

JAPAN

By Izzi Howell

Info Buzz Geography is a set of carefully graded 24-page books that introduces young readers to aspects of human and physical geography of significant countries in different continents. Other titles in the series are Argentina, India and the UK.

Children reading at **Bookband Purple**, who may be in Year 2, should be able to access most of the text independently, except for the pronunciation of some of the country-specific vocabulary. Children reading at a lower level are likely to need more help with the book.

The books all follow a predictable organisational structure for an information report text.

Key features of the books include:

- Written in the third person, present tense
- Divided into double-page spreads with a heading to define the topic
- Contents, index, glossary, photographs with captions
- Maps
- Questions to help children link their own experiences to the subject matter
- A quiz
- Teaching notes

The book supports schools in delivering the English national curriculum requirement to teach geography in key stage 1, specifically in inspiring a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. It includes information about:

- Where Japan is and which are its neighbouring countries and oceans
- Japanese cities and countryside
- Interesting places to visit in Japan
- Japanese culture: food, sports, festivals and art
- Japanese wildlife

WORKSHEETS

Each book is accompanied by two worksheets. Access to the book will be needed for the first of the worksheets but the second can be completed without the book although access to simple information about Japan is assumed. All of the activities are linked to the English national curriculum (2014).

WORKSHEET JAPAN: 1

- Asks children to use information in the book to complete the sentences about what they have read.
- Introduces the use of the contents page to identify the topics and the index to find the individual word or ideas.
- Talks about the different ways in which these two information sources are organised.

Learning objective: to find information in a non-fiction book.

Comprehension skills practised:

- Using contents/ index to identify where to find the information
- Scanning the text for the key words
- Beginning to skim the text to identify where to read more carefully
- Careful reading of relevant passages to confirm answers

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WORKSHEET JAPAN: 2

- Asks children to recap what they have learned about modern and traditional ideas in Japan. Narrow their discussion to modern and traditional buildings.
- Gives children the opportunity to look at pictures online and in a range of reference books so they can identify whether buildings are modern or old.
- Asks them to draw and write about on old building and a modern one. Then it asks them to think of two ways in which the buildings are different and two in which they are the same.

Learning objective: to think about how someone felt during their experiences.

Comprehension skills practised:

- Finding information, including from pictures
- Selecting information and ideas to record
- Looking for similarities and differences

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1

Complete the sentences. Choose a word from the box to fill each gap.

art	buildings
building materials	cities
comic	crops
festival	foods
sport	wildlife

1. Tokyo and Kyoto are Japanese _____
2. Rice, beans and sweet potatoes are _____ that grow in Japan.
3. Sumo wrestling is a Japanese _____
4. Origami is a kind of _____.
5. Wood and paper are traditional Japanese _____
6. Japanese _____ includes bears, monkeys, eagles and cranes.
7. Shichi Go San is a Japanese _____.
8. Sushi and sashimi are _____ that people in Japan eat.
9. Manga is another word for a Japanese _____
10. Himeji Castle and the Tokyo Skytree are _____ people visit in Japan.

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2

If you go to Japan today, you will see some modern buildings and some old buildings.

Draw an old building	Write about the old building
Draw a modern building	Write about the modern building

Write two things that are the same and two things that are different about these buildings

The same _____

Different _____
