



Name _____

Scavenger Hunt—Japan (Key)

Geography

Japan is located on the continent of Asia.

Over 6800 islands make up the country of Japan.

Tokyo is the capital of Japan.

Coin Section

The first coins used in Japan came from China. That's because the Chinese Emperor in about 221 B.C. was the first to decide to make all coins the same size and shape so they were easier to use. They were round like donuts, but flat and the holes were square.

Obans and kobans are both oblong gold coins minted in Japan in the 1500s.

Obans were used as gifts or rewards. Kobans were used to buy things.

Holes in the middle of coins make coins harder to counterfeit, save metal, and make it easier to tell different denominations apart.

The chrysanthemum is on the 50-yen coin. It represents the Emperor of Japan and his family.

The Seto Bridge is the longest double-deck bridge in the world.

History

Samurai were soldiers loyal to Japanese warlords. In the 19th century Samurai helped restore the Japanese Emperor to power.

At the beginning of the Meiji period, Japan began trading with the rest of the world and opened its first mint.

Arts

Lacquer ware are wood items like furniture and boxes that have a thick, clear, shiny coating.

School

In English, letters make up words. In Japanese, some of its characters stand for sounds, but other characters stand for things--more like pictures or symbols.

Holidays

Each of the following is correct:

- 1) Respect for the Aged Day;
- 2) The Emperor's Birthday;
- 3) Hinamatsuri, the Doll Festival, is also known as Girls' Day and is celebrated on March 3. Girls display traditionally-dressed dolls and eat special pastel-colored rice cakes with their families, who pray for their health and happiness.
- 4) Children's Day, celebrated on May 5, is also known as the Boys' Festival. To drive away bad spirits, families fly fish-shaped kites from their balconies and flagpoles. The boys display samurai dolls with their weapons and eat special rice cakes and dumplings.

Famous Features

Japan's flag is a large red circle on a field of white.

The circle represents the sun.

Landmarks

In 1912, Japan gave cherry trees to the United States.

The bullet train travels up to 186 miles per hour.

Character Section

Peter is singing karaoke.

The image of the cherry blossom is on the 100-yen coin.

Flip likes Japan because raw fish is a popular dish there.

Growing and eating rice is a central part of Japanese life.

Nero attends a tea ceremony.

Commemorative coins are usually given as gifts.

Plinky is visiting Mt. Fuji.

Bill is participating in sumo wrestling.

A "gyoji" is a referee.

Goldie is reading a magna, or comic book.

In 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry opened trade with Japan.

Inspector Collector is in a coin museum.

Tokyo's National Currency Museum has over 160,000 currency items, mostly from Japan and other Asian countries.

www.usmint.gov/kids
Learning you can count on!