



Globetrotter

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Greetings

We hope everyone enjoyed “hanami” season and Golden Week. Please be sure to share your photographs on our blog!

NEWS---Remember to check out the Global Communications website, which has great features such as blogs, downloadable worksheets and newsletters, video introductions of the teachers, podcasts, and much more!

NEWS---If you are preparing for the test, be sure to check out the e-test at www.e-test.biz.

Please give us your comments or any ideas for articles you would like to see in future Globetrotters! We always enjoy receiving your mail and hearing what you think.



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Teacher Spotlight Adam

Hello everyone! As many of you know, this is my first spring in Tokyo. Thanks to all the students who gave me advice on the best places to enjoy my first hanami! I'm looking forward to enjoying the great spring weather before the rainy season arrives.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm originally from Washington, DC, and have been living in Tokyo since June 2006. Before coming to Japan, I lived in West Africa while studying for my master's degree. As you might have guessed, I love to travel, so please share your travel experiences during our lessons together!

I'm looking forward to meeting all of our new students and continuing to teach the old ones. And I hope everyone has an enjoyable spring!



Paul's Corner

Comparing Countries

By Paul Michel

Hello, Globetrotter readers! Since I just passed my six-month **anniversary** of moving to Japan I'd like to do a short comparison between my home country, Canada, and the "**Land of the Rising Sun**".

Let's start with some basic facts about both countries. Canada is the world's second largest country with a total area of 9,984,670 square km. Japan's total area of 377,873 square km **ranks** it 62nd in the world. However, Japan's population is almost quadruple Canada's population. In terms of average income Canada ranks ninth in the world compared to Japan's rank of 18th in the world. Japan bests Canada for longevity with an average life expectancy of 82.02 years vs. 80.34 years for Canada.

Canadians work an average of 1737 hours per year compared to 1775 hours for Japanese. However, based on my observations it seems like most of my students are far exceeding the national average! In Canada workers spend an average of 3 hours and 25 minutes per day with members of their families. Unfortunately I couldn't find the comparable number for Japanese workers.

As you can imagine its large land area and relatively small population, crowding is less of a problem in Canadian cities than in their Japanese **counterparts**. In Canadian subways the after work rush hour is often over by around seven o'clock compared to after midnight in Japan.

Prices also vary quite a bit between Canada and Japan. Japan has a reputation as "the most expensive country in the world" but I disagree with this. Although prices for many food items are significantly higher in Japan than in Canada, other prices are lower. For example liquor prices in Japan are less than half of what they are in Canada! Also, Japan has wonderful 100 yen shops we were can choose from a wide array of products. In Canada there are \$1 stores but they carry less items and the items are generally of lower quality.

Have any of you ever found yourselves comparing Japan to other countries? If so **drop us a line!**

Vocabulary

1. **anniversary**: the date on which an event happened in the past: "Since I just passed my six-month **anniversary** of moving to Japan."
2. **ranks**: to occupy a place in a particular class: "Japan's total area **ranks** it 62nd in the world."
3. **counterpart**: a person or thing that has similar characteristics or the same purpose: "Canadian cities are less crowded than their Japanese **counterparts** (cities)."
4. **drop a line**: communicate in writing; send a message: "**Drop me a line** if you plan on visiting Tokyo."

World Views

A Symbol of Friendship

By Adam Stefan

In my hometown of Washington, DC, the blooming of the cherry blossom marks the beginning of springtime. Many of you might know that America's capital city celebrates the cherry blossom with an annual festival. But do you know the story behind Washington's cherry trees?

The cherry trees are a **symbol** of the friendship between America and Japan. The first trees were given as a gift to the city in 1912 by the **mayor** of Tokyo. Three years later, the American government responded with a gift of "flowering dogwood" trees, which today you can see in many streets and parks in Tokyo.

The friendship between the two countries has continued for nearly a **century**. Japan again gave America many cherry trees in 1965. In 1981 the giving **came full circle**. Some of Washington's cherry trees were given to Japan to replace Japanese trees that were destroyed in a flood! And recently, new trees from Gifu Prefecture were given to celebrate a new generation of friendship between Japanese and Americans.

Every spring, nearly one million people visit Washington, DC to witness the blossoming of the cherry trees and to enjoy the National Cherry Blossom Festival. This two-week long festival is a celebration of Japanese and American cultures, and includes sushi and sake, classes about cherry blossoms, art exhibits and cultural events, such as kimono fashion shows.

The cherry blossom festival is not only a **reminder** of the friendship between our two countries, but also allows Americans to learn more about Japanese culture.

Send Us Your Comments

What do you think about the following article? Voice your opinion by sending your comments to:

office@globalcom-online-english-school.co.jp.

We anxiously look forward to knowing how the readers feel about the topic.

Vocabulary

1. **symbol**: an object that means something else: "The dove is a **symbol** of peace"
2. **mayor**: the political leader of a city: "The **mayor** of New York is Michael Bloomberg"
3. **century**: one hundred years: "My grandmother is nearly a **century** old"
4. **come full circle**: to return to the beginning: "The cherry trees **came full circle** when they returned to Japan"
5. **reminder**: something that makes us remember something: "The damaged building is a **reminder** of the war"

February Answers

Kids Corner (pg. 4)

Time of Day

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 2. in the afternoon | 5. in the evening |
| 3. in the morning | 6. at night |
| 4. in the afternoon | 7. at night |

Kids Corner

Prepositions



The monkey is next to the box.



The monkey is behind the box.



The monkey is on the box.



The monkey is under the box.



The monkey is in front of the box.



The monkey is in the box!