



5 Themes of Geography Japan



Location

Absolute Tokyo's global address 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.