

JAPAN NOW



Embassy of Japan in the UK

<http://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp>

<http://web-japan.org/kidsweb>

School Japan

Education

Primary School: ages 6-12
Junior High School : ages 12-15
 (Everyone must attend.)
Senior High School: ages 15-18
 (Optional, although 97% attend)
University: 4 years
 OR
Further Education College:
 for 2 years

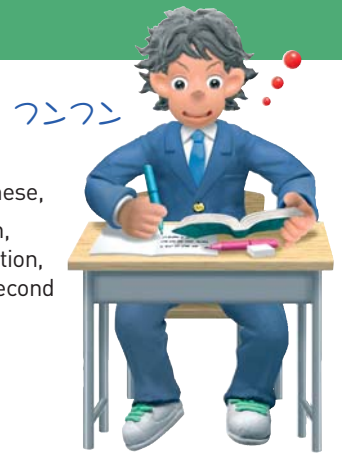


The Japan Forum Photo Data Bank

Going to an opening ceremony

Curriculum

Everyone studies Japanese, Maths, Science, English, History, Physical Education, Art or Music until the second grade in Senior High.



Guess what tune some schools play at home time? 'Auld Lang Syne'.

School life

Some highlights of the school year.

- April** 1st Term starts with a school opening ceremony
- May** Field trip
- July** 4 or 5 day school trip
- September** Second Term starts
- October** Sports and culture festivals
- November** School council elections
- January** Third Term starts
- February** Music Festival
- March** Graduation ceremony

Each term has mid-term and end-of-term exams.



Tug-of-war on Sports Day

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Clubs

Many students enjoy extracurricular activities.



Kendo club competition

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Cleaning

Each day students and teachers keep their school clean and tidy.



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School Lunch

Lots of delicious and nutritious dishes.

- Menu
- Stir-fried tofu with oyster sauce
 - Spicy deep-fried fish
 - Pickles
 - Rice
 - Milk (675kcal)



いただきます!
 (Itadakimasu)
 - Bon appétit!

Top three leisure time activities

- Junior High students**
1. Watching TV
 2. Reading manga
 3. Playing computer games

- Senior High students**
1. Watching TV
 2. Listening to music
 3. Chatting with friends
 (Cabinet Office Survey)



Are they also your favourites?

Friends hanging out

クール Cool Japan

Anime-Manga

Japanese animated films (*anime*) and comics (*manga*) are enjoyed worldwide. 'Spirited Away' won an Oscar in 2003 for the best animated feature film.

Scene from the hit movie 'Spirited Away'



Fashion

Fashion changes fast in Japan.



Japan Fashion Association

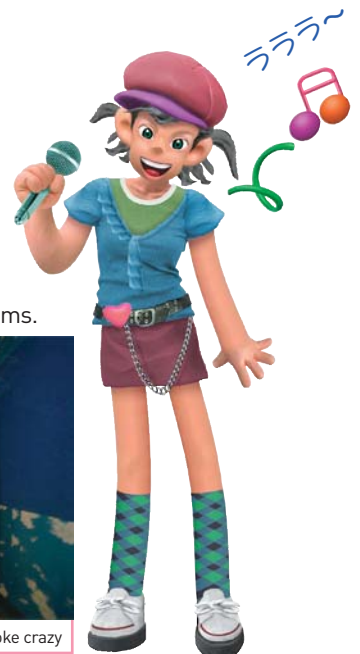
Karaoke

Friends have fun singing in specially built 'Karaoke Box' rooms.



The Japan Forum Photo Data Bank

Karaoke crazy



J-Pop

Home-grown celebrities have lots of fans. Utada Hikaru is a famous J-Pop star.

Film

Takeshi Kitano follows in the footsteps of other acclaimed Japanese film directors.



Takeshi Kitano

Food

Japanese food is tasty, healthy, and popular worldwide.

Beautifully presented Japanese dishes



JNTO

High-Tech Japan

Keitai (Mobile Phone) culture

Most people use mobiles loaded with functions including Internet access and full-colour screens.



モシモシ?



Consumer Electronics

Japanese hi-tech products are cool, cutting edge, and compact!

Small wonders:
a digital camera, dictionary and dictaphone

ASIMO, built by Honda

Robots

Amazing robots with artificial intelligence are created by Japanese companies. The humanoid robot ASIMO walks on all sorts of surfaces and speaks many languages.



Honda Motor Europe Ltd.



JNTO

Shinkansen or Bullet train

Travelling at almost 190mph, the latest super-fast Bullet Train celebrates 40 years of speed in 2004.

Newest and fastest: The Nozomi

Japan Facts Quiz

1 The economy is ranked ___largest in the world
1) 1st 2) 2nd 3) 3rd 4) 4th

2 Japan's national parliament is called the Diet.
How many houses are in the Diet?
1) 1 2) 2 3) 3

3 Who leads the Japanese cabinet?
1) President 2) Prime Minister 3) King

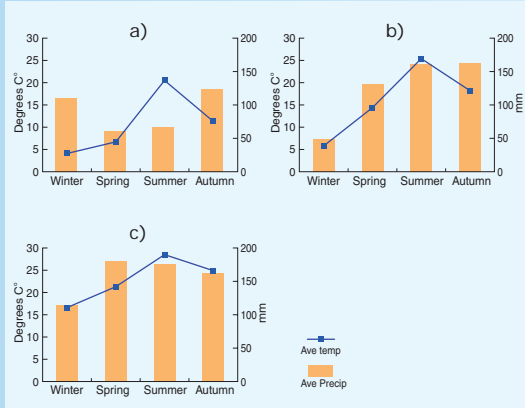
4 What is the status of the Emperor, as defined in the Japanese Constitution?
1) Ultimate governing power
2) The Symbol of the state and the unity of the people



Capital city Tokyo

5 Tokyo has been the capital of Japan since 1869. What was the capital city before then?
1) Osaka
2) Kyoto
3) Dejima

6 Which one of these Japanese city climate graphs is for Tokyo?



7 The currency is...
1) Yuan 2) Yen 3) Won 4) Dollar

8 How much of the country is mountainous?
1) 25% 2) 75% 3) 95%

9 How high is Mount Fuji?
1) 1,200m
2) 2,776m
3) 3,776m



Mount Fuji

10 What are the two main religions?
1) Buddhism 2) Islam 3) Christianity 4) Shinto

11 At what age can people vote in elections?
1) 19 2) 20 3) 21

12 What is the Japanese word for raw fish?
1) Sashimi 2) Sushi
3) Onigiri 4) Yakisoba



Sushi is a popular dish worldwide

13 Which is NOT a Japanese martial art/sport?
1) Judo 2) Sumo
3) Kendo 4) Kung fu



Sumo has a large following

14 How is Japan written in Japanese?
1) おはよう 2) 愛 3) 日本 4) イギリス

15 The world's largest and oldest can be found in Nara, near Kyoto.
1) Wooden structures 2) Stone temple 3) Bells

16 What is the staple diet?
1) Bread 2) Potatoes 3) Rice 4) Burgers

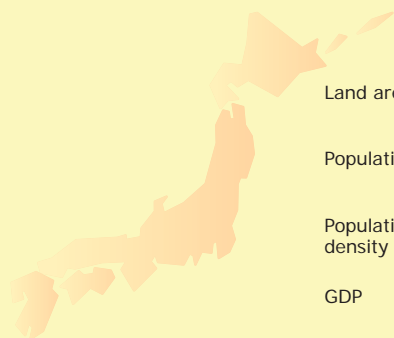
17 What is the most popular season for festivals?
1) Autumn 2) Winter 3) Spring 4) Summer

18 Why do Japanese people take their shoes off when entering their houses?
1) To keep the floor clean
2) For religious reasons
3) To show off their socks

(Find the answers in the bottom)



Let's compare the two countries!



Japan

Land area 377,899 km²
Population 127 million
Population density 330/km²
GDP \$3979 billion

UK

Land area 244,820 km²
Population 59 million
Population density 240/km²
GDP \$1552 billion



[Japan 2003] Keizai Koho Centre

Answers to quiz: 1) 2nd 2) 2. House of Representatives and House of Councillors 3) Prime Minister 4) The Symbol of the state and the unity of the people 5) Kyoto (Kyoto is also home to traditional Japanese culture)
6) a. Sapporo b. Tokyo c. Naha. Can you find Sapporo and Naha using an atlas? 7) Yen 8) 75% 9) 3,776 10) Buddhism & Shinto 11) 20 12) Sashimi (sushi is vinegared rice with a topping) 13) Kung fu
14) 日本-Nippon (おはよう/o-ha-yo-u: Good Morning, 愛/ai : Love, イギリス/i-gi-ri-su: United Kingdom) 15) Wooden structures: Todaiji Temple is the largest wooden structure and Horyuji Temple contains the oldest wooden structures, built in the late 7th century 16) Rice 17) Summer, but festivals are held throughout the year. 18) 1. To keep the floor clean For more information, please visit : <http://web-japan.org/kidsweb>

Japan-UK Timelines

First encounters

William Adams

The first person known to promote trade between the two countries was William Adams. This seaman from Kent landed in Japan in 1600. In the 1630s, soon after his death, Japan closed itself to the outside world.

William Adams was given the Japanese name Miura Anjin



Medway Council

Modernisation

In 1854 Japan re-opened up to the world after more than 200 years of seclusion.

Missions and students

A group of Japanese Government leaders known as the Iwakura Mission travelled to see Victorian Britain in 1872. Among them was Japan's first Prime Minister, Hirobumi Ito, who in his youth studied at University College London.

Importing technology

As Japan raced to modernise, the UK played an important role particularly within industry, finance, railways, and military training.



The Japan Society, Sukevoshi and Kimiko Yamamoto

Early Japanese students. Ito Hirobumi is in the back row, furthest to the right

Alliances and Conflicts

Anglo-Japanese Alliance

Signed in 1902, the Anglo-Japanese Alliance was Japan's first partnership with a major power. It strengthened the relationship between the countries. Japan gained support during its war with Russia in 1904, and both fought on the same side during World War I.

World War II

Friendship with the UK later cooled with the two nations becoming enemies during World War II. The war ended in 1945.

Strengthening ties

Economy

Since the 1970's Japanese companies have opened manufacturing plants throughout the UK and have been instrumental in promoting economic ties between the two countries.

Culture

The Beatles were a big hit in Japan and visited the country in 1966. A few years later, the UK experienced its first performance of Japan's traditional theatre, Kabuki.

Recent Events

Since the 1980s interaction between the two nations flourished thanks to a wide range of cultural exchanges in a variety of areas.

Royal visits

The Emperor and Empress of Japan visited the UK as recently as 1998.



Royal & Imperial families

Japan 2001

A year long Japanese cultural festival involved over 3 million people nationwide.

2002 FIFA World Cup

Over 45,000 Britons travelled to Japan during the football tournament. The England team was particularly popular.



Japanese and British fans enjoying the 2002 FIFA World Cup

Japan-UK Partnerships

International Collaboration

The two governments work together on world issues ranging from the environment and international conflict to global development.

Exchanges

Visitors

Each year around 400,000 Japanese visit the UK and some 200,000 Britons travel to Japan.

Communities

The UK is home to the world's fourth largest Japanese community with over 50,000 individuals living here.

British residents in Japan number 17,500.

Youth Exchange

Under the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme (JET), the Japanese Government employs British graduates. To date over 7,000 British graduates have benefited from this scheme, most assisting with English language teaching in schools.



An assistant English teacher on the JET Programme

Economy



Toyota car production line in Derbyshire

Japan is the second largest, non-EU trading partner of the UK, with trade worth £120 million travelling in both directions. Cars, electronic equipment and medicine are the most traded commodities. The UK is the biggest investment destination in Europe for Japanese business. More than 1,000 Japanese businesses are based in the UK.

Map of the World



London and Tokyo are 5,956 miles (9,585km) apart. A direct flight between the two cities takes about 12 hours.

Map of Japan

