



Topic: Natural Disasters – Japan and the UK

Year 5

Term 2

Physical Geography

- Japan is an archipelago that spreads over 3,000km along the east Asian coast.
- Honshu is by far the largest of the islands, with an area of 227,960 km².
- The terrain of Japan is mostly mountainous, with around 66% forests.
- East of Japan, there are three deep trenches in the Pacific Ocean, caused by tectonic plates overlapping. This causes frequent earthquakes, tsunamis and the creation of large volcanoes on Japan.
- The highest mountain is Mount Fuji, at 3,776m, which is also a volcano.
- The climate of Japan ranges from humid continental in the north, to humid subtropical and tropical rainforest in the south.
- The Japanese land area is slowly growing, due to volcanic eruptions, land reclamation and the natural expansion of islands.



Comparison with the UK

- The UK is in Europe, whilst Japan is in Asia. The UK and Japan are both in the northern hemisphere.
- The UK has a temperate climate, whilst Japan's climate is mostly humid continental, with tropical areas in the south.
- Japan is larger than the UK – 377,975sq km compared to 243,610sq km.
- More people live in Japan than the UK –126 million people compared to 66 million in the UK.
- Tokyo is far more populous than the largest city in the UK: London.
- The UK and Japan are both island countries. Japan has far more islands than the UK!



Key Vocabulary

Tectonic plates	Large moving pieces of the Earth's outer layer, made of rock.
Displaced	Force (someone) to leave their home, typically because of war, persecution, or natural disaster.
Tsunami	A giant wave caused by a huge earthquake under the ocean.
Earthquake	Caused when the earth's tectonic plates suddenly move, causing lots of damage to roads, buildings and property.
Terrain	A stretch of land, especially with regard to its physical features.
Temperate climate	Moderate – not too hot or too cold

Facts for Life

1. The location of the UK and Japan comparative to each other on a world map.
2. The Ring of fire is a site along the Pacific Plate where around two thirds of the world's volcanoes sit. The movement of tectonic plates creates earthquakes and volcanic activity. This movement of tectonic plates causes all of the volcanic eruptions in Japan.
3. A natural disaster may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.