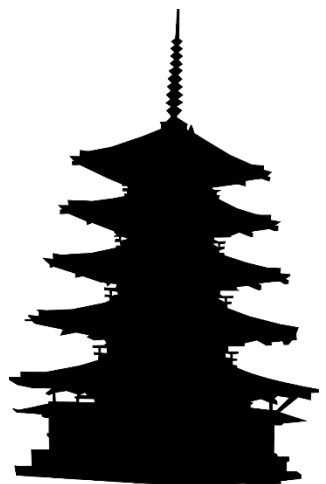
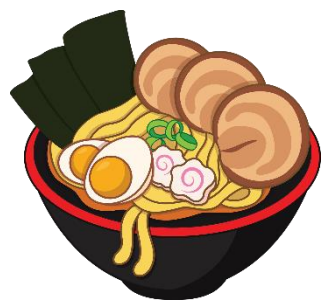
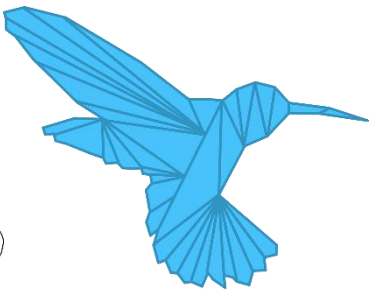
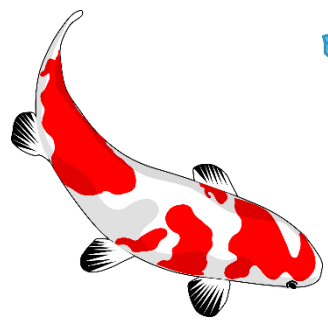
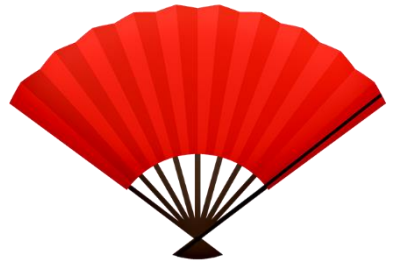


JAPAN

TO WARM UP... Choose the right name for each picture!

Cherry blossom	Carp	Kimono	Sushi
Samurai	Origami	Bonsai	Pagoda
Noodles	Fan	Tea	Mount Fuji



Map skills



EXERCISE – Label the map below with:

Countries, seas/ocean: Russia – China – North Korea – South Korea – Sea of Japan – Pacific Ocean – Philippine Sea – Sea of Okhotsk – East China Sea – Seto Inland Sea

Islands: Hokkaido – Shikoku – Kyushu – Honshu

Towns: Tokyo – Kyoto – Hiroshima – Nagasaki

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan>



https://d-maps.com/carte.php?num_car=354&lang=it

Geography of Japan



EXERCISE – Watch the video and answer the questions.

- Japan is located off the East-coast of _____.
- Japan is:
 - a mainland country
 - a series of islands
- A chain of islands is an _____.
- The four main islands of Japan are:
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
- The number of people living in a space is called **population** _____.
- Japan has a very **low / high** population density.
- The landscape of Japan **doesn't influence / influences** where people live.
- About _____ of Japan is mountainous.
- _____ of the world's active volcanoes are located in Japan.
- Seismic activity in Japan is made by volcanoes, earthquakes and _____.

Did you know?

There are more than **6,000 smaller islands** in Japan!



HOMEWORK – Search on the Internet to find the missing information.

Superlatives of Japan

Biggest mountain range:

Highest peak:

Most active volcano:

Largest lake:

Longest river:

Biggest island:

Main facts

Official name: Japan (also known as *Nippon*, "the land of the rising sun")

Area: 377,835 km²

Capital city: Tokyo

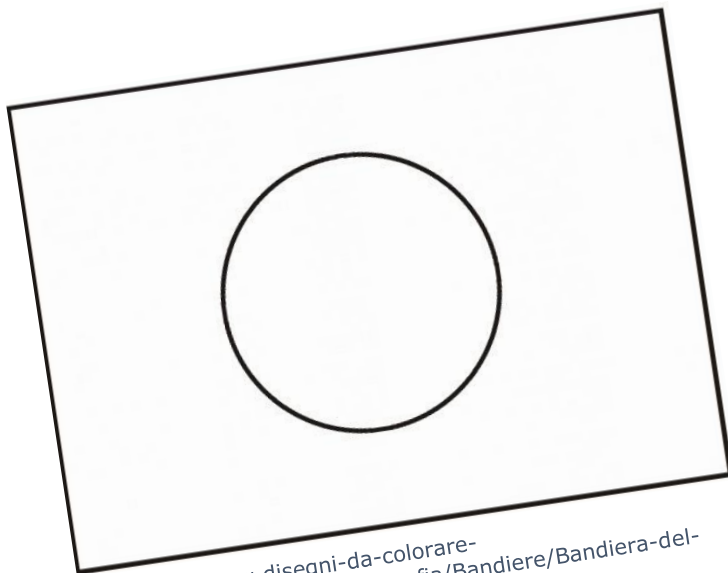
Population: almost 126,000,000

Official language: Japanese

Form of government: Constitutional monarchy* (with a Parliamentary system)

Religions: Shinto* (69%), Buddhism (67%), Christian (1,5%)

Currency: Yen



<http://www.disegni-da-colorare-gratis.it/index.php/Geografia/Bandiere/Bandiera-del-Giappone-da-colorare-per-ragazzi>

The flag

The circle in the middle of the flag represents the **sun**. White stands for **integrity** and **honesty**.

Focus on...

Shinto means "the way of the *kami* (=gods)". It is a **polytheistic religion**:

there are different *kami*, who live in everything that is part of nature (e.g. trees, water, rocks...).

People make offerings (food and drinks) to get *kami's* blessing.

At the entrance of the shrine, there is a *torii*, a gate that marks the passage to a sacred place.

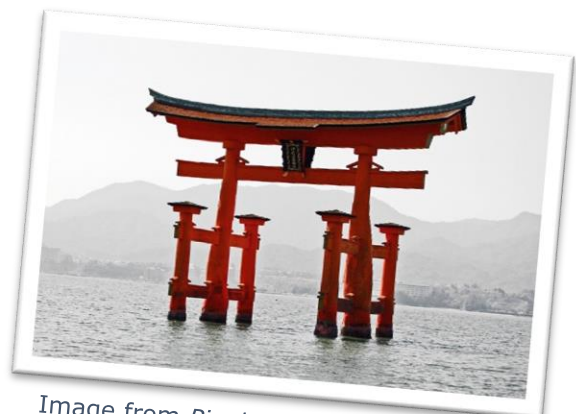


Image from Pixabay open sources.

Japan's monarchy is the oldest in the world: it started in the 6th century! In the past, the **emperor** was very powerful, and many Japanese people believed he was a god. Now, he has only a symbolic power: it represents the country's traditions and unity.

The actual emperor is **Naruhito**.

Image by 内閣府ホームページ, CC BY 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=89645372>



EXERCISE – In pairs, ask each other questions about the main facts of Japan. Try to answer without reading!

Here are some examples:

- What does *Nippon* mean?
- What is the most important religion in Japan?
- Can you describe the Japanese flag?
- Who is the actual emperor of Japan?

Climate

EXERCISE – Read the text¹ and colour the map in different colours (one for each climatic zone). Don't forget to add a legend!

Climate in Japan is very different from one region to another. However, there are six main climatic zones:

1. North of Japan: there is a **humid continental climate**: winters are long and cold, while summers vary from cool to very warm.
2. Sea of Japan coast: in winter there is a lot of snow; summers are cooler and less rainy.
3. Pacific coast: there is a **humid temperate climate** with mild winters and hot summers with heavy rain.
4. Central Highland: there is a **humid continental climate**, with large temperature differences between summer/winter, day/night. There are few precipitations, but in winter there is a lot of snow.
5. Seto Inland Sea coast: the climate is mild all year (similar to the Mediterranean climate).
6. Ryukyu Islands: there is a **subtropical climate**, with very hot summers and warm winters. During the typhoon season, there is a lot of rain.



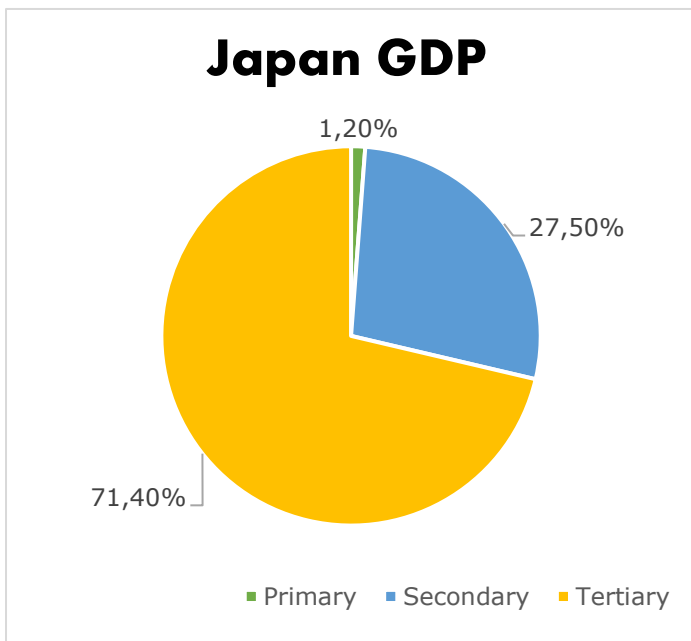
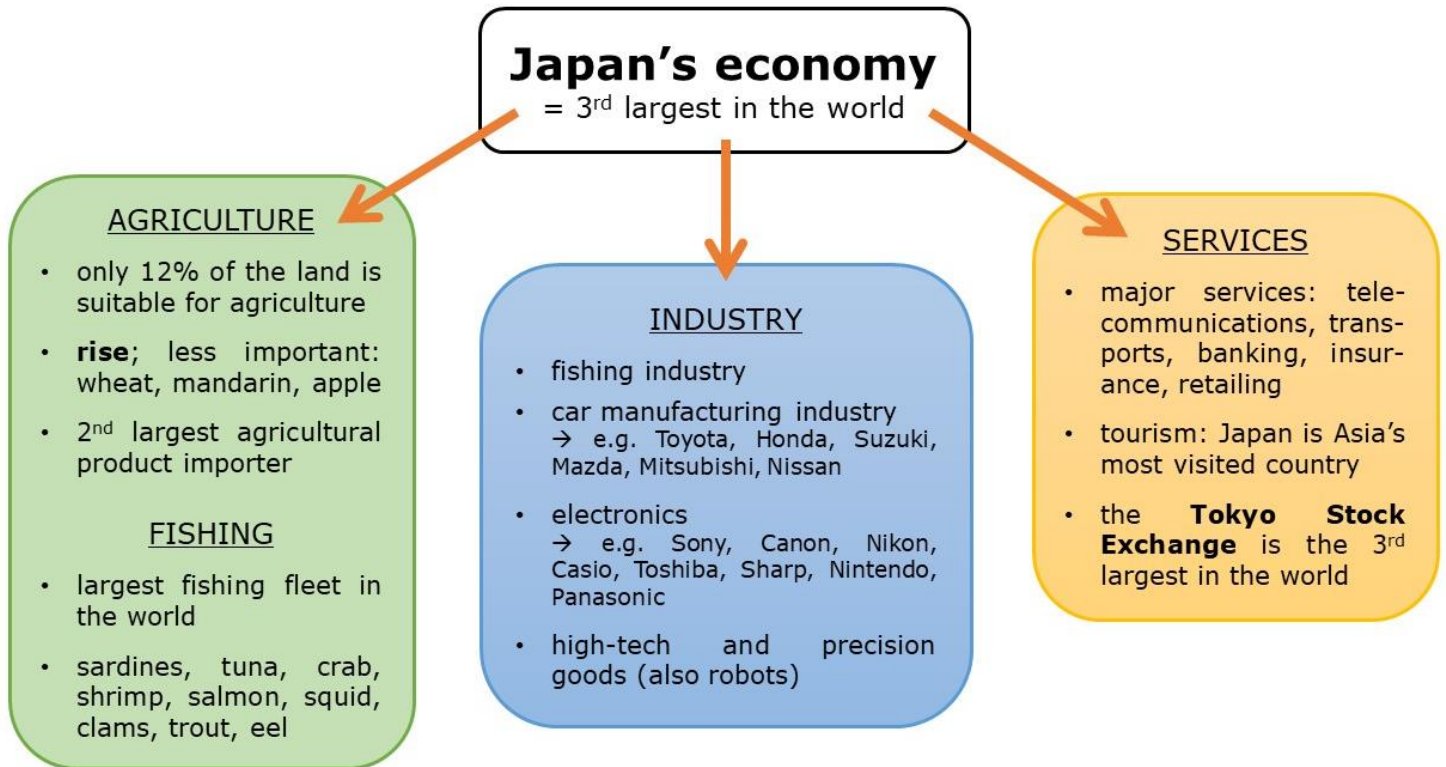
Legend

https://d-maps.com/carte.php?num_car=354&lang=it

¹ Adapted from <https://doyouknowjapan.com/climate/>

Economy

 **EXERCISE** – Look at the diagram and the pie chart and write a short text about Japan's economy. Use the sentences below as a guide.



Data from <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-economy-of-japan.html>

Japan's economy is very strong ...

The most/least important sector is ...

It makes up ... per cent of the GDP.

In this sector, the most important activity is: ...

In this sector, (agriculture, fishing, tourism...) is/isn't very important, because ...

Culture and traditions

Do you remember the first activity? Let's find out more about some of the symbols of Japan!

Mount Fuji

It is the highest mountain in Japan: it is 3776 m. It is a dormant ("sleeping") volcano: it last erupted in 1707, but it could erupt again.

Shinto people consider it a sacred place.

A lot of people visit it every year: it takes about 9 hours to climb!

Tea ceremony

Tea ceremonies were introduced in Japan in the 12th century by Buddhist monks coming from China.

The traditional ceremony involves specific rituals: they use matcha (a type of green tea), the host and visitors wear a kimono, and they sit on a tatami mat on the floor of the tearoom.

The ceremony can last several hours.

Sushi

Sushi means "seasoned rice" in Japanese.

Japanese people eat very little meat: they use what is available to them, like rice, seafood, seaweed and vegetables.

Sushi are rice rolls with raw fish slices. They are usually eaten with chopsticks.

A legend says that one thousand years ago, the emperor was travelling through Japan. He stopped at the house of a poor fisherman to eat, but the fisherman only had some rice and raw fish to give him. However, the emperor liked the dish so much that he made the fisherman his personal chef!

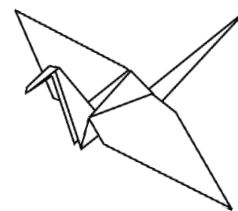
Koi

Koi means "carp". Carps are very strong and brave: they can swim up waterfalls. This is why originally the carp was chosen as the symbol of boys.

On Children's Day, the 5th May, families put kites in the shape of carps outside their homes: the large carp represents the father, the medium carp the mother, the smaller carps represent the children.

 **HOMEWORK** – Choose one of the remaining symbols of page 1 and prepare a poster about it. Use the examples above as a guide.

1,000 paper cranes



Pixabay open source

CONTEXT - Japan and World War II

Useful words

take part		take place	
agreement		ally	
sign		weapon	
exposure		drop	
force		surrender	
fold		crane	
grant		disease	
recovery		raise money	

Fill in the text with the words given.

radiation exposure	atomic bomb	attack on Pearl Harbor
Nagasaki	1945	1940

Japan took part in the final years of World War II: in September _____, it decided to sign an agreement with Italy and Germany called the ***Tripartite Pact***.

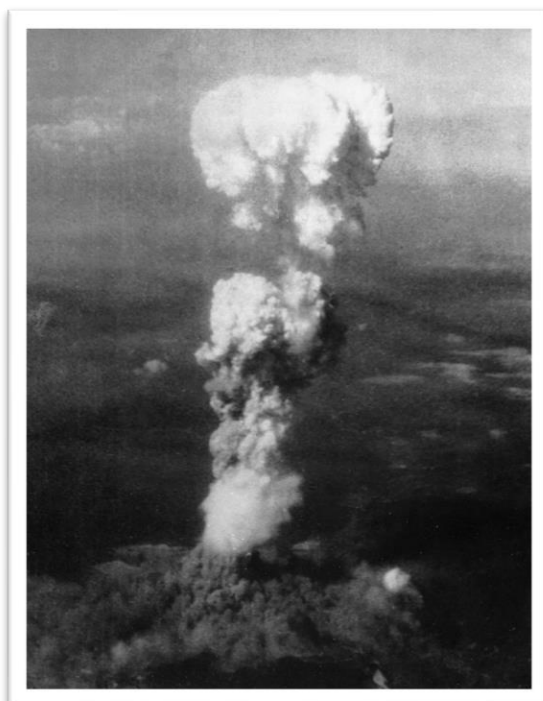
The Japanese _____ (Hawaii islands) in December 1941 forced the USA to enter the conflict.

From 1941 to 1945, Japan fought against the USA and its allies.

In May _____, the war had ended in Europe but was still going on in the East. So, the US President Harry Truman decided to use a new powerful weapon to end the conflict. The first _____ was dropped on the **6th August 1945** on the city of Hiroshima: it killed 100,000 people.

Three days later, a second attack took place against _____ and other 200,000 people were killed. Many people died in the following years because of _____.

On the 14th August Japan surrendered: World War II was over.

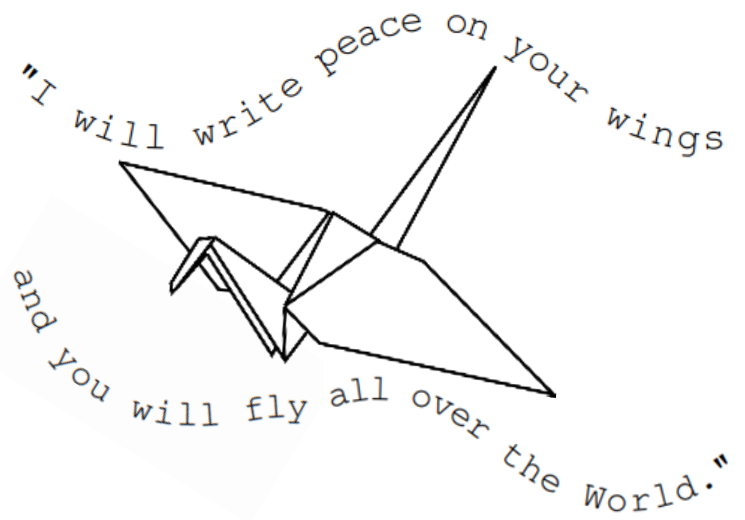


https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/54/Atomic_bombing_of_Japan.jpg

SADAKO SASAKI²

If you fold **1,000 cranes** you will be granted a **wish**.

~ Japanese legend



Choose the title for each paragraph.

Changing dream

A monument for children and peace

Hiroshima bombing

Wishing on a crane

Sadako Sasaki was only two years old when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, 2 km far from where she lived. But she survived.

Ten years later, when the world around her was starting to feel normal again, she found out that she had contracted "atomic bomb disease".

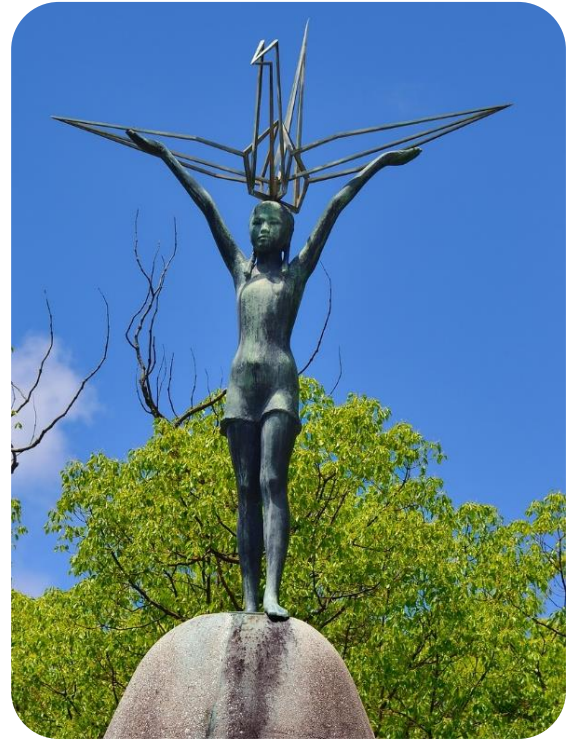
Sadako was devastated, but she did not give up: she started to fold cranes, wishing for her recovery.

As time passed, Sadako slowly accepted that she was not going to recover. She changed her prayer and wished for peace in the world.

Even when she was too weak, she kept on folding cranes. She died on 25th October 1955.

After her death, her friends and classmates raised money to build a monument for her and all the children who died from the effects of the atomic bomb: the *Children's Peace Monument*, in Hiroshima Peace Park.

On the top of the monument, there is a statue of Sadako holding an origami crane.

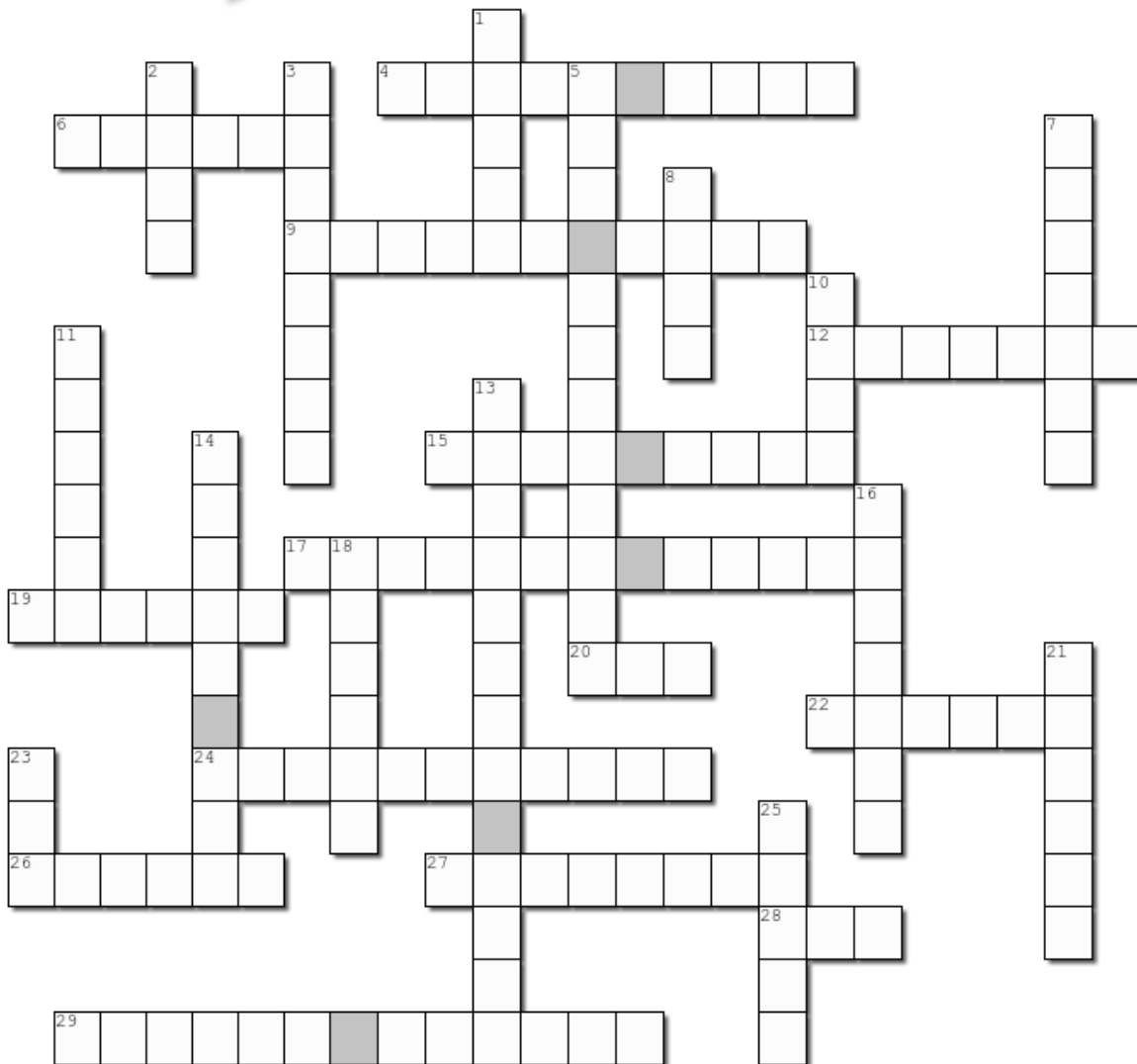


² Text adapted from <https://origamiexpressions.com/sadako-sasaki> and <https://sadakosasaki.com/>
Images from Pixabay open sources.

Time to revise



Revise Japan with this crossword!



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Horizontal

4. The highest mountain.
6. Most common religion in Japan.
9. One was dropped on Hiroshima, another one on Nagasaki in 1945.
12. Traditional warrior: it was a member of the military class of the feudal period.
15. The largest lake.
17. The longest river.
19. Traditional Japanese dress.
20. Japan's currency.
22. 'Cherry blossom' in Japanese (the flower symbol of Japan).
24. A series of islands (like Japan).
26. It means 'the land of the rising sun': it's the name Japanese people give to their country.
27. The actual emperor of Japan.
28. Originally, it was the symbol of boys because of its strength and courage.
29. A brave girl who folded 1,000 paper cranes as a wish for peace.

Vertical

1. Rice rolls with raw fish slices.
2. The adjective that describes population density in Japan.
3. Constitutional ... : the form of government of Japan.
5. It was introduced in Japan in the 12th century by Buddhist monks coming from China.
7. It is a great wave: it depends on seismic activity.
8. Main islands of Japan (number).
10. The continent where Japan is.
11. The art of growing miniature trees.
13. The Biggest mountain range.
14. The most active volcano.
16. The art of folding paper.
18. The biggest island.
21. Typical house with strange roof.
23. It is used by both men and women, especially when it is very hot.
25. Japan's capital city.