

Japanese Culture: Traditional Meets Modern

Class 1

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Introduction

- About this Class
- The Japanese:
 - Can we define them?
 - Name some aspects of Japanese Culture.
- Understanding the Japanese:
 - Cannot be pigeon-holed.
 - Very complex people.
 - Must be sensitive to this fact and have an open mind.
 - May have some distinctive characteristics, and that's what we're going to learn about.



The Land: Some Facts to Consider

- Despite its small size (smaller than California):
 - 10th in population – 127 million+
 - 3rd in GNP/GDP (Gross National Product/Gross Domestic Product)
 - Indicators of size of economy and country's standard of living
 - United States and China are 1st and 2nd
- Smaller than you think – Geographical Size vs. Usable Land/Habitable Land
 - Less than 1/5 is level enough to permit agriculture or other economic exploitation other than forestry, mining, or hydroelectric power.
 - Highest density of both population and production per square mile of habitable land of any country in the world
 - Exception being city-states like Hong Kong and Singapore

The Land: Geographical Features & Climate/Weather



The Land: Nature Awareness



Japan Isolated



Appearance of Homogeneity

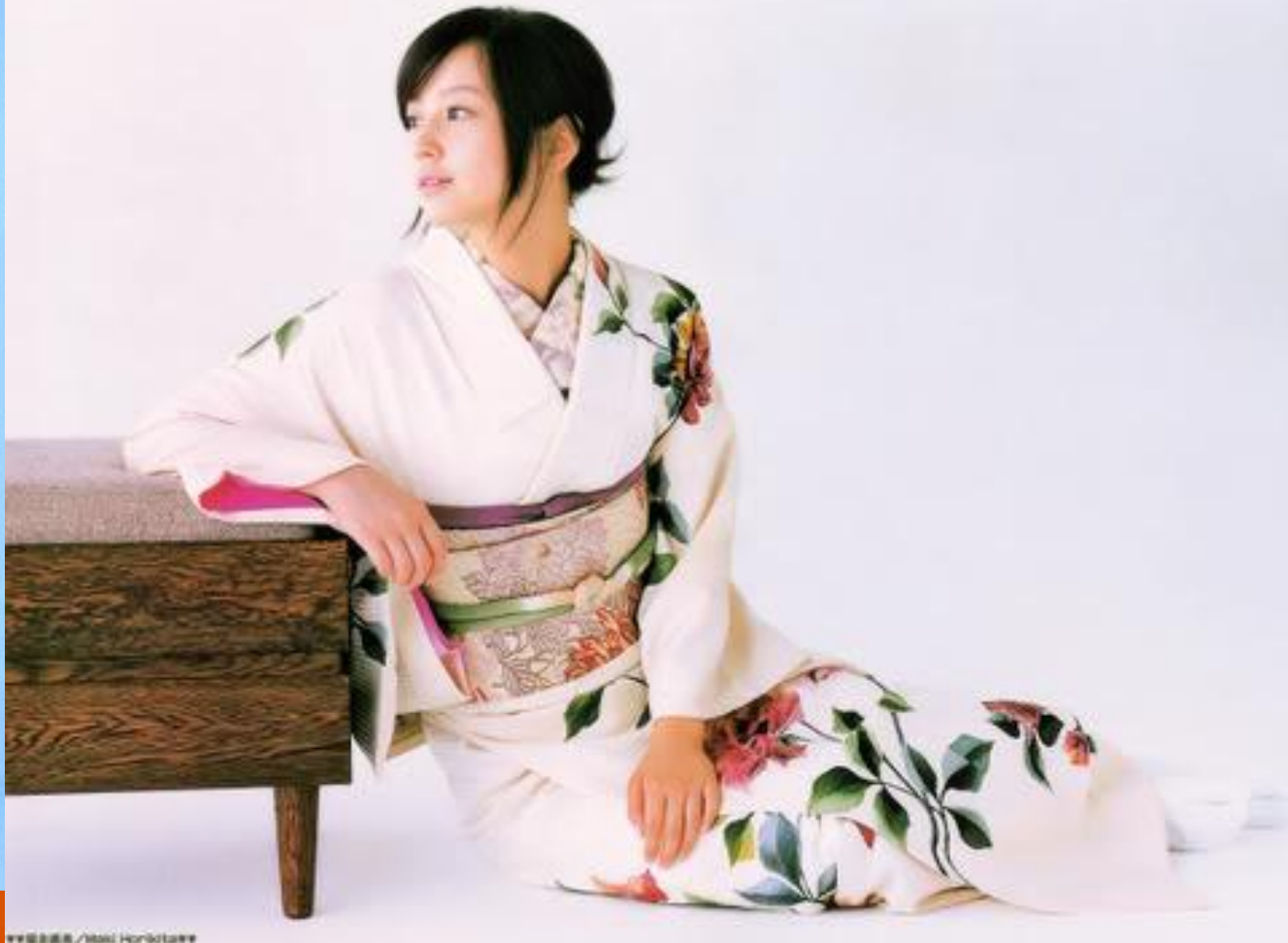


5 MINUTE BREAK

Fashion: Traditional

Formal: Young & Unmarried

For Weddings



Furisode

Hakama and Haori Uchikake

Fashion: Traditional

Formal: Adult and Married



Tomesode



DEMONSTRATION:
Putting on a *Furisode*

Kimono in Japan Today



TRY IT!
Wearing a *Yukata*



Fashion: Modern



Fashion: Modern



Fashion: Modern

