

JAPAN AND KOREA

JAPAN



AREA 377,829 sq km
 POPULATION 126,476,000
 MONEY Yen
 CAPITAL Tokyo
 MAIN ISLAND Honshu

JAPAN is quite a small country: it is smaller than France or Spain. But Japan has a big population – over twice as many people as France or Spain. Outside the big cities, most of Japan is still beautiful countryside.

This small country is mostly mountainous and many of the mountains are volcanoes. At school, children practise what to do when there is an earthquake, tsunami (a huge wave) or a volcanic eruption.

Japan has very few mines and hardly any oil, yet it has become well known for making electrical goods, cars and many other 'hi-tech' items that are sold all over the world.

NORTH KOREA



AREA 120,538 sq km
 POPULATION 24,457,000
 MONEY North Korean won
 CAPITAL Pyongyang

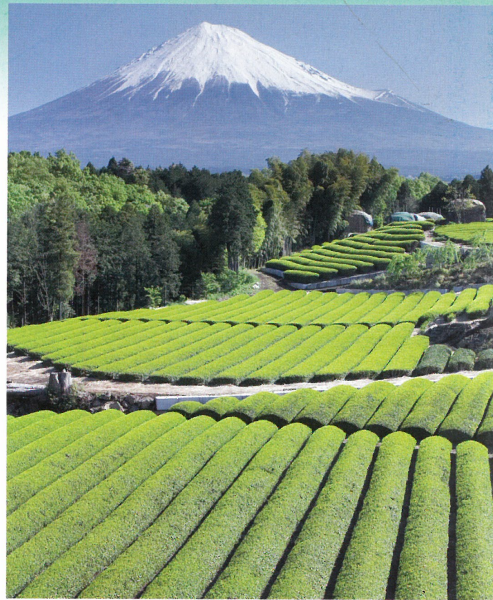
SOUTH KOREA



AREA 99,268 sq km
 POPULATION 48,755,000
 MONEY South Korean won
 CAPITAL Seoul



▲ **A busy street in Kyoto.** This city was the capital of Japan for over 1000 years – until 1868. It is famous for its cooking, its gardens and shrines. High mountains surround the city on three sides.



▲ **Mount Fuji, beyond fields of tea.** Mount Fuji (Fuji-san) is Japan's most famous mountain. It is an old volcano, 3776 metres high. Tea is important in Japan. It is usually drunk as 'green tea' and often with great ceremony.

TEMPLES



▲ **Horyu Temple, at Nara, Japan.**

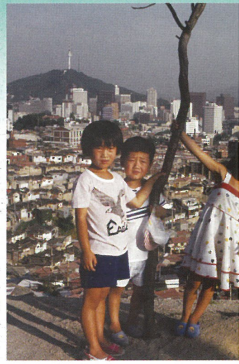
The beautiful temple on the right is called a pagoda. Japanese pagodas are carefully preserved. Their unusual shape originally came partly from Indian temples and also partly from Chinese temples.

PUZZLE

▼ **Decorations for a Buddhist festival in South Korea.**

- What are they?
- What are they made of?

(Answers on page 97.)



▲ **South Korea.** Seoul has been the capital of Korea since 1392. It is only the capital of South Korea. Children are playing on one of the hills in the city.



▲ **Bullet train, or Shinkansen.** Japan's 'bullet trains' go like a bullet from a gun! The trains run on new tracks with no sharp curves to slow them down. They provide a superb service except when there is an earthquake warning.