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Welcome !


Contemporary Japan and Its Roots
IDS 360/460

The Land and Natural Resources

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Our Japanese "Children"



1

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Our Japanese "Children and Grandchildren"



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Geography & Natural Resources

- The purpose of this presentation is to:
 - show you important aspects of the geography and natural resources of Japan
 - give you an idea of how geography and natural resources shaped Japanese culture in the past and continue to do so in the present.
- We start with a map. You'll see numbers that correspond to the region where the photos in this presentation were taken.
- All photos were taken by Steve or Helen, except as noted.

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Regions and Numbers



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Regions and Numbers


- Region 1: Tokyo Metropolitan Area
- Region 2: Mt. Fuji
- Region 3: Nagoya and Tajimi
- Region 4: Kyoto
- Region 5: Japan Sea Coast
- Region 6: Hiroshima
- Special *: Fukushima Nuclear Plant
- Note: We're traveling in regions 1 - 4

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The Land - Volcanic Origins

End

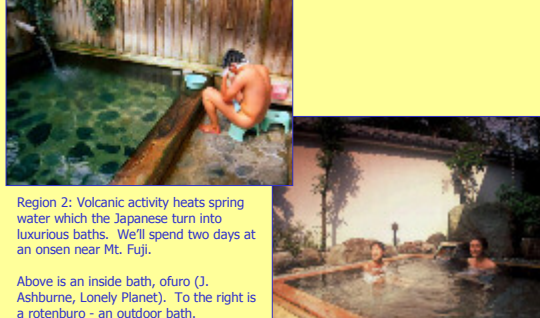


Region 1: Japan is a string of islands, formed by volcanic eruptions. It's part of the Pacific Rim of Fire, active volcanoes reshaping the earth. Christina Dole took the photo of Mt. Fuji from the train. The aerial view from Wikipedia clearly shows the lava traces on Mt. Fuji.

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Onsens - Volcanic Blessings

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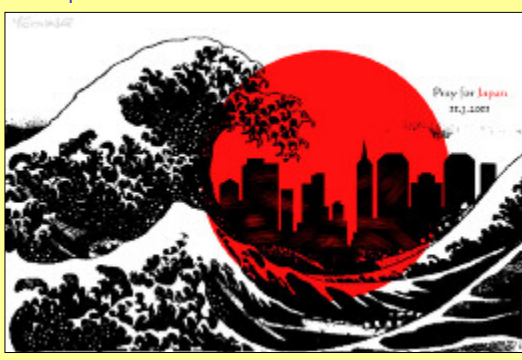
Region 2: Volcanic activity heats spring water which the Japanese turn into luxurious baths. We'll spend two days at an onsen near Mt. Fuji.

Above is an inside bath, ofuro (J. Ashburne, Lonely Planet). To the right is a rotenburo - an outdoor bath. (Yamanashi Tourist Information)

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Earthquakes - Volcanic Curses

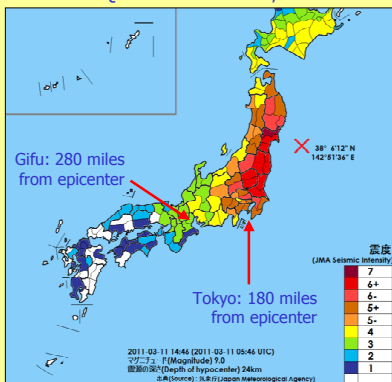
End



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Extent of the 9.0 Quake on March 11, 2011

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2011-03-11 14:46 (2011-03-11 09:46 UTC)
 東北 東北 (Magnitude) 9.0
 震源の深さ (Depth of hypocenter) 24km
 出典 (Source): 気象庁 (Japan Meteorological Agency)

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Then The Tsunami - Unbelievable!

End



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Fukushima Nuclear Disaster - Ongoing


End



Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant, www.yazmar.com.

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Gambari! End



Helping load supplies into a school used as a shelter.

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Gambari! End



Above: survivors stay in family and neighborhood groups in the local school shelter. Right: a homeowner works on clean-up. Yomiuri News

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The Land - Mountains End



Region 1: The ancient Japanese worshipped Mt. Fuji, believing that the beauty of its form attracted the gods to live there. The eruptions proved that powerful forces lived there. (It last erupted in the early 1700s.)
Photo by James Hart, 2006.

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The Land - Mountains End



Region 1: Hikers are allowed to climb Mt. Fuji in the summer. The view from the Shinto torii gate (marking the gods' presence) at its peak is spectacular. The Japanese believe that you should climb Mt. Fuji at least once in your life. Photo: Sacred Destinations.

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The Land - Mountains End



Region 3: Even in an area so hilly, rice paddies are carved into the hillside. Fruit trees, herbs and vegetables crowd the next plot. Guardrails are crucial along twisting roads with steep drop-offs.

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The Land - Mountains End




Region 3: Farmers used the abundant wood to create their farmhouses (this one was moved to a park). The roof is a thick mat of reeds. The slope of the roof helped shed snow in this mountainous area northwest of Nagoya.

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The Land - Mountains


Region 4: The area south of Kyoto is mountainous. Village streets cling to the sides of the hills. Previously, the residents got their water from the many streams. There are very few navigable rivers in Japan, because of the mountainous terrain.



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The Land - Mountains


Region 2: This is a preserved section of the Tokaido, the old road that connected Tokyo and Kyoto. It is at Hakone in the foothills surrounding Mt. Fuji and we'll walk this section. The cedars are over 300 years old. They were planted to mark the road and to protect the travelers from sun, wind and snow.



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The Land - Population Pressure

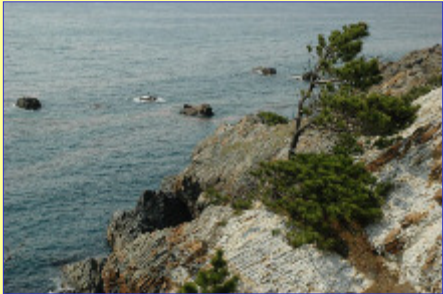
Section 3: This is another section of the Tokaido, but it is along the coast, where the pressure to use every square inch of land means that it is now a paved road connecting two suburbs, not a beautiful park, as in Hakone.



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The Land - Sea Coast


Region 5: Over millions of years the lava rock eroded into fantastic ridges, as here at Shimane along the Japan Sea coast. Often in Japan the mountains rise up straight from the ocean.



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The Land - Sea Coast


Region 5: Here is another view of the beautiful cliffs along the Japan Sea. Yet its rocky inlets are treacherous and were once home to pirates who raided the nearby Chinese sea coast in the 15th and 16th centuries. Only the most skillful sailors could navigate the dangerous waters, a natural protection for the pirates.



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The Land - Sea Coast

Region 2: Constant wave action along the Izu coast, near Mt. Fuji on the Pacific Ocean, has created a warren of caves and arches. A typhoon had just passed through and the waves were quite dangerous.



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The Land - Sea Coast

End



Region 2: Farther along the Izu coast, there are pockets of useable land. Notice how intensely the land is worked. Those homes have no yards, all land must be productive. Only 12% of Japan's land is arable.

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The Land - Water Power

End



Region 3: Japanese rivers fall swiftly to the sea and they spread out as they reach flat land along the coast. But this means that they can be used for hydroelectric power, very important in a country with a huge demand for power, yet little coal and no oil.

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The Land - Urban Sprawl

End



Region 1: The Tokyo Metropolitan area has 32 million people. Retail shops crowd around the train station near the Edo-Tokyo Museum in the heart of the city. Apartments near the station are very expensive, because transportation is so convenient.

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The Land - Urban Sprawl

End



Region 1: Cars are very difficult to use in the large cities. Public transportation is crucial. It's after rush hour, so we could actually find someplace to sit on this subway.

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The Land - Urban Sprawl

End



Region 6: Japan is 88% mountainous, and sometimes you feel it's all vertical. Yashima and its suburbs crowd all available land between the hills. Frequently the Japanese take down a hill, truck the dirt to a land reclamation project, then build on both new areas.

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Rice - Japan's Foundation

End



Region 3: It seems that rice fields are squeezed between homes, but actually it's the homes that are squeezed between the rice fields. These fields are just two blocks from one of our student's house north of Nagoya.

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Rice - Japan's Foundation

End



Region 3: Just down the road, selected rice paddies were nurseries for the rice seedlings. In just a few days, they will be planted in the newly fertilized paddies. These same fields were double-cropped with vegetables in the winter.

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Rice - Japan's Foundation

End



Region 6: In front is a modern housing development where some of our friends live in Hiroshima. Across the valley and up the hill are terraced rice paddies. The land is farmed more intensely than most Americans can imagine.

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Using Resources - The Land

End

Region 6: This photo is taken from the same spot as the previous one. Steve just turned 180 degrees and aimed his camera up the hill. Hilly land that can't be planted with rice is planted with vegetables in terraced rows. This area has been farmed for perhaps a thousand years.



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Using Resources - The Land

End



Region 2: Yes, Spam and Rice Burger Set - rice is a staple of the Japanese diet and new fad foods are developed all the time. Maybe the constant search for the new and unusual has hit a limit. This was in 2008. What will we see in 2012?

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Using Resources - The Land

End



Region 1-6: How did the Japanese preserve vegetables before refrigeration? They pickled them! Get ready for some of the most delicious and most unusual pickles in the world.

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Using Resources - The Land

End



Region 3: With abundant and well-managed forests, traditional homes and businesses are made of wood. Clay is also plentiful, so roofs were made of tile. To the right, the merchant's storage building in the textile center of Arimatsu is covered with plaster, an effective fire retardant.

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Using Resources - The Sea

End



Region 3: Fish have been a major part of the Japanese diet from the earliest times. In the 18th century aquaculture started here in the Inland Sea where deep inlets are protected from typhoons. Today fleets ply the jagged coast day and night. A person is never more than seventy miles from the sea, and fresh fish, anywhere in Japan. Photo: Britannica, The Inland Sea

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Using Resources - The Sea

End



Region 1: The daily catch from around Japan arrives here at Tsukiji Market in Tokyo beginning about midnight. Hundreds of vendors open at 4:00 AM and sell every creature and plant that's edible. This photo was taken about 9:00 AM after the buyers from thousands of restaurants were gone.

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Using Resources - The Sea

End



Region 1: Some products at Tsukiji Market are still sold in traditional packages. Groups of five small fish are held together with rice straw. Originally, they would have been displayed in bamboo baskets, not Styrofoam trays. We'll see more examples of this when we visit Tsukiji.

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Using Resources - The Sea

End



Region 1: We saw this great truck art at Tsukiji Market. The graphic of the wave is taken directly from Hokusai's famous woodblock print, *The Great Wave at Kanagawa*. It's a favorite motif in Japan and around the world to represent Japan. The surfing tuna is a fun addition.

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Using Resources - The Sea

End



Region 1: Octopus is a favorite food - as sushi, sashimi, chips, and fried for festival food. This delicious octopus at the Sanja Festival could have come from Tsukiji Market just that morning!

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Using Resources - The Land

End



Region 4: Because arable land is so scarce, shrines and temples are built on the hillsides. Kiyomizudera is famous for its wooden superstructure on its steep hillside. On a clear day, the city of Kyoto is clearly visible below.

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Using Resources - The Land

End



Region 4: Kinkakuji, The Golden Pavilion in Kyoto, was a Heian court noble's summer home until he turned it into a Buddhist Temple. Japanese gardens like these create pockets of tranquility to counteract a hectic life.

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Using Resources - The Land

End



Region 4: Every detail in a Japanese garden is planned to slow you down and entice you to notice the beauty of nature in even a fallen leaf. Ninnaji Garden in Kyoto is no exception.

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