Answers to the ‘Where is Japan?’ Quiz

Slide 2
- Asia
- Pacific Ocean, Sea of Japan, Sea of Okhotsk, East China Sea, Philippine Sea
- Japan is 377,873 square kilometres, so countries comparable in size would be Germany, Spain, Poland, Malaysia, Italy, Zimbabwe etc.
- Around 3000 islands (4 main islands – Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu)
- Northern hemisphere
- Japan has 4 seasons and a rainy season in June. Winters are very cold and harsh, especially in the north of Japan where snowfall is high. (Average temperature in Sapporo in January is -5ºc) Summers on the other hand can be hot and humid, especially in southern areas (Kyushu, Okinawa. Average July temperature in Kagoshima is 26ºc)
- Japan population (July 2004) 127 333 002
- UK population (2004) 59 834 300…so Japan has the larger population

Slide 3
The map is Japan centred, with the UK being to the far left of the map and the States to the far right. All of the country and ocean names are also written in Japanese. As Japanese can be read both horizontally and vertically, you will see examples of both styles being used.

Slide 4
- Korea, China, Taiwan, Russia

Slide 5
- Between 11 and 12 hours

Slide 6
- From North to South:
  Hokkaido
  Honshu
  Shikoku
  Kyushu
- Tokyo
- Osaka, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Yokohama, Kobe
- Mt Fuji, Mt Sakurajima, Mt Aso, Mt Zao, Mt Asama…
Photos – background notes

Photo 1
This photo was taken in Osaka. It was taken in the evening (hence the long shadows) and at the start of September, when the weather is still very hot (around 25 - 30°C). The children should be able to tell the season by examining what people are wearing. The street where the photo was taken is called ‘dotonbori’, so called as it runs parallel to the Dotonbori river. The large crab is actually a seafood restaurant and is very popular for its crab dishes. It is called ‘Kanidouraku’ and the crab is mechanised with the crab’s eyes and legs able to move! It is quite a landmark and a visit to Osaka wouldn’t be complete without a visit to the giant crab!

Photo 2
The ski-ing photo was taken in Nagano prefecture and the volcano in the background is Mt Asama. Winter sports are a popular pastime in Japan and many people hit the slopes at the weekend. Snowboarding is incredibly popular at the moment amongst young people.

Nagano prefecture hosted the Winter Olympics in 1998, so many of the facilities are new and access to the mountains is excellent, both by road and train.

To say ‘I ski’ in Japanese, would be スキーをします。suki wo shimasu.

Photo 3
This photo was taken during the rainy season in Japan. From around mid-June to the start of July, it will rain most days. The only part to escape is the northern island of Hokkaido. The rain is by no means constant, but downpours can be heavy and frequent. The rainy season is considered essential for the paddy fields which grow Japan’s staple crop of rice. The temperature during the rainy season is hot, which makes for a humid few weeks – a little bit like living in a greenhouse. Temperatures average at about 25°C

Photo 4
This photo was taken at the foot of Mount Aso in Kyushu. This volcano is still active and plumes of smoke can be seen spewing from the crater. Visitors can take a steam train most of the way up Aso and then a bus to the top. Although the weather is sunny, it is actually still quite cold as the photo was taken in March. Indeed some left over snow can still be seen near the summit and the trees are yet to get their leaves. Are children able to pick up on these clues?

Photo 5
The photo here depicts azalea growing on the slopes of Mount Akagi, in Gunma Prefecture. Every July, the slopes burst into bloom and tourists flock for miles to view them. On this particular day, the weather was very foggy, giving an eerie feel to the location.
Photo 6
Mt Shirane is another volcano – again located in Gunma prefecture. The lake in the crater is a milky blue colour and is actually considered to be the most acidic lake in the world (pH1). As the soil is so acidic, nothing grows near to the crater. The ground is also very warm underfoot. The weather here is cloudy.

Photo 7
Miyajima – this photo was taken in autumn. How do children know it’s autumn? (colour of the leaves). Can children identify any of the trees? In Japan, autumunal colours are taken very seriously and many people will flock to beauty spots to view the trees and take photos. Lots of autumn based souvenirs are sold, such as maple leaf shaped key-rings, stickers, pens etc and maple flavoured/ shaped cakes and sweets. What do children associate with autumn in the UK? (conkers, harvest, Halloween, Bonfire Night etc). Are there any seasonal foods which people eat during the autumn in the UK? (toffee apples at Halloween, parkin cake in some parts of the UK on Bonfire Night etc)