of a queen for the head of state, Japan has an emperor.

まめちしき!

(Fun Fact!)

The current emperor of Japan is Naruhito.
The current prime minister is Suga Yoshihide.

Economy:

The currency of Japan is called Yen	One Canadian dollar is equivalent to 88 yen
Export Partners Include:	United States (19%), China (18%), South Korea (6%), Taiwan (6%)
Exported Products Include:	Cars, Vehicle Parts, Integrated Circuits, Personal Appliances, Ships
Import Partners Include:	China (23%), United States, (11%), Australia (6%)
Imported Products Include:	Crude Petroleum, Natural Gas, Coal, Intergraded Circuits, Broadcasting Equipment.

- The unemployment rate in Japan is 2.36%.

まめちしき!

(Fun Fact!)

Looking for a job? Here are Japan's most common jobs:
Craftsman, mining, manufacturing and construction workers and laborers

Language:

Official Language: Japanese (Nihongo)

Japanese has 3 “alphabets”:
Hiragana
Katakana
Kanji

Hiragana: is for Japanese original words

Katakana: is for words that were adopted from different languages

Kanji: is for full words and names

Some Everyday Phrases are:

“Arigato” meaning “Thank you”

“Kudasai” meaning “Can I have”

“Konichiwa” meaning “Hello”

“Ohio” meaning “Good morning”

“Konbanwa” meaning “Good evening”

- 0.5% People in Japan speak Korean
- 0.1% People in Japan speak English

Mini Memory!

Where I used to live, there was a community of Japanese people who made a Japanese Language class directed towards children like me who have a direct background with Japan. I remember that learning Japanese was so much easier there with kids my age, than at home with my siblings. It was so great having kids like me learning in the same environment as me and really helped my Japanese language skills.

Japan's natural features are absolutely stunning. Japan is packed with rivers, waterfalls, volcanoes and mountains, and peaceful marshlands. Tosa Bay, Inawashiro Lake, Tokyo Bay, Sendai Bay, and Shinano River are all examples of bodies of water inside of Japan. Japan's largest elevation is Mount. Fuji (3,776 m) and the lowest elevation is Lake Hachiro. (-4m)

Mini Memory!

On the shore of Japan, in the summer, I was able to go swimming in the Pacific Ocean. My grandpa let me taste a little bit of the salt water, but soon I got addicted to the salt. When I felt my mouth getting dry, I drank more water hoping to relieve the dryness and of course that just made the feeling get worse. I had a painfully dry mouth for the rest of the day and was very salty about it.

The type of climate ensures that in Japan, there are four very well defined seasons; spring has a warm general temperature and a lot of plants bloom during this time. Summer is unbearably hot in the more southern parts of Japan and starts with a six week raining period. Autumn is the main harvesting season in Japan and has many Thanksgiving-like festivals. In the winter time, it can be very cold in the most northern parts of Japan, but strawberries and apples are picked at the same time of year.



(Left to Right) Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter in Japan.

Food and drinks are delicious and special to every country including Japan. Foods that are grown in Japan include tomatoes, wasabi, passion fruit, and daikon. Some common Japanese originating dishes are mochi, udon, gyoza, melon pan, and tempura. The Japanese diet consists of a lot of seafood due to the fact that the country is surrounded by water. Some dishes that have seafood in them are sushi, sashimi, misozuke salmon, buri, shioyaki fish, fugu, takoyaki, and so much more.

Time Of Day:	What Japan Eats:
Breakfast	Rice, Miso Soup, Side Dishes, Pickled Vegetables
Lunch	Bento Box, Similar to breakfast, but without miso soup
Dinner	Rice, Soup, 3 different dishes
Dessert	Not many sweets, only on special occasions

Gyoza



Strawberry Daifuku Mochi



Sashimi



Mini Memory!

In 2016, when I went to Japan with my mom, I remember everyday my grandpa and I woke up at 6:00 and ate shoku pan (Japanese bread) while watching TV.

Religion and leisure can be very interesting in Japan! Sumo, Judo, Kyudo, and Karate are all examples of sports originating in Japan. Some adopted sports in Japan are surfing, volleyball, skateboarding, ice skating, baseball, golf, and marathon running. The most commonly practised religions in Japan are Shintoism, Buddhism, and Christianity. The national holiday of Japan is the Emperor's Birthday which changes with each passing emperor. Some other Japanese holidays include Children's Day, Hina Matsuri, Setsubun Tsukimi, and Tanabata.

まめちしき!

(Fun Fact!)

Have you ever wondered why Japan has so many forms of martial arts to this day? Well, it's because when Japan stopped needing so many combat warriors, samurai families taught children to keep the tradition going. In modern days, keeping this tradition is important for education, and training to have spiritual, moral, cultural, and physical growth.

A person drawing their bow in Kyudo



まめちしき!

(Fun Fact!)

Christmas isn't actually a big deal in Japan! It is still celebrated, but what is a really popular holiday in Japan is Shogatsu or New Years.

Pop culture in Japan is really unique. Manga and anime are both examples of pop culture popularized in North America. Historical art forms are very popular in Japan. Fashion in Japan is a big deal. Japan is ranked number 4 on the most fashionable countries in the world. People say that Japan is so high on this list because of the beautiful heritage and culture.

まめちしき!

(Fun Fact!)

There are so many types of Japanese street fashion! Just some of them are listed here:

- Lolita
- Gyarū Ganguro
- Kogal
- Bosozoku
- Decora
- Visual kei



Japanese Lolita Fashion Outfit

まめちしき!

(Fun Fact!)

In 2020, "Boku No Hero Academia" was the most watched anime. People either loved it or hated it. Either way, it was still the anime that had the most regions watching it.

Inquiry:

When did Japanese TV become popular in North America?	1960's
When does school in Japan start and end?	April-March
Where are most immigrants who move to Japan from?	United States
Where do most Japanese immigrants go?	Brazil

I have been to Japan before. After all, I am a second generation immigrant from Japan and have family still thriving there. I was lucky to be able to go to Japan because I was able to notice how many differences there are between Japan and Canada. In my time spent in Japan, I have both memories that would be in the happiest moments in my life, and memories that were just downright traumatizing. Although I don't originate in Japan, I can still see how my Japanese mom has adapted everyday life for my siblings and I to understand and practise Japanese culture. There is both good and bad to this. I have been made fun of for how my family does some things differently, but I am overall very thankful that my mom was able to teach us these things.

Japan is so beautiful, interesting, and joyful. Next time that you plan a vacation, maybe Japan can be an option. If you plan on going there, you now should know enough information to successfully get you around, but there will always be more unique things to learn. Japan really is "The Country of Endless Discovery".

Picture Resources:

Sakura Mount Fuji Landscape (pg.1) **US. Department of State**

Japan Flag (pg. 2) **Pond5**

4 Seasons (pg. 5) **Live Japan**

Gyoza (pg. 6) **Wander Cooks**

Strawberry Daifuku Mochi (pg. 6) **byFood**

Sashimi (pg. 6) **The Spruce Eats**

Kyudo (pg.7) **Kyudo South Africa**

Lolita Outfit (pg. 8) **CoolJP**

Research Resources:

People and Places

Peoples of Eastern Asia

Tokyo: The Ultimate Gourmet Experience

Hello! JapanG

CIA World Factbook Website

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