5 Themes of Geography
Japan

Location
Absolute  
Tokyo's global address is is 36°N, 140°E.
Relative  
Japan lies off the east coast of the Asian continent, bordered by the Sea of Japan to the E, the Pacific Ocean to the W, & E China Sea to the SW.

Place
Physical  
Snow-capped Mt. Fuji is Japan's highest peak (12,285 ft) and most beloved landmark. It last erupted in 1707.
Cultural  
Red, wooden torii gates mark the entrances to Shinto shrines all over Japan.

Human Environment Interaction
Depend  
With only 12% arable land, Japan must practice intensive cultivation to grow crops such as rice, the staple food of the Japanese people.
Modify  
Factory waste leaking into Minamata Bay contaminated fish and shellfish, causing people who ate them to develop Minamata's disease or mercury poisoning.
Adapt  
Though most are minor tremors, Japan experiences 5,000 earthquakes/year. The Japanese have adapted by designing buildings that are quake resistant.

Movement
People  
The Shinkansen, or bullet train, provides high speed transportation across Japan, reaching speeds up to 186 mph.
Goods  
Japan's major exports include: cars and other transport vehicles, computers, and electrical appliances.
Ideas  
Japan has 3 alphabets. The one called "kanji" borrows Chinese characters for writing ideas.

Regions
Political  
Japan is divided up into 47 local governing prefectures. The city of Kobe is in Hyogo Prefecture.
Physical  
Japan lies atop major fault lines that are part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, a region of frequent volcanic & seismic activity.
Cultural  
Japan is part of the larger Mahayana (Greater Vehicle) Buddhist region which includes China & Korea.