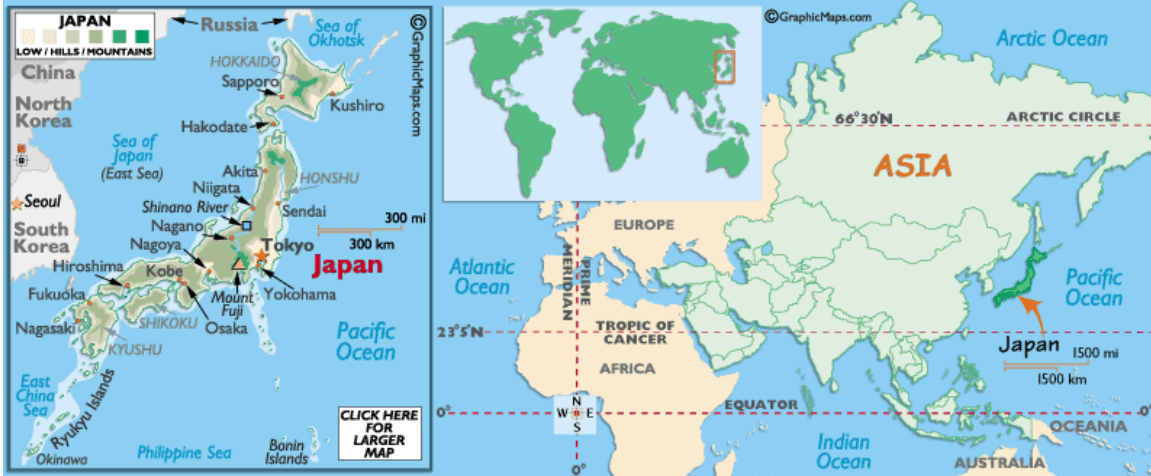


Where in the world is **Japan**?

Japan is an island nation (archipelago), located in the Pacific Ocean, near China and South Korea.



Did you know?

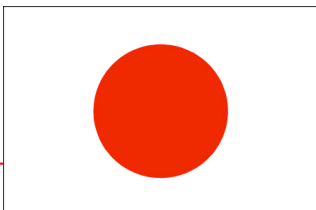


Sumo is a Japanese style of wrestling and Japan's national sport. It started in ancient times as a performance to entertain the Shinto gods. The Shinto religion is one of Japan's main religions. People who follow this religion worship multiple gods: things of nature, ancestors, and animals. The Shinto place of worship is called a *shrine*. This is what the entrance to a Shinto shrine looks like:



Japan is made of four large islands and over 4000 small islands. Because Japan does not have much land and many people, they need really tall buildings to have room for everyone to live there. Japan also sometimes suffers from bad earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

The flag of Japan was officially adopted on January 26, 1870. The centered sun symbol (called *Hinomaru*) has been an important part of Japan's flag for thousands of years. The white part represents honesty and purity.



TOKYO

