



WHAT MAKES JAPAN SO UNIQUE?

Japan facts:

- Japan falls victim to many natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis. Japan is home to many forests, mountains, rivers, lakes and cliffs. 66% of Japan is covered in forest.
- One of Japan's most famous natural landmarks is Mount Fuji (the highest mountain in Japan). It is a volcano that last erupted in 1707. It is considered sacred by Japanese people.
- Japan has a population of 126 million. It has a great economy, healthcare system and people lead healthy lifestyles which is why people in Japan have such a good life expectancy. Japan's cities have large, modern skyscrapers but also have traditional, historical temples.
- Children in Japan start school at six years old and attendance is compulsory until fifteen years old. A new school year starts in April. Most schools have a uniform. Lunch is eaten in classrooms and the children serve each other and clean up afterwards. Children and teachers bow to each other to show respect. Homework is set every day.

Continent: Asia
 Hemisphere: Northern
 Capital city: Tokyo
 Most common language: Japanese
 Currency: Yen
 Main export: Technology
 Main religions: Shinto and Buddhism



Key Geographical Vocabulary		
Archipelago		An extensive group of islands.
Nihon		The Japanese name for Japan. It literally mean "the sun's origin" and is often translated as the Land of the Rising Sun.
Hinomaru		What Japan's flag is commonly known as, meaning 'circle of the sun'.
Northern and Southern Hemisphere		The Northern Hemisphere refers to the half of the planet that is north of the equator, while the Southern Hemisphere is all the planet south of the equator.
Climate		The usual condition of the temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, wind, rainfall, and other meteorological elements in an area of the Earth's surface for a long time.
Volcano		A landform (usually a mountain) where molten rock erupts through the surface of the planet.
Earthquake, tsunami, tectonic plates, crust		An earthquake is caused by the movement of the Earth's tectonic plates. A high sea wave can be caused by this called a tsunami.



