

7

Japan - The Land of the Rising Sun

A. Warmer

1. Do you like travelling ?

2. Name the places that you have travelled to. How has travelling helped you?

Japan, popularly called the 'Land of the Rising Sun', is known for its beautiful landscape. The snow-clad high mountains add to its beauty. So do the beautiful lakes and streams that shine like bright silver. The lovely gardens with their beautiful flowers and lovely fruits enchant the visitors.

The geographical condition of Japan is such that we do not find houses like ours. The Japanese do not build houses of bricks or stones. They build wooden houses with walls made of strong thick paper. They use three or four square pieces of glass which serve for windows. How strange !

With regards to cooking, the Japanese do not burn fires in their rooms. They use stoves for cooking. So it is hard to see smoke in a Japanese house.

The Japanese are fond of eating rice and fish. They are also very fond of tea but their tea has neither milk nor sugar in it.

The Japanese are very fond of riding in a carriage which is light and small and drawn by a man. It is called a rickshaw.

Similarly, they are very fond of carrying in their hands fans

made of straw. The Japanese are very particular about cleanliness. No one goes into a house with the shoes on. This way they prevent dust of the streets from getting into the house.

There are two important festivals— one for the girls another for the boys. The 'Feast of Dolls', which is celebrated on the third March is a holiday for girls. On this day, even the poorest girl has some doll to play with. They rejoice a lot on this occasion.

Similarly, the 'Feast of the Carp' which falls in May is the day when every boy in Japan flies a kite which looks like a fish. The carp is a very strong and brave fish. Every boy in Japan hopes to grow up as brave and strong as the carp.

New Year's Day is also greatly celebrated in Japan. On this day, they visit their friends and take presents with them. At night, they light their houses and streets with paper lanterns of different colours and rejoice greatly.

Children in Japan are very clean and neatly dressed. They never spit in the room. They always knock before they enter. They always welcome guests and are always polite to them. They are very soft-spoken as they never shout or speak aloud. It is very rare to find a Japanese rudely at anyone. A remarkable quality of the Japanese is that they do not cry if they fall down or hurt themselves. This is because of their cultural training to bear pain with a smiling face. This helps them grow up into polite and brave men and women.

Shintoism is the chief religion of the Japanese. It teaches the people of Japan to love beautiful things and to honour the dead. This is the reason they make beautiful things of wood, paper,

leather, cotton and silk. Their lovely goods are exported to other countries.

The Japanese have always been regarded as clever and hard-working people. They never sit idle.

The most remarkable thing about them is their patriotism. They love their country and are ever ready to die for her.

Glossary and notes

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| landscape (n) | natural beauty, प्राकृतिक सुन्दरता |
| snow-clad (compound adj.) | covered with snow, बर्फ से ढके हुए |
| enchant (v) | captivate, मन मोहना, आकर्षित करना |
| streams (n) | small rivers, झरने |
| fond of (prepositional phrase) | liking, शौकिन |
| custom (n) | usual behaviour, रीति-रिवाज |
| polite (adj) | having good manner, विनम्र |
| rudely (adv) | impolitely, रूखाई से, कठोरता से |
| idle (adj) | lazy, बेकार |
| Shintoism (n) | Japanese religion with the worship of ancestors and nature- spirits, जापानी धर्म जिसमें पूर्वजों तथा प्रकृति की पूजा की जाती है । |

B. Let's comprehend

B.1 Think and Tell

B.1.1. Answer the following questions in a word or phrase.

1. Which country is called 'The Land of the Rising Sun'?
2. What adds to Japan's beauty ?

3. What is the chief food of the Japanese ?
4. What is the 'Feast of Dolls' ?
5. What is the 'Feast of the Carp' ?
6. How do the Japanese treat their guests ?
7. How do they bear pain ?
8. List some of the qualities which help the Japanese to grow brave and polite.

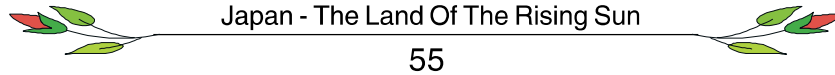
B.2. Think and Write

B. 2.1 Answer the following questions briefly:

1. Why is there no smoke in a Japanese house ?
2. What do the Japanese boys and girls love ?
3. What do the Japanese do on New year's Day ?
4. What is a carp ? Why is it significant to a Japanese?

B.2.2. Answer the following questions in detail:

1. What are various Japanese customs ?
2. How do the Japanese boys and girls enjoy themselves?
3. Describe the behaviour of the Japanese children?
4. How can you say that the Japanese love their country?



5. What is Shintoism ? What does it teach ?
6. Make a comparison between the life style of an Indian and a Japanese.

B.2.3 Arrange the following jumbled words to make meaningful sentences. One has been done for you.

of / the / Japan / brave / are / very / people

The people of Japan are very brave.

1. sit / never / they / idle

2. time / value / they

3. culture / the / love / Japanese / their

4. customs / and / own / they / their / have / manners

5. called / is / it / rising / land / sun / of / the

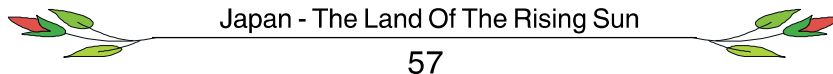
C. Word Study

C.1 Match words in Column 'A' with their meanings in Column 'B':

| A | B |
|-------------|---|
| 1. stone | a. lamp with a transparent case protecting a flame etc. |
| 2. rickshaw | b. carrying part of a machine, a vehicle. |
| 3. carp | c. fresh water fish often reared for food. |
| 4. holiday | d. light two wheeled hooded vehicle. |
| 5. straw | e. closed apparatus burning fuel or using electricity for heating or cooling. |
| 6. carriage | f. period of recreation. |
| 7. lantern | g. dry cut stalks of grain used for packing etc. |
| 8. stove | h. solid non metallic mineral matter; rock. |
| 9. spit | i. material made from the skin of an animal by tanning. |
| 10. leather | j. eject (esp. saliva) from the mouth. |

C.2. Correct the spelling of the following words :

mountians, wsno, streems, beautifull, rideing,
habbits, alawys, lether, religon, streits, coton



C.3. The people of Japan are called 'the Japanese'.

What are the people of the following countries/ states called?

1. The people of India are called the _____.
2. The people of China are called the _____.
3. The people of Germany are called the _____.
4. The people of America are called the _____.
5. The people of Bhutan are called the _____.
6. The people living in Bihar are called the _____.
7. The people of Nepal are called the _____.
8. The people living in Assam are called the _____.
9. The people of England are called the _____.
10. The people living in Kashmir are called the _____.

D. Let's Talk

Discuss the following in groups:

Travelling is the best means of education.

F. Composition

Write a letter to your pen friend living in Japan describing him your visit to Rajgir. Also, invite him to visit Rajgir, a place of historical and religious importance.

G. Translation**1. Translate the following sentences into English:**

1. जापानी बहुत मेहनती होते हैं ।
2. वे कभी बेकार नहीं बैठते हैं ।
3. वे अपने देश से प्यार करते हैं ।
4. वे अपने मेहमानों का आदर करते हैं ।
5. वे चाय पीने के शौकीन हैं ।
6. वे लोग अच्छा खाना खाने के शौकीन हैं ।
7. त्योहारों के अवसर पर वे अपने दोस्तों और संबंधियों को उपहार भेजते हैं ।

2. Translate the following sentences into your mother tongues:

1. Patna is a very old city.
2. It was also called Azimabad.
3. There are many ancient and famous buildings in the city.
4. It is the birthplace of Guru Govind Singh.
5. Kumhrar Park and Patna Planetarium are worth seeing places.