

The Geography of Japan

Lesson 3: Animals of Japan

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Learning Objectives:

- Identify animals found in Japan.
- Locate where each animal can be found.
- Explain why there are so many animal species found 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 Department for Education (2013).

Keywords:

Zodiac calendar, wildlife, species, endangered

Resources:

Presentation: Animals of Japan

Worksheet: Map of Japan

Wildlife Information Cards

Additional Resources:

Video: Footage of macaques relaxing in a hot spring (BBC, '2:43):

<https://www.bbcasia.com/video/?v=542896>

Nature Pamphlet: *The Wildlife in Japan* (Japanese Ministry of Environment, 2015):

https://www.env.go.jp/nature/yasei/pamph/pamph01/WildlifePamphlet-EN_151126.pdf

Warm up & Starter

- As a warm up, ask students to use the zodiac calendar on the presentation to work out which animal is associated with the year of their birth. Do they think it matches their personality? What about for their siblings and friends?
- Move on to the starter task, 'Japan in numbers'. Students must decide whether they think the real figure is higher or lower than the number shown on the slide. Students can use mini whiteboards, write answers in their books, or have a class discussion. On the next slide, students answer the

question 'why do you think so many different species live in Japan?'

Estimated Time: 10 minutes

Task 1

- Before the main task, you may like to show the BBC video of Japanese macaques relaxing in a hot spring, see additional resources for the link.
- Give students the Wildlife Information Cards about a range of animals that are found in Japan and the worksheet with a map of Japan. They are to create a labelled map on the worksheet to show where each animal is found and their habitat. This links in closely with their work about climate.
- There is an optional challenge task for this activity on the presentation slide. Students can develop the labels into annotations, referring to the habitats and climate of the areas where each animal is found.

Estimated Time: 30 minutes

Task 2

- Using their work from this lesson, students answer a range of questions (six questions in total). Students should write down their answers.
- There is a challenge task for this activity: 'What might threaten Japan's wildlife in the future?' See the slide notes for hints.

Estimated Time: 10 minutes

Plenary

- Look at the traditional Japanese fabric patterns on the slide and ask students to guess what each pattern represents.
- For an alternative task or extension activity, students then have the opportunity to come up with a fabric design that represents British or Japanese wildlife.

Estimated Time: 10 minutes
