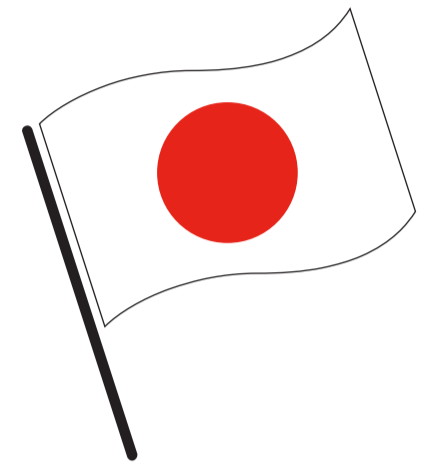


Japan



The Flag

The national flag of Japan is white with a red disc at its centre representing the sun. The flag is officially called *Nisshōki* (sun-mark flag) in Japanese but is more commonly known as *Hinomaru* (circle of the sun).



Shinkansen – bullet trains

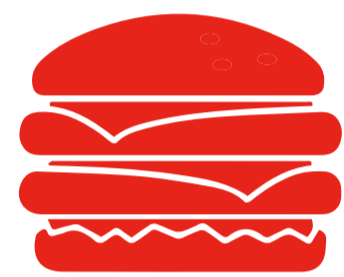
In 1964, Japan became the first country in the world to build railway lines for high-speed travel. Japan's high-speed rail system is known as Shinkansen and the trains are known as bullet trains. Bullet trains can reach speeds of up to 320km/h with passengers, and test runs without passengers have reached 603km/h on the Chuo Shinkansen line (currently under construction).

The trains run like clockwork and usually reach a station within 18 seconds of the scheduled time.

Ten billion passengers have travelled on Shinkansen since the network opened.

Greetings

English	Japanese	Pronunciation
Hello	Konnichi wa	Kon-ni-chi-wa
Good bye	Sayonara	Sa-yoh-na-ra
How are you?	Ogenki desu ka?	O-gen-ki des ka?
Thank you	Arigatou gozaimasu	A-ri-ga-toe go-zai-muss
Excuse me /I'm sorry	Sumimasen	Su-mi-ma-sen



Big Mac Index

(NZ\$) As of Jan 2017

How much for a Big Mac?

New Zealand	Japan
\$ 6.00	\$ 4.91

Population

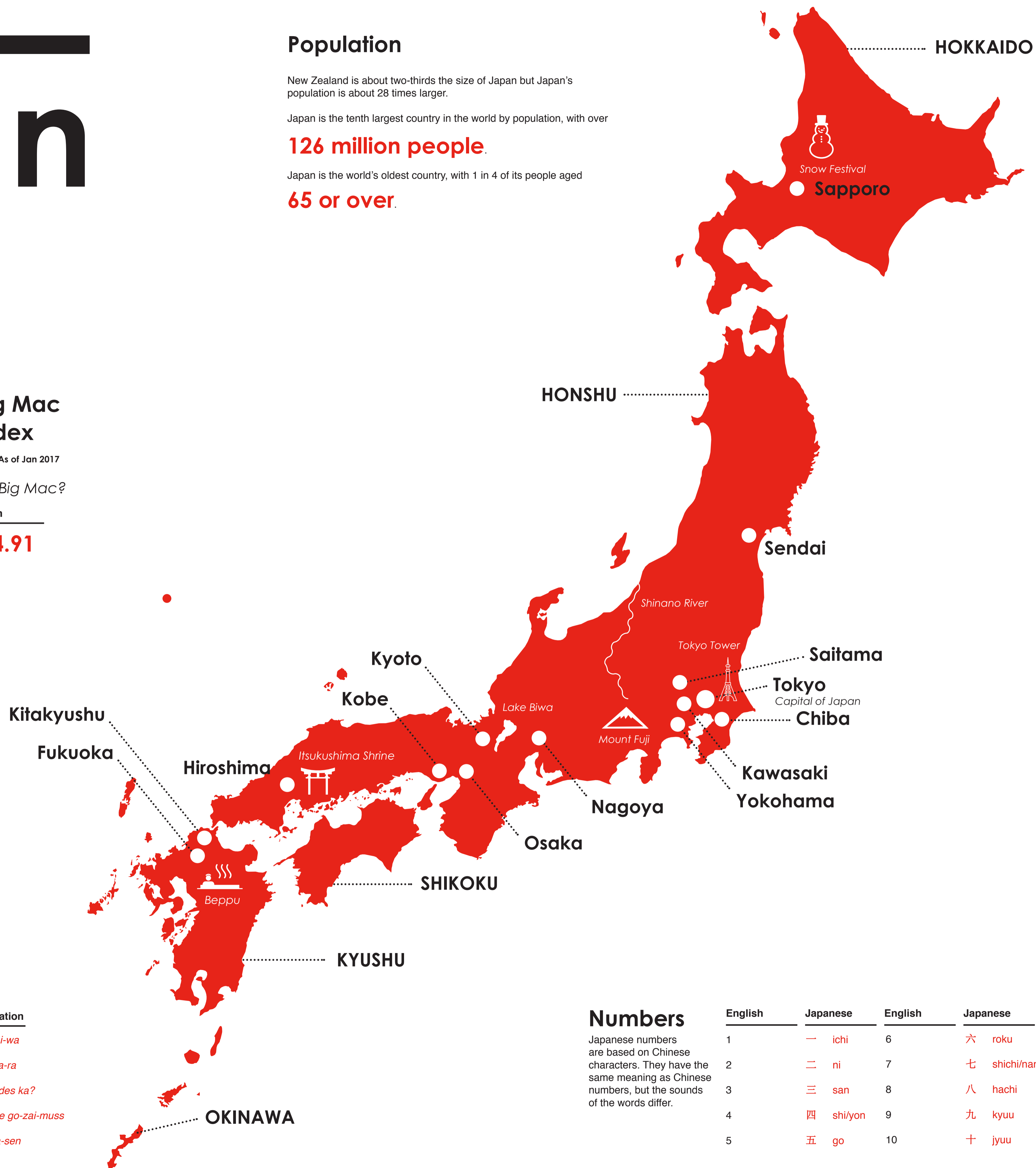
New Zealand is about two-thirds the size of Japan but Japan's population is about 28 times larger.

Japan is the tenth largest country in the world by population, with over

126 million people.

Japan is the world's oldest country, with 1 in 4 of its people aged

65 or over.



Cuisine

Sushi and sashimi
Tonkatsu (crumbed, deep fried pork cutlets)
Teriyaki chicken
Noodles: ramen, udon, soba
Okonomiyaki (savoury pancakes)



Vending Machines

With about 5.52 million vending machines in Japan, you can find one almost anywhere. They sell drinks, food, stamps, flowers, clothing, magazines and much more.

There are more vending machines in Japan than there are people in New Zealand!

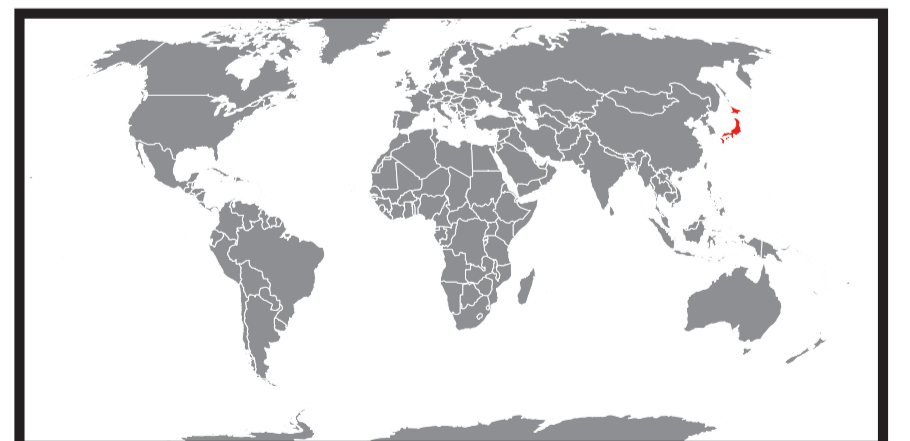
日本語

Language

Pronunciation of Japanese words is easy for Kiwis as Japanese vowels (a,i,u,e,o) are similar in sound to Māori vowels.

The Japanese alphabet consists of 99 sounds formed with 5 vowels and 14 consonants. Japanese is written with three types of scripts: hiragana, katakana and kanji. They have different functions and combinations of the three are used to form sentences.

On the Map



Numbers

Japanese numbers are based on Chinese characters. They have the same meaning as Chinese numbers, but the sounds of the words differ.

English	Japanese	English	Japanese
1	一 ichi	6	六 roku
2	二 ni	7	七 shichi/nana
3	三 san	8	八 hachi
4	四 shi/yon	9	九 kyuu
5	五 go	10	十 jyu



Asia New Zealand Foundation