

43. JAPAN

Welcome song

K: Welcome to our fun learning radio broadcast with Kiki and Mr. Suits! This program was created in collaboration with Azyzah Educational and Interactive Theatre.

S: Nice to meet you friends!

K: Our question today is from Doubravka who is 9 years old from Prague in the Czech Republic.

S: Hi Kiki and Mr. Suits, could you tell us about Japan?

K: Yes! Ready to learn about Japan?

S: Let's go!

Theme

K: Konichiwa.

S: What is that Kiki? A cake? A tree, or a game?

K: No, Mr. Suits, it means hello in Japanese. Konichiwa.

S: Oh, are we going to Japan?

K: We sure are. You're going to love it! - Let's get in the travel machine.

S+K: 3, 2, 1! Blast off!

S: Whoa! Where in Japan are we, Kiki?

K: We are in the capital city - in Tokyo.

S: This street is so busy. Where is everyone rushing?

K: Probably to work. Tokyo is one of the world's business capitals.

S: Wow, Kiki, look at that crazy street crossing! People are going in all directions!

K: That is the shibuya crossing, as many as 3000 people can cross the street at a time.

S: Amazing! . Kiki, let's go somewhere more quiet. - Oh, what trees are these? They are covered in pink blossoms.

K: They are cherry blossom trees, they are popular in Japan. There is even a festival every spring to celebrate them.

S: Cool! Hm, are there mountains in Japan?

K: Yes, and Japan's highest mountain is a volcano. It's called Mt. Fuji.

S: Are we safe?

K: Don't worry, it has not erupted in 300 years.

S: What color is the Japanese flag?

K: It's white and has a red circle in the middle that represents the sun.

S: Right, Japan is called the "Land of the Rising Sun." Kiki, I'm hungry.

K: Do you want sushi? You know . . . rice rolls in seaweed filled with fish.

S: Yummy, yummy, sushi.

K: Or we could try chanko nabe . . . it's a soup with vegetables and meat. Sumo wrestlers eat it to get big and strong.

S: Let's stick to sushi. I've got my chopsticks. Chop, chop.

K: Let's say goodbye in Japanese to our friends!

S+K: Sayonara!

Story

S: Woo-hoo! It's story time!

K: Today's story is about the origin of a famous kitty statue.

Long ago in Japan, there lived a toymaker named Tokuzo. One day he found an injured cat.

TOKUZO (S): Poor kitty, I will take care of you.

K: Tokuzo did what he could but the cat died. He buried it under a cherry blossom tree.

TOKUZO (S): Goodbye, my kitty.

K: Some time later, Tokuzo was traveling and a storm started.

TOKUZO (S): Oh no. I will hide under a cherry blossom tree.

K: Suddenly, he saw a waving cat that looked exactly like his kitty.

TOKUZO (S): Is that you, my kitty?

K: He went to pet it. Just then, there was a bright flash! Lightning struck the cherry blossom tree, but Tokuzo was not hit.

TOKUZO(S): My kitty, did you save me?

K: The cat just kept on waving. Tokuzo was confused but grateful.

TOKUZO(S): I will make a statue of a waving cat in your honor.

K: Since then, statues of waving cats have become a symbol of good luck and you can see them all over the world.

THE END

Goodbye song