

Location

Where is it?



1) Absolute Location

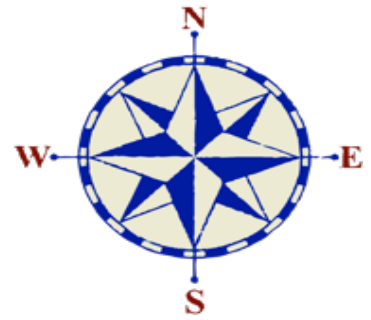
An exact position on earth

2) Relative Location

A general sense of position on earth, in relation to another position



Location



Answers the Question:

Absolute Location

◆ Latitude & Longitude ◆

35°N, 135°E is the global address for the city of Kyoto.

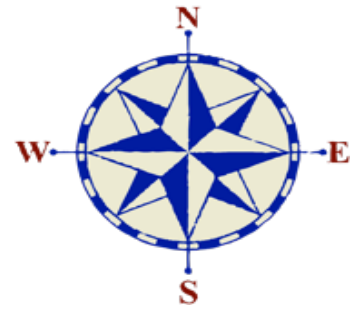
Relative Location

◆ Compass Directions ◆

Kyoto is SW Of Tokyo, NE of Osaka, and N of Nara.



Location-**Key**



Answers the Question:
Where is it?

Absolute Location
The exact position on earth.

Uses a grid system.

◆ Latitude & Longitude ◆

35°N, 135°E is the global address for the city of Kyoto.

Relative Location

A general sense of position on earth

in relation to another position.

Uses descriptive phrases.

◆ Compass Directions ◆

Kyoto is SW Of Tokyo, NE of Osaka, and W of Nagoya.

Place

What is it like there?

The special character of a particular location that distinguishes it from all other locations



Osaka Castle

1) Physical Characteristics

**Unique natural features;
due to “mother nature”**

2) Human Characteristics

**Unique cultural or man-made features;
due to human beings**

Place

Answers the Question:



Physical Characteristics

◆ Landforms ◆

Japan is an archipelago made up of 4 main islands:
Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu
plus thousands of smaller islands.

Human Characteristics

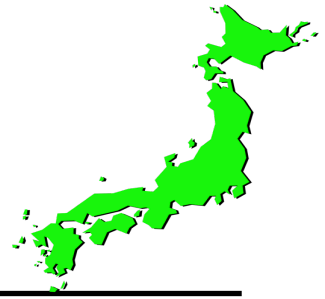
◆ Culture/Clothing ◆

In Japan today, the traditional kimono is worn only
on holidays or for special occasions.

Place-Key

Answers the Question:

What is it like there?



The special character of a particular location that distinguishes it from all other locations.

Physical Characteristics

Unique natural features; due to mother nature.

Ex: Climate types, Landforms, Bodies of Water, Elevation, Indigenous (native) Vegetation & Wildlife

◆ Landforms ◆

Japan is an archipelago made up of 4 main islands:
Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu
plus thousands of smaller islands.

Human Characteristics

Unique cultural or man-made features; due to human beings.

Ex: Man-made Landmarks, Languages, Clothing, Foods

Religions, Music, Festivals, the Arts, and Architecture

Human Environment Interaction

HEI

What is the relationship between humans and their environment?



1) Humans depend on the environment

2) Humans modify the environment

The environment modifies humans

(modify = change)

3) Humans adapt to the environment

HEI

Answers the Question:

1) Humans depend on the environment.

◆ Food ◆

As an island nation, Japan depends on the sea for fish, seaweed, and other seafood that make up a large part of the Japanese diet.

2) Humans modify the environment.

The environment modifies humans.

◆ Natural Disasters ◆

In 1995, 6,000 people died when the city of Kobe was hit by one of Japan's worst earthquakes.

3) Humans adapt to the environment.

◆ Emergency Preparedness ◆

Because Japan lies in an area with major tectonic plate activity, its residents practice frequent emergency preparedness drills for potential disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis.

HEI-Key

Answers the Question:

What is the relationship between

humans and their environment?

1) Humans depend on the environment.

Survival Needs: Water, Oxygen, Food, Shelter, Warmth

◆ Food ◆

As an island nation, Japan depends on the sea for fish, seaweed, and other seafood that make up a large part of the Japanese diet.

2) Humans modify the environment.

The environment modifies humans.

Modify means change . . . changes can be positive or negative!

◆ Natural Disasters ◆

In 1995, 6,000 people died when the city of Kobe was hit by one of Japan's worst earthquakes.

3) Humans adapt to the environment.

All the ways humans protect themselves from the environment

◆ Emergency Preparedness ◆

Because Japan lies in an area with major tectonic plate activity, its residents practice frequent emergency preparedness drills for potential disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis.

Movement

What is the connection between people and places?



Ginza District

Tokyo Metropolitan
Area—over 800 square miles

Population 2015
36 million



25% of all Japanese
live in Tokyo's
metropolitan area!

1) Movement of People

2) Movement of Goods

3) Movement of Ideas

Cultural Diffusion

Definition: The adoption or borrowing of another group's cultural ideas, such as food, clothing, language, traditions, etc.

Movement

Answers the Question:

1) Movement of People

◆ Urbanization ◆

Today, 43% of Japan's population live in the three major urban areas of Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya, whereas a century ago the population was distributed fairly evenly throughout the country.

2) Movement of Goods

◆ Japanese Imports ◆

The U.S. imports Toyota, Honda, and Nissan motor vehicles from Japan.

3) Movement of Ideas

Cultural Diffusion

◆ Chinese Alphabet ◆

The Japanese have 3 alphabets: hiragana, katakana, and kanji.

The one called kanji borrows Chinese characters for writing ideas.

J
A
P
A
N



Movement -Key

Answers the Question:

What is the connection between people and places?

1) Movement of People

*Migration, Immigration, Refugees, Vacations,
Job Relocations, Transportation, Commuters, Urbanization*

◆ Urbanization ◆

Today, 43% of Japan's population live in the three major urban areas of Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya, whereas a century ago the population was distributed fairly evenly throughout the country.

2) Movement of Goods

Trade, Imports, Exports, Smuggling

International Shipping Routes, Trucking Routes

◆ Japanese Imports ◆

The U.S. imports Toyota, Honda, and Nissan motor vehicles from Japan.

3) Movement of Ideas

*Fads, Books, Newspapers, TV, E-mail, Cell Phones, Internet,
Cultural Diffusion of foods, customs, holidays, religions, languages, etc.*

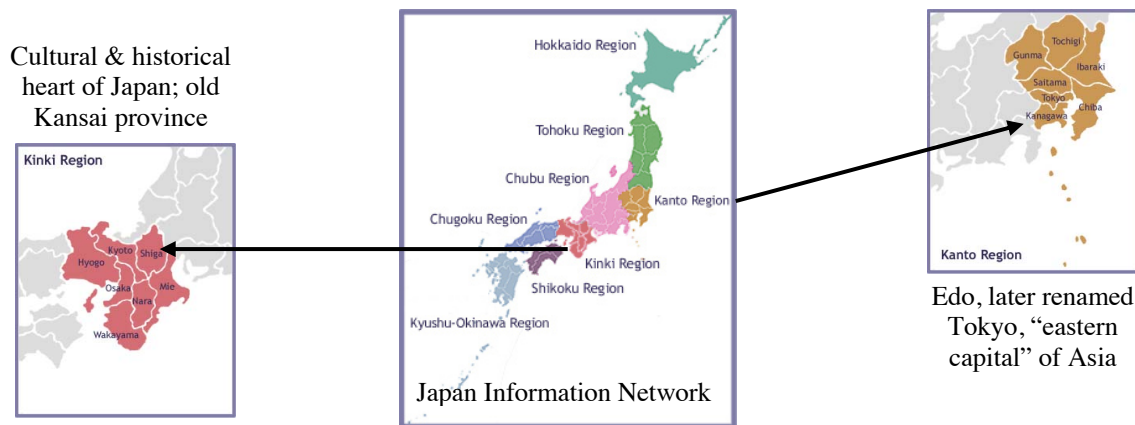
Cultural Diffusion

◆ Chinese Alphabet ◆

The Japanese have 3 alphabets: hiragana, katakana, and kanji.
The one called kanji borrows Chinese characters for writing ideas.

Regions

How can an area be defined by similar or unifying characteristics?



1) Political Regions

Areas that share similar governments or similar treaty alliances

2) Physical Regions

Areas that share similar physical (mother nature) characteristics

3) Cultural Regions

Areas that share similar cultural (human) characteristics



**Ainu
Textiles**

Regions

Answers the Question:

1) Political Regions

◆ Prefectures ◆

Kitakyushu, Fukuoka, and Kurume are in the political region called Fukuoka Prefecture, sharing the same local government.

2) Physical Regions

◆ Hakone ◆

The Hakone region is home to a spectacular national park featuring the Fuji Five Lakes, the fuming volcanic valley of Owakudani, numerous hot springs called onsens, and the breath-taking Mt. Fujiyama.

3) Cultural Regions

◆ Ainu of Hokkaido ◆

The 24,000 remaining Ainus, the original inhabitants of Japan, now live on the northern-most island of Hokkaido. Unrelated to the Japanese, the Ainus specialize in wood carving, vivid textiles, and epic songs.



*Ainu
Textiles*

Regions-**Key**

Answers the Question:

How can an area be defined by similar or unifying characteristics?

1) Political Regions

Share similar governments / treaty alliances : cities, counties

states, provinces, countries, territories, trade regions

◆ Prefectures ◆

The of Kitakyushu, Fukuoka, and Kurume are in the political region called Fukuoka Prefecture, sharing the same local government.

2) Physical Regions

Share similar physical (mother nature) features : bodies of water, climate, landforms such as mountains, deserts, plains, plateaus

◆ Hakone ◆

The Hakone region is home to a spectacular national park featuring the Fuji Five Lakes, the fuming volcanic valley of Owakudani, numerous hot springs called onsens, and the breath-taking Mt. Fujiyama.

3) Cultural Regions

Share similar cultural (human) features : languages, religions, history, ancestry, customs, traditions, land use, occupations

◆ Ainu of Hokkaido ◆

The 24,000 remaining Ainus, the original inhabitants of Japan, now live on the northern-most island of Hokkaido. Unrelated to the Japanese, the Ainus specialize in wood carving, vivid textiles, and epic songs.

Which Theme Is It?

Name _____

Directions: Use the “Five Themes Reference Sheets” and maps of Japan to determine which theme of geography is BEST illustrated by the following statements. Circle your answer and then give a short explanation of your choice in the space provided.

1. Tokyo has many distinct districts including: the elegant shopping Ginza district, the national government Kasumigaseki district, and the old traditional Asakusa district.

Location Place HEI Movement Regions

2. The bullet train service connecting Tokyo to Osaka is called the Tokaido shinkansen.

Location Place HEI Movement Regions

3. A yukata is a lightweight, cotton kimono designed to be worn during Japan’s hot, humid summers.

Location Place HEI Movement Regions

4. The giant bronze Buddha of Kamakura sits in the open air. The original wooden building that housed it was swept away by a tsunami or tidal wave in 1495.

Location Place HEI Movement Regions

5. The important port city of Kobe lies southwest of Kyoto and northwest of Osaka.

Location Place HEI Movement Regions

6. In 1998, athletes from all over the world came to Nagano to compete in the Winter Olympics.

Location Place HEI Movement Regions

Continued on back

7.Thousands of popular spa resorts, called onsens, have been built around Japan’s volcanic hot springs.

Location Place HEI Movement Regions

8.Shinto, meaning “the way of the Gods”, is the folk religion of Japan. Among its beliefs is the idea that kami, or divine beings, inhabit everything under the sun and every Japanese community has a Shinto shrine housing their local protective god.

Location Place HEI Movement Regions

9.The island of Hokkaido and northern Honshu share a similar climate of snowy, cold winters and warm, humid summers since they lie in the humid continental climate zone.

Location Place HEI Movement Regions

10.The city of Sapporo has a global address of 43 degrees N and 141 degrees E.

Location Place HEI Movement Regions

Which Theme Is It?-Key

Note: The 5 Themes answers have been given. Since written explanations will vary, a sample one for each question has been provided. Accept all reasonable written explanations based on the samples given.

- 1.Regions. These are regions of the city of Tokyo because each of them has a distinctive trait that sets it apart from other areas.
- 2.Movement. The bullet train is a transportation system for moving people within Japan.
- 3.HEI. Wearing this type of clothing is one way the Japanese have adapted to their climate.
- 4.HEI. The tsunami destroying a building is an example of how the environment can affect the lives of humans.
- 5.Location. This is an example of relative location.
- 6.Movement. Athletes coming from all over the world is an example of the movement of people and the Olympics is an example of the movement of an idea.
- 7.HEI. The resorts depend on hot springs in the environment to heat their spas.
- 8.Place. Shinto religious beliefs and buildings are a cultural feature unique to Japan.
- 9.Regions. Climate zones are an example of a physical region.
- 10.Location. This is an example of absolute location.

Researching Japan -- Student Tip Sheet

Encyclopedias-good for detailed information; navigate the underlined hot links to find specific information.

Atlases-good for at-a-glance map information; always look for the title to determine the map's theme and for the legend to interpret the symbols/colors used.

<http://www.infoplease.com> This is a GREAT general reference site with hot links to other reference sites.

Some General Geography Websites

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/> World Factbook site, listing valuable information for all the countries of the world; see right side of website to select a country.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/> This is the U.S. Department of State's Background Notes on countries of the world; see left side of website to select a country.

<http://www.worldclimate.com/> You will need to type in a SPECIFIC city name for a country to find its average monthly temperature, average monthly precipitation, and latitude and longitude readings.

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/> You will need to choose a region, then a country, to get a wide menu of choices about geography and travel tips for the tourist.

Some Japan-Specific Websites

<http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/> Kids Web Japan; excellent website designed for students to explore Japan; lots of visuals, photos, and background on basic facts, virtual culture, education what's cool, Japanese language, manga, hi tech, etc.

<http://web-japan.org/factsheet/> Japan Fact Sheet; concise information about Japan from economy to sports, culture, and government.

<http://web-japan.org/region/> Regions and Cities; takes a virtual tour of Japan by accessing information resources and websites of Japan's nine major regions or its prefectures and major cities. <http://web-japan.org/atlas/index.html> Japan Atlas; offers easy access to the unique features of Japan by clicking "Index by Region" and/or eight areas of interest (historical sites, festivals, architecture, nature, traditional crafts, advanced technology, communities, world heritage).

<http://web-japan.org/trends/index.html> Trends in Japan; short, engaging dispatches on the latest and hottest trends in Japanese business and economy, science and education, society, sports, fashion, arts and entertainment.

<http://web-japan.org/nipponia/archives/en/index.html> Nipponia is a quarterly magazine introducing contemporary Japanese culture and society to people all over the world.

<http://web-japan.org/links/> Japan Links; comprehensive directory of useful websites of governmental bodies and others.

<http://www.into.go.jp/eng/> Japanese National Tourist Organization

<http://www.japan-guide.com/> Japan Guide website; Schauwecker's Guide to Japan

<http://asiaresource.org/> Asia Source; a resource of the Asia Society; numerous links to info and resources on Asian countries; search Japan.

Name _____

5 Themes of Geography

Location	
Absolute	_____

Relative	_____

Place	
Physical	_____

Cultural	_____

Human Environment Interaction	
Depend	_____
Modify	_____
Adapt	_____

Movement	
People	_____

Goods	_____

Ideas	_____

Regions	
Political	_____

Physical	_____

Cultural	_____
