

# The Kinki Region: Kyoto, Nara, Hyogo, and Wakayama

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# Kinki:Kansai

- ❖ As Public spending Kansai only gets back about one quarter of what it contributes in taxes to the central government.
- ❖ The Kansai taxpayers have been tasked with paying more to repair damages to the city.
- ❖ Taxpayer funded repairs are a slow process and lead to a decline in local businesses (Ex: roadwork)

# Kyoto

## Geographical and Cultural Information

- ❖ Kyoto is surrounded by mountains from North, East and West
  - The main city of Kyoto is placed in the Kyoto basin
- ❖ Kyoto's four seasons are very distinct contribute to the rich historical culture.
- ❖ Kyoto is the cultural hub of Japan



# Kyoto Popular Festivals

- ❖ Aoi festival: Held in May, people dress as aristocrats and hope for rich harvest and safety of a nation by appeasing Gods
- ❖ Gion festival: Held in July to calm evil spirits. This festival is based on Buddhist ideas. In addition, Many ornate floats move around the city of Kyoto.
- ❖ Jidai festival: After the establishment of Heian Shrine in 1895, civilians started this festival to praise the history of Kyoto. In this event, people dress in clothes representative of traditional period dress from 794 up to Meiji period

# Kyoto

- ❖ Kyoto prefecture must strive to conserve its historical core while adapting to accommodate more foreign people.
  - Kyoto is experiencing a shortage of high-end accommodations
- ❖ Differences in customs.
  - Complaints are rising from Japanese tourists and Kyoto citizens about foreign visitors who ignore the rules.

# Nara

## Geographical and Cultural Information

- ❖ Capital of Japan for part of the 8th Century before being moved to Kyoto
- ❖ Landlocked region (does not face the ocean), covered in mountains and forest
- ❖ Strong Influence of Buddhism throughout Nara
- ❖ Famous festivals include Todaiji Nigatsudo Syujikai 東大寺二月堂修二会 and Saidaiji Spring Tea Ceremony





# Nara

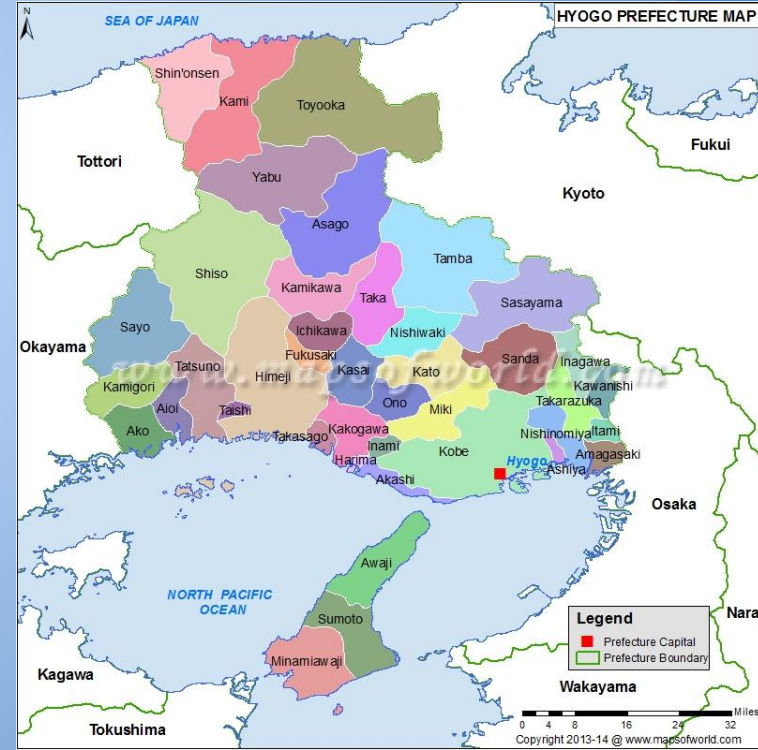
- Dealing with the concept of “Tarai-mawashi”
- Overcrowded Hospitals lead to a major problem of patients not receiving the care they need and being turned away from hospitals.
- Older generations tend to use ambulances as “taxis”



# Hyogo

## Geographical and Cultural Information

- ❖ Hyogo faces two Seas: The Japan Sea and The Seto Inland Sea
  - The Seto Inland Sea has had a particularly important role on merchant trade since the beginning of written history.
- ❖ Kobe is one of the most important ports in Japan as it is connected to the Hanshin Industrial area.





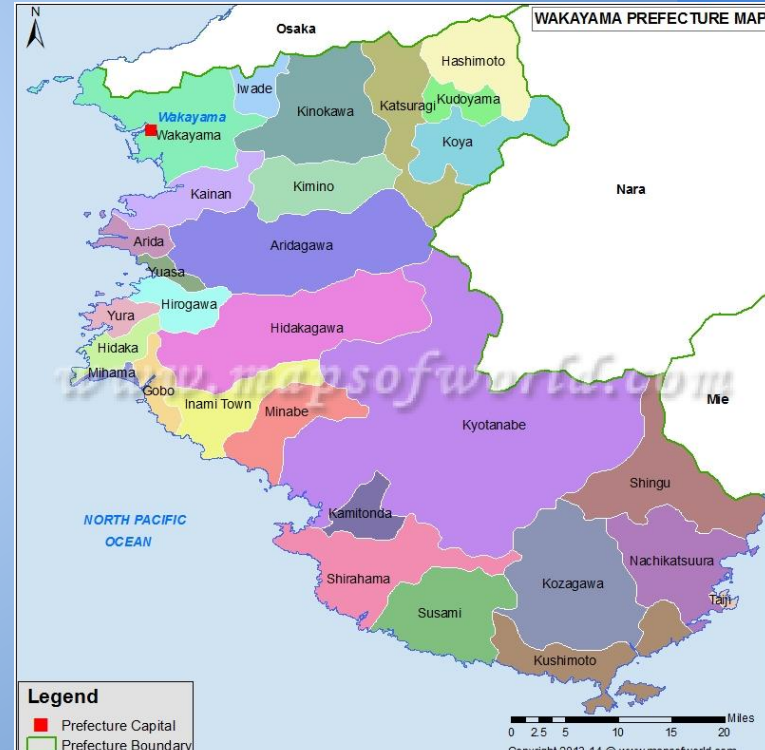
# Hyogo

- ❖ Residents of public housing built after the 1995 Great Hanshin Earthquake are being asked to move out.
  - More than 4,000 households are still living in housing the Hyogo Prefectural Government.
  - About 60 percent of the residents are 65 or older.
- ❖ Like much of Japan, rural Hyogo is also dealing with the issue of an aging population and a loss of youth to bigger cities.

# Wakayama

## Geographical and Cultural Information

- ❖ Located in the southwest of the Kinki region along the Kii Peninsula
  - Providing rich fishery(Kuroshio Current)
- ❖ 76.8 percents of the area is covered mountains. As a result, most of the population lives along the coastal borders of the prefecture
- ❖ Two famous festivals held in Wakayama: Nachi Fire festival and the Kumano Shrine Annual Event



# Wakayama

- ❖ September - March is dolphin hunting season in Taiji
  - Fisherman have an annual quota of 2000 set by the government.
  - This practice is considered traditional by locals, who consider the animals a resource.
  - The dolphins are sold as meat but live dolphins are also kept to be sold for considerable prices
- ❖ Dolphin hunting is a tradition from the 17th century
  - Activists argue that the hunting activities are actually driven by high bids for live animals.

# Conclusion & Question