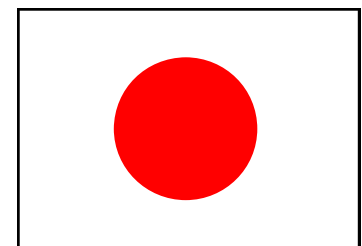


Japan— An Overview

<u>Location</u>	East Asia
<u>Capital</u>	Tokyo (approx. the same latitude as Raleigh, NC)
<u>Size</u>	377,873 km ² (about 146,000 mi ² or 2½ times larger than Georgia)
<u>Four Main Islands</u>	Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu
<u>Climate</u>	Temperate climate with four distinct seasons
<u>Population (2007)</u>	127,770,000 (a little less than ½ the population of the U.S.)
<u>Government</u>	Constitutional Democracy: Bicameral Diet, Parliamentary Cabinet, Supreme Court
<u>Emperor</u>	His Majesty Emperor Akihito
<u>Prime Minister</u>	Mr. Yukio Hatoyama
<u>National Flag</u>	Known as the <i>Hinomaru</i> , depicts the sun as a red ball on white
<u>National Anthem</u>	"Kimigayo"
<u>History</u>	In the 4th century, ancestors of the present imperial family established Japan's first unified state under what is known as the Yamato court.
<u>International Relations</u>	Member of the United Nations since 1956; member of the G8; one of the world's leading donors of official development assistance
<u>Religion</u>	Mainly Shinto and Buddhism (Christianity approx. 1%)
<u>Economy</u>	World's 2nd largest
<u>Per Capita GDP (2006)</u>	\$34,181
<u>Currency</u>	Yen
<u>Percentage of Japanese workers that are women (2005)</u>	41.35%
<u>Life Expectancy at Birth (2005)</u>	Male: 78.64, Female: 85.59
<u>Mandatory Education</u>	Ages 6-15
<u>Percentage of students going on to college or university (2005)</u>	51.5%
<u>Traditional Culture</u>	<i>Kabuki</i> (classical theater), <i>Noh</i> (musical theater), <i>Kyogen</i> (comic theater), <i>Bunraku</i> (puppet theater), tea ceremony, flower arranging, calligraphy
<u>Modern Culture</u>	<i>Anime</i> (animated shows), <i>manga</i> (cartoons), classical and pop music, cinema, etc.
<u>Popular Sports</u>	Baseball, soccer, martial arts (<i>judo</i> , <i>kendo</i> , <i>karate</i> , <i>aikido</i>) <i>sumo</i> , golf, tennis, snow sports, water sports
<u>Food</u>	Popular ingredients are seafood, vegetables, and rice (Ex: <i>sushi</i> , <i>tempura</i> , <i>noodles</i>)
<u>Language</u>	Japanese (Sample phrases: <i>Konnichiwa</i> —Good Afternoon; <i>Arigatou</i> —Thank You)
<u>Highest Mountain</u>	Mt. Fuji (3,776 m, or about 12,388 ft, about 12 times higher than Stone Mountain)



National Flag



For more information on Japan, visit web-japan.org; For travel info, visit www.jnto.go.jp.