

## The Geography of Japan

### Lesson 1: Location and Resources

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#### Learning Objectives:

- Describe the location of Japan.
- Investigate the hazards and other challenges of living in Japan.
- Analyse the opportunities of living in Japan.

#### Curriculum Links:

This unit covers aspects of KS3 National Curriculum in England for Geography relating to:

- Location knowledge
- Place knowledge
- Human and physical geography
- Geographical skills and fieldwork

See the Scheme of Work or National Curriculum for further details:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/239087/SECONDARY\\_national\\_curriculum\\_-\\_Geography.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239087/SECONDARY_national_curriculum_-_Geography.pdf) Department for Education (2013).

**Keywords:** location, resources, hazards, opportunities, challenges, archipelago, tectonic plate, ring of fire, typhoon, monsoon, hot springs, earthquake, volcano.

#### Resources:

Presentation: Location of Japan

Worksheet: Opportunities and Challenges

#### Additional Resources:

Video: *Japan, Where Tradition Meets the Future* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLLv7HnZ\\_fE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLLv7HnZ_fE)  
(external resource, JNTO, '3:06)

## Warm up & Starter

- Display the warm up slide of the presentation as students enter the classroom. Ask students to look at the pictures and try to work out where they will be studying before revealing the answer, Japan. Time depending, you could ask students to share anything they know about Japan already or show the JNTO video (see additional resources for video link).
- Move on to the starter activity. Show students the map of Japan on the following slide and ask them to answer the question 'what can we learn about Japan, just from this map?' Students can discuss the task or write down ideas.
- Prompt students to notice that it's a chain of islands and introduce the term 'archipelago'.

**Estimated Time: 15 minutes**

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## Task 1

- Students should describe the location of Japan using compass directions and lines of latitude. Encourage students to use the term 'archipelago', in addition to referring to lines of latitude.
- A more challenging version of the task is also written on the slides. Students should compare the location of Japan with that of the British Isles. Give prompts so they recognise that both are in the northern hemisphere, but that Japan is nearer to the tropic of cancer than the British Isles.

**Estimated Time: 5 minutes**

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## Task 2

- Introduce students to the concept of tectonic plates and show them the location of Japan in the ring of fire. Students answer the question 'what makes Japan a hazardous place to live?'

**Estimated Time: 5 minutes**

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## Task 3

- Introduce the terms 'opportunities' and 'challenges'. Then, using the challenges and opportunities worksheets, students colour code statements to categorise them.
- They are then to show which opportunities relate to energy, food and construction using letters or symbols. There is the opportunity for self or peer assessment when marking answers.

**Estimated Time: 25 minutes**

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## Plenary

- Ask students their opinion on whether the opportunities outweigh the risks of living in Japan.
- They can vote by walking to one side of the room or the other, or by putting their hands up.
- Students should discuss their ideas. After discussion, you may like to see if any students have changed their minds or been persuaded by their classmates arguments.

**Estimated Time: 10 minutes**