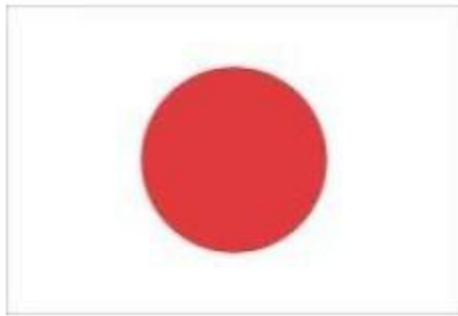


Japan



- **Name:** Japan, in Japanese: *Nihon* or *Nippon*
- **Government:** Constitutional Monarchy. The Japanese emperor is called Naruhito.
- **Population:** 126.5 million people
- **Language:** Japanese
- **National Symbols:** red sun disk (as shown on the flag), national bird: green pheasant, national flower: cherry blossom and chrysanthemum, national fish: Japanese koi fish
- **National Anthem:** "*Kimigayo*" - The Emperor's Reign

The Japanese word "Koinobori" is a combination of 2 original words, koi and nobori. "Koi" means a carp and "Nobori" means a banner or flag.

Originally, the banners, flags or windsocks were used by samurai warriors on the battlefield. Whenever the ancient warriors were on the battlefield, they wore full yoroi armors and flew banners.

Koinobori decorate the landscape of Japan from April through early May, in honor of the Children's Day (originally the Boys' festival) on May 5.

