

# Asia – Democracy in Japan



## WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?

Japan is a democracy- what does this mean?

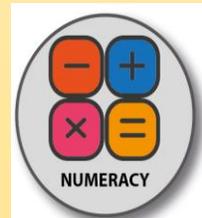
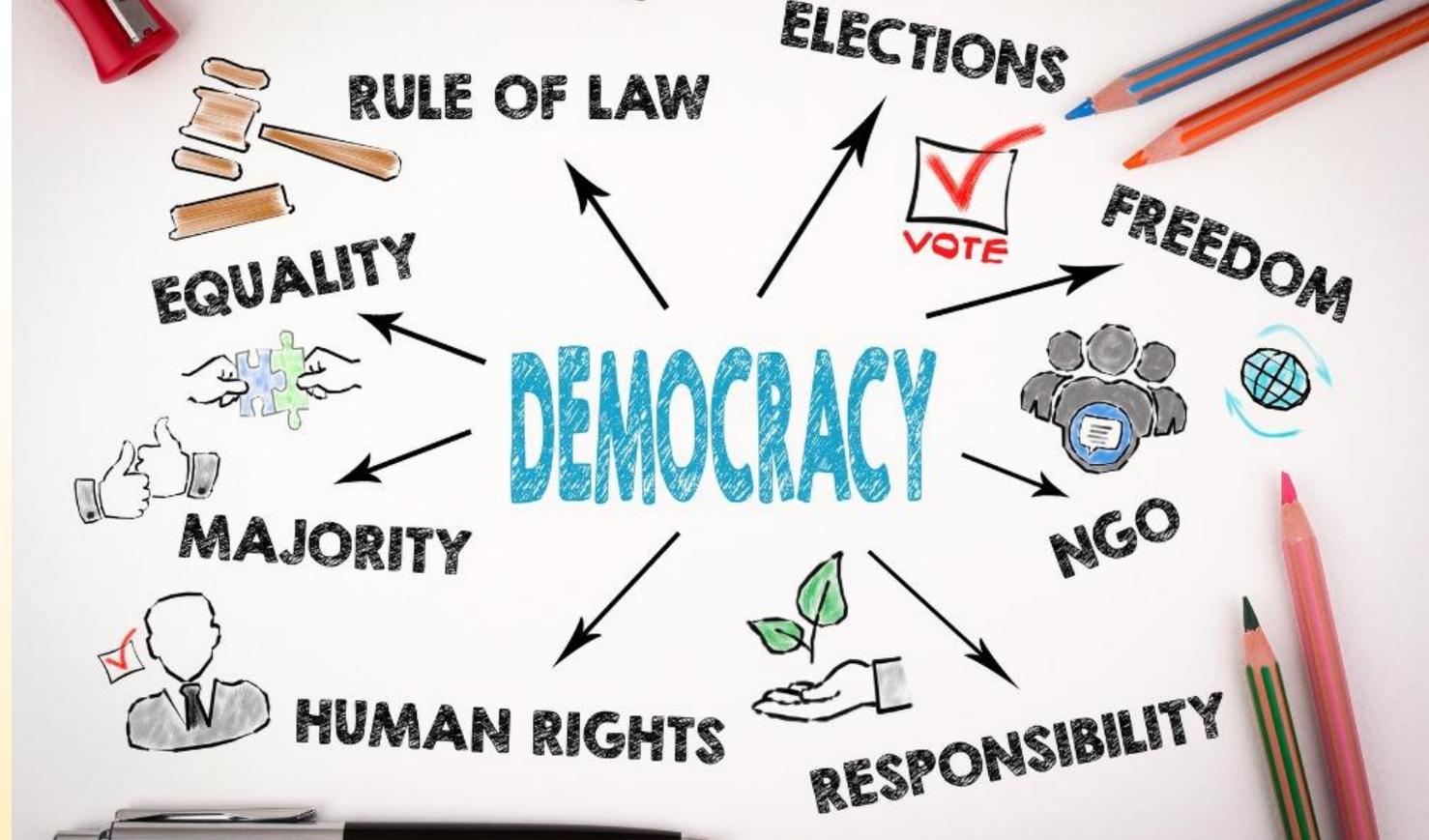


## WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

You'll make a decision on a democratic issue facing Japan

## Silent Study Starter:

Use a mini-white board to draw one thing you learned about in the last lesson



Are you points ready?

# Last lesson we learned about Hiroshima in 1945, what happened next?

- The American Occupation of Japan began in 1945 after Japan surrendered following the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- US occupation went on until 1952, and it was during this period that Japan was **demilitarized** and **democratized** from its old system led by an emperor. The US occupation brought important changes in the country that forever altered Japanese society and politics:
  - Free speech
  - Education for all
  - Votes for all
  - The introduction of foreign technology and culture



# How does democracy work?

- Listen to this video and be ready to answer the questions:
  1. Why do you think it's important for us to have democracy?
  2. What do you think members of parliament help to do?
  3. Why do you think it's important for us to have democracy?
  4. Can you think of a time you've voted?





# Democracy in the UK compared with Japan

- Do laptop research to complete this table of facts

Japan	UK
Head of State	Head of state
Where is Government based?	Where is government based?
Who has the vote?	Who has the vote?
Who does not have a vote?	Who does not have a vote?
What is the lower 'house' called?	What is the lower 'house' called?
What is the upper 'house' called?	What is the upper house called?

# Let's use our people power



## Let's form an opinion:

One issue facing the people of Japan is whether to continue to hunt Whale. In Japan whale meat has been used as a foodstuff for many years. It is a traditional part of the diet. Whales are protected species and in some places endangered.

**Let's take a vote:** 'Should hunting of whales for meat be banned?'

## Now watch this video:

1. Do any other countries allow hunting of whales?
2. Why does Japan do it?
3. Where does Japan do it?
4. The Japanese only hunt 'healthy' populations – what do you think this means?



# Writing task



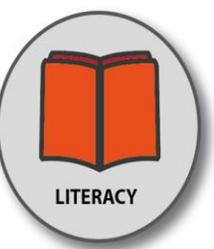
Read your information sheet on Whaling in Japan. As a group or as an individual, make a case for whaling or a case against whaling. Use your knowledge from the videos and research sheet.

-  • Form teams, you will be split into the following groups. Each team must come up with at least two arguments for or against whaling.

-  • The International Whaling Commission
- The Japanese government
- The captain and crew of a whaling boat
- Green Peace



Once you have finished your debate take another vote to decide what the class would do.



Now take a vote on whether you think whaling should continue in Japan.

What decision have Japan made?

**Creative task:** Now make a campaign poster that reflects your personal opinion on the whale debate. It should be colourful and informative.



**HAS OUR LEARNING  
BEEN SUCCESSFUL?**



Plenary:  
Editing.

- Carefully proof read your work and check you have used capital letters accurately.
- For ALL of your capital letters put a box around them.
- This includes any capital letters that you have missed.
- Do not correct your work, only put the box around them.

## Capital Checklist

Capital letters are needed:

- ✓ At the start of sentences.
- ✓ For names.
- ✓ For places.
- ✓ Every time you write 'I' (as in I am).

Words we have used today that definitely need capital letters are:

- Japan

# Additional Silent Study Starter

Can you remember any reasons why whaling should or should not go ahead. Read your notes to find them if you can't remember.

Write a question from last lesson on a white board and be ready to quiz your neighbour.