

4 Fishing in Japan

Summary

Surrounded by water, Japan has the perfect geography for a life dedicated to the ocean and the life and food within it. From older female divers to local fishermen, we see through their experience how much marine life plays an important role in the livelihood of the Japanese people.

Background

Seafood in Japan is often eaten as *sushi*, small rolls of cold vinegared rice served with toppings such as vegetables or cooked or raw fish, or as *sashimi*, in which raw fish is cut into thin pieces.

Before you watch

1 Answer the question.

- Ask the class: *Can you name any Japanese food?*
- Elicit students' answers and write them on the board.
- If you have access to the Internet and an interactive whiteboard, put some pictures up of Japanese food.

Suggested answers

Students should be able to say *sushi* in response to the question. It is unlikely they will come up with many more examples, but some may know *tempura* or *sashimi*.

While you watch

2 Watch and find out.

- Tell students they are going to watch a video about the importance of fishing in Japan.
- Ask students to watch the video to find out what fisherman Osamu Yamazaki catches.
- Play the video.

Answer

tuna

3 Watch and complete.

- Write the following gapped sentences on the board:
 - 1 Japan has _____ of islands.
 - 2 1/5 of Japanese people are more than _____ years old.
 - 3 The women _____ in the sea every day.
 - 4 _____ is very expensive.
 - 5 Osamu Yamazaki goes out fishing _____.
 - 6 The sea and its fish are _____ to the people of Japan.
- Play the video again.
- Students watch and complete the sentences.
- Check answers with the class.

Answers

1 thousands 2 65 3 swim 4 Tuna 5 every day
6 important

After you watch

4 Work with a partner. Answer the questions.

- Put students into pairs to answer the following questions:
 - a Japanese people eat a lot of fish. What do you eat a lot of?
 - b Would you prefer to get your fish from the supermarket or to go fishing for it?
- Ask some students to report back to the class on their partner's ideas.

At home

5 Find out how much fish you eat.

- Students keep a food diary for a week to find out how much fish they eat.
- Students should note down which fish they eat as well as what they eat it with, e.g. *Monday: salmon, rice and vegetables*.
- They then report back to the class giving details on the fish they ate.

6 Find out more about food in Japan.

- Ask students to find out what these following Japanese dishes consist of:
 - a tempura
 - b kare raisu
 - c yakitori
- Students can share what they find out with a partner at the beginning of the next class and say which of the three they would most like to try.

Background

Tempura is fish or vegetables fried in batter.

Kare raisu is curry with rice.

Yakitori is grilled chicken and vegetables.



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Fishing in Japan

This is Japan, a country with thousands of islands. Japan is in the Pacific Ocean. The ocean is very important to the Japanese people.

A lot of Japanese people live near the sea. And a lot of Japanese people live a very long time. One-fifth of Japanese people are more than 65 years old! These women are quite old, but they're very healthy and active.

They swim in the sea every day. Swimming is good exercise. They find healthy food in the sea, too. They find a lot of different types of fish in the sea.

And they eat all of them. Fish is very good for you.

Tuna is a popular fish in Japan, and all around the world.

It's very expensive... and it's also difficult to catch! Meet Osamu Yamazaki. He's a tuna fisherman. He goes out in his boat every day and looks for tuna. Sometimes, he doesn't find any.

But today, he's lucky. What's that? There are lots of fish near the boat ... and ... yes, he's got one! The tuna is fast, but Osamu is strong and patient.

The tuna is very near now. Finally, Osamu catches the tuna.

What a big fish! It's food for a lot of people! The sea and its fish are an important part of life in Japan.