

Mount Fuji to be World Heritage site

4th May, 2013



Japan's Mount Fuji will become a World Heritage Site in June. The United Nations (U.N.) decided on April the 30th to give the famous mountain UNESCO

World Heritage status. The U.N. team that made the decision said Fuji was very important to Japanese religion and art. They also said that the 3,776-meter-high volcano was important outside of Japan too. Fuji-san (as Japanese people call it) has been a sacred mountain for more than 1,000 years. Priests say that when you climb it, you move from the "everyday world" at the bottom, to the "world of gods, Buddha and death" at the top. They believe people can wash away their sins by climbing to the top and coming back down again.

Mount Fuji is a major tourist destination. It is very popular with hikers, who want to see the rising sun from its peak. More than 318,000 hikers visited the mountain last summer, with up to 15,000 people climbing each day. Local residents are now worried the World Heritage status will mean more visitors. That means there will be more litter and environmental problems. The local government may ask people to pay to climb the mountain to help preserve its beauty. Governor Shomei Yokouchi said: "It's likely we'll ask mountain climbers to help financially with keeping the mountain clean." Another idea being talked about is to limit the daily number of hikers allowed to the top.

Sources: *Asahi Shimbun* / *Japan Times*

Writing

It is important to keep our heritage safe so our grandchildren and their grandchildren can enjoy it. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

heritage / famous mountains / religion and art / volcano / 1,000 years / wash away sin / tourist destinations / rising sun / last summer / environmental problems / hikers

True / False

- Mt. Fuji will become a World Heritage site in 2014. T / F
- The U.N. made Mt. Fuji a World Heritage site because of its beauty. T / F
- Mount Fuji has been sacred in Egypt for over 1,000 years. T / F
- People believe going up and down Fuji helps wash away sins. T / F
- Over 3.18 million people visited Mt. Fuji last year. T / F
- Around 15,000 people a day visited Mt. Fuji last year. T / F
- People who live near Mt. Fuji are worried about increasing litter. T / F
- There are no plans to charge for visiting Mt. Fuji. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. mountain | a. well-liked |
| 2. status | b. peak |
| 3. sacred | c. important |
| 4. climb | d. control |
| 5. sins | e. holy |
| 6. major | f. garbage |
| 7. popular | g. wrongdoing |
| 8. residents | h. position |
| 9. litter | i. citizens |
| 10. limit | j. scale |

Discussion – Student A

- Is Mount Fuji the most beautiful mountain in the world?
- Are you surprised it isn't already a World Heritage site?
- What is the importance of being a World Heritage site?
- What are the important sites in your country's heritage?
- Why is heritage important?
- Do you think a mountain can be sacred?
- Why is Mount Fuji so important to Japanese people?
- What images do you have in your mind of Mount Fuji?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. World Heritage | a. volcano |
| 2. the 3,776-meter-high | b. government |
| 3. the everyday | c. their sins |
| 4. wash away | d. sun |
| 5. climbing to the top and | e. world |
| 6. a major tourist | f. number of hikers |
| 7. the rising | g. status |
| 8. local | h. its beauty |
| 9. help preserve | i. destination |
| 10. limit the daily | j. coming back down again |

Discussion – Student B

- Do you like hiking to the top of mountains?
- Do you get angry when you see people leaving litter on mountains?
- What can locals do to keep Mt Fuji clean?
- What environmental problems are there in your local area?
- Is it a good idea to make people pay to climb Mount Fuji?
- Is it a good idea to limit the number of hikers each day?
- What would you think of if you were on Fuji looking at the sun rise?
- What questions would you like to ask UNESCO's boss about Mt. Fuji?

Spelling

- The edntiU Nations (U.N.)
- the musafo mountain
- important to Japanese goiinelr
- the 3,776-meter-high vaoclon
- a eadcsr mountain
- imcilnbg to the top
- a major oiturst destination
- see the iirngs sun
- there will be more lritte
- nreoealtmnivn problems
- help epresvre its beauty
- ask mountain climbers to help nfinlaiclay

Answers – Synonym Match

1. b	2. h	3. e	4. j	5. g
6. c	7. a	8. i	9. f	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Mount Fuji

You think Mount Fuji is the best place to visit on Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the others what's wrong with their sites and why Fuji is better.

Role B – The Pyramids

You think the Pyramids are the best place to visit on Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the others what's wrong with their sites and why the Pyramids are better.

Role C – The Amazon jungle

You think The Amazon Jungle is the best place to visit on Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the others what's wrong with their sites and why the Amazon is better.

Role D – Disneyland

You think Disneyland is the best place to visit on Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the others what's wrong with their sites and why Disneyland is better.

Speaking

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| • Mount Fuji | • Mont Blanc |
| • Mount Everest | • Ayers Rock |
| • Kilimanjaro | • Mount Ararat |
| • Table Mountain | • Vesuvius |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.