5 Themes of Geography

**Japan**

**Location**

**Absolute**

*Tokyo's global address is is 36°N, 140°E.*

**Relative**

*Japan lies off the east coast of the Asian continent, bordered by the Sea of Japan to the E, the Pacific Ocean to the W, & E China Sea to the SW.*

**Place**

**Physical**

*Snow-capped Mt. Fuji is Japan's highest peak (12,285 ft) and most beloved landmark. It last erupted in 1707.*

**Cultural**

*Red, wooden torii gates mark the entrances to Shinto shrines all over Japan.*

**Movement**

**People**

*The Shinkansen, or bullet train, provides high speed transportation across Japan, reaching speeds up to 186 mph.*

**Goods**

*Japan's major exports include: cars and other transport vehicles, computers, and electrical appliances.*

**Ideas**

*Japan has 3 alphabets. The one called "kanji" borrows Chinese characters for writing ideas.*

**Regions**

**Political**

*Japan is divided up into 47 local governing prefectures. The city of Kobe is in Hyogo Prefecture.*

**Physical**

*Japan lies atop major fault lines that are part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, a region of frequent volcanic & seismic activity.*

**Cultural**

*Japan is part of the larger Mahayana (Greater Vehicle) Buddhist region which includes China & Korea.*

**Human Environment Interaction**

**Depend**

*With only 12% arable land, Japan must practice intensive cultivation to grow crops such as rice, the staple food of the Japanese people.*

**Modify**

*Factory waste leaking into Minamata Bay contaminated fish and shellfish, causing people who ate them to develop Minamata's disease or mercury poisoning.*

**Adapt**

*Though most are minor tremors, Japan experiences 5,000 earthquakes/year. The Japanese have adapted by designing buildings that are quake resistant.*