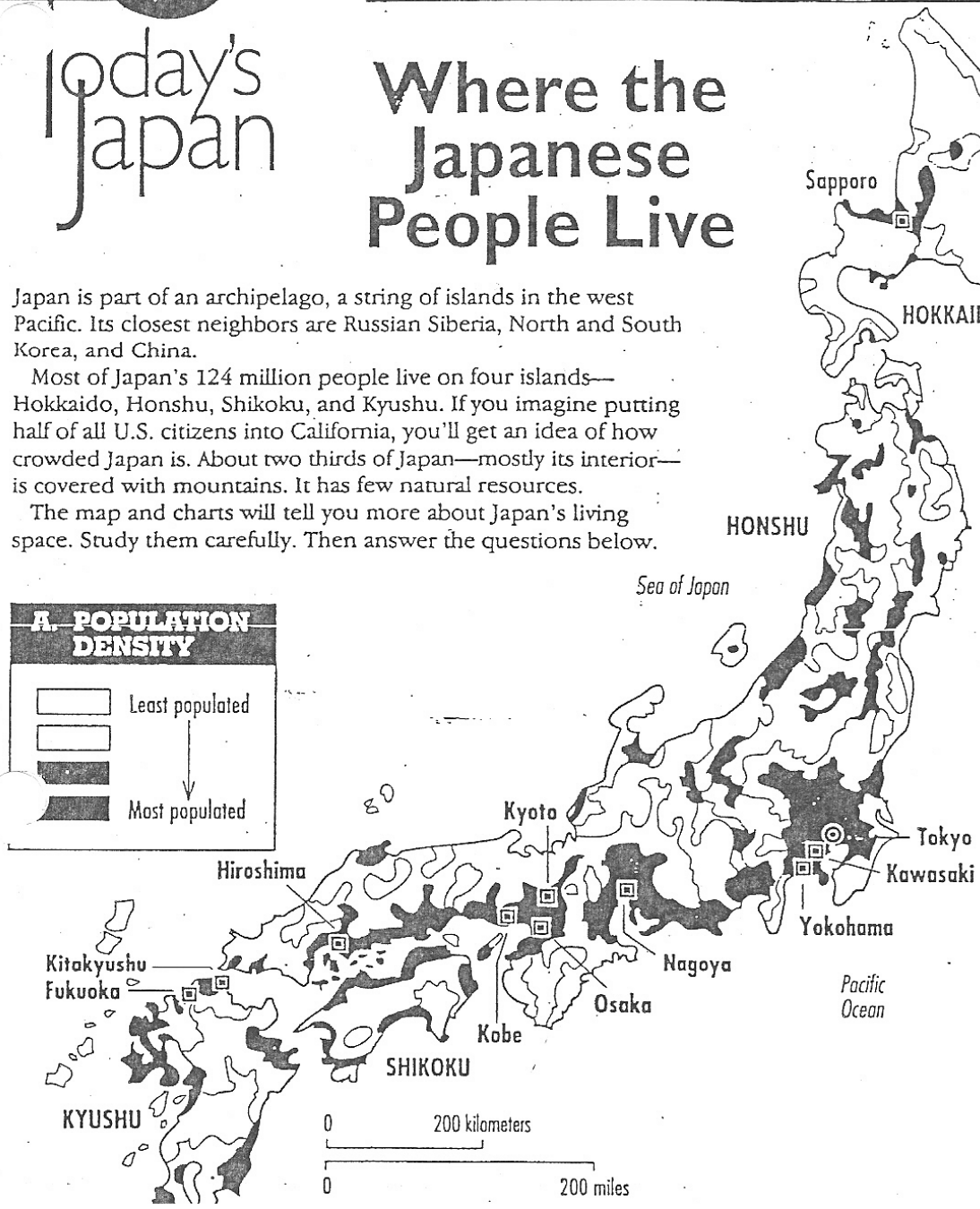
Today's Japan

Where the Japanese People Live

Japan is part of an archipelago, a string of islands in the west Pacific. Its closest neighbors are Russian Siberia, North and South Korea, and China.

Most of Japan's 124 million people live on four islands—Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu. If you imagine putting half of all U.S. citizens into California, you'll get an idea of how crowded Japan is. About two thirds of Japan—mostly its interior—is covered with mountains. It has few natural resources.

The map and charts will tell you more about Japan's living space. Study them carefully. Then answer the questions below.



A. POPULATION DENSITY

Least populated

Most populated

B. MAJOR JAPANESE CITIES

City	Population
1. Tokyo (23 wards)	7,927,000
2. Yokohama	3,250,000
3. Osaka	2,495,000
4. Nagoya	2,095,000
5. Sapporo	1,704,000
6. Kobe	1,468,000
7. Kyoto	1,395,000
8. Fukuoka	1,214,000
9. Kawasaki	1,167,000
10. Hiroshima	1,072,000
11. Kitakyushu	1,015,000

Source: Japan Ministry of Home Affairs

C. LAND USE IN JAPAN

Land Use	Share of Total Acres
Woodlands	66.8%
Agriculture	14.0%
Dwellings	4.3%
Rivers	3.5%
Roads	3.0%
Moors	0.7%
Other	7.6%
Total	99.9%

Source: Japan National Land Agency

Shirley Horn Graphics

1. What body of water lies west of Japan?

2. In what direction would a plane fly, going from Tokyo to Sapporo?

3. On what island are most of Japan's largest cities concentrated?

4. What areas of Japan are most populated?

5. What is the land in Japan mostly used for?

6. What job do you think many people base on the fact that Japan is an archipelago?