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An Unforgettable Trip to Hiroshima

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This is a 1x1000 scale of what the city looked like after the A-Bomb dropped. It exploded above the city and is depicted as the red ball.

This last week, the American exchange students had Fall Break. This gave us a whole week off to explore, relax, or spend our money! I chose to indulge in all three of those options; I spent this last week traveling (via Shinkansen) from Tokyo to Hiroshima, then from Hiroshima to Kyoto, and then back to Tokyo.

By far, the most memorable and impactful part of the trip was my time in Hiroshima. The city was stunningly beautiful. There are three different rivers that run through the city, and the architects did a fantastic job at making it feel like you were not surrounded by buildings while walking by the river. The stonework and pavement on the streets and the pathways are all very clean and have a new, futuristic feel. It took me only fifteen minutes to realize why everything seemed so new and fresh, because it was. With every step I took towards the National Peace Museum, I kept in mind that seventy-one years ago this place was on fire with unrecognizable people and objects scattered violently throughout the city. The museum itself was breathtaking and focused on the tragedy of using a nuclear weapon and not on the circumstances surrounding that time.

It was an amazing experience and I wholeheartedly wish that more people had the opportunity to see it. I had known that studying abroad in Japan would allow me to visit Hiroshima, but I had no idea the impact it would have on me; I am very grateful for this opportunity. This last week further reinforced the importance of studying abroad – in my viewpoint – and now I cannot imagine my life without that experience.

Sean