Name: _____

Japan at a Glance Japan is an Asian country but instead of being located on the mainland of Asia, Japan is made up of four main islands and thousands of smaller ones. These islands are east of the Asian continent in the North Pacific Ocean halfway around the world from the Pacific Ocean shore of Washington State, Oregon and California. The nearest land neighbors to Japan are North Korea, South Korea, Russia and a small coastal area of China.

Since Japan is located in the Pacific Ocean near to the coast of Asia, its islands are part of the Pacific Ring of Fire. The Pacific Ring of Fire is a made up of a large number of volcanoes that exist on land and in the ocean near the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Ten percent of the active volcanoes in the world are located in the small country of Japan. Volcanoes and earthquakes are both related to the earth's tectonic plates. Japan experiences around 1,500 earthquakes every year but fortunately these small tremors do not cause any damage. Like the Pacific Coast in the United States, due to its location Japan does experience serious earthquakes but not frequently.

Japan has over 127 million people in a country about the size and shape of California. Most of the people live in large, densely populated cities. For example, the capital city of Tokyo has about 32 million people in the greater metropolitan area compared to 22 million in the New York City metropolitan area. Since Japan is such a small country and the not much of the land is suitable for agriculture, Japan must import food in order to feed the large population. The islands are lacking in natural resources for producing energy, making Japan the largest importer of coal and liquefied natural gas and the second largest importer of oil in the world.

Japan is a leading producer of automobiles that are exported to other developed countries, like the United States. Japan is also well-known for producing steel and electronic equipment. The Japanese currency is called the yen and people speak the Japanese language. The Japanese writing is similar to Chinese and uses symbols instead of letters like in the English alphabet.

1. The country of Japan is located in what continent?

a. Europe

b. Asia

c. Africa

d. Australia

2. The Pacific Ring of Fire is made up of

a. Countries

b. Volcanoes

c. Islands

d. All of the above

3. The physical size and shape of Japan is similar to which state?

a. Oregon

b. Washington

c. California

d. Texas

4. Since it is a small country, Japan must import

a. Food

b. Coal

c. Oil

d. All of the above

5. A major Japanese export is

a. Automobiles

b. Airplanes

c. Corn

d. Wheat

6. The Japanese currency is called

a. Pounds

b. Pesos

c. Marks

d. Yen

SHORT ANSWERS

7. Why does Japan need to import food? What does this mean?

_____

_____

8. List some brand names for automobiles and electronic equipment found in Bahamian stores that are made in Japan.

_____

_____

9. As a result of Japan lacking in natural resources for producing energy, how does this place the country at a disadvantage?

_____

_____