

The Geography of Japan

Lesson: Climate

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Learning Objectives:

- Describe the climate of Japan.
- Investigate the climatic variations across the country and throughout the year.
- Evaluate when would be the best time to visit 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:

Climate, variations, temperature, rainfall, seasons, rainy season, monsoon.

Resources:

Presentation: Climate

Worksheets: Climate Calendar, UK Climate Calendar Exemplar

Climate Information Sheets (to be used as posters, worksheet sets or as a presentation)

Warm up & Starter

- Display the warm up slide as students enter the classroom. Students study photographs on the screen and try to answer the question 'what is Japan's climate like?'
- Move on and introduce the concept that Japan is a long country, like the UK, and so has climatic variations from north to south. As a starter activity, students suggest ways in which the climate might vary from north to south. Students can structure their own answers and then complete a fill in the gaps task to write a detailed answer/compare to their own. There is an opportunity for self or peer assessment after completing this task.

Estimated Time: 15 minutes

Task 1

- Students should answer the 6 questions on the slide about Japan's climate using the climate graph. Then go through the answers together. **Answers:** 1. August 2. January 3. 26 degrees (answers either side can be accepted) 4. February 5. September 6. Their seasons are the same as ours (Spring is March-May; Summer is Jun-Aug; Autumn is Sept-Nov; Winter is Dec-Feb)

Estimated Time: 10 minutes

Task 2

- Display the information sheets about Japan's climate around the room as a gallery or carousel task (the information can also be displayed on screen if you prefer).
- Students should read the information and use it to add details to their climate calendar worksheet. There is an exemplar to show how the worksheet could be completed for the UK's climate in case students are unsure. There is also information about a selection of Japanese seasonal festivals for students to add to their work.
- As an additional challenge, students can decide when would be the best time to visit Japan, taking into consideration the variations in climate.

Estimated Time: 30 minutes

Plenary

- Students have been introduced to some unfamiliar and perhaps surprising Japanese festivals and traditions in this lesson. Ask them to come up with some examples of seasonal festivals and celebrations that we have in the UK.

Estimated Time: 5 minutes