

The background features a stylized mountain range. The upper portion consists of several overlapping mountain peaks in various shades of green, from light to dark. A horizontal band of bright orange, textured material, resembling torn paper or fabric, separates the green mountains from the bottom section. The bottom section is a solid dark teal or blue color.

# Around the World

Unit 8 Lesson 9

# What will we be learning this class?

- A look into a new country
- A review of the “o\_e” sound



Today we will be learning  
about another country.

This country is made up of many islands in  
the Pacific Ocean...



The country is  
known for  
growing rice....



And catching fish!





Do you remember? What is a population? This country also has a high population.



The last clue: This city's capital is Tokyo!



What country do you think it  
could be?

# ◆ JAPAN ◆



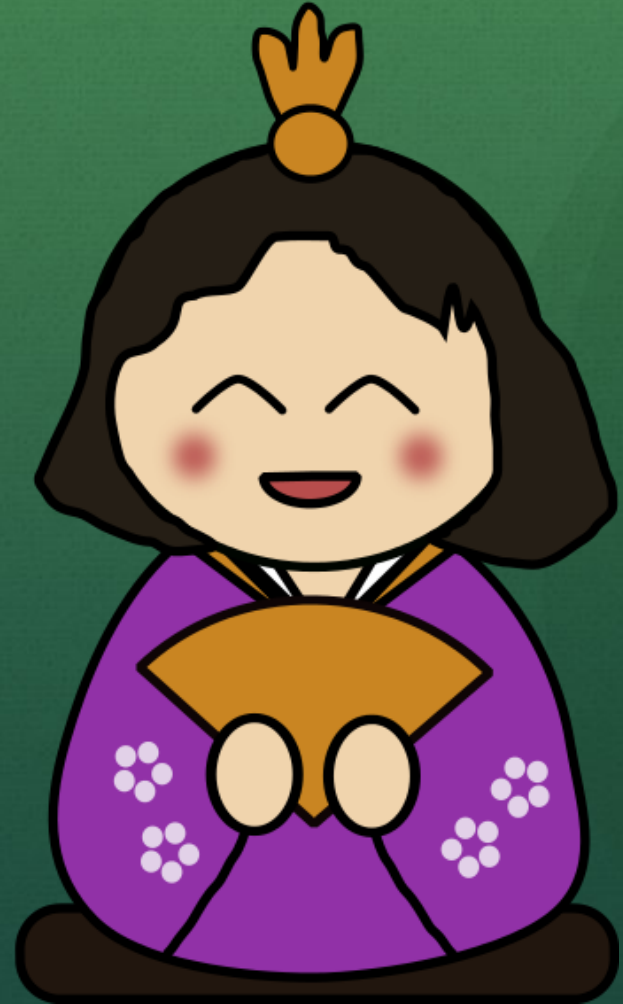
It is Japan! We will be  
learning about this country  
today.

What do you know about  
Japan? Write it below



A large, empty rectangular box with a yellow border, intended for writing the answer to the question.

Have you visited Japan before?  
Tell us a story from your trip!



Let's learn more  
about the country!

We will now  
read a book  
about Japan!





## Table of Contents

Where Is It? .....	4
People .....	6
Land .....	8
History .....	10
Celebrations .....	12
Food .....	13
Conclusion .....	14
Glossary .....	16



## Where Is It?

Japan is made up of a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean. It is just off the east coast of Asia. Japan has four main islands and thousands of smaller islands. The entire country is smaller than the state of California.



Tokyo is the largest city in Japan.

Tokyo (TOH-kee-yoh) is the capital city of Japan. It is on the largest island, called *Honshu* (HON-shoo). Tokyo has many tall **skyscrapers**. More than thirty-two million people live there.



People cross one of Tokyo's busiest streets.

## People

More than 127 million people live in Japan. The country's main language is Japanese. More people live in cities and towns than in the country. City life in Japan is very busy. Most cities have little space, and people are crowded together.



Farmers in Japan grow large amounts of rice in very little space.

Most people in Japan eat rice. Japan grows much of the rice it uses. The Japanese also catch many fish and sell them across the world.



Mount Fuji is on the island of Honshu.

## Land

Most of Japan is covered with mountains. The country has more than seventy **volcanoes**. The most famous one is Mount Fuji (FOO-jee). It has not erupted in many years. **Earthquakes** are also common.



The land near the coast is the only flat land in Japan. Japan's biggest cities are on the coasts. The country has many rivers and lakes.



The Chinese characters borrowed by Japanese writing are called *kanji* (KAHN-jee).

## History

Japan is thousands of years old. Ancient Japanese and Chinese people traded things and ideas. Some experts think that Japan learned to grow rice from China. Japanese writing even borrows from Chinese writing.



Samurai warriors in Japan wore armor to protect them.

In the past, Japan was an **empire**. It was ruled by emperors. Later, powerful military leaders called **shoguns** (SHOH-guns) took control away from the emperors. **Samurai** (SA-muh-rye) warriors also had power. The samurai were known as brave and skilled fighters.



Children in Japan often get kites, spinning tops, and cards for New Year's.

## Celebrations

The Japanese New Year is an important holiday in Japan. It starts a week before the first day of January. People send cards for the New Year's holiday. They also clean their homes, and children often get gifts.



noodles



rice



sushi

## Food

Rice is an important food in Japan. It is eaten at most meals. Noodles are also served with some meals. Another important food is fish. Japanese people sometimes eat raw fish called *sushi* (SOO-shee).



Children's Day in May celebrates the good health and happiness of children.

## Conclusion

Japan is a small island country, yet it has many people. It has tall mountains and volcanoes. It also has crowded cities with skyscrapers. Japan is a mix of many things—old and new, large and small.



**Population:** 127,250,000

**Land:** 364,485 sq km (226,480 sq. mi.)

**Capital City:** Tokyo

**Primary Language:** Japanese

**Currency:** Yen



Source: Central Intelligence Agency (July 2014), World Bank

## Glossary

**earthquakes** (*n.*) shaking of Earth's crust (p. 8)

**empire** (*n.*) nations or people ruled by one person who has total power (p. 11)

**shoguns** (*n.*) military rulers in ancient Japan (p. 11)

**samurai** (*n.*) a powerful class of warriors that lived in ancient Japan (p. 11)

**skyscrapers** (*n.*) very tall buildings (p. 5)

**volcanoes** (*n.*) places in Earth's crust where gases, ash, and lava come onto the surface (p. 8)

# What did you like about Japan?



Japan has some similarities to China. Can you list some?



Japan also has differences. List some differences to China.



# Great work!

Now we will review the “o\_e” sound!

What word do you think is  
pictured?



H \_ \_ \_

Correct, it is home!

That is an o\_e word!



Here are some more o\_e  
words. Can you read them?

Smoke

Hope

Slope

Froze

Bone

Globe

Great, try to use a word in  
a sentence!

Smoke

Hope

Slope

Froze

Bone

Globe



Can you name these o\_e  
words? How do they sound?



Use one of these words in a sentence!



List as many o\_e words as  
you can in 1:00.



# Very good job! What did we learn today?

- A look into Japan
- Similarities and Differences
- A review of “o\_e” words





Let's look at the homework now.

Do you have any questions?