

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential Japanese Vocabulary S1 #11

Geographical Features

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KANJI

1. What are five common geographical features in Japan?
2. 1. 山
3. 2. 海
4. 3. 島
5. 4. 火山
6. 5. 川

KANA

1. What are five common geographical features in Japan?
2. 1. やま
3. 2. うみ
4. 3. しま
5. 4. かざん
6. 5. かわ

ROMANIZATION

1. What are five common geographical features in Japan?

CONT'D OVER

2. 1. yama
3. 2. umi
4. 3. shima
5. 4. kazan
6. 5. kawa

ENGLISH

1. What are five common geographical features in Japan?
2. 1. Mountain
3. 2. Sea/ocean
4. 3. Island
5. 4. Volcano
6. 5. River

VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
山	やま	yama	mountain
島	しま	shima	island
川	かわ	kawa	river

海	うみ	umi	sea, ocean
火山	かざん	kazan	volcano

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>元旦のご来光を拝むために、山に登る人もいます。</p> <p><i>Gantan no go-raikō o ogamu tame ni yama ni noboru hito mo imasu.</i></p> <p>Some Japanese people go to the top of a mountain to see the sunrise on the 1st of January.</p>	<p>富士山はとても高い山です。</p> <p><i>Fuji-san wa totemo takai yama desu.</i></p> <p>Mt. Fuji is a very tall mountain.</p>
<p>日本で一番大きい島は、本州です。</p> <p><i>Nihon de ichi-ban ōkī shima wa Honshū desu.</i></p> <p>The biggest island in Japan is the main island, called Honshū.</p>	<p>日本一長い川は、信濃川です。</p> <p><i>Nihon ichi nagai kawa wa, Shinano-gawa desu.</i></p> <p>The longest river in Japan is Shinanogawa.</p>
<p>夏には、子供たちは海で手持ちの花火で遊びます。</p> <p><i>Natsu ni wa, kodomo-tachi wa umi de temochi no hanabi de asobimasu.</i></p> <p>In summer, children enjoy hand-held fireworks at the beach.</p>	<p>彼は、海で人魚を見たと言った。</p> <p><i>Kare wa, umi de ningyo o mita to itta.</i></p> <p>He said that he had seen a mermaid in the sea.</p>
<p>桜島は、まだ、毎年小さい噴火を繰り返している火山です。</p> <p><i>Sakura-jima wa, mada, maitoshi chīsai funka o kurikaeshite iru kazan desu.</i></p> <p>Sakurajima is a volcano which still has many small-scale eruptions every year.</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Mountain

Japan is a mountainous country. There are a lot of volcanoes too; thanks to these volcanoes, natural hot springs or onsen, can be found across the country.

2. Sea/ocean

Since Japan is an island nation, Japanese people have always lived with the sea. Because it is a mountainous island, beach space is rather limited, but people still enjoy spending time on the beach with friends and family.

3. Island

Japan consists of 6,852 islands. The farthest north is Etorofutō and the southernmost is Okinotorishima.

4. Volcano

Japan has 110 active volcanoes in total. The most recent eruption was in 1991, by Mount Unzen in Nagasaki. While Mount Unzen has ceased volcanic activity, Sakurajima in Kagoshima is very famous for its continuing volcanic activity. Sakurajima used to be an island, but an eruption in 1914 created a road that connected it to the mainland of Kagoshima.

5. River

Japanese rivers are relatively narrow when compared to other world-famous rivers. Because of the mountainous geography and the north to south long island shape of the country, the length of Japanese rivers is also relatively short.