

JAPAN

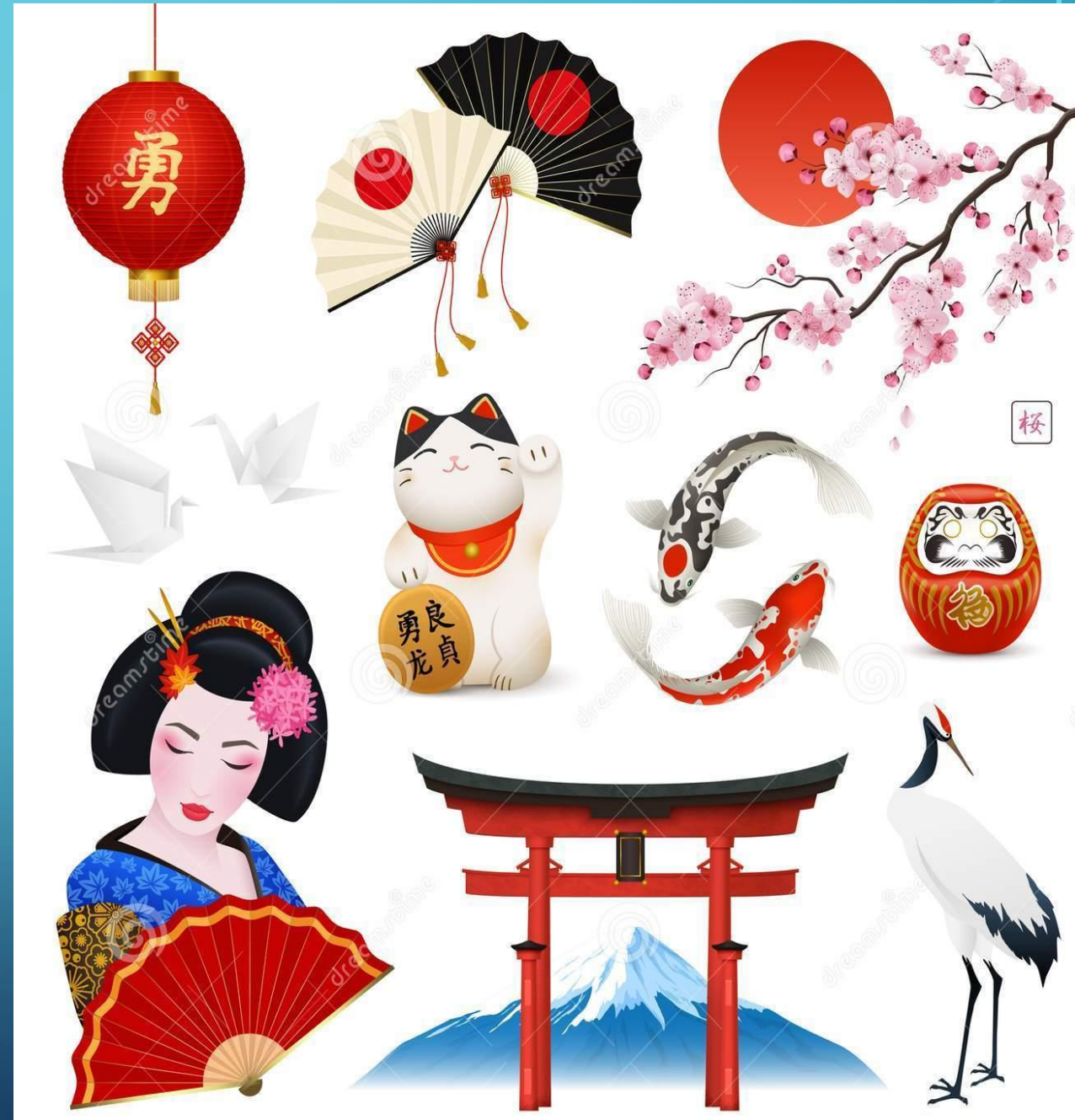
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JAPAN

- Capital - Tokyo
- Population - 126.4 million
- Area - 377,864 sq km
- Major language - Japanese
- Major religions - Shintoism, Buddhism
- Life expectancy - 81 years (men),
87 years (women)



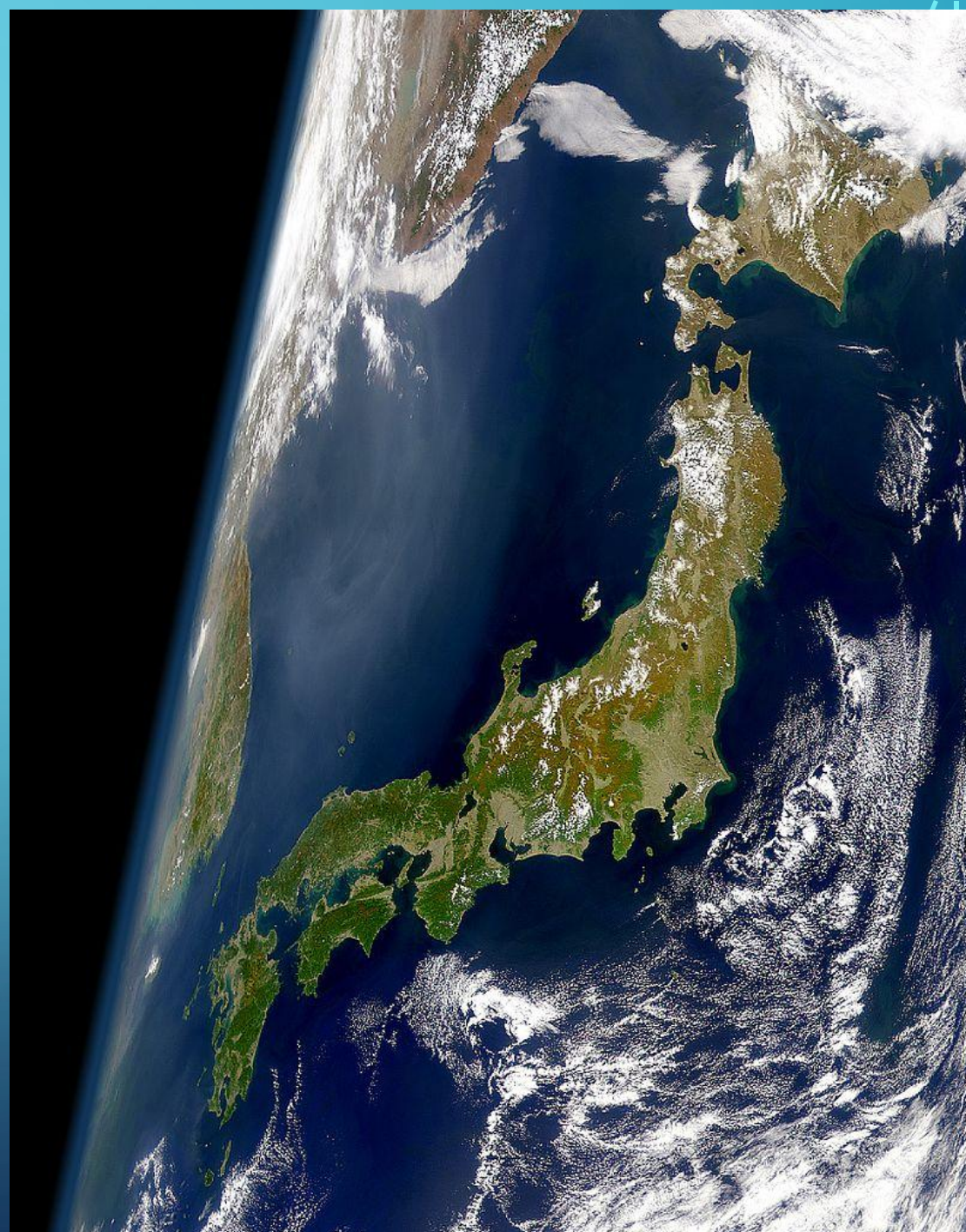
Japan has the world's third-largest economy, having achieved remarkable growth in the second half of the 20th Century after the Devastation of the Second World War.

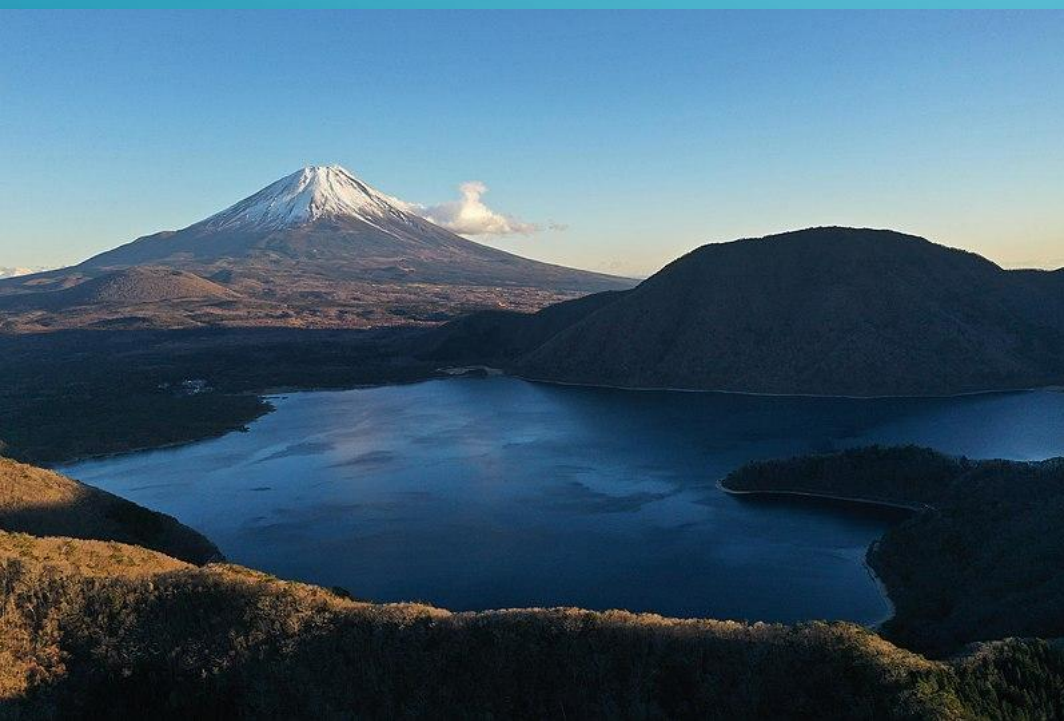


Its role in the international community is considerable. It is a major aid donor, and a source of global capital and credit.

GEOGRAPHY

- Japan comprises 6,852 islands extending along the Pacific coast. It stretches over 3,000 km from the Sea of Okhotsk to the Philippine Sea in the Pacific Ocean. The five main islands, from north to south, are Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu and Okinawa.
- Together they are often known as the Japanese archipelago.





About 73% of Japan is forested, mountainous and unsuitable for agricultural, industrial or residential use. As a result, the habitable zones, mainly located in coastal areas, have extremely high population densities. Japan is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Approximately 0.5% of Japan's total area is reclaimed land (umetatechi). Late 20th and early 21st century projects include artificial islands such as Chubu Centrair International Airport in Ise Bay, Kansai International Airport in the middle of Osaka Bay, Yokohama Hakkeijima Sea Paradise and Wakayama Marina City.

CLIMATE

The climate of Japan is predominantly temperate, but varies greatly from north to south. Japan's geographical features divide it into six principal climatic zones: Hokkaido, Sea of Japan, Central Highland, Seto Inland Sea, Pacific Ocean, and Ryukyu Islands. The northernmost zone, Hokkaido, has a humid continental climate with long, cold winters and very warm to cool summers. Precipitation is not heavy, but the islands usually develop deep snowbanks in the winter.





- In the Sea of Japan zone on Honshu's west coast, northwest winter winds bring heavy snowfall. In the summer, the region is cooler than the Pacific area, though it sometimes experiences extremely hot temperatures because of the foehn. The Central Highland has a typical inland humid continental climate, with large temperature differences between summer and winter seasons, as well as large diurnal variation; precipitation is light, though winters are usually snowy. The mountains of the Chūgoku and Shikoku regions shelter the Seto Inland Sea from seasonal winds, bringing mild weather year-round.
- The main rainy season begins in early May in Okinawa, and the rain front gradually moves north until reaching Hokkaido in late July. In late summer and early autumn, typhoons often bring heavy rain.

FAMILY

The Japanese family is basically composed of a couple as is the family in other societies. It is based on the line of descent and adoption. Ancestors and offspring are linked together by an idea of family genealogy, which does



not mean relationships based on mere blood inheritance and succession, but rather a bond of relationship inherent in the maintenance and continuance of the family as an institution.

In any given period of history, all family members have been expected to contribute to the perpetuation of the family, which is held to be the highest duty of the member.



In the traditional Japanese family, one male offspring who is to succeed to the headship of the family lives with his parents after his marriage. He assumes the headship and has to take care of the parents when they have become aged. In addition, he is responsible for the support of bokei member and directs the labor of family members in the management of the household. Couples in successive generations live together under the same roof.

Succession in the Japanese family does not simply mean inheritance of the deceased's property; and the inheritance of property itself has a distinctive meaning, which reflects the institutional demands of the family. Succession in Japan means katokuzozoku, or succession to family headship. When the patriarch has no offspring at all, he often adopts both a boy as his successor and a girl as the successor's wife.



RELIGION

Japan has full religious freedom based on its constitution. Most of the Japanese population subscribe to Shinto as its indigenous religion (syncretism with Buddhism, shinbutsu-shūgō). Many of them

practice both Shinto and Buddhism; they can either identify with both religions or describe themselves as non-religious or spiritual, despite participating in religious ceremonies as a cultural tradition. Nevertheless, the level of participation remains high, especially during festivals and occasions such as the first shrine visit of the New Year. Taoism and Confucianism from China have also influenced Japanese beliefs and customs.





- Christianity was first introduced into Japan by Jesuit missions starting in 1549. Today, fewer than 1% to 2.3% are Christians, most of them living in the western part of the country. Some Western customs originally related to Christianity (including Western style weddings, Valentine's Day and Christmas) have become popular as secular customs among many Japanese.
- Islam in Japan is estimated to constitute about 80–90% of foreign born migrants and their children.

JAPANESE TEMPLES

Temples are the places of worship in Japanese Buddhism. Virtually every Japanese municipality has at least one temple, while large cultural centers like Kyoto have several hundred.



TODAIJI TEMPLE,
"GREAT EASTERN
TEMPLE"
(NARA)



SENSŌ-JI (TOKIO)



BYODOIN TEMPLE (KYOTO)



LANGUAGE



- More than 99% of the population speaks Japanese as their first language. Japanese writing uses kanji (Chinese characters) and two sets of kana (syllabaries based on cursive script and radical of kanji), as well as the Latin alphabet and Arabic numerals. Public and private schools generally require students to take Japanese language classes as well as English language courses.

Hiragana Chart

•	w	r	y	m	h	n	t	s	k	
ん <u>n/m</u>	わ wa	ら ra	や ya	ま ma	は ha	な na	た ta	さ sa	か ka	あ a
		り ri		み mi	ひ hi	に ni	ち <u>chi</u>	し <u>shi</u>	き ki	い i
		る ru	ゆ yu	む mu	ふ fu	ぬ nu	つ <u>tsu</u>	す su	く ku	う u
		れ re		め me	へ he	ね ne	て te	せ se	け ke	え e
	を o	ろ ro	よ yo	も mo	ほ ho	の no	と to	そ so	こ ko	お o

Besides Japanese, the Ryukyuan languages (Amami, Kunigami, Okinawan, Miyako, Yaeyama, Yonaguni), also part of the Japonic language family, are spoken in the Ryukyu Islands chain. Few children learn these languages, but in recent years the local governments have sought to increase awareness of the traditional languages. The Okinawan Japanese dialect is also spoken in the region. The Ainu language is moribund, with only a few elderly native speakers remaining in Hokkaido.

MEDIA

- Japan's broadcasting scene is technologically advanced and lively, with public and commercial media in keen competition.
- Five TV companies, including public NHK, run national terrestrial networks. Most of NHK's funding comes from licence fees. Many millions of viewers subscribe to satellite and cable pay TV.
- News, drama, variety shows and sport - especially baseball - have big audiences. Imported TV shows are not widely shown, but Western influences are apparent in domestic TV fare.



- Newspapers are influential and highly trusted. National dailies sell in their millions, boosted by afternoon and evening editions. Some charge for online access.
- Journalists "find it hard to fully play their role as democracy's watchdog because of the influence of tradition and business interests", says Reporters Without Borders (RSF). But in recent years, online media and weekly news magazines have adopted a more aggressive form of political reporting, More than 118 million people were online by the end of 2018, comprising 93.5% of the population (InternetWorldStats).
- Line, co-developed by Japan and Korea, is by far the leading social and messaging application. YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram are widely used.



The press

- **Asahi Shimbun** - daily, English-language pages
- **Yomiuri Shimbun** - daily, English-language pages
- **Mainichi Daily News** - English-language pages
- **Sankei Shimbun** - daily
- **Nikkei Asian Review** - English-language pages
- **The Japan Times** - English-language

News agency/internet

- **Kyodo** - English-language pages
- **Japan Today** - online news, in English

Television

- **NHK** - public, operates General TV, Educational TV. NHK
World is a global English-language network
- **TV Asahi** - national, commercial
- **Fuji TV** - national, commercial
- **Nippon TV (NTV)** - national, commercial
- **Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS)** - national, commercial

Radio

- **NHK** - public, operates news/speech-based Radio 1, cultural/educational Radio 2, classical music-based FM Radio, external service Radio Japan
- **Inter FM** - Tokyo commercial music station
- **J-Wave** - Tokyo commercial music station
- **Tokyo FM** - Tokyo commercial network
- **TBS Radio** - operated by Tokyo Broadcasting System

THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!

