

**Can-U-Read**

**Japan**

Japan is a country on the other side of the world.

It is the home of people who speak a very different way.

They dress and eat very differently from you.

If a person visited Japan, it would be like stepping on an alien world.



Japan is a land of over 2000 islands.

The islands are made by volcanoes.

The steep mountains are cut into farm “steps”.

Japan still has forests and hidden places.





Japan is also very crowded.

Between the mountains, people have very few places to live.

The cities have so many people.

Grown ups wear diapers because bathrooms are too crowded to get to.



Japan has nine regions.

Each region has a name.

Each of these regions, like those in our country, is a different kind of place.

Tohoku has poor coasts and mountains, but lots of rice farms down the middle.

Shikoku is an island by itself which grows wheat to make its famous udon noodles.



Japan is divided into prefectures.

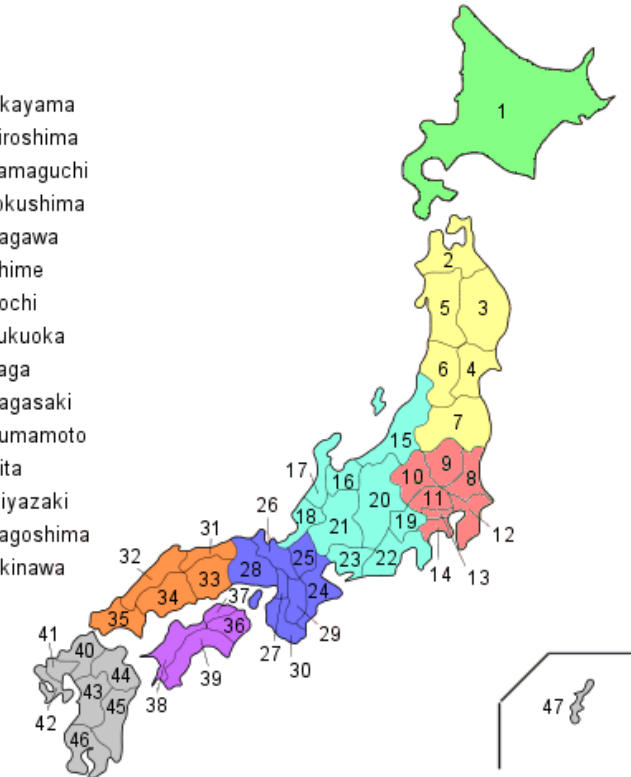
These are like states in our country.

There are 47 of them in the nine regions.

Each of these prefectures has a symbol, a capital, and governor.

Japan Prefectures Map

- |              |               |               |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Hokkaido  | 17. Ishikawa  | 33. Okayama   |
| 2. Aomori    | 18. Fukui     | 34. Hiroshima |
| 3. Iwate     | 19. Yamanashi | 35. Yamaguchi |
| 4. Miyagi    | 20. Nagano    | 36. Tokushima |
| 5. Akita     | 21. Gifu      | 37. Kagawa    |
| 6. Yamagata  | 22. Shizuoka  | 38. Ehime     |
| 7. Fukushima | 23. Aichi     | 39. Kochi     |
| 8. Ibaraki   | 24. Mie       | 40. Fukuoka   |
| 9. Tochigi   | 25. Shiga     | 41. Saga      |
| 10. Gunma    | 26. Kyoto     | 42. Nagasaki  |
| 11. Saitama  | 27. Osaka     | 43. Kumamoto  |
| 12. Chiba    | 28. Hyogo     | 44. Ōita      |
| 13. Tokyo    | 29. Nara      | 45. Miyazaki  |
| 14. Kanagawa | 30. Wakayama  | 46. Kagoshima |
| 15. Niigata  | 31. Tottori   | 47. Okinawa   |
| 16. Toyama   | 32. Shimane   |               |





Japanese people use three different kinds of writing.

Kanji uses pictographs like Chinese people.

Hiragana and Katakana are letters like English.

Japanese people can use pictographs or spell out words just like the Egyptians.

ン	ワ	ラ	ヤ	マ	ハ	ナ	タ	サ	カ	ア
n	wa	ra	ya	ma	ha	na	ta	sa	ka	a
		リ		ミ	ヒ	ニ	チ	シ	キ	イ
		ri		mi	hi	ni	chi	shi	ki	i
		ル	ユ	ム	フ	ヌ	ツ	ス	ク	ウ
		ru	yu	mu	fu	nu	tsu	su	ku	u
		レ		メ	ヘ	ネ	テ	セ	ケ	エ
		re		me	he	ne	te	se	ke	e
	ヲ	ロ	ヨ	モ	ホ	ノ	ト	ソ	コ	オ
	o	ro	yo	mo	ho	no	to	so	ko	o

Kan ji

漢字

Hi ra ga na

ひらがな

Ka ta ka na

カタカナ

English words can be translated as idea into Kanji.

They sound nothing like English words, but they mean the same thing.

English words can also be transliterated into katakana.

The words just sounds the same.

This is how many English words were made.

Greek  
Χημία  
Kemia

German  
ist  
user

Chemistry

Chem-is-try

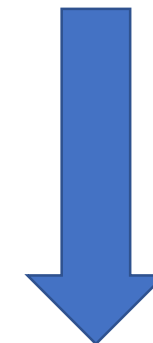
Kem-is-u-tor-i

ケミストリー

Melt Learning

化学

Hua xue





Japanese people live on islands so they have lots of fish to eat.

They also grow rice and fruit.

Sushi is a sour rice ball with fish.

Sashimi is thin pieces of fish and meat.

Ume is a pickled fruit.

Miso is a soup of kelp, mushrooms, and dried fish.

Yakitori is meat on a stick.

Tsukemono is pickled veggies on rice.



Sushi



Ume



Sashimi



Miso



Yakitori



Tsukemono

These foods are not that different from what we eat.

The smells and names are new.

We eat fish and soup, too.

We also share foods from other places.

Japanese foods are just fine to eat.



Lemon fish fillet



Prunes



Tilapia



Gumbo



Kabob



Sauerkraut



The Japanese have created lots of different arts.

Their writing is an art by itself.

They have made different ways of painting, drawing, and sculpting.

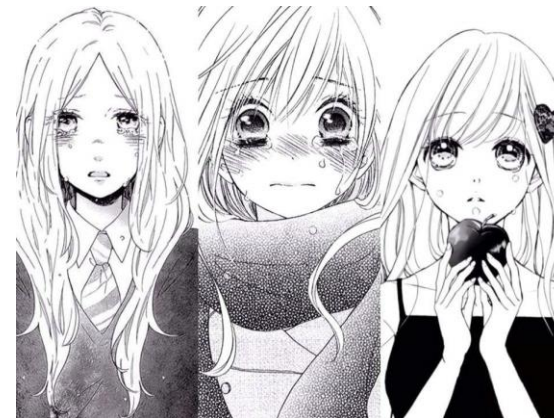
The Japanese fans are especially beautiful.



Shodo



Ukiyo-e



Manga



Bonseki



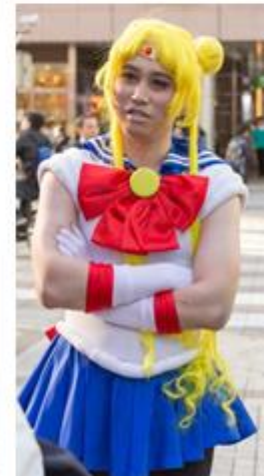
Fan

Most Japanese people dress like we do.

Traditional clothing is very different.

Japanese art has created many new kinds of clothes.

Being “cute” or “anime” is very popular.



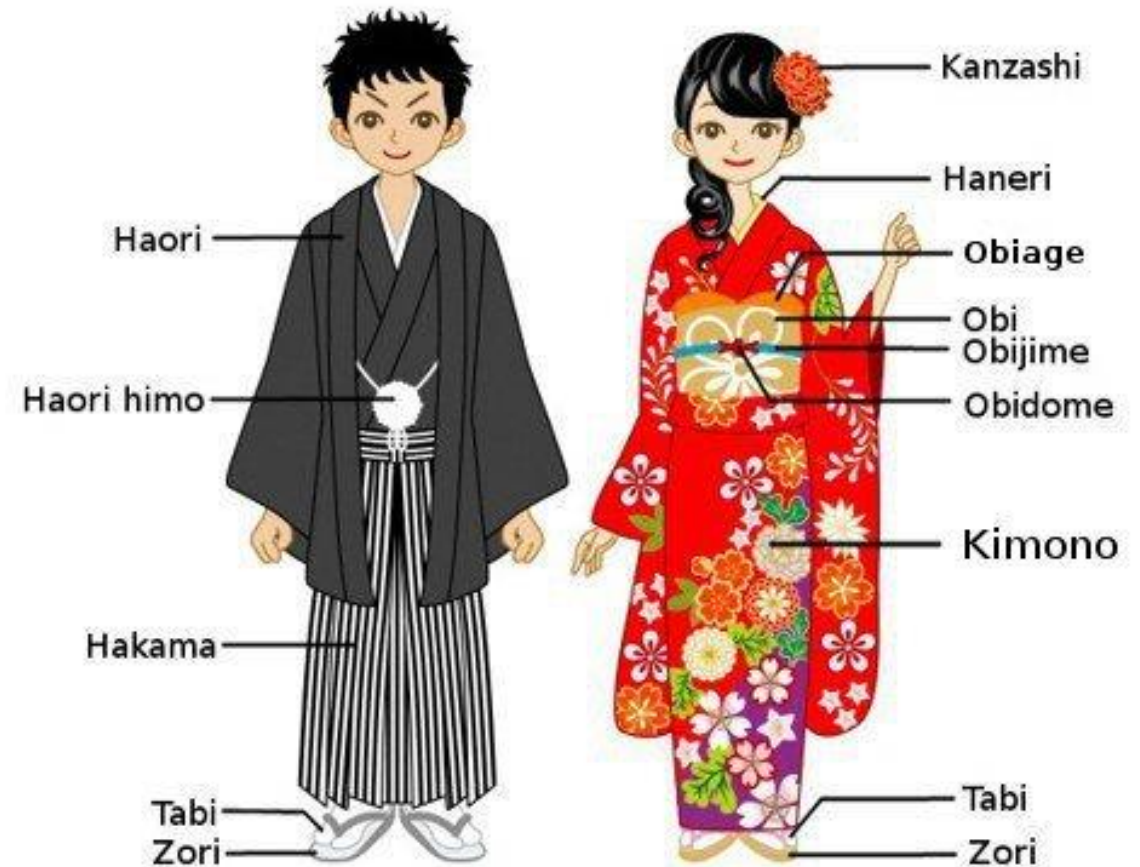


Traditional clothes have names for each piece.

These are robes which wrap around your body.

They use belts and ties to hold things on.

They wear little sandals with socks.



Japanese buildings look just like ours.

The older buildings have a different style.

They built these things to be perfect.

They were all built of wood and paper.

Fire is still a scary thing to the Japanese.





There are so many other things to learn about Japan.

They have great trains.

Their schools are amazing.

The people are very polite.

They still practice traditional fighting.



You can read so many books about Japan.

Learning about any new place takes time.

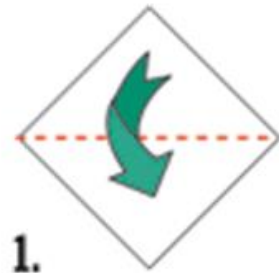
There are so many new things to see, taste, smell, and hear.

Maybe someday you can touch them, too.



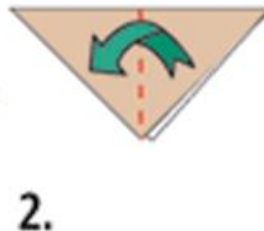


# The End



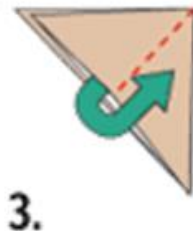
1.

Start with a standard 8 1/2 x 11 inch sheet of paper and then cut it into a square.  
Fold the square in half diagonally.



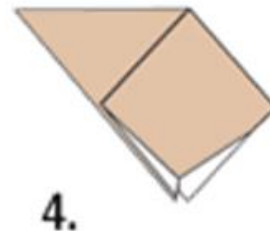
2.

Fold in half from right to left diagonally again.



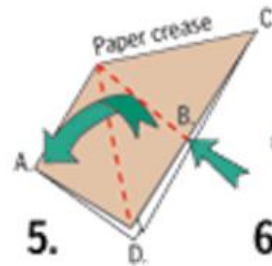
3.

Spread the pocket out from the inside and fold to make a small square.



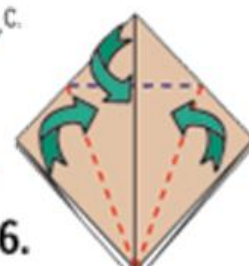
4.

Your paper should look like this. Now turn it over to start step five.



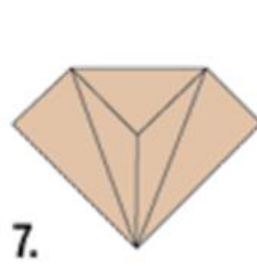
5.

Fold Point B onto Point A, while at the same time folding the paper crease inward so that Point C is touching Point D.



6.

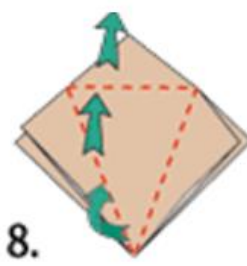
Here's the tricky part. Fold left and right corners toward the center line and then fold the top corner along the blue valley line.



7.

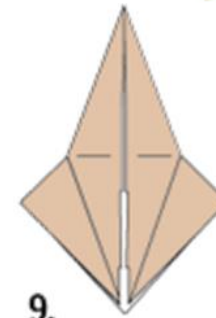
Note: The folds from step 6 are only to create a crease.

Your paper should look like this.



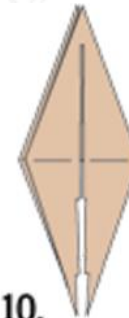
8.

Now, open the pocket by pulling the bottom corner up and fold inward along the crease. Some creases will become inverted.



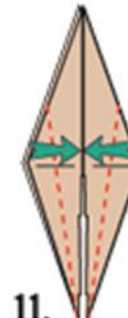
9.

The figure should look like this. Be careful to score the edges and corners cleanly. Turn over and do the same (Steps 6, 7, 8).



10.

Fold in the lower flaps made in step 9. Now you have the base. You've come half way, and the rest is downhill.



11.

Making sure you have the right side up, valley fold on the dotted lines using the top layer only.



12.

The figure should look like this. Turn over.



13.

Do the same as step 11. Getting hard? Don't give up. You're almost there!



14.

Reverse fold at dotted lines to form the head.



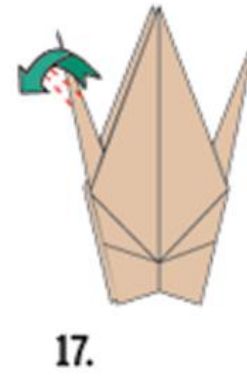
15.

Slightly open the side and bring the head part up like this.



16.

Bring up at this point and press down. Do the same to form the tail on the other side.



17.

Reverse fold at dotted lines to form the beak. You can select the length of the beak.



18.

Bend the wings down and out into the proper position. You can bow in from the bottom.

