

Japan

Sports

Japan has many traditional sports, like sumo wrestling and martial arts and Japan also has modern sports like baseball and football.



Sumo wrestling is Japan's national sport but lots of people enjoy martial arts including judo, karate and modern kendo.

Other popular sports include figure skating, rugby union, golf and racing, especially car racing.

Japan has hosted lots of international competitions including The Summer and Winter Olympics, the FIFA World Cup (2002) and the Rugby World Cup (2019).

Transport

In Japan lots of people travel by train. They have bullet trains called The Shinkansen, which run all across Japan. The fastest train reaches a maximum speed of 320 km/h.



School

Like us, Japanese school children wear a uniform and they get school lunches, which they eat in their classrooms.

They study lots of different subjects including Japanese, English, Maths, Science, Music, Crafts, PE, Home Economics (to learn cooking and sewing skills) and Computing. Students also learn traditional Japanese arts like shodo



(calligraphy), which involves dipping a brush in ink and using it to

write Japanese symbols (kanji and kana) in an artistic style.



Clothing

Almost everyone knows about the traditional Japanese clothing item, the kimono. It's a long garment worn by men, women and children for different occasions.

Festivals

A special holiday in Japan is the Cherry Blossom viewing (Hanami) from the months of February to April each year. Trees are planted across parks and people enjoy tea ceremonies and picnics under the trees to celebrate the end of winter and beginning of spring.

Between July and August people also celebrate Star Festival where they write different types of wishes on small pieces of paper and hang them on bamboo.

Seven-five-three is a festival for children to celebrate them growing up. Children wear special kimonos and they visit shrines in the city. They get given a long red and white candy as a symbol of good health and a long life.

Japan does celebrate Christmas but there is no turkey and no going to Church. People give each other presents and celebrate with a special dinner.

Japanese Food

In Japan they eat lots of sushi and other types of raw fish. Rice and noodles a very popular ingredients in Japanese cooking. Japanese people also love eating soups with their dinners. Tea is a special drink in Japan and there are even tea ceremonies, which can last for a few days.

Questions

What is the high-speed train in Japan called?

What is Japan's national sport?

What other sports are popular in Japan?

What is the main item of traditional clothing in Japan?

Describe one of the Japanese festivals. What happens?

Why might tourists want to go to Japan?

What does 'shodo' mean?

What foods do they eat in Japan?

Can you think of any other questions to ask?