

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Exploring Japan's Vibrant Cities - From Tokyo to Kyoto

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Tokyo and Kyoto are both significant cities in Japan, but they differ in many ways. Tokyo is Japan's capital and a bustling metropolis known for its modernity. It features skyscrapers, futuristic districts like Shibuya, and a vibrant nightlife. In contrast, Kyoto is steeped in history and culture, known for its well-preserved temples and shrines. While Tokyo represents Japan's contemporary side, Kyoto is a window into its traditional past.
2. Hiroshima serves as a symbol of peace and resilience due to its history as the site of the first atomic bomb during World War II. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome) and Peace Memorial Park are key landmarks that convey this message. These memorials honor the victims of the bombing and advocate for a world without nuclear weapons, promoting the importance of peace and reconciliation.
3. Osaka's street food culture has a significant impact on its identity as the "Kitchen of Japan." The city is known for its diverse street food offerings, such as takoyaki, okonomiyaki, and kushikatsu. Dotonbori, with its neon lights and bustling atmosphere, is a hub for street food enthusiasts. This culinary tradition reflects Osaka's lively and innovative food scene, making it a must-visit destination for food lovers.
4. Sapporo's snowy winters have a profound impact on its culture and tourism. The annual Sapporo Snow Festival, featuring intricate ice sculptures and snow statues, draws visitors from around the world. This event not only showcases Sapporo's creativity but also fosters a sense of community and celebration during the winter months. Additionally, Sapporo's winter sports and activities make it a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

