

# Map of Japan art project

## You will need:

- crayons in these colors: white, tan, light green, dark green.
- blue watercolor paint
- large paint brush (1" width is good)
- pencil or pen
- a paper towel

## Directions:

1) First you will need to label your map. Use a pencil or ballpoint pen (or other waterproof pen) to fill in the blanks. Here is the key:

1-4 are the names of the islands: 1- Hokkaido 2- Honshu 3- Shikoku 4- Kyushu

5-6 are neighbors: 5- Russia 6- Korea

7-9 are bodies of water 7- Pacific Ocean 8- Philippine Sea 9- Sea of Japan

10-15 are cities or sites: 10- Tokyo 11- Mt. Fuji 12- Osaka 13- Kyoto 14- Hiroshima 15- Nagasaki

2) You may want to show the students a physical map so they can see how the colors are used to represent altitudes. Here are two examples you can get online:

<http://www.freeworldmaps.net/asia/japan/honshu.jpg>

<http://www.freeworldmaps.net/asia/japan/japan.jpg>

3) Use crayons to color in the various levels. On our map, we will be using white for the highest areas (the mountain peak areas), yellow or tan for the next highest regions (still mountainous), light green for the next level down from the mountains, and darker green for the lowest level, right down to sea level.

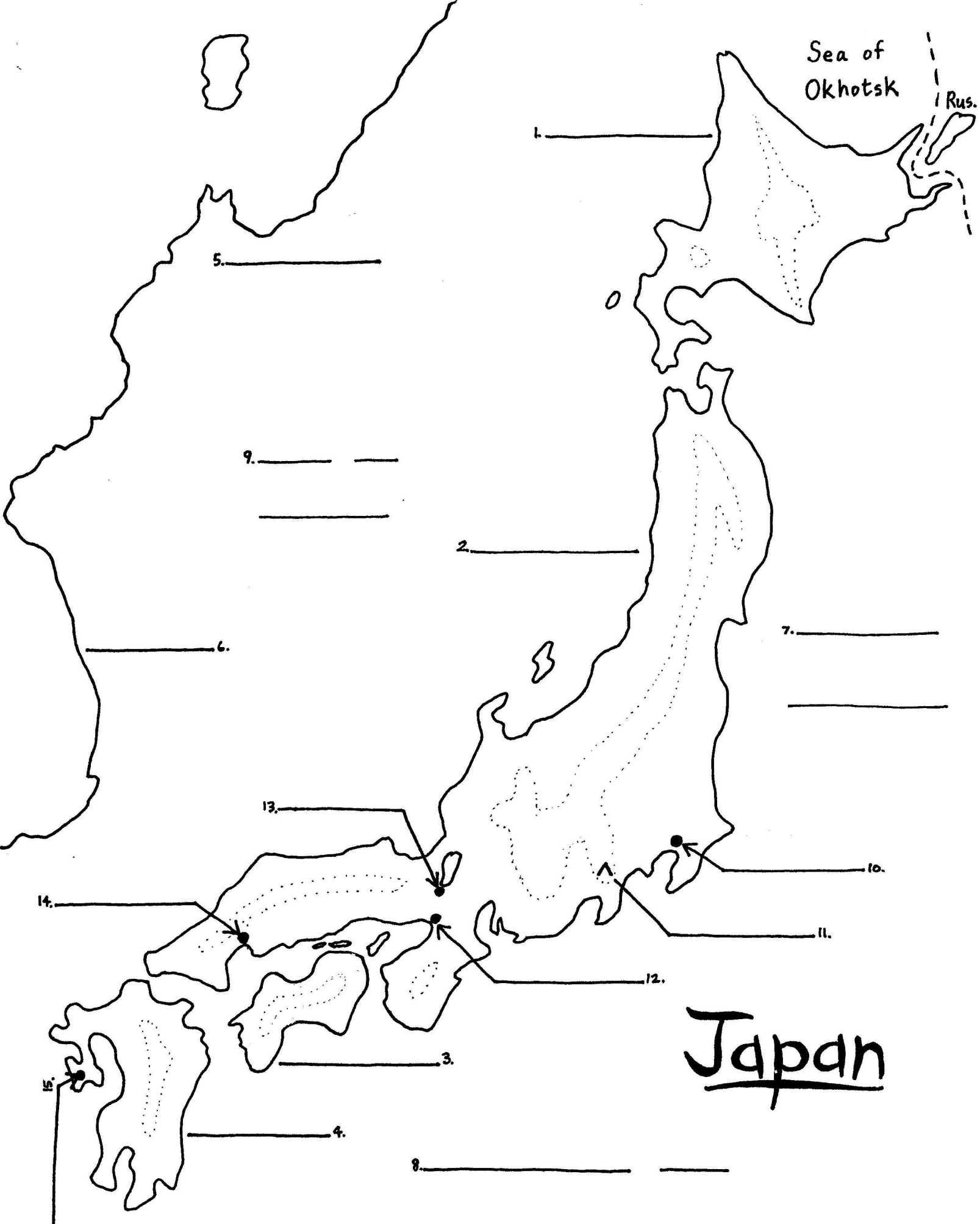
The white areas have been indicated by dotted lines on the map. The students should put white inside these, filling them in solidly even though they are white. Then color a ring of tan outside that, then a ring of light green outside the tan, then dark green to the coast.

Hopefully, all this coloring will impress on the student's mind that the islands of Japan are basically big mountains sticking up out of the ocean. Every island has steep mountains in the center. You might want to have the students guess where population centers are found, using their observation of Japan's geography. They will correctly predict that people live along the coasts. Tell them to look for the largest flat area. It's right around Tokyo. Is it any wonder, then, that Tokyo is the largest population center of Japan?!

Don't forget to color in Russia and Korea. They can be just dark or light green.

**NOTE: Make sure that the land masses are entirely filled in with crayon. ANY AREAS LEFT UNCOLORED WITH CRAYON WILL TURN BLUE IN THE NEXT STEP!**

4) Use the blue watercolor paint over the whole map. Make sure it is pretty watery. You should still be able to read the written labels clearly. Use a large brush to wash the paint all over the map. This should only take 15- 30 seconds. Then use a corner of the paper towel to dab off any paint that persists in clinging to the land areas or that looks like it might pool and dry. You might want to gently wipe off all of the main area of each island just to make sure no paint stays on. This should be very easy since the wax of the crayon will be resisting the water of the paint. Allow map to dry flat.



Sea of Okhotsk  
Rus.

Japan

1. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_