

# FEBRUARY-MARCH NEWS

2018

Dr. Susan Bliss



## **Drainspotting: 61 Amazing Manhole Covers from Japan**

<http://www.gwarlingo.com/2011/drainspotting-61-amazing-manhole-covers-from-japan/>

*'According to Camerota, nearly 95% of the 1,780 municipalities in Japan have their very own customised manhole covers. The country has elevated this humble, practical object to its own art form. The designs depict everything from local landmarks and folk tales to flora and fauna and images created by school children.'*





**Happy Holi in India**

<http://statuswallpaper.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Happy-Holi-2016-best-Wallpapers-1.jpg>



**Shops sell colours for Holi**

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bd/Holi\\_shop.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bd/Holi_shop.jpg)



**Festive elephant**

<https://img.grouponcdn.com/deal/maxQthqEASq9NXTyJ1Te/FZ-960x582/v1/c700x420.jpg>

## **Subjects: Society and Culture, Art**

### **Holi-the Festival of Colours, in India 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Holi is one of India's most popular celebrations. The Holi festival celebrates the triumph of 'good' over 'bad'. Holi is celebrated on the full moon day of the month of Phalguna.

Celebratory activities include:

- *Throwing Color*  
Holi is the throwing of coloured water and powder.
- *Worshiping Radha*  
Radha is a Hindu goddess. She was the first woman to be showered with colour as a show of love.
- *Building bonfires*  
On Holi Eve bonfires are lit and stories associated with Holi are performed. It is believed that fires scare evil spirits away.

### **Activities:**

<http://publicholidays.in/holi/>

- What are the legends surrounding Holi?
- What are the celebratory activities?
- Each city has different cultures and unique ways to observe the Festival of Colours. Compare activities in two Indian cities.
- Investigate activities during Holi this year. Present research as a photo story or annotated e-collage.





<http://blog.asiahotels.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/chinese-eggs.jpg>

The art of painting on eggs are also a part of Chinese culture, where eggs are drained before being gently applied with fine line art of women, sceneries, and other images of beauty. Jade and wood are carved to represent the dragon egg, gifts which are then given as wishes of growth and many children.



Sakshi, 8, sprinkles flower petals on her brother's grave on Easter morning in central India <http://blog.garyschapman.com/2012/04/16/india-cemetery-sunrise-on-easter/>



Philippine schoolchildren dressed as angels dance as they take part in a religious procession outside a Catholic church in Quezon City suburban Manila <http://www.dawn.com/news/708880/celebrating-easter-sunday>

**Subjects: Society and Culture, Art, Geography, Economics, Civics and Citizenship**

### **Easter in Asian countries**

Easter falls around the equinox (spring in northern hemisphere and autumn in southern hemisphere)-where day and night are equal.

Today Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter festivities in Asia includes:

- **China:** decorating Easter eggs-eggs mark rebirth, fertility and life.
- **Palu, Indonesia:** Easter egg hunts
- **India:** small boxes with money are given to churches and people in need. Cities like Mumbai fill churches and Easter eggs and bunnies are sold in stores.
- **Philippines:** processions start at dawn: Children dress as angels, men follow as an image of Christ on the cross, and women carry the image of a black-veil-clad Mother Mary.

Christians living in Asian countries re-enact crucifixions and mass baptisms

### **Activities:**

- Research the number of Christians living in Asia countries.
- Design an e-collage of Easter activities in Asian countries.
- <http://thediplomat.com/2013/04/easter-in-asia/>
- Easter in Hong Kong, Pakistan, the Philippines and Singapore <https://prezi.com/zyq9swbv-a3k/easter-in-asian-english-speaking-countries/>

## Documentary



**归途列车**  
**LAST TRAIN HOME**  
A FILM BY LIXIN FAN

AN EYESEEK FILM / KINGSMITH RELEASE  
FEATURING CHANGHUA ZHANG, SHUN CHEN, QIN ZHANG, YANG ZHANG and TINGSEI TANG  
DIRECTED BY LIXIN FAN  
PRODUCED BY MICHAEL YIN, BOB MOORE  
EDITED BY LIXIN FAN  
COSTUME DESIGNER SHAO GUANG SUN  
MUSIC BY OLIVER ALARY  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARY STEPHEN, HANNELE HALM  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CORY PRIZOS, WYLE CHAN, PHELLA CHEN, YONG CHANG, PETER WINTONICK  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JULIAN LIU  
PRODUCED BY NILA AUNG-THWIN, DANIEL CROSS  
DIRECTED BY LIXIN FAN  
KINGSMITH

**Subjects: Society and Culture and Geography, Work and Enterprise**

**China-economic growth, rural-urban migration.**

The 85 minute documentary (available online) explains the cultural importance of New Year in China and the population shift back to their families living in villages.

A married couple, Chen and Zhang, left infant children behind for factory jobs 16 years ago. They hoped their wages would enable their children to experience a better life.

Their train journey home for New Year sees the Zangs return to a family growing distant and a daughter longing to leave school for unskilled work.

Last Train Home paints a human portrait of China's rush to economic development.

**Activities:**  
View the documentary online and discuss:

- How many Chinese migrate to home villages for New Year?
- Importance of New Year to the Chinese people.
- Economic and social impacts of working away from the family. List the impacts in a two column table.

*'Every spring, China's cities are plunged into chaos as 130 million migrant workers journey to their home villages for the New Year in the world's largest human migration.'*

**Documentary: Last Train Home**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Last\\_Train\\_Home\\_%28film%29#/media/File:Last-train-home-lixin-fan.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Last_Train_Home_%28film%29#/media/File:Last-train-home-lixin-fan.jpg)





Kim Jong Un, in North Korea

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/north-korea-claims-it-could-wipe-out-manhattan-with-a-hydrogen-bomb/2016/03/13/3834cd54-e919-11e5-b0fd-073d5930a7b7\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/north-korea-claims-it-could-wipe-out-manhattan-with-a-hydrogen-bomb/2016/03/13/3834cd54-e919-11e5-b0fd-073d5930a7b7_story.html)



The stark difference between the cityscapes of North Korea and industrial China. Picture: Michal Huniewicz /Exclusivepix Media Source: australscope

<http://www.news.com.au/travel/world-travel/asia/photographer-captures-rare-insight-into-life-inside-north-korea/news-story/cc4261eeb1ce936c801226ced6f76994>

**Subjects: History, Geography, Economics, Civics and Citizenship**

### North Korea: nuclear threats and economic development

In 2016, North Korea claimed it could wipe out Manhattan by sending a hydrogen bomb to New York. Some think Kim Jong Un, is exaggerating the country's technical capabilities and is unable to perform this frightening task.

#### Activities:

- Refer to the website for different perspectives on the topic. Who do you believe and why?  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/north-korea-claims-it-could-wipe-out-manhattan-with-a-hydrogen-bomb/2016/03/13/3834cd54-e919-11e5-b0fd-073d5930a7b7\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/north-korea-claims-it-could-wipe-out-manhattan-with-a-hydrogen-bomb/2016/03/13/3834cd54-e919-11e5-b0fd-073d5930a7b7_story.html)
- Compare the skylines of North Korea and China. Refer to the internet and discuss how these photographs support the differences in economic and human development in the two countries.  
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/HDI>
- North Korea is among the world's most repressive countries. Describe violations to human rights such as forced labour and human trafficking.  
<https://www.hrw.org/asia/north-korea>
- What is meant by the 'Royal Palace Economy'?  
<https://www.hrnk.org/events/congressional-hearings-view.php?id=11>



<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35798517>



Car bomb explosion in Ankara March 2016

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/03/13/world/ankara-park-blast/>

**Subjects: History, Geography, Economics, Civics and Citizenship**

### Turkey-terrorist attacks

In 2015, Turkey suffered two major bombing attacks. However, by mid-March 2016, four terrorist attacks had occurred.

February and March 2016 terrorist attacks in the capital city Ankara and in January and March in Istanbul a popular tourist site.

Response:

- On 16 March Turkey responded by ramping up efforts against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).
- By March 2016, Turkey deported 2,896 ISIS suspects from 92 countries. Additionally, about 35,700 suspects from 124 countries have been denied entry.

### Activities:

- Refer to Terrorist attacks in Turkey and list the location of the attacks 2007-2016  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Terrorist\\_incidents\\_in\\_Turkey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Terrorist_incidents_in_Turkey).
- Where did the attacks in January to March occur in Turkey? Who did them? Why did they occur? Where were they located-tourist area, government department, transport hub and/ or commercial area? What has Turkey done to stop this horrendous practice?





**Subjects: Art, Society and Culture.**

### **Taxis-Mumbai in India**

Taxi Fabric has produced 26 new interiors, ranging from vibrant modern patterns to classical art. Other interiors feature Indian freedom fighters, childhood memories on Juhu Chowpatty beach, and sign language motifs designed for deaf children.

In Mumbai, taxis and rickshaws are economical means of transport.

Taxi Fabric tells the story of Mumbai. It is a large city in India with over 20 million people. The city experiences a monsoon climate (wet hot summer, mild drier winter). The average elevation of Mumbai is only 14 metres. Consequently the city is threatened with floods from rising sea levels caused by climate change.



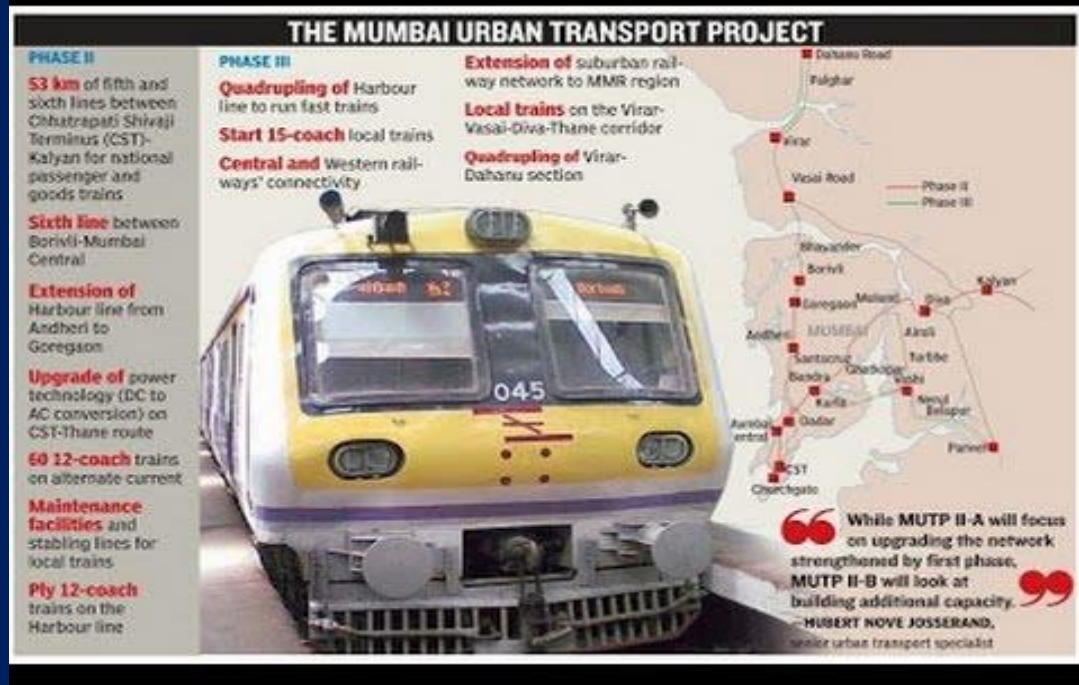
### **Activities:**

- What is Taxi Fabric?
- How has Taxi Fabric improved the appearance of transport in Mumbai?
- How does Taxi Fabric inform people of different lifestyles in Mumbai?
- In groups, design the inside of a taxi to depict your life or the people living in your city or regional area. Refer to the website for ideas.

### **Mumbai's cabs become a canvas for young artists – in pictures**

<http://www.theguardian.com/travel/gallery/2016/feb/05/mumbai-cabs-taxi-fabric-art-project-young-artists-inida-in-pictures>

## Public transport in Mumbai



<https://i.ytimg.com/vi/YqC9qJi3Qn0/hqdefault.jpg>



**Mumbai's railways:** Jayanti Gandhi has been commuting on the same route for 35 years - his 300km journey between Surat and Mumbai takes five hours each way.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35541660>

Transport of millions of people by train, road and water occurs every day in Mumbai. Over 88% of the commuters use public transport.

### Activities:

The city is facing transport problems with a growing number of vehicles and consequent traffic congestion. The Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) aims to find a solution to the city's transport and communication issues. Explain the problems and solutions to transport problems in a two column table.

YouTube: Urban transport project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqC9qJi3Qn0>





A garment worker. Marks & Spencer said it paid suppliers enough to enable them to pay a living wage.

Photograph: Heather Stilwell/Labour Behind the Label



Labour Behind the Label

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CbgAbu1WcAAG2pJ.jpg>

**Subjects: Commerce, Economics, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, Work and Enterprise**

**Asian countries, exploited labour**

Even in 2016, Asian workers making Marks and Spencer (M&S) clothes are paid less than the living wage.

**Activities:**

- What is a living wage?  
<http://labourbehindthelabel.net/campaigns/living-wage/>
- Compare comments by M&S and a campaigner at Labour Behind the Label  
<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/feb/14/marks-and-spencer-workers-sri-lanka-india-bangladesh-earnings-living-wage-labour-behind-the-label>
- Refer to the second photograph. Summarise your thoughts on this issue.
- Refer to You Tube and the internet and investigate other fashion organisations accused of exploiting Asian workers. What are the organisations? How are they exploiting labour? What is being done about it?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHQ6SWDZLJE&list=PLBB3187CE0E3297E7>

Behind the Label resources – reports and educational resources

<http://labourbehindthelabel.org/resources/>



**Subjects: Society and Culture, Geography, Civics and Citizenship**

**Mentawai islands, off Sumatra in Indonesia- threatened lifestyles**

- The Mentawai people, are native people living in the Mentawai islands.
- These people are known for their decorative tattoos, sharpened teeth and semi-nomadic life.

**Activities:**

- Refer to Mohammed Saleh Bin Dollah's photos that capture a glimpse of life as the adults hunt and children play in the river. Summarise traditional life for the Mentawai people.
- Refer to Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m48fTrDpFyk>. Discuss the culture of the Mentawai people.
- Refer to the internet and research the threats to their traditional lifestyle. [http://www.nativeplanet.org/indigenous/cultures/indonesia/mentawai/mentawai\\_indigenous\\_cultural\\_assimilations.shtml](http://www.nativeplanet.org/indigenous/cultures/indonesia/mentawai/mentawai_indigenous_cultural_assimilations.shtml)
- Describe the problems the Mentawai envisage when walking barefoot in the Siberut Jungle [http://www.nativeplanet.org/indigenous/cultures/indonesia/mentawai/mentawai\\_barefoot.shtml](http://www.nativeplanet.org/indigenous/cultures/indonesia/mentawai/mentawai_barefoot.shtml)
- Explain how Surfaid, a non-government organisation, works to improve the lives of the Mentawai people <http://www.surfaid.org/>

**The life of the Mentawai tribe – in pictures**

- A young boy helps a woman to prepare food
  - An indigenous man standing beside a river.
- <http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/gallery/2016/feb/05/the-life-of-the-mentawai-tribe-in-pictures>





### Tibetans Fight to Salvage Fading Culture in China

This video and article from the NY Times show how many Tibetans are upset by the cultural status of Tibetans within the People's Republic of China.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/29/world/asia/china-tibet-language-education.html?smid=fb-share&\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/29/world/asia/china-tibet-language-education.html?smid=fb-share&_r=1)



Poor Tibetan woman carrying water (S. Bliss)

## Subjects: Society and Culture, Geography, Difference and Diversity

### Tibet- threatened culture

China has restricted, the teaching of languages spoken by ethnic minorities in western regions, such as Tibet. Chinese officials forced a school run by monks to stop Tibetan language classes.

### Activities:

- Tibetans are losing their language and culture. Refer to the internet and explain this statement.  
<http://international.ucla.edu/asia/article/149245>
- What impact will the loss of a traditional language have on the interpretation of Tibetan religious scripts in the future?
- Why do you think China has restricted the teaching of ethnic languages?
- *'Tibetans who do not speak Chinese have no access to well-paid jobs, and those who do speak Chinese are disadvantaged due to their inferior educational institutions.'* There is a conflict between lack of opportunity and loss of culture. What are your views on this statement?



A Uighur man rides a scooter as he pulls his camel and horse in Kashgar, Xinjiang Province, China.

A butcher and his son wait for customers before the Eid holiday  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/picturegalleries/worldnews/11012841/In-pictures-The-daily-life-of-Chinas-ethnic-Uighur-population.html?frame=2996820> and 29968



Uighur culture leans more towards Central Asia than China  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-26414014>

## Subjects: Society and Culture, Geography, Intercultural Understanding

### Uighurs, China-threatened culture

Most Uighurs live in north west Xinjiang that is a vast region of mountains and deserts.

Uighurs are one of the 55 recognised ethnic minorities living in China. The majority of Uighurs are Muslims.

China has introduced measures aimed to shape the behaviour and beliefs of China's 10 million Uighurs. Mosques are barred from broadcasting the call to prayer. There are also restrictions on the movement of Uighur labourers. This has caused tension, protests and conflicts.

### Activities

Refer to the internet

- Who are the Uighurs?
- What is the tension between China and the Uighurs?
- Refer to the daily life of the Uighur population in pictures.  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/picturegalleries/worldnews/11012841/In-pictures-The-daily-life-of-Chinas-ethnic-Uighur-population.html>.  
 Describe their life.

### Struggle for autonomy

<http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2015/7/the-ethnic-roots-of-chinas-uighur-crisis.html>

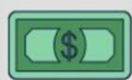


## Natural disasters-Asia-Pacific region 2015

The Asia-Pacific region continued to be the world's most disaster-prone region in 2015,  
[http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53208#.VuH\\_XeZBmjE](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53208#.VuH_XeZBmjE)



## 2015 Fact Snapshot: Natural Disasters in Asia and the Pacific



**US\$ 45.1 billion**  
total cost of economic damage



**Earthquakes**  
had the highest number of fatalities;  
with 8,790 killed in the Nepal earthquake



**59.3 million**  
affected by disasters



**160 disasters**  
were recorded in the Asia-Pacific region



**Floods**  
were the most frequent disaster; and  
floods and storms were the costliest  
in terms of economic damage




**16,046 deaths**  
due to natural disasters




**South and South-West Asia**  
was the most affected subregion


## Main Trends




Urban areas are being severely impacted by natural disasters, particularly floods




The 2015-2016 El Niño continues to severely impact the region




Post-disaster response from neighbouring countries is increasing



Extreme weather conditions are causing a great number of fatalities



Higher incidence of disasters with transboundary origins and cascading effects



Innovative disaster assessment techniques and data gathering tools are increasingly being used

[http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/2015\\_Year%20in%20Review\\_final\\_PDF\\_0.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/2015_Year%20in%20Review_final_PDF_0.pdf)

## AREAS IN NEED OF URGENT ATTENTION



Building urban resilience



Strengthening regional cooperation



Addressing slow-onset disasters



Enhancing end-to-end early warning systems



Promoting use of innovative technology

[http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/2015\\_Year%20in%20Review\\_final\\_PDF\\_0.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/2015_Year%20in%20Review_final_PDF_0.pdf)



## Regional Snapshot: Floods in Asia-Pacific

### Floods in 2015: Most widespread and frequent disaster in the region



Floods made up 40% of disaster occurrences



22 million people affected



US\$11 billion in damages

### Urban floods in Asia-Pacific



More than US\$46.5 billion in damages and indirect losses



Damages estimated to exceed US\$1.6 billion



Damage and losses are estimated to be US\$3 billion to US\$7 billion respectively

[http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/2015\\_Year%20in%20Review\\_final\\_PDF\\_0.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/2015_Year%20in%20Review_final_PDF_0.pdf)

In 2015, the Asia-Pacific region accounted for over half the world's 344 disasters. They resulted in over 16,000 deaths and over 59 million people were affected. The cost of damage was over US\$45 billion.

South Asia was hit hardest from natural disasters. The region, recorded 52 disasters with more than 14,000 deaths. Over 700 million people in the region live in disaster risk cities that could reach one billion people by 2030.

### Activities

Refer to the Report titled *Disasters in Asia and the Pacific: 2015 Year in Review*.

<http://www.unescap.org/resources/disasters-asia-and-pacific-2015-year-review>

[http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/2015\\_Year%20in%20Review\\_final\\_PDF\\_0.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/2015_Year%20in%20Review_final_PDF_0.pdf)

- Summarise the natural disasters in the Asia-Pacific Region in 2015
- What were the main trends?
- What areas required urgent attention?
- What was the most widespread disaster in the region?
- In groups, select one Asian country and discuss the impacts of the disaster on the people, environment and economy. List strategies that have been implemented or intend to be implemented to reduce these impacts. Explain how technology can help alleviate the consequences of future disasters.



Deadly earthquake topples buildings in Taiwan city of Tainin. Magnitude of 6.4

YouTube <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-35508475>

**Subjects: Science, Geography, ICT**

**Activities:**

View YouTube, internet and news items

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-35508475>

- What is an earthquake?
- Where is Tainin?
- What were the impacts of the earthquake on Taiwan?
- How has technology such as drones improved our understanding of the impacts of earthquakes and where emergency aid is most urgently required?



Lionel Messi football shirt made from plastic bag

[https://41.media.tumblr.com/c88f3eee54d5a426617064304274639c/tumblr\\_o34zndBKLi1t44ympo1\\_500.jpg](https://41.media.tumblr.com/c88f3eee54d5a426617064304274639c/tumblr_o34zndBKLi1t44ympo1_500.jpg)



<https://www.tumblr.com/search/football%20signAfghan%20boy%20sports>

**Subjects: Society and Culture, Commerce, Geography, Civics and Citizenship**

Five-year-old Murtaza Ahmadi, plays football in Kabul, Afghanistan. While playing with his friends, he wears a homemade blue and white striped plastic bag. He is copying his Argentine hero Messi, who wears a blue and white jersey. UNICEF delivered a signed shirt and ball to Murtaza from Messi in February 2016.

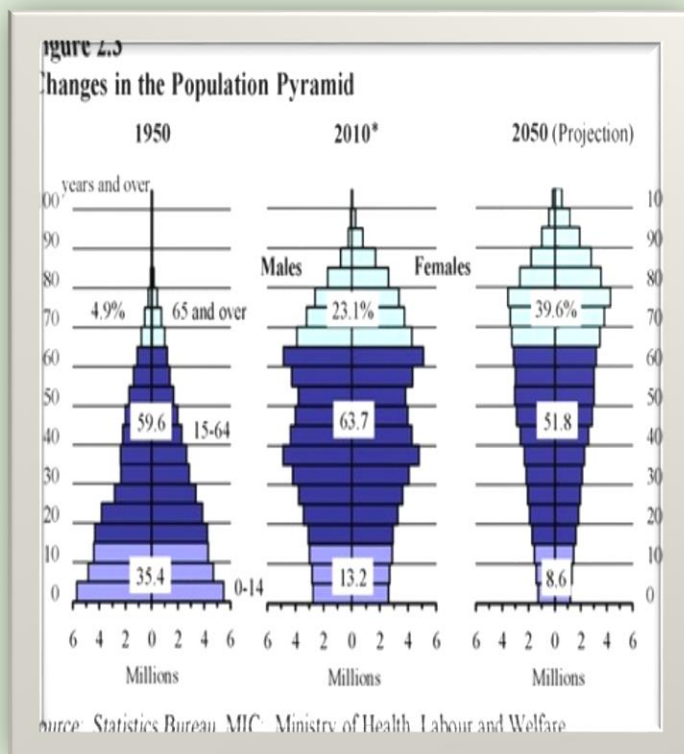
**Activities:**

View YouTube, internet and news items

<http://www.curvemakers.com/new.asp?world/video/2016/jan/31/afghan-boy-sports-lionel-messi-football-shirt-made-from-plastic-bag-video>

How can people make a difference to the lives of people living in poverty?





### Japan: Incredible Shrinking Country

<http://img.scoop.it/yq4IhALm9U3YOsdSxOIEntI72eJkfbmt4t8yenImKBVvK0kTmF0xjctABnaLJIm9>



### Elderly Spur Japan Stores

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2012-05-09/elderly-at-record-spurs-japan-stores-chase-1-4-trillion>

<http://www.scoop.it/t/geography-education/p/3498580630/2012/11/27/elderly-spur-japan-stores>

## Subjects: Society and Culture and Geography

### Japan-ageing population

More than 22% of the Japanese population are 65 years or older. *'By 2060 the number of Japanese will have fallen from 127million to about 87million, of whom 40% will be 65 years or older.'* <http://www.economist.com/blogs/banyan/2014/03/japans-demography>

### Activities:

- Japan's population pyramid is top heavy. What does this mean?
- What percentages of people are over 65 years in 1950 and projected to be over 65 years in 2050?
- Unicharm Corp.'s sales of adult diapers now exceeds those for babies. List the types of Japanese retail goods required to change in the future.
- *'There are 'babyloids' and relatives-for-rent to combat elderly loneliness in an increasingly childless Japan.'* <http://scitechdaily.com/babyloid-robot-aims-to-combat-depression-in-the-elderly/>. What does this mean?
- Refer to the video that explains the changing nature of modern Japanese relationships [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/30/japan-population-decline-youth-no-sex\\_n\\_1242014.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/30/japan-population-decline-youth-no-sex_n_1242014.html)
- Other websites:
  - <http://www.economist.com/news/asia/21603076-first-time-proper-debate-starting-about-immigration-incredible-shrinking-country>.
  - [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/29/opinion/sunday/douthat-incredible-shrinking-country.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/29/opinion/sunday/douthat-incredible-shrinking-country.html?_r=0)



<https://i.ytimg.com/vi/oG1eTCvwQJE/maxresdefault.jpg>



### Village of scarecrows

<http://i3.mirror.co.uk/incoming/article5344213.ece/ALTERNATES/s615/ScarecrowsMAI N.jpg>

Japanese woman builds 350 life-size straw models to replace disappearing residents

## Subjects: Society and Culture, Geography

### Japan-rural-urban migration

*‘Genkai shūraku is any village that has experienced depopulation and is in danger of disappearing, largely because more than half of the people living in the village are over the age of 65 years.’*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genkai\\_sh%C5%ABraku](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genkai_sh%C5%ABraku)

Japan has experienced:

- rural-urban migration
- fertility rates dropping below replacement level
- small villages shrinking
- ghost towns emerging
- villages populated by old people

In the small town of Nagoro there is only 35 people. A woman is trying to save her village from extinction by creating life-sized dolls for every inhabitant who either dies or moves away.

### Activities:

Refer to these websites and discuss the death of rural villages in Japan and how they can be saved:

- Death of regional cities  
<http://www.japanpolicyforum.jp/archives/politics/pt20140120152454.html>
- Japan's Disappearing Villages – Valley of the Dolls  
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/east-asia/2015-03-29/valley-dolls>