**CAUSES: EFFECTS:**

**How did Japan’s physical geography and climate impact it’s history and culture?**

Japan is an archipelago consisting of four main islands and several thousand smaller ones.

About 72% of Japan is mountainous.

Japan is located on the Ring of fire (a horseshoe shaped basin associated with volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis.)

Japan contains 10% of the world’s most active volcanoes.

Nourishing ocean currents bring higher fishing populations near Japan’s coast.

Japan’s climate is similar to the US – there are four distinct seasons with a month long rainy season.

Japan’s rivers are short and flow rapidly, carrying a large amount of sediment.

Japan’s rivers flood frequently, but people throughout history have continued to settle in flood prone areas.

The closest land to Japan is Korea.