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## What I Learned about Japan

Kaitlyn Fieldhouse  
*Linfield College*

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Kaitlyn Fieldhouse

Doshisha, Japan

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### What I Learned About Japan

I had the pleasure of interviewing my Japanese friend, Haruna Sato. As I conducted this interview, I learned more about her family life, what foods she likes, and her education goals.

The interview has deepened my understanding of Japanese culture and Haru's lifestyle.

Haru's family structure surprised me. It surprised me that Haru's grandparents live with her and her family. In America, people often only resort to living with their grandparents in times of financial crisis. In Japan, few people abide by the ancient tradition of living with their grandparents. It was surprising to discover this tradition continues in Japan. As I learned during the interview, many people in America and Japan like similar food. Many college students in America love instant ramen because it is cheap. In Japan, many people including Haru love noodles because they are easy to eat. Many stores in Japan sell high quality ramen as well as instant ramen. Many Americans and Japanese people like similar food. Many people in Japan and America have similar academic and career goals but attain them differently. People in America and Japan value education and working part time while going to school as a part of preparing for their future. Many kids in Japan go to cram school after school in order to prepare for their college entrance exams. However, Haru prepared for the entrance exam without cram school. While cram school is not a requirement for college, many Japanese adolescents still attend in order to enter college. In America, there is no cram school. While many Americans and Japanese people often have the same aspirations, they often attain them differently.

Japan and America are different, but similar cultures. Both cultures value education and successful careers but attain these goals differently. People have similar tastes in food in both countries. After the interview, I have come to realize that there are more similarities between Japan and America in terms of aspirations and preferences. There is much to learn from traveling the world. This interview was conducted with my friend, Haruna Sato on March 18, 2018.