



JASO is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting business and developing community by strengthening the US-Japan relationship in our community. We work in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Japan on the Road is an education program designed to introduce elementary school students to Japan, stimulate their interest, and help them to connect with a unique culture and country, with a view to creating a lifelong positive relationship.

Passport to Japan

An Adventure to Remember!

Teachers' Guide

Passport to Japan is the first in a series of online videos with support documents and resources, available free of charge to elementary schools around Oregon, Southwest Washington, and beyond!



Included in this Teachers' Guide are:

1. Program Notes for Teachers
2. Introduction to Japan
3. Japan Travel Map
4. Japan Map Icon Key
5. Comprehension Questions
6. Student Discussion Questions
7. Answer Key
8. Further Resources



1. Program Notes for Teachers

Before the video

Help students find Japan on a map of the world, and if desired, introduce Japan in a more general way using the Introduction to Japan information included.

Explain that today you are going to take a special trip to Japan, and the Japan on the Road volunteers are going to come along as tour guides!

Hand out copies of the Japan Travel Map and Map Icon Key. Let the students examine the icons on the map and imagine what each icon might represent, and what the trip may involve. They can use the map to see where they are as they watch the video.

Preparing to watch

The video starts in Sapporo and ends on the main island of Honshu, so the first half of the Honshu icons are covered before traveling down to the lower islands, and the remaining half are covered after coming back. The order on the Map Icon Key is the same as the order each appears on the video. This should make following along easier for the students.

During the video

There are three places in the video where we recommend you consider pausing and give the students more time. You might even have them guess the answer before it is given on the following slide.

Students often enjoy more time to think about these answers than can be allowed in the presentation, and are pleased to have their guess confirmed.

These spots are:

Toyama Bay

Question: What is the bioluminescence in the water?

Answer: Firefly squid!

Nara Park

Question: What is the deer looking so expectantly at us for?

Answer: They want a snack! Special deer rice crackers (senbei) are sold at the park for tourists to buy and give to the deer.

Mount Fuji

Question: What is being grown in these green fields in front of Mt Fuji?

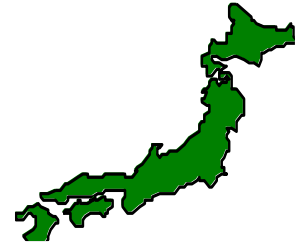
Answer: Green tea! You can pick your own here!

After the video

Please use the enclosed Comprehension Questions either as a quiz, or as further talking points with your class. Then, expand thinking and the conversation with the Discussion Questions.

What is Japan?

Japan is part of a chain of over 5,000 islands off the east coast of Asia. Most of the population lives on the four largest islands of Honshu (the longest), Hokkaido (in the north), Shikoku (smallest of the four) and Kyushu (the southernmost). About 30% of the population lives on Honshu in the capital city of Tokyo, one of the largest cities in the world.



Where is Japan?

Japan is located 5,000 miles west of Oregon across the Pacific Ocean, which takes about ten hours in an airplane.

How Big is Japan?

Japan is 1,100 miles long from north to south, and 126 million people live there. Japan's population is about 40 percent of the United States' population, but Japan is a lot smaller than the USA.

About 70% of Japan is mountainous, which means everyone lives on 30% of the total land mass, about 50,000 square miles. Oregon is 98,000 square miles, and we have only 4 million people here! Space is very precious in Japan. The Japanese have learned to live comfortably in a much smaller area. Japanese homes are efficient, with one room often having more than one function. One room may be the breakfast room in the morning, the family room in the evening, and a bedroom at night.

The Weather in Japan

The weather in Japan is similar to the weather in the Pacific Northwest. Japan experiences all four seasons. On Hokkaido and in northern Honshu, winters are very cold and it snows heavily. On the southernmost island of Kyushu, the weather is mild during the winter and hot and humid in the summer. The southern islands of Okinawa are tropical, like Hawaii. Japan has forests, mountains, and ample access to the ocean. No matter where you are in Japan, you're never far from the sea! In the fall, Japan is prone to typhoons, and earthquakes are a constant worry. Japan also has many dormant and a few active volcanoes. In fact, 10% of the world's most active volcanoes are in Japan.

The Land of the Rising Sun

Just west of Japan lies China. Many years ago, as Chinese people saw the sun rising above the islands to their east, they called them "the source of the sun". Today one of Japan's nicknames is "Land of the Rising Sun". When you see the Japanese flag, you will notice the big red circle in the center of a white field; the circle represents the sun.

Beginning over 2,000 years ago, Japan has had a line of emperors that continues to the present. From the 12th century until the 19th century, feudal lords or *shoguns* held political control. These shoguns kicked out all foreigners in the 17th century on suspicion that they were spies for European rulers. In 1854, the US Navy, led by Commodore Matthew Perry, sailed into port, and forced the Japanese to restart contact with the West. From that time, Japan started modernizing very quickly.

What do the Japanese Eat?

With a mild climate and plenty of rain, the Japanese grow and eat lots of rice, fresh vegetables and fruit. With so much sea surrounding them, seafood is also a major component of their diet. Rice and Japanese tea are part of almost every meal, although Western-style food has also become popular. In fact, there are many American-style restaurants in Japan including McDonald's, Wendy's, Denny's and Kentucky Fried Chicken!

Japan

TRAVEL MAP



Japan Map Icon Key

Hokkaido



Sapporo Snow Festival



Jozankei Ryokan

Honshu



Minamisoma



Toyama Bay



Kinkakuji Temple



Nara Park



Himeji Castle



Tokyo Airport



Mount Fuji



Asakusa Market



DisneySea

Shikoku



Muroto Dolphin Center

Kyushu



Kawachi Wisteria Garden



Ibusuki Beach



Sakurajima

Okinawa



Churaumi Aquarium



Chura Sun Beach



Star Beach

Transportation



Shinkansen



Great Seto Bridge



Ferry



Airplane

5. Comprehension Questions

1. What did they use to make sculptures out of in the beginning of the video?
2. What do the deer eat in Nara Park?
3. What was the long purple tunnel at Kawachi Park made out of?
4. What metal are the upper two floors in the Kinkakuji Temple covered with?
5. Where do wild monkeys in Japan like to hang out when it's cold?
6. What animal can you swim with in Japan?
7. What animals did samurai ride as part of their festival in Minamisoma?
8. What are you supposed to do with the noodles in your soup in order to eat politely in Japan?

7. Comprehension Questions Answer Key

1. ice and snow
2. special rice crackers
3. wisteria blossoms
4. gold
5. in the hot springs
6. dolphins
7. horses
8. slurp!

8. Further Resources

Invite our Volunteer to Participate in Class

If you have your lesson scheduled, our volunteers are ready and want to join with you virtually! Some examples of how the volunteer can help:

- Self-introduction
- Introduce Japan section
- Explain today's adventure section
- Ask the comprehension questions and listen or comment on the answer
- Ask the discussion questions and listen or comment on the answer
- Answer any other questions students may have
- Thank them for visiting Japan today!

Please give us as much advance notice as possible so that we can arrange and manage these visits.

Discover Japan in Oregon and Southwest Washington

There are Japan-related resources all over the state. If you are looking for field trip ideas or additional connections in your community, just ask us and we'll offer examples based on your location and needs.

Connect Direct to Japan

Oregon has 23 sister city relationships with Japan. In addition, we have especially close relationships with Toyama Prefecture (State), the city of Sapporo, and Setagaya-ku, which is a ward (small city) in Tokyo. We'd love to connect your students to students of a similar age in Japan. Class video letter? Pen pals? Ask us for more details, and we'll start trying to connect you!

Contact Us

During the pandemic, the best way to communicate is by email to ssaito@jaso.org. Thank you for your patience.