

# Grand Tour Report: Risks and Opportunities



Class: 5D

**Group 1**

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## Chapter 1: Introduction

One of our two destinations of the Grand Tour is Japan, a hazard-prone country that is frequently disrupted by earthquake, tsunami and volcanic eruption. 5D students who study Geography are interested in investigating “How the Japanese Resolve the Risks Living in their Home Town”.

## Chapter 2: Methodology

The *first* method of finding the answer of the topic was observation. By watching carefully and taking pictures of precaution and recovery work, we studied how the Japanese adapt to the hazard-prone living place.

*Secondly*, an interview with students of a Japanese secondary school and two Hong Kong post-graduates who studied in Japan was conducted to find out their opinion on the effectiveness of evacuation rehearsals, which can prove how the Japanese adapt to the risks of tectonic hazards.

*Furthermore*, additional information were found by subsequent online research. Through combining what was observed and the facts of the incidents that took place, we were able to relate and construct a more comprehensive picture of how the Japanese people and the government resolve the risk of earthquake in their country.

### Chapter 3: Literature Review

According to Rorya2geography (<https://rorya2geography.weebly.com/tectonic-hazards.html>), operated by data scientist Rory Sheridan, Tectonic hazards are “hazard events caused by tectonic plates colliding into each other, moving against each other, moving apart or subduction between a less dense plate and a more dense plate”.

With reference to the academic platform, LiveScience.com (<https://www.livescience.com/54434-why-so-many-earthquakes-strike-japan.html>), Japan is a hazard-prone region because “Japan is located along the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, which is the most active earthquake belt in the world. This ‘ring’ is actually an imaginary horseshoe-shaped zone that follows the rim of the Pacific Ocean, where many of the world's earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.” What is more, “within the Ring of Fire, several tectonic plates – including the Pacific Plate beneath the Pacific Ocean and the Philippine Sea Plate – mash and collide.”

With further research, we can understand the causes of the frequent tectonic movements and the subsequent earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions.

## Chapter 4: Photograph Analysis



During our visit to the Mount Also, an active volcano in Japan, warning signs were prevalent on the path. Rating of the safety levels were indicated by colors, which make identification easy. Visitors' awareness of safety can be raised when they pass by such signs.

## Chapter 5: Findings of the Interview

Since two target groups were set for the interview, one for local Japanese students and the other two for the Hong Kong students that studied in Japan abroad, two separate sets of questions were designed.

To eliminate the language barrier, the questions were translated into Japanese with the help of Japanese-speaking consultants. It is believed that the bilingualism can help the respondents understand the best of the question.



The followings are the original scripts of the sets of question:

Questions for local Japanese students

Please answer questions 1-5.

( 次の質問では、わからない場合は、回答をスキップ  
しも構いません。 )

1. How frequent would your school hold evacuation rehearsal for earthquake?

( あなたの学校は地震のために避難訓練をどのくらい  
にしますか？ )

- A. once per month
- B. once per half a year
- C. once a year

2. How long does each rehearsal at school usually take?

( 学校での避難訓練は一回に何分間かかりますか？ )

- A. less than 1 minute
- B. 1-2 minutes
- C. 3-4 minutes

3. Where would you go when an earthquake happens?

( 地震が起きたときにどこに避難しますか？ )

- A. A park
- B. A school
- C. The evacuation centre

4. What would you bring along during evacuation?

( 避難中に何を待ちますか？ )

- A. ID card
- B. Phone
- C. Money
- D. key

5. What is the reason for you to choose staying in Japan while there is the risks of earthquake is very high?

( 震災の危険があるのに日本滞在を選んだ理由は何で  
すか？ )

- A. family bonding
- B. secured by the forecast system

## Questions for Hong Kong students that studied in Japan abroad

*Please answer the following questions.*

*You may skip a question if you do not know the answer.*

1. *Have you ever participated in an evacuation rehearsal for the following tectonic hazard? (i.e. earthquake, tsunami or volcanic eruption) If yes, please go to question 3.*
  - A. *Yes*
  - B. *No*
  
2. *How frequent would you participate in a evacuation rehearsal?*
  - A. *every month*
  - B. *every semester*
  - C. *every year ;*
  
3. *Do you think the instructions given to evacuate to a safe place are clear and easy-to-follow?*
  - A. *very clear and easy*
  - B. *clear but not easy to follow*
  - C. *not clear*
  
4. *Do you think evacuation rehearsals are necessary? (rate from 0-5, 0 is the least necessary; 5 is the most necessary) ;*
  
5. *Why would you still opt for Japan as the destination to study abroad, despite earthquake occurrence is high there?*  
*(free answers)*

The findings are as follows:

*In terms of frequency of the evacuation rehearsal that took place, local secondary students admitted they will usually have to practice once in every three years, as they have already drilled the evacuation procedure frequently since very young.*

*“① As Japan has a lot of earthquakes, I did a lot of rehearsals when I was in elementary school. However, the number of times has decreased in time. It is now three times a year.”*

The destination of the evacuation route is close to the neighbourhood, which also ensures the safety by providing a geological isolation to the danger of the tectonic hazard like, tsunami, or the lava flow of volcanic eruption. Students are also very familiar with the route to the reach the destination at the fastest speed as possible.

*“② The evacuation drill takes 30 minutes in average. Because I have to listen to the fireman's instructions. However, it only takes about 10 minutes to move to the evacuation site.”*

*“③ It is a high mountain where I can reach in about 10 minutes from school.”*

During the evacuation, a slogan was provided as easy-to-remember reminders. It showed that other than the procedures of evaluation, discipline is important as well. Reminders like “no running” and “no talking” were made very clear to students such that they could avoid accidents.

*“④ When evacuating, we do not hold anything. There is a slogan when you evacuate. It is called “OHaSiMo”. O おさない(Osanai)= Do not press. Ha はしらない(hashiranai)= I do not run. Si しやべらない (shabersnai)= Do not talk. Mo もどらない(modoranai)= I will not return.”*

When being asked why they were still willing to live in Japan despite knowing the threats of tectonic hazards, the interviewee answered that “Japan is where I was born.” It is believed that the Japanese has a close bonding to their home country. They would sacrifice the guarantee of safety living in other places. Moreover, family ties is also a concern to address as most local respondents said they did not wish to move away from their relatives.

On the contrary, Hong Kong students who studied in Japan might have less experience in escaping from tectonic hazards. All of the two respondents had participated in evacuation rehearsals before. They would opt for having evacuation rehearsals once a year. They also rate 5 (out of 5) to indicate the utmost importance of having rehearsals on a regular basis. They said the instructions given were very clear and easy despite language barrier between locals and foreigners. It implied that the Japanese are concerned about every individual participants in the rehearsals.

## Chapter 6: Conclusion

Despite the fact that Japan is in the hazard-prone region of earthquake, tsunami and volcanic eruption, the high safety awareness of the people has minimized the potential destruction made by these tectonic hazards.

They are very clear with the threats living in Japan, but they would still believe they can be safe through regular practice of evacuation rehearsals.

Precautionary actions taken are very adaptable and useful in resolving the risks of living in Japan. Tourists who may know less about the knowledge of securing themselves, can still effectively learn the skills and raise the awareness of safety through adequate signs and evaluation demonstration.

## Chapter 7: Reflection

### Day 2: ShangHai Bund

In everybody's mind, China is poor and is a country with low living standards. After this trip, it totally changed my mind. The living standard in China is not bad in fact.

The most memorable site that we had been to was the ShangHai Bund. The night view was stunning and gorgeous. The night view of Hong Kong is famous as well and also known as the "Pearl of origin". I think that the night view in ShangHai bund is better when compared to Hong Kong. The skyscrapers shines in the night and the bund is bigger than the Victoria Harbor. It can let the tourists have more space to take a good picture with the night view.

After visiting the ShangHai bund, I realize that Hong Kong people is no longer wealthier than Chinese. The Chinese people is working hard and China is developing rapidly and now become the world's second largest economic entities. It all depends on the hard-work of Chinese people. After this trip, I know that Hong Kong people should work harder in order to keep the competitiveness of Hong Kong. There is nothing we can do better than other cities in China if we do not work hard. The market of China is larger than Hong Kong and the education level do not have a great difference. The only way to keep competitiveness is to put in more effort.

By Chris Lam

### Day 3: Kushida Shrine, Canal City

On the first day we arrived Japan, we dragged our weary body down the plane after the flight. The first impression that Japan gave me was polite and clean. The streets were really clean with no garbage on the floor. In fact, the interesting fact is there was no rubbish bin on the street at all!

Kushida Shrine is a building used for the safekeeping of sacred objects, pray, worship and so on. It was an unforgettable experience which our class pray to get a higher grade in the HKDSE 2019 sincerely.

Canal City is the largest shopping district with long shopping arcades and with a unique concept. Restaurants, shops, yatai and even outdoor food stalls could be found. We separated into different groups and spent two hours over there. My group went to eat pancake and shopping. The shopping mall was so big that I almost got lost. Even though there were many food stalls and people, there were no rubbish found on the floor, which showed the self-discipline of the Japanese. It is important to note that the sales and waiters were very polite, even if we spent plenty of time communicating due to the language barrier between us, they served us with patience and politeness.

Athena Ma



#### Day 4: Uminonakamichi Seaside Park

On the fourth day of the Grand Tour, we came to a beach to clean up some marine waste on a voluntary-basis.

Uminonakamichi Seaside is a man-made beach in Fukuoka. Its purpose of land varies from recreational to educational purpose for the travelers. By merging the knowledge of learning geography, we knew that deposition is caused by alternate stronger swash and weaker backwash of the Hakata Sea.

Along the coast, a lot of deposited waste from the other countries, such as the medical and domestic wastes like used syringe and dumped plastic bottles, were found. All of the garbage brings harm to the natural coastal habitat. Some dead aquatic organisms like jellyfish, sea cucumber and puffer fish were washed to the coast. It showed that the problem of pollution reduced the biodiversity and destroyed the ecosystem there.

Despite knowing the heartaching reality of how nature is disrupted by irresponsible human activities, all of us tried very hard to remedy the situaion by picking up every piece of rubbish. After all, mesmerized by the spectacular overview of the beautiful shoreline, we are aspired to be environmentally-friendly and thus volunteered to help doing something on social issue.

Cathleen Shek



## Day 5: Mount Aso Museum, Suizen-ji joju-en

We went to the Mount Aso Museum and we watched a short video about the history as well as the formation about Mount Aso. We learnt more about the volcanoes, relieve work, different type of volcanoes' formation. Mount Aso is the largest active volcano in Japan, and is among the largest in the world. Its peak is 1,592 meters above sea level. And its crater is around 75 x 45 km large.

Due to strong gases around Mount Aso's crater, a no-entry zone is currently maintained that stretches one kilometer from the crater. Consequently, it is currently not possible to see the crater. However, we saw that the volcanoes are like others mountains, they are stunning and green as well.

As geography students, we can apply our knowledge from the lesson into this tour. We had a better understanding and clearer concepts about the plate movement, volcanic eruption and the relieve work or measurement.

By Jane Lau



## Day 5: Mount Aso Museum, Suizen-ji joju-en

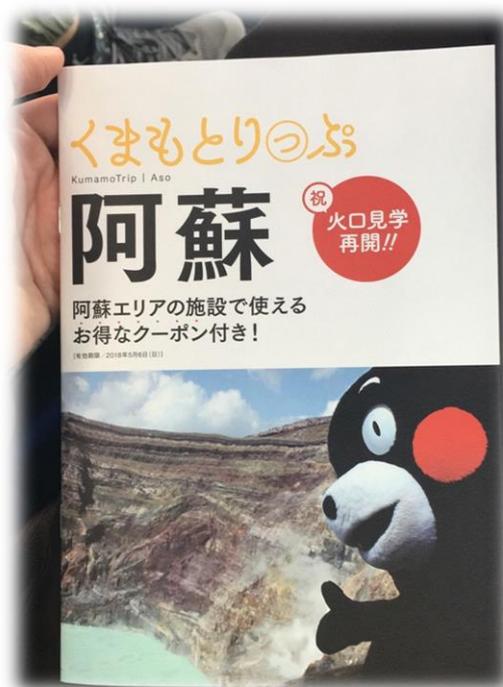
People may only focus on the harms while overlooking its benefits brought by Mountain Aso. Actually, it does benefit locals a lot. For instance, it favours farming activities. The solidified basic lava is weathered to form fertile soil for farming.

As we could see near the museum, there were livestock nearby, like horses, that were fed with crops grown with fertile soil. Besides, mineral deposits like gold and silver could be found in some volcanic rocks. They have economic value as the locals can sell those valuable rocks. Those minerals which is common can be used for educational purpose by putting them into museum.

However, we cannot neglect the negative impacts or damages that locals suffer from. Environment is a prime example. Whenever there is a volcanic eruption, toxic gases, such as sulphuric gases, are emitted and harm locals' health. Lava flow may also lead to fires and destruction of property, farmland and forests.

Recovering its original beauty takes time and may upset their economic activities. Combining knowledge with what we experienced and saw are what made a successful trip.

By Tom Poon



## Day 5: Mount Aso Museum, Suizen-ji joju-en

Suizen-ji joju-en was the terminus of our trip. Since we did not finish the mission given by our school yet, we had to find two foreign tourists and ask them to sing a birthday song for King Ling College. Chris was responsible for asking tourists for help, Tom and Hercules were the cameramen, and I sang along with the tourists so that they would not feel embarrassed. Luckily, the local people we met were very nice and willing to help, so we could finish our mission immediately.

In this trip, I knew that it was difficult to have consensus as some of my teammates are rather passive, including me. Therefore we used some time on distributing tasks to each teammate. After this trip, I found one of my shortcomings is timidity. I will try my best to be brave in the coming group activities.

By Marco Fung