BY RICHARD SPINELLI ROCHESTER PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION APRIL 10, 2025



リチャード・スピネ リによる日本郵便の キャンセルに関する プレゼンテーション、 ロチェスター切手協会 2025年.

Presentation by Richard Spinelli on Japan Post's Cancellation, Rochester Philatelic Society, 2025.

Richādo supine Ri ni yoru nippon'yūbin no kyanseru ni kansuru purezentēshon, rochesutā kitte kyōkai 2025-nen.

日本郵便のキャンセル ANYONE TRY TRANSLATING THIS PHRASE?

Nippon'yūbin no kyanseru

"JAPAN POST CANCELLATION"

• THE JAPANESE WORD FOR "JAPAN" IN KANJI IS 日本 (NIHON OR NIPPON), WHERE 日 MEANS "SUN" OR "DAY" AND 本 MEANS "ORIGIN" OR "ROOT". (LAND OF THE RISING SUN).

- IN THE 1850'S, JAPAN HAD BEEN LARGELY ISOLATED FROM THE WEST FOR OVER TWO CENTURIES, WITH LIMITED TRADE ALLOWED ONLY WITH A FEW NATIONS.
- THE UNITED STATES, WITH GROWING TRADE INTERESTS IN THE PACIFIC AND A BURGEONING WHALING INDUSTRY, SOUGHT ACCESS TO JAPANESE PORTS FOR SUPPLIES, REFUELING, AND TRADE.
- UNDER ORDERS FROM PRESIDENT MILLARD FILLMORE, COMMODORE MATTHEW PERRY'S EXPEDITION TO JAPAN IN 1853-1854 AIMED TO FORCE JAPAN TO OPEN ITS PORTS TO AMERICAN TRADE AFTER CENTURIES OF SELF-IMPOSED ISOLATION, USING GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY, IF NECESSARY.

- JAPAN'S OPENING TO THE WESTERN WORLD WAS A PIVOTAL EVENT, LEADING TO THE END OF JAPAN'S 200-YEAR ISOLATION POLICY AND THE SUBSEQUENT MEIJI RESTORATION, WHICH MODERNIZED AND WESTERNIZED THE COUNTRY.
- ON JULY 8, 1853, COMMODORE PERRY LED HIS FOUR SHIPS INTO THE HARBOR AT TOKYO BAY, SEEKING TO RE-ESTABLISH REGULAR TRADE AND DISCOURSE BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE WESTERN WORLD.
- I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO TRAVEL TO JAPAN THREE TIMES ON BUSINESS FOR XEROX CORPORATION DURING THE LATE 1980'S AND EARLY 1990'S.
- I AM BY NO MEANS AN EXPERT IN JAPAN, JAPANESE STAMPS AND CANCELS OR JAPANESE CULTURE. I DO HAVE A CURIOSITY IN A PARTICULAR JAPANESE STAMP CANCEL.

- IN 1870, JAPAN SENT A BARON MAESHIMA TO LONDON TO STUDY THE BRITISH POSTAL SYSTEM, WHICH LED TO THE FOUNDING OF JAPAN'S POSTAL SYSTEM IN 1871.
- IN SEPTEMBER 1870, JAPAN'S FINANCE OFFICE WAS REQUESTED TO DESIGN JAPAN'S FIRST STAMPS. THE STAMPS WERE MADE IN FOUR DENOMINATIONS: 48-MON (BROWN), 100-MON (BLUE), 200-MON (VERMILION), AND 500-MON (BLUE-GREEN). THEY WERE HAND-ENGRAVED AND HAD NO PERFORATION ON THE EDGES NOR ANY GUMMED BACK.

• ISSUED IN APRIL 1871, THE STAMPS WERE USED BY JAPAN'S POSTAL SERVICE WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN MARCH 1871. WHEN JAPAN'S MONETARY SYSTEM CHANGED IN FEBRUARY 1872, THE DENOMINATIONS OF THESE FIRST FOUR STAMPS WERE CHANGED TO HALF SEN, 1 SEN, 2 SEN, AND 5 SEN AND ISSUED IN APRIL 1872. LATER IN SEPTEMBER THE SAME YEAR, STAMPS WITH 10-SEN, 20-SEN, AND 30-SEN DENOMINATIONS WERE ADDED.

• THE JAPANESE POSTAL SERVICE BEGAN USING A "MACHINE CANCELS" SYSTEM, WHICH INCLUDED WESTERN-STYLE CANCEL NUMBERS, AROUND 1920. (BEFORE THIS, JAPANESE CANCELLATIONS WERE PRIMARILY HAND-

STAMPED).

So, is this cancel February 12, 1921 or February 12, 2021?

Neither!!!!

BESIDES USING THE WESTERN WORLD'S GREGORIAN CALENDAR, JAPAN BASES ITS YEARS ON THE EMPEROR'S REIGN. THUS, THE YEAR OF A POSTMARK COULD REFER TO THE MEIJI ERA (1868-1912), TAISHO ERA (1912-1926), SHOWA ERA (1926-1989), HEISEI ERA (1989-2019), REIWA ERA (2019- PRESENT. SO IF YOU SEE "2" AS THE YEAR, IT COULD BE YEAR 2 OF ANY OF THESE ERAS (1868, 1912, 1926, 1989 OR 2019.









Month of the Year



Day of the Month



This, and the previous stamp, are personnel Postal Card Stamps. It is difficult to find nice "Sock On Nose" Western date cancels on stamps because of the date size. As you see here, the date is off the stamp face.



Date off stamp face.

Traditionally, the Japanese imperial throne is passed down through agnatic primo-geniture, meaning succession is limited male descendants in the male line, with preference given to the Emperor's eldest son, then his eldest son's eldest son, and so on.

- THE JAPANESE EMPEROR DYNASTY BEGAN IN 660 BC.
- EMPEROR JIMMU (BORN: HIKOHOHODEM) WAS THE LEGENDARY FIRST EMPEROR OF JAPAN.



- ACCORDING TO THE NIHON SHOKI AND KOJIKI, ("THE CHRONICLES OF JAPAN", THE SECOND-OLDEST BOOK OF CLASSICAL JAPANESE, 740 BC) .HIS ASCENSION IS TRADITIONALLY DATED AS 660 BC.
- IN JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY, HE WAS A DESCENDANT OF THE SUN GODDESS AMATERASU, THROUGH HER GRANDSON NINIGI, AS WELL AS A DESCENDANT OF THE STORM GOD SUSANOO.



- JIMMU LAUNCHED A MILITARY EXPEDITION FROM HYŪGA NEAR THE SETO INLAND SEA, CAPTURED YAMATO, AND ESTABLISHED THIS AS HIS CENTER OF POWER.
- IN MODERN JAPAN, EMPEROR JIMMU'S LEGENDARY ASCENSION IS MARKED AS NATIONAL FOUNDATION DAY ON FEBRUARY 11.
- SINCE THE JAPANESE POST OFFICE WAS FORMED IN 1870, WE ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN EMPERORS FROM THIS DATE AND BEYOND.





Meiji 1868-1912

Mutsuhito (3 November 1852 - 29 July 1912), posthumously honored as Emperor Meiji, was the 122nd emperor of Japan according to the traditional order of succession, reigning from 1867 until his death in 1912. His reign is associated with the Meiji Restoration of 1868, which ended the Tokugawa shogunate and began rapid changes that transformed Japan from an isolationist, feudal state to an industrialized world power. Emperor Meiji was the first monarch of the **Empire of Japan**, and presided over the Meiji era.

MEIJI CALENDAR

Meiji 1 = 1868.10.23

Meiji 2 = 1869

Meiji 3 = 1870

Meiji 4 = 1871

Meiji 5 = 1872

Meiji 6 = 1873

Meiji 7 = 1874

Meiji 8 = 1875

Meiji 9 = 1876

Meiji 10 = 1877

Meiji 11 = 1878

Meiji 12 = 1879

Meiji 13 = 1880

Meiji 14 = 1881

Meiji 15 = 1882

Meiji 16 = 1883

Meiji 17 = 1884

Meiji 18 = 1885

Meiji 19 = 1886

Meiji 20 = 1887

Meiji 21 = 1888

Meiji 22 = 1889

Meiji 23 = 1890

Meiji 24 = 1891

Meiji 25 = 1892

Meiji 26 = 1893

Meiji 27 = 1894

Meiji 28 = 1895

Meiji 29 = 1896

Meiji 30 = 1897

Meiji 31 = 1898

Meiji 32 = 1899

Meiji 33 = 1900

Meiji 34 = 1901

Meiji 35 = 1902

Meiji 36 = 1903

Meiji 37 = 1904

Meiji 38 = 1905

Meiji 39 = 1906

Meiji 40 = 1907

Meiji 41 = 1908

Meiji 42 = 1909

Meiji 43 = 1910

Meiji 44 = 1911

Meiji 45 = 1912.7.30







Taisho 1912-1926

• YOSHIHITO (31 AUGUST 1879 – 25 DECEMBER 1926), POSTHUMOUSLY HONORED AS EMPEROR TAISHO, WAS THE 123RD EMPEROR OF JAPAN ACCORDING TO THE TRADITIONAL ORDER OF SUCCESSION, REIGNING FROM 1912 UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1926. HIS REIGN, KNOWN AS THE TAISHO ERA, WAS CHARACTERIZED BY A LIBERAL AND DEMOCRATIC SHIFT IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL POWER, KNOWN AS TAISHŌ DEMOCRACY. YOSHIHITO ALSO OVERSAW PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR FROM 1914 TO 1918, THE SPANISH FLU PANDEMIC, AND THE GREAT KANTŌ EARTHQUAKE OF 1923.

TASHIO 1912 - 1926

• TAISHO 1 = 1912.7.30

• TAISHO 2 = 1913

TAISHO 3 = 1914

TAISHO 4 = 1915

TAISHO 5 = 1916

TAISHO 6 = 1917

TAISHO 7 = 1918

• TAISHO 8 = 1919

• TAISHO 9 = 1920

TAISHO 10 = 1921

• TAISHO 11 = 1922

TAISHO 12 = 1923

TAISHO 13 = 1924

TAISHO 14 = 1925

• TAISHO 15 =1926.12.25







Shōwa 1926-1989

 HIROHITO (29 APRIL 1901 – 7 JANUARY 1989), POSTHUMOUSLY HONORED AS EMPEROR SHŌWA, WAS THE 124TH EMPEROR OF JAPAN ACCORDING TO THE TRADITIONAL ORDER OF SUCCESSION, FROM 25 DECEMBER 1926 UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1989. HE REMAINS JAPAN'S LONGEST-REIGNING EMPEROR AS WELL AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LONGEST-REIGNING MONARCHS. AS EMPEROR DURING THE SHOWA ERA, HIROHITO OVERSAW THE RISE OF JAPANESE MILITARISM, JAPAN'S EXPANSIONISM IN ASIA, THE OUTBREAK OF THE SECOND SINO-JAPANESE WAR AND WORLD WAR II, AND THE POSTWAR JAPANESE **ECONOMIC MIRACLE.**

SHOWA 1926-1989

- SHOWA 1 = 1926.12.25
- SHOWA 2 = 1927
- SHOWA 3 = 1928
- SHOWA 4 = 1929
- SHOWA 5 = 1930
- SHOWA 6 = 1931
- SHOWA 7 = 1932
- SHOWA 8 = 1933
- SHOWA 9 = 1934
- SHOWA 10 = 1935
- SHOWA 11 = 1936
- SHOWA 12 = 1937
- SHOWA 13 = 1938
- SHOWA 14 = 1939
- SHOWA 15 = 1940
- SHOWA 16 = 1941
- SHOWA 17 = 1942
 - **SHOWA 18 = 1943**
- SHOWA 19 = 1944
- SHOWA 20 = 1945
- SHOWA 21 = 1946

- SHOWA 22 = 1947
- SHOWA 23 = 1948
- SHOWA 24 = 1949
- SHOWA 25 = 1950
- SHOWA 26 = 1951
- SHOWA 27 = 1952
- SHOWA 28 = 1953
- SHOWA 29 = 1954
- SHOWA 30 = 1955
- SHOWA 31 = 1956
- SHOWA 32 = 1957
- SHOWA 33 = 1958
- SHOWA 34 = 1959
- SHOWA 35 = 1960
- SHOWA 36 = 1961
- SHOWA 37 = 1962
- SHOWA 38 = 1963
- SHOWA 39 = 1964
- SHOWA 40 = 1965
- SHOWA 41 = 1966
- SHOWA 42 = 1967

- SHOWA 43 = 1968
- SHOWA 44 = 1969
- SHOWA 45 = 1970
- SHOWA 46 = 1971
- SHOWA 47 = 1972
- SHOWA 48 = 1973
- SHOWA 49 = 1974
- SHOWA 50 = 1975
- SHOWA 51 = 1976
- SHOWA 52 = 1977
- SHOWA 53 = 1978
- SHOWA 54 = 1979
- SHOWA 55 = 1980
- SHOWA 56 = 1981
- SHOWA 57 = 1982
- SHOWA 58 = 1883
- SHOWA 59 = 1984
- SHOWA 60 = 1985
- SHOWA 61 = 1986
- SHOWA 62 = 1987
- SHOWA 63 = 1988
- SHOWA 64 = 1989







Heisi 1989-2019

AKIHITO (BORN 23 DECEMBER 1933) IS A MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL HOUSE OF JAPAN WHO REIGNED AS THE 125TH EMPEROR OF JAPAN FROM 1989 UNTIL HIS ABDICATION IN 2019. THE ERA OF HIS RULE WAS NAMED THE HEISEI ERA, HEISEI BEING AN EXPRESSION OF ACHIEVING PEACE WORLDWIDE. HE MADE EFFORTS TO BRING THE IMPERIAL FAMILY CLOSER TO THE JAPANESE PEOPLE, AND MADE OFFICIAL VISITS TO ALL FORTY-SEVEN PREFECTURES OF JAPAN AND TO MANY OF THE REMOTE ISLANDS OF JAPAN. HE HAS A KEEN INTEREST IN NATURAL LIFE AND CONSERVATION, AS WELL AS JAPANESE AND WORLD HISTORY. HE ABDICATED DUE TO HIS ADVANCING AGE AND DECLINING HEALTH, FEELING HE COULD NO LONGER FULLY FULFILL HIS DUTIES AS THE "SYMBOL OF THE STATE".

Heisei 1 = 1989.1.8

Heisei 2 = 1990

Heisei 3 = 1991

Heisei 4 = 1992

Heisei 5 = 1993

Heisei 6 = 1994

Heisei 7 = 1995

Heisei 8 = 1996

Heisei 9 = 1997

Heisei 10 = 1998

Heisei 11 = 1999

Heisei 12 = 2000

Heisei 13 = 2001

Heisei 14 = 2002

Heisei 15 = 2003

HEISEI 1989 - 2019

2.12.21

Heisei 16 = 2004

Heisei 17 = 2005

Heisei 18 = 2006

Heisei 19 = 2007

Heisei 20 = 2008

Heisei 21 = 2009

Heisei 22 = 2010

Heisei 23 = 2011

Heisei 24 = 2012

Heisei 25 = 2013

Heisei 26 = 2014

Heisei 27 = 2015

Heisei 28 = 2016

Heisei 29 = 2017

Heisei 30 = 2018

Heisei 31 = 2019.4.3





Reiwa 2019 - Present

- REIWA IS THE CURRENT EMPEROR OF THE OFFICIAL CALENDAR OF JAPAN. IT BEGAN ON 1 MAY 2019, THE DAY ON WHICH EMPEROR AKIHITO'S ELDEST SON, NARUHITO, ASCENDED THE THRONE AS THE 126TH EMPEROR OF JAPAN.
- THE DAY BEFORE, EMPEROR AKIHITO <u>ABDICATED</u> THE <u>CHRYSANTHEMUM</u>

 THRONE, MARKING THE END OF THE <u>HEISEI ERA</u>. THE YEAR 2019 CORRESPONDS

 WITH HEISEI 31 FROM 1 JANUARY TO 30 APRIL, AND WITH REIWA 1, ('THE BASE YEAR OF REIWA') FROM 1 MAY. THE <u>MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF</u>

 JAPAN EXPLAINED THE MEANING OF *REIWA* TO BE "BEAUTIFUL HARMONY".



REIWA 2019 - PRESENT

- REIWA 1 = 2019.5.1
- REIWA 2 = 2020
- REIWA 3 = 2021
- REIWA 4 = 2022
- REIWA 5 = 2023
- REIWA 6 = 2024
- REIWA 7 = 2025



AN EASY SHORT CUT TO DETERMINING THE ACTUAL DATE OF CANCELATION:

ADD:

1867 to a date in Meiji

1911 to a date in Taisho

1925 to a date in Showa

1988 to a date in Heisei

2019 to a date in Reiwa

MEIJI CALENDAR

Meiji 1 = 1868.10.23
Meiji 2 = 1869
Meiji 3 = 1870
Meiji 4 = 1871
Meiji 5 = 1872
Meiji 6 = 1873
Meiji 7 = 1874
Meiji 8 = 1875
Meiji 9 = 1876
Meiji 10 = 1877
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Meiji 26 = 1893
Meiji 27 = 1894
Meiji 28 = 1895
Meiji 29 = 1896
Meiji 30 = 1897
Meiji 31 = 1898
Meiji 32 = 1899
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Meiji 33 = 1900
Meiji 34 = 1901
Meiji 35 = 1902
Meiji 36 = 1903
Meiji 37 = 1904
Meiji 38 = 1905
Meiji 39 = 1906
Meiji 40 = 1907
Meiji 41 = 1908
Meiji 42 = 1909
Meiji 43 = 1910
Meiji 44 = 1911
Meiji 45 = 1912.7.30
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December 21, 1869

- IN THE EARLY YEARS UNTIL 1879, POSTMARKS WERE USED TO INDICATE THE DATE OF COLLECTION AND THE DATE OF RECEIPT FROM OUT OF TOWN.
- EARLY JAPANESE POSTMARKS, PARTICULARLY THOSE PRECEDING 1879, WERE DIVERSE WITH EACH POSTAL DISTRICT HAVING ITS OWN STYLE.
- IN 1879, THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE ISSUED OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATIONS, AND BY 1909, POSTMARKS BECAME STANDARDIZED NATIONWIDE.
- IN SEPTEMBER 1888, THE NAME OF THE LOCAL AREA WAS INCLUDED IN THE POSTMARK.



- UNTIL 1911, POSTMARKS WERE IMPRINTED BY HAND (AT A RATE OF 100 PIECES PER MINUTE).
- AUTOMATIC POSTMARKING MACHINES WERE INTRODUCED IN 1919.
- AT THE END OF 1919, THE LATEST POSTMARKING MACHINES WERE IMPORTED FROM AMERICA AND USED IN TOKYO.

- UP TO SEPTEMBER 1912, POSTCARDS AND LETTERS HAD TWO POSTMARKS (EXCEPT FOR SPECIAL MAIL). ONE WAS IMPRINTED WHEN THE POSTCARD WAS MAILED (CANCELING THE STAMP), AND ANOTHER WAS IMPRINTED WHEN THE POSTCARD WAS RECEIVED.
- STAMP CANCELLATION MARKS WERE ALSO SEPARATE FROM POSTMARKS. THEY COULD BE A SERIES OF DOTTED LINES OR TEXT LIKE "POSTAGE PAID" (IN JAPANESE).
- SOME POSTMARKS WERE SQUARE IN SHAPE. EACH POSTAL DISTRICT HAD THEIR OWN POSTMARK SYSTEM AND STYLE.



Early 1880 Japanese Cancels



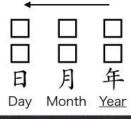




This is a telegraph, money order or telephone cancel. All text in the postmark is read from right to left. In the first line is the province name. In the second line is the town name. The part below the bisect will indicate if the cancel is postal or a non-postal service offered by the post office (telegraph, telephone, money order, or whatever)



Vertical Script Type (JBC-2): Variations







Large Format

Small Format, "Year" Type



Small Format, "Month" Type



• YOU WILL NOW LEARN ABOUT THE JAPANESE WRITING SYSTEM HOW TO COUNT TO 100 IN JAPANESE BEFORE YOU LEAVE TONIGHT – GUARANTEED!

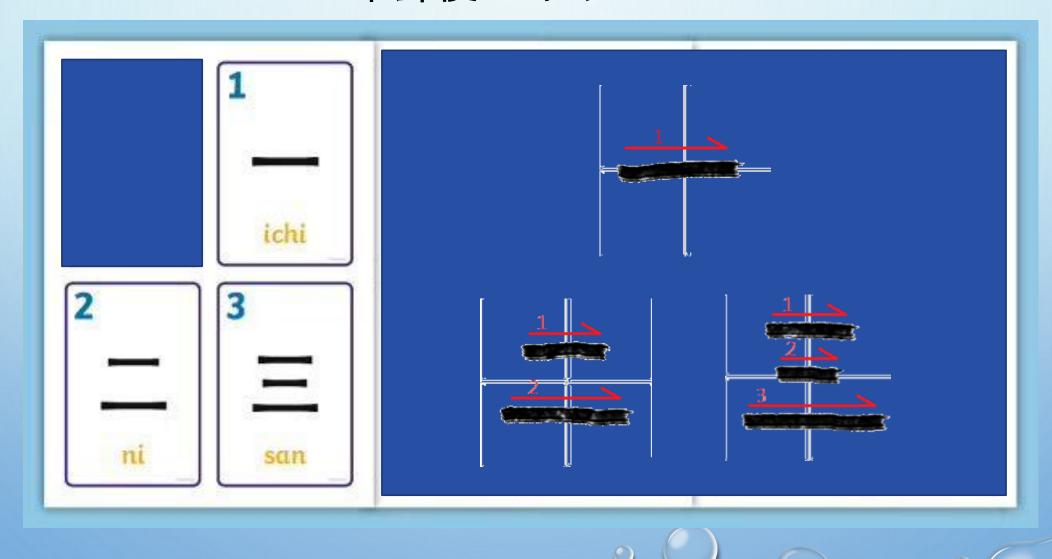
- THE JAPANESE WRITING SYSTEM DOESN'T HAVE A SINGLE ALPHABET LIKE ENGLISH; INSTEAD, IT USES A COMBINATION OF THREE SYSTEMS: HIRAGANA, KATAKANA, AND KANJI, EACH SERVING DIFFERENT PURPOSES.
- · HIRAGANA:
- A PHONETIC SCRIPT USED PRIMARILY FOR NATIVE JAPANESE WORDS AND GRAMMATICAL ELEMENTS.
- KATAKANA:
- ANOTHER PHONETIC SCRIPT, PRIMARILY USED FOR FOREIGN WORDS, NAMES, ONOMATOPOEIA (THE FORMATION OF A WORD FROM A SOUND ASSOCIATED WITH WHAT IS NAMED (E.G. <u>CUCKOO</u>, <u>SIZZLE</u>). "A RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF BIRD NAMES ARISE BY ONOMATOPOEIA."
- AND SOMETIMES FOR EMPHASIS.



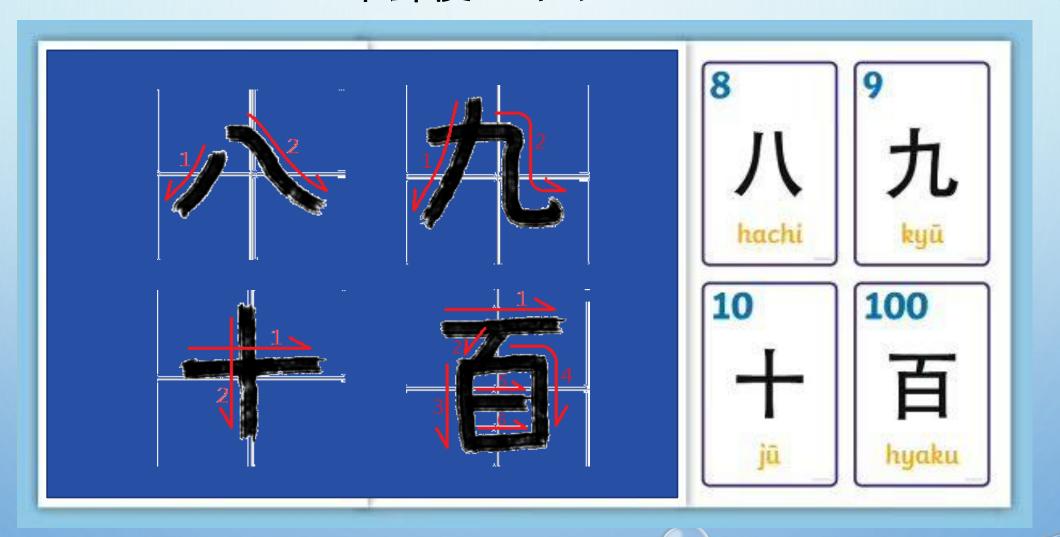
- KANJI ARE CHARACTERS BORROWED FROM CHINESE THAT REPRESENT WORDS OR IDEAS.
- THE JAPANESE WORD FOR "JAPAN" IN KANJI IS 日本 (NIHON OR NIPPON), WHERE 日 MEANS "SUN" OR "DAY" AND 本 MEANS "ORIGIN" OR "ROOT". (LAND OF THE RISING SUN).



- THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT COUNTING SYSTEMS IN JAPAN: THE SINO-JAPANESE AND THE NATIVE JAPANESE NUMBER SYSTEMS.
- SINO-JAPANESE COMES FROM CHINESE ORIGINS, WHILE NATIVE JAPANESE ORIGINATES FROM JAPAN.
- NATIVE JAPANESE NUMBERS ARE USED UP TO 10.
- FROM THEN ON, YOU'LL ONLY SEE SINO-JAPANESE NUMERALS.
 THIS MAKES LEARNING HOW TO COUNT IN JAPANESE MUCH EASIER.









Japanese numbers from 1-100

0 零	ゼロ/れい zero/rei	10 +	じゅう juu	20 =+	にじゅう nijuu
1 —	いち ichi	11 +-	じゅういち juuichi	30 三十	さんじゅう sanjuu
2 =	ni	12 +=	じゅうに juuni	40 四十	よんじゅう yonjuu
3 =	さん san	13 十三	じゅうさん juusan	50 五十	ごじゅう gojuu
4 四	よん/し yon/ shi	14 十四	じゅうよん・し juuyon/shi	60 六十	ろくじゅう rokujuu
5 五	go	15 十五	じゅうご juugo	70七十	ななじゅう nanajuu
6 六	ろく roku	16 十六	じゅうろく juuroku	80 八十	はちじゅう hachijuu
7七	なな/しち nana/shichi	17 十七	じゅうなな・しち juunana/shichi	90 九十	きゅうじゅう kyuujuu
8 八	はち hachi	18 十八	じゅうはち juuhachi	100 百	ひゃく hyaku
9 九	きゅう Kyuu	19 十九	じゅうきゅう juukyuu	000 千	せん sen





- NOW, GO HOME AND PRACTICE YOUR JAPANESE. I HAVE IT FROM A GOOD SOURCE THAT EMPEROR TRUMP (#127, A DESCENDENT OF THE SUN AND STORM GODS), IS CONTEMPLATING ANNEXING JAPAN AS THE 52ND AMERICAN STATE.
- THE END.
- GOOD NIGHT.