

### Overview

- Japan is an island nation in East Asia, located in the Pacific Ocean off the eastern coast of the Asian continent.
- It consists of over 6,000 islands, with four main islands: Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku.
- Japan covers an area of 377,915 sq km.
- The capital city is Tokyo, one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world.
- Japan is known as the “Land of the Rising Sun



# Japan Knowledge Organiser



### Human Geography

- Population approx. 123–126 million. Japan has one of the oldest populations in the world.
- Urban population: 92% of people live in cities (2023).
- Tokyo (capital) is the most populous, with over 37 million in the wider metropolitan area. Other major cities include Osaka, Nagoya, Sapporo, Fukuoka.
- Many settlements are located on coastal plains because 70% of Japan is mountainous.
- Japan is a G7 nation and the 4th largest economy in the world (2024).
- Key industries include automotive manufacturing, electronics, gaming, robotics, fashion and
- Japan uses the Japanese Yen (JPY).
- Strong global trade links, especially with Asia, Europe, and North America.
- Japan is highly dependent on imported raw materials due to limited natural resources.

### Physical Geography

- Japan is an island chain between the North Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Japan.
- Mountainous country—over 70% of land is mountains; includes the iconic Mount Fuji, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Japan has four distinct seasons, with climate differences between regions
- Long coastline of 29,751 km.
- Frequently affected by earthquakes and tsunamis due to tectonic activity

### Comparison with the UK

- Both are island nations, but Japan is larger (377,915 sq km vs UK's 243,610 sq km).
- Japan is located much further south, giving it a generally warmer climate overall.
- Japan has much higher mountains (e.g., Mt Fuji at 3,776m, vs Ben Nevis at 1,345m).
- Japan's population (~124 million) is nearly double the UK's (~67 million).
- Tokyo and London are both major global cities with huge metropolitan populations.



### Key Vocabulary:

- Japan
- Tokyo
- Archipelago
- Pacific Ocean
- Mount Fuji
- Buddhism
- Japanese Yen (JPY)
- Earthquake / Tsunami