Social Studies 6 Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ancient Japan Unit Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Geography of Ancient Japan**

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Japan, located off the East coast of Asia, is an archipelago nation **comprised** of four main islands and over 3,500 smaller islands. Japan stretches over 2,360 miles from north to south, so the people enjoy climatic variety. If it were to be **superimposed** on the eastern United States, Japan would stretch from central Maine to Florida. In **contrast**, its width from east to west is barely 200 miles, about the same distance from Raleigh to the Outer Banks and Atlantic Ocean.

Its proximity, or nearness, to China has caused cultural diffusion between these nations to occur frequently₅.

**Landforms and Climate**

Japan’s four main islands include ***Hokkaido***, the northernmost island and ***Kyushu***, the southernmost. In between are the largest (***Honshu***) and the smallest (***Shikoku***) islands. On the main island of Honshu, at 35N˚, 138˚E, is ***Mt. Fuji***, an active volcano that has not erupted since 1707. The Japanese considered Mt. Fuji to be a **sacred** site, and it became a symbol of the nation₄. Today it is a tourist **destination** and is popular with mountain climbers. Across the Sea of Japan is the ***Korean Peninsula₂***, which today is the home of the nations of North Korea and South Korea.

The northern section of Japan has a climate similar to the northern states of the USA₁; summers are cool and winters are long and cold with much snowfall. The southern section, such as Kyushu and the Ryukyu Islands has a subtropical climate, with mild winters and very hot, humid summers. Heavy rain and **typhoons** frequently cause flood damage on these islands.₃ Japan also experiences many natural disasters, due to its location along the “Ring of Fire”, a fault line beneath the Pacific Ocean. Earthquakes are very common, and **occasionally** an underwater earthquake will create a tsunami - a huge and destructive wave.

Results of a tsunami – March 2011

**Bodies of Water**

As an island nation, Japan is surrounded by water on all sides. To the west is the ***Sea of Japan*** and to the east is the ***Pacific Ocean***. South of Japan is the ***Philippine Sea***. The northernmost island, Hokkaido is bordered to the north by the ***Sea of Okhotsk.*** Located just west of theKorean Peninsula is the ***Yellow Sea.*** The Korean Peninsula is also home to three important rivers. Forming the border with China is the ***Yalu River;*** while the ***Taedong River*** can be found in the north and the ***Han River*** in the south. The longest and most important river in Japan, the ***Shinano River***, can be found on west coast of the island of Honshu.

A. Label the map -- Read the article above and pay careful attention to the description of the places written in ***bold text***

 ***and italics***. Use the descriptions to help you decide where to write each name on the map on the back of this

 page. There are 15 places described in this article. Be sure to label all 15 of them on the map.

B. Five Themes Chart: There are five phrases that are underlined. Each one is followed by a number from one to five.

|  |
| --- |
| D. Match the synonym to one of the seven **bold,**  **underlined** words from the reading. |
| Synonym/Definition | Word from reading |
| 1. very holy  |  |
| 2. difference |  |
| 3. storms  |  |
| 4. once in a while |  |
| 5. made up of |  |
| 6. laid over |  |
| 7. target or goal |  |

 Place the number in the table to match that sentence or phrase to one of the Five Themes of Geography.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Theme | Sentence or phrase from article (use number)C. Fill in the blanks – An archipelago nation is made up of many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.Besides Japan, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was another archipelago nation we studied this year. |
| Location |  |
| Place |  |
| Movement |  |
| Region |  |
| HEI |  |



 How wide is Japan at 40°N?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_miles

How wide is Korea at 40°N?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_miles

Check these off as you add them to the map.

 Shinano River

 Yalu River

 Taedong River

 Han River

 Philippine Sea

 Sea of Japan

 Sea of Okhotsk

 Pacific Ocean

 Yellow Sea

 Honshu

 Hokkaido

 Kyushu

 Shikoku

 Mt. Fuji

 Korean Peninsula

**= river’s mouth**

**Sakhalin Island**

 (Russia)

**= current border of**

 **North Korea and**

 **South Korea**

0 200 miles

 **China**

**E. Map Questions**:

1. On the map above, what does the dotted line represent? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the distance from the mouth of the Taedong River to the mouth of the Han River? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_miles

3. What is the distance from Point A to Mount Fuji? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_miles

4. Kyushu is (NE, SE, NW, SW) of Shikoku.

5. Hokkaido is (NE, SE, NW, SW) of Korea

6. Which is the best estimate for the absolute location of the Shinano River’s mouth? (37°N, 138°E) or (43°N, 142°E)

7. Estimate the absolute location of Shikoku - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. Estimate the absolute location of Point A - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. Use a range of numbers to describe the absolute location of the entire nation of Japan: (\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_°N, \_\_\_\_ -\_\_\_\_\_°E)

10. Write a **complete sentence** to describe the relative location of Sakhalin Island - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11. Explain what is meant by the phrase climatic variety in the first paragraph. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_