

Chapter 15

Japan

Chapter Preview

People

Shinzo Abe, Jimmu, Commodore Matthew Perry, Harry S. Truman, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Hirohito, Douglas MacArthur

Places


Sea of Japan, Honshu, Shikoku, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe, Hiroshima, Nagasaki

Terms

archipelago, terrace, Ring of Fire, tsunami, typhoon, homogenous, shogunate, indigenous, MacArthur Constitution, war reparations, constitutional monarchy, Bill of Rights, prefecture, autonomous, work ethic, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), tariff, subsidy, yen, robotics, Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

Top: Tokyo is the capital of Japan and the world's most populated city.

Background: The Chureito Pagoda is in a park dedicated to peace. Mount Fuji can be seen in the distance.



To the east of mainland Asia lies the “Land of the Rising Sun.” Stretching about 1,500 miles from north to south, the 4,000 islands of Japan arc gently from the northeast to the southwest. Beautiful scenery can be found on and around these islands. Striking snowcapped mountain peaks and swiftly flowing rivers are spread across the landscape. Volcanoes lie among the mountains, and from these come hot springs heated by Earth’s internal heat.

Japan is an island country that for many years was isolated from the rest of the world. Later, it became an aggressor and sought to gain control of nearby countries and the oceans in the region. The devastating defeat of Japan in World War II changed the country forever.

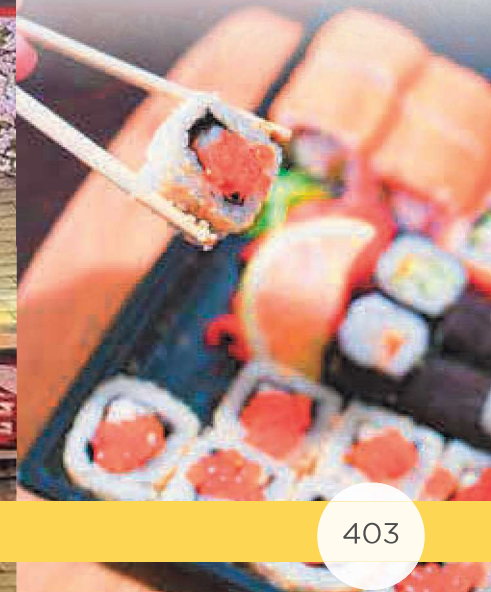
In the 21st century, Japan is one of the world’s most technologically advanced countries with one of the world’s most powerful economies. Many Japanese-based companies have brands familiar to Americans: Honda, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Canon, Casio, Toshiba, and Sony, just to name a few. Japan is the United States’ largest export market. Japanese speakers are the third- largest group on the Internet, comprising almost 10 percent of the world’s Internet population. Have you ever read manga or created origami or eaten sushi? If you have, you have participated in a part of Japanese culture! Japan’s connections to the United States make it an important and interesting gateway to other Asian countries.

Bottom: Sushi, a Japanese dish, has become popular in the United States. It is made with vinegar-flavored rice and may be served with seafood, vegetables, or egg.

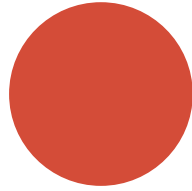
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I think it is the responsibility of anyone involved in politics to always think of what Japan can do to contribute more to the peace and stability not just of Japan and the region but of the entire world.

- Shinzo Abe,
prime minister
of Japan



PASSPORT



Official Name: Japan (日本 or Nihon-koku)

Capital: Tokyo

Form of Government: parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Head of Government: Prime Minister

Head of State: Emperor

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Currency: Japanese yen (JPY)



Top: Flag of Japan. **Middle Left:**

The National Diet building of Japan,

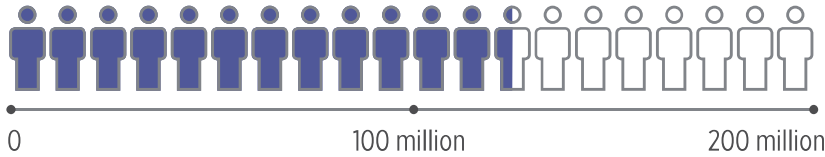
where the legislature meets. **Middle**

Right: Shinzo Abe is the current prime minister of Japan and president of the Liberal Democratic Party. **Right:** The

Japanese yen, in both bill and coin forms.

CULTURE CONNECTION

POPULATION

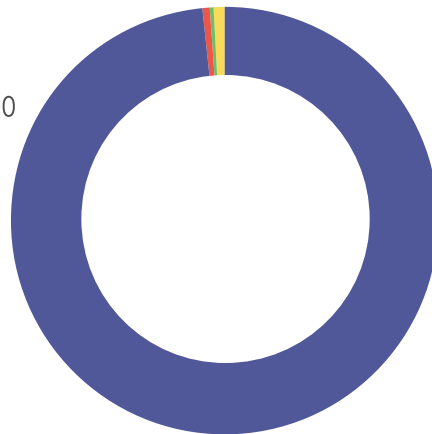


Japan
126,702,133 (est. July 2016)
Population Rank 11

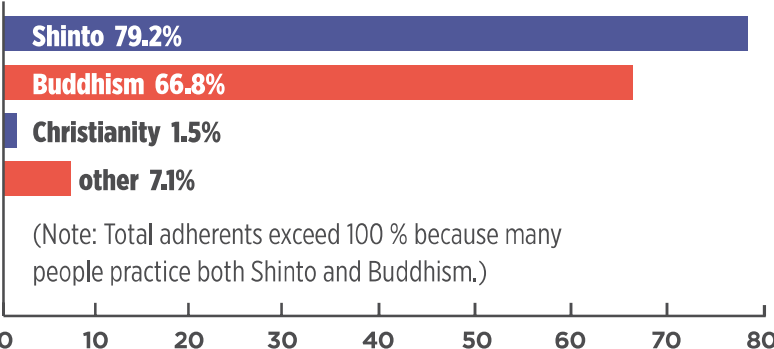
United States
324,386,000 (est. 2017)
Population Rank 3

ETHNIC GROUPS

- Japanese 98.5%
 - Koreans 0.5%
 - Chinese 0.4%
 - other 0.6%
- (Note: Up to 230,000 Brazilians of Japanese origin migrated to Japan in the 1990s to work in industries; some have returned to Brazil.)



RELIGION



FUN FACTS

Japan is home to many different forms of martial arts; Karate, Judo, Sumo, Ninjutsu, Kendo, Jujutsu, and Aikido are just a few examples. Sumo is actually recognized as the national sport of Japan, although the most popular spectator sport is baseball.

Official Language:
Japanese

Phrases in Japanese

- Hello** - こんにちは - Kon'nichiwa
- Goodbye** - さようなら - Sayōnara
- Good morning** - おはようございます - Ohayōgozaimasu
- Good afternoon** - こんにちは - Kon'nichiwa
- Thank you** - ありがとうございます - Arigatōgozaimashita
- You're welcome** - どういたしまして - Dōitashimashite
- Yes** - はい - Hai
- No** - いいえ - Īe

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Average 85 years
Male 81.7 years
Female 88.5 years

EDUCATION

Education Expenditures 3.8% of GDP
Rank 115

TIMELINE

OF JAPAN HISTORY



Figure 15.1



1800

1853 Commodore Matthew Perry forced Japan to enter into trade with the United States

1854 Japan signed the Treaty of Kanagawa and opened its ports



1900

1931 Japan occupied Manchuria

1937 Japan launched a full-scale invasion of China

1941 Japan attacked US forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

1945 Japan surrendered in World War II after two atomic bombs were dropped on its cities

1947 Japan adopted its first constitution



2000



2011 A 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami struck Japan

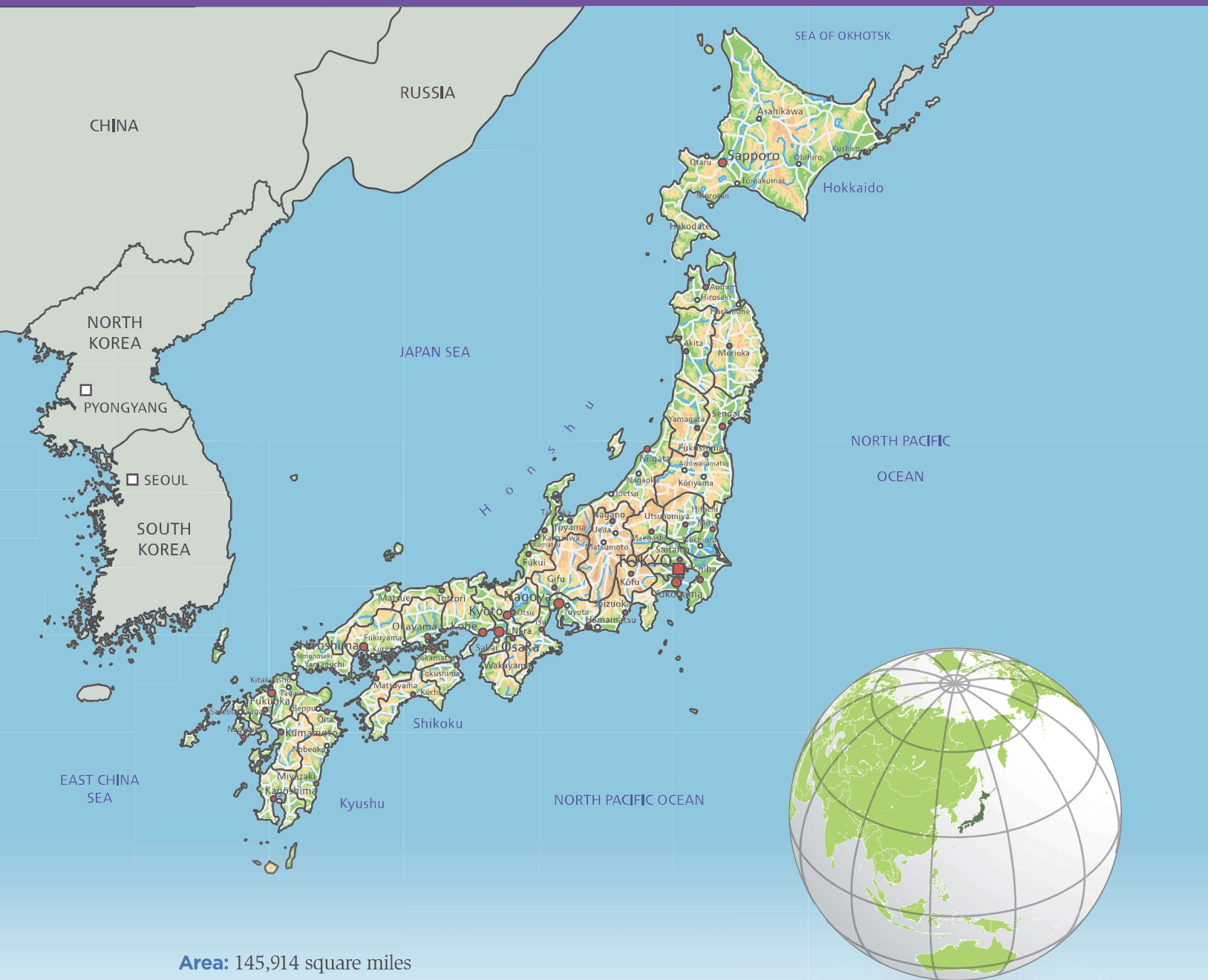
2012 Japan turned off its last nuclear generator

2013 Georgia Governor Nathan Deal led a trade mission that visited Japan
Japan began participating in Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations

2014 Ten-year extension of bilateral Science and Technology Agreement announced

2017 United States withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership

Top Left: Commodore Matthew Perry, the man responsible for forcing Japan to end its 200-year isolation and open its trade ports. **Top Right:** The Japanese infantry advancing in Manchuria in the 1930s. **Above:** The explosion of the USS *Shaw* after being bombarded by Japanese aircraft during the Pearl Harbor attack. **Right:** The 2011 earthquake registered a magnitude 9.0 and caused a tsunami and nuclear disaster that killed over 20,000 people. **Background:** Buddhists completed work on the Daigoji Temple and gardens in Kyoto in 1598.



Area: 145,914 square miles

Rank: 62

Natural Resources:

negligible mineral resources, fish

Environmental Issues:

air pollution from power plant emissions results in acid rain; acidification of lakes and reservoirs degrading water quality and threatening aquatic life; Japan is one of the largest consumers of fish and tropical timber, contributing to the depletion of these resources in Asia and elsewhere; following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, Japan originally planned to phase out nuclear power, but it has now implemented a new policy of seeking to restart nuclear power plants that meet strict new safety standards

Map 15.1

Japan

Map Skill: Can you find Fukushima and Hiroshima on the map? What disastrous events happened in those two cities?

Section 1

The Geography of Japan

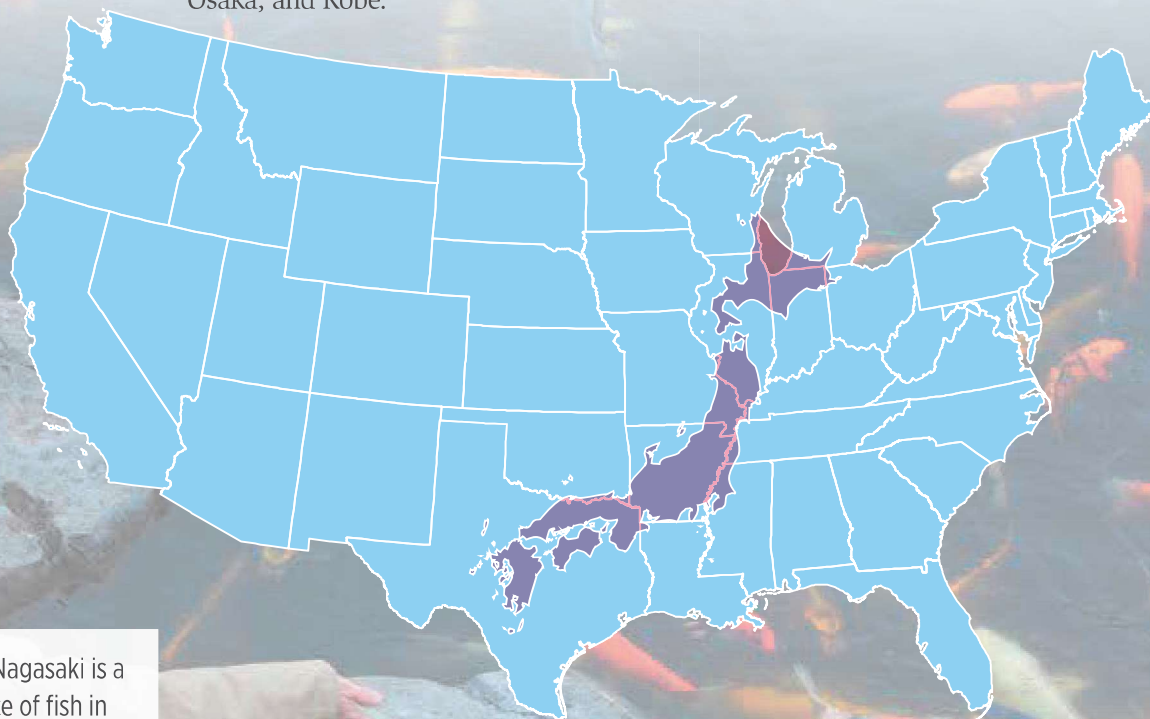

 Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ the four main islands of Japan;
- ▶ the physical feature that covers most of Japan;
- ▶ how the physical geography of Japan has impacted its development and people;
- ▶ how earthquakes and tsunamis affect Japan;
- ▶ terms: **archipelago**, **terrace**, **Ring of Fire**, **tsunami**, **typhoon**, **homogenous**.

Location and Size of Japan

The island nation of Japan is located on the eastern edge of Asia. It is located in the northern and eastern hemispheres. Japan is an **archipelago**, or series of islands. Because it is an island nation, it does not share a land border with any other countries. Japan is located east of the Korean Peninsula of mainland Asia, across the Sea of Japan. Japan has four large islands: Honshu, Shikoku, Hokkaido, and Kyushu, as well as thousands of smaller islands. Only 430 of those islands are inhabited. Honshu is the largest island and the location of major cities like Tokyo, Osaka, and Kobe.



Bottom: This koi pond in Nagasaki is a reminder of the importance of fish in Japanese art, culture, and diet.

Japan's land area is about 145,000 square miles. For comparison, Japan is slightly smaller than the combined area of Georgia, South Carolina, and Alabama. However, the country has a long, thin outline. If laid over the United States, it would stretch from Canada into Mexico. Japan is the 62nd-largest country in the world by land area.

Physical Features of Japan

Almost 80 percent of the country of Japan is covered with mountains. This leaves a small percentage of the land suitable for farming. The Japanese have created farmland out of these mountains by building terraces, putting in irrigation channels, and using different fertilizers and farming techniques. **Terraces** are flat areas of land carved into the sides of hills and mountains by farmers so they can grow crops. Even so, Japan has to import food for its growing population. Because Japan has so little farmland, the Japanese people depend on fishing for much of their food. Japan imports fuel as well. The country has a very highly developed industrial economy but no gas or oil. It depends on the world market to import petroleum products.

There are many volcanoes in Japan. Japan is located on the **Ring of Fire**, which is an area around the Pacific Ocean where there are frequent volcanic eruptions due to plate tectonic movements. These volcanoes are often the cause of earthquakes. Japan has more earthquakes every year than any other place in the world. The Japanese people have adjusted to the threat of earthquakes, even though many cause a lot of damage. Some parts of the country have developed hot springs around the volcanic areas, and others use the heat to warm water for people to use. In March 2011, Japan's strongest-ever earthquake, and an accompanying **tsunami** (a long high sea wave caused by an earthquake), devastated the northeast part of Honshu island, killed thousands, and damaged several nuclear reactors. The catastrophe hobbled the country's economy and its energy infrastructure, and tested its ability to deal with humanitarian disasters.



Top: The fishing industry is important to Japan, with fish as a major food source for the country. **Above:** Japan is located along the Ring of Fire, and as such, has many volcanoes, active and inactive, including the Sakurajima volcano. **Left:** To accommodate for the mountainous terrain, the Japanese built terraces on mountainsides to have more room to grow crops.

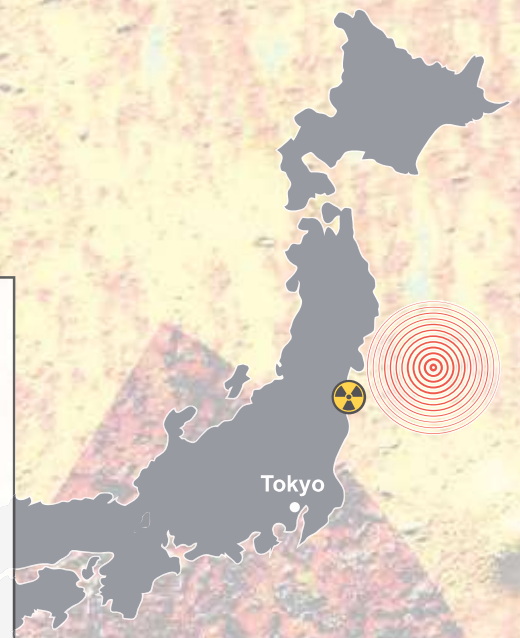
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Fukushima Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster

On March 11, 2011, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck Japan—the worst in Japanese history. The earthquake lasted for six minutes and was so strong it moved the entire island of Honshu two meters to the east. Once the shaking had ended, however, the worst was still to come. The earthquake created a tsunami over 40 feet high that came crashing down on the eastern coast of Japan, wiping out everything in its path. Over 20,000 people died during the earthquake and tsunami.

In the northern part of Japan was a nuclear power plant called Fukushima Daiichi. At the time of the earthquake and tsunami, only three of the six nuclear reactors were operating. When the tsunami waves hit the power plant, they flooded the basement where the backup generators were located. As a result, the cooling systems in the plant failed, and over the next few days, the second-worst nuclear power plant accident in history began. The Japanese government created an eighteen-mile no-fly zone over the reactors and evacuated 47,000 people from a 12.5-mile area around the reactors. Years later, many of those people have still not returned to their homes. Food and water in the area were contaminated. Contaminated water from the reactors spilled into the ocean.

The Japanese government has spent over \$1.5 billion trying to clean and contain the area around Fukushima. The cleanup, however, could take up to forty years. The reactors are slowly leaking low levels of radiation. Experts say the contamination in the area could last up to 300 years. As a result of this accident, Japan completely stopped using nuclear power, which supplied 30 percent of the country's energy. On May 5, 2012, Japan turned off its last generator, and Japan was without nuclear power for the first time in forty-five years. As a result, 80 percent of Japan's fuel had to be imported, which increased energy prices for Japanese citizens. The future of nuclear energy in Japan is still under debate. What would you decide? Do you think Japan should go back to using nuclear power plants, despite the risk of earthquakes?



Top: The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant has to be checked by experts occasionally to ensure the proper steps for decommissioning and deconstruction are taken, but it is a dangerous task. **Above:** Many parts of Japan's eastern coast were flooded by the tsunami in 2011, and many are still left abandoned.

Climate of Japan

Most of Japan is in the temperate climate zone between the Arctic Circle and the Tropic of Cancer. These latitudes generally have a moderate climate without extremes of heat or cold. However, Japan's climate is affected by ocean currents, and locations are also affected by their altitude.

The Japan Current coming from the south brings warm water to the southern and eastern coasts of Japan, while the Oyashio Current coming from the north cools the northern coast. Farmers in the warmer parts of the country are able to have longer growing seasons, while people living in the cooler north rely on fishing. High, mountainous elevations have colder temperatures.

The islands receive about 40 inches of rain per year. High amounts of rain can be expected when monsoon rains and even tropical hurricanes called **typhoons** hit the islands.

Natural Resources of Japan

Japan has few natural resources. In fact, the only ones it has are a few deposits of minerals. However, because Japan is an island, it has excellent access to areas that are good for fishing. One of Japan's main exports is fish, and fish are a very common Japanese food. Another effect of Japan's rocky terrain is that there is very limited arable land. Japanese farmers have built terraces into mountains to try to produce more food, but Japan still has to import food to feed its population. To meet its energy demands, Japan has to import oil, natural gas, and other resources. This fact has made Japan the world's largest importer of coal and natural gas and the second-largest importer of oil.

Environmental Issues of Japan

Like all countries in the world today, Japan has several serious environmental issues it must deal with. Many of these issues are the result of burning coal and oil for power. Acid rain is a major concern in Japan. Not only does it damage buildings, but it can also pollute lakes and reservoirs. Acid rain is a direct result of air pollution. Japan's government is looking at alternative energy methods to solve its air pollution problems. Japan once used nuclear power plants to generate one-third of its electricity, but after a devastating earthquake and tsunami destroyed one of the nuclear power plants, the Japanese people demanded that all nuclear power facilities be closed. Now the government is investigating solar, wind, and other forms of clean and renewable energy sources. It is also exploring ways to make the existing nuclear power plants safer.



Top: Like much of Asia, Japan experiences monsoons, which can be both a blessing and a curse. **Above:** Because the Japanese abandoned nuclear power, they rely more on fossil fuels, which are costly and contribute to air pollution. **Left:** Japan's efforts to use cleaner sources of energy, like wind and solar power, will be expensive, but this investment will help reduce the country's overall pollution levels.



Japan's large population consumes a massive amount of seafood. This has led to overfishing of Japan's waters. The demand for fish and timber in Japan is met with imports from other countries. However, Japan's great demand strains the resources of other countries.

Impact of Location

Most people in Japan live along the coasts. This settlement pattern dates back for hundreds of years. Cities grew along the coasts in areas that made good ports. Trade has long been important to the Japanese economy. Over 93 percent of the Japanese people live in urban areas, or cities. To compare, in the United States, about 82 percent of the population lives in urban areas.

Another very important thing to know about where people live in Japan is the population density.

In the United States, there are about 85 people for every square mile of land. In Japan, however, there are 868 people per square mile. Tokyo, the world's largest city, has a population around 38 million people with a population density of 11,500 people per square mile!



People of Japan

The population of Japan is very **homogenous**, which means similar. Over 98 percent of Japan's population is Japanese. There are small numbers of Koreans, Chinese, and other nationalities as well. The main language spoken in Japan is Japanese. Almost 80 percent of the people practice Shinto, a religion that began in Japan hundreds of years ago. In addition, over 68 percent of the population practices Buddhism. Many people follow the beliefs and rituals of both Shinto and Buddhism. One unique thing about the Japanese population is that it is shrinking. This means there are more people dying than being born in Japan. In fact, in 2016, Japan's population growth was -0.16 percent. This is one of the major challenges facing Japan's government. Overcrowding can be a problem, but an aging population and reduction in population can cause problems, too.

DID YOU KNOW?

One-third of Japan's population lives in the capital city of Tokyo.

Top and Above: Kansai International Airport in Osaka is visible in a satellite image. The airport was built on a man-made island at a cost of more than \$20 billion. Reclaiming land from the sea is one way the large population of Japan is adapting to life in the small island nation.

Reviewing the Section

1. What is an archipelago?
2. What are the four main islands of Japan?
3. What physical feature covers most of Japan?
4. How has the physical geography of Japan affected its development and people?
5. How have earthquakes affected Japan?

Section 2

A Brief History of Japan



As you read, look for

- ▶ the influence of the shogunate in Japanese history;
- ▶ the event that caused Japan to surrender in World War II;
- ▶ the role of Douglas MacArthur in Japanese history;
- ▶ the type of government MacArthur put in place in Japan;
- ▶ why the position of emperor still exists in Japan;
- ▶ terms: **shogunate**, **indigenous**, **MacArthur Constitution**, **war reparations**.

Early History of Japan

Thousands of years ago, clans in Japan fought for power. About 660 BC, a member of the Yamato clan, Jimmu, united the clans and became the first emperor. Around the year AD 1000 was the age of the samurai



warrior. The samurai were hired to protect the lords in much the same way medieval knights in Europe protected their lords. By the 1200s there were powerful samurai called shoguns ruling Japan. Although there was an emperor in place, the shogun had the ultimate power.

In 1603, after decades of civil warfare, the Tokugawa **shogunate** (a military-led monarchy) ushered in a long period of relative political stability and isolation from foreign influence in Japan. For more than 200 years, this policy enabled Japan to focus on its **indigenous** (native) culture.



Above: The samurai acted as military officials and commanders for their lord's army. **Left:** Emperor Jimmu, according to legend and myth, is the descendant of two gods, making him a divine figure.

Below: This wood carving of Commodore Matthew Perry, which exaggerated his western features, may be the first depiction of westerners in Japanese artwork. **Bottom:** The atomic bombings of Japan by the United States were violent and swift, killing more than 200,000 people. They are the only two instances of nuclear weapons used in the history of warfare.

Background: The surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, attempted to cripple the US Pacific Naval Fleet to prevent its interference in Japan's plans to take over many parts of the Pacific.



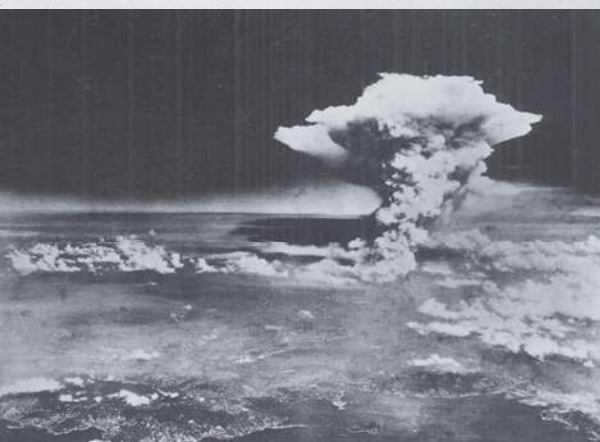
Japan Reconnects with the World

In 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry of the US Navy forced Japan to enter into trade with the United States and demanded a treaty permitting trade and the opening of Japanese ports to US merchant ships. Japan opened its ports after signing the Treaty of Kanagawa with the United States in 1854 and began to intensively modernize and industrialize.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Japan became a regional power that was able to defeat the forces of both China and Russia. It occupied Korea, Formosa (Taiwan), and southern Sakhalin Island. In 1931 and 1932, Japan occupied Manchuria, and in 1937 it launched a full-scale invasion of China. Japan attacked US forces in 1941 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, triggering America's entry into World War II. It soon occupied much of East and Southeast Asia.

In May of 1945, the war in Europe ended, which left America and its allies to focus on the war in the Pacific against Japan. The Japanese showed no sign of surrender, which left US President Harry S. Truman with a difficult choice: continue fighting the war and losing many American lives or drop the newly developed atomic bomb.

On August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, killing over 150,000 people. The United States demanded that Japan surrender, but Japan refused. Three days later, on August 9, 1945, the United States dropped another atomic bomb. This time it was dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki, killing at least 50,000 people. On August 15, 1945, Japan announced its surrender. The formal peace treaty was signed on September 2, 1945, officially ending World War II.



Rebuilding Japan after World War II

At Japan's surrender in September 1945, the country had been reduced to rubble. Industries and farms were destroyed, the government was in shambles, the people were demoralized, and the emperor had been exposed as an ordinary person rather than the god the Japanese people had believed him to be. The American commander of the occupation forces was General Douglas MacArthur. He was given the job of putting Japan back on its feet, in a way that would guarantee Japan would not pose a military threat to other countries in the future.

General MacArthur wanted Japan to have a democratic government, but he also understood the important place the Japanese emperor occupied in Japanese culture. He decided Japan would be a constitutional monarchy. He wrote a constitution for the country, still referred to as the **MacArthur Constitution**, that created a two-house parliament called the Diet. The emperor remained only as a symbol of the country in the official capacity of head of state. After its defeat in World War II, Japan recovered to become an economic power and an ally of the United States. While the emperor retains his throne as a symbol of national unity, elected politicians hold actual decision-making power.

One clause in this constitution prevents Japan from declaring war. Its people are allowed to fight only if they are attacked first. The Japanese signed all peace treaties ending the war and pledged to pay **war reparations** (damages) to the countries they had harmed during World War II. American troops were allowed to remain in Japan, and the Japanese were not permitted to rebuild their military in any major way.



Reviewing the Section

1. What caused Japan to finally surrender in World War II?
2. Who was Douglas MacArthur? Why is he important in Japanese history?
3. What type of government did MacArthur put in place in Japan?
4. What are four ways the Japanese government changed with the MacArthur Constitution?
5. Why do you think the position of emperor still exists in Japan?

Top: General MacArthur worked to rebuild Japan after the war, making sure to blend tradition with western ideals in the process. **Above:** Many American military bases, like the one in Okinawa, Japan, act as an important position to deal with issues in various parts of the Pacific.

special Feature



Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

In 1940, before the United States joined World War II, the United States began funding atomic weapons development. The project was referred to as the Manhattan Project and was led by J. Robert Oppenheimer. The Manhattan Project received over \$2 billion in funding. On July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was tested at the Trinity site in Alamogordo, New Mexico.

By 1944, it was clear that Japan was going to lose World War II, but fighting in the Pacific became deadlier. Between mid-April and mid-July 1945, the number of Allied casualties was half of the combined casualties of the previous three years. US President Harry S. Truman wanted a way to stop the loss of American lives. It was estimated that an all-out invasion of Japan would cost the lives of about 1 million US soldiers. On July 26, 1945, the Potsdam Declaration, signed by the United States and Great Britain, demanded Japan's surrender. The Japanese emperor, Hirohito, refused.

On August 5, 1945, at 8:15 in the morning, the US bomber *Enola Gay* dropped the first atomic bomb nicknamed "Little Boy." The bomb exploded 2,000 feet above the Shima Surgical Hospital in Hiroshima, a manufacturing city of 350,000. The explosion was the equivalent of 12,000 to 15,000 tons of TNT. Around 90 percent of the city was wiped out and over 80,000 people were killed instantly. A five-square-mile area underneath the blast was completely incinerated. There was nothing left of the buildings or people. Tens of thousands more people would die later of radiation exposure.



Top: Emblem of the Manhattan Project. **Right:** A postwar model of "Little Boy," the atomic bomb that exploded over Hiroshima. **Background:** A mushroom cloud rose more than 60,000 feet into the air over Nagasaki after the US bomber *Bockscar* dropped an atomic bomb on August 9, 1945.



Emperor Hirohito refused to surrender, so on August 9, 1945, at 11:02 in the morning, another US bomber, *Bockscar*, dropped another atomic bomb called “Fat Man” on the city of Nagasaki. While Fat Man was actually a bigger bomb than Little Boy, it did not damage as large an area as Little Boy because of the mountains surrounding Nagasaki. At least 40,000 people were killed instantly. This bombing was enough to convince Hirohito that Japan could not win the war. On August 15, 1945, he announced Japan’s surrender.

The effects of the radiation continued to haunt the hibakusha, or survivors, for decades. Radiation illnesses,

like leukemia, killed thousands of people. Today, however, both Hiroshima and Nagasaki have rebuilt. The population of Hiroshima is now over 1 million people, and they manufacture machinery and Mazda automobiles and process food. Nagasaki is a city of over 500,000 people with a Mitsubishi plant that makes turbines for power plants. Both cities today have many memorials and museums to the bombings and those who were killed. How do you think the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki found the strength to rebuild their cities?



Top: Hirohito, the emperor of Japan during World War II, rejected surrender twice before finally submitting to the United States. **Middle Left:** A postwar model of “Fat Man,” the atomic bomb that exploded over Nagasaki. **Middle:** Total devastation of Hiroshima after the atomic bomb was dropped. **Bottom:** Despite the devastation of the bombings, both Nagasaki (pictured here) and Hiroshima have been rebuilt, with large populations and thriving industry.