

Science in the Language Class

Japanese

Animal Fact Files

Japanese macaque
Macaca fuscata
nihonzaru
日本猿
にほんざる



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- Distribution:** Found on three of the four main islands - Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu and also on many of the smaller islands. The Japanese macaques are the most northern primate and often called snow monkeys.
- Habitat:** Adapted to a wide range of habitats – sub-tropical forest at the southern end of the distribution and sub-arctic forests at the northernmost.
- Diet:** They eat a wide variety of foods including fruits, berries, acorns, nuts, leaves, grasses, seeds, flowers, fungi, fish, spiders, insects, snails, crabs, eggs and other small animals.
- Breeding:**
- | | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| gestation | 6 months (time for baby to grow inside mum) | |
| litter size | usually 1 although 2 has been known | |
| lifespan | ~ 30 years | |
- Size:**
- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| length | male 57cm | female 52cm |
| tail length | male 9cm | female 8cm |
| weight | male 11kg | female 8kg |
- IUCN Red List Status:** Least Concern
- Main threats:** Although listed as least concern, the Japanese macaque does face some threats. Habitat loss is the main threat. Forests have been cleared for farmland and building roads. In the past the macaque was hunted for food and medicines. This is illegal but can still continue. The macaque can also be killed legally as a pest when found raiding crops.

Eurasian eagle owl

Bubo bubo

washimimizuku

鷲木菟

わしみみずく



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Distribution:	Across Europe, Middle East, Russia, China, Korea and Japan.
Habitat:	Rocky cliffs and ravines, quarries and buildings, woodland, semi-desert and farmland.
Diet:	Mammals up to the size of adult hares or even young deer as well as birds up to the size of herons and buzzards. Some amphibians, reptiles, fish and insects.
Breeding:	
incubation	34-36 days (time keeping the eggs warm in the nest)
eggs	1-5
lifespan	~ 20 years
Size:	
length	60-75cm
wingspan	160-188cm
weight	male 1.5-2.8kg female 1.75-4.2kg
IUCN Red List Status:	Least Concern
Main threats:	There was a decline in numbers during the 20 th century due to hunting, pesticide use and poisoning. Although numbers have recovered they are still lower than the previous levels.

red crowned crane
Grus japonensis
tanchouzuru
 丹頂鶴
 たんちょうづる



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- Distribution:** Japanese population is found on the island of Hokkaido and does not migrate. [Also found in north eastern China, Russia and Mongolia and migrates to eastern China and north and south Korea.]
- Habitat:** Coastal saltmarsh, rice paddies, rivers and freshwater marshes.
- Diet:** Insects, aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, rodents, fish, reeds, grasses, and other plants.
- Breeding:**
- | | |
|------------|---|
| incubation | 29-34 days (time keeping the eggs warm in the nest) |
| eggs | 1-2 |
| lifespan | ~ 30-40 years |
- Size:**
- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| height | 150-158cm |
| length | 100-150cm |
| wingspan | 220-250cm |
| weight | 7-8kg |
- IUCN Red List Status:** Endangered
- Main threats:** In the past the birds were hunted to near extinction but are now protected. Habitat loss is a main threat with wetland areas converted for agriculture and industrial development.

brown bear
*Ursus arctos
higuma*
熊
ひぐま



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- Distribution:** Japanese population is found in the north of Hokkaido. [Also found Russia, Canada and Alaska. Fragmented populations in southern and eastern Europe, Middle East, central and eastern Asia.]
- Habitat:** Adapted to a wide range of habitats – forests, woodland, coastlines, tundra, desert and semi-desert.
- Diet:** They eat a wide variety of foods including berries, nuts, grasses, roots, insects, salmon, mammals and fish.
- Breeding:**
- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| gestation | 6-8 months with delayed implantation |
| litter size | 1-4 |
| lifespan | ~ 30 years |
- Size:**
- | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| length | 1.5-2.8m |
| height | 0.9-1.5m |
| weight | male 135-545kg female 80-250kg |
- IUCN Red List Status:** Least Concern
- Main threats:** Although the world population of the brown bear is large and not considered to be threatened, the Hokkaido bear's fragmented population in Japan is under threat. The bear can still be hunted illegally for Traditional Chinese medicines.

Recommended websites:

RZSS Highland Wildlife Park
highlandwildlifepark.org.uk

Arkive
arkive.org

IUCN Red List
iucnredlist.org

StampIT 'Language of Stamps' series
scottishphilately.co.uk/moodle

Recommended books:

Brazil, Mark. 2015, *Common and Iconic Birds of Japan*: Japan Nature Guides

Brazil, Mark. 2015, *Common and Iconic Mammals of Japan*: Japan Nature Guides

Miller-Schroeder, Patricia. 2014, *Animals on the Brink – Japanese Macaques*: AV2books

Sandie Robb, Language Project Coordinator
The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
134 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh
EH12 6TS

srobb@rzss.org.uk
07963 070654
@Sandie_Robb