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1 Geographical Features of Japan

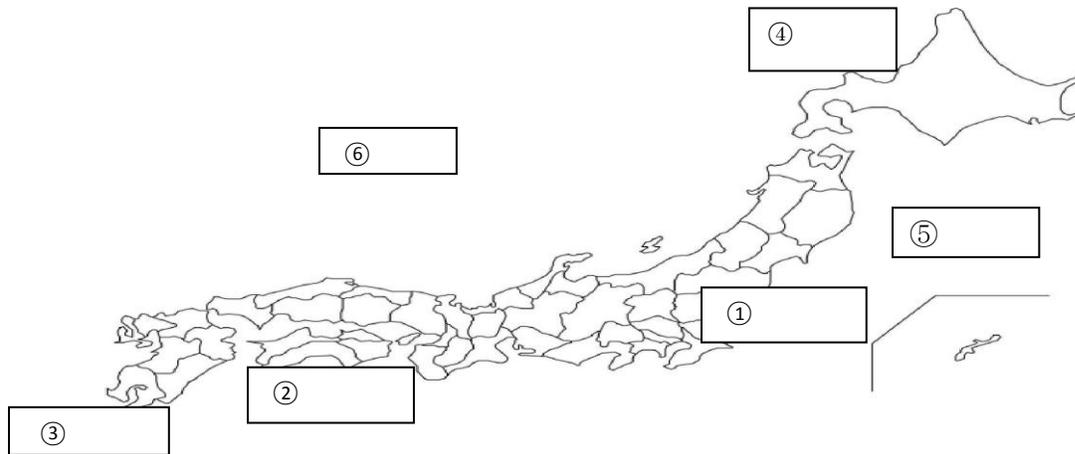


図1 日本地図

Japan lies east of the Asian Continent. It consists of four large islands ① Honshu ② Shikoku ③ Kyushu ④ Hokkaido and many other small islands. Japan covers about 378,000 square kilometers.

The Japanese islands are surrounded by seas, such as ⑤ the Pacific Ocean and ⑥ the Japan Sea. Since Japan contains several volcanic chains, it has diverse natural features. The rivers are generally short and stream rapidly .

Prefectures (都、道、府、県)

There are 47 prefectures (to- 都, do- 道, fu- 府, ken - 県). Do (道), which means region, is used only for Hokkai-do. To (都), which means capital city, is used only for Tokyo-to. Fu (府) is used for Kyoto-fu and Osaka-fu. Ken (県) is used for the other prefectures.

For reference: <http://709709.com/game/tizu.html>

Mountains in Japan

Since the Japanese islands are on located on the Ring of Fire, volcanic activity often causes earthquakes. Seventy percent of Japan's land is mountainous. The mountains are covered with forests.

In the center of Honshu, there are three mountain ranges, the Hida, the Kiso, and the Akaishi. These three mountain ranges each rise to over 3000 meters and are called the Nihon Alps or "the roof of Japan" .

Fuji-san is the highest mountain in Japan. It has an altitude of 3,776 meters.

Currently, there are about sixty active volcanoes in Japan. Some of the most famous are Asama-yama, Aso-san, Sakura-jima, Unzen-dake and Mihara-yama.

Plains in Japan

In Japan, there are many plains formed from silt brought by rivers. Other features formed by rivers include:

- 1 Deltas (三角洲): A plain where a river runs into many smaller rivers near the sea. These are triangular in shape. They were named after the Greek letter “delta”. (△)
- 2 Alluvial fans (扇状地): They are formed where a river flows from the mountains onto flatland. These were named after the shape of a fan.
- 3 River terraces (河岸段丘): These were formed by river erosion. They are named after their steplike appearance.

Rivers in Japan

Japan’s land area is small and mountainous. Consequently, most rivers are short and flow rapidly into the sea. While there is a risk of flooding or drought, there are also many rivers that are suitable for hydroelectric power generation using their fast flowing waters.

The longest river in Japan is Shinano-gawa River. The longest river in the world is the Nile in Africa, at 6,695 kilometers long. The Shinano-gawa River is 367 kilometers long.

The biggest river basin is that of the Tone-gawa River, which flows through the Kanto plain.

Lakes in Japan

Most lakes in Japan are in the mountainous regions and are not very large. The largest lake in Japan is Biwa-ko (琵琶湖) in Shiga prefecture. The biggest lake in the world is the Caspian Sea in Russia, at 374,000 square kilometers. Biwa-ko has an area of 670 square kilometers. The deepest lake in Japan is Tazawa-ko in Akita prefecture, which has a depth of 423 meters.

2 The Climate of Japan

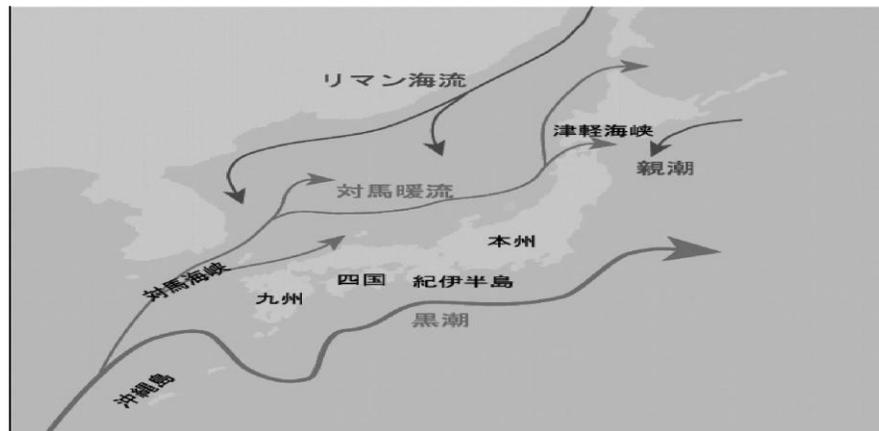


図1 日本近海の流れ

Of the five major climate zones of the world (tropical, temperate, cool temperate, arctic arid), most of Japan is in the temperate zone. As a result, we experience four seasons. Rainfall is quite high. Compared with other areas in the temperate zone, Japan is characterized by a large temperature difference between summer and winter and high rainfall throughout the year. Since the group of islands making up Japan stretches a long way from north to south, the climate in Hokkai-do in the northernmost region and that in Okinawa-ken in the southernmost region are quite different. Let's look at the characteristics of the climates in Hokkai-do and Okinawa-ken.

The Climate of Hokkai-do

Hokkai-do is included in the cool temperate zone (subarctic). Hokkaido has four distinct seasons and does not have "Tsuyu" (梅雨). The temperature and humidity are low throughout the year. The winter season is long and its snowfall is high. Since spring and autumn seasons are shorter than those of Honshu, cherry blossoms bloom the latest and leaves turn colour the earliest here.

In Kushiro, facing the Pacific ocean, in summer, warm southwest winds are cooled over Chishima Kairyu,(千島海流)Oyashio(親潮) and sometimes generate heavy fog. Therefore, the temperature does not rise ,even in summer. This can cause cold weather damage to agricultural crops (冷害).

In Abashiri-shi, facing the Sea of Okhotsk, the people cannot fish due to drift ice, which arrives off the coast from winter to spring. The drift ice, however, attracts a lot of tourists.

For more information: Shiretoko Peninsula was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in July, 2005. *For reference:* <http://www.hokuhoku-hokkaido.com/weather/index.html>

The Climate of Okinawa-ken

Okinawa-ken is included in the subtropical zone. The weather in Okinawa is characterized by a high temperature throughout the year, unlike Hokkai-do. There is no snow even in winter and the four seasons there are not as distinct as those on Honshu. Cherry blossoms bloom earlier than in any other region in Japan. Since clouds are frequently generated, it rains often.

The Okinawa-ken area is also known as “Typhoon Ginza” (台風銀座), named after the Japan’s most flourishing street, as a lot of typhoons go through there every year. Although the highest temperature in summer is lower than that of Honshu, intense sunlight characterizes this season.

For your information: The islands of Okinawa-ken are surrounded by beautiful coral reefs. On Iriomote Island, which is the second largest island, about ninety percent of the island is covered with forests. This island has a lot of tropical animals and plants, such as Iriomote yamaneco, which has been designated as a Special Natural Monument and is protected.

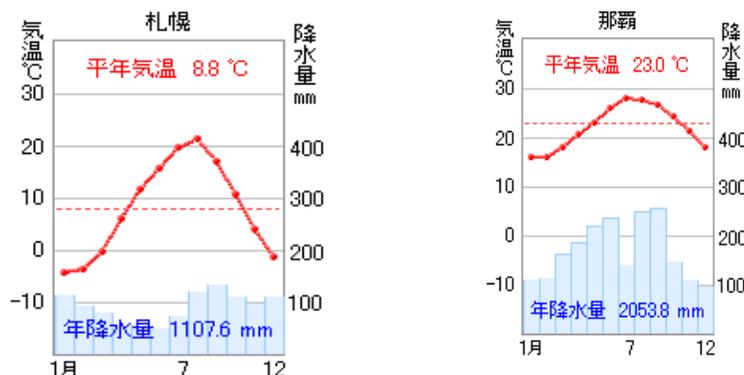


図2 沖縄と札幌の月平均の比較

The Climates of the Japan Sea and Pacific seaboard

The climate on the Japan sea side and the Pacific side are different. In winter, the seasonal northwest wind blows from the Eurasian continent. The cold and dry wind from the continent absorbs the heat and water vapor from the sea while passing over the Japan Sea and form generous snow clouds. The clouds do not go beyond the high mountain ranges such as the Ou Mountains and the Chugoku Mountains, the backbone of the Japanese islands, causing heavy snowfall in all areas on the Japan Sea side of the mountains. So, the wind becomes dry after crossing the mountains and the areas on the Pacific side generally experience continual sunny days. In summer, the seasonal winds blows from the opposite direction, the southeast. This wind is very humid and causes a lot of rain along the Pacific seaboard.

For your information: From spring to summer, the Pacific side of the Tohoku district sometimes has a cold, humid wind from the east. This wind is called “Yamase (やませ)”. When this wind blows, the temperature in and around the coastal areas falls, often resulting in fog. When this lasts for a long time, crops such as rice can be damaged due to the low temperatures and lack of sunshine.

For reference:<http://www.hokuhoku-hokuhoku.com/weather/index.html>

3 Agriculture in Japan

The Hokkaido Region

Agriculture flourishes here. The potato, sugar beet, wheat and onion production here is the highest in Japan. Also, the largest number of dairy cows in Japan are kept here. Dairy farming is also popular. Dairy farming is an industry in which cows are kept to produce dairy products such as butter, cheese and milk.

The Tohoku Region

There is a lot of snow and it is cold. Taking advantage of the climate, the principal agriculture activities that are thriving are growing fruit, such as apples, and rice farming.

Aomori-ken	The production output of apples is the highest in Japan.
Akita-ken	Rice is grown in the Akita Plain.
Iwate-ken	Dairy farming and chicken processing.
Yamagata-ken	Grapes, apples, cherries are grown and the crop of cherries is the largest in Japan.
Fukushima-ken	Apples and peaches are grown in abundance.

The Kanto Region

In the Kanto region, as there are many big cities which are densely populated, like Tokyo, and agriculture is centered in the areas around the cities to provide for their inhabitants. (agriculture in suburban areas, 近郊農業). The Kanto Plain is the widest in Japan and vegetables, fruit, eggs, and milk that are produced there are sent to the cities.

In Ibaraki-ken, sweet potatoes, peanuts and Chinese cabbages are grown in fields. There are many paddy fields in the Tone-gawa river basin and early session rice (早場米) is harvested earlier and shipped sooner than in other areas. To prevent floods that occur at the reaches of the river in autumn, early harvest rice is grown.

The Chubu Region

In the Chubu Region, various kinds of crops are grown.

Niigata-ken	One of the most productive rice growing areas in Japan. The Echigo Plain is a famous rice-producing area.
Toyama-ken	Growing rice is common and its Toyama Plain is a famous rice-producing area

Nagano-ken	Chinese cabbages and lettuces, as well as apples and grapes, are grown here. These vegetables are harvested in cold season. The cool summer climate of its highland, Sugadaira and the foothills of Asama-yama allows vegetables to be harvested in summer, earlier than usual, and shipped. This is called highland agriculture(高冷地農業)
Yamanashi-ken	Grape and peach production is thriving in the Kofu Basin
Shizuoka-ken	Mandarin oranges (みかん), and tea leaves (茶) are grown. The tea leaves crops are the largest in Japan.

The Kinki Region

Wakayama-ken is famous for growing plums (梅) and mandarin oranges.

The Chugoku and Shikoku Region

Ehime-ken	One of the most productive mandarin oranges producing areas in Japan. "Iyokan" (いよかん, a kind of mandarin orange) are also grown and the production is the highest in Japan
Okayama-ken	Rushes (igusa, い草), which are used for tatami, are grown as well as grapes and peaches.
Okayama-ken	Rushes (igusa, い草), which are used for tatami, are grown as well as grapes and peaches.
Tottori-ken	"Nijusseiki nashi (20世紀なし), a type of pear, is quite famous and the crops of pears is the highest in Japan.

The Kyusyu and Okinawa Region

Hukuoka-ken	Strawberries are famous. The crop of strawberries is the second largest in Japan.
Kagoshima-ken	The Shirasu Plateau (シラス台地) is made of volcanic ash deposits from Sakura-jima and other volcanoes. On the plateau, crops such as sweet potatoes, tea leaves, and tobacco, are grown. The production of sweet potatoes is the highest in Japan. Also, pigs, cows, and chickens are raised for their meat.
Miyazaki-ken	With a mild climate even in winter, heated greenhouses (促成栽培) are used to grow vegetables which are grown faster. Sweet peppers and cucumbers are grown in the forcing culture. The crop of sweet peppers is the second largest in Japan.
Okinawa-ken	The only subtropical climate zone in Japan. Therefore, crops grown in the tropics, such as mangoes, pineapples and sugarcane are grown.

The problems in Japanese Agriculture

In Japan, it is common to use a lot of fertilizers to enhance the production of small areas of farmland. Mechanization to save on labor is also common. These processes result in higher production per unit area, but the production costs such as for fertilize, and fuel are higher than those of imported crops. Another problem is the youth's declining interest in farming. It is especially hard to find young people willing to take on a farm while the problem of an aging society continues to worsen.

4 Fisheries of Japan

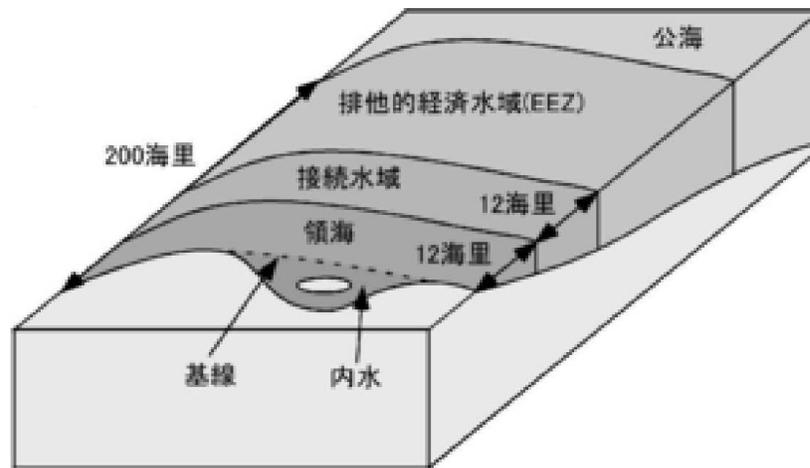
In the seas around Japan, the warm currents (Tsushima Kairyu<対馬海流>and Kuroshio Kairyu<黒潮>) and cold currents (Riman Kairyu<リマン海流> and Chishima Kairyu<千島海流> or Oyashio<親潮>) meet each other. A lot of fish are caught where these two currents collide.

Japan's fisheries

- 1) Coastal fishing (沿岸漁業): Catching fish close to the coast (port). Returnig the same day.
- 2) Offshore fishing (沖合漁業): Fishing is done in the ocean a little **further** from the Japanese coast (port). Returning after one week.
- 3) Pelagic fishing (遠洋漁業): Fishing is done in the ocean far from Japan. Sometimes returning after more than a month.
- 4) Fish farming (栽培漁業): Inshore and pelagic fishing are now on the decline. So the fishing industry has been shifting to raising fish (fish farming (栽培漁業) and aquaculture (養殖) from conventional fishing (catching fish).Fish farming is an operation that raises young fish in captivity from eggs and releases them in the rivers or the sea to catch them again when they are fully grown.

Exclusive Economic Zone

A sea zone over which a country has a special rights is a 200-miles economic zone. For example, Japanese people can fish inside of 200-miles (approx. 370 kilometers) but can not fish outside of that zone.



排他的經濟水域

Examples of Good Fishing Grounds around Japan

Hokkai-do: Kushiro-shi

Tohoku region: Aomori-ken (Hachinohe-shi), Miyagi-ken (Kesenuma-shi, Onagawa-cho, Ishinomaki-shi).

Kanto Region: Chiba-ken (Yaizu-shi)

Chubu Region: Shizuoka-ken (Yaizu-shi)

Chugoku Region: Tottori-ken (Sakaiminato-shi)

Kyusyu Region: Fukuoka-ken, Saga-ken (Yaizu-shi), Nagasaki-ken (Matsuura-shi)

Around Hokkaido, northern-sea fishery (北洋漁業、遠洋漁業), that catch salmon or crab in the sea of Okhotsk or North Pacific Ocean, occurs. But after the Exclusive Economic Zone was established, northern-sea fishing has declined.

In the Seto Inland Sea (瀬戸内海), fish farming and aquaculture is thriving. A particularly successful cultivation operation is the aquaculture of oysters (かき) in Hiroshima Bay (広島湾), fish farming of young yellowtails (はまち) and prawns (くるまえばい).

5 Manufacturing Industry in Japan

The Hokkai-do Region

In Hokkai-do, agriculture and daily farming are thriving as well as manufacturing industries. Sapporo-shi's industries are centered on food production, such as daily products and beer. In the port city of Hakodate-shi, there is fish processing. Tomakomai-shi is known for its pulp and paper industries and there are also areas with heavy and chemical industries.

The Tohoku Region

The Tohoku region used to be centered on agriculture, however, many new manufacturing facilities are being built, taking advantage of new highways and airports. In Aomori-ken, Akita-ken and Fukushima-ken, there are many big factories and manufacturing is thriving.

Aomori-ken: In the factories of Hachinohe-shi, large quantities of cement and chemical fertilizer are produced.

Akita-ken: Lumber and petrochemical industries thrive. Akita-shi has oil fields beneath the sea floor and produces petrochemicals and pulp.

Fukushima-ken: In Fukushima-ken, there are nuclear power plants and hydropower plants, as well as thermal, wind and geothermal power stations. They supply power not only to the Tohoku Region but also to the Kanto region.

Some nuclear power plants were destroyed by the Tohoku Pacific Earthquake (2011), and this has greatly affected a large area of Japan.

For your information: The traditional manufacturing industry of Morioka-shi is ironware (鉄器), that of Yonezawa-shi is silk fabrics (絹織物), that of Naruko-shi is wooden dolls, kokeshi (こけし) and that of Aizuwakamatsu-shi is lacquer ware (漆器).

<http://www.tohoku.meti.go.jp/s-chusyo/densan-ver3/index.html>



The Kanto Region

Tokyo, the capital of Japan, is located in this region. Many ports are located along the coast of the Tokyo Bay, and Tokyo Narita International Airport is located in Chiba, so there are a lot of factories in this area. **In particular**, the Keihin Manufacturing Zone (京浜工業地帯), which is centered in Tokyo and Yokohama, has thriving machine manufacturing and heavy industries and chemicals. Tokyo and Yokohama, the industries of machine manufacturing, heavy industries and chemicals are thriving.

In the center of Tokyo-to, there are many factories associated with printing and publishing. In Tokai-mura in Ibaraki-ken, where agriculture and fishing used to be the main industries, nuclear power plants have been built and manufacturing is thriving.

The Chubu Region

The Chukyo Manufacturing Zone (中京工業地帯), which stretches from southern Aichi-ken and Gifu-ken to the coast of Ise Bay, has a thriving machine manufacturing industry. There is a particularly big automobile manufacturing plant in Toyota-shi, Aichi-ken (Toyota). Some petrochemical factories in Yokkaichi-shi in Mie-ken are also very big. In the area close to the **petrochemical** factories in Yokkaichi-shi, a disease caused by pollution spread due to the smoke from the factories (Yokkaichi zensoku< 四日市ぜんそく >).

Traditional industries thrive here, particularly silk fabrics (絹織物), woolen fabrics (毛織物) and ceramic (陶磁器).

In Niigata-ken, Toyama-ken and Ishikawa-ken, which are located along the Japan Sea, agriculture is thriving. **However**, in winter, due to heavy snow, indoor manufacturing handcrafts have been developed. In Wajima-shi, Ishikawa-ken, lacquer ware (漆器) is produced. In Ishikawa-ken and Fukui-ken, silk fabrics (絹織物) are produced. In Ojiya-shi Niigata-ken, fabrics (織物) are produced.

Around Wakasa Bay in Fukui-ken, **there** are nuclear power plants.

The Kinki Region

The Hanshin Manufacturing Zone (阪神工業地帯), which covers the coastal Osaka bay and Kobe, is the third largest in Japan, in value of goods shipped. Electric machine manufacturing industry (Takatsuki-shi, Ibaraki-shi and Kadoma-shi in Osaka-fu) fabric

production (Izumioostu-shi and Kishiwada-shi in Osaka-fu) and heavy industries Region (Kobe-shi) are thriving.

However, since the water used in the manufacturing zone is taken from Biwa-ko and underground in Osaka, the water level of Biwa-ko is falling and another problem is land subsidence.

There is an industrial zone stretching from southern of Osaka to Wakayama-ken that includes Kansai International Airport, which was built in Osaka Bay. To the west of Kobe lies the Harima Manufacturing Zone .In particular, the steel industry in Himeji and the shipbuilding industry in Aioi have developed.

In Kyoto, the old capital city of Japan, the famous traditional industries of Nishijinori(西陣織), kiyomizuyaki (清水焼) and yuzenzome (友禅染) are established.

The Chugoku and Shikoku

Around the Inland Sea, which is located between the Chugoku and Shikoku regions, there is good transportation and there are many factories. This area is called the Setouchi Manufacturing Zone (瀬戸内工業地域). In this manufacturing zone, fabric manufacturing (Mihara-shi in Hiroshima-ken, Okayama-shi and Kurashiki-shi in Okayama-ken) and shipbuilding (Kure-shi and Innoshima-shi in Hiroshima-ken), and also, the petrochemicals industry (Mizushima-chiku of Kurashiki-shi in Okayama-ken, Ootake-shi in Hiroshima-ken, Iwakuni-shi and Syunan-shi in Yamaguchi-ken, Niihama-shi in Ehime-ken) and the steel industry (Fukuyama-shi in Hiroshima-ken, Kurashiki-shi in Okayama-ken) are thriving.

However, in the sea neighboring the areas where petrochemical industries are thriving, factory waste-water has polluted the sea and many red tides have occurred. This has become a problem.

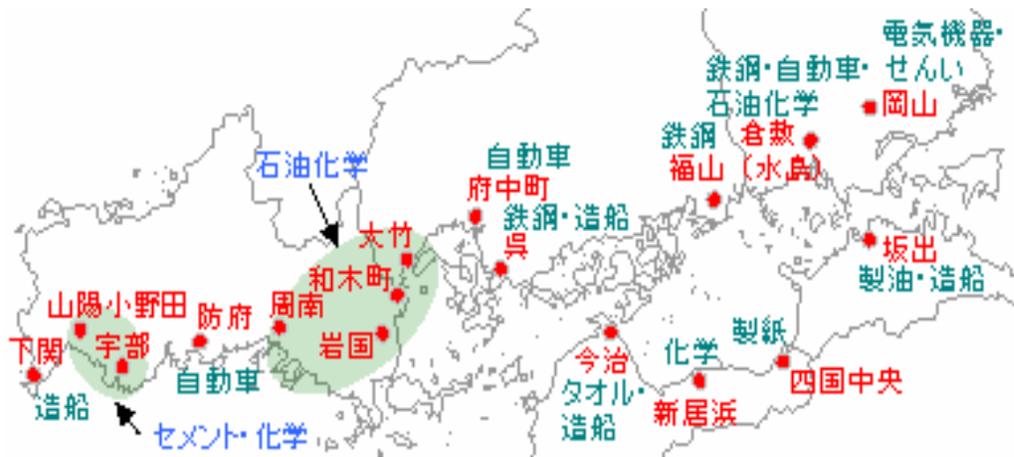
In Hiroshima-shi, there is a big automobile manufacturing plant (Mastuda), where many cars are produced.

For your information: There are famous bridges and roads connecting Honshu and Shikoku.

The Seto-Ohashi (瀬戸大橋): Completed in 1988, connects Sakaide-shi (Kagawa-ken) and The Kurashiki-shi (Okayama-ken).

The Akashi-Kaikyo-Ohashi (明石海峡大橋): Completed in 1988, connects Awaji-shi (Hyogo-ken and Tarumi-ku (Kobe-shi)

The Shimanami-Kaido (しまなみ海道): Completed in 1999, connects Onomichi-shi (Hiroshima-ken) and Imabari-shi (Ehime-ken)



中国. 四国地方の主な工業都市

The Kyusyu and Okinawa Regions

The Kyushu Manufacturing Zone(北九州工業地帯) is in and around Fukuoka-ken, which is located in the north of Kyushu. Led by Yahata Steel Works (八幡製鉄所) , this manufacturing zone once flourished ,but it is now in decline. Currently, the major industry is automobile manufacturing.

In Kumamoto-ken, Nagasaki-ken, and Oita-ken, there are many electronics factories. These factories produce IC (integrated circuit) chips that are used in computers. The factories are conveniently located near airports or highways so that production can be sent smoothly to other prefectures. As Kyushu has many factories producing IC chips from silicon, it is also known as “Silicon Island”.

In Nagasaki-ken (especially in Sasebo-shi), which faces the sea, shipbuilding is thriving.

For your information: This district’s famous traditional industry is its ceramics from Imari-shi, Arita-shi and Karatsu-shi.

In Minamata-shi, Kumamoto-ken, a disease caused by pollution (Minmata-byo)<水俣病> **once** occurred around a **chemical** fertilizer plant.

As Okinawa-ken does not have sufficient land area, neither agriculture nor manufacturing is thriving. Instead, tertiary industries, such as trading and service buisnesses, are flourishing.

6 The Population of Japan

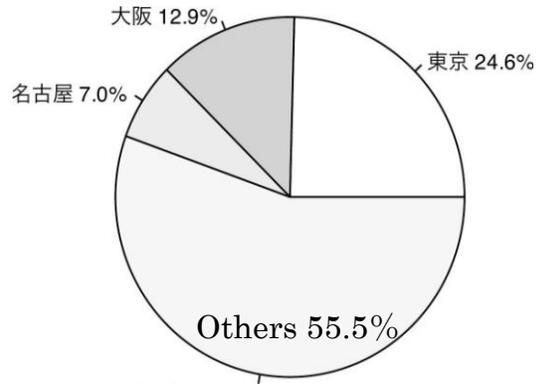


Fig. 1 The proportion of people living in big cities

Overpopulation and depopulation problems

In Japan, many people live on flat lands. This is especially true of Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya which are located in huge plain areas and they have a large population. These big cities have become overcrowded with high population densities. As a result, overpopulation causes problems such as environmental issues and traffic congestion.

On the other hand, the population in mountainous regions and islets is generally much smaller. In particular, in the mountainous regions of Tohoku and Chugoku-Shikoku districts, depopulation (reduction in the number of people living in a particular area) has become a problem.

Declining birth rate and aging population problems

Today in Japan, with a small portion of younger people (0-14 years) and a larger portion of elderly people (65 or over), the declining number of births and aging in society have become a problem. In particular, regions where young people have left for big cities such as Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya, are facing social problems related to the growth in the number of aged people.

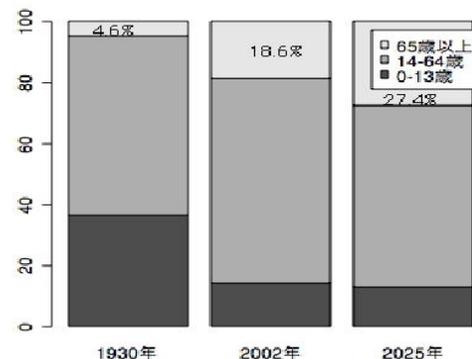


Fig.2 The change of the age structure in Japan

As this trend advances, the shrinking working population will affect Japan's economy. In addition, the growing needs of caregiving services for elderly people present another challenge.

Reference <http://www.ascom.jp/welfare/002.html>

7 Environmental problems in Japan

Four Major Diseases Caused by Pollution

After the end of World War II in Japan, especially from the 1950's through 1970's, the rapidly developing economy resulted in the occurrence of pollution-related diseases and problems in various areas. These diseases were caused by harmful substances or smoke from factories. In particular, the following four diseases, which caused serious damage to many people, are called the "Four Major Diseases Caused by Pollution":

- ① Minamata-byo: Arose in the area along Minamata Bay in Kumamoto Prefecture around 1953. It was caused by the discharge of a harmful substance, methyl mercury, into the sea. People were affected with symptoms such as being unable to move, and paralysis of the hands and feet.
- ② The Second Minamata-byo: Arose in the area along Agano River in Niigata Prefecture around 1964.
- ③ Yokkaichi Zensoku: Arose in Yokkaichi city in Mie Prefecture around 1960. It was caused by air polluted with a poisonous gas, sulfur dioxide. People who breathed in the polluted air suffered lung damage and affected with symptoms such as difficulty in breathing.
- ④ Itai-Itai-byo: Arose in areas along Zintsuu River in Toyama Prefecture. It was caused by the discharge of a harmful substance, cadmium, into the river. The river water went into rice fields and some people who ate the rice suffered weak bones or were affected with symptoms such as pains throughout their entire body.

Waste Problems

In Japan, about 140,000 tons of waste is produced per day. Most of the waste is burned. However, when the waste is burned, various harmful smokes are generated. Some can cause pollution-related diseases and some can cause acid rain, which seriously damages the environment. Large spaces to bury the waste are needed. Some waste contains harmful materials and can adversely affect the environment.

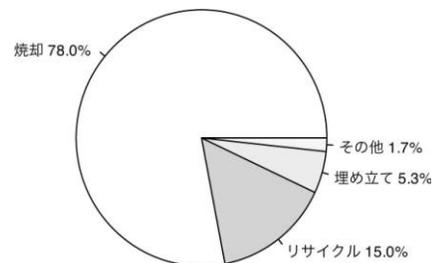


Fig.1 How to dispose of the waste

Recycling

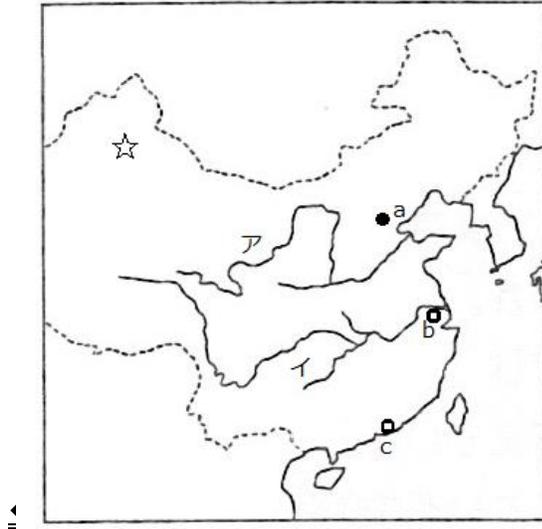
As a result, nowadays, recycling is popular in Japan. Instead of just throwing things away, waste materials are collected and processed to be used again.

For example, bottles, trays, and packages made of plastic give off harmful smoke when burned. So recycling them has become popular. In addition, milk cartons, aluminum cans, steel cans, paper, tires, and cooking oil are also recycled. Air conditioners, refrigerators, and television sets have recently been included in the list of recyclable items.

1 The People's Republic of China (China)

Geography of China

a to c indicate cities and ア and イ indicate big rivers. Let's see what the names are.



City : a Beijing
b Shanghai
c Hong Kong
River : ア Yellow River
イ Chang jiang

The People's Republic of China has the largest () in the world with some () people, which is about one fifth of the world's population. In agriculture, production of () and () are the highest in the world. In 1978, China concluded the () with Japan.

Its capital city is (). The city close to the Chang Jiang River with the largest population in the country is ().

The city which was once a colony of the British and was returned to China in 1997 is (). The longest river in the country is (), and the second one is ().

☞ Answers: population, 1.3 billion, rice, wheat, treaty of peace and friendship, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Chang Jiang, the Yellow River

◆ Past Exam ◆

What continent contains China (among the six continents) ?

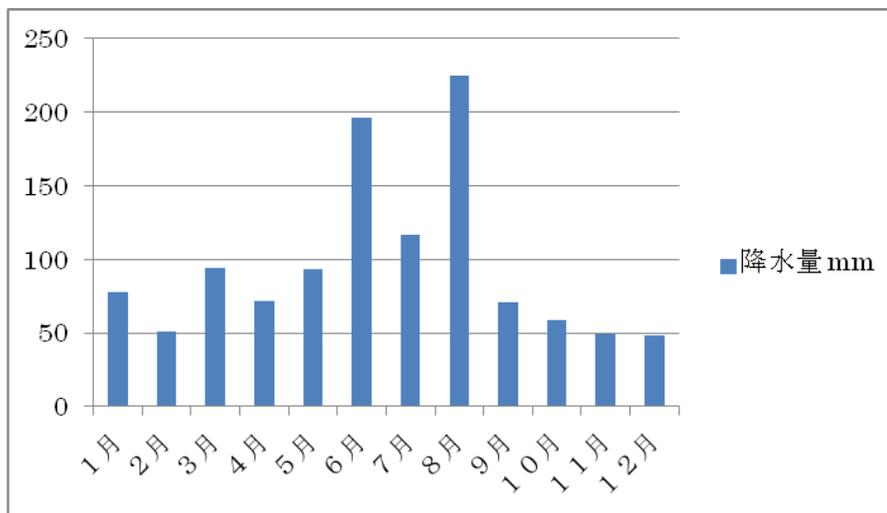
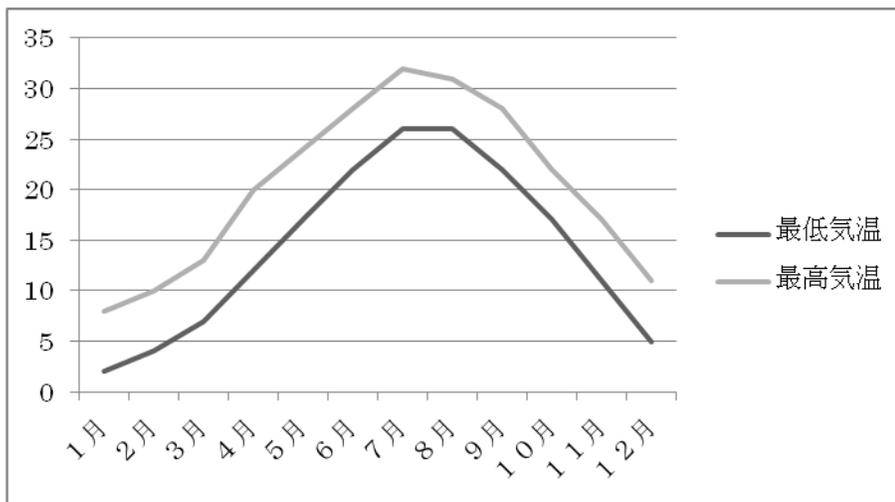
☞ Answer : Eurasia

Climate (Shanghai and Urumchi)

Since China has a huge amount of land, the temperatures and precipitation differ from region to region. Let's look at the climates of Shanghai which is located near the sea, and Urumchi, which is an inland city far from the water.

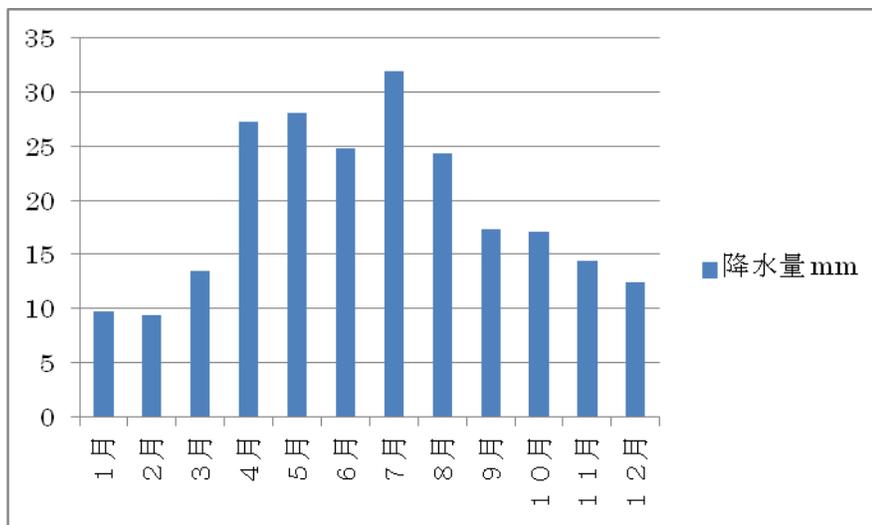
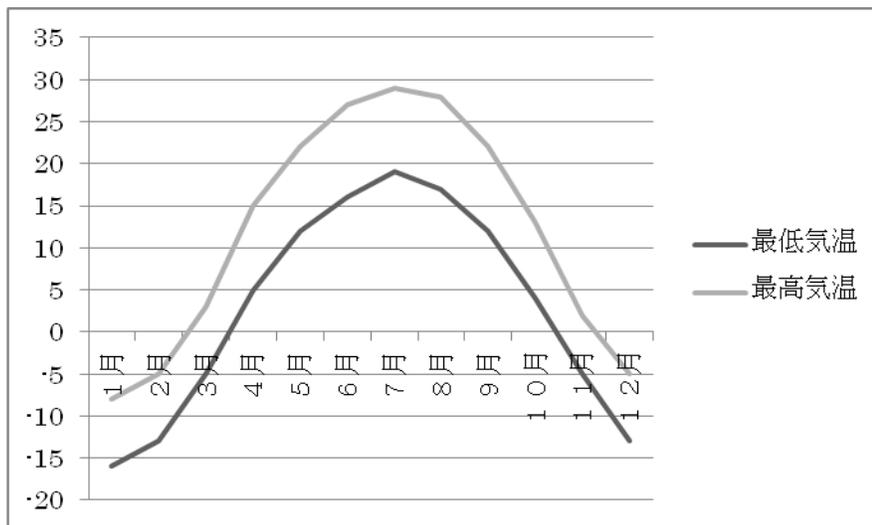
※The location of Urumchi is shown by a mark☆ on the previous page.

<Shanghai>



Shanghai is a city close to the sea. It has four seasons like Japan and its precipitation is high.

<Urumchi>



Urumchi is located far from the sea. It has a dry climate with very little rainfall throughout the year. Land-located areas like Urumchi tend to have small populations. People live a nomadic life based on keeping sheep and goats. On the other hand, cities located close to the sea, such as Shanghai, have a larger population. They attract many foreign companies and factories.

Trade Partners of Japan

Look at the table below and study the change of Japan's trading partners over 15 years.

< Change of Japan's Top Import Suppliers >

1996		2010			
1	United States	22.5%	1	China	22.2%
2	China	11.8%	2	United States	9.4%
3	Indonesia	4.4%	3	Australia	6.6%
4	South Korea	4.4%	4	Saudi Arabia	5.3%
5	Taiwan	4.1%	5	United Arab Emirates	4.3%

Trade Statistics of Japan Ministry of Finance

< Change of Japan's Top Export Destinations >

1996		2010			
1	United States	27.5%	1	China	18.9%
2	South Korea	7.1%	2	United States	16.1%
3	Taiwan	6.3%	3	South Korea	8.1%
4	Hong Kong	6.2%	4	Taiwan	6.3%
5	China	5.2%	5	Hong Kong	5.5%

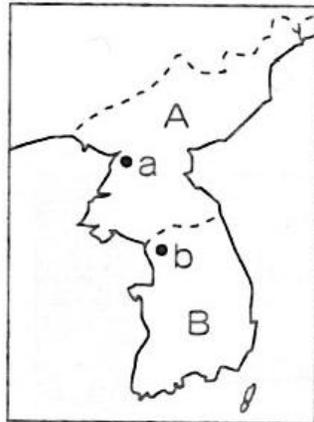
Trade Statistics of Japan Ministry of Finance

The United States of America topped the list as both the supplier of imports destination of exports for Japan 15 years ago. However, the table shows, that current largest trading partner of Japan is China. Therefore, China has become a very important country for Japan.

2 Republic of Korea (South Korea) / The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)

Geography of Korean Peninsula

A and B indicate countries, and a and b show the capitals of each country. Let's check their names.



Country :

A North Korea

B South Korea

Capital :

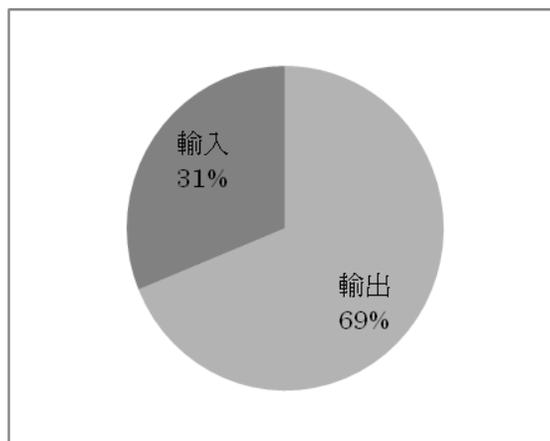
a Pyongyang

b Seoul

Trade between Japan and South Korea

Japan and the United States make up a large percentage of South Korea's trade as its partners. In terms of the total amount of money, South Korea is importing more from Japan than it exports to Japan.

→To make up a large percentage: compared to other countries, the country has a large volume of trade.

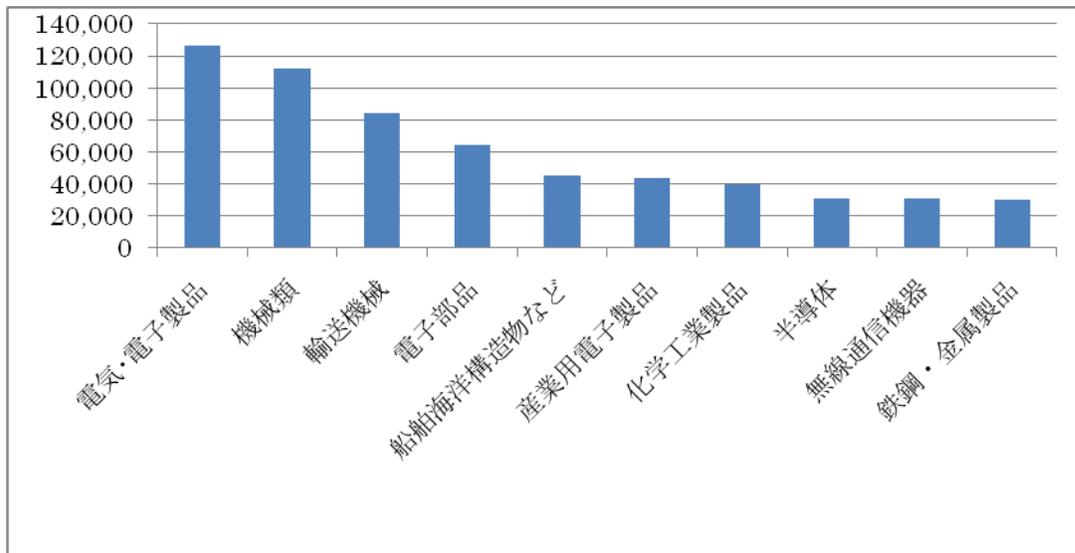


Trade Statistics of Japan Ministry of Finance (2010)

<South Korea's Export Items >

Since South Korea has few natural resources (materials taken from nature) such as forests and crude oil, it imports those resources from other countries to produce machines and exports them. The figure below shows the top ten items in exports

(Unit: US\$ million)



Japan External Trade Organization (2009)

3 Southeast Asia

Geography of Southeast Asia

A to J indicate countries, and ①~④ show the capitals of each country. Let's check their names.



- Country :
- A Philippines
 - B Vietnam
 - C Cambodia
 - D Laos
 - E Thailand
 - F Myanmar
 - G Malaysia
 - H Singapore
 - I Indonesia
 - J Brunei
- Capital :
- ① Hanoi
 - ② Bangkok
 - ③ Kuala Lumpur
 - ④ Jakarta

History of Southeast Asia

Southeast Asian countries were once colonized by other countries. In the colonial period, being defeated in wars caused Southeast Asia to be controlled by the government of victors. Thailand is the only nation in Southeast Asia that has never been colonized by others.

Current name of the colonized country	Name of the country that colonized
Philippines	The United States of America, Spain
Vietnam	France
Cambodia	France
Malaysia	Britain
Indonesia	Netherlands
Singapore	Britain
Laos	France

Southeast Asian countries

<Thailand>

Thailand is the world's largest rice exporter. The national religion of Thailand is Buddhism.

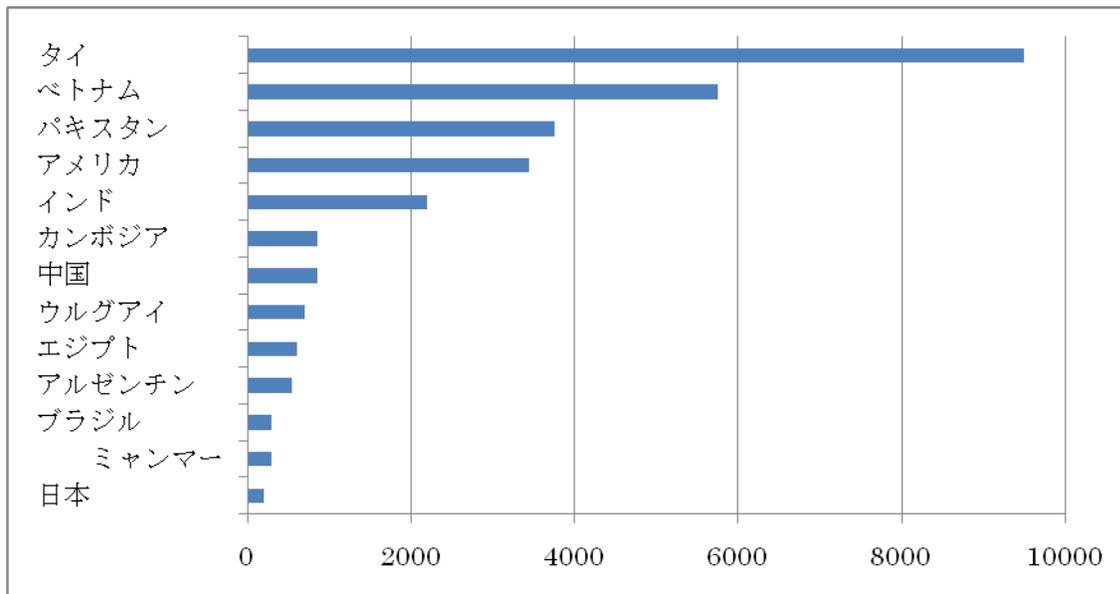
<Philippines>

The Philippines consists of some 7000 islands. Crops like bananas are grown on plantations (large farms), and a large number of bananas are exported to Japan.

<Malaysia>

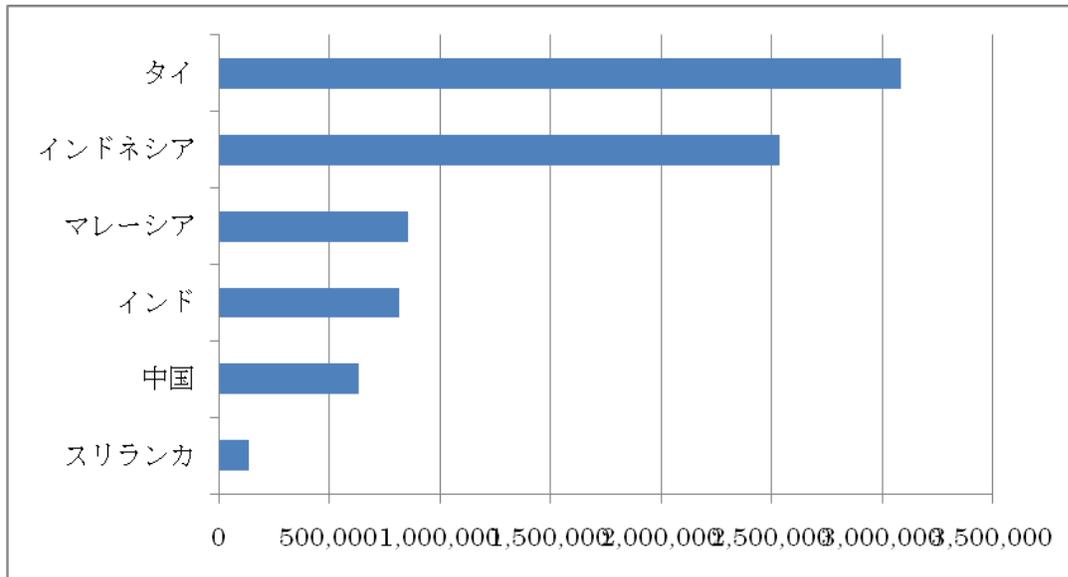
Malaysia is a major producer of natural rubber and timber. Rainforest destruction, however, is a big problem

Rice Export by Country



World Agricultural Production and Trade by USDA (2009/2010) Unit: 1000t

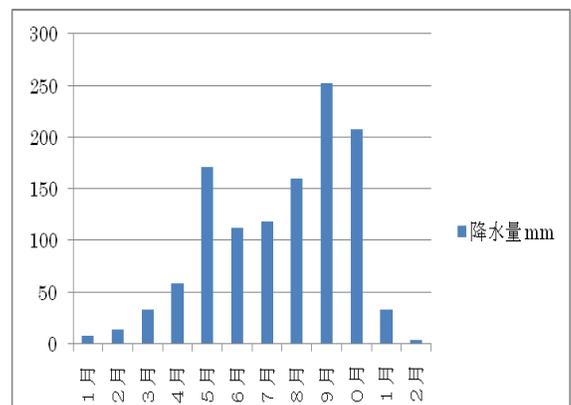
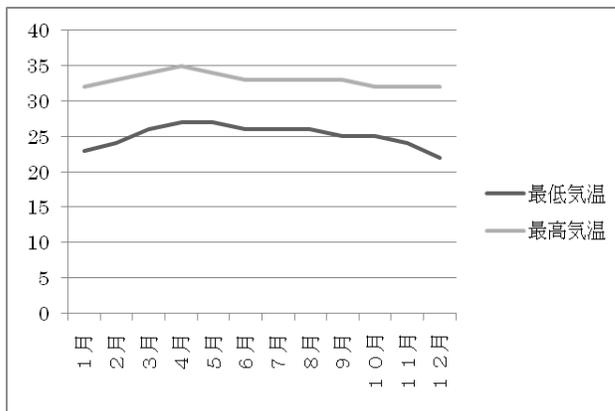
Natural Rubber Production



International Rubber Study Group(2009) Unit: t

Climate (Bangkok, Thailand)

Features: Southeast Asian countries have only two seasons : wet and dry seasons. The wet season has a lot of rain. On the other hand, the dry season sees little precipitation. The average temperatures are high throughout the year.



4 Brazil

Geography of Brazil

A to C indicate countries, a and b indicate cities, and c indicates a big river.



Country :

- A Brazil
- B Peru
- C Argentina

City :

- a Sao Paulo
- b Brasilia

River :

- c the Amazon

What is Brazil like?

The capital of Brazil is Brasilia. Brazil is the world largest coffee producer. Many Japanese have immigrated to Brazil. They are called Nikkeijin and the indigenous people are called Indio. The language used in Brazil is Portuguese.

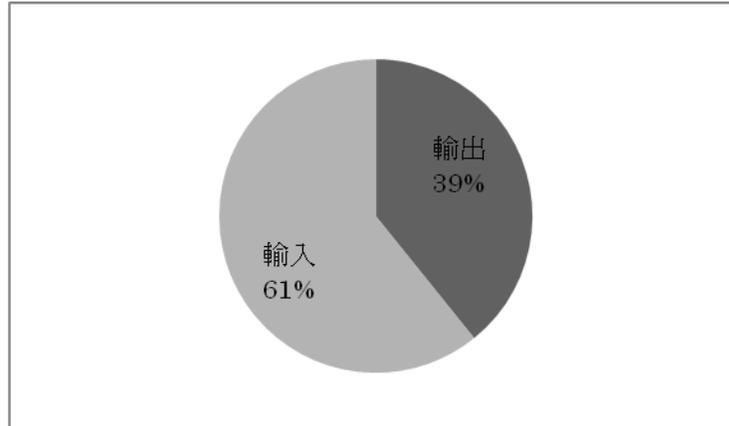
◆Past Exam◆

Which is the equator among the latitude lines of ア to エ in the Figure below?



☞ Answer : ア

Trade between Japan and Brazil

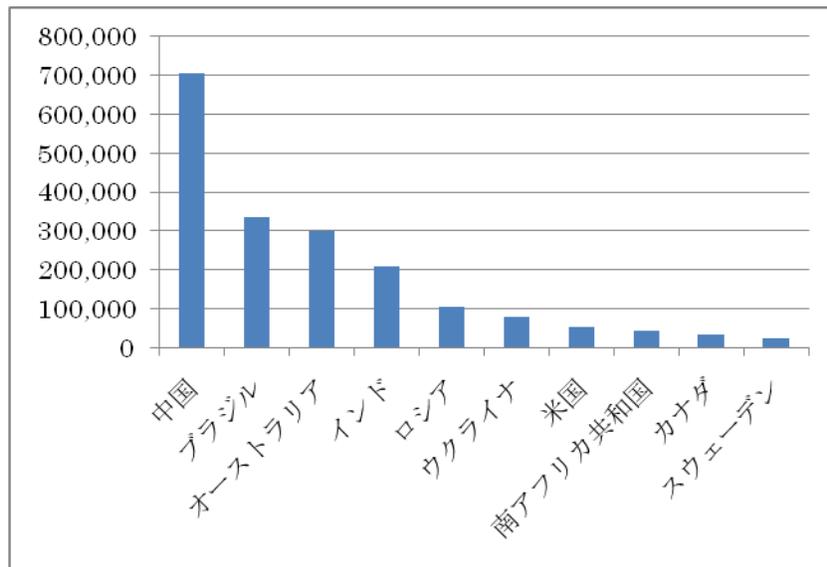


Trade Statistics of Japan Ministry of Finance (2010)

One feature of the trade between Japan and Brazil is that Japan imports a large amount of iron ore from Brazil.

World's Amount of Iron Ore Production

Iron ore is the raw material which makes steel.



By World Steel Association (2007) Unit : 1000 t

5 United States of America (U.S.A.=^{がっしゅうこく}[アメリカ合衆国])

Nature and Largest City



The Rocky Mountains

The Rocky Mountains

The Rocky Mountains (=ロッキーマウンテン^{さんみやく}) run north-south from Canada to the United States of America, forming part of the Circum-Pacific orogenic belt (=環太平洋造山帯^{かんたいへいようぞうざんたい}).



The Mississippi

The Mississippi River

The Mississippi (ミシシッピ^{がわ}川) is the longest river in the United States. It flows from north through the Central Plain (=中央平原^{ちゅうおうへいげん}) down to south, discharging into the Gulf of Mexico (=メキシコ湾^{わん}).



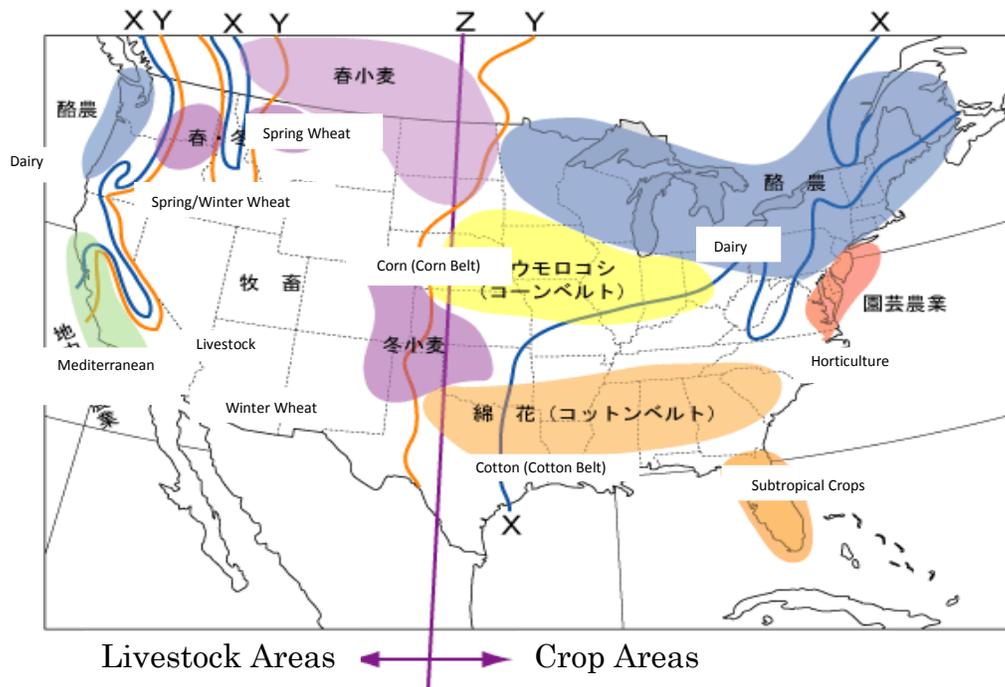
New York

New York

New York is the largest city in the United States, and is deemed one of the centers of the world economy.

Also, the United Nations headquarters (=国際連合^{こくさいれんごう}の本^{ほん}部) is located in the city.

(Sources: adapted from Wikipedia - Creative Commons, GNU)



X: Annual rainfall (=年間降水量) of 1,000 mm

Y: Annual rainfall of 500 mm

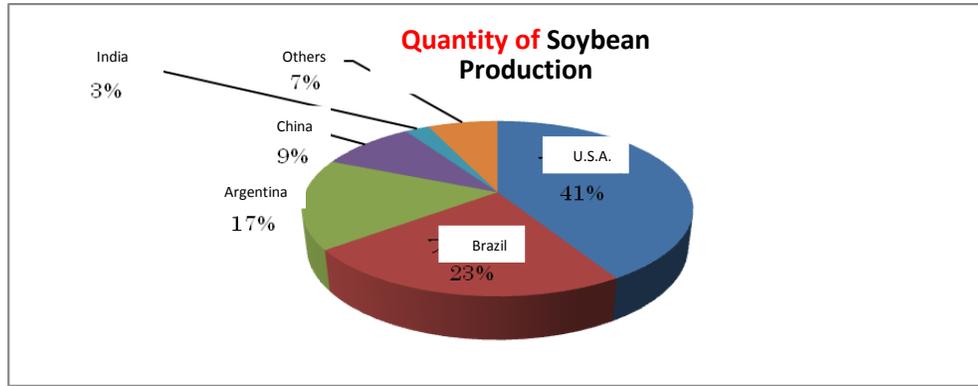
Z: Boundary (=境界) between crop and livestock areas (畑作と牧畜地帯)

Agriculture

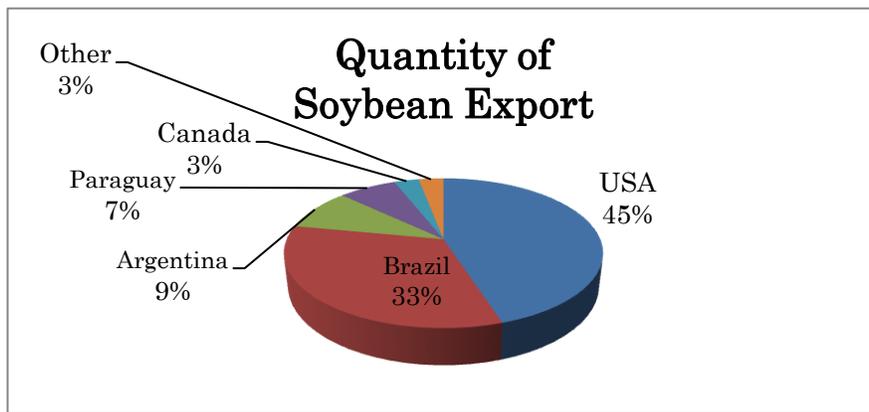
The features of agriculture (=農業) are that farmers grow crops best suited to the climates of different regions (“right crop for right land” [=適地適作]), and that they operate “large-scale corporate farming” (=大規模な企業的農業), using vast areas of land and large machinery, for the production of particular crops such as soybeans and corn.

Soybeans

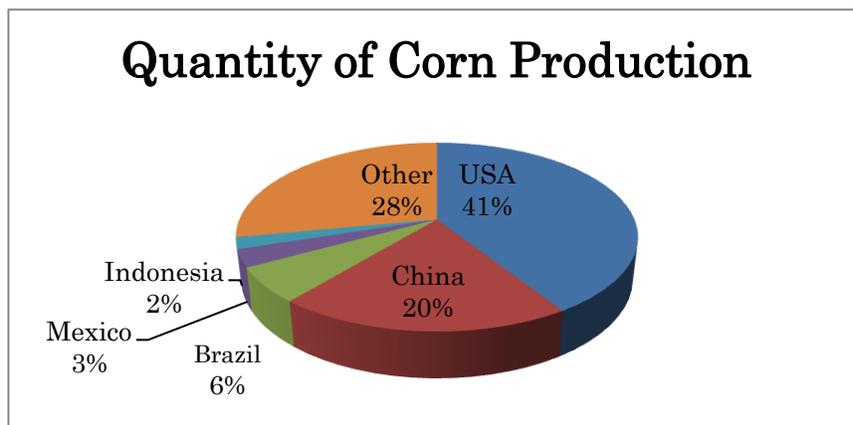
The United States produces and exports the largest quantity of soybeans (=大豆) in the world. “Produce” (=生産する) means “to make (=作る) or manufacture something,” and “export” (=輸出する) means “to send something made in one’s own country, to another country.”



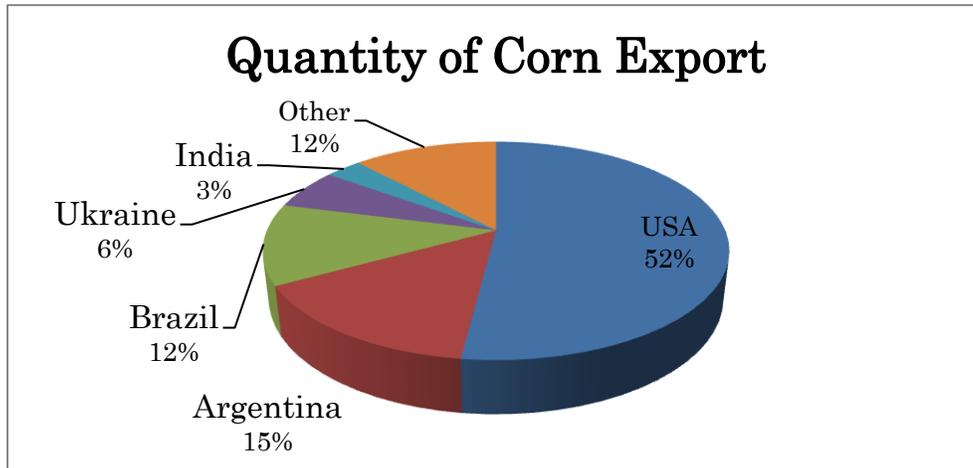
Global Share of U.S. Soybean Production (World Statistics 2009 [=世界の統計], Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication Statistics Bureau [=総務省統計局])



Global Share of U.S. Soybean Export (World Markets and Trade 2010/2011, USDA United States Department of Agriculture [=アメリカ農務省])



Global Share of U.S. Corn Production (World Statistics 2009, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication Statistics Bureau)

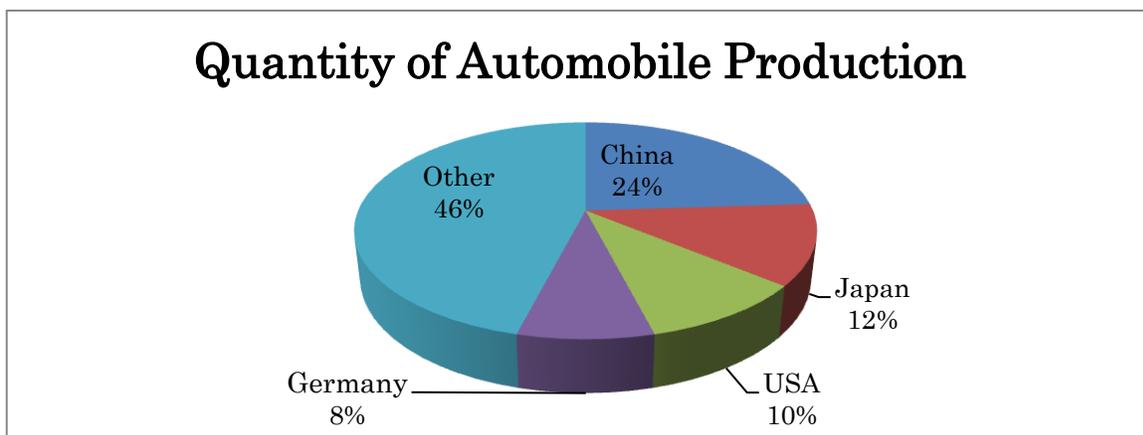


Global Share of U.S. Soybean Export

(World Trade 2008/09, USDA World Agricultural Production [=世界の農業生産])

Industry

U.S. industry (=工業) first developed around the Great Lakes (=五大湖) because of mines (=鉱山), coals (=石炭) and iron ores (=鉄鉱石), availability of abundant industrial water (工業用水), and convenient location and accessibility (=交通の便).

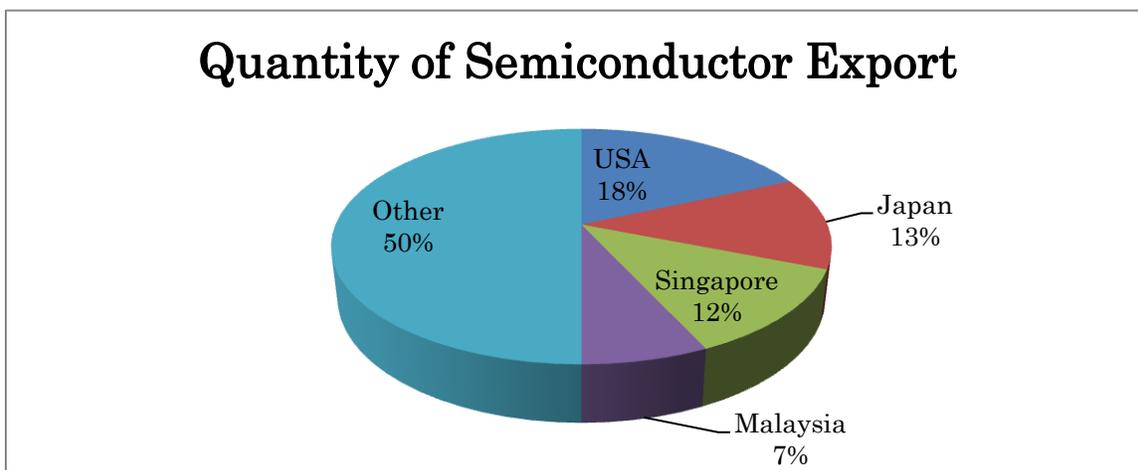
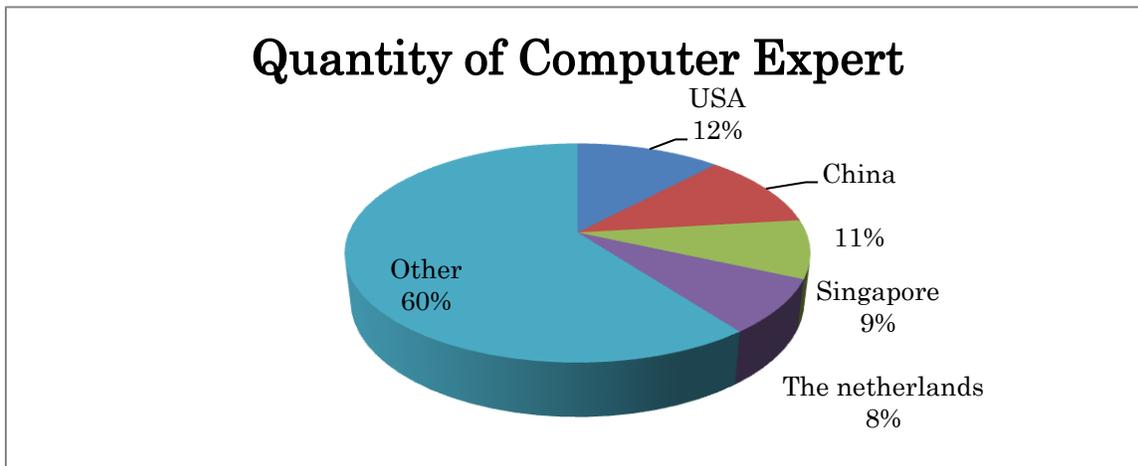


Global Share of U.S. Automobile Production

(JAMA Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (=日本自動車工業会) 2010)

Detroit (=デトロイト) as an industrial city (=工業都市) was once the first in the world to start automobile mass production (=大量生産) and used to be the top automobile industrial

city (=自動車工業都市) in the world. But it is now facing big problems, particularly because the recent increase in Japan and China's automobile production caused bankruptcies (=倒産) of related companies and a resulting rise in the unemployed (=失業者).



Global Share of U.S. Computer and Semiconductor Export (世界国勢図会2005/06)

Currently, the United States industrial center has moved to the West Coast (=西海岸) that includes such big cities (=大都市) such as Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Computer-related factories are concentrated in the suburbs (=近郊) of San Francisco. This area is referred to as Silicon Valley (=シリコンバレー). They manufacture electronic

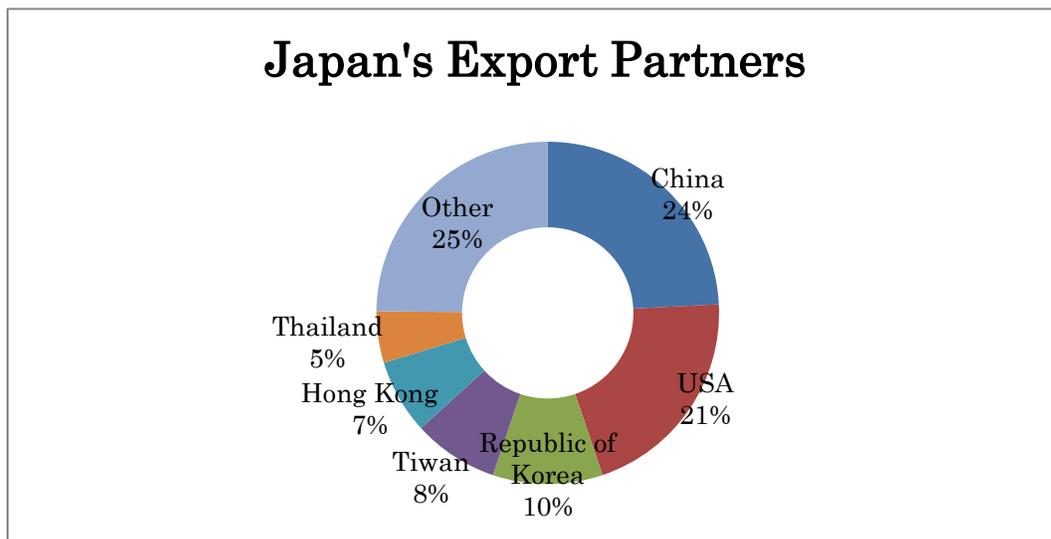
components (=電子部品) such as semiconductors (=半導体) used in computers and television sets. The United States is the world's top exporter of computers and semiconductors, and Japan is competing with the United States in the export market for semiconductors.

Japan and U.S.A.

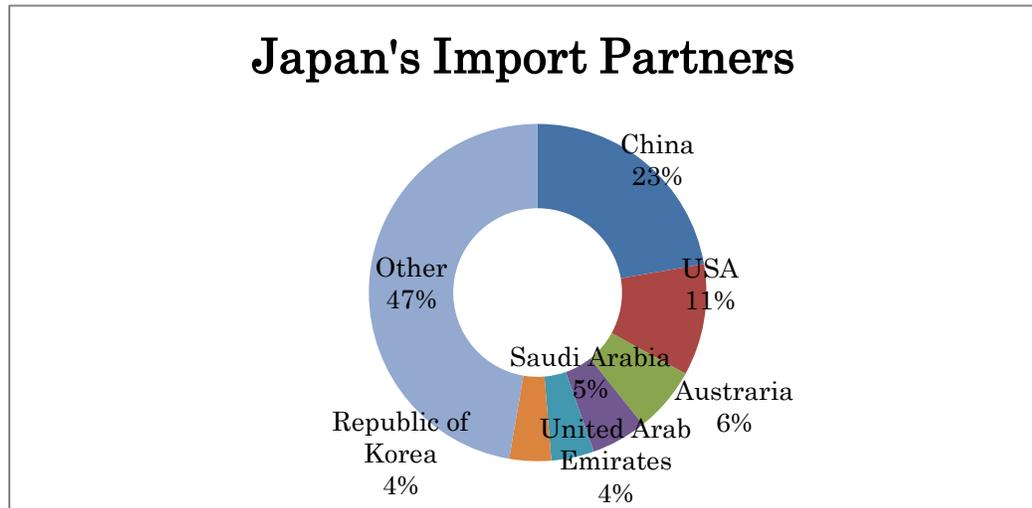
Since the conclusion of the commercial treaty (=通商条約[1858]) at the end of the Edo Era (=江戸時代), with the exception of the war periods (1939-1945), the trade relationship (=貿易関係) between Japan and the United States has been maintained.

Japan's Export and Import

Japan exports a lot of agricultural and industrial products (=農作物や工業製品) to the United States, and also imports a lot from the United States. The United States, formerly Japan's largest trade partner (=貿易相手国), is now the second largest following China.



Japan's Import Partners

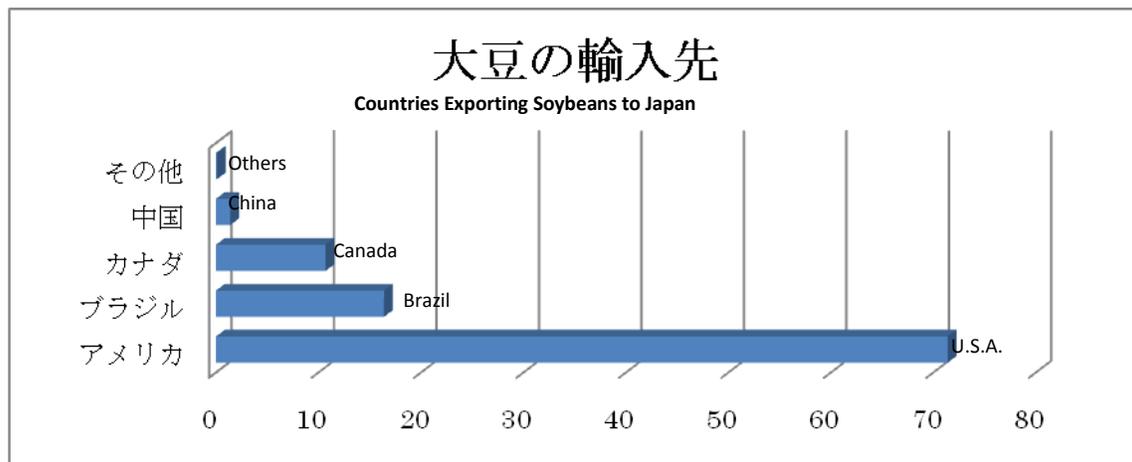


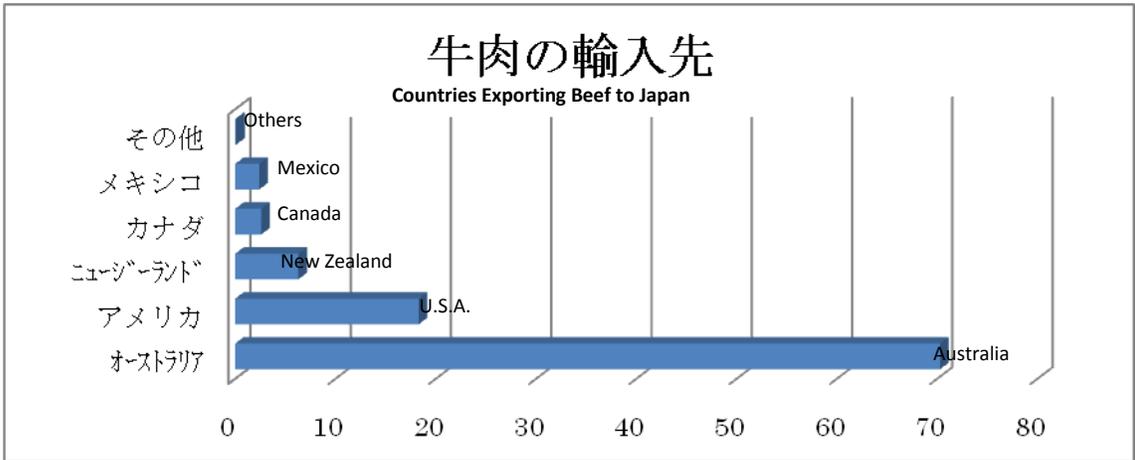
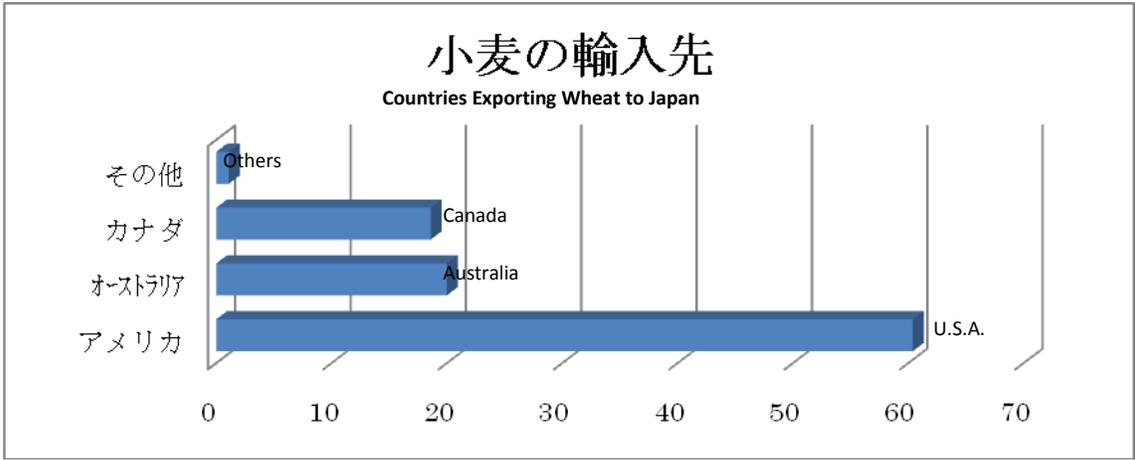
Japan's Export and Import Partners

(Trade Statistics of Japan [=貿易統計] 2009, Ministry of Finance [=財務省])

Japan's Import of Soybeans, Wheat, and Beef

Japan is the biggest importer of soybeans and wheat from the United States.





Japan's Import of Soybeans, Wheat and Beef
 (White Paper on International Economy and Trade [=通商白書] 2010)

6 EU (European Union) [=ヨーロッパ^{れんごう}連合] Nations

Nature and Cities

Europe has a temperate climate (=温帯^{おんたい}の気候^{きこう}), and the livable environment (=住みやすい^{かんきょう}環境) has contributed to the historical development of large cities such as Rome, Paris and London.

The climate of Europe varies greatly, depending on location, particularly to the north and south of the Alps.

Alps [=アルプス^{さんみやく}山脈]

The Alps are located in the south-central region (=中南部^{ちゅうなんぶ}) of Europe, and forms part of the Alps-Himalayan orogenic belts (=アルプス・ヒマラヤ^{ぞうさんたい}造山帯). Long ranges of high and rugged mountains stretch over countries such as Switzerland and Austria.



The Alps

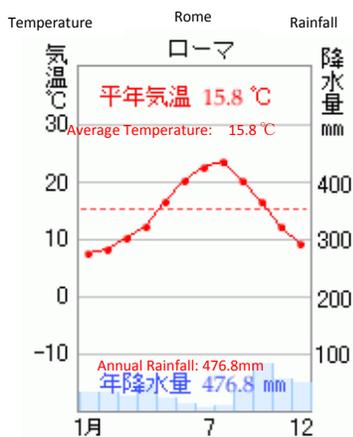


The Monc Blanc with the highest peak

(=最高峰^{さいこうほう}: 4,810m ASL) in the Alps

(Source: adapted from Wikipedia Public Domain, Free Art License)

Mediterranean Climate (=地中海性気候)



The Mediterranean climate is the climate typical of the regions facing the Mediterranean Sea, including those of Italy, the south of France, and Spain located to the south of the Alps.

This climate features mild temperatures (=気温) all year round, a dry climate with low precipitation (=降水量) in summer, and slightly higher precipitation in winter.

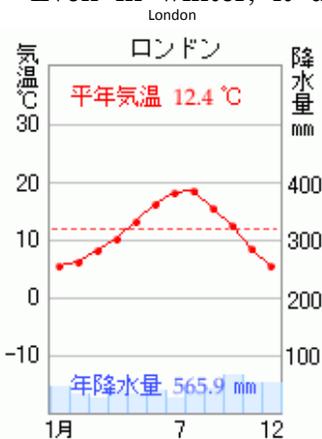
Temperature and Precipitation of Rome, Italy's Capital City (=首都) (Left=[左図])

<http://nocs.myvnc.com/study/uonzu.htm>

(Graph created using the MSN weather data)

Marine West Coast Climate (=西岸海洋性気候)

Even in winter, it does not get so cold at the location at higher latitudes (=緯度).



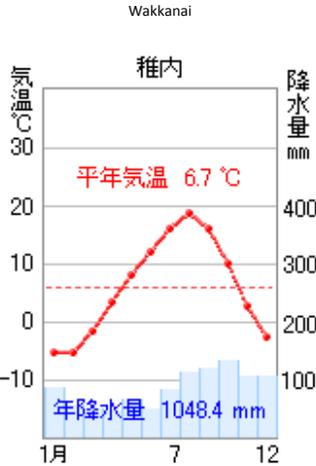
Precipitation changes are stable all year round, Typical examples places with a marine west coast climate include the United Kingdom and the northwest region of France, located on and to the north of the Alps, and the northern and southern regions of Europe close to the Atlantic Ocean (=大西洋).

Temperature and Precipitation of London, England's Capital City (=首都) (Left=[左図])

(Graph created using the MSN weather data)

Causes (=原因) for Warm Climate (=温暖な気候)

Although, by looking at the map, Paris, France and London, England are located at higher latitudes (=緯度) than Hokkaido (=北海道), it is not so cold there as one thinks.



The left graph shows the temperature and precipitation (meaning amount of rain and snow that falls) of the northernmost city of Wakkanai (=稚内), Hokkaido, and indicates that it is colder in Hokkaido. Two reasons explain this:

(1) The North Atlantic Current (=北大西洋海流 [Warm Current (=暖流)]) flows.

The North Atlantic Current flows in the Atlantic Ocean to the south of the European Continent (=ヨーロッパ大陸). The current is the warm ocean stream (warm current [=暖流]) that flows from the Mexican Gulf (=メキシコ湾) off American Continent (=アメリカ大陸) near the equator (=赤道), towards Europe. The arrows on the map below indicate how the current flows.



The North Atlantic Current

(Source: adapted from Wikipedia Creative Commons, GNU)

(2) The Westerlies (=偏西風) blow.

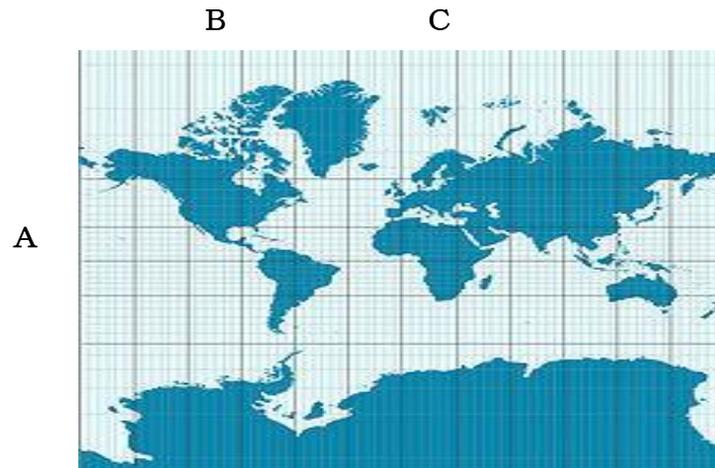
Also, in Europe, there are winds that bring warm air from west, blowing above the warm North Atlantic Current, to the northern and western parts of Europe. The winds are called Westerlies.

Above the sea where the warm North Atlantic Current flows, the air is warmed, and then, the warmed air is brought to Europe by the Westerlies. This way, it is not so cold even in winter for locations at high latitudes.

Terminologies

Latitude Line (=緯線) and Meridian (=經線)

“A” (horizontal line) on the map below is referred to as “latitude line,” and “B” (vertical line) as “meridian.”



Greenwich Mean Time (=世界標準時) [Coordinated Universal Time =協定世界時]

A line of 0 degrees longitude (see the map above) runs through England’s capital city of London. The line of 0 degrees latitude is referred to as the “Prime Meridian” (=本初子午線). The lines drawn to the east of the Prime Meridian are referred to as “east longitude” (=東經) and those in the west as “west longitude” (=西經), allowing degrees of longitude to be counted using either of these terms.

Each country of the world determines its own standard time with reference to the clock of the Royal Greenwich Observatory in London. Japan uses the 134 degrees east longitude as the standard meridian for all of Japan.



The Royal Greenwich Observatory in London

where the Prime Meridian passes through

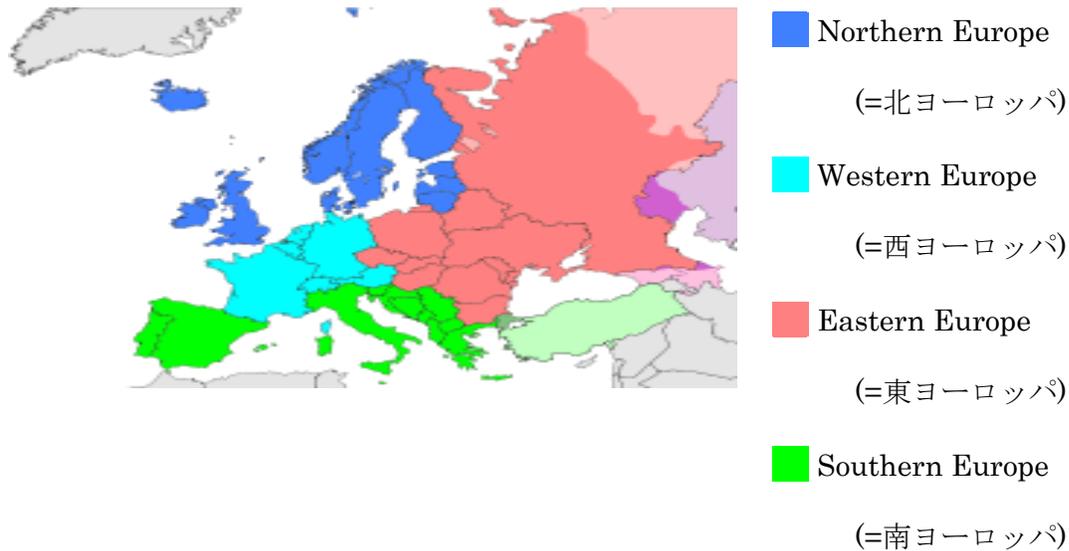
(Source: adapted from Wikipedia Creative Commons, GNU)

Agriculture (=農業^{のうぎょう})

Mixed Farming (=混合農業^{こんごうのうぎょう})

Mixed farming is the combination of crop cultivation and livestock farming. Cultivation (=栽培^{さいばい}) means to raise plants (=植物^{しよくぶつ}), and farming (=飼育^{といく}) means to raise animals (=動物^{どうぶつ}).

Mixed farming is the practice prevailing in the northern and middle areas of Europe.



Europe (Source: adapted from Wikipedia Creative Commons)

Mediterranean Agriculture (=地中海式農業^{ちちゅうかいしきのうぎょう})

This is the type of agriculture conducted in the regions of Mediterranean climate, including Italy, Spain, and the south of France.

In the Mediterranean region (=地中海沿岸^{ちちゅうかいえんがん}), dry weather in summer helps facilitate the production of a lot of dryness-resistant crops such as olives (=オリーブ) and grapes (=ぶどう).



Mediterranean Region



Fruit-Bearing Olive Tree

(Source: adapted from Wikipedia Public Domain, Creative Commons, GNU)

E.U. Today

Member States (=加盟国) of the European Nations

The E.U. (European Union), translated into Japanese as “ヨーロッパ^{れんごう}連合,” consists of 27 European nations, including Germany, France, England, and Italy, who have entered into the agreement to become one by transcending national borders, forming a partnership (= 協力関係) with each other and sharing the same goal.

EURO (=ユーロ)



They stopped using currencies (=通貨) such as the Mark (Germany) and the Franc (France), that had circulated only in their own countries, and created a common E.U. currency called the EURO.

Even when you go beyond your national border, you can use the same currency, so you won't have any hesitation to go out shopping or working in any other E.U. member countries.

※Some of the member nations such as England still use their own currencies.

EU Member Nations (Cited from the website of the ministry of Foreign Affairs (=外務省^{がいむしょう}))

Eurotunnel (=ユーロトンネル)

This is the tunnel built under the seabed (=海底^{かいてい}) of the Strait of Dover (=ドーバー海峡^{かいきょう}) lying between England and France. The railroad (=鉄道^{てつどう}) operation through the tunnel has contributed to the promotion of back-and-forth flow of traffic between the island country (=島国^{しまくに}) England and Continental Europe (=ヨーロッパ大陸^{たいりく}).

Main E.U. Nations and Their Features

1 France

France is a prosperous country with the most thriving agriculture in the European Union. It produces a lot of wheat and grapes used for bread and wine respectively.

2 Germany

Germany is a prosperous country with the most thriving industries in the European Union. The Ruhr Industrial Region (=ルール工業地帯^{こうぎょうちたい}) dominates the industries in the European Union.

The Ruhr (=ルール地方^{ちほう}), with its industrial region, is rich in coal (=石炭^{せきたん}) and has the Rhine River (=ライン川^{がわ}) flowing across the country down to the Atlantic Ocean.



The Rhine (from mpedia's Website)

The convenient location and use of the Rhine River, enabling Germany to transport needed resources (=資源^{しげん}) and manufactured products (=製品^{せいひん}) by boat and export them

abroad, have encouraged the development of steel, machinery and chemical industries since early times.

This is the largest industrial region in the European Union, and accepts many foreign workers (=労働者).

3 United Kingdom

The UK has been a world-leading industrial country since the Industrial Revolution (=産業革命) that took place in the 18th century, while the country held vast colonies in Asia and Africa.

Since World War II (=第2次世界大戦後), however, many colonies (=植民地) have gained their independence (=独立) from the UK, and the UK has experienced a decline in the power and influence that were symbolized in the phrase, "the Empire on which the sun never sets" (=「太陽の沈まぬ国」). The UK is now intensifying its cooperation with E.U. nations such as France and Germany.

The UK exports the oil (petroleum=石油) produced in the North Sea, located between England and Scandinavian Peninsula.

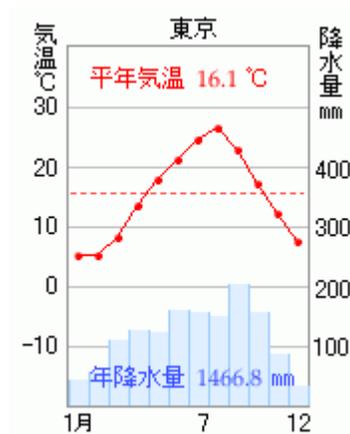
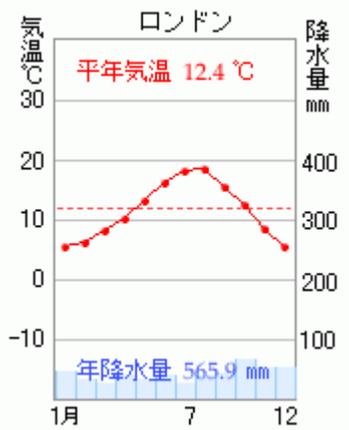


North Sea Oil Field (=北海油田)

(mpedia's Website)

【Questions from Past Test Papers (=過去問)】

- (1) The following graphs show the temperature and precipitation of London and Tokyo.
Put the correct words in the boxes below based on the graphs.



<http://nocs.myvnc.com/study/uonzu.htm> (Created using the MSN weather data)

London and Tokyo are both located in the ① climate zone (=気候帯). But, looking at the difference in the seasonal precipitation, Tokyo has ② precipitation than London in summer and winter.

Answer : ① 温帯 ② 大きい