

JAPANESE GEOGRAPHY

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Fifth Grade

INTRODUCTION:

At the beginning of our study of Japan we will look at the geography of Japan. The geography of this tiny island country has greatly affected how its people live. We will see how it is different from the United States. We will also see that it is about the same distance from the equator as Kansas. Through some hands on map study we will see that Japan has many large, important cities and is surrounded by several different bodies of water.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- Locate Japan on a flat map
- Locate Japan on a globe
- Plot major cities
- Identify oceans and seas surrounding Japan
- Identify the four main islands
- Locate Japanese Alps
- Understand there are many active volcanoes
- realize that earthquakes are very common
- Identify countries that Japan is near
- understand that the United States has 25 times more land than Japan
- learn about Mt. Fuji
- compare population and land area with United States

STATE STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

- Standard 3-A: Compare and contrast differing sets of ideas, values, personalities, behaviors, and institutions by identifying likenesses and differences.
- Standard 3-D: Draw comparisons across regions
- Standard 2-H: Utilize visual, mathematical, and quantitative data presented in charts, tables, pie and bar graphs, flow charts, etc.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Website-www.odyssey.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ja.html
- Instructional Fair, Inc. Reading to Your Class, 1990
- Good Apple, Study of Japan , 1992
- The World: land and Peoples (Waterbury, CT: Graphic Learning Corp., 1992)

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- classroom maps and globe
- large flat map of Japan for each student

VOCABULARY:

Nippon
Honsyu
Hokkaido
Shikoku

Mt. Fuji
Tokyo
Japanese Alps
Yokohama

Hiroshima
Nagasaki
Kyushu
Kobe

PROCEDURE:

Day 1--1 hour:

Whole class discussion about Where Japan is located using maps and a globe. Distribute 11" x 18" maps of Japan to students. Using latitude and longitude, label the 4 main islands, plot in major cities, bodies of water surrounding Japan, what countries it faces, and where the capitol and Mt. Fuji are. Draw in the Japanese Alps. Label with black pens and color in with colored pencils.

Day 2--1 hour

Together as a whole class make a chart of the similarities and differences of Japan and the United States. Then look at how its latitude and longitude is similar to that of Kansas. What does that mean weather wise? How does so much surrounding water affect this.

Make a 1yard square on the floor with masking tape. Have 2 students stand there--this represents America's population. Now bring up 6 more this is how it is in Japan--now cut out 1/2 of the square to get rid of the mountains--leave 8 students. This is how it is on livable land in Japan.

Students write in their daily journals about how this population on so little land would affect the way Japanese people live. Discuss what they have written as a group.

Day 3-1 hour

Get out the maps they have labeled and colored. Put students in groups of 3. Do The Incredible Voyage, as follows.

THE INCREDIBLE VOYAGE

Name of your ship _____

Captain: leader of the voyage and over-sees all navigation

Chief Engineer: person who uses the mileage chart and reads the latitude and longitude lines

Chief Mate places stars on the map and rechecks to see if locations are correct

AHOY! MATES! You are now on board the ship _____, which will set sail in exactly one minute from the Japanese seaport of Tokyo. Get ready for an adventurous voyage at sea! This trip will go down in history as one of your most dangerous and exciting trips. You will tell your grandkids about this one!!!

Your destination is Pusan, South Korea. 35 N. Latitude and 129 E. longitude. Mark this on your map. Your ship's cargo has been unloaded and you will now navigate your vessel to

Pusan to be reloaded with new supplies. Every time you see a * put a star sticker in that exact location.

1. From Tokyo, your ship heads south 200 miles. Suddenly, the radio officer reports seeing something strange on radar. He reports his sighting to be exactly 31 degrees N latitude and 141 degrees E longitude * The ship closes in on the object, and to the amazement and disbelief of you and the rest of the crew a GIGANTIC SEA MONSTER APPEARS!!!!!!!

2. The sea monster spots the ship and races toward it. The captain SCREAMS at the Chief Engineer to TURN THE SHIP AROUND!!!!!!!. It is too late! the sea monster, in anger, splashes its enormous body against the ocean and causes 150 foot waves. The ship almost capsizes! Luckily the skills of the Captain, Chief Engineer, and Chief Mate save the vessel. Unfortunately, the ship is thrown totally off course and ends up at 30 degrees N latitude and 136 degrees E. longitude *.

3. Eventually you and the crew regain your senses, but now totally believe in sea monsters! the ship sets sail again and heads north 100 miles and then west approximately 400 miles (name this city _____) * the captain decides to rest the crew and everyone recuperates from their recent unbelievable experience.

4. You and the rest of the crew now set sail and navigate the ship west 100 miles and 300 miles north to the Korea Strait. Suddenly weather conditions change and treacherous winds begin to blow. It's a TYPHOON!!!!!! The waves and wind make it impossible to keep your vessel on course. The forceful winds sweep the ship through the Korea Strait and on into the Sea of Japan. Finally after hours of fighting the storm you gage your location to be at 42 degrees N latitude and 138 degrees E longitude. *

5. Once the sea calms down, the captain realizes the ship is far north in a colder climate. All crew members are not dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. Everyone becomes very ill and the captain comes down with Pneumonia!!!!!! the nearest port for medical attention is at 43.5 degrees N latitude and 141 degrees E longitude. * the ship is forced to sail and dock at this port until the Captain is well.

6. Once the captain recuperates you set sail AGAIN! for Pusan. Things seem to be going really well for awhile and your Captain is confident your ship will make it this time, but his optimism is totally shattered when over heated sensors in the engine room activate an alarm! Over the intercom a sailor SCREAMS, "FIRE IN THE ENGINE ROOM, FIRE IN THE ENGINE ROOM, ALL HANDS BELOW DECK!!!!

The captain and all crew members head below to help with the fire. Luckily there are enough fire extinguishers available, and the fire is safely pout out with minor damage. Unfortunately, while you were putting the fire out, no one was steering the ship. The ship sailed right into unfriendly waters at 42 degrees N latitude and 131 degrees E. Longitude. *

7. This is serious business. Special naval permission is needed to sail in these waters. You and the crew creep southward in hopes of not being picked up by unfriendly radar. Luckily you make it back into safe waters and head to Pusan. This time YOU MAKE IT!!!!

Your final location at Pusan is _____ degrees N latitude and _____ degrees E. Longitude.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!! Because of your outstanding bravery and superior seamanship during this INCREDIBLE VOYAGE, you have earned a special award from the United States Merchant Marine Corps. Ms. Day will give you your award of honor.

ASSESSMENT:

I will grade their maps and see that all locations are labeled and then that all the stars are in the correct places.

I believe that students will remember the geography of Japan and the surrounding area much better because they have used the information in a meaningful way.

LOCATE AND LABEL ACTIVITY

Using a map from your Social Studies Book locate and label the 4 main Japanese islands:

Kyushu Honshu Shikoku Hokkaido

Also label:

South Korea Mt. Fuji

Locate and Label these bodies of water:

Sea of Japan Korea Strait North Pacific Ocean Philippine Sea

Plot Cities:

Tokyo--35.5 N. latitude and 140.5 E. longitude (Put a gold star because it is the capital)

Yokohama--35 N. latitude and 140 E. longitude

Sapporo--43.5 N. latitude and 141 E. longitude

Kobe--34.5 N. latitude and 135 E. longitude

Nagasaki--33.5 N. Latitude and 130 E. longitude

Hamhung, North Korea--40 N. latitude and 129 E. longitude

Pusan, South Korea--35 N. latitude and 129 E. longitude