

## Writing

Each week your child will be assigned a short report based on either the week's geography or science lessons. At this stage, the writing should be more formal. Rather than simply summarizing, they should be writing a one – two page formal, written narration. For some children, this comes naturally, but for others, they may need a bit of assistance. It might be helpful for them to make a list of facts or a brief outline to help them gather their information before they write.

For example, if a child were writing a summary about Japan, their list of facts might look like this:

- Japan is a chain of 4,000 islands off the coast of Asia
- Japan suffers from hundreds and hundreds of earthquakes each year
- Anime and manga was first created in the mid-1900s
- A main food in Japan is fish because of all the surrounding seas
- Japan has four writing systems – Kanji, Hiragana, Katakana, and Romaji.

The report would then look like this:

Japan is a chain of 4,000 islands off the coast of Asia. Its largest islands are Honshu, Hokkaido, Shikoku, and Kyushu. The people of Japan call their country Nippon, meaning the Land of the Rising Sun.

Though Japan is a beautiful country, it suffers from hundreds and hundreds of earthquakes each and every year. Though most are just little shakes, minor damage is often caused during larger earthquakes. The stronger and more dangerous earthquakes, luckily, are much rarer. Earthquake drills are held all over Japan in schools and workplaces so that everyone is prepared.

The Japanese language has four writing systems. Hiragana is probably the most common, because it is the form of writing used in school, manga, newspapers, video games, etc. Hello in Hiragana is こんにちは. Kanji is the most difficult writing system in Japan. There are nearly 2,000 symbols in Kanji. Hello written in Kanji is 今日は. Romaji is Japanese words written in the English language, so it is the easiest for English speakers to understand. Hello written in Romaji is Konnichiwa. Katakana is a form of writing only used for writing out words for a language foreign to the Japanese language. Katakana is the reason that manga characters like Edward Elric from Fullmetal Alchemist and Lucy Heartfilia from Fairy Tail can have their names written in Japanese writing.

Manga and anime is probably one of Japan's most popular forms of entertainment. It was first invented in the mid-1900s, and is now increasingly popular internationally. There are tons of different genres, ranging from teenage romance to futuristic science fiction. Some popular anime and manga series are Fullmetal Alchemist, Naruto, Pokemon, Fairy Tail, Attack on Titan, and Sailor Moon.

Fish is the most common food in Japan, because there is an abundance of water surrounding the many Japanese islands. In fact, the Japanese catch and eat more fish than in any other country in the world. Hundreds and hundreds of villages around the many coasts of Japan are fishing villages from which fishing boats venture from. Millions of fish in Japan are even bred in special fish farms. A popular way the Japanese eat fish is Sushi, which is raw fish wrapped in sticky rice and seaweed.

Though Japan is a relatively small country, it is a very impressive place. Japan is huge in economic power. Its average life expectancy is higher than in any other country. The population is huge for a country of that size. Japan is a very amazing country.