

The Geography of Japan

Lesson Plan: Students will use the Internet to find information on Japan and fill out the worksheet provided and label a map of Japan.

Level/Class: This lesson is designed for ninth grade students taking a year-long World Geography class. This will be one of a series of lessons dealing with modern Japan. The students will demonstrate their skill in using a computer and the Internet and learn about the geography of Japan.

Objectives:

1. Students will use computer skills in researching a topic.
2. Students will develop discover the answers to questions about Japan.
3. Students will understand how Japan's physical landscape affects the people.
4. Students will label a map of Japan with major geographical features on it.

Time Period: 2 days. The students will have 50 minutes to read, analyze, and answer the questions provided. The second day of class will be to discuss what they learned and share their answers and insights with the whole class.

Materials Needed: Each student will have access to a computer in the computer lab. They will be given a list of questions to answer by the teacher. (Handout 1) Each student will also label a map of Japan. (Handout 2)

Assessment:

Students will answer the questions provided. Some will be short answer and higher order thinking. Grades will be taken on their work and some of the material will be on a test given at the end of the chapter.

References: The students will be given several addresses to websites in which to go to find the answers to the questions. The addresses are on handout 1.

Japan: It's Geography

Use these web addresses to find the answers to these questions on the geography of Japan.

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107666.html>

<http://worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/asia/jp.htm>

<http://www.theodora.com/wfbcurrent/japan/index.html>

Japan is considered an archipelago. What is an archipelago?

What U.S. state is it approximately the size of?

What are the name of Japan's four main Islands?

How much of Japan is cultivable? (What percent can food be grown?)

What is Japan's total population?

What is the density per sq. kilometer/mile?

What city is the capital of Japan?

What is Japan's total length of coastline? Why do you think that would be important?

What kind of climate(s) does Japan have?

What is the lowest point geographically in Japan? The highest?

What is the average age of the Japanese population as of 2004?

What is the average age for men? For women?

Are there more men or women in Japan? What are the percentages of each?

What is the age life expectancy in Japan? For men? For women?

What kind of government does Japan have?

What is the ethnicity breakdown in Japan?

What are the major religions in Japan and what is the percent of each?

What is the GNP per/capita in Japan? What is it for the United States?

Which country has the largest GNP per/capita?

Use the following website to label your map.

<http://worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/asia/jp.htm>

