Japan

**Population:** 127 Million (2014)

**Geography:** More than half of Japan is mountainous and covered by forest. The country experiences frequent earthquakes as it is situated on four tectonic plates.

**Climate:** Japan has four distinct seasons, similar to New Zealand, and during the winter months there are snowfalls in the mountainous areas.

**World heritage sites:** Fujisan, Himeji-jo, Itsukushima Shinto Shrine, Yakushima

**Capital City:** Tokyo

**Language(s):** Aynu itak, Ryukyuan, Eastern Japanese, Western Japanese

**Official language:** Japanese

**Political system:** Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy

**Travel advisory information:** For up-to-date travel advice for Japan from the New Zealand government visit www.safetravel.govt.nz/japan

**Curriculum resources:**
- Asia New Zealand Foundation

**Useful websites:**
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- New Zealand Embassy in Tokyo
- Embassy of Japan in Wellington
- Sasakawa Programmes in New Zealand
- Lonely Planet

**Media:**
- The Japan Times
- Japan Today