Japan is an island country in East Asia, comprising of 6,852 islands extending along the Pacific coast of Asia. The five main islands are Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu, and Okinawa. Tokyo is Japan's capital and largest city. At 378,000 square miles, Japan is smaller than the state of California. Mt. Fuji is Japan's highest point at 12,389 feet.

Japan is prone to earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and approximately 67% uninhabitable due to a mountainous terrain. Habitable zones are mostly in coastal areas, so this has caused Japan to be one of the most densely populated countries. Japan experiences all four seasons and although mostly temperate, climate varies from north to south due to the range of latitudes Japan covers.

The history of Japan spans 100,000 years from its earliest inhabitants to the great nation it is today. Major periods in Japan’s history brought pottery, rice, Shinto, Buddhism, shogun, samurai, ninjas, and isolation from the world, Asian expansion, defeat, and rebirth. One of the most war-like of nations in the early 20th century, Japan today often serves as a voice of pacifism and restraint on the international stage.