

# Geography Lesson Plan

## Locate the Prefectures of Japan

**Grade Level(s):** 4-12

**Class Time:** 1 hour, or 2 hours with extensions

**Purpose:** To learn prefecture names and prefecture locations.

**National Geography Standards Exemplified:**

1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective;
3. How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface;
18. How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

**State Educational Standards or Indicators Exemplified:** Indiana SSAI

3. Students will examine the physical and human geographic factors associated with population characteristics and distribution;
10. Students will analyze and evaluate the physical and human geographic factors that contribute to the formation of states.

**Background:** Students will need to have learned how to read a map, know the principal directions, and know how to find countries on a world wall map or in an atlas.

**Materials Required:** Country wall map or atlases; outline map of Japan (with individual prefecture boundaries shown); pens or pencils (perhaps colored).

**Procedures:**

1. Initial instruction: Each country has numerous territorial subdivisions (called states, provinces, departments or prefectures). To develop knowledge of a country it is important to learn about its principal subdivisions.
2. Ask students, working in small groups, to consult the wall map or the atlases on their work tables and locate Japan. Ask them to make a numbered list of the different prefectures and to label each prefecture accurately on the outline map. Ask them to compare their list with their map to make sure all prefectures are identified.
3. For a challenge and for fun, ask them to color the boundaries so that no two prefectures that share a border have the same color boundary, with as few colors as possible.
4. Ask students to complete the Level 1 Geography Crossword Puzzle for Japan.

**Assessment:** Informal assessment by instructor moving from group to group and assisting with the lesson. Formal assessment could follow, with a quiz to place prefecture names correctly on an outline map with prefecture boundaries shown (perhaps with numbers shown on the map for each prefecture and a list of prefecture names, requiring the students to write the correct number next to the name).

**Adaptations/Extensions:**

1. Ask the students to draw a new map locating the prefectures of Japan, entirely on their own, as homework.
2. Ask students to complete the Level 2 Geography Crossword Puzzle for Japan.

**Resources:** World Trade Press for world wall maps, atlases. AtoZMapsOnline.com for base maps (with and without country boundaries).

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_



